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Farewell

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.

Scouting For Food March 16

New Richland Boy Scouts were out in force Saturday, March 9, placing post-it notes on doors. Please read details and prepare a bag of non-perishable items. The bag should then be on your front step early Saturday morning, March 16. The Scouts will be around throughout the day to pick up the bags.

You are also welcome to deliver your bag of food to your local food bank. Please indicate you are part of the Scouting For Food movement and your donations will be matched.

Ellendale Pie and Bake Sale March 30

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.

SBNR exceeding food shelf donations

The State Bank of New Richland is celebrating 125 years of serving the community by matching all cash donations made to the Area Food Shelf of New Richland 1.25X during March 2024 up to a total match of \$5,000.

For example, a donation of \$100 will be matched by the SBNR for \$125.

Checks can be made payable to: Area Food Shelf of New Richland. Drop off/mail donations to: State Bank of New Richland P.O. Box 68, New Richland, MN, 56072—

Fire and safety class April 20

Area students interested in certification for an upcoming Fire and Safety Class sign up at the NRHEG high school office.

A field day will occur April 20 at the Area Sportsmen's Club in New Richland. Class only open to first 25 students. More info can be found at the sportsmen's club website.

Keen Bank to Host Food Drive in March, Benefiting Steele and

Briefs continued on 2

A word from

The Word

Strive for peace with everyone.

Hebrews 12:14

‘Front and center’

Progress continues on Ellendale Mural

Chandler Anderson expects to finish project soon

By KAY FATE
Steele County Times

At first glance, it looked like Chandler Anderson was having a conversation with a few people.

A few more steps into the Ellendale Community Building, though, and it became clear they were people of his own creating.

The artist commissioned to revitalize a mural in downtown Ellendale is moving into the final phases of his role in the project. Anderson expects to be finished painting the 12-foot-by-10-foot piece by mid-March.

He hopes to allow it to cure inside for at least six weeks before it's installed at the southwest corner of the lot that will eventually become a community gathering space, featuring picnic tables, benches, a bandstand, a paved path, and the existing garden.

The focal point and backdrop of the space, the mural features three prominent figures from the town's history, including Ellen Dale Ives, for whom Ellendale was named. Flanking her are her contemporaries, Thomas H. Brown, who helped found the town, and Dr. E.Q. Ertel, who served the community for 50 years.

"I'm building the meat and potatoes of it right now," Anderson said of the artwork, "then I'll go in with some detail when I'm done — like the embellishments on the luggage" that sits at the feet of Brown and Ives, and on the medical bag Ertel is holding.

Anderson hasn't kept track of the hours he's spent on the project since the scaffolding was built and the panels were put into place at the beginning of February.

"I started just sketching it on," he said of the process, "building it inward from the perimeter. I framed it (with the background), moved in, and now I'm going to move out again" when the three figures are completed.

"I get the main chunk of it down; that way I know how to bring in the sides" of the scene, Anderson said. "I just don't want these (figures) to get lost. I want them front and center."

The overall look is of a sepia-toned photo, though he has brightened up some of the colors.

The mural will be visible to westbound traffic on Minnesota Highway 30 and those traveling north or south on Second Street.

The features still to be added include the railroad depot, the original elevator, and a locomotive.

"When I'm working on a big project, I want to stay on it," Anderson said, "and keep the momentum. I'll be here every day now."



Artist Chandler Anderson works on the "meat and potatoes" of the new Ellendale mural: three of the town's most revered residents. The 12-foot-by-10-foot mural is being painted inside, then will be installed this summer in the outdoor community garden. Anderson will add buildings, a train, and more detail before finishing the piece later this month.

Photo by Kay Fate



These representatives of sixth-graders (above) and seventh-graders (below) are among the students whose artwork—much of it created around themes of art used by indigenous peoples across the North American continent—is on display in the secondary school hallways.

Star Eagle photos by Deb Bently



On display

Student art showcases creativity and talents

NRHEG art teacher Cynthia Gail believes it's important that student art is available for everyone to see. Toward that end, she has taken projects created by students in sixth through eighth grades and displayed them prominently throughout the secondary school hallways.

"They're on different themes and they use different media," describes Gail. "It makes for a lot of variety and color."

Based on Minnesota state standards, many of the works center around indigenous peoples. One set shows interpretations of totem poles, a feature of Alaskan native culture. Another set uses the southwestern theme of the storyteller. Some gray-scale designs feature horses, important to the Ojibwe people.

Works are also produced using grayscale and colored pencils, tempera and oil paints, and more. They are displayed in neat groups in hallways throughout the building.

"I want the students to see that their work is on display. I want artists to have a chance to see each others' work. I want to give everyone an opportunity to appreciate the versatility, beauty and power of art," commented Gail. "For all those reasons, it's important student work is displayed."

Among sixth-graders whose work is displayed are Addison Bauleke, August Bethke, Lucas Degen, Brandon Doyle, Mack Gilliland, Kailee Harmer, Jacob Klaras, Brayton Kruger, Mason Pederson, Owen Schlaak, Jaren Surat, Melody Torley and Matthew Williams.

Among seventh-graders are Arnold Braxton, Scarlett Chance, Kenley Gehrke, Mallory Groskreutz, Chase Hanson, Hannah Harmer, Korbin Johnson, Jovey Knudson, Gabrielle Nelson, Lincoln Quade, Makenna Reeder, Braydon Rollag, Dakota Schlaak, Brooklyn Sommer, Morgan Studier and Jackson Woodham.

Peace officers share impressions

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

"Crime doesn't stop at the borders of large metropolitan areas, and it doesn't stop when the sun sets," observes Waseca County Sheriff Jay Dulas. "Drugs and crimes continue to travel through Waseca County."

Between the sheriff's department and the police departments in Waseca, Janesville and New Richland, there are about 40 full- or part-time officers dedicated to protecting the welfare of Waseca County's citizens. The Star Eagle asked representatives from all of those agencies about the status of their work.

Among the spokespersons, Waseca police chief Penny Vought has the longest history in law enforcement, having begun as a patrol officer in Waseca in the 1980s. "We've seen a lot of change," she says simply. She and Waseca police captain Kris Markeson remember a time when the city advertised a job opening and received 50 applications. "These days we're lucky to get two or three," said Markeson, who has been with the department since 1999.

Nearly all the department leaders interviewed commented they feel fortunate their officers tend to remain on staff. Janesville police chief Steven Johnson credited a recent pay increase which he said helped make working for his department "competitive."

Still, Sheriff Dulas observes, "Many officers have chosen to leave the field. The pay simply hasn't kept up with the responsibilities, expectations and pressures of the job." Between that attrition and a vast reduction in the number of people entering the field, there are hundreds of unfilled law enforcement jobs all over the state.

Here in Waseca County, only the Waseca department mentioned it is currently hiring.

While recent high-profile events may lead to the impression violent crimes are on the rise, local agencies have mixed responses. If "violent crimes" means shootings, armed robberies and the like, "There have always been occasional happenings," said Waseca's Vought. Janesville's Johnson, on staff in the city for 23 years, said the town actually experienced a decrease of such instances when state highway 14 was rerouted, thus reducing the amount of traffic moving through city streets.

Still, speaking of the shooting which occurred in Janesville's downtown last summer, he observed, "It opens your eyes. We may think of ourselves as a peaceful little bedroom community, but we shouldn't convince ourselves things like this don't happen here."

New Richland police chief Tanyce Bruegger believes the widespread problem of substance abuse has fueled increases in violent crimes. "People are engaging in riskier behavior," she observed. "And they have the perception there are fewer law enforcement officers." Bruegger, who has been with the New Rich-



Dulas



Bruegger

Peace continued on 5



FenceLines

by Mark Bernard

Jailbreak from the lambing barn

The scurs forecast courtesy of the Weather Eye kept Old Man Winter at bay another week. Do we continue that trend or is it about to regress? Starting Thursday, mostly sunny with a good chance of showers. Highs in the mid-40's with lows in the low 30's. Mostly cloudy Friday with a slight chance of a.m. snow showers. Highs in the upper 40's with lows in the mid-30's. Mostly sunny on Saturday with a moderate chance of rain or snow showers. Highs in the low 50's with lows in the mid-20's. Sunday, St. Patrick's Day, partly sunny with a fair chance of snow showers. Highs in the mid-30's with lows in the low 20's. Mostly cloudy on Monday with highs in the mid-30's and lows in the low 20's. Tuesday, mostly sunny with highs in the mid-40's and lows in the low 20's. Mostly cloudy on Wednesday with highs in the low 50's and lows in the upper 20's. On the 17th, we'll see just over 12 hours of daylight. The 19th marks the 1st day of spring. The normal high for March 19th is 41 and the normal low is 24. The scurs should have concluded their St. Patrick's Day festivities by then.

