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NRHEG

StarEagle

SERVING THE NEW RICHLAND-HARTLAND-ELLENDALE-GENEVA AREA

No. 10 Vol. CXXXIX \$2 Office in New Richland, Minnesota 56072 Thursday, March 7, 2024

■ Pages 5,12



Sports



Area fire fighters retreat from an area located at 383rd Avenue, northeast of Waseca, which only moments earlier had been clear of fire and smoke. Star Eagle photo by Eli Lutgens

County ablaze

2,000 acres burned across Waseca, Steele Counties

Nearly 2,000 acres of grassland in Waseca and Steele counties were burned Sunday, March 3, while firefighting agencies from around the state, including planes and helicopters dropping fire retardant material, fought against the high winds and dry conditions which had prompted the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to issue a “red flag” warning—meaning that the public should light no fires because of the high potential they would spread.

Firefighting efforts began before noon in an area northeast of Waseca near the county road known as the Snake Trail and continued until about 10 p.m., according to a release by the Waseca County Sheriff’s office. By the time it was under control, the fire had spread from northeast of Waseca to Deerfield township in Steele County.

Blaze continued on 10



Flames roll past as they approach “Moonan Marsch” in northeast Waseca County. Star Eagle photo by Eli Lutgens

Beginners’ Sourdough Workshop 5 p.m. March 7 at New Richland Library

The New Richland Friends of the Library are hosting a Sourdough Workshop for beginners at the New Richland Library, March 7 at 5 p.m. The workshop will cover everything one needs to know to get started making sourdough bread, from starter maintenance to recipes.

Open House at The Pines Retreat noon-5 p.m. March 9

An open house is being held at The Pines Retreat, described by Bev Dougherty-Dobberstein as “a place to gather with your besties, to make new memories while doing what you love.” It is a retreat center for crafters. The Open House will be from 12 to 5 on March 9 at 2780 W Highway 30, Ellendale.

NRHEG Honor Society blood drive 9 a.m. March 15

Members of the NRHEG National Honor Society are hosting a blood drive at the Secondary school in New Richland from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, March 15. Donors are encouraged to visit redcrossblood.org to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins will be accepted on a space-available basis.

Free Trees for Kids signup due March 15

The Waseca County 4-H Ambassadors are acquiring free trees for children to plant on Earth Day, April 22. Parents are encouraged to sign up for trees at neighborhoodforest.org/parent-registration. Trees will be available for pickup on April 18.

Ellendale Pie and Bake Sale March 30th

A pie and bake sale will be held March 30 from 8:30 a.m. until gone at the Ellendale Community Building to raise money for the Ellendale Gather Place Mural Project.

Ham Bingo 7 p.m. March 16 at New Richland City Hall

The New Richland Commercial Club is hosting its annual Ham Bingo event 7 p.m. Saturday, March 16 at the City Hall Community Room. The cost is \$15 per card, which pays for 15 games plus a final “blackout” game. The prize for each game is an Easter Ham.

A word from
The Word

Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually. 1 Chronicles 16:11

Special ingredient, love

The Willows in New Richland is under new ownership

Locally run, family owned tradition continues with Arnold family

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

The time was right. Travis Blake, former owner of the Willows restaurant in New Richland, liked to joke that if he ever sold the place, he knew who he would offer it to first. “I asked if he was really serious this time,” Julie Arnold, the new owner of the Willows said. “When he said he was really going to sell it, I asked myself, ‘If I’m not gonna buy it, then who?’ “It’s something to pass down to my son Chris, an opportunity for our family.” Arnold, 57, originally from Denver, Iowa, settled in New Richland in the late ‘90s; she and her then husband Mark O’Brien raised three children, all of whom graduated from NRHEG. In 2008, only a year after the Willows was established, she applied with owner Jim Blake for a job at the restaurant.

“I’ve enjoyed the last 16 years getting to know all the different people,” Arnold said. “If it weren’t for the Willows, I wouldn’t know them. I’m looking forward to the years ahead.”

Arnold said former owner Travis Blake, who took over the business from his dad Jim Blake in 2016, plans to help through the transition in ownership, staying until the end of March when he plans to go full time with his own food-truck business.

“I think it would be different if I went out and said, ‘I want to buy a restaurant in an unknown community.’” Arnold observed. “I’m serving the community. I’m looking forward to [...] the fu-

Willows continued on 3



The Willows owner Julie Arnold, with her son Christ O'Brien, left, who serves as a cook.



Darelene Abraham stands with her “Cadillac” as she refers to her walker. Star Eagle photo by Tristan Gehring

Family and God

Darlene Abraham reflects on nearly eight decades spent in Waseca County

By TRISTAN GEHRING
Staff Writer

Darlene Abraham has been a resident of the New Richland Area nearly her entire life. Born in 1936 in Waseca, she spent her early childhood in the Lemond area. Her family moved to New Richland when she was in the middle of the seventh grade. “She has a caring soul, is well liked by all, and is proud of her community,” says her son Dennis.

“I had love from the very minute I was born,” Darlene says. While her mother, Dora, was pregnant with her, Dora lost her husband, father, and twenty-five-year-old brother to illness in the span of three months.

Darlene describes the mid-1930s as “the Pneumonia era.” Her family stems from her mother, Dora (Palm) Lund and Albert Palm, the biological father she never knew. Throughout her childhood, she, an older brother named Roger, and younger sisters Judy and Natalie referred to Dora’s second husband, Art Lund, as “Dad.”

Darlene married Clarence Abraham in a small, intimate setting shortly after her high school graduation, and the two had two children – Dennis and Dawn Abraham. They were married nearly forty years before he died.

Abraham continued on 4

NEW RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL

Soon to be open NR mayor position

By JESSICA LUTGENS
Staff Writer

The New Richland City Council heard a tearful address from Kim White during its second city council meeting of the month on Monday, Feb. 26. White’s husband was also present for the last meeting to discuss the impact of the city’s housing code on the couple’s living situation, which is currently in a motor home on private property in town.

White requested a suspension of enforcement of action until June 1 in order to provide time to receive and recover from a final surgery for her illness. The council did not take action on the matter, but City Administrator Tony Martens explained that because White is cooperating with the city and law enforcement on the matter, they are willing to work with her.

“As long as she’s engaging with us with trying to resolve the situation, we’re not taking any enforcement action,” Martens said.

Martens agreed to speak to the proper authorities - the city attorney, county officials - to explore further options and remain in contact with White.

Martens also presented options to the council for filling a soon-to-be open mayor position, as Mayor Chad Neitzel will be moving out of town in April. The council will discuss the matter again at the next meeting.

Bob Johannsen presented the care center report, which stated that the center had an average census of 34 in January. Of 60 original referrals, five admissions were received and the center had five discharges. Johannsen noted that the center is working with a group, AHL, to find out why residents are not choosing to go to the New Richland Care Center when accepted there, train staff in acuity areas, so they can market better, and review insurance company contract agreements to optimize revenue sources.

“We’ve got a lot of changes we can look at making,” Johannsen said.

As for staffing, the center did hire four nurses in February, but they are still looking for full and part-time Certified Nurse Aides, LPN or RN, and part-time dietary aides.

Coming up, the center will host an Easter egg hunt on March 23 at 10 a.m. that will be open to children in the community age 10 and under. Donations for the event are welcome.

Finally, Terry Hansen, who stepped down as Advisory Board

Council continued on 4

Compostings

by Al Batt

International catastrophes

while on a slow moving train

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

I left my job today. I couldn't work for my boss after what he said to me.

What did he say?

He said, "You're fired."

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I didn't see the groundhog on Feb. 2 and I missed seeing the Super Bowl. All I know is Taylor Swift kicked a field goal to win it. It's the neither season—neither winter nor spring. Spring is just around the corner, but it might not be the corner our mothers want us hanging around. The weather has been quirky. A muttering visitor was like cranky wind chimes as the wind howled about him. He suffered from paralyzing weather vagaries as our incredibly gentle winter temperature dropped 70 degrees in 36 hours and brought snow with it. I'd received a phone call from a wonderful couple who live in New Jersey that I'd met 30 years ago in Des Moines when we shared a ride. We didn't talk about the weather. It was a most pleasant interlude.

