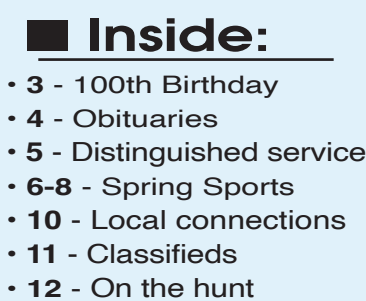




A word from
The Word
Fear not, for I am
with you.
Isaiah 41:10

Titles continued on 10

Gordinier continued on 4

Compostings

by Al Batt

Grandpa Al crows loudly for Joey Batt

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS’ CLUB MEETING
Do you always stir coffee with your right hand?
Yes, I’m right-handed.
Try using a spoon next time.

DRIVING BY BRUCE’S DRIVE
I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Deep thoughts occur as I drive past his drive. When the sun rises and sets, it makes my day. Bright sunlight makes me sneeze three times. I have photic sneeze reflex. It’s pepper on the sun. Achoo represents the sound of a sneeze and is an acronym for Autosomal Dominant Compelling Helioophthalmic Outburst (ACHOO) Syndrome, characterized by uncontrollable sneezing in response to sudden exposure to bright light, typically intense sunlight.

I exchanged pleasantries with a fellow traveler in Bethany, Missouri. She was from Goshen, Indiana. She asked where I was from. I told her. She said the winter weather here might be too much for her. I told her our weather wasn’t as bad as she’d heard, and it was worse than she’d heard. She mulled that over for a minute and left. She was a hurrying Hoosier.
When I was in school, I formed the Al Club. I was in it because I started it. Others shared the lovely name: Routh, Waldhauser, Morstad, Loe, Tappe, Hanson and Berkvam, to name a few. Al Berkvam was a teacher and a coach. I told him he was a member. I was afraid he’d get all weepy on me, but he didn’t. Those who had Allen, Allan, Alan or Allyn as middle names were awarded trial memberships. El Kabong was an honorary member. In the “Quick Draw McGraw Show,” Quick Draw spent cartoon time as his alter ego, the masked El Kabong, who used a guitar (a Kabonger) to bash bad guys into submission. In the Al Club, there were no dues, no secret handshakes, no mission statement and no meetings. The first rule of Al Club was: there are no rules.
I was in a large store in Missouri because it was handy to buy some drinking water to put in the cooler in my car. I stumbled around a bit before locating my prey. As I grabbed a 12-pack of water, a man thanked me. I replied, “You’re welcome,” out of habit. His young son told me I was a hero and then they left. I was confused. When I got to my car, I grabbed my hat from my head. It said “Kiester Fire Department” on it. The city was named for state senator and judge Jacob Kiester. The Kiester Fire Department, which is made of heroes, had given me the hat. If I could have found that man and his son, I’d have told them so.

I’VE LEARNED
I use a level only in the evening.

The lady who lived next door to me in the Twin Cities was 80% Irish. Her name was Iris.
Most conspiracy theories are mythunderstandings.
I like a banana that’s a little green and firm. “No brown bananas” could be my shopping motto, although banana bread is great. Why are most banana-flavored things yellow? We don’t eat the yellow part.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT
What is yellow, delicious and dangerous? Shark-infested lemon meringue pie.
If you’ve never tried blindfolded archery, you don’t know what you’re missing.
If he left a voicemail, would you call Johann Sebastian Bach?
I got a job at the chess factory. I work knights.
Welcome to IKEA. Come in and make yourself a seat.
I cut a log in half with my vision. I saw it with my own eyes.

A GRANDPA CROWS
Joey Batt, daughter of Brian and Laura Batt of New Ulm, and a first team All American, was named to the all-tournament team after her Minnesota State Mavericks Women’s Basketball Team won the 2024 NCAA DII National Championship with an 89-73 win over Texas Woman’s University.

NATURE NOTES
Terri Guillemets wrote, “My favorite weather is bird chirping weather.”
Anonymous wrote, “Spring has sprung. The grass is riz; I wonder where the birdies is.” The birdies are here or on the way. I believe in the miracle of birds each time one swings into my field of view. If I’m fortunate, I might get to enjoy the terpsichorean talents of sandhill cranes. Reason number 397 why I like birds: just because.
House finches are permanent residents of Minnesota, but some undergo a short-distance migration south. It might be to avoid paying taxes.
If the inside of a house window hosts flies that resemble house flies, they are cluster flies. They don’t harm people or property and don’t reproduce indoors. They are parasites of earthworms.
Birds need to transfer and preserve heat to eggs and nestlings via brood patches, bare areas of skin on the belly that lose their feathers toward the end of the egg-laying period. Most birds shed automatically, but some pluck their brood patch and use the plucked feathers to make an insulating lining for their nests.

MEETING ADJOURNED
“Kindness is always fashionable, and always welcome.”—Amelia Barr.

‘People tell me I had a hard life’

Lifelong area resident celebrated birthday in February

Lois Anderson reaches century milestone

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

Lifelong Waseca area resident Lois Anderson turned 100 on February 22. She freely admits her longevity has surprised her as much as anyone else. She was born at home in New Richland to parents Helmer and Jessie Anderson; not only is she a centenarian, but she’s approximately 36,525 days old.

When asked whether she ever pictured herself reaching the age of 100, her immediate response was, “No.” She quickly explained no other member of her family has done so, and she didn’t expect to be the first.

“So, I thought, ‘Why should I?’” Anderson added.
Indeed, after her husband Leonard died in 1994 at age 72, she went on to live independently for nearly two decades. Her daughter, Judy, reveals Anderson had a boyfriend for a while.

“I just live,” Anderson said simply.
Anderson’s 100 years have overlapped some very significant historical events. Two world wars. A husband with polio. But from Anderson’s gentle but resilient attitude, no one would know it.

She was the second-youngest of seven siblings and is the only one still living. After Anderson turned two, her parents moved from New Richland to Otisco, where she spent the rest of her childhood. Her father owned a grocery store in Otisco, which worked out well for the family during the depression, since her family always had food.

Anderson also remembers that, during that time, everyone she knew wore homemade or hand-me-down clothing. When the soles of their shoes wore out, they put cardboard inside, or cut an old rubber inner tube to use as an insole. That way, they didn’t wear holes in their stockings, Anderson said.

She attended country school district 46. At that time, the school was state of the art, with indoor toilets, a basement, and a furnace. It was about a half mile from where she lived. In the winter, she sometimes rode sleigh runners for double purposes – for one, it made her trip quicker, and for another, it was a lot more fun. When it came time for high school, she attended at Waseca, graduating in 1941. As a young adult, she worked at her parents’ grocery store.

She’s lived with some ironies – the fact that her husband Leonard was also an Anderson – yes, even spelled the same. On top of it, he began by attempting to court Lois’s younger sister, who didn’t want anything to do with him since they shared the same last name. Lois decided she would give Leonard a chance. She says she was glad about her choice, since the two of them “really hit it off.”

