

8 0 4 8 7 9 3 2 6 1 6 8

■ Inside:

• 4 - Obituaries

• 4 - Garage sale map

• 5 - Ellendale Days

• 6 - Woods and Water

• 7 - 4th of July

• 8-9 - Classifieds

• 10 - Season wrap-up

NRHEG

Star Eagle

SERVING THE NEW RICHLAND-HARTLAND-ELLENDALE-GENEVA AREA

No. 26 Vol. CXXXIX \$2 Office in New Richland, Minnesota 56072 Thursday, June 27, 2024

■ Page 4



Medallion found



Above, Boot Creek in New Richland, below
downed trees.



State of emergency in New Richland

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

Flooding that Minnesota Governor Tim Walz has described as "catastrophic" has taken over much of the state, leaving "entire communities under feet of water."

Officials in Waterville said their area is experiencing the worst flooding in its history and that the Minnesota National Guard has been activated to assist with alleviation efforts. Walz declared a peacetime emergency for the state over the weekend, which allowed the National Guard to deploy.

"Across the state, intense rain has had catastrophic effects. Flooding has left entire communities under feet of water, causing severe damage to property and numerous road closures," Walz said.

The emergency proclamation mentions that Waterville, which is wedged between Tetonka Lake and Sakatah Lake in Le Sueur County, received between 14 and 18 inches of rainfall, pushing those lakes and the Cannon River to "uncontrollable levels."

"Residents have been evacuated and the flood has already caused significant damage," the proclamation, issued on Saturday, says. "It's all hands on deck here in Waterville."

Flooding continued on 3



People Service Manager
Shell Johnson

School Board NRHEG

Family expresses concern, budget work underway

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

The family of Samuel Houle, an NRHEG senior who died by suicide March 21 of this year, spoke forcefully during the June 17 school board meeting asking for "a total and complete overhaul" of the secondary school's leadership.

Samuel's parents, Glenn and LeAnn Houle, and maternal grandparents Janelle and Bruce Hayden, were present for the "public comment" portion of the meeting.

Glenn began by expressing his thanks to the members of the NRHEG staff and to the graduating class of 2024 for their sympathetic outpouring after Samuel's death. He then went on to mention an incident which had occurred in a school classroom. Saying that although a teacher and a number of students had contacted the principal regarding that incident, no information about it had been passed along to his family, Glenn stated "We are convinced Samuel would have been alive to this day had the principal notified us about that altercation."

Saying that Samuel had been subjected to ongoing and persistent mistreatment by a group of students, Glenn claimed school leadership knew who those students were and failed to impose sufficient discipline.

Samuel's grandfather, Bruce Hayden, stated "From March 21 to June 17, I am still devastated. I don't want anyone in any other place to go through this, it hurts so badly."

Hayden stated he had heard from NRHEG students who said they had seen the bullying behavior toward Samuel, but had been afraid to speak up, fearing the bullies would turn their attention toward them.

"Some of you know exactly who some of them are," Hayden said to the school board members.

"We've got to do something. Please don't let this happen to any other kids."

As they closed their comments, family members offered to meet with school board members privately to show them emails and other information which had been shared with them regarding mistreatment Samuel had been targeted with

School continued on 6

Ellendale days set to start Thursday

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

A full lineup of events is in place for the annual Ellendale Days celebration beginning Thursday, June 27, and concluding Sunday, June 30, 2024.

On Thursday, tacos will be served by the Ellendale Days committee outside of RJ's Bar. The Dan Stursa Band will perform on the small stage from 5 until 8 p.m. At 6 p.m. will be the second annual adult trike races, sponsored by the ECAG. The races will take place near the community building.

Friday's events kick off with rummage sales at 10 a.m. A map of the city wide garage sales can be found on Page 4 of this week's Star Eagle.

Food vendors open at 5 p.m. From 6 until 8 p.m. are a myriad of events, including T-Ball games at the softball fields, a giant slip-n-slide, bounce houses sponsored by the Ellendale Firemen and karaoke at 7 p.m. on the stage to the east of RJ's Bar.

Saturday's rummage sales open at 8 a.m. along with the car show sponsored by the Lion's Club; the Lions will be serving food from 8 a.m. until noon.

The Mural Committee will be

Eil. continued on 6

Ellendale Legion and VFW to perform flag retirement ceremony June 29

The Ellendale American Legion and VFW posts will be performing a patriotic flag retirement and disposal ceremony that will be held after the Ellendale Day's Parade June 29th and is open to the public.

The ceremony will be held in front of the Veteran's Memorial Area next to the Village Hall and across from the Post Office. This ceremony is meant to instill a feeling of respect for our flag and to demonstrate a proper method for retirement and disposal. Thanks to all who would like to attend.

Briefs continued on 6

A word from The Word

You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:13

Freeborn County offers paid training program

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

Freeborn County Sheriff Ryan Shea, 48, began his training to become a law enforcement officer back in the mid-1990s for a crowded profession. "There was a time when there would be more than 100 applications for a single position," Shea describes.

Those days, however, are gone.

The online job connection site "Linked In" lists nearly 600 open law enforcement positions statewide. Shea says his department has consistently been short by two or three patrol deputies for the past year. There are currently 16 on staff: An optimal number of 18 would make it possible to have four sheriff vehicles out on patrol at any given time, while also maintaining a presence at large-scale events such as concerts and major sports competitions.

Not being able to keep a full roster of staff has been a source of frustration for many agencies, according to Shea. Individuals with law enforcement training can go on to work for sheriffs' offices, police departments, the state highway patrol and the Department of Natural Resources.

Shea describes having mentioned his frustration to state public safety commissioner Bob Jacobson last fall. "He told me the state had something in mind, and to keep my eyes open for it," he recalls. This spring, the state of Minnesota offered grants of \$50,000 to law enforcement agencies for a new program. The Freeborn County Sheriff's department was allotted two of them, for a total of \$100,000.

The grant stipulates that agencies can recruit individuals who have completed either a two- or four-year post-secondary education in any field, then pay them a peace officer's salary as they attend an intense five-month training program covering all the topics which apply specifically to the field of law enforcement.

Shea is excited as the recruitment process is about to begin.



Freeborn County Sheriff Ryan Shea.

"Research shows long-term trends in employment have changed," he explains. "These days, statistics indicate people have a tendency to change jobs about every seven years."

Shea says his department is looking for two people who have perhaps gradually come to the understanding they would like to be peace officers.

"We expect to receive applications from people probably in their twenties or thirties," Shea anticipates. "Someone who has completed a training program and begun their career, but has realized it doesn't satisfy them."

"Someone homegrown, who has roots in the area," he describes.

"Maybe they kind of wish they had taken the training to be police officers, but now they have a

family, maybe a mortgage and monthly bills, so they figure there's no way they can make the change."

"This program would make it possible; they wouldn't have to pay for the training, and they would be being paid while they learned."