I talked to a fellow at church. He was wearing Hey Dude shoes. His wife said he got them because their grandson looked good wearing them. I got those shoes because I wanted to be as cool as a grandson. They're lightweight, the same weight as air. As far as making me look cool, they're not working. I heard from an old friend who lives near the Canadian border. I shared a room with him during a conference where I learned he was a world-class snorer saving invisible logs in his sleep. I put bits of Kleenex in my ears, but the snoring shredded the paper. I wish I'd had those Hey Dudes then. I'd have stuck them in my ears.

Years ago, my wife and I took my mother and Aunt Ingeborg on a dinner train. The meal had seven courses and the train was slow-moving to give us time to eat. What international catastrophe could occur when a server drops a platter? The downfall of turkey, the overthrow of grease and the destruction of china. In this case, a platter of alcoholic drinks fell upon my mother and Ingeborg—two strict teetotalers. My mother laughed. Ingeborg huffed. Life moved to where my wife and I sat in the same seats at every one of our granddaughter Joey's college

basketball home games. A former teacher of ours and her friends arrive before us and save our seats, which aren't on the floor. They are up high. Their ours. They fit us and we've learned to appreciate those who gather with us—friends, family and fans. And Joey knew where to find us.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

The umbrella was going to be called a brella, but the inventor paused.

Is my cloak of invisibility working? Do I make myself clear?

I'm doing lunges to stay in shape. That's a big step forward.

Mr. Rogers didn't adequately prepare me for the people in my neighborhood.

What do you call a broken can opener? A can't opener.

What word becomes shorter when you add two letters? Short.

The man fell down the wall because he couldn't see that well.

NATURE NOTES

March is named for the Roman god of war, Mars. March brings the vernal equinox and daylight saving time. Dec. 1 is the start of meteorological winter, which makes March 1 the beginning of meteorological spring. June 1 introduces summer and Sept. 1 brings fall. Blizzards were once common at the time of the March basketball tournaments. I hope March has gotten over that. No month has an exclusive on bad weather.

My wife has been feeding her Peeps habit. She prefers the Peeps candy confections made of a soft marshmallow rolled in colored sugar in either yellow, pink, blue, lavender or green and shaped like baby chickens. I don't eat them, but I'm fond of saying, "Oh, for Peeps' sake."

Me, I feed the birds. That joyful task brought two quotes to my mind. "If you can hear the birds singing, you're in the right place," by Benny Bellamacina and "I don't feed the birds because they need me; I feed the birds because I need them," by Kathi Hutton.

I watched a red-tailed hawk mantling prey. Mantling involves the hawk spreading its wings and covering its prey to hide it from the eyes of other animals. This hawk was giving a dirty look at several crows standing nearby as if they were jackals at a lion kill.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Spread kindness like wildflowers.

DECA students to compete at state

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

Of its 14 members, the NRHEG DECA club is sending 11 competitors to state-level competition from March 10 to 12 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Minneapolis.

The DECA organization encourages high school participants to build skills related to business and professional settings in categories that emphasize team decision making, personal financial literacy, marketing and sales.

The three-person team of Hallie Schultz, Isabel Stadheim and Levin Kitzer took third in district competition in January to advance to state. Schultz describes the group's project as having begun with a 10-page document produced by the team summarizing a theoretical fundraising event. With the basic parameters described in the paper, team members were then asked to respond orally to judges' questions regarding the "strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats" associated with their plan.

Taylor Schmidt participates in an individual event in which competitors are presented with a scenario, given 10 minutes to consider a solution, and then spend 10 minutes presenting and explaining the solution. Central to the scoring criteria in her event, she says, is the ability to come across with confidence and personal bearing.



NRHEG DECA team members

All competitors at the district competition also took part in the "job interview" category which is just what it sounds like: Participants were asked to name a job and then took part in a practice interview. Here, too, team members said, the focus was on presenting oneself as being professional and reliable.

Team members qualifying for state competition are Chloe Stork, Chloe Riewer, Keira Lenort, Levin Kitzer, Hallie Schultz, Isabel Stadheim, Kyera Eustice, Parker Bunn, and Harbor Cromwell; a number of them are in ad-

vancing in more than one category.

"I'm really proud of our group," commented Schultz, explaining that many of the individuals and teams participants competed against have dedicated daily time to work on business and professional skills, and on the various documents and plans needed for competition.

Other team members stated they enjoy participating in DECA because of the opportunities for networking and sharing ideas. "It's a fun group of people," commented Kyera Eustice. "I defi-

nately encourage other people from our school to get involved."

Schultz mentioned that, during district competition in January, it happened that a convention of architectural professionals was occurring in the same hotel. With architecture as her intended career field, she said, it was not only an amazing coincidence, but an excellent opportunity for her to learn more about the field.

Said Schmidt, "Yes, we're there to do our best. But the focus isn't on the competition; it's more about the experiences and the chance to grow our own skills."

■ Willows

from Page 1

ture."

Arnold first got her start in the food industry in the late '80s at McNamara's Pub and Grill in Fari-bault. She quickly rose from server to bartender to bar manager before leaving. She recalls holding nearly every job there is in the restaurant businesses, a career she says spans 25 years, broken apart only by her time as a stay-at-home mom.

Her children, Arnold stresses, are the most important element in her life.

The first person she consulted when deciding whether owning the restaurant would be desirable was her youngest son Chris and her husband John Arnold.

"I wanted John's support because this job has long hours," Arnold said. "Chris, he's the full-time cook," Arnold said. "And I can teach him the rest of the businesses over the coming years... In five to ten years, he can take over."

Chris, a 2021 NRHEG graduate, has worked for the Willows since he was 14 years old. His brother Nathan also helps out with various roles. "Nathan is our fix-it guy," Arnold said. "He's our maintenance man, always willing to help however he can."

Asked if she had any plans for change, Arnold said no.

"Nothing huge, nothing dramatic," she commented.

A new sign and logo as well as an updated back deck are the only things Arnold plans to do over the coming months.

"We're in the same boat as Travis. If it's not broken, don't fix it," Ar-

"I always remind everyone I only live a mile up the road. I can be here in five minutes."

—Owner Julie Arnold

nold explained. "I get told, 'Okay, whatever you do, don't get rid of this (menu item)... Because that's why I come here.'"

The Willows' hours will remain similar to what they were.

Sundays: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Mondays: Closed

Tuesday-Saturday: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Bar hours subject to change.

Arnold said she hopes to put together some type of celebration in the coming months, nothing anytime soon, however. In the meantime she plans to continue enjoying her favorite aspect of the job, social inter-

action.

As a first-time business owner and one who built her skills from the ground up, she enjoys the opportunity to encourage members of the youthful community members who apply with her for their first-ever jobs.

"I tell them nobody's perfect. Mistakes are going to be made. It's nothing to be scared of. It might be a little scary at first... This too shall pass.

"The biggest hurdle is figuring out where everything is," Arnold added. "And I always remind everyone, I only live a mile up the road. I can be here in five minutes."

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■ Abraham from Page 1

Today, Darlene has three grandchildren and one recently born great-grandchild. She also has nieces and nephews, and their families. Darlene's love for her family – both close and distant – echo in the photos that adorn her home and the passion in her voice when she speaks of the beauty of family.

Growing up in the 1940s was different from today, Darlene emphasized. The first house she remembers living in had no electricity or running water. Darlene and her siblings and friends always had something to do – whether work around the house, making and playing with homemade toys, or taking in free shows and entertainment. Her family didn't have much money, but Darlene says as kids they hardly knew that. Life was slower, and had less stress, she says. "That's not to say," she emphasized, "that it was easy; our parents worked from morn until night, and us kids had jobs around the house too." She describes her mother as a "super-woman," who was not only a fastidious homemaker, but also worked outside the home while raising her children to be the best people they could be. She recalls doctors making prompt housecalls when she was young, and when her own children were young as well. "Now you can't even get in when you want to," she comments.

As a child, Darlene attended two different country schools; both were one-room, mixed-age settings usually taught by a single teacher. For the first years of her education, Darlene attended the country school in Lemond. When she was approaching seventh grade, a rezoning meant she had to change to an area school just over the Steele County line. Then, during her seventh-grade year, her family moved to Bath. She attended New Richland High School, which she says was a dramatic change for her.