She remembers their first date was a silent movie. In the two years Lois and Leonard dated, they also often went to the roller-skating rink. Both before and after marrying, she remembers they often went dancing together at the Kato Ballroom near Mankato. Among their favorites were waltzes and polkas.

“We did a lot of that,” Anderson said.
After marrying on November 17, 1944, the couple rented a farm for a while. In 1950, they moved to Waseca, making their home and raising their family there. Her father, Helmer, eventually sold his grocery store to Lois and Leonard.

Fortunately for Leonard, he never had to leave his family behind to serve in World War II; although he took the physical examination that would have begun the process of joining the military. The war ended before he was drafted.



Lois Anderson, 100, holds some of the hand-crocheted snowmen which she enjoys making as a pastime. The centenarian has lived a busy, varied life which has included residences in New Richland, Otisco, and Waseca.

Photo by Rachael Jaeger

It was about the same time they had their first child, Bert. They went on to have two other children, Cathy, who came next, and Judy, the youngest. Lois expressed she would gladly have had even more children – “enough for a baseball team” – but Leonard was diagnosed with polio.
He spent over a year in a hospital in the Twin Cities: The polio spread from his right arm, through his stomach, and into his left leg. Lois said Leonard had a hard time getting up from sitting.

“He had to really push himself,” she remembered.

“He was right-handed, so he couldn’t move his arm to write,” Lois’s daughter Judy remembered. “He used his left hand to move his right hand around and write with a pen.”

Judy observed Leonard got around pretty well for most of the years of his life; she doesn’t remember him spending time feeling sorry for himself.

“He could walk,” Judy said. “[A doctor] told him he wouldn’t walk without the use of a cane, but he did, for years. It was only the last year he was in a wheelchair.”

He was also able to get a driver’s license under the condition he kept certain equipment in his vehicle. For one thing, he was required to have a handle on his steering wheel, since he could only drive with one arm. He was also required to have an easily accessible emergency brake in case he needed it. But, according to Judy, Leonard seldom used the equipment.

Lois also didn’t allow misfortunes to hold her back, even when her grocery store burned down while Leonard was still in the hospital and Judy was just two months old.

After Leonard returned home, he took care of the children while Lois got a job; the couple also received some support from a government program. Judy mentioned she remembered Lois working all day, then coming home to sew clothes for her and her siblings.

“It made me stronger, I guess,” was all Lois said about the circumstances. “Somebody told me once I had a hard life; I told them I didn’t think so. It was all just something I had to do and I did it.”

Eventually, the state set Leonard up with a popcorn wagon, which he and the children used to earn income. The family owned it from 1951 to 1971 before he sold it to someone in Waterville. In turn, that person sold it to a museum in Mason City, Iowa.

For the 20 years he operated his popcorn business, Leonard typically used it during the Waseca County fair. Judy said he ended up buying a second popcorn wagon which also had a cotton candy machine she and her siblings usually ran. She also remembered her mother was in charge of and made caramel corn and caramel apples sometimes.

Leonard also took the popcorn wagon to special events in the region, including at the Steele

County fairgrounds in Owatonna and Kolacky Days in Montgomery. When it wasn’t at fairs, Judy recalled that she and her siblings or cousins ran the second popcorn wagon at Clear Lake Park, which often stayed open until ten at night.

Judy remembers that Lois and Leonard purchased a home when she was six years old; the house had an apartment which they rented out for additional income. The money helped them pay off the house, and even eventually purchase a cabin on French Lake near Faribault.

Before Leonard died, he and Lois enjoyed spending time at their cabin with their six grandchildren and nine great-grandkids. They fished, rode on their pontoon, spent time in the water, and had bonfires once in a while. They would also often have fireworks on the Fourth of July. Judy mentioned there was a tire swing the kids liked to play on.

Lois was 92 before taking up residence in Colony Court; despite the move she continued to be very independent. She would travel to Arizona to see her sister each winter and stay through the coldest part of the Minnesota year. For a while, she even owned a condominium in Coolidge, near Casa Grande.

Yet another irony in Lois’s life was having always taken precautions against falling on ice; yet, while traveling at age 89, she broke her hip while playing shuffleboard. Another major injury occurred when she fell in the bathroom, hit her head, and realized she was bleeding badly. She held a towel against the wound and called a friend to tell her about the incident. After hanging up, she says, she realized she should call 911.

“The EMTs told her that if she wouldn’t have put anything over her head, she would’ve died,” Judy added.

In the fairly recent past, Lois woke up without any feeling in her left leg, then discovered she couldn’t get up no matter how hard she tried. She was sent to Rochester, but was walking again the next day. Mayo Clinic kept her for three days before sending her home.

Up until then, Lois would travel and visit family in California, Florida, and Washington.

She entertains herself playing card games like hearts or spider solitaire, two of her favorites, on an iPad. Among other pastimes she enjoys are word games, knitting a family of snowmen for her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and crocheting afghans which she has donated to her local church. She makes sure to use the Colony Court exercise room and take walks at least twice a week.

Lois still strives to have as much of a social life as possible. Bert calls her just about every day, Judy shared. When Judy visits Lois, she takes her mom out to eat at Burger King where she enjoys the chicken nuggets. Lois also has a social media account where she keeps in touch with family members and friends.



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OBITUARIES

David L. Casper

Dave Casper, age 73, of West St. Paul, MN passed away on March 23, 2024. He was born on August 8, 1950 in Waseca, Minnesota and grew up on the family farm in New Richland, MN. He was son to Earl and Mildred (Thiel) Casper and Ruth (Spaag) Casper. He graduated from NRHEG High School in New Richland, Minnesota and received his Bachelor's in Education from Mankato State University.

After school he roofed, traveled, built decks, traveled some more, then settled in Rosemount, teaching 6th grade. He enjoyed teaching, but his passion was fixing up and flipping homes. He had a talent for seeing the potential and restoring foreclosed properties. Through time and hard work, he could smooth out the rough edges and transform a fixer upper into a beautiful family home. It was his gift.

Dave loved all sorts of outdoor activities, including biking, canoeing in the Boundary Waters, hiking, skiing and running. All who knew him can attest that Dave enjoyed visiting with friends and a good story.

In both his personal life and his work life, he had a helping spirit. He was always lending a hand with someone's home project and suggesting plans for the future. Dave always had big plans.

Dave leaves behind a wife, Danette (Friedrichsen) Casper, son,



David Casper

Matthew Casper, daughter in law, Erin (Rogers) Casper; his brothers Dale Casper and Dwight Casper; Dwight's wife Gay Casper, along with his nieces and nephews, Kevin, Kari, Katie, Laura, and their families; as well as tons of loving friends.