The major sacrifice for the two selected individuals, Shea notes, is the expectation they be in Alexandria five days a week for five months to attend the specially-designed training program, earning a total of 38 college credits during the upcoming fall and spring semesters. They would, however, have weekends free to come home—and

Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

Program continued on 3

Star Eagle publisher named Young Journalist of the Year

Star Eagle Publisher Eli Lutgens was named Minnesota's Young Journalist of the Year by the Society of Professional Journalists during the Minnesota Chapter's 2024 Page One Awards ceremony held June 18, 2024 at the Lowlands in St. Paul. More than 500 entries were received from media outlets of every medium, including the Star Tribune, Mankato Free Press, Minnesota Public Radio, and many others.

"Lutgens was selected for the essential work he is doing in local, community journalism," judges commented. "As his recommender

noted, there would be no local newsrooms in the communities without his intervention. If running multiple publications wasn't impressive enough, his dedication to reporting news running from local high school sports to local politics is clearly making a difference in the communities he serves. Simply put, we need more people like Lutgens to step up and do this vital work to sustain and advance democracy. There are fewer 'news deserts' in Minnesota thanks to Lutgens' efforts."

Lutgens started his career in journalism at the age of 15 when he was

hired as an editorial assistant to his father Jim at the Star Eagle in New Richland. However, as Eli often says, his life in journalism began the day his dad started working at the Waseca Weekly when Jim was only 20 years old and later, when Jim brought him along to work at the Albert Lea Tribune, something he did often. Simply said, Eli grew up in the back of a newsroom.

In April of 2021, Eli purchased the Star Eagle from his father. Later that year he acquired the Southern Min-

Award continued on 2



Attending the annual Minnesota Society of Professional Journalist Page One Awards ceremony, from left Tracie Rosacker, Eli Lutgens, Deb Bently, and Jim Lutgens.



FenceLines

by Mark Bernard

Will the all the rain ever stop?

After hitting it with a ballpeen hammer, the scurs may have the Weather Eye back on the right track. Does our consecutive days without rain streak continue or do the scurs need a bigger hammer? Starting Thursday, partly sunny with a good chance of evening rain. Highs in the mid-70's with lows in the low 60's. Partly sunny on Friday with a good chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the low 80's with lows in the low 60's. Mostly sunny on Saturday with highs in the low 70's with lows in the low 50's. Sunday, sunny with a modest chance of evening showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the low 70's with lows in the low 50's. Partly sunny on Monday with a good chance of rain. Highs in the mid-70's with lows in the upper 50's. Tuesday, partly sunny with a good chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid-70's with lows in the upper 50's. Partly sunny on Wednesday with highs in the upper 70's and lows in the upper 50's. On June 28th, we've already lost over one-half minute of daylight. On July 1st, we'll see our last 9 p.m. sunset of the summer. The normal high for June 28th is 81 and the normal low is 61. Bad news: The scurs sneak peek at the July 4th forecast. Mostly cloudy with a good chance of showers and thunderstorms. High in the low 80's with lows in the mid-60's. The good news: No snow!

Another brutal week of rainfall just passed. We went for eight consecutive days starting June 16th with measurable precip. We recorded 7.18" of rain in that time frame and 7.35" in Bugtussle. More insult to injury Saturday when a nasty little storm left those in town without power until mid-evening and hailed on several area fields as well. Some operators would just as soon it had put the already ugly crop out of its misery, although one needs be careful what you wish for. You just might get it, along with some of the unexpected consequences. A lot of soybean fields remain to be sprayed as of this writing with virtually no progress made last week. Although not perfect, the forecast this week looks more promising. Some soybean herbicides cannot legally be aerial applied, and others will soon be off label in terms of soybean development. The clock is ticking.

The garden has some of the same water issues. One of our main reasons for moving it to its present site was the fact it's on a south-facing slope. Theoretically, it should dry faster and be better for vegetables that don't like wet feet. That is until you get more than a foot of rain in the month of June. A sidehill seep has developed and as a result, we have had water running through the sweet corn and string bean plantings. The sweet corn came up well, as did about half the string beans. Looks like stabbing in more in that planting and another planting could be made sometime around July 4th when the soil conditions are fit. So far we're off to a good start on pumpkins and squash as well as decorative gourds. Cucumbers are more hit and miss, with about half the hills having plants in them. Only one zucchini too, so may have to stab in another few hills of that. Tomatoes and peppers are holding their own, although they too could use some sunny, dry

weather. Couldn't we all?

So how have the sheep and the lamb crop done since weaning a few weeks back? The first day or two was a little noisy, but since then, the only time you hear a peep out of the ewes is when some get separated from the main group. Otherwise they've been eating constantly with no shortage of tall, green grass. The ewe lamb that decided she needed to stay with the brood ewes was plucked out of that group the next day. When I placed her in the pen with a market ewe, she managed to climb over the top of the 4' high panel. Even so, she remained in with the group of lambs rather than running loose in the pasture. The lambs too are focused on eating, getting some grain to go along with some good quality hay. They've really blossomed with the removal of competition from the brood ewes. We put some panels in the possible escape routes just in case there was another jailbreak. So far, no encore performances.

Another Back to the 50's car show is in the books. The Silver Hawk was cleaned up within a reasonable level when we left for Falcon Heights Saturday morning. Traffic moved through the I-35 construction zone smoothly. The weather was absolutely gorgeous and, after some rainy stretches Friday and Saturday, people were out in droves. It took a little longer to get in the gate than some years as a result. Saw all kinds of old cars of course. Lots of old people too, although there were a lot more younger folks than in recent memory. Took in the swap meet for the first time. All my secretary and I could think of was loading up all the junk already in our garages and hauling it around from place to place. No thanks. There were some interesting items, not all of them necessarily automobile related. Luckily it all stayed on the fairgrounds and didn't come home with us. We got on the road around 2:30 and sailed out of the Twin Cities in fine shape, the Silver Hawk able to go with the flow of traffic. South of Northfield, traffic on I-35 slowed to a snail's pace and stopped on several occasions. We ditched the traffic snarl at Faribault and came home the scenic route on the backroads. Nothing better than a good old-fashioned crop tour to end the day's festivities.

Poppy has had more people time with all the wet weather. She also gets more exercise following us around and playing indoors while waiting for the weather to change. The garden taking shape doesn't hurt as she's drawn to it like a magnet. She's developed a little Corgi trail where she chases her squirrels and bunnies coming off the porch. It also extends on towards the garden. There, she's discovered new prey to chase in the form of striped gophers. The slope is littered with their holes. Almost caught one the other night as the rodent didn't know quite what to think. There was a lot of commotion by both parties involved. There has been little evidence of gopher activity ever since these encounters started. It's nice to know that someone's keeping the garden safe from varmints and Poppy is enjoying her job. As long as she doesn't start digging holes, we're good.

See you next week...real good then.

Waseca County Communities, in addition to the help of a dedicated staff of talented writers.

The award given out last Tuesday was Eli's second "Page One" Award, the first coming in 2021 in the Investigative Journalism Category, another first place finish for his piece on the mishandling of federal funds distributed to local governments under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

■ Award from Page 1

nesota Golden Link. On July 1, 2022 he began publishing the Waseca County Pioneer.

Eli frequently observes that none of his publications would be sustainable without the ongoing support of the NRHEG and

Inspiring star stories, week 3



Whatever Flips Your Waffle

by Mark Domeier
Contributing Writer

as if wondering what I was doing and why I thought it was a good idea. Dennis would usually hum along with my songs, even now at the age of five. But with Shanae, there was nothing when it came to music.