While attending high school, Darlene worked as a dishwasher and occasionally waited tables at the Horn Inn. The family that ran the inn treated her like one of their own, she says, and she looks back fondly on her time there. It was also at the Horn Inn that Darlene met Clarence Abraham. Following high school, she spent six months attending commercial college [an earlier name for "trade school"] in Mankato while working as a nanny to pay her way. Darlene lived in Austin for a short time, during which she was a secretary at Hormel. Until she married Clarence, Darlene lived in Austin in a boarding house with three other girls.

After returning to New Richland, Darlene spent decades working at Abraham's Store – located where Wagner's now stands. The store was all family-run, with the primary people Darlene worked alongside being Clarence, his brother Floyd and Floyd's wife, and the three "single girls" from the Abraham family – Elvina, Rosy, and Vivian. Darlene worked the meats section of the store alongside her husband. Clarence, she recalls, was well-known for his quality meats and his service to the customers. Often in the summer, she also recalls, nephews of the Abraham family who lived out of state would come to stay in New Richland and help out at the store.

Following the closure of Abraham's Store, Darlene spent four and a half years working as a paraprofessional educator. She then spent time taking care of her young grandkids before spending a year

"We went to Hartland like people now fly to New Zealand."
— Darlene Abraham

working in a shoe store in the Medford Outlet, followed by thirteen years at Kristy's Boutique. Darlene was 65 when she began working at the boutique, and recalls being surprised that she was wanted there, but she fostered a love of fashion and considers the time she spent at the boutique until her retirement to be a special time in her life.

Darlene has rarely traveled far. "We went to Hartland like people now fly to New Zealand," she said lightly, but she does recall feeling blessed when she and her family got a chance to visit her brother Roger, who was in the service at the time, in Hawaii.

"I was directed to be here, even though I wanted to get away," Darlene claims, explaining she means "Directed by God." Darlene has a strong faith and has been an active member of several churches over her lifetime. As a child, she attended the Pontippidan church. She had her confirmation in LeSeuer, then began attending Trinity Lutheran Church in New Richland. She stayed active there with various groups for adults, children, and families over the years. It was Trinity Lutheran where her children were raised and confirmed; Darlene emphasized how special the church community is to her and her family. Now, she says, she has slowed down and is less active, but still attends. Her faith in God is something she returns to repeatedly, emphasizing how blessed she feels in her life. "It's all blessings, mixed in with a few pitfalls," she recalls. She describes life as a merry-go-round, with its ups and downs. Thinking over something she recently read, she asked herself, "Would I do it all over again? I think I would." In her life, Darlene has experienced many losses, but she always returns to how blessed she feels. "What could be better than to be around people who care?" she asks. She also reflects on the way people remember small kindnesses throughout their life – a teacher writing in a yearbook, friendly supports, and so on.

Darlene has a deep appreciation for natural beauty – talking about the recent full moon with awe in her voice, and trips to Lake Superior with Dennis when he was in the Boy Scouts. She and Clarence used to golf and bowl, she explains. Now her favorite things to do are crosswords, going for walks, and driving, adding, "Oh, watch out for me in a red car!"

Darlene says there have been many defining moments in her life. All the highlights, she says, come from her family. Probably the most impactful moment on her life was her marriage to Clarence. "I wouldn't be here otherwise," she said, referring to the life she's built in New Richland. Her advice to young people is to find an occupation that suits them. "Working has been so rewarding," she explained, "if you like your work. And the people you'll meet!"

To close, Darlene asked to say a few words to the people in her life. "Anyone that I've hurt in any way," she said, "I want to say I'm sorry. I'm thankful to God for this journey. Thankful for my beautiful family, friends, and everyone who has touched my life in any way and so much more."



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OBITUARIES

Audrey A. Stafford

After a long and very active life, our beloved matriarch and friend, Audrey Ann Stafford passed away peacefully on March 2, 2024, at 101 years old.

Born on August 4, 1922 to Agnes (Schroeder) and Clarence Korman, Audrey was raised in Waldorf, MN. After graduating from Waldorf High School and Teacher's College, Audrey taught in rural one room schoolhouses until her marriage to Richard W. "Pete" Stafford on April 5, 1945 at St Peter's Lutheran Church in New Richland, MN. When Pete decided on a career in the Army, Audrey spent the next 12 years moving around the US with a tour in Japan.

After Pete's early death in 1958, Audrey with her five young children returned to New Richland where she taught 3rd grade for many years. Upon retirement, Audrey continued to live in NR while spending the winters in Mesa, AZ. In 2017, Audrey

left NR and spent the next few years living with her daughter Pat in Alabama and her daughter Susie in Phoenix. She returned to Minnesota in 2022 to live at Colony Court in Waseca. After celebrating her 100th birthday at St Peters in NR, she returned to live with Susie in Phoenix.

Audrey is remembered as a dedicated teacher leaving her mark on hundreds of students. People who knew her would use "Chocolate", "inner strength", "integrity", "intelligent", "trustworthy", "honorable", "steadfast" if asked to describe her. Audrey loved to play cards; she will be remembered for her ability to take a hand of poor cards and still win the game.

Left to cherish Audrey's life here on earth are her daughters, Pat Page, Susie (Jeff) Getskow; her son, Steve (Jean) Stafford of Onamia, MN; grandchildren, Barry DeBlieck, David (Jeffrey Bleam) DeBlieck, Michelle (Dean) Anderson, Jonathan

(Amy) Page, Jennifer (Jeremy) Boling, Joshua (Erin) Getskow, Andrew (Sarah) Getskow, Melissa (Jon) Dion; great grandchildren, William DeBlieck, Audrey Boling, Alex Boling, Hazel Getskow, Cooper Dion, Charlotte Getskow, Benjamin Getskow, and Cole Dion; sisters, Edna Wenzel and Barb Beyers.

In addition to her husband and parents, Audrey was preceded in death by her daughter, Judy (Dale) DeBlieck; her son, Richard (Rick) Stafford; brothers, Lowel Korman, Dale Korman, Luverne Korman, Jerry Korman, Harlan Korman; sisters, Evelyn Holtz and Marian Wenzel.

A funeral service to honor Audrey will be held on March 12, 2024, at 9:30 am at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in New Richland, MN, with a visitation one hour prior at the church. Pastor Scott Williams will be officiating. The interment will take place at Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Bloomington, MN.



Audrey Stafford

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Audrey's memory to St. Peter's Lutheran Church 201 2nd St NW, New Richland, MN 56072.

■ Council from Page 1

Chairman after 12 years, was thanked for his service. The position has been filled by Susie Abbott. The report was approved.

Shell Johnson presented the People-Service report, stating that garage door repairs have not been done yet. The council suggested options to move the process along. A discussion was had regarding a chloride variance, and Johnson noted that she will be taking samples to be sent to the lab to try and

pinpoint where the source of the problem is. The report was approved.

Eric Hendrickson presented the Streets & Water report, which stated that 33 blue cards were issued in January, resulting in zero shutoffs. It was noted that a water line break occurred on 6th St., and due to issues with the same area in the past, Hendrickson explained that some of the pipe may need to be replaced.

Purchase requests for J&R Water Utility Service to exercise valves at a cost of up to \$3,480, two gate valves at a cost of \$4,930.54, and seal coating at a cost of \$8,785 were approved along with the report.

Resolution 24-04 establishing bank

authority was approved, along with the hiring of four life guards at St. Olaf Lake this year, repairs on the 2015 squad car, a contract with David Drown at a cost of \$3,000, and the administrator's report. A representative from Prairie Senior Cottages was present to discuss a new event at the facility, community coffee, every Thursday from 9-10 a.m. The public is welcome to join

residents and staff for coffee and bakery items from Nancy Jane's Bakery, see the building's recent remodel, and connect with residents.

On March 8, a small get-together/farewell party for Assistant City Administrator Sara Jo Vulcan will be held, as she will be leaving her position with New Richland.