Dave is preceded in death by Earl and Mildred (Thiel) Casper, Ruth (Spaag) Casper and Liz Casper.

Dave was caring and helping and will be missed by all.

Memorial Service will be held at 12 noon Saturday, April 13th at Klecatsky & Sons West Chapel, 1051 So. Robert St., West St. Paul. There will be a gathering of family & friends two hours prior to the service.

Paul Donovan

PAUL MARK DONOVAN, age 71, of New Richland passed away the evening of Monday, March 18, 2024 at Mayo Clinic Health System in Rochester.

Born on September 21, 1952 in Colorado Springs, CO, he was the son of Willis and Winefred (Gravitt) Donovan. He attended Titusville High School. He enlisted in the US Army and Marines on February 8, 1970 where he served in the Vietnam War. He was honorably discharged. He was united in marriage to Lynn Nelson on October 22, 1974 in Titusville, FL. They later divorced.

Following his military career, Paul worked in the construction field as a

sandblaster. He went to work as a service manager for a Chrysler dealership. After he moved to Minnesota, Paul worked for Ford Motor in Mankato as a service advisor until his health declined. In his free time, Paul enjoyed watching WWE wrestling. He had an impressive collection of hand-blown glass and a special cat, Rosco. He was able to fulfill one of his lifelong dreams of visiting the John Wayne Museum a few years ago. He will be dearly missed.

Paul is survived by his children, Jay Donovan of New Richland, Paul (Liz) Donovan of Mankato, Christopher (Stacy) Donovan of Waseca; grandchildren, Brandon Williams-

Donovan, Jaden Donovan, Cody Donovan, Caylee Donovan, Conner Donovan, Trinoty Donovan, Mayson Donovan, Andrew Donovan, Jayde Donovan, Makya Donovan; great-granddaughter, Juno Donovan; brother, Robert Donovan of Florida; sister-in-law, Cindy (Paul) Pfannebecker of Waseca; close friend, Chad Edwards of Northern Minnesota.

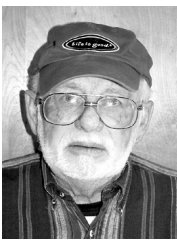
He was preceded in death by his parents, Willis and Winefred Donovan; step-mother, Jeanette Donovan; and brother, Timothy Donovan.

A private family graveside service will be at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. A celebration of Paul's life will take place at a later date. dsouf-uneral.com



Paul Donovan

A Twins fan with a long memory



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."

power to remove me from the program."

I thought about the power of the instructor and decided I'd better submit the paper. I knew the Twins were coming to Minnesota, so after class I asked if a paper on a business coming to Minnesota would be OK. He asked what business I had in mind? I replied "The Twins." His reply was "Excellent choice. I've got some pull and I'll get you invited to some of their pre-planning meetings held at the Thunder Bird Hotel on I94."

And so the college instructor got me invited to some of the pre-planning meetings.

The meeting that I remember the best was about the uniform all the players would wear. About six caps

were passed around and all those present were to comment on the color, style and wording that said MT for Minnesota Twins. The comments were very good until one person let out a few choice words as he explained the players would be the laughing stock of all the league as MT would be referred to as "empty." At that point it was unanimously agreed "TC" would be the cap initials!!

I did the paper, turned it in, got it back with a big hand written A+ as the grade followed by: "With a little help."

P.S. An interesting thing I learned was: Minnesota taxed the players of the visiting team to Minnesota and collected money up front as taxable

income earned in Minnesota!!

In looking at April Fool's goodies over the past 10 years, two of my favorites are: 1 The toilet paper company Cottonelle advertised a toilet paper for leifties only in 2015. 2 KLM Royal Dutch Airlines unveiled a "Recline Alert System," saying we've developed a sound effect that notifies passengers when the section in front of them reclines!!

March has been a month of deaths of people I knew here on earth. A fellow Lion member, a church member, a fellow AAL agent, my 51 year old nephew. "May they dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

All of the services were excellent with Pastor Matthew Lehman of Lion Lutheran Church in Albert Lea doing an exceptional service in bringing the five granddaughters into the service for their grandpa.

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.

■ Utpadel

from Page 1

the Snowy River Band, but was there on some of the night's when a younger Utpadel was being taught his way around on a guitar's strings.

As for his own skills as a musician, Utpadel indicates that using them for the good of others just makes sense, since it was the support and encouragement of family members, teachers and community members which helped him acquire and build them. As he and his siblings grew up on a farm south of Ellendale, he remembers his uncle teaching him to play guitar, the music instructors at school offering encouragement even from the time he was in elementary school, and his grandmother advising him, "You've been given a gift. Don't mess it up."

His musical career, he says, has "never been about money, anyway." The chance to perform with other musicians, to combine their mutual skills to create something that brings them satisfaction and pleasure for the audience, "is more of a blessing than anything."

On nights when he performs alone, Utpadel says he arrives at the venue about an hour ahead of schedule. He sets up a banner which lets people know their tips are being given to a cause, and being matched. "People appreciate

that," he observes. "It means that, when they put one dollar in the can, it's almost as if they're putting in two."

Utpadel's usual performance times are from 6 to 8 p.m. He says he plays and sings "straight through," with no break. He typically includes older, traditional country songs, but also plays ballads and occasional gospel numbers. He says he gladly plays requests when he can find the needed music on electronic sources, and invites others to sing along or simply sing while he accompanies them. When children are part of the audience, he gleefully announces, "Okay, it's time for the Grandpa Song!" He says young children take particular pleasure in "Baby Shark."

"I try to play something for everyone, so every night is different," he observes. "I try to include a little humor, maybe a few jokes. I pick on the help, I encourage children to go invite their grandmothers to dance."

"I like being around people. I like people. I hate to see anyone hurting. That's why I wanted to start Musicians Against Cancer."

Utpadel recommends that anyone interested in finding out more about Musicians Against Cancer, or about the Blooming Prairie Cancer Fund can find out more on Facebook. He will be performing at the Geneva Bar from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, April 5.

■ Gordinier

from Page 1

day."

Once in a while, however, he said he was able to go on a "fun call." While in Rushford, he had the opportunity to help with the delivery of two babies. He explained that in emergency services, he has what they call "two stork wings." During both births, he said that he felt panicked, but everyone got through it.

Gordinier said that there are not a lot of volunteer EMTs in Geneva right now.

"It's a big commitment," he said. "That's why we're having a hard time getting volunteers. We're down to like six crew members right now."

Gordinier describes the people he works with as "a really good crew," and appreciates how they are able to do their work well even with limited staff.

Gordinier said he hopes more young people get involved in emergency services.

"Right now, we've got one young person, he's a senior in high school. He's doing the training right now," he said. The EMS crew try to take prospective EMTs on ride-alongs to see if it is something they are able and willing to do.

"People... think they can do it, and then you get on these codes or some of these full cardiac arrests and you get done and you go, 'I don't want any more of this,'" Gordinier said.