When I took her in to the doctor for a wellness check, I mentioned this lack of recognition of music. "I may not be a great singer, but, you know..." I said to Dr. Singer. She cocked her head, then burst into a fine rendition of "A Spoonful of Sugar" from Mary Poppins. It was professional-level singing!

Shanae just looked at Dr. Singer as if she had lost her mind.

Dr. Singer swung around to the computer and typed in a few things. She pursed her lips and looked back at us. "It's possible she has amusia and can't recognize what music is," she said with a wrinkle in her forehead.

"Can we do anything about that?" I asked, suddenly panicked at what a life without music might mean for my daughter.

Dr. Singer consulted the computer again. "Well, the first thing is that we can't medically diagnose it until she's older and able to communicate better. If it's indeed amusia, there's no known cure, though some people just have a form of tone deafness, which can be worked on."

We finished the rest of the appointment and I thanked the doctor. I called my husband on the way home and told him about this possibility of not being able to know what music was. We agreed there wasn't much we could do about it right now, but I planned to keep singing.

"A Spoonful of Sugar" kept falling from my mouth. "In the most delightful way..." I trailed off as I carried Shanae into the house. She was seemingly oblivious.

I had the rest of the day off from work, so we read some books and played with her toys, building blocks as high as we could before they would tumble to the ground. Shanae squealed with delight when that happened. We even got the brick stack as

tall as her!

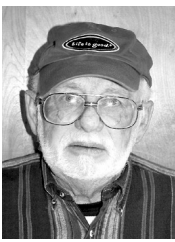
That night was the same as so many others, with Shanae screaming if I even indicated I was leaving the room. Dennis wandered in, carrying a few of his dinosaur toys. They were his comfort toys, and you could usually find a triceratops, stegosaur, and brachiosaurus with him in bed.

"Maybe my dinosaurs can help Shanae feel better about sleeping?" he said as a question. He looked at his sister. "I'll leave these by your crib to protect you," he told her. She smiled and curled up on her pillow as Dennis stationed the plastic toys around her crib. It wasn't long before Shanae was fast asleep.

I smiled and snuck out to sleep in my own bed. A few hours later, I got up to use the bathroom. After that, I decided to check on the kids. As I walked in Shanae's room, I tripped over a stuffed animal and landed right near the horns of one of Dennis' toys. I glanced up, but Shanae hadn't moved. That's how we got Shanae to sleep on her own, and I got to meet a dinosaur up close!

Word of the Week: This week's word is amusia, which means the inability to recognize or produce music, as in, "People thought she was tone deaf, but it was actually acute amusia which caused her to not be able to sing." Impress your friends and confuse your enemies!

A sign of good things to come



FACT OR FICTION

...you decide

by Bob Hanson, Emeritus

"If you repeat what you have read here, it may be used against you."

In checking the possibility further he became good friends with the Indian Chief and especially the chief's only child, daughter Omi pronounced "Omy." John asked the chief for permission to wed Omi. The chief verified this with Omi who said yes to marrying John Goodness.

They were married with the agreement their first son would become chief upon reaching the age of adult. (This made the chief very happy.) The wedding was performed at the Indian village on the side of a hill

facing south where the Grunwald farm is now located.

Time went by and Omi became pregnant while the chief was getting more and more anxious as to a son being born.

The day of birth arrived with Omi trying to give birth to Siamese twin sons. Unfortunately, the sons were stillborn with Omi dying shortly thereafter.

The loss was too much to handle for John, so he returned to England. The chief summoned the tribal

medicine man to create an everlasting remembrance of Omi.

The medicine man with his spiritual ability created the forever lasting remembrance of Omi.

"Any person with any connection, no matter how remotely, to Beaver Lake would utter, "Omy Goodness," in their response to excitable tidings.

As a reader your response to this column should be "Omy goodness."

P.S. There have been many arrowheads, stone ax type instruments, plus other Indian artifacts found in an around Beaver Lake. Even the antlers of an Elk in Beaver Lake.

Bob is a retired AAL (Aid Association for Lutherans) agent, currently working on his master's degree in Volunteering. His wife, Genie, is a retired RN, currently working on her doctor's degree in Volunteering. They have two children, Deb in North Carolina, and Dan in New York. Bob says if you enjoy his column, let him know. If you don't enjoy it, keep on reading, it can get worse. Words of wisdom: There is always room for God.

Life is hard enough, be kind to yourself and others

Many thoughts went through my mind during the banquet last Tuesday as Deb, my parents and I were waiting with anticipation to find out whether I had been selected as Minnesota's Young Journalist of the Year.

Deb and I discussed many thoughts on our drive to and from St. Paul.

Deb asked me if I thought I was going to be awarded first place. The realist/optimist in me thought yes. The pessimist thought I was named a finalist by mistake.

My friend Jake tells me I need to enjoy moments and awards like this because of the number of times I am yelled at in situations which don't require yelling.

My dad tells me I'm supposed to write about acknowledgements and awards we receive at the newspaper to remind people that what we do has value. That the work we're doing is important.

My mom said seeing me get an award like this just makes her want to cry. She's so proud.

I didn't realize when I was named a finalist for this award that I was competing against journalists from the Star Tribune, Minnesota Public Radio, and every other radio, television or newspaper in the state which has members in the Minnesota Society of Professional Journalists.

I wasn't asked to give a speech or anything when I was announced as the winner, however, comments from the selection committee were read aloud. That was cool.

Deb asked me what I would say in a speech.

I think I'd simply thank people.

First my dad.

I wouldn't have pursued journalism if not for him.

I'd also thank my mom.

I wouldn't have pursued journalism if it were not for her.

I'd thank Deb Bently and Reed Waller and Melanie Piltingsrud.

And all of my English teachers, including Mark Domeier and Nancy Rudau.

I certainly wouldn't have the skills I have today if not for all of them.

If I were to talk about anything of substance, I'd talk about pursuing one's dreams. In order to do so, one first must identify what those dreams are.

Usually that means identifying something you're particularly good at or have the potential to be good at. I'm told when you're concentrating on your skills and interests, work doesn't feel like work. On the other hand, let's face it, building a successful career would be essentially impossible in a professional field you're unfamiliar with.

Of course I'd thank the good Lord for all my blessings. They are plentiful. I consider myself lucky. I've found something I'm good at which brings joy to people around me.

I make too many mistakes and I'm hard on myself when those mistakes are brought to my attention. I would close my speech reminding myself and everyone else, to be kinder to yourself, and to the world.



Just a Thought...

by Eli Lutgens

NRHEG Star Eagle

SERVING THE NEW RICHLAND-HARTLAND-ELLENDALE-GENEVA AREA and the communities of Waseca, Otisco, Hope, Clarks Grove, Matawan, Freeborn and Waldorf

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Compostings

by Al Batt

Difference between illuminators and diminishers

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
I have a pessimism glass on my desk. Every time I have a forlorn thought, I put a dollar in it. How's that working out? The glass is half-empty.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE
I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Deep thoughts occur as I drive past his drive. It rained every day except the days when it didn't. It was drench warfare that left the ground sodden. It had rained enough that it smelled like wet squirrels. I encountered a lot of clothes-captioning during my walk—Patagonia, Columbia, North Face, etc. We become walking advertisements who pay for the privilege. A walk down a trail is the greatest of hall passes.