We can officially put the winter of 2023 – 2024 behind us. Or can we? Without a doubt, this has been the warmest winter I can recall. It has consisted of Old Man Winter showing his face briefly then taking power naps. Rinse and repeat. As a result, spring anhydrous ammonia has gone on superbly. We are definitely in the midst of a drought, although as mentioned last week, we were fortunate to receive some precipitation after the crop was mature. What is very evident is the impact hydrologically speaking. With sparse winter precip, shallow wetland levels are down significantly as are lakes and streams. Some are issuing dire predictions about insect pest levels already, although there is more than meets the eye other than overwintering survival. Beneficial insects are affected similarly, so their ability to rise to the occasion is often understated. They like to eat and if there's abundant food around, that's exactly what they'll do.

Not unlike some of the fauna of Bugtussle. It has become a tradition at the Corn Palace that we toss our apple cores outside for them to scavenge. If nothing else, they're biodegradable and won't harm anything. Just like clockwork though, when checking the next day, the apple cores had disappeared. What was consuming them remained a mystery. With no snow, there were no tracks, although if birds were responsible, the tracks would be minimal. We finally did get enough measurable snow back in mid-February to provide definitive proof. We'd narrowed the field down to squirrels, crows and cottontails, all of which were seen from time to time. Checking where the last apple core had landed the day before, we had a clear winner. Cottontail tracks were clearly visible. My guess is the north end of Bugtussle will be overrun by Easter bunnies as a result of our benevolence. Sorry gardeners.

The nice weather continues presenting unexpected lambing challenges at the ranch. Most winters, snow surrounds the lot where the ewes are fed, so their excursions beyond that are limited. It's also thwarted our efforts

to keep them at least close to if not in the lambing barn, instead becoming a game of "Where's Waldo?" When I did a head count before noon bottle lamb feeding, I couldn't find the tenth animal. I fed the bottle lambs and noticed the group of nine gazing off to the southwest. Sure enough, I spied a small white creature moving around by the aronia berries. There was also a larger white shape by a clump of grass. The NW wind raked my face as I approached to get a closer look. Sure enough, it was a yearling ewe that decided that was far enough before going into labor. After some coaxing and trickery, mother and daughter were inside where it was dry and warm. Yearling ewes have the brains of a gnat and that's not being fair to the gnat

Other fun and games have arisen as well. Making my way back Sunday from pussy willow harvest, I saw what I at first believed to be another ewe that had lambed in the pasture. She was tearing across the lot behind the house with her lamb in hot pursuit. Really a huge lamb, I thought as suddenly, there was another ewe with a large lamb following behind. That ewe was a natural-colored ewe, however. That couldn't be as all the natural-colored ewes had already lambed. As I deduced, there had been a jailbreak from the lambing barn. There was no catching either of the ewes or their lambs out in the open. However, after herding them towards the lambing barn and upon uttering a few magic words, they went inside. After reinforcing their pens and putting a gate across the doorway, we vaxxed, docked and tagged the lambs. Later that afternoon they were moved to the main barn where they had more space. Eventually, they'll all be out in the lot in front of the barn for public display, creating the annual gawker slowdown.

Early garden progress includes seeing more of the radishes planted January 31st poking through. No sign of those planted in February yet. The miniature daffodils with their bright yellow buds will probably be blooming by the time this reaches print. Hopefully the forecast rainfall does the same. The full-sized models aren't far behind them as are the hyacinths. Have been watering the rhubarb some and Monday, took the hose to the perennials like coralbells and astilbes. I mentioned the pussy willows in the wetland area earlier. They are as nice as ever, although the warm weather is apt to blow them over the dam quickly.

Poppy had a huge weekend with near people overload. I say near as there's no such thing with a Corgi. She got to meet the TV guy in the morning right after chores. In the afternoon, there were kids in the form of Ellis and Everly to play with. There were also adults to fill in around the edges while they were preoccupied with bottle lambs. A lot of ball retrieval and many zoomies before the last hugs and goodbyes were dispensed. Almost before their vehicle hit the end of the driveway, Poppy was fast asleep at Mrs. Cheviot's feet, probably dreaming fondly of her most recent human encounters, looking forward to the next.

See you next week...real good then.

A retrospective on a tough time

A couple weeks ago, I wrote about quadrennial occurrences, things that happen every four years like Leap Years, elections, and the Olympics. As I thought back to the previous Leap Year, I was reminded of the horrors of 2020.

That's right, as you read this, we have hit the four-year anniversary of the Covid-19 pandemic. Friday, March 13, was our last day of school that year as the governor announced a couple days later that we were shutting down to stop the spread, to flatten the curve of the fast-spreading coronavirus that had invaded our country.

As we look back at that time, a lot of things have changed because of it in our world. The pandemic is similar to the 9/11 terrorist attacks in that we often refer to things as pre-9/11 and post-9/11. We now will think about things as when they happened in relation to 2020.

I was always very supportive of what doctors and scientists were saying at that time. After all, what does an English teacher know about viruses as compared to people who endured more years of higher education than I did? And who happened to study the very thing that was imperiling people's lives?

The bigger threat in 2020 was the politicization of the pandemic. Covid-19 killed a lot of people, but things might have been at least a little different if political leaders on both sides of the aisle had spent more time listening to the people studying the virus and less time trying to gain political favor with the people of the country by playing into either fear of the virus or fear of a loss of freedom.

In retrospect, could things have been done differently? Of course



Whatever Flips Your Waffle

by Mark Domeier
Contributing Writer

they could have. It's the same as watching your favorite sports team lose a close game and talking about what they should have done to win. In the heat of the moment, you sometimes have to make decisions that you feel will be in the best interest of your team. In the case of the pandemic, we can surely look back and say we could have perhaps devised some plans to stay in school that spring, just as we did in the fall. But at the time, the idea of exposure to the virus and the potential for harm was overwhelming, and the decisions were made based on guidance from medical people.

What has changed? What do we talk about that is different now than it was in 2019? Education is certainly different. It starts with how far behind many of our kids are in reading and math. Think about any age student, but especially those learning to read and understand basic math, missing two months of school, and then living a disrupted existence for most of the next year. Their learning was so disrupted that, where we might have seen a student a year behind in skills in middle school, we are now seeing plural years. This is through no fault of the teachers who did the best they could with what they were able to do, but it's hard to help Johnny or Suzie when you don't see them.

We teach differently in some ways. We give so much more work time in class than we used to. During the spring of 2020 and then the 2020-2021 school year, we had adjusted schedules and days with only some kids in school and others at home. We changed to make learning as accessible as possible. Just like with the elementary example above, we needed to have time to interact with kids, so we extended assignment due dates. Some of that has stuck.

We've also seen a change in both our young people and adults. When everyone was staying home, there was more time on phones and playing games and watching shows. Once the real world re-emerged, many people had gotten into such a habit of playing or watching things at their convenience that the idea of being tied to a schedule and not being able to check every notification as it came in became almost untenable.

When I allow kids to retrieve their phones at the end of class, it's like a feeding frenzy. They act like addicts who are exposed to their vice. It's at workplaces and out in public, too. I was waiting in a long line at a concession stand recently and couldn't help but notice that one of the workers was on their phone. Um, hello? I need some popcorn! Tiktok is not as important as a salty treat!

We also know that mental health problems have increased exponentially. I've written before about my fear of missing out (FOMO) and how I sometimes become overly concerned with getting sick. That initial dread of what Covid might do to me has lessened somewhat, especially because I've been through it, but it has just heightened my aversion to missing things, even work, due to illness.