His advice to people interested in becoming a first responder is to make sure that they can handle the situations and be able to make them-

selves available. He plans to retire from emergency services in 2025.

Not only does Gordinier have decades of experience as an EMT, he also has about an equal amount of experience as a referee for youth sports. He has officiated basketball and baseball games for 40 years, being a certified referee for 37 of those years. Currently he works to fill in for other referees if they are unable to come to a game.

Similar to his job as an EMT, it is difficult to get people to volunteer their time to be a referee and umpire, so Gordinier normally has a lot of work. His usual games are seventh and eighth grade and junior varsity in Albert Lea.

Gordinier said his favorite part about being a referee is the relationships he built with coaches in the area. He also enjoys seeing students go from novices in their sport to ac-

complished athletes as they get older. He has no intention of retiring from this role any time soon.

"As long as I can still feel good and get up and down on the floor and stuff, I want to keep going as long as I can," he said.

When not working as an EMT or ref, Gordinier enjoys spending time with his family and doing outdoor hobbies. He has two adult daughters who live in Geneva and three other grown children, a son and two more daughters, who live out of town. Gordinier enjoys hunting deer and turkeys. He also enjoys fishing, both on the water and on the ice when he is able to. He has a boat and considers himself an avid trout fisherman. His favorite spots in the area are Beaver Lake, St. Olaf Lake and Roberts Lake.

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Distinguished Service



Mark Domeier, a longtime teacher at NRHEG, was recognized with a Distinguished Service Award from the Minnesota Interscholastic Activities Administrators Association (MNIAA). He was presented the award during a recent annual conference of Activities directors from across the state. Above, Domeier is pictured with Stork, and also with his wife of 26 years (in October) Michelle.

Below, is the speech Dan Stork prepared, recognizing Domeier for his award, at the reception.

“For the past 28 years I have been fortunate enough to work alongside Mark Domeier. Mark has been teaching English in the NRHEG district for those 28 years.

Having grown up in New Ulm, Mark was involved in athletics and activities from a young age. I think his love for sports has only grown stronger over the years. Mark has done so much for not only the students of NRHEG, but for so many throughout southern Minnesota. Mark coached girls basketball and baseball at NRHEG, as well as baseball for the Quad Cities Baseball club in New Richland. He has announced basically anything and everything that requires it at NRHEG. Everything from football, volleyball, basketball, wrestling, softball, baseball, track and field as well as Pep-fests, assemblies..you name it, if there was a microphone Mark is the man. Not only is he the voice of the Panthers, but he has also called games with Owatonna Live for the Huskies, Tigers and Blossoms.

As if this doesn't keep him busy enough, he also officiates all of our lower level football, basketball, baseball and softball games when he isn't announcing. He was a varsity baseball umpire for several years as well. He has even officiated JH VB for us in the past! He literally finishes officiating a C squad game and sits down at the table and announces the basketball games both in the gym, as well as on our live stream.

He has served as the Band Booster Treasurer as well as a negotiator for our local teachers union. Mark has pretty much done everything that needs to be done. Michelle, Mark's wife, is with us today. Thank you for joining us, Michelle, and I apologize for spending more time with your husband than you do!

Mark's selfless dedication to the NRHEG district and the students of southern Minnesota is truly remarkable. Did I mention he plays the piano and sings every Sunday at mass as well? Mark, I can't thank you enough for everything over the years. We are all so very lucky to have someone like yourself give so much and ask for so little. Thank you so much, Mark.”



HERITAGE BITS



Compiled by BRENDA DOKKEN (4/4/24)
Gahagen Woods

This is a school outing in the early 1940's. It is taken at Gahagen Woods, which was across the tracks to the West from the Ellendale Lagoon and brush-burning site. At one time Mr. Gahagen lived in town on 4th Street and had some horses which he used for mail delivery, and maybe some cows, that he pastured in this woods. On the left are two teachers, Miss Elizabeth Reinke and Miss Olive Esping, students Betty Thompson, Elaine Wayne, Ludell Beavers. Any corrections please contact Barb Mrotz at 507-688-2657 or Brenda Dokken at 507-402-0336. 4/4/24

A top-down explanation of increased ag property taxes

By Waseca County Commissioner Doug Christopherson

I mentioned to Eli a while back that I was considering periodically writing an article in his paper to let our residents know what is happening at the County level. He was in favor of this idea, so here I am! For my first effort, I figured what better topic to cover than the historic move in Ag land assessed values? In the next few paragraphs, I will try to address some frequently asked questions and misconceptions from a high level. The complexity of some of these laws has a tendency to create as many questions as I could answer, so my hope is not to add further confusion.

2024 Ag land saw, in general, nearly a 50% increase. This is largely due to significantly higher sale prices of property that were sold between October 2021 and September 2022. The sales data that is collected in the above time period is aggregated by the State of Minnesota, and then is used to calculate a sales ratio for our county area. Very simply put, a sales ratio simply compares what the County appraises property values as compared to what they sell at in the private market. For example, the County was appraising tillable acres at \$7,200 per acre in the date range mentioned above. When this compares to several sales that exceeded \$13,000 per acre, this generates a sales ratio around 55%. This is important because the State of Minnesota requires a sales ratio to fall between 90% and 105% for the County to be in compliance. When the private market experiences significant increases in sale prices in a

short period of time, it will often clash with what the County has maintained for their appraisals. This is of particular interest because in a fast-moving market, values and sale prices could start to go down and the County may not realize that downturn for two years. This is a result of how the law is written.

I cannot stress enough that the Commissioners have very little control over property values. It is primarily dictated by State regulations. The Commissioners can make small adjustments when warranted, such as when there is not a representative sample of sales in the County for the State to be able to determine a sales ratio or an administrative error has been made. This must be done through a process called the County Board of Appeal and Equalization – a meeting that is held every June. This is, in my opinion, the proper way to have checks and balances built into the tax system. If too much control was given to the Commissioners in setting land values, it could lead to some concerning practices across the State. Primarily, because the Commissioners are in control of what the property tax levy is that is certified. If values were able to be manipulated at the local level, it could create a conflict of interest with how the levy is spread to land-owners.

As mentioned, what the Commissioners do have control over is the overall budget of the county. We set the dollar amount or levy that we need to collect to run the county for that particular year. Over the past four years, we have been able to hold our levy increases to 2% or less. This

past year our levy increase was only 0.5% , the 3rd lowest in the State. Our levy in 2023 was \$17,744,110 and in 2024 it is \$17,832,831 – an \$88,721 increase. So you are probably saying, “That can't be right. Then why did my taxes go up so much?” There are a couple of reasons for this, the biggest factor is the valuation difference between Ag, Residential, Commercial, and Industrial. While Ag values went up by approximately 50%, the other three property types increased anywhere from 0% - 15%. This shifted the burden of the property tax over to the Ag sector by 35% - 50% in some cases. For the majority of residential owners, they will be able to enjoy a decrease in their County property taxes in 2024. This is a much-needed relief because, for the past several years, residential owners have been taking more of the burden when Ag values were fairly stagnated. The other factor that could cause an increase in your overall property tax

bill is your homestead exclusion. With the large increase in property values in recent years, legislation has not kept up with the market and has resulted in your exemption to phase out quicker. We will see some relief in 2025 when the State will increase the dollar amount of your exclusion for both Ag and Residential property types.