At home, I took a hot shower and reminded myself that the greatest cause of dry skin is a towel. Upstairs, I put the soup on my favorite burner on the stove. We all have a favorite burner. I waited as I tried to remember what I'd forgotten while forgetting some things I remembered. The situation was normal.

ENJOYING WHATCHAMACALLITS
I enjoy a kolache (koh-la-chee), also known as kolachky, kolachi, kolacky, kolace, kolacki, kolach, kolaczki, kiffles, kipfel, kifla and more. It's a pastry that not only comes in many names, but also in many different shapes, sizes and fillings from rounds to folded pockets, hand-sized to pie-sized and sweet to savory.

I'd been in Texas eating a kolache for breakfast. What kind of kolache, you ask? It was a doughy (pillowy), apricot fruit-filled pastry. The kolache was brought to the Lone Star State by Czech settlers in the 1800s. Upon arriving home, Vi Kyeck of Albert Lea had left me some delicious kolaches she'd made and then I played softball in Montgomery during Kolacky Days, where Franke's Bakery produced 2000 dozen of the ethnic pastries for that celebration. In just a few days, I'd become half kolache.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT
What do you call a magician who has lost his magic? Ian.
What color is burnt umber? It's burnt umber. It was a trick question.
A priest, a minister and a rabbit walk into a blood clinic. The nurse asked each for their blood type. The rabbit said, "I'm probably a typo."

My three favorite things in life are eating cats and not using commas.

The man told the genie that he'd like a world without lawyers.
The genie made it so and wished him a good day. The man protested, saying he was owed two more wishes. The genie said, "So sue me."
I ordered a book on riddles. I didn't get it.
A poll found that six of the Seven Dwarfs aren't Happy.
Why doesn't life hand us lemonsade?

NATURE NOTES
As I walked, I found joy in the company of an American redstart. Warblers are the butterflies of the bird world and the American redstart exemplifies that nickname. The redstart flits about in the trees, holding its wings and tail partly spread. The adult male has a glossy black plumage set off by vivid reddish-orange patches on its sides, wings and tail. Females and young birds, often called "yellowstarts," are grayish, with yellow patches on the sides, wings and tail. The word "start" comes from an Old English word for "tail." An American redstart constantly flicks its tail open and closed like a fan, flashing patches of bright orange or yellow. This is thought to startle insect prey and allow the birds to nab them. In Latin America, the bird is often called candelita, or "little candle."

Others accompanying me on my walk were dragonflies. The handsome insects collect nicknames: devil's darning needles, mosquito hawks, snake doctors, horse stingers and ear cutters. Each spring and fall, large dragonflies called green darners fly across North America, traveling as far as 900 miles on two-inch wings. These dragonflies leave Minnesota in July through October to head south, flying as far as 87 miles per day. Kestrels eat them, as their migrations coincide in both time and location. At migration's finish line, the dragonflies lay eggs and die. A new generation makes its way north in the spring. Some green darners don't migrate and overwinter in Minnesota as naiads in ponds and emerge as adults in the spring.

MEETING ADJOURNED
David Brooks, in his book "How to Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others Deeply and Being Deeply Seen," outlined the concept of illuminators and diminishers. He wrote that illuminators shine the brightness of their care on people and make them feel bigger, deeper, respected, and lit up, while diminishers see people as objects to be used, not as persons to know and care for. Be kind.

■ Flooding

from Page 1

The water continues to rise and officials say they don't know when it's going to stop," CBS News Minnesota's Jason Rantala reported on Sunday.
"We just have too much water," Le Sueur County Commissioner David Preisler said.
Locals have been posting countless photos and videos of the damage on social media. One resident said on Sunday evening that "hundreds of cabins and homes" have been flooded, along with most of the downtown area. At his home, he said there were about 18 inches of water in the shed and around the cabin.
"The water is 3-plus feet deep in some places," stated one witness on Facebook. "Several roads in town are impassable and they have the fire department limiting access in many places."
Officials have called this the worst flooding event ever to hit Waterville as 1,000 people volunteered to fill sandbags over the weekend to try and prevent even worse damage.
The National Weather Service predicts the weather contributing to the flooding across Minnesota may not be over yet, with the possibility of severe storms still appearing in forecasts across the week. Local river levels are also still rising and flooding continues to be a concern, forecasters said.
New Richland Area
Over the weekend, more than 4 inches of rain fell across Waseca County, with totals as high as 7

inches in Janesville.
Damage in New Richland seems to be minimal compared to past flooding issues. The Care Center is safe; the baseball fields in town were still underwater on Monday. Some trees have fallen across power lines, leaving some residents in New Richland without power for several hours Saturday.
A state of emergency was declared in New Richland on Saturday. According to city administrator Anthony Martens, the main purpose of this proclamation is to make the city eligible for reimbursement for damages sustained during the storm. Examples of damage include landscaping in the city park and damage to the fences and the concession stand at Legion Field.
Martens dubbed People Service manager Shell Johnson a "rockstar," saying "She kept a lot of water out of a lot of basements. She does a phenomenal job."
"I don't think she slept more than 5 hours in the past 48 hours," Martens told the Star Eagle Monday morning.
Shell Johnson, 54, has been the People Service Manager running New Richland's wastewater treatment facility for the past three years. Johnson's non-stop weekend began Friday morning, when overwhelming quantities of water forced the facility to limit the processing water received before being released into its normal outlet of Boot creek.
"It isn't possible to handle that much water," Johnson said. "At the height of it, 5 million gallons were going through."
Johnson explains many checks and balances are in place for emergency protocols used over the weekend. She also said the water still runs

through the preliminary building garbage catcher before passing through to the creek.
Another emergency action was the use of pumps placed on Broadway at 2:30 a.m. Saturday. Two three-inch pumps were used to transfer water from storm sewers directly into Boot Creek. Doing so helped prevent stormwater from infiltrating the city sewage system and possibly creating a sewer back-up.
"The system gets more and more full; pretty soon [stormwater] can't go anywhere," Johnson explained. "We caught it in time and pumped it out in time."
Johnson said she was extremely grateful for the help of local residents and city staff.
"They would drive by and bring water and snacks," she said. "They were all so nice and helpful."
Johnson spent the weekend sleeping in her office on a pullout cot and in her truck. Every 45 minutes she would have to wake up to put gas in the pumps on Broadway.
"Scott, the maintenance man from the school, brought me coffee at 3 a.m.," Johnson said.
"Others, even Bob (the director of the care center) and Anthony (the city administrator), city staff Braeden Thompson and maintenance man Erik Hendrickson all took turns watching the pumps so I could go check on the plant and do my paperwork."
"I don't want the flooding," she said. "We're lucky we're not in the predicaments these other cities are facing."
Rapidan Dam
In Blue Earth County, as of Monday evening, the Rapidan Dam in the Blue Earth River southwest of Mankato was in an "imminent failure