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

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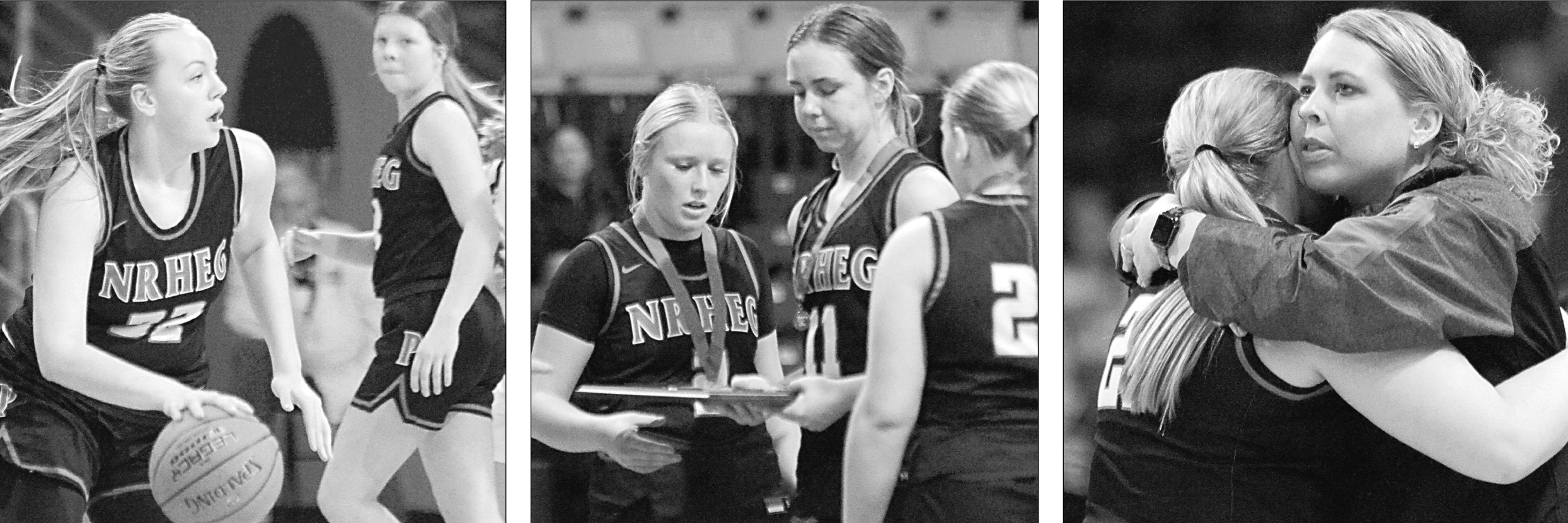
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HOPING FOR BETTER — The NRHEG girls' basketball team saw its season end with a 55-43 loss to WEM in the sub-section championship game Monday night at Minnesota State-Mankato. Above left, Kylie Olson dribbles the basketball with the Panthers' Camryn VanMaldeghem in the background. Above right, NRHEG captains Faith Nielsen, Hallie Schultz and Preslie Nielsen check out the second-place plaque. At right, NRHEG coach Onika Peterson embraced each of her players.
Star Eagle photos by Jim Lutgens

Panthers start slow, can't quite catch up to WEM

NRHEG girls 2nd in sub-section

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The old adage says it's very difficult to defeat a good team three times in one season.

It was reinforced Monday night. The NRHEG High School girls' basketball team, seeking its third victory over Waterville-Elysian-Morristown this season, was stifled by the Bucs 55-43 in the Section 2AA South Sub-section championship at Minnesota State-Mankato.

It was a difficult end to a fine season for the Panthers, who started slow and never did recover.

WEM led 10-1 before NRHEG hit its first field goal about five minutes into the game. It was 20-4 when NRHEG coach Onika Peterson called her second time out with 8:33 left in the first half, and it was 26-4 before the Panthers went on a run to pull within 31-17 at halftime.

"Unfortunately, we put ourselves into too big of a hole in the first five minutes of the game," said Coach Peterson. "They came out swinging, hitting two big threes from LaFrance, and Pelant attacked the basket and scored three in a row. We missed and forced up some shots.

"We had them on their heels."
— NRHEG coach Onika Peterson

We were very quickly down by 12 and dominated the first half. I was impressed with the team's heart and grit. They came back fighting in the second half and cut the lead to six.

The Panthers remained within striking distance much of the second half, pulling within 49-43 with three minutes to play. But two NRHEG starters fouled out and the Bucs made their free throws down the stretch.

"We had them on their heels," said Peterson. "Unfortunately, fouls got in our way. Kudos to the WEM team. They had a great game. Good luck to them vs. Glencoe Silver Lake on Friday."

Individually for NRHEG vs. WEM: Faith Nielsen 15 points, 1 rebound, 1 assist; Quinn VanMaldeghem 6P, 9R, 5A, 3 steals; Izley Boerner 4P, 3R, Clara



ONE OF MANY — Freshman Izley Boerner drives Monday night for the NRHEG girls' basketball team. She's one of many Panther underclassmen who will return next season.

Buendorf 1P, 1R: Hallie Schultz 7P, 8R, 4A; Camryn VanMaldeghem 8P, 3R, 2S 1 blocked shot; Presley Nielsen 2R, Kylie Olson 2P, 4R, 4A, 1S, 1B.

In their previous tournament game, the Panthers handled St. Clair 62-38, leading 33-18 at halftime.

Individually: F.Nielsen 6P; Q.VanMaldeghem 4P; Schultz 9P; C.VanMaldeghem 12P; Addy Stadheim 2P; P.Nielsen 19P; Olson 10P.

"We were able to get out to a quick start and we were able to carry it throughout the entire game," said Peterson. "Preslie came out huge in the first half, hitting four three-pointers. This was a big team win. We had a lot of kids stepping up tonight. We are extremely excited to get back to the sub-section championship game, and the fact that it is two Gopher Conference teams is pretty awesome."

The second-seeded Panthers finished with a record of 20-7. WEM



SLOW START — Camryn VanMaldeghem goes up for a basket Monday night for the NRHEG girls' basketball team, which trailed WEM 26-4 at one point in the first half.

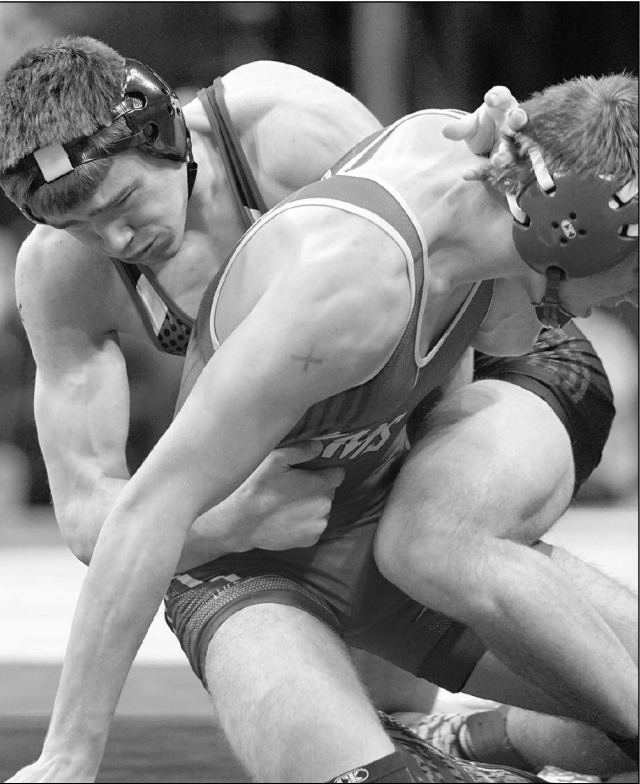
improved to 18-7 and will face top-seeded Glencoe-Silver Lake Friday for the section championship and state tournament berth.

The Panthers will graduate seniors Schultz, Faith Nielsen, Preslie Nielsen and Hope Nielsen.

"Thank you to this phenomenal group of girls that I was so fortunate to be able to coach," said Peterson. "It was a great year! Thank you to our four seniors Hallie, Faith, Preslie, and Hope."



XCEL ENERGY CENTER ACTION — NRHEG High School wrestlers in action at last week's state tournament at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul: Ryan Schlaak, George Roesler and Annabelle Petsinger.



Star Eagle photos by Eli Lutgens

Roesler almost reaches medals podium at state

NRHEG's Annabelle Petsinger sustains untimely injury; Schlaak drops two decisions

NRHEG entrants in the state high school wrestling tournament last weekend won some matches but did not bring home any medals from the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul.