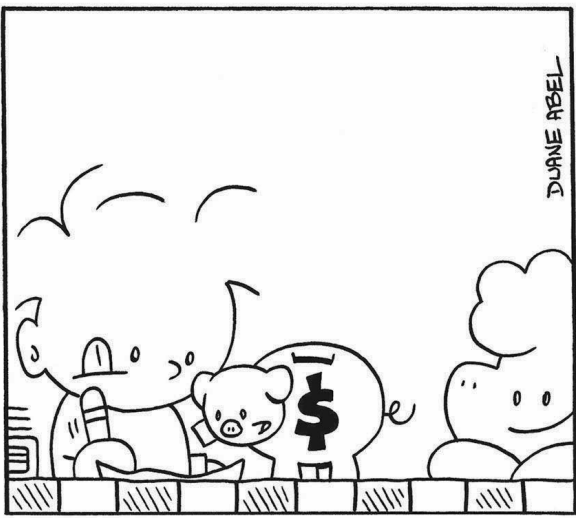
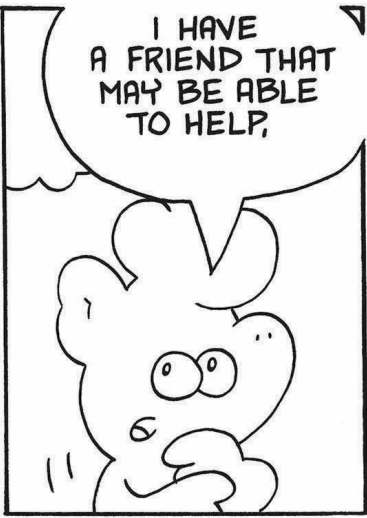
Others face much more difficult mental struggles than mine. Being stuck with their family for a long time, especially when there might not have been a good setting at home, has changed many people. The comfort level of working from home has made some people leery of returning to a workplace, even if a social setting might be beneficial.

And let's be honest. Many people who worked from home during quarantine were not expected to do as much work, or it was easier to get away with not doing as much. Now that a higher level of output might be expected, many are struggling to regain a solid work ethic. This loss of desire was not always intentional, but yet another unforeseen result of sheltering in place.

Some things might gradually revert to what they were, and many things have. But we will be forever changed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Here's hoping it's a once-in-a-lifetime event and will not become quadrennial.

Word of the Week: This week's word is anfractuous, which means full of twists and turns, as in, "The pandemic was quite anfractuous, with people never knowing what might come next." Impress your friends and confuse your enemies!

ZED by Duane M. Abel



www.corkeycomics.com

Briefs

from Page 1

Waseca Counties

Keen Bank will be hosting a food drive during the month of March, in conjunction with the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign. All Keen Bank locations will be accepting non-perishable food items as well as cash donations for our local food shelves—Community Pathways of Steele County and Waseca Food Shelf in Waseca County. In addition, Keen Bank will match \$1 for every item, up to \$200, and donate to these organizations. A list of needed donation items can be found at keen.bank/food-drive.

The annual March Campaign is the largest grassroots food and fund drive in Minnesota, bringing organizations, businesses, faith communities and individuals together to help stock and support food shelves. Founded in 1981, Minnesota FoodShare is a long-standing brand of Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches' (GMCC) food security and justice work. Minnesota FoodShare has distributed over \$18 million to March Campaign participating food shelves via the Minnesota FoodShare FoodFund. All 100 percent of donations received by Minnesota FoodShare during the March Campaign go into the FoodFund.

For more information, visit keen.bank/food-drive or gmcc.org/minnesota-foodshare.

Grand Marshal nominations sought for New Richland

The New Richland Farm and City Days committee has asked the Star Eagle to collect nominations for the 2024 Grand Marshal. Give us a call, e-mail, or mail your suggestions to the following places:

Email
steagle@hickorytech.net
Mail
Star Eagle, P.O. Box 248, New Richland, 56072
Phone
507-463-8112
Text
507-461-5283

Naeve Alumni and Nurses' Club to Offer Scholarships

The Naeve Alumni and Nurses' Club has nursing scholarships available to area graduating seniors, or persons who have successfully completed one year of education in an RN program. Each scholarship is in the amount of \$1,000.00.

Applications are available from school counselors, principals or by contacting Rosie Rasmussen at (507)-377-3683 or (Cell phone 507-391-0404) and also by e-mail: jrrassen@charter.net

Factors to be considered by the scholarship committee are academics, community involvement and demonstrated leadership.

All completed applications must be received by April 1, 2024 to be considered and processed.

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.

Waseca County Stagecoach History

Judy Joecks is compiling a history of stagecoach routes in Waseca

County. She would appreciate hearing from anyone who has information regarding stagecoach trails or stops. (507) 317-1345.

Shepherd's Robe Free store Tuesdays from 1-3 and 5-7 p.m.

The Shepherd's Robe free store

offers clothing, supplies, and much more for free to all interested parties. The store is located at Vista Covenant Church, 14679 275th Avenue, New Richland.

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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**DEADLINES: STAR EAGLE: Noon Monday
GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday**

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"America Can Depend on Farmers"

Compostings

by Al Batt

A poor man’s toupee

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS’ CLUB MEETING
What did you do yesterday?
I spent the whole day watching TV in my pajamas.
I didn’t know they made pajamas with a TV in them.

DRIVING BY BRUCE’S DRIVE
I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I enjoy watching baseball. I like the leisurely pace, and I don’t need to be entertained every second. I went to a World Series game once. The place was packed, and a woman waving a homer hankie snapped me sharply in the ear. I wouldn’t have seen much of the game if the fellow standing in front of me hadn’t had a pierced ear.

Baseball caps are a poor man’s toupee. If you buy enough things, sooner or later, someone gives you a cap—a gimme cap. A friend buys them at thrift stores. A thrift store is a time machine that smells like Grandma’s house, where you can buy bowling trophies and a nice shirt for church with the name “Herb” stitched above its pocket. I stop at thrift stores because I like books and hope something good pops up like a jack-in-the-box.

A FRIEND ACCUSED ME OF MINNSPLAINING
After I told him I’d rather hypnotize chickens than golf. All I needed to do was hold the chicken’s head down against the ground and draw a straight line using a stick or my finger, starting at the beak and extending straight outward in front of the chicken. If done correctly, the chicken was put into a trance and remained still. To de-hypnotize the chicken, I gave it a gentle push. Other methods included swirling a finger in a circle around the bird’s head or tucking its head underneath its wing. Ernest Hemingway mentioned the latter method in his book, “The Dangerous Summer,” comparing it to the hypnotic effect of a bull-fighter’s cape. The parlor trick did neither the chicken nor I any good, so I’ve stopped hypnotizing chickens. I failed the hen trance exam.

A COURTEOUS ACT
Out of the corner of my eye, I caught sight of a woman who was headed to the same entrance as I was, so I grabbed the door and held it open for her. No woman appeared to take advantage of my benevolence. I turned to see she was rushing to the door. I had misjudged her pace or her distance from the door. Instead of helping, I made her hurry. I apologized in

the way of my people by saying, “Oops!”

I’VE LEARNED
Any flying object is a UFO if you can’t identify it.
Standing on the shore of Lake Superior makes me feel insignificant. One more drip made little difference there.
A baby’s first Christmas always comes before its first birthday.
Few people die in a cemetery.
Tuesday is equally as far away from Friday as Monday is.
A toaster that toasts too well is broken.
The roof of my house isn’t the greatest, but it’s up there.
People pay to make their cars quieter and louder.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT
Why don’t we ever see elephants hiding in trees? It’s because they’re very good at it.
What makes us human? Selecting all images containing traffic lights.
I fancied a girl in college who knew only four vowels. She never knew I existed.
I gave my wife a glue-stick instead of her Chapstick. It was an accident, but she’s still not talking to me.
Does anyone else forget the abbreviation for Maine or is it just Me?

A man walked into a bar and was disqualified from the limbo competition.