condition."
The Blue Earth County Sheriff's Office said the river has cut a new path around one side of the dam and debris has been accumulating in the water. It announced the "imminent failure condition" status and notified those who may be impacted.
"We do not know if it will totally fail or if it will remain in place, however we determined it was necessary to issue this notification to advise downstream residents and the correct regulatory agencies and other local agencies," the sheriff's office said.
By Monday afternoon, the sheriff's office reported a "partial failure" of the dam on the west abutment.
"The dam is still intact and there are no current plans for a mass evacuation," the sheriff said on Facebook. "A portion of the river flow has diverted around the west side of the dam and water continues to flow."
An Xcel Energy substation at the dam, which supplies power to about 600 customers, was washed away early Monday. The utility company said its crews were working to replace the destroyed substation and restore power.
"The river level was already high from the large amounts of recent rainfall and moving fast when it diverted around the dam near the substation and flowed onto the bank," the company said in a statement. A home on the bank is at risk as shoreline continues to wash away.
Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz related at a news conference Monday morning that the state has received roughly 18 inches of rain over the last few weeks, saturating the ground and leaving the water nowhere else to go. There is potentially more rain coming, he added.

■ Program

from Page 1

could even have mileage costs reimbursed for doing so.
Once the candidates have completed all the requirements and met the necessary qualifications, they would be expected to sign a three-year contract with the Freeborn County Sheriff's Department.
From there, Shea anticipates the general job satisfaction within his department and the individuals' local roots will keep them on staff.
He names some of the positive features of working as a sheriff's deputy. First, he says, is the sense of satisfaction which comes from helping others—being there to respond when people are in need. "You get to make a difference," he comments.

"to help make your community a better place."
When not responding to "calls," Shea observes, patrol deputies have tremendous flexibility—anything from traffic control to stopping by a park or coffee shop to make positive connections with community members. Patrol deputies are assigned a sheriff's department vehicle and not only use it throughout their shifts, but drive it to and from home. Shea explains the practice is fairly universal in sheriff departments, and allows for faster response times in emergencies.
Shea also says he believes the pay scales in his department are strong enough to keep officers from being lured away.
The recruitment process to find the two candidates for the program is getting a good start now, with post cards being sent to nearly every Freeborn County address and advertisements being posted at roadside signs.

Interviews and selection will take place over the next several weeks, with the intent of having candidates in place as the fall semester begins at Alexandria Technical College. About 35 grants for intensive train-while-employed programs of this type have been granted across the state: Albert Lea's candidates will be attending classes side by side with those from other agencies. Topics for the courses they will be taking include criminal and juvenile justice,

investigation, emergency medical response, and even "human behavior." Training will also be ongoing for firearm and driving skills.
Even once the five-month program is complete, Shea says the new officers will receive further training regarding procedures and expectations at Freeborn County.
"I think this will work," observes Shea. "I'm looking forward to the day when we have a full roster of deputies on staff."





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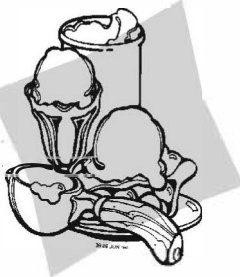
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\$5 Buttons can be purchased at many New Richland Businesses. The Button will allow you discounted breakfast on Saturday, free admission to the Street Dance & a chance to win cash prizes! Buttons will not be sold at the Pancake Breakfast or Dance, so get your buttons early! Prizes at participating merchants!

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OBITUARIES

Janice Lieberg

Janice Marie Lieberg died June 15, 2024 in Rochester East Health Services, Rochester, MN. Jan was born July 30, 1947 in Roseau, MN to Lillian (Novotny) and Earl Lieberg.

When she was in grade school, the family moved to Ellendale, MN, where she graduated from Ellendale High School. After high school Jan attended and graduated from Mankato State and began a very successful career with Federated Insurance, based in Owatonna, MN.

Sometime during her employment with Federated, she experienced a brain aneurysm which led

to memory loss. This resulted in the need to live in a nursing home, where she lived until the present.

Jan is preceded in death by her grandparents, parents, brothers Richard, Sheldon, Gerald, and David. She is survived by brothers Jerome (Bonnie) of Stillwater, MN; Dennis (Kathy) of Grand Forks, ND and sister Karin of Rochester, MN.

Burial will take place at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Cemetery at a later date.

Ranfranz and Vine Funeral Home is honored to be serving the Lieberg family. To share a special memory or condolence, please visit www.ranfranzandvinefh.com

Farm and City Days



After only two clues, Alexia Schmidt found the Farm and City Days Medallion.

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Ellendale Days 2024

Official garage sale map

903 Calverly Court

- Exercise Equipment
- Furniture
- Household items
- Clothing

502 Third Ave

- Men & Womens Clothes
- Girls clothing sizes NB-%
- Toys
- Household Goods
- Daycare Downsizing
- furniture

702 Simplicity Dr #A

- Large Tool Sale: Ladders, air compressor, LB white Heater, Bosch table saw with stand, Shop vacs, LP tanks, wall jacks, cement mixer, DeWalt laser with tripod, air guns & more
- Household goods: decor, king size comforter, pictures

108 4th Ave

- Hand tools, craftsman workbench, shovel
- Table & chairs
- Couches, end tables, TV cabinet, Bookshelf & more

503 Radel Ct

- Sale at First Lutheran Church
- Wide selection

105 5th Ave E

- Miscellaneous

808 Rose Dr

- Storage Cabinets
- Household miscellaneous
- Mikasa glassware
- Men & womens clothing
- Children's clothing & toys
- & More!

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ELLENDALE DAYS

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5PM - 8PM DAN STURSA BAND - SMALL STAGE ON BAR PATIO
6PM - ADULT TRIKE RACES - SPONSORED BY THE ECAG - NEAR THE COMMUNITY BUILDING

FRIDAY JUNE 28TH
10 AM - RUMMAGE SALES
5 PM - FOOD VENDORS OPEN
6 PM - 8 PM T-BALL GAMES AT SOFTBALL FIELDS
6 PM-8 PM GIANT SLIP N SLIDE AT T-BALL GAMES
(PARENTS NEED TO SIGN WAIVER, AND WATCH KIDS)
6 PM-8 PM BOUNCE HOUSES OPEN (PARENTS MUST SIGN WAIVER)
SPONSORED BY ELLENDALE FIREMEN
7 PM - KAROKE ON THE STAGE TO THE EAST OF RJ'S BAR