George Roesler, a senior, came the closest, finishing one win away from the medals podium at 172 pounds. He won his first match by fall, and reached the consolation

semifinals with another fall before absorbing a 5-0 decision. He finished the season with a record of 29-7.

Freshman Ryan Schlaak lost a pair of decisions, 11-2 and 7-3. He finished 22-16.

Senior Annabelle Petsinger, seeking a second straight girls' wrestling state championship, had an unfortunate end to her season, sustaining an injury in her opening bout that

also forced her to lose by default in the wrestlebacks. Petsinger, who will continue her career at Iowa Central Community College, finished 16-3.

"It was good to see George wrestling on day two, and it was a good first-time state tournament experience for Ryan Schlaak," said NRHEG coach Shawn Larson. "It was tough when George lost in the consolation

round. He would have medaled if he had won one more. Annabelle ran into some misfortune that she couldn't do anything about."

Larson thanked seniors Roesler and Petsinger for all the hard work they have put into the sport of wrestling.

"We wish them the best in their future endeavors," said Larson. "They've had outstanding high school wrestling careers."

NRHEG boys seeded eighth in sub-section

As expected, it will be a challenge for the NRHEG High School boys' basketball team in postseason play.

The Panthers drew the No. 8 seed in the south sub-section of Section 2AA, earning the right to play at top-seeded LCWM on Tuesday, March 5. The winner of that game plays Tuesday at 6 p.m. at Fairmont, with the sub-section title game March 14 at 8 p.m. at Minnesota State-Mankato.

Waseca is seeded No. 2, followed by JWP, Maple Rivere, St. Clair, WEM, Blue Earth Area and NRHEG.

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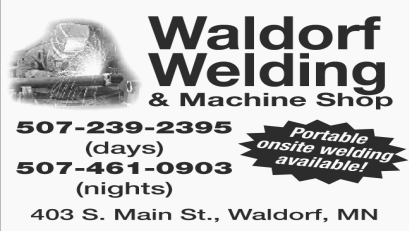
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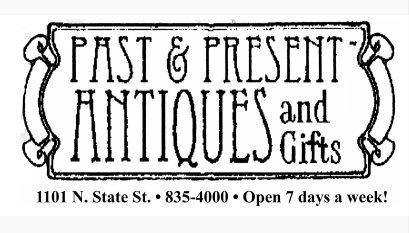
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DOWN THROUGH THE YEARS!

Start to finish, sinch 1953

Ellendale's Floors 4u

By RACHAEL LOVERINK
Staff Writer

From start to finish, flooring installation can be a daunting endeavor, but never fear: Ellendale's Floors 4-U is here. Allison Muilenberg and her father Scott Groth are always at the helm, ready and able to tackle that dream of yours.

"We try to help make the process of picking out new floors a little easier by asking some questions, unfortunately, a lot of questions at times," Muilenberg said.

It's those answers though, that help Muilenberg gain a real good sense of what the customer has in mind. With so many options to choose from, a little guiding light can be a lifesaver.

"There are even times where I will come out to your house to help envision," Muilenberg said. "There are so many different flooring options out there now."

Groth added, "Although we do not stock a lot of flooring, many times if you need something quick, it will arrive to the store in about five business days. Plus, there are always new updates to all of our flooring lines. Floors 4-U has also added Cambria countertops and products to our showroom!"

Their showroom also features Mohawk carpeting and hard surface flooring, Mannington hard surface floors and Aladdin commercial carpeting. Although most of their clientele is residential, they will gladly install for commercial purposes.

"On the hard surface side of things, we carry luxury vinyl plank and tile, ceramic tile, laminate and hardwoods," Muilenberg said. "Most of the hard surface options are waterproof or water resistant, scratch resistant and durable. We also offer window treatments by Comfortex."

Muilenberg and Groth are glad to offer a virtual platform for product preview as well. The first step is pretty easy; clients can snap a picture of the room on their smartphone. Then, after an upload of the image, flooring options can be swapped in and out with a few taps of the screen.

"As a family business, customers get a personal touch," Muilenberg said. "We are here to hear what you want and assist you in making that choice. Big box stores don't give you ease when making those big decisions."

Her first objective: find out what the surrounding walls and woodwork look like. Her motto: simple is best.

"If you put too many different colors and floor types together, things look messy," she said. "Floors 4-U is my job and my heart; working here is not a job. It's who I am. I am not really sure I would know what to do without this business."

In addition to sales, she takes care of the bookkeeping and measuring when need be. Doing so has kept her on her toes these last 15 years, that's for sure.

"My dad is the owner of the store and does all of our installing with the help of Dalen," she said. "I think that being able to work side-by-side with family every day shows how strong families really can be."

And, even on the days when they'd rather tell each other to take a hike, she wouldn't have it any other way. Once a family business, always a family business.

"Before it was Floors 4-U, it was Groth Furniture and Floor Coverings, which I have been a part of and worked for since before I could drive a car," she said. "There are still so many things here at the store that show our past and our present and the loved ones that we miss."

Growing up in a house just across the street, she had the perfect opportunity to form a strong bond with the former owners, her grandparents Paul and Mary Groth.

"It was always the highlight of my day when I would get to talk to them and see what the day was like for them," she said. "You could always bank on my grandma making cinnamon and caramel rolls for everyone that came to coffee on Saturday mornings."

The aroma of freshly made chocolate chip cookies would also waft throughout the breakroom on Saturday mornings. Then, after a



Allison Muilenberg

round a cribbage to start the day, it was time to hit the sales floor.

"These are the memories that I have of working in a small family-owned business," she said. "When we were sick, we would come to work with dad and go upstairs to grandma and grandpa's house that was above the store. Grandma would check on you throughout the day and make sure that you were always comfortable."

The chocolate chip cookie tradition is still alive and well, just not like clockwork as it used to be. Muilenberg does her best, as any mother of two would do.

"I would love to someday pass on the business to either of my children, if that is what they choose," she said.

She continued, "Groth Furniture and Floor Coverings was established by my great-grandparents Alice and Oscar Groth when they moved up here from Mason City, Iowa in 1953. They owned the store for a few years until my grandparents Paul and Mary Groth took it over."

For 17 years, she got to hustle alongside her grandparents and then the time came to liquidate all the furniture, beds and gift shop items. Doing so made way for the new business model implemented by her father, with a sole focus on flooring needs.

"This is when it was decided it would be called Floors 4-U, since we would now only be doing flooring," she said. "He brought in more types of flooring options and ideas. Both Grandma and Grandpa were still a part of helping out at the store from time to time, up until two years ago when they both passed."

Groth explained further, "My parents liked to sell quality furniture. The decision to get out of furniture and accessories was hard for them to make. People are more mobile today, plus the online shopping. It was just a good time to get out of furniture."

For Groth, the fact that this business is still family-owned sets his mind at ease. Add the fact that quality service lives on, and he's one happy camper.

He's also quite fond of his grandchildren, Cloe and Oliver. Yes, it's heartwarming for both Muilenberg and Groth to see that their younger cohorts know their way around the store now.

"My daughter Cloe has been helping out here and there on jobs with her grandpa, making memories like I got to do with Grandma," she said. "My son Oliver likes to help water the plants and, in the winter time, he helps shovel the snow."

Apart from work, Muilenberg relishes living a rural life and keeping busy with little adventures.

"With two kids who are 10 years apart in age, we spend a lot of time at the cabin," she said. "We like to be on the water, fishing, tubing and in general just relaxing. In my free time, I love to sing and that is something I can do with my kids and with my dad too. We all have a love for music."

At home, you'll find that she has beautiful hardwood floors dating back to 1950 on the upper level. On the main level, her family enjoys carpet in the living room and sitting room, along with ceramic tile in the kitchen and dining room. Soon however, she plans to add luxury vinyl tile throughout the main level of the house.

Clearly, she knows her flooring stuff. So if you're ever in the market, you know who to call.

"Without all our past and current employees, we would not have been in business for 17 years as Floors 4-U or continued on for 70 years, since opening in 1953," said Groth.