NATURE NOTES
Why does a squirrel eat only the white tip of a kernel of corn? It’s fussy. Squirrels eat only the nutrient-dense heart or germ of a kernel of corn, casting aside the rest for other hungry creatures. The germ has a moderate concentration of lipids (oils and fat) and a variety of proteins that are used during seedling growth. The rest of the kernel is mostly starch, which the squirrel either doesn’t need or want.
A quill is the hollow stem of a bird’s feather used as a writing instrument. Goose feathers were the principal source of quills, but quill pens were also made from the feathers of swans, crows, eagles, owls, hawks and turkeys. The best feathers for making a quill are the first five flight feathers (primaries). Thomas Jefferson, the third president of the United States, was a prolific writer who raised geese at Monticello to supply feathers for his quill pens.

MEETING ADJOURNED
Repay kindness with kindness. You could never go wrong sending a thank you note.

Camaraderie Café

Knudson celebrating four years

Local fixture flourishing

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

Ellendale has always had Ellendale Café, a small-town eatery which embodies the homey, simple atmosphere its name suggests. LeeAnn Knudson has been an owner/operator of the business for four years and continues to create a lively environment with her lively personality and all her seasonal gnomes.

Knudson grew up in Chicago but moved to small-town Minnesota when she found love at 22. She said she has always been grateful she could work at the Ellendale Café and still raise her children.

But in 2020, Knudson left temporarily when her former boss, Judy Davidson did. Ellendale Café didn’t seem to be the same place without Davidson, who had become a “work mom” to Knudson. Knudson rented out the space to someone else, but that business didn’t last very long; by 2022, she made a call and asked what would be done with the space.

In return, she received another question: “Want to buy it?”

And Knudson agreed.

Decorations play a huge part in how Knudson has made Ellendale Café her own. She observed that previous owners sometimes did not pay much attention to the company’s decor. But for Knudson, it’s different.

“It’s my home!” Knudson said, enthused.

She keeps the place down-to-earth, too. One reason she doesn’t accept any payment other than cash or checks is to bring back the nostalgia of an old, small-town restaurant. When customers enter Ellendale Café, they experience that atmosphere, beginning with the mixed aromas drifting through the air.

Everything she cooks is homemade: the hash-browns, soups, gravies, and cinnamon rolls. The hot beef commercial remains particularly popular.

But there are times when Knudson has customers who come unprepared and don’t notice the sign of “checks or cash only” until they’ve eaten. But she has given them grace.

“You know what I do?” she asked. “I give them my address and they sign a sheet with their phone number and I put it in my charge box. I tell them, ‘If the food was good enough, you’ll pay.’”

Knudson said every one of those customers, so far, has paid.

“Here’s what I say in the end – if it means I fed someone for the day, I’m okay with that,” she added. “I’m not going to get rich here, but this is my happy place. And if I can make someone’s day, that makes me even happier.”

As Knudson made the place her own, gnomes worked their way into her heart. When she saw a gnome that she thought was cute, she picked it



Located in downtown Ellendale, the Ellendale Cafe

“It’s how it is in small towns.”

— LeeAnn Knudson

up. Then, as time went on, her friends noticed her affinity for gnomes and began gifting them to her. As the holidays roll along, different gnomes find their way to the shelves, from Christmas to Valentine’s Day to St. Patrick’s.

Whenever customers, old or new, come in, the decorations become something to focus their attention on. “[Conversation about gnomes] never gets old,” Knudson said. “I’ll hear a lot of people talk about their collections and how it started with their great-grandma who used to collect those garden Norwegian or Scandinavian gnomes.”

But no matter what the conversation is, she treats everyone who comes through her door with as much love as if she were serving them at home. She says that, for her, it’s the same thing.

“No matter who they are or what walks of life they come from, they’re welcome,” Knudson said.

One of the groups she looks forward to seeing are the ones she refers to as her “coffee boys,” all the old farmers from the area who come at 7 a.m. sharp and stay until about 10. She also has a group of coffee ladies from Albert Lea who enjoy the Ellendale Café atmosphere. A group of retired veterans also shows up regularly, even though they must find someone to drive them over.

“On any given Friday, we have class reunions,” Knudson added. Recently, she had a birthday party for anyone who was turning 75; Davidson was a part of the group. Knudson recalled how nervous she was. Even though Davidson doesn’t work with her anymore, she felt like she wanted to make an impression because she respected Davidson that much.

“She taught me how to be,” Knudson said of



Owner LeeAnn Knudson

Davidson. “I was this sassy little girl from Chicago and she developed me into who I am today.”

While Knudson has her local customers, she has had regular customers who come from Albert Lea and Blooming Prairie.

“The ones who know me expect me to smart off a little,” she said. Not too long ago, Andy Lerbberg, former owner of the grocery store, came in and told her he wanted a “Packers Special.” Lerbberg is a Packers fan while Knudson adores her Chicago Bears. It’s easy to tell from the twinkle in her eyes, she didn’t mind his teasing.

“I expect that camaraderie from him and other folks,” Knudson said. “It’s how it is in small towns.”

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Night at the museum

On April 12 from 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. the Freeborn County Historical Museum will come to life! This event was a lot of fun last year, and we are excited to bring it back for the second year in a row! You've seen the movie, now join FCHM as our exhibits come to life with a variety of characters throughout the museum. You will be able to interact with personalities like Wilma the Woolly, Teddy Roosevelt, SpongeBob, Eddie Cochran and more. You may even see Champion the Wonder Horse! Popcorn, soda and the movie; Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian, will be offered in our large meeting room. This event is perfect for people of all ages and we encourage you to bring the whole family, or come alone!

Tickets are \$5 for individuals, \$20 for households, and FREE for children age 3 and under. Tickets will be available at the door of the event and will not be available for pre-purchase.

The FCHM is a non-profit educational and cultural institution established in 1948, committed to building the future by preserving the past. The Museum collects, preserves, and tells the story of Freeborn County's past through museum exhibits, research, collections, tours, and educational programs. The Museum is located at 1031 Bridge Avenue, Albert Lea, MN and is open Wednesday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. For more information, please call our office at 507-373-8003

All the steps I have taken

On Thursday March 21 at 7 p.m. the Freeborn County Historical Museum is hosting Linda L. Christianson, author of All the Steps I Have Taken as she discusses her book. We are excited to partner with AJ's Book Hideaway on this event. There will be books available to purchase at AJ's Book Hideaway ahead of time, and there will also be a booth at the event selling copies.

As a six-month-old infant, Linda Christianson was diagnosed with poliomyelitis, a highly contagious disease that crippled thousands of children and adults before a vaccine became available in 1953. In her memoir, she now shares the intimate story of her struggle with the disease and of learning to approach her life in as normal a way as possible. She details the struggles that she faced growing up and the challenges that she handles each day of her life. Because she contracted polio at such a young age, Linda was never able to enjoy the carefree childhood of skipping, dancing, and jumping that other children, including her sister, were able to experience. She had to learn how to live with her disease and to carve out a productive life for herself. Today, she approaches tasks with planning and much forethought. She works within the limitations of her disease, but still finds joy and accomplishment in each day. All the Steps I Have Taken chronicles her life, which has given her a magnificent family,

a superlative set of friends with whom she shares her life, and her beloved home.

"... a remarkably moving story of one woman's courage and resilience. It is a real inspiration for us all." -Barb Blome

"Anyone who has never been stricken with polio will give thanks for what they have been spared, yet may wonder why another is not so lucky. This story makes one realize how God works in their life through their adversity. It brings back the footprints in the sand quote: "During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you." "A true inspiration." -Vikki Wacek

This event is free for FCHM members and \$5 for non-members with memberships starting as low as \$30 for an individual or \$45 for a family annually.

The FCHM is a non-profit educational and cultural institution established in 1948, committed to building the future by preserving the past. The Museum collects, preserves, and tells the story of Freeborn County's past through museum exhibits, research, collections, tours, and educational programs. The Museum is located at 1031 Bridge Avenue, Albert Lea, MN and is open Wednesday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. For more information, please call our office at 507-373-8003.