My goal in this article was to hopefully give people a better understanding of the ebbs and flows of property tax and how the burden can shift from one property type to another depending on market values – even with very little shift in the levy. If you have further questions or other concerns, I welcome your call at 507-456-3927.

Doug Christopherson is the District 1 elected representative to the Waseca County Board of Commissioners. District 1 covers rural residents living in Alton, Freedom, Byron, New Richland, Otisco, and Vivian townships.

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ALL-CONFERENCE

GOPHER CONFERENCE BOY'S BASKETBALL

2023-24 Player of the Year: Gabe Hein, 12, Blooming Prairie. Led Blooming Prairie to a 14-1 record in the Gopher Conference and the East Division title. Blooming Prairie also won the Gopher Conference championship game, defeating JWP 61-59. The Blossoms finished the season 28-3 overall, losing in the section championship to Goodhue. He led the Gopher Conference in points per game at 22.7 during conference games (22.3 overall). He scored a school-record 49 points against Lyle-Pacelli in the season opener, but this record would later be broken by his twin brother Zack. He finished his career with over 1,000 points and during his senior season and broke the school record for most points in a season (690). Gabe is undecided at this time about his college plans.

1st Team All-Conference

Jonathan Stanke 12 USC; Pierce Peterson 10 Triton; Brady Kittelson 11 BP; Memphis James 12 JWP; Colton Stieberg 12 Kenyon-Wanamingo

2nd Team All-Conference

Hudson Dillon 12 Bethlehem Academy; Wyatt Birr 11 Maple River; **Daxter Lee 12 NRHEG**; Zach Mason 12 Kenyon-Wanamingo; Zack Hein 12 BP; Jayce Leonardo 12 Triton

3rd Team All-Conference

Daulton Bauer 10 JWP; Gavin Brown 11 WEM; Talen Taylor 10 WEM; Cole Davis 9 Maple River; Colton Ford 10 Randolph; Ryan Kronbach 12 JWP

Honorable Mention

Hunter Kriesel 11 Randolph; Aaron Huerta 12 Bethlehem Academy; Aaron Pawlitschek 12 Maple River; Rylan Nelsen 9 Hayfield; Cole Schluter 12 JWP; Gabe Staloch 9 Blooming Prairie; Caleb Quast 10 JWP; Redzel Priebe 12 WEM; Kaeden Ellingson 12 Triton

Sportsmanship Recipients

Willie Potter 12 Bethlehem Academy; Tyler Forystek 12 Blooming Prairie; Isaac Fjerstad 12 Hayfield; Carter Miller 12 JWP; RJ Hodgman 12 Kenyon-Wanamingo; Zach Trio 10 Maple River; Cain Johannes 11 Medford; **Jared Lee 10 NRHEG**; Carson Lorenzen 10 Randolph; Graham Christianson 12 Triton; Brennan Anderson 12 USC; Luke Michaels 12 WEM

GOPHER CONFERENCE GIRLS' BASKETBALL

2023-24 Player of the Year: Natalie Beaver 12 Hayfield. Natalie had a great senior season as she led Hayfield with 17.4 points and 7.6 rebounds per game. Natalie was a mismatch nightmare for opponents. Standing 5-foot-11 she could score inside, off the dribble, or from deep 3-point land. Her shooting percentage was phenomenal as she shot 37.9% on 3-pointers, 62.3% on 2-pointers, and 85.9% at the free-throw line. Natalie will continue her basketball career at Luther College.

2023-24 All-Conference Team

Claire McGregor 12 Maple River; Kristen Watson 12 Hayfield; Lexi Thomas 12 Maple River; Emily Coonrod 12 Randolph; Shawntee Snyder 12 Blooming Prairie; Alayna Atherton 12 WEM; Claire Bohlen 12 WEM; Chelsea Christopherson 12 Hayfield; Gabby Molina 12 Triton; Macy Lembke 12 Blooming Prairie; Carmen Nerison 11 Kenyon-Wanamingo; **Camryn VanMaldeghem 10 NRHEG**; Katie Olson 10 JWP; Nevaeh Weimert 10 JWP; **Quinn VanMaldeghem 10 NRHEG**; Olivia Bungum 9 USC; Reagan Essig 9 Triton

Honorable Mention

Anna Cohen 11 Bethlehem Academy **Faith Nielsen 12 NRHEG**; Jossie Flom 12 Kenyon-Wanamingo; Allie Gillette 10 Randolph; Lilly Beyer 12 Hayfield; Kylie LaFrance 12 WEM; **Hallie Schultz 12 NRHEG**; Ivette Mendoza 12 Kenyon-Wanamingo; Krystal Ulrich 12 Maple River

Sportsmanship Recipients

Brooklyn Becker 11 Bethlehem Academy; Hailry Schumacher 12 Blooming Prairie; Carly Nelson 12 Hayfield; Lilly Strauss 11 JWP; Rachel Ryan 12 Kenyon-Wanamingo; Kelsey Jaeger 11 Maple River; **Hope Nielsen 12 NRHEG**; Julia Splichal 12 Randolph; Ella Thomas 12 Triton; Addison Mithun 11 USC; Kylie LaFrance 12 WEM

Gopher Conference Wrestling

2023-24 Wrestler of the Year: Will VanEpps, Kenyon-Wanamingo. Van Epps wrestled 215 this year and was a state champion with a record of 44-2 and a career record of 120-28. He also beat the state champion at 285. He was a two-time state entrant, placing fifth last year. He was recognized as the Triple A award winner in Region 1. Will is an all-around great student and athlete. He was also the starting quarterback and set many records. He will be continuing his baseball career at Mankato State next year. He will maybe go down as one of the best athletes in KW history.