SATURDAY JUNE 29TH
8 AM - RUMMAGE SALES OPEN
8 AM - CAR SHOW AT THE UMC PARKING LOT- SPONSORED BY THE LION'S CLUB
8 AM - 12 PM - LION'S CLUB DOING FOOD AT THE CAR SHOW
10 AM - 6 PM - OLD FASHION ROOTBEER FLOATS -
BY THE MURAL COMMITTEE INFRONT OF LERBERG'S
10 AM - 2:30 PM - KIDS ART WALK - AT KICK IT IN GEAR AND FLOORS 4 U
11 AM-3 PM - CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT ON 3RD STREET
11 AM-3 PM - BOUNCE HOUSES OPEN (MUST SIGN WAIVER)
11 AM- 3 PM - BALLOON ARTIST BY THE BOUNCE HOUSES
12 PM - 6 PM - VENDORS SHOW ON 2ND STREET
4 PM - GRANDE PARADE SPONSORED BY THE ELLENDALE LION'S CLUB
5 PM - KIDDIE TRACTOR PULL - SPONSORED BY THE ELLENDALE FIREMEN
5 PM-7 PM - BOUNCE HOUSES OPEN
7:30 PM-1:30 PM - YOUTH DANCE - SPONSORED BY THE ELLENDALE
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8 PM - STREET DANCE - FEATURING SHIRTS AND SKINS - SPONSORED BY THE ELLENDALE
FIREMEN

SUNDAY JUNE 30TH
8 AM - 1 PM PANCAKE BREAKFAST AT UMC - SPONSORED BY THE ELLENDALE LION'S CLUB
9 AM - TRACTOR PULL REGISTRATION BEGINS AT BUS LOT
10 AM - SERVICE IN THE PARK PRESENTED BY AREA CHURCHES WITH LIGHT LUNCH TO FOL-
LOW.
10 AM - PULL STARTS - SPONSORED BY THE ELLENDALE LION'S CLUB
10 AM - ? FOOD AT THE TRACTOR PULL SPONSORED BY THE ELLENDALE LION'S

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Water, water everywhere, and no drought in sight

Looking back to last year at about this time, we would have been happy to have had about half as much rain as we have been getting now. I am not going to start a rant about the rain but the farmers are the ones who will ultimately suffer. We are now in the age of farmers renting or buying up more land to make it pay. When I was a kid I wonder if there was such a thing as crop insurance. A farmer back then usually had enough land to feed his livestock with enough left over to sell to the elevator. I knew many farmers that farmed from 180-300 acres and 300 was considered a lot of land back in the 50's. Every farmer had a few cattle, hogs, chickens and ducks. They were pretty much self-sufficient.

I can remember going to my cousin Richard's parents place west of Emmons for a couple of weeks each summer. Richard had daily chores to do, and I would help him. I told him that this was really a lot of fun and he told me that I wouldn't think that way if I had to do it every day. There were times when I got in on baling hay, but he and I got put in the haybarn stacking bales when a fresh wagon showed up. If you have ever baled hay on a hot summer day you know the feeling of the chaff



Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl
Outdoors Writer

getting inside your shirt and scratching your arms. The only relief was drinking cold well water out of the dipper. At the end of the day we would go down in the basement and take a cool shower. Overall it was actually a rewarding experience and it made me feel like I was becoming a grownup.

My dad had horses for as long as I could remember. Having horses meant finding hay to feed them. When I was fourteen, I got in on the baling thing. My dad and a friend of his named Vern Olson had borrowed my Uncle Orville's hay baler and tractor. I helped them bale hay in a field that stood where Harmony Road is today. Vern drove the tractor and Dad and I threw and stacked the bales.

After we had finished with the last load my dad went to town and bought some cold beer. I still re-

member that to this day, when he came back and they opened a beer and Vern asked where is his? My dad said, he's only 14, that's too young. Vern told him I don't care, if he can work like a man you can reward him for it. My dad reluctantly handed me a beer. I was hot and thirsty and nothing has ever tasted as good as that beer did at that time.

I never did mention that to my mother or anyone else for that matter. It Was mine and my dad's secret but it made me feel like I was no longer a kid and had been accepted into the adult world. I guess that I have Vern to thank for that. He was a character, and from time to time he pulled a few pranks on me, but that was just how he was.

One instance happened when I was about 15. My dad had purchased a beautiful Shetland pony with a long mane and tail for my sister, Judy. It

wasn't broke so someone needed to get on it and get him used to having a rider. Vern told my dad, have Dick come up to the barn and I will lead him around on the pony. I was already suspicious but I got on and Vern started leading me around on said pony. Then Vern stepped back, slapped the pony on the rump and I was off to the races. That pony took me along the fence and through the evergreen trees trying to get me off it's back. After what seemed like an eternity, the pony slowed down and Vern took it by the halter as I dismounted. I was scratched and bruised from rubbing against the fence and going through the evergreens. Even that wouldn't have been so bad if Vern would have stopped laughing.

Until next time: After driving around part of Fountain and Albert Lea Lakes I was surprised by the amount of flooding. It is not the first time that I have seen the water that high but it is just a little too much of a good thing.

Please show your support for our troops who are now deployed. These service men and women are making that sacrifice so that we may have the many freedoms that we enjoy today.

■ Ellendale

from Page 1

serving Old Fashioned Root Beer Floats from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. in front of Lerberg's.

A kids art walk at kick in Gear and Floors 4U will start at 10 a.m. and end at 2:30 p.m. From 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. will be a corn hold tournament on 3rd street; bounce houses for kids; and balloon artists.

A vendor show will be from noon until 6 p.m. on 2nd street. At 4 p.m. will be the Grande Parade sponsored by the Ellendale Lion's Club.

The Kiddie Tractor Pull will return again this year at 5 p.m. Bounce houses will be open again from 5pm until 7 p.m.

Concluding Saturday night's fun will be a youth dance beginning at 7:30 p.m. and the street dance featuring The Shirts and Skins band at 8 p.m.

Sunday's events kick off at 8 a.m.

with a pancake breakfast at the United Methodist Church. At 9 a.m. will be a tractor pull. A church service in the park by the area churches with lunch to follow starts at 10 a.m.

A full poster of events can be found on Page 5.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

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)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Pamela Jensen
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship

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 - 9 a.m. Worship
Tuesday - Council meeting (First Tuesday)

WEST FREEBORN LUTHERAN
Hartland, Minnesota
Rev. Marcia Pedersen
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship
Tuesday - Council meeting (First tuesday of the month)
Quilting meets 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, see newsletter 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 - 8:30 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.vibrantlifecg.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. 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

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Pastor Jesse Krusemark
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

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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 Dave Klawiter
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

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

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Father Peter Schuster
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Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. - Faith Formation classes for grades K-Confirmation
www.litomysl.webs.com
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Waldorf, Minnesota
Rev. Michael Mathews, pastor
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Study

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
Minnesota Lake, Minnesota

Rev. Michael Matthews, pastor
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship

ST. PAUL UNITED
Minnesota Lake, Minnesota
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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
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

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

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Father Brian Mulligan
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TRINITY LUTHERAN
Wilton Township
Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship (summer) and 10:30 a.m. (winter)

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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.

■ Briefs

from Page 1

NR Summer Burst Concert Series returns , July 21 and Aug. 11

The concerts in the park series will continue for a third season of music for the New Richland area communities. Concerts are held at the New Richland City Park (114 1st St. SE) on Sunday afternoons with free admission. (Free will offerings are accepted.) An additional concert is held prior to each park performance at the New Richland Care Center for its residents.

July 21st: Just Friends Gospel - The well-known group of singers from the surrounding areas of New Richland, Owatonna, Wells, and Austin.

August 11th: Gold Star - Come and listen to this local band from Mankato who plays a variety of music including classic country, 50's/60's music, and classic rock!