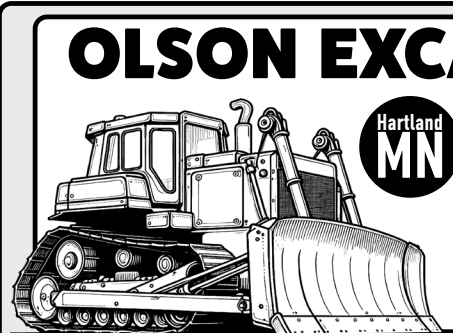
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HERITAGE BITS

Compiled by BRENDA DOKKEN

This is a photo of the Gold Mine on the Palletson Bros. Farm, located about a mile east and another mile north, as it looked just a few years before it was demolished.

Story

Maurice sent his father, Robert, and uncle (on his maternal side), John Platt, to Cooleyville, MN to buy the property. Wallace, his brother, who was married to Alice and had two children, joined Maurice in this adventure. Maurice, a freelance mechanical engineer and architect, eventually married Lucy, the prognosticator's daughter. In the early 1900s Alice and the children returned to New Jersey across the Delaware and never returned. Lucy, Maurice's wife, also went back east, probably in 1911-13. The father came to MN in 1893 and stayed, dying in March 1920 and is buried in Geneva, MN. Their mother, Mary, also came to MN, but not until 1814 and died in April 1926 and was temporarily buried in a vault with plans to be buried in her old home in Pennsylvania, but there is also thought that she was eventually buried in Owatonna at Forest Hill Cemetery. Maurice died in Oct. 1944 and Wallace died in Dec. 1953. Both are buried in Forest Hill Cemetery in Owatonna.

Any corrections or additional info please contact Barb Mrotz at 507-688-2257 or Brenda Dokken 507-402-0336. (3/6/24)



Are you ready for Saint Patrick's Day

According to my calendar, the first day of spring in this year 2024 will be March 19.

Based on what I have been seeing though, spring is already here, having arrived before March 1 in southern Minnesota:

Chickadees, nuthatches, small and large woodpeckers, red-headed woodpeckers, ducks, geese, swans, hawks, owls, juncos (snow birds), mudhens, eagles nesting, red-winged blackbirds, other blackbirds, robins, and bald-headed Norwegians not wearing long johns gathering night crawlers for open water fishing.

Other interesting signs I've seen that told me an early spring was here:

A. No fishing contest at Beaver Lake or St. Olaf Lake this February.

B. No cars or trucks on Beaver Lake or St. Olaf Lake this winter.

C. People using their winter ice fishing license while fishing out in a boat on open water on February 29. (It was the last legal day of ice fishing.)

D. Trees budding and tulip leaves above ground before March 1.



FACT OR FICTION

...you decide

by **Bob Hanson**, Emeritus
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"If you repeat what you have read here, it may be used against you."

E. Snow on ground or in snow banks a rarity before March 1.

Are you ready for this Sunday, March 17, 2024? As of this Sunday there are two kinds of people in Southern Minnesota, those who are of Irish ancestry and those who wish they were!!

The following is from the women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America as given to this Norwegian-Irish man by my German-Dane spouse, Genie.

Thanks to Nancy Giddings and her "Top o' the morning to you."

"Love Saint Patrick's Day for a variety of reasons. First, it's the day when everyone – including Americans with deep Norwegian roots – celebrates this Irish saint.

St. Patrick's Day – the Feast of Saint Patrick – is a cultural and religious celebration held on March 17, the traditional death date of Saint Patrick.

Love everything on this day that is green: clothes, hair, beer, even the Chicago River!! The green is a welcome change and gets us ready for spring.

You've heard that St. Patrick used the shamrock to illustrate the story of the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In the summer when you bend down to pick a three-leaf clover, think about God's love for us.

So, top of the morning to you, and happy St. Patrick's Day. Do spend some time thinking about Saint Patrick's shamrock illustration, The Trinity.

Per the old Farmer's Almanac: "Why should you never iron a four-leaf clover?" Answer "You don't want to press your luck!!"

All of you readers of Norwegian ancestry, remember your day is just around the corner, like May 17.

For those readers of an ancestry not mentioned in this column, "Could it be your day of recognition is April 1??" Remember that is your day to play a practical joke on those not of your ancestry per "Webster's Collegiate Dictionary."

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.

Boys basketball season ends

By **JIMI LUTGENS**
Sports Editor

As expected, the sub-section tournament was tough for the NREHG High School boys' basketball team.

The eighth-seeded Panthers, plagued almost all season with injuries, lost 99-58 at top-seeded Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial last Tuesday. NREHG finished with a record of 3-24.

"While we continued our trend of shooting well from the field, we also shot ourselves in the foot with far too many turnovers," said Panthers coach Dan Schmidt, who had plenty of praise for the Knights, who improved to 24-4 overall after winning the Valley Conference at 13-0.

"LCWM is such a phenomenal team that puts a tremendous amount of pressure on you on the offensive and defensive ends of the floor," said Schmidt. "They move the ball so well, which opens up so many opportunities for them. Every time we'd feel like we had a solid defensive possession going, their ball movement would catch up to us, and they'd sneak in for an open layup or an open three."

Will Tuttle finished out his Panther basketball career with another solid night, notching 17 points on 7-for-13



shooting, including three of four from the line, and seven rebounds.

Jared Lee continued to play well, hitting five of nine shots, including 3-for-5 on three-pointers, on his way to 13 points. Brooks Gilliland came off the bench in the first half to hit three three-pointers, for nine points. Jase Knudson added a couple more threes for six points. Greyson Schaefer added five points, Sam Olson and Aaden Hanna four a piece.

This game marked the end of the NREHG basketball career for seniors Tuttle, Jackson Chrz, Daxter Lee, Sam Olson and Levin Kitzer.

Said Coach Schmidt, "I'd like to thank them all for their time and dedication to the program."

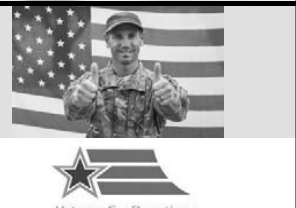
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Open house



The Pines Retreat Center in Ellendale is now officially open, and started taking bookings at their open house held March 9 from noon-5 p.m. Approximately 165 people attended the open house, the crowd made up both of locals and out-of-state visitors. The first retreat date is booked for April. A full story will appear in next week's edition of the Star Eagle.

Star Eagle photos by Tristan Gehring

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Maintaining rural electric lines

By DEB BENTLY
Staff writer

“There are very few weather conditions we won’t go out in,” observes Dan Meier, 51, Operations Manager with Steele-Waseca Co-operative Electric. He mentions snowstorms with zero visibility and extreme thunderstorms.

He goes on to say that one of the best ways to assure power is delivered during extreme weather conditions is simply to make sure the power lines are well maintained and thus less likely to fail.

Steele-Waseca, according to Meier, provides electricity to about 11,500 meters in 1,200 square miles of territory touching on nine counties. The organization’s roots go back to the 1930s and ‘40s, when investors supported private companies delivering electrical power to in-town addresses, but could see no profit in stringing the miles of power lines needed to reach widespread rural homes and farms.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s “New Deal” included the “Rural Electrification Act,” which made loans available to farmers who wished to work together to arrange for power plants and electric conductor lines.

“Work together” was no mere euphemism: In many cases, crews of volunteer farm workers dug the holes and raised the poles into place themselves. Meier reveals that at least a few of the poles still supporting lines in the Steele-Waseca network are from those original installations: he says anyone paying

attention would likely be able to identify those stretches, since the poles are about 100 feet further apart than their modern counterparts, and are not as tall, since farm equipment at that time was much smaller than today.

Many of those original poles were made of cedar, he adds, which has a reputation for resisting decay. It wasn’t long, though, before demand outstripped supply, given that cedars are relatively slow-growing trees.

Pine soaked in creosote became the industry standard until relatively recently, when more environmentally friendly preservatives began being applied in pressure chambers to help assure the entire log is infused.

Poles installed these days tend to be either Southern Yellow Pine or Northeastern Red Pine. Steele-Waseca typically uses poles anywhere from 40 to 55 feet in length weighing at least 1,000 pounds each.