All-Conference Team

Liam Sommer 8 KW Gavin Johnson 12 KW; Ryan Lacanne 10 KW; Reed Sommer 11 KW; Kaden Harfman 11 Medford; Evan Schweisthal 12 Medford; Tommy Elwood 11 Medford; Byron Getchell 11 Maple River/USC; Braxton Simon 12 Maple River/USC; **George Roesler 12 NRHEG**; Austan Adreon 12 Triton; Keegan Kuball 11 WEM/JWP; Gavin Krause 12 WEM/JWP; Carson Petry 11 WEM/JWP; Bo Zwiener 11 Westfield

Honorable Mention

Kiefer Olson 12 KW; Bryan Jacobson 10 KW; Dillon Bartel 12 KW; Mason DeGroot 12 Medford; Luis Lopez 12 Medford; Noah Gonzalez 9 Maple River/USC; Hunter Garness 10 Triton; Alex Lea 11 Westfield

Sportsmanship Recipients

Bryan Jacobson 10 KW; Kolt Bullerman 10 Maple River/USC; Mason DeGroot 11 Medford; **Reese Routh 12 NRHEG**; John Moenning 12 Triton; Avery Fall 11 WEM/JWP; Derek Miner 8 Westfield

New coach leads softball Panthers

NRHEG grad Camerer takes over

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

A new head coach takes over for the NRHEG softball team this spring and, like her Panther counterpart in baseball, she's no stranger to the system.

NRHEG graduate Kayley Camerer, who not long ago was hitting home runs for the Panthers, is now in charge of the program, assisted by 18th-year coach Nate Jensen and third-year coach Cloie Arndt, another former Panther.

Last year's squad, the final season for longtime NRHEG coach Wendy Schultz, finished 9-8 overall and 6-6 for fifth in the Gopher Conference. They lost their sub-section opener.

The Panthers graduated three players off that squad in Sydney Schultz, Bree Ihrke and Trinity Smith-Vulcan.

Schultz, daughter of Wendy Schultz, was all-conference, all-section and honorable mention all-state. She and Ihrke were the captains.

Plenty of players return including seniors Payton Bunn (OF), Faith Nielsen (P/IF), Preslie Nielsen (IF), Erin Peterson (utility), Taylor Schmidt (IF) and Isabel Stadheim (OF), juniors Aryana Howe (U) and Aspyr Stenzel (IF), sophomores Kyera Eustice (OF), Adalyn Stadheim (C/IF), Chloe Stork (U), Tatum Thibodeau (U), Sam Possin (U) and Claire Robran (OF), and

"We hope to keep improving and be playing our best softball around playoff time."

— Kayley Camerer

freshmen infielders Olivia Berg, Izley Boerner and Faith Phillips.

Coach Camerer expects a big season from the Panthers' sister tandems, Faith and Preslie Nielsen and Izzy and Addy Stadheim. Peterson or Berg could also have a breakthrough season.

"We hope to keep improving and getting better throughout the entire season, and be playing our best softball around playoff time," said Camerer. "Our team strengths include being hard workers with a great team chemistry, great attitudes, and our speed. One thing we need to work on is getting experience and growing confidence levels for players who are stepping into starting varsity spots."

Returning state entrants Randolph and Bethlehem Academy are the preseason favorites in the Gopher Conference.

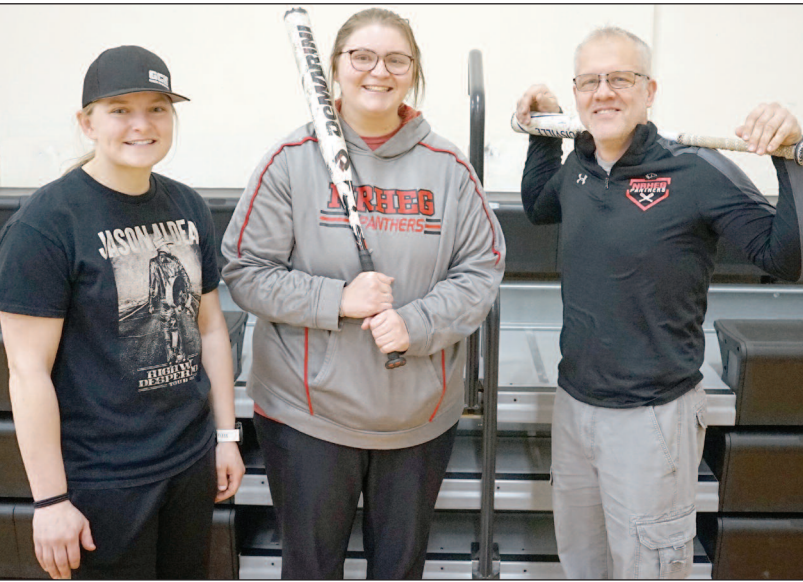


RETURNEES — Returning letterwinners for the NRHEG High School softball team are, from left, Aryanna Howe, Faith Nielsen, Isabel Stadheim, Adalyn Stadheim and Preslie Nielsen. Star Eagle photos by Eli Lutgens

The top teams in Section 2A, according to Camerer, are New Ulm, Belle Plaine and returning state entrant LeSueur-Henderson.

NRHEG 2024 Softball Schedule

April 2 at Blue Earth Area, 5 p.m.
April 4 at Randolph, 4:30
April 5 at Austin Packer Dome, 7 p.m.
April 8 vs. Southland, 4:30
April 11 at United South Central, 4:30
April 12 vs. Blooming Prairie, 4:30
April 15 at Granada-H-EC/ML, 4:30
April 18 vs. Bethlehem Academy, 4:30
April 19 vs. Waseca, 4:30
April 22 at Blooming Prairie, 4:30
April 25 vs. Hayfield, 4:30
April 26 at Caswell Park, TBD
April 27 at Caswell Park, TBD
April 29 at JWP, 4:30
May 2 vs. Kenyon-Wanamingo, 4:30
May 7 vs. United South Central, 4:30
May 9 at Maple River, 4:30
May 10 vs. Tri-City United, 4:30
May 13 vs. Medford, 4:30



COACHES — Coaches for the NRHEG High School softball team are, from left, Cloie Arndt, Kayley Camerer and Nate Jensen. Arndt and Kammerer are former Panthers.



2024 PANTHERS — As of now, here's the 2024 NRHEG High School baseball team. Front row from left: Isaac Bauleke, Wyatt Larson, Jordan Brouwers, Deven Parpart and Jared Lee. Middle row: coach Shawn Larson, Brock Ziemke, Seth Staloch and Jace Ihrke, Alden Dobberstein, Carter Martens, Aiden Hanna and coach Marcus Fischer. Back: Shane Service, Ryan Schlaak, A.J. Deer, Khaiden Madison, Cameron Christopher, Fynn Baumann and Brooks Gilliland. Star Eagle photo by Eli Lutgens

New coach for NRHEG baseball, but he's no stranger

Wrestling coach Shawn Larson takes over; Reese returns to team as assistant

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

A new head coach is in place for the NRHEG High School baseball team in 2024, but he's no stranger to the Panthers.

Shawn Larson, longtime assistant baseball coach and the varsity wrestling coach, will lead NRHEG on the diamond last spring.

While the Panthers have no seniors on their roster, a number of key players are back from last spring's team that finished 10-2 for second in the Gopher Conference and 11-5 overall.

Larson looks for good things from juniors Alden Dobberstein (P/SS/2B), Carter Martens (P/3B)

"We have the potential to be competitive in both the section and conference."