A food truck will also be available at each concert for your eating pleasure!

Please bring a chair &/or blankets to sit.

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council, thanks to a Legislation appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage fund.

Thank you to the State Bank of New Richland, KEEN Bank, and Arcadia bank for their generous donations to the Summer Burst Concert Series, and a special thanks to the City of New Richland for the utilization of their park and services for our events!

Thirty-fourth annual FCA Sports Camp set for July 30 - Aug. 1

The thirty-fourth annual Waseca Fellowship of Christian Athletes Jr. Sports Camp is set for July 30 - Aug. 1 for athletes entering grades 3-8. Registration online at www.minnesotafca.org/waseca-jsc.

Lutheran night at the Twins Aug. 12 at 6:40 p.m.

It's Lutheran Night at the Twins Monday, August 12, 2024 at 6:40 p.m. The cost is \$60 per person paid in advance - no refunds. The price includes a coach bus leaving from behind Hy-Vee in Albert Lea at 4 p.m. Home plate view tickets with eight bus people who want to go out to center field to help lead in singing the national anthem. Deal or no deal prizes on the way to the game plus coupons for all.

Your name on the score board if your birthday is August 12th.

The bus is parked nearby.

Cash back of \$10.00 per bus person after 57 tickets are sold (a full bus)

For reservations call: Bob and Genie Hanson at 507-373-8655 or Wayne and Bev Indrelie at 507-286-3267

Waldorf Veterans Memorial Fund Drive

Donations are requested to support the construction of the Waldorf Veterans Memorial. Checks written to WVMP Fund Drive can be mailed to WVMP Fund Drive; Judy Joecks, treasurer; P.O. Box 55; Waldorf, MN 56091. Questions can be directed to Charlie Barnes at (763) 286-2246.

■ School

from Page 1

during his school career.

School board chair Rick Schultz expressed willingness for a private meeting, then extended sympathies to the family "on behalf of the NRHEG district, its school board, staff and students."

During its June 17 meeting, the NRHEG School board approved a preliminary 2024-25 school year budget which included \$13.4 million in expenditures and nearly \$13.2 million in anticipated revenue. The combination, district business manager Karla Christopherson told board members, will reduce the district's \$3.5 million "general fund" by about \$360,000.

The general fund is money which has been set aside at the recommendation of the Minnesota State School Board Association; the expectation is that, if something were to keep the district from receiving its scheduled income, the district could operate for roughly three months on the undesignated money. NRHEG's anticipated general fund amount entering the 2024-25 school year is about \$3.5 million, according to business manager Karla Christopherson.

Governmental units which receive public property taxes in Minnesota are expected to report their anticipated annual levy to the county by mid-September and to have a "final" levy in place in December. These amounts are used to determine how many property tax dollars will be needed to fund the various entities associated with a piece of property; these include the city or township, the county, and the local public school.

During discussion, it was mentioned the NRHEG school district is among about 90 of Minnesota's 360 school districts which carries out its annual operations without asking local voters for an "operating levy," that is, property tax dollars in addition to the amount allowed under statute. Of the \$13.4 million used to meet the school's financial obligations for the 2024-25 school year, about 17.5 percent or \$2.4 million will be from local

taxpayers.

School board members also learned that property insurance rates are rising for everyone. In the case of the school, insuring its \$70 million worth of buildings and property will cost \$139,600 in 2024-25, about 13 percent more than the 2023-24 rate of \$115,500. Tyler Firme of Heinz Insurance out of Owatonna told board members the increase might have been more if not for the district's strong past performance and some of the safety upgrades taking place in the buildings this summer.

Firme explained insurance carriers have suffered losses because of the damage caused all over the state by extreme weather. Those losses have led to rate increases across the board.

The board accepted the resignation of Kelly Delacruz, family and consumer sciences teacher at the high school for the past five years. Delacruz has accepted a position with the Austin school district.

School board member Rich Mueller mentioned that a group tour of Australia which included 46 NRHEG students and chaperones was underway. Put together by the school social studies department, the trip had been in planning for more than a year.

South Central Service Cooperative "Workforce Coordinator" Pam Krill reported to the board regarding programs and initiatives offered through her position. Krill coordinates events meant to inform students about job and career opportunities. She works with a number of regional schools, finding agencies and companies which will bring programs and resources to the schools, or arranging for students to visit area locations. During her presentation, she stated that one intent of her position is to help students see a wide variety of job fields and careers are available locally. Krill mentioned a "reality day" attended by NRHEG juniors and an "agricultural career" day at Farmamerica among the events which took place this year.

"We work to make sure economic development begins in our schools," Krill said. "We help encourage young people to come back and be part of the local economy."

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY WASECA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
Court File No.: 81-PR-24-183

In Re: Estate of Brady R. Anderson
Aka Brady Ross Anderson
Decedent

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON
PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF
INTESTACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP,
APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO
CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given
that on August 21, 2024, at 3:00

p.m., a hearing will be held in this
Court via Zoom, see notice of remote hearing, at 307 North State
Street, Waseca, Minnesota, for the
adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship of the Decedent, and for the appointment of
Janice L. Ross whose address is:
300 9th Ave. SE, Waseca, MN as
Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in ☐ an UNSUPERVISED ☒a 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. 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: 06/18/2024, 03:00:51 P.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 June 27 and July 4, 2024

Story Idea? • 463-8112

Notice:

Filings for City of Geneva

To Be Filled at the November General Election
Will Open
July 30, 2024
And Close
August 13th, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

Filings for the Office of Mayor for 4 year term

To fill the position of Mayor, whose term expires December 31, 2024.

Filings for the Offices of
Two Council Members for 4 Year Terms

To fill the positions of council seats whose terms expire
December 31, 2024.

Filings will be accepted at the City Clerk's Office until
5:00 p.m., on Tuesday, August 13th, 2024. The fee for filing is
\$2.00. The general election will be held Tuesday, November 5,
2024 at the Geneva Community Center

Geneva City Clerk
Published in the Star Eagle on June 27, 2024

Royal Villa has a subsidized one-bedroom apartment for rent to a qualified applicant. Call 507-463-8515 or stop by the office at 221 1st St NE, New Richland for an application.

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NOTICE OF FILING DATES FOR ELECTION TO THE SCHOOL BOARD
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.2168
NRHEG PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the period for filing affidavits of candidacy for the office of school board member of Independent School District No.2168 shall begin on July 30, 2024, and shall close at 5:00 o'clock p.m. on August 13, 2024.

The general election shall be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. At that election, three (3) members will be elected to the School Board for terms of four (4) years each.

Affidavits of Candidacy are available from the school district clerk, 306 Ash Ave South, New Richland, MN. The filing fee for this office is \$2. A candidate for this office must be an eligible voter, must be 21 years of age or more on assuming office, must have been a resident of the school district from which the candidate seeks election for thirty (30) days before the general election, and must have no other affidavit on file for any other office at the same primary or next ensuing general election.

The affidavits of candidacy must be filed in the office of the school district clerk and the filing fee paid prior to 5:00 o'clock p.m. on August 13, 2024.