It no longer takes a crew of strapping farm workers to install them, though. Steele-Waseca has 12 linemen who can make use of the cooperative’s five “bucket” trucks, two digger derrick trucks, and a skid loader which has an attachment capable of picking up a power pole from the ground, lifting and rotating it, then placing it in its pre-dug hole.

The equipment comes in handy, since the cooperative replaces between 11 and 15 miles of line each year, based on a four-year work plan. A private company has been



A Steele-Waseca crew in the process of replacing a Waseca County power line. The poles of the existing line have been set at an angle to allow the new poles to be installed.

engaged to check standing poles for any sign of rot. Meier says roughly 200 poles at risk of failing due to their age, decomposition or damage are replaced as needed each year. Whole stretches of line are replaced either due to age or because increased voltage is needed.

The full Steele-Waseca system includes about 1,800 miles of overhead lines and 500 miles of underground conductor; there are roughly 35,000 poles bearing the thousands of pounds of weight and atmospheric forces placed on the conductor wire.

When a line must be replaced, Meier says the lines are kept “hot” nearly the entire time. A typical procedure is to lean the existing poles to the side, then install the new ones standing upright. New conductor wire is strung. When the newly installed equipment is ready, transmission is transferred. When

Star Eagle photo by Deb Bentley all goes well, customers along the line should only experience a very short interruption, or possibly none at all.

Meier finishes by saying he enjoys working at a non-profit cooperative rather than a for-profit utility. “My ‘bottom line’ is making sure we deliver safe, reliable, affordable electric power to our members,” he explains. “The focus is on integrity and doing the right thing rather than profits alone.”

He credits the cooperative’s board of directors, General Manager and the employees for keeping aware of member concerns and deciding the most fair way to meet everyone’s needs.

“It’s refreshing,” he says. “Although margins are necessary to be viable, making money is not the first concern—the welfare of our members is.”

■ Peace

from Page 1

land department since 2018, suggests unfavorable coverage of law enforcement in social and public media may have harmed the public’s perception of officers and the work they do.

“There’s always more to the story,” she said of such publicity. “It’s easy to manipulate a piece of video or items of information; people shouldn’t trust everything they hear or see.”

Along those lines, Bruegger mentioned that fraud and scams, often carried out over the phone or on the internet, seem to be on the rise. She cited phone calls received by area residents from someone claiming to be an IRS representative telling victims they had underpaid on their taxes and must make up the shortfall immediately to avoid criminal prosecution.

“Never give out private account information or your social security number unless you know for certain you are talking to someone reputable,” Bruegger advised.

Sheriff Dulas mentioned the chief objective law enforcement officers have as they carry out their daily duties is to support and protect area residents. “We know our community members,” he said. “We know their schedules, and so we usually know if something is out of place.”

“Just call,” said Waseca’s Vought. “If you ask any officer why they entered law enforcement, the answer is always the same: ‘To help people.’ So if you think something is odd or out of place, we want you to feel free to call us.” Though they are not “the rumor police” and cannot fix negative interactions on social media, she says officers will be sympathetic and may know of some resources that will be helpful.

Vought and Markeson say their department’s strong retention rate can be at least partly credited to the connection their officers build to the community and to each other. “We are truly grateful for the support and goodwill shown to us,” said Vought.

“We feel we’re respected and appreciated,” said Dulas.

“Sometimes law enforcement is painted with a broad brush,” observed Janesville’s Johnson. “It’s something for us to overcome if some of those

negative images from the media overshadow our work with our citizens.”

When the topic of change is introduced, the response from law enforcement agencies is universal. “Change is constant for us,” said New Richland’s Bruegger, naming alterations in statewide laws as well as the ongoing training law enforcement officers must take part in to keep their licenses current.

She also mentioned that cultural changes within a community lead to changed expectations from the people officers serve.

Waseca’s Markeson also pointed out changes within a community, saying increased mobility has led to greater diversity among the city’s residents. For everyone’s safety, he suggested, “We all need to do a better job of being neighbors. We should get to know each other, build connections. That sort of network can be really important when there is a problem or a crisis.”

“Law enforcement doesn’t make the laws,” said Janesville’s Johnson. “We enforce them.” He described his role as “ever-evolving,” saying it follows trends set by society and by legislators. He named changes in DUI laws, regulations involving the use of force and the legalization of marijuana as changes which have impacted his job and how he performs it.

Sheriff Dulas and others also note a change in the overall approach of law enforcement. “There was a time when we felt our job was to locate people breaking the law and punish them,” said Waseca’s Markeson. “The perspective now is to approach every situation with the intent to find the best outcome for all parties.”

Over the past few years, perhaps the biggest sea change for law enforcement officers has to do with mental health.

“No call is the same as any other,” said New Richland’s Bruegger, mentioning factors ranging from elderly people experiencing dementia to others undergoing a perceived crisis. “You might get a call that there is a suspicious person walking around town at three in the morning. As you approach them, they might run or they might pull out a knife. You never know how something is going to play out.”

Bruegger named the dual demands of being “constantly on your guard” while also interacting with others reasonably and compassionately.

Janesville’s Johnson offered a similar example: “There might be someone standing in the middle of the street shouting at cars,” he said. “Since you might not know anything about that person’s state of mind, you have to assess all the levels of danger happening at once.”

Many individuals being held in the county jail, Sheriff Dulas observed, are there for their own protection, or to give them time to recover from a “bad trip.” Jailers have observed every behavior from cowering quietly in a corner to screaming at loud volume, from mentioning a desire to commit suicide to threatening to kill others. Inmates have endangered themselves by trying to “dig bugs” out from under their skin or by remaining awake for days.

As officers county-wide respond to calls involving drug use or mental illness, Dulas pointed out, they must constantly assess the situation and any

safety risks to themselves and other parties nearby.

Among possible sources for what every department named as “exponential” increases in cases involving mental illness, Janesville’s Johnson named homelessness, illicit drug use, financial difficulties and the isolation caused by the years of Covid lockdown. New Richland’s Bruegger named physical and emotional abuse, depression, anxiety, and financial struggles. Also suggested was the decrease in personal interactions which has come about because of electronic communication and the vulnerability of young people’s self esteem when insulted on social media.

In line with seeking “the best outcome for all parties,” Dulas said, officers do their best to reason with persons in crisis.

“But of course they’re not thinking straight,” commented Waseca’s Markeson. “The reason we’re talking to anyone is because they’re having a bad day. We may have been called for anything from a flat tire to an attempted stabbing.

“Our decisions often have to be made very quickly with the information we have available to us at the time.”

It is clear from these leaders’ observations that area law enforcement personnel face many demands. Those who choose the profession, and then choose to stay in it, “show tremendous regard for the people and communities they serve,” said Dulas.

“We’re very proud of our officers,” said Waseca’s Vought. “They come to work ready to face the challenges of the day. Things are always in motion.”

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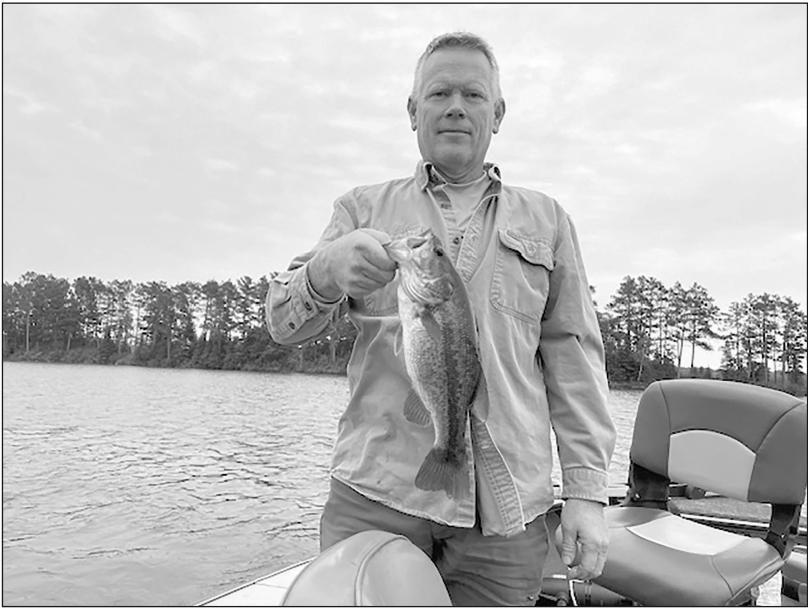
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Shown here are two pictures of my son Brian, one with a nice pike and also with a good largemouth bass.