— Head coach Shawn Larson

and Jace Ihrke (P/C), and sophomore Jared Lee (P/1B/OF).

The other juniors are Aaden Hanna (P/OF), Mayson Patten (3B), Aidan Schlaak (P/IF), Seth Staloch (SS/2B) and Brock Ziemke (1B).

Varsity sophomores include Isaac Bauleke (OF), Jordan Brouwers (OF/3B), Wyatt Larson (P/C/3B), Deven Parpart (P/IF/OF) and Owen

Wayne (P/2B/SS).

"It is unknown at this time if we will be using any freshmen," said Coach Larson. "Alden Dobberstein, Carter Martens, Jace Ihrke and Jared Lee are all varsity returning players who we expect to stand out on our team this season."

As for new player impact, Larson looks forward to contributions from everyone.

"We have a cast of players that are capable of good things," said Larson. "Look for players like Aidan Schlaak, Wyatt Larson, Owen Wayne, Jordan Brouwers, and Deven Parpart to have good seasons and really help out the Panthers in the 2024 season."

Larson looks for wide-open races for both the Gopher Conference and section championships, and he believes the Panthers can contend.

"We have potential to be competing for both the section and conference title," said Larson. "Our section has several teams that will be contenders for the title. If I had to pick a favorite, I would have to pick

Belle Plaine to be the top contender for the section. Our conference is extremely talented this season. United South Central, Maple River, Hayfield, Randolph, and Kenyon-Wanamingo are all teams that can win. Based of last season, I would say that USC is probably the preseason favorite."

Larson, who replaces Mark Lee as head coach, will be assisted by first-year coach Marcus Fischer and former NRHEG head coach Jeff Reese.

"We have a plan as a team to use people in as many ways as possible, so being able to know every role and

Baseball continued on 8

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Ferber returns for 34th year leading NRHEG track teams

After taking second, girls set sights on conference crown

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

During the last three-plus decades, a lot of coaches have come and gone for New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva athletic teams. Except for one sport: track and field.

Duey Ferber enters his 34th season at the helm of the program. He remains as optimistic as ever, and he has some good reasons for that optimism with state entrants returning for both the boys and girls.

The boys' team will be led by Will Tuttle, who reached state in the 110-meter high hurdles and 300 intermediate hurdles, placing seventh in the highs. The Panthers' Most Valuable award winner for track and field last spring, Tuttle is one of three captains.

The other captains are Levin Kitzer, voted Most Valuable in track events last year, and Parker Bunn.

Also returning for the boys are Harbor Cromwell, Charlie Fuller, Devon Nelson, Wyatt Tuttle and Brendan Schmidt.

Key athletes graduating off last year's squad include Aidan Deyle, Lucas Hanna, Makota Misgen, Conner Nelson and Sawyer Prigge. Hanna finished seventh in discus at the state meet. Deyle was fourth in the 110 high hurdles at section.

According to Coach Ferber, the Panthers should have solid performers in most every event.

"We have some good athletes in most areas," said Ferber. "We should be strong in our hurdle events and sprint relays. Our long distance has some good younger athletes as well as some upperclassmen. Our jumps have some new athletes to hopefully score some points. We have most of our bases cov-

"We have a lot of good hard working kids that love to be out there competing and trying to get better."
— NRHEG coach Duey Ferber

ered." On the other side of the coin, Ferber said, "We need more events where we can score multiple people."

Avoiding injury is crucial for the Panthers.

"We need to keep everyone healthy and able to compete in all the meets," said Ferber. "We need to work hard and get some of our new members some experience in their events."

Ferber, who guided the Panthers to Gopher Conference championships in 2018 and 2019, said Maple River returns some very good athletes and are the preseason conference favorites. He expects Belle Plaine and Jordan to have solid squads in Section 2A.

"We have a lot of good hard working kids that love to be out there competing and trying to get better," summarized Ferber. "Our upperclassmen do a good job of showing the younger athletes how to work hard to succeed."

So how did the Panthers' captains get into track?

"I was driving as a student driver with Mr. Ferber," said Tuttle. "Nine hours that I rode with him, and he convinced me to do it, and I never looked back. He mentioned Brady Agrimson's name. When I was a kid, oh my goodness I looked up to that guy. That's all he had so say and I was gung-ho about it because I

wanted to be like him." "One of the main this is it just looked like a lot of fun," said Kitzer. "Everyone's always real happy, messing around and just having a good time."

Tuttle said he feels a little more responsibility as a senior

"What I'm focused on right now is really just showing those kids what they do through hard work," he said. "We want to set an example by actually winning races, scoring points and just setting an example by the way we work. Yeah, sure we joke around and have fun, but when it comes down to it, we're the hardest working people in the room, and I will take that to the end of the year."

What do they think of Ferber's famous saying, "Track is every other sports punishment?"

"I think that can be true," said Bunn. "There's a lot of work to put in this sport if you want to put in, so this sport is about what you really want to put into it."

Expected to lead the NRHEG girls is another hurdler, Evelyn Nydegger, who finishd 13th at state in both the 100 highs and 300 intermediates. Her teammates voted her Most Valuable last spring. She's a captain this year.

Another returning state performer is Quinn VanMaldeghem, who had

Track continued on 8



TRACK AND FIELD BOYS— Returning letterwinners for the NRHEG boys' track and field team include, front from left: Brendan Schmidt, Jacob Karl, Harbor Cromwell, Owsen Bartlett and Jaylin Raab. Back: Parker Bunn, Gaven Sletten, Will Tuttle and Levin Kitzer.

Star Eagle photos by Eli Lutgens



TRACK AND FIELD GIRLS— Returning letterwinners for the NRHEG girls' track and field team include, front from left: Quinn VanMaldeghem, Evelyn Nydegger, Holly Bartness, Chloe Riewer and Paige Johnson. Back: Kylie Olson, Malonna Wilson, Anika Ladlie, Keira Lenort, Gabby Schlaak, Sierra Misgen and Clara Buendorf.

NRHEG golf teams ready to tee it up

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Not only is everybody back for the NRHEG High School boys' golf team, the Panthers have picked up a player.

Senior Daxter Lee, who's played baseball in the past but can't this spring because of an injury, is out for golf. His impact is yet to be seen, but his presence gives the Panthers one more varsity hopeful.

Carter Schlaak, Shane Hansen and Tyler Kress lettered last year.

The rest of the roster includes Jackson Chrz, Jaylin Raab and Hudson Chrz.

The NRHEG boys finished 5-13 last season, taking sixth in the Gopher Conference and 12th in the sub-section tournament under coach Brad Root, who's in his 35th year at New Richland and 14th season as head golf coach.

"We had a good season last year and the boys got some good experience, so we are pretty well set on five varsity spots," said Root. "We will again have small numbers on the boys side, so someone may emerge as a surprise to help us. We did not have many JV meets last year, so the non-varsity players didn't get much meet experience last year. The varsity boys have pretty good golf skills, but need to work on the mental side of the game, consistency, and course management."