Dated: June 21, 2024

BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
Terri Engel
School District Clerk
Published in the Star Eagle June 27 and July 4, 2024

NRHEG Public Schools
Ind. School District No. 2168

Advertisement for Quotes
Snow Removal

This is to notify you that the NRHEG Public School #2168 will be accepting quotes for Snow Removal for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 School Years.

The Board of Education will be taking action on submitted quotes at the regular School Board meeting scheduled for Monday, July 15, 2024.

Please submit your quote to: Mike Meihak, Superintendent, 306 Ash Avenue South, New Richland, MN 56072 by 11am on Friday, July 5th, 2024.

Sue Kulseth
Administrative Assistant
To the Superintendent
NRHEG Public Schools

Published in the NRHEG Star Eagle
Thursday, June 27th & July 4th

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LEGAL NOTICES

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: May 28, 2009

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$132,560.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Christopher W. Nelson and Melissa Nelson, husband and wife

MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on June 2, 2009 as Document Number 280110 in the Office of the County Recorder of Waseca County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: East 55 feet of the S 1/2 of Lot 11, Block 9, First

Addition to the Village, now City of Waseca, Minnesota, according to the Plat thereof on file and of record in the Office of the County Recorder in and for said County and State.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 605 3RD AVENUE 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: \$116,897.43

TRANSACTION AGENT: None

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17.276.1120

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None

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: July 11, 2024 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 January 13, 2025.

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: May 16, 2024

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.
By: _____/s/_____
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Sung Woo Hong, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(22-0755-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. Published in the Star Eagle May 23, 30, and June 6, 13, 20, and 27, 2024

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY WASECA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
Court File No.: 81-PR-24-258

In Re: Estate of Chad Ryan Decedent

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF INTESTACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP, APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on July 31 2024, at 10:00 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court via Zoom, see notice of remote hearing, at 307 North State Street, Waseca, Minnesota, for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship of the Decedent, and for the appointment of Corrina Ryan whose address is: 504 7th Ave. SE, Waseca, MN as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Dece-

dent in ☒an UNSUPERVISED ☐a 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.
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: 06/13/2024, 10:30:23 P.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
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Fax: 507-835-3303
Published in the Star Eagle June 20 and 27, 2024

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Participants at the State Class 5A shoot, bottom left to right; Clayton Kaplan, Alec Wyrum, Aaron Merritt, Charlie Tufte, Lia Johanssen, Faith Phillips, Haley Staska, Gracie Luna, Keira Lenort, Keegan Peterson, Reese Routh. Up the steps and top, left to right; Rilyn Spurgeon, Hunter Woodham, Caden Conklin, Alexis Olson, Braxton Arnold, Chase Johanssen, Brody Mudgett, Wyatt Larson, Alden Dobberstein, Justin Beauvais, Conner Louks, Dylan Schroht, Aidan Louks.



Most Improved Shooter Clayton Kaplan and Top Gun Dylan Schroht.



Left: Scholarship Winners Reese Routh and Keira Lenort. Above: Top 25 Conference Shooters front, left to right; Reese Routh, Alden Dobberstein, Dylan Schroht, and Brody Mudgett. Back, left to right; Gracie Luna, Faith Phillips, Abbie Viktora, Nora Flatness, Keira Lenort, and Ciara Stenzel.

Clay target teams ends its season

The NRHEG Clay Target team ended their season with a fun shoot, awards picnic, and a trip to Alexandria for the State Class 5A Championship. The weather in Alexandria was excellent this year, with light winds, comfortable temperatures, and clear skies. Twenty-four athletes from the team made the journey to compete and most of them shot at or above their average for the day. Unlike competition events which score out of 50 targets, the class championship is a 100 target event over the whole day, so it tests the athletes stamina as well as their marksmanship. At the end of the day, the team had a final score of 464 out of 500 possible points. This put them in 32nd out of 40 possible teams to qualify for the MSHSL State Tournament, but by the end of the 7A rounds on Sunday, the team had been eliminated. Individually, Aaron Merritt and Hailey Staska were our top male and female Novice level shooters. Clayton Kaplan was our top JV shooter. For the Varsity Justin Beauvais, Reese Routh, Alden Dobberstein, and Brody Mudgett all had the top male score (Reese had the longest reverse run.), and Gracie Luna was our top female shooter. The different levels are determined by the athletes individual season average.

Prior to the shoot, the team also held their Fun Shoot & Awards Picnic. Letter winners were announced. The team presented trophies to those athletes who finished in the Top 25 for Conference averages. Out of the 40 members of the team, 11 were in the Top 25 for either the male or female category. Keira Lenort had the top average for the ladies with Gracie Luna right behind her in 2nd. Also in the final Top 25 Female Conference Averages were Faith Phillips, Abbie Viktora, Nora Flatness, and Ciara Stenzel. The Top 25 Male Averages included Keegan Peterson, Reese Routh, Alden Dobberstein, Dylan Schroht, and Brody Mudgett. The team scholarship was awarded to seniors, Reese Routh and Keira Lenort. The scholarship is based on leadership, community service, academics, and overall character. The season's Top Gun award was presented to Dylan Schroht for his team leading average and the Most Improved Shooter award was given to Clayton Kaplan who improved his average per round by 7 targets over the course of the season.

The team wants to take this time to thank all of our sponsors who allow the team to provide opportunities to these athletes. Diamond Level; Hartland Firefighters Relief Association. Platinum Level; Olson Excavating of

Hartland. Gold Level; Broskoff Structures of Geneva, Dobberstein Backhoe of New Richland, Fastenal of Owatonna, Good Steward Consulting of Albert Lea, L&D Ag Service of Hartland. Silver Level; Keen Bank of Waseca, Sellers Lock & Key of Austin, Sorenson's Appliance & TV of Geneva, T&M Electric of Waseca. Bronze Level; Culligan Water of Waseca, Floors 4-U of Ellendale, and Krause Feeds & Supplies of Hope. We thank the Waseca Pheasants Forever Chapter for hosting our team raffle. We thank the Owatonna Gun Club for being

our home for 14 seasons. We thank our coaches who take their time to teach the safety, fun, and skill that is part of our sport. Finally, we thank all of the parents, family members, and community members that show their support to this team in their own way.

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CLEAR LAKE PARK, WASECA
12:00PM JULY 4th, 2024

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19TH ANNUAL FREEDOM RUN and WIGGLE BUTT DOG WALK
7:30AM- Race Day Registration Opens
8:00AM- Kids 1 Mile Walk/Run
8:30AM- 5.0 mile Walk/Run around Clear Lake & Wigglebutt Dog Walk
RACE DAY REGISTRATION AT CLEAR LAKE PARK, REGISTRATION WITH LAKEFEST T SHIRT \$25.00
REGISTRATION ONLY- \$15.00

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
12:00 - 1:15pm Melissa Schulz , 1:30-3:00PM Miller-Dehn
3:30PM -5:15PM Gary West & MN Players
5:30PM-7:20PM Los Tequileros
7:40PM - 9:40PM AZBY Band

BEAN BAG TOURNAMENT
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FIREWORKS OVER CLEAR LAKE
9:50 PM