Going strong for five decades

Steve's Meat market

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

Steve and Donnavon Eaker became key holders of Ellendale's "Pete and Rube's Market" on Feb. 3, 1973 and changed the name to Steve's Meat Market. A year later, their daughter, Rachael Lee, named after her grandma in Bixby, was born.

Now 50 years old, Lee doesn't look her age. She manages the shop by answering any questions her employees have while she keeps busy in the back with orders. Her cheerful smile lets everyone know about her easy-going, friendly personality. While it could be said she was born into the business, that is not the way she has always seen it.

While attending college, she believed she would promote sports for a living, but decided to step in "temporarily" when she saw her hard-working parents needed extra help. Her perspective changed when her father was diagnosed with cancer. In 2006, she took up his role as an owner and began running the business.

From the time Lee was ten years old, she bagged groceries with Michelle, her older sister. Back then, Steve's Meat Market carried a wider selection of groceries, which included fruits, vegetables, canned goods, and cereal. As she and her sister grew older, they took on other responsibilities like stocking the shelves and running the till. By the time each of the sisters turned twelve, they knew how to package meats and work on orders.

"My parents had a vision of what could work for them," Lee remembered. She went on to explain that, because the custom processing and slaughtering "fell to the wayside" in the 1980s, her parents had to decide what to do that would allow the business to continue. "[My dad] was really good at making sausages," Lee added. "So in 1991, they went USDA."

Around that time, Michelle graduated from high school and decided she didn't want to work at the market anymore.

Lee said her parents worked as a team; Steve envisioned where his products could go, what he could do with them, and how he could sell them; Donnavon, Lee's mom, sold the products. The next year, in 1992, Lee graduated from high school and went to college where she got a business degree. While Lee's dad prepared the meat, she packaged and took care of orders with the other employees and her mom sold the meat.

But, Lee clarified, it wasn't just the three of them.

"It takes everyone to work here in order to make this work," she said.

In the years of packaging, Lee added, the process has changed a lot. When she started, she packaged with plastic and white wrapping until about high school when Cryovac became state of the art. The Cryovac system sucked the air out of the bags, enabling the meat in the packaging to stay fresher longer.

"The role of packaging keeps changing," Lee noted. "Now you have more roll stock machines where you put it into pockets and the machine seals it as it keeps going on a rotation type of thing. So it's a little bit more automated."

Steve's Meat Market has distributors throughout the Cities area, northern and southern Minnesota, and in parts of Iowa. The business sells its meats to various stores, including some branches of the Hy-Vee brand.

"We probably try to do a little bit too much," Lee admitted. "But we choose distributors who are a good fit for both sides."

Her two sons, Daxter and Jared, are both heavily involved with basketball and baseball and play on the Pan, but both of them work at the shop, usually during the summers. Currently, Jared is a sophomore and Daxter is a senior in high school.

When The Pioneer asked Lee whether she thought either of her boys would take over the business, she shrugged and smiled. "You never know," she said. "I never thought I would – I really didn't. I just came back to help my parents out."

Two years ago, Lee's mom also got cancer and passed away, leaving Lee in charge of the business.

"It wasn't like a 'Yes, this is what I'm going to do for the rest of my life,' but that's what it sure turned into," Lee said. "The thing is, when you're born into a business, you're born into a business and that's all you know. You just go with it."

Throughout the 50-year history, Steve's Meat Market has had a wide range of accomplishments.

-In October 1975, Steve's Meat Market started processing venison, from a trim to a whole deer.

-In July 1976, Steve's Meat Market attended the thirty-seventh annual convention of the American Association of Meat Processors in Minneapolis, where meat processors learned more about the industry and modern equipment.

-In September 1976, Steve's Meat Market installed a gas powered smokehouse for better humidity and temperature control.

-In May 1978, Steve Eaker received the 1978 Ellendale-Geneva F.F.A. Honorary Chapter Award at the annual banquet held at the Ellendale Community Center for his continued work in the meat judging team.

-In May 1982, Steve and Donnavon Eaker entered their smoked meat products in the product show competition and received a reserve champion title in the miscellaneous specialties class.

-In July 1982, Steve and Donnavon Eaker were awarded the Steele County Friend of 4-H award. Steve's Meat Market also received numerous awards throughout the years:

-August/September 1986, Steve received a first place premium for summer sausage and a second place premium for ham at the Minnesota State Fair.

-On August 10, 1987 – Steve received a champion award for his smoked turkey entry in Louisville, Kentucky.

-In August/September 1987 – Steve received fourth place for a bacon entry and fifth place for his summer sausage entry at the Minnesota State Fair.

-On August 15, 1988 – Steve received two Grand Champions, two Reserve Grand Champions, and two Reserve Champions at the forty-ninth annual convention of the American Association of Meat Processors held in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

-August/September 1988: Steve received third place for his ham entry at the product show competition at the Minnesota State Fair.

-August/September 1989: Steve received two first place premium awards for his summer sausage and ham entries.

Throughout the years, Steve continued to win contests and entries for his meat products.

If anyone is interested, Steve's Meat Market is looking for a full-time meat cutter and is willing to train any beginners who are hired.



Steve's Meat Market, in downtown Ellendale

A community staple since 1901

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

Lerberg's Foods has remained a fixed constant in the community of Ellendale since 1901, when the city was founded. Not only is it the oldest grocery store in Steele County, it is also the second oldest continuously operating grocery store in the state.

"You don't see many stores with the old wooden floors or the moose hanging on the wall anymore," said Ross Sletten, the current owner. "But it's fun because we're so close to the interstate. People will get off because they're curious about Ellendale. When they stop in, they'll say that they grew up with a store just like this in their town."

Andrew Lerberg, Andy Lerberg's grandfather, put Lerberg's Foods in the location it is now because of the railroad that ran through there back then. It was in three generations, including Andy - Andrew's grandson - and his wife Mary owned the grocery store until Sletten took over in 2007.

Although he's not descended from the line of Lerbergs, Sletten came to feel like part of the family after getting a job there in November of 1976 while still in high school. After Sletten graduated, he attended college in Mankato, where he earned a degree in sales, marketing and management. Although he worked at a few other grocery stores, he said, Lerberg's always felt like home.

"I called Andy up on a whim one day. 'Hey, if you're looking for somebody, I'd be interested,'" Sletten said, adding he was aware that someday Lerberg would want to sell the business.

Fortunately for Sletten, circumstances aligned in his favor. Andy and Mary raised two daughters, but neither showed interest in taking over the grocery business.

"It's nice to see businesses still on Main Street here, working," Sletten commented. "You go to a lot of the smaller towns and there just isn't anything there anymore."

Sletten credits his loyal local customers for keeping the grocery store in operation. Even though most residents drive to Owatonna or Albert Lea for work, a good share of them stop in Lerberg's before they go home. Their loyalty, and the sense of community it brings, are much of the reason Sletten claims he enjoys coming to work every day.

"I take care of them the best I can," he says.

The loyalty goes both ways, it seems. If, for instance, a customer's child has a dairy allergy, Sletten says he makes sure to keep an alternative on hand, for example, almond milk.

Sletten says when he first began at the store, merchandise was delivered by a warehouse called Nash Finch in Edina. Over time, he switched to supplier Associated Wholesale Grocers (AWG) in St. Cloud; the company is structured as a cooperative and he's joined it. AWG also helps with Lerberg's website.

"Joining a cooperative has helped me be competitive and offer many of the same products all the big box stores offer," Sletten said.

The only things he doesn't have are fresh bakery or deli items, but he does carry fresh meat and produce, as well as an impressive gift card selection. He has some floral items, too.

"We do the best we can with the space we have," Sletten observed.

During the Covid lockdown, Lerberg's Foods followed all the applicable regulations. Sletten recalls the largest hurdle he faced was keeping



Lerberg's Foods, in downtown Ellendale

needed products in stock. At that time, people emptied stores of toilet paper, paper products, and disinfectant wipes. Because of that, Sletten says he learned how to find a variety of sources.

Sletten realizes he is reaching a time to find someone who will want to take over the business. His kids worked at Lerberg's Foods while they were in high school, but none have shown interest in becoming the new owner.

"They went on to pursue other things and they're doing what they want to do," Sletten said. "And that's great."

He remains confident regarding the store's future.