Looking back at another visit to my favorite lake

This past fall I was able to go to the cabin for a few days with both of my sons and my grandson Dylan. I first went with my grandson Dylan and his dad, my son Brad. Next, my son, Brian and I visited the cabin. Both times were special times where bonding with family was important. As we work our way through the month of March, I have become a little less skeptical of the idea that winter is over. As the years have rolled by, as a true Minnesotan, I try not to get my expectations too high. This goes for the weather, definitely sports and any other good fortune that may potentially occur. I don't want to sound like a "Gloomy Gus," but I find that not having any high expectations causes the impact of any disappointment to be less impactful. After sharing that tidbit of information, let's move on to something a little more positive. I am in the process of trying to find the right time to get my boat ready for summer. I still have it in storage, but I plan on getting it out soon, to begin tinkering



Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl
Outdoors Writer

with it. Cleaning out the boat gives me the same kind of satisfaction as organizing my tackle boxes. I also have yet to buy my fishing license for this year. Last summer when my son, Brian, and I spent a few days at the cabin, we visited Spider Lake one day and had good luck fishing for pike. The weather for our trip was great and we caught quite a few fish. The north- erns were hungry and the bass were aggressive as well. It was a very fun day all around. I consider a day of fishing with either of my sons or grandsons a great day. On that day of fishing on Spider with Brian, we caught fish in areas that have not produced much in the

past. That is one of the things about this lake that is unique, on any given day you might have success. There is one part of the lake that I know where there is a hump that comes up to eight feet and drops off to 220 on each side of this small hump. I do write quite a bit about Spider Lake, but each time that I visit it, I renew my love for this beautiful lake. I really like visiting it in late August or early September. The boat traffic isn't as heavy, and the fishing is usually good. This time of year, the leaves will usually show signs of fall. I've fished this lake when the leaves were at peak color and there isn't a prettier time of year to be on the water.

I can't wait to make a visit to this lake in early June. I have fished it at that time of year many times with good results. I have many fond mem- ories of early June fishing on that lake and when I do a little daydream- ing, I can see a few of the bigger fish that I have had on the other end of my line. Until next time: I have heard that there will be a significant bait short- age this summer. If you have driven in the country, you may have noticed that many places that were home to ponds and streams are now dried up or extremely low on water. This does not bode well for the likelihood of finding minnows and leeches. If you take a drive out South Shore Drive and go across the Jugland Bridge, you will notice the lack of water flowing down the Shellrock River. 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.

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	LUTHERAN Hartland, Minnesota Rev. Marcia Pedersen Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship Tuesday - Council meeting (First Tuesday) Wednesday - 7 p.m. Confirma- tion	Pastor David Modder Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 10 a.m. Kids church Check the website for ad- ditional updates www.vibrantlifeag.com	* * * ZION LUTHERAN, ELCA Rural Ellendale Deacon Billie Jo Wicks Sunday— 8:30 a.m. Worship	ST. PAUL UNITED Minnesota Lake, Minnesota Interim Pastor Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. Worship
ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Otisco, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship	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. Wed- nesday, see newsletter for dates.	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 con- firmation during summer)	ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN, ELCA Meriden, Minnesota Deacon Billie Jo Wicks Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship	PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Minnesota Lake, Minnesota Interim Pastor Sunday — 9 a.m. Worship
TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Mary Iverson Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Wor- ship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confir- mation; 7 p.m. Council meet- ing (first Wednesday)	HARTLAND EVANGELI- CAL LUTHERAN Hartland, Minnesota Pastor Phillip K. Lepak Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship; Sun- day School at 9:15 a.m.	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. begin- ning after Sept. 3. Food shelf is open every Thursday from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.	PONTOPPIDAN LU- THERAN Lemond Township Pastor Dave Klawitter Sunday— 10:15 a.m. Worship	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday – 9 a.m. Worship
FIRST CONGREGA- TIONAL New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Pamela Jensen Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship	MANCHESTER EVAN- GELICAL LUTHERAN Manchester, Minnesota Pastor Phillip K. Lepak Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship	CENTRAL FREEBORN LU- THERAN 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	FIRST LUTHERAN, LCMC Hope, Minnesota Pastor Sandy Miller Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 10:15 a.m. Youth/Adult Study	ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday — 9 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	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.	EAST FREEBORN LU- THERAN 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	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Clarks Grove, Minnesota Pastor James Cameron Sunday— 9:15 a.m. Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. Worship	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship
VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship	COMMUNITY LUTHERAN Geneva, Minnesota Dr. Kristen Venne, Pastor Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship Monday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting	ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMC Hollandale, Minnesota Pastor Jesse Krusemark Sunday— 9 a.m. Worship	HOLY TRINITY CATHO- LIC CHURCH of LITOMYSL Father Peter Schuster Sunday— 8 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation; 8:30 a.m. Mass with Children's Church; Pre- school Sunday School during Mass Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. - Faith Formation classes for grades K-Confirmation www.litomysl.webs.com www.stsidoreschool.webs.com	TRINITY LUTHERAN Wilton Township Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor Sunday — 10 a.m. Worship (summer) and 10:30 a.m. (winter)
VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Brian Shanil 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	SIMPLY CHURCH 105 Second Street North East Geneva, Minnesota Todd Lundgren, Pastor Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Bible Study; 10:30 a.m. Worship	HOLLANDALE RE- FORMED Rev. Neal Ooms 101 East Park Avenue Hollandale, Minnesota Sunday— 9:30 a.m. Worship; 10:45 a.m. Sunday School	FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod Waldorf, Minnesota Rev. Michael Mathews, pas- tor Sunday — 8 a.m. Worship; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Study	THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS Brad Donner, Branch Pres- ident 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
CROSS OF GLORY	VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH Ellendale, Minnesota		ST. JOHN LUTHERAN Minnesota Lake, Minnesota Rev. Michael Matthews, pas- tor Sunday — 10:30 a.m. Worship	NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTI- FICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CON- GREGATION TO THE STAR EAGLE.

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LOOKING BACK

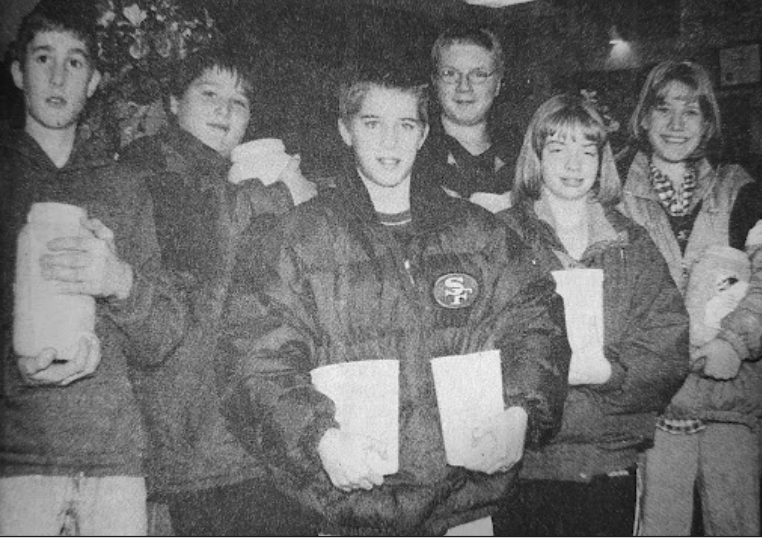
100 Years Back - 1924

- W.G. Laudert, F.H. Johnson, Geo. Schembers, Ole Anderson, Rich- ard Streng, H.S. Kingsley, J.S. Evans, O.S. Martinson, Wm. Shurson, M. Lea, Philip Luff, Abel Sampson and Melvin Peterson, all members of the local order of Odd Fellows, visited the I.O.O.F. lodge at Waseca Monday evening.
- Arthur Lechner and Henry Rietfort were busy the past week chop- ping down logs for Wm. Rudolph. The axe and saw sure did sing. Oh! Boy!
- A farewell party was given in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Blowers and family Saturday evening. Everyone present reported a very enjoy- able time.
- Caleb Haug and John D. Wilkenson returned Wednesday from St. Paul, where they attended the two-day session of the Minnesota Cooper- ative Creameries' Ass'n, representing the Star creamery.
- While out wolf hunting last Tuesday with Fr. MacVeigh, O.S. Mar- tinson, Herman Breise and Edd Weed found a large owl sitting on two small eggs in her nest on the river bank. This is unusually early and may be indicative of an early spring.
- Neighbors of John Schlaak, Wilton township, assisted in hauling ma- terial for a large barn from the Lampert Lumber yards at Waldorf one day last week.