"AWG has a department that will come in and find somebody if I don't have anyone in place," Sletten said. "I talked with Andy Lerberg who owned the store before I did and he wants to see the store continue. So do I."



Shown here is a picture of the boat that I use for lake hopping that inspires me every time that I look at it. The other picture is of the sun as it sets in the west over the lake



It is time for some serious daydreaming

I have enjoyed the weather that we have been experiencing so far this winter. Unfortunately, it will not do anything to help with the drought that we have had the last couple of years. Not only does it make it hard on the farmers, but our creeks, lakes and streams all have had to suffer. As I have driven past areas where ponds once thrived, I have found most are either dried up or close to it. One of the side effects of this is what it does to the wildlife that existed in those small bodies of water.

If you have ever taken an evening drive in the country, you have no doubt driven past a swamp or pond and heard the many forms of wildlife that exist therein. As the sun sets you can be serenaded by the sound of birds chirping as they busily prepare for the night ahead. There are also the sound of frogs speaking out from somewhere in the water. You may also hear an occasional fish jumping or a muskrat, beaver or otter swimming. While at our cabin, all of these



Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl
Outdoors Writer

things can be heard while sitting on the shore of our little lake.

While awaiting the time to come when I can return to our cabin, I, from time to time, will sit and dream of such things. If I close my eyes, I can almost hear the noises of the evening (not to be confused with my tinnitus) and long for the sounds of the trumpeter swans and loons calling or of frogs making that distinct croaking sound. I have been awoken by a loud splashing sound, only to discover that it is the sound that a beaver makes when slapping its tail on the water.

I can almost feel the evening dew as it settles on the lily pads, but

rushes and pencil reeds for the evening. As I lay awake in bed at the cabin, there are many sounds of birds calling in the forest, many of which I do not recognize. This always puts my mind in a curious state, but some of these I have to leave to my imagination. These are the call of certain birds that I only hear at night. There are occasional sounds of the wolves calling or of a pack of coyotes that seem to hang out across the lake. I recognize the difference in a wolf call, which is more of a howl, compared to a coyote which is more of a yipping sound.

Next to fishing, watching wildlife is probably my favorite pastime

while at the cabin. Over the years, I have had many instances where I have been surprised by the sudden appearance of a bear, deer, badger or martin. One time, while sitting by the campfire in the evening, a deer ran past us and surprised the heck out of us. A few minutes later my grandson, Taylor came up from the lake and asked if we had seen that deer. He said that, while coming up the hill from the dock, a deer had run right in front of him. It had to be the same deer that ran past our campfire a short time later.

Until next time: With the dry conditions in the area, it has been predicted that we will be vulnerable to wildfires. With the high winds that seem to blow every day, the chance for those wildfires increases. Can somebody please unplug the fan!

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

■ Blaze

from Page 1

Two firefighters were treated and released; one homeowner was also injured. Numerous residents were asked to evacuate their homes. The sheriff's office reports that no structures were damaged or destroyed.

According to information shared by Waseca Fire Department chief Jason Forshee during a press conference on Monday, roughly 60 workers from the DNR, Minnesota State Fire Marshal's Office, the Waseca County Sheriff's Office and Waseca fire department followed up Monday morning to "assess the area" and "cool down any lingering hotspots." At the same press conference, DNR repre-

sentative Jake Froyum stated that the cooler, damp day on Monday was helpful in decreasing the likelihood any smoldering spots would reignite, but that staff would be making day-by-day decisions regarding continuing efforts at "mopping up."

Law enforcement personnel from Waseca and Steele counties and firefighters from 11 local agencies, as well as planes from Brainerd and units from the state Fish and Wildlife Service all took part in efforts to control Sunday's fire, which encroached "within feet" of about 12 area homes. A small number of area farmers also brought large-scale tilling equipment which helped protect homes and property by exposing bare earth over swaths of land 50 or more feet wide. According to Forshee, at the height of firefighting efforts more than 20 fire trucks were on site and up to 50 water-carrying vehicles referred to as

"tankers."

The cause of the fire remains under investigation by the Minnesota State Fire Marshal's Office, the Waseca County Sheriff's Office, the Minnesota Department of Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the Waseca Fire Department.

Waseca fire chief Jason Forshee said his department is grateful to "the numerous businesses and individuals who provided food and water" to first responders. Sheriff Jay Dulas shared that his office "would like to extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who assisted. We are thankful our community is so supportive of our first responders."

A list provided by the sheriff's office names fire departments from Janesville, Waldorf, New Richland, Owatonna, Medford, Ellendale, Faribault, Morristown, Waterville, Kilkenney, and Elysian as having

responded to the fire. Firefighting support from the DNR included air support; further assistance came from the US Fish and Wildlife Services.

Also providing assistance were North Ambulance Service, Waseca Fire Auxiliary, Waseca County Sheriff's Posse, Waseca County Emergency Management, Born Well Drilling, law enforcement agencies from the cities of Waseca and Janesville, the state highway patrol, and officers and dispatchers from the counties of Waseca, Steele, Rice and LeSueur.

Waseca County would like property owners who suffered damage to please contact the the Waseca Assessor's office: <https://www.waseca-county.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=347>

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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 LUTHERAN CHURCH
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 - 10:30 a.m. Worship
Tuesday - Council meeting (First Tuesday)
Wednesday - 7 p.m. Confirmation

WEST FREEBORN LUTHERAN
Hartland, Minnesota
Rev. Marcia Pedersen
Sunday - 9 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 - 8 a.m. Worship; Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.

MANCHESTER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
Manchester, Minnesota
Pastor Phillip K. Lepak
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship

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

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN
Geneva, Minnesota
Dr. Kristen Venne, Pastor
Monday - 8:30 a.m. Worship
Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting

SIMPLY CHURCH
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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 - 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

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

HOLLENDALE REFORMED

Rev. Neal Ooms
101 East Park Avenue
Hollendale, 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 Klawitter
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 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, Preschool Sunday School during Mass
Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. - Faith Formation classes for grades K-Confirmation
www.litomyssl.webs.com
www.stisidoreeschool.webs.com

FIRST LUTHERAN
Missouri Synod
Waldorf, Minnesota
Rev. Michael Matthews, 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
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
Sunday - 9 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
Father Brian Mulligan
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship

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

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.

LOOKING BACK

100 Years Back - 1924

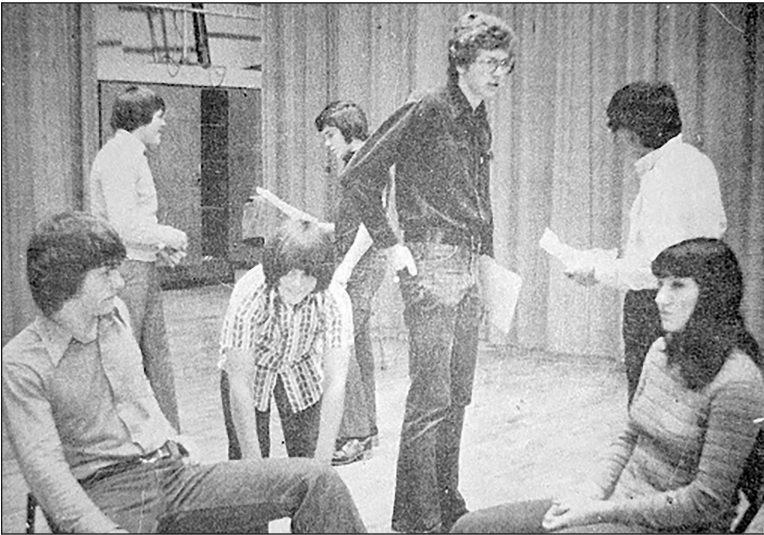
- Messrs. Fred Bettner, A. Rotegard, C.E. Christenson, Bill Sutlief and Wm. Bauman of this place attended the 60th anniversary meeting of the Waseca County Anti-Horse Thief Society, held at the Waverly hotel at Waseca Saturday evening.
- E.J. Fogelberg, D.C. Brown and H.M. Woll drove to Waldorf Friday evening where the latter officiated at a basketball game between the Waldorf Consolidated school and the Pemberton Consolidated school in which the Waldorf team was an easy winner.
- Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Shea returned Monday from Hartland where they visited over Sunday at the Fitzgerald home. They were accompanied on their return by Miss Nellie Fitzgerald, a sister of Mrs. Shea.
- New Richland's Leap Year girl, Edith Mortenson, will celebrate her second birthday at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J.P. Mortenson, on Friday, Feb. 29, when a party will be given for eight of her classmates.
- The following friends and relatives spent Sunday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Grunske: Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Grunske and daughter, Ethel; Mr. and Mrs. Art Kaiser and son, Lawrence; Mr. and Mrs. Emil Wille and daughters, Olga and Erna; Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Schultz and son, Roger.
- The Arthur Blowers, Leonard Hanson and Mrs. Oluf Hanson families were guests at the L.H. Brandvold home Saturday evening.