76 Years Back - 1948

- The big plate glass window in the front of the Nelson Bakery was cracked and broken in the wind of last Friday. This is the second time this has happened to this window.
- Mrs. Kate Dodge and daughter, Shirley, of Waseca were Sunday vis- itors of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Nelson. Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Engel and family of Matawan joined them in the afternoon and at supper.
- Mr. and Mrs. Merlin Krueger entertained Mrs. A.A. Kampen, Mr. and Mrs. Jermit Iverson and daughter, George Kampen of Waseca and Miss Lucille Baker of New Richland at supper Sunday.
- The following playmates were entertained at a party Sunday after- noon in honor of Bernard Klinger's eighth birthday: Elroy Verplank, Jr., Reid and Tony Martinson, Arlan and Arden Kuehn and Neil Burtness.
- Mr. and Mrs. Ewald Zacharias and son, Lee, and Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Kriesel of Owatonna were Saturday evening visitors at the Orlin Lower home northeast of town.
- Wednesday evening Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Tesch, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Tesch, Mr. and Mrs. Eldo Beck, Mrs. Carl Tesch, Mrs. Louis Battey, Miss Irene Tesch, Armin Mueller and Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Marquardt and son gathered at the Wm. Tesch home for a social evening in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Boettcher and Helmuth of Bonduel, Wis., who are visiting relatives here.
- Monday the following assisted Mr. and Mrs. Helmer Grosen and family move to their new home near Manchester: Mr. and Mrs. Morris Berg, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Simonson, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Loken, Oscar Sandsmark, Carl Christenson, Henry and Alfred Smidt.

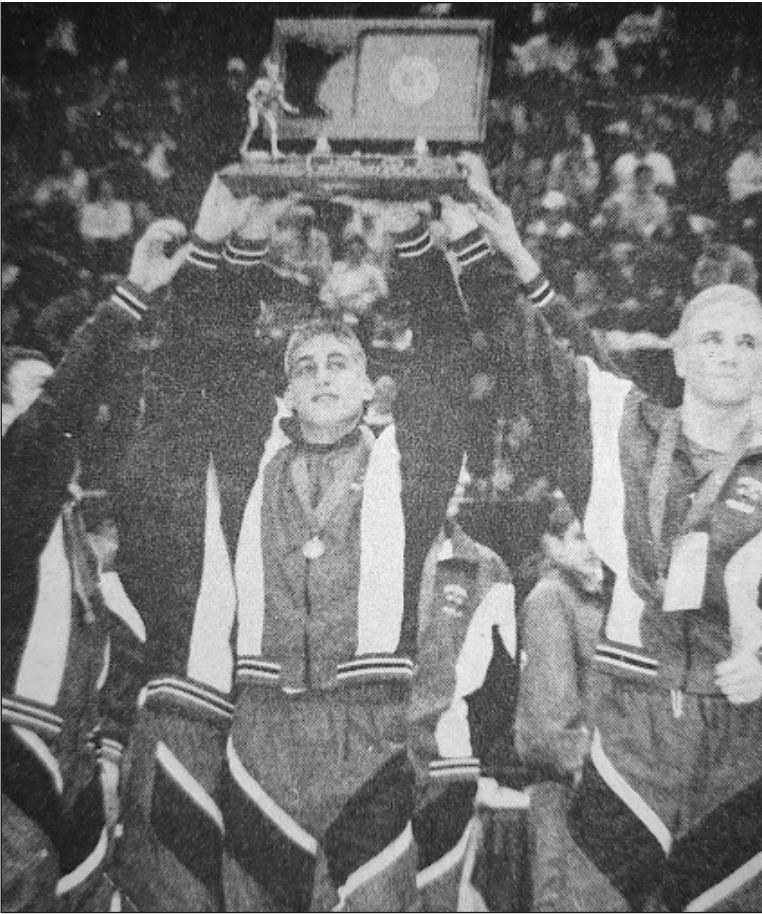
50 Years Back - 1974



These New Richland-Hartland high school eighth grade industrial art students are pictured with their latest project, upholstered toad- stools. From left: Ricky Borchert, Richard Olson, Terry Baynes, Jeff Bartz, Al Smidt, Fendy Rieck, Randy Anderson, Jay Johnson, Den- nis Warke, Al Bartness, Scott Schumacker, Jim Peterson and Brian Swenson and student teacher, Gary Hofmeister.

- Jon, Richard, Sherene and Janene Armstrong spent the weekend at the home of their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Swenson.
- Saturday evening, Mr. and Mrs. Normal Maywald of Clarks Grove and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Maywald of Hartland were supper guests of Harry Hanson.
- Friday evening visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cleo Lohberger were Mr. and Mrs. Walter Gerds, Mr. and Mrs. Arno Gilster and Mrs. Marie Bleck.
- Saturday evening, Mr. and Mrs. Luverne Joecks and Tim helped Merrilee Bruegger celebrate her birthday at the Melvin Bruegger home.

25 Years Back - 1999



NRHEG wrestling squad, who held a 11-17-4 record going into the playoffs, proved records don't always tell the whole story when they wrestled their way to the championship duel in the Minnesota State Class A Team Tournament. They placed second, losing to No. 1 ranked Franze 37-21.

NRHEG veventh and eighth grade social studies students collected Pennies for Patients, and a total of \$894.38 collected will benefit the Leukemia Society of America. Holding coins, from left: Matt Grosk- reutz, Chris Kadlec, Zac Tracy, Lucas Madson, Heather Schultz and Laura Sletten.

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. 50tfc

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Steele County Local Boards of Appeal & Equalization / Open Book Meetings MARCH 2024

Property owners will be receiving in the near future a Notice of Valuation and Classification for Taxes Payable for 2025. This form is to notify you of the market value and classification of your property for assessment year 2024. The property taxes that you pay in 2025 will be based on this classification.

Listed below are the dates and times of the Open Book Meetings for 2024. If you believe that your valuation and classification are correct, it is not necessary to contact your assessor and/or attend any of the listed meetings.

If the property information is not correct, if you disagree with the value/ classification or if you have questions about your notice, please contact your assessor first at: (507) 444-7436 to discuss any questions or concerns.

Open Book Meeting:
South: City Of Blooming Prairie, City Of Ellendale, Berlin Township
Wednesday, 4/10/2024, 1:00-3:00 PM
Blooming Prairie City Administration Bldg Council Chambers
138 Hwy Ave S Blooming Prairie
North: City Of Medford, Merton & Medford Townships
Wednesday, 4/17/2024, 1:00-3:00 PM
Medford Hall Council Chambers
408 2nd Ave Se Medford

Open Book Meeting:
Admin Building: Lemond, Somerset, Meriden, Havana Townships
Wednesday, 4/24/2024, 8:00 AM-6:00 PM
Steele County Admin Bldg Board Room 630 Florence Ave Owatonna
County Board Of Appeal & Equalization:
Tuesday, 6/18/2024, 7:00 PM
Steele County Admin Bldg Board Room 630 Florence Ave Owatonna

Steele COUNTY • 630 Florence Ave • Owatonna, MN 55060
Steele County Assessor Office, (507) 444-7535

Board of Appeals and Equalization

for Summit Township
will meet at the Town Hall at
9:00 a.m.
on April 8th.
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