76 Years Back - 1948

- Raul Donoso was eliminated from the Golden Gloves boxing competition after battling his way into the quarter finals. The fights took place in Chicago where fighters from 32 cities met to crown champs in eight weight divisions. In a fight with Jimmy Calland of Fort Wayne, Indiana, which Donoso won on a decision, he had the misfortune to break his left thumb. The injury caused him to default to Bob Rossi in the quarter finals.
- Little Herbert Johnson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey C. Johnson of the Lemond neighborhood, is celebrating his first birthday Sunday, although he will actually be four years old since his birthday is the 29th of February, falling this year on Sunday.
- Art Stensrud and his brother, Herbie Stensrud of Lakefield, have been digging in each other's ribs for some time over their bowling prowess and the thing came to a head last Sunday. Art picked a team composed of Billy Bell, Glen Nelson, John Greenwood, Russell Olson and himself and hied to Blue Earth where they met Herbie's team. Art's outfit won two out of three games.
- Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Foss, Marietta and Carol and Mr. and Mrs. Sylvan Foss of Clarks Grove motored to Hopkins Sunday and were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Semrud. They went especially to visit the new grandson of Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Foss.
- Mr. and Mrs. Lester Walstrom and Mrs. Caroline Verplank visited Martin Loken at the Carl Newgard home in Albert Lea a week ago Thursday.
- Mrs. Ted Lee, Mrs. William Jacobson, Mrs. Marcus Twisselman and Mrs. Ole Bakken spent last Wednesday at the home of Mrs. George Johnson. They helped Mrs. Johnson observe her birthday anniversary.

50 Years Back - 1974

Several members of the New Richland-Hartland Oral Interpretation class are pictured practicing for their annual Oral Interp



night. They are, from left: Rich Westland, Dave Arnfelt, Gary Walstrom, Don Krueger, Gary Hagen, Ron Soper and Dawn Janowitz. Others performing will be Bill Arneman, Rhonda Borchert, Ruth Brandvold, Ruth Hagen, Scott Kormann, Sandy Nelson, Linda Schoenrock, Susan Sorage, Dave Shurson, Cindy Thompson, Scott Urban, Pam Schumacher, and Jerry Williams.

- Sunday dinner guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Vic Kluender were Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Schroeder, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Schroeder, Jodi and Dan, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Rosenau and Mr. and Mrs. Tom Traynor, Tracy and Todd. Afternoon callers were Mrs. Leona Habeck and Mrs. Lorraine Kirkpatrick.
- Mr. and Mrs. Albert Ganiere, Larry and Brenda were Sunday dinner guests at the Marilyn Gekeler home at Janesville in honor of Terry Gekeler on his seventh birthday.
- Friday evening supper guests at the Vernon Dezell home at Alden were Mr. and Mrs. Otto Sorenson, Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Dezell and family and Mr. and Mrs. Art Christensen of Freeborn.

25 Years Back - 1999

- The NRHEG School Board agreed to close school Thursday, Feb. 25 so that all students, faculty, and parents will have the opportunity to cheer the Panther Wrestling Squad to a Minnesota Class 2A wrestling title.



These four NRHEG members of the Future Leaders of America earned Gold Awards on their Star Events at Belle Plaine, from left: Melissa Berg, Jessie Bushlack, Amber Stohr and Tara Fricke.

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Summit Township
Tuesday, March 12, 2024
5pm to 8pm

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Vote for
One

☐ Andy Jewison
☐
Write in if any

Supervisor
3yr Term
Vote for
One

☐ Kevin Noble
☐
Write in if any

BERLIN TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD OF CANVASS MEETING
Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Berlin Township, County of Steele, State of Minnesota, that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024. In case of inclement weather the meeting and election may be postponed until the third Tuesday in March.
The Election Poll hours will be open from 5 P.M. to 8 P.M. at which time the voters will elect:
ONE (1) SUPERVISOR for a 3 year term
ONE (1) CLERK for a 2 year term
The Annual Meeting will commence at 8:15 P.M. to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law.
The Annual Election and Meeting will be held at the following location:
Ellendale Community Building
The Board of Canvass will meet on March 12, 2024 to certify the official election results.
Helen Schmidt
Berlin Township Clerk
February 8, 2024

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Summit board meeting will be 7:00 PM on March 6th at the hall, due to the presidential primary on the 5th. This board will be on a Wednesday Instead of the usual Tuesday.

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OTISCO TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS
Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Otisco Township, County of Waseca, State of Minnesota, that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Township Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024. In case of inclement weather, the meeting and election may be postponed until the third Tuesday in March.
The Election Poll hours will be from 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. at which time the voters will elect:
ONE (1) CLERK, 2 YEAR TERM
ONE (1) SUPERVISOR, 3 YEAR TERM
The Annual Meeting will commence at 8:00 P.M. to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law.
Jenae Peterson
Otisco Township Clerk

Steve Fields
Minnesota Attorney

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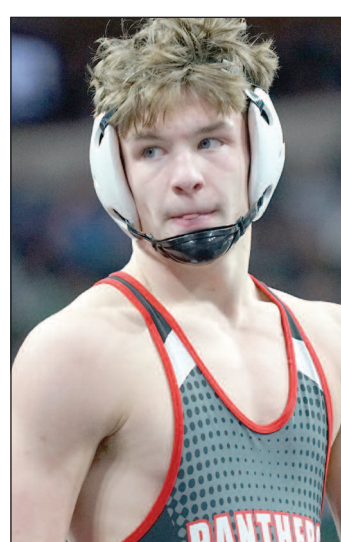
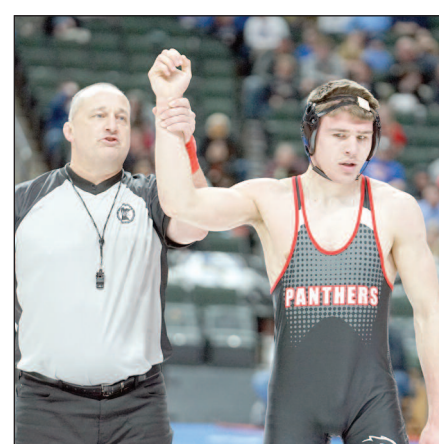
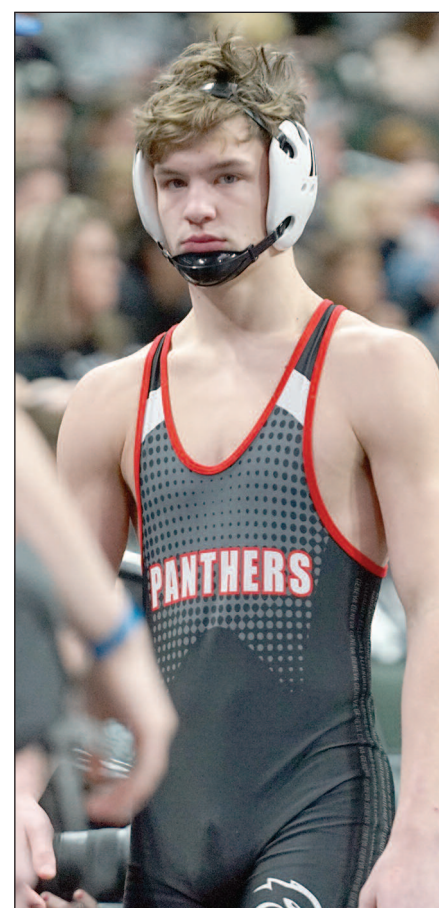
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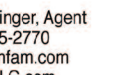
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