The Gopher Conference favorite, according to Root, is Hayfield. He expects Waseca to lead the sub-section.

Meela Budach is the lone returnee for the NRHEG girls, who had a fine season last year while finishing second in the conference and fifth at sub-section. The Panthers were 20-2 for the season, pushing Root's career mark to 141-50 through 13 seasons.

Root is assisted for both boys and girls by Kara Wilkenson, Kim



GOLF BOYS — The 2024 NRHEG High School boys' golf team. Front from left: Shan Hansen, Braydon Rollag, coach Kara Wilkenson, Daxter Lee and Matthew Williams. Back: Tyler Kress, Carter Schlaak, Jackson Chrz, Hudson Chrz and coach Kim Berg.

Star Eagle photos by Eli Lutgens



GOLF GIRLS — The 2024 NRHEG High School girls' golf team. Front from left: Elsie Schultz, Olivia Wilkenson and Alexis Olson. Back: coach Kara Wilkenson, Hallie Schultz, Meela Budach and Gabriella Nelson.

Golf continued on 8

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■ Baseball

from Page 6

help everybody else know every role is very important, because we don't have a lot of guys," said Dobberstein. "We need multiple people to do multiple things. I think the most important thing is building a family within the team."

Lee, a sophomore, said he feels no pressure this season, but the lack of outside practice could be a challenge for the Panthers.

"We haven't had a lot of outside time, so if we can get started on a hot streak, fix things as soon as possible rather than letting them build on each other," said Lee. "Because it's going to be hard not being outside, getting right into the games."

So who's going to pitch for the 2024 Panthers?

"Jared and Alden will probably be our ringers," said Coach Larson. "Right now I'm looking to not have

an ace, but have a crew of people who can pitch. We don't have a lot of arms, but we have arms."

Larson, who recently completed his 20th year with the wrestling team, has been with the baseball program since 2007.

"I've always been someone who loved to play baseball," said Larson. "When I was in junior high, I was a better golfer than baseball player, so I had people that convinced me to be on the golf team, and then as time went I just realized that I had a passion for baseball and wanted to be a part of it."

Larson is excited to take over as head baseball coach.

"I'm happy to be in this position," he said. "I think what steered me in this direction is that my son was still playing and there were enough kids on the team that I had coached before that I didn't want to let down. I wanted to have my name in the ring."

And Larson looks forward to the season.

"It's not really about coaching my

son, it's making sure he gets the opportunity to do what he likes," said Larson. "I love NRHEG baseball. I want to see what it can do."

Larson, who served as an assistant coach under Reese, said he's fantastic to have him back with the NRHEG program.

"He's just a fantastic guy," said Larson. "As far as his knowledge of baseball, I don't think there's anybody that's going to beat that, especially in this area. He's capable of coming up with stuff that gives us pointers in the fine details that maybe of us miss. You can't have a better guy around, really."

And how does Larson feel about coaching a team with no seniors?

"I'm trying to convince these guys that you look at it as a positive," he said. "The one positive that you can take out of this is that we have everybody for two years. And it also gives those without varsity experience a little more experience being on the varsity. Obviously, the down side is that we don't have those really good players, but when

you look at it from a positive standpoint, we have a team that can do some things even though we're not experienced seniors. We can go out there and score some runs, move players around and be good on defense, so I think we're going to be O.K."

In conclusion, Larson said like to have as many people as possible attending home games at Jeff and Carol Reese Field.

"We'd love to see everybody all the time," he said.

NRHEG 2024 Baseball Schedule

April 4 vs. Randolph, 4:30
April 8 at Triton, 4:30
April 9 at Blue Earth Area, 5 p.m.
April 11 vs. United South Central, 4:30
April 12 at Granada-Huntley-EC/ML, 5 p.m.
April 18 at Waseca, 5 p.m.
April 22 vs. Blooming Prairie, 4:30
April 25 at Hayfield, 4:30
April 26 vs. Pine Island, 7 p.m.
April 29 vs. JWP, 4:30
May 2 at Kenyon-Wanamingo, 4:30
May 6 vs. Madelia-Truman, 4:30
May 7 vs. Tri-City United, 5 p.m.
May 9 vs. Maple River, 4:30
May 10 at LCWM, 5 p.m.
May 13 at Medford, 4:30



LEADERS — Captains for the 2024 NRHEG High School baseball team are, from left, Jared Lee, Alden Dobberstein and Jace Ihrke.
Star Eagle photo by Eli Lutgens

■ Golf

from Page 6

Olson and Jordan Kindred.

"Course magement is a huge part of the game as well as becoming strong mentally," said Root. "We need to move from being practice players to tournament players, making sure they are prepared for whatever weather conditions exist, as well as dealing with situations on the course will be a priority. We would like to advance our team to section and get an all-conference selection or two. We have small numbers. All will play varsity. We want them to learn the game so they can enjoy it throughout their life. As always, we want our student-athletes to enjoy the sport and have fun while at the same time representing our school well."

In order to best enjoy the game, a good grasp of the rules of golf is necessary. We will be working on the rules and golf etiquette so our golfers will be knowledgeable and welcome wherever we travel to play."

Root said the NRHEG girls need to be mentally tough and focused.

"We are counting on continued improvement in all our girls," said Root.

Schlaak, a golfer since his freshman year, takes his captain's role seriously.

"It definitely has a lot of responsibility," he said.

Schlaak plays golf because he's unable to compete in contact sports, but sometimes it gets physical anyway.

In golf?

"Yes," said Schlaak. "My first year in golf, on a rather foggy day, a group of girls was teeing off on No. 5 in New Richland. I'm

standing right behind a tree, but one of their drives nails me in the shoulder."

And how does he feel about Coach Root?

"He's veryoptimistic," said Schlaak, who declined to elaborate.

Budach, a sophomore who first went out for golf last year, is also proud to be captain.

"It means a lot," she said. "I like to create a friendship in our team. It makes it more fun to play together. Then you have more opportunity to help each other out."

Budach said sports have taught her that coaches carry a lot of respect.

"Coaches always have good advice, no matter what you do," she said.

Budach likes Coach Root because of his openness.

"I like that he's very open to everything," she said. "You can always go and talk to him. He's very understanding of anything you go to him for."

Budach said making new friends is her favorite part of golf, something Schlaak agreed with.

"I love when you get to meet new people," said Budach. "Then you're with them for four hours. You make new friendships."

NRHEG 2024 Golf Schedule

April 4 at Riverview Golf Course, 4:30
April 9 at Waseca, 4 p.m.
April 18 at Riverview GC, 4:30
April 25 at Dodge Country Club, 4:30
April 26 at JWP Prairie Ridge GC, 1:30
May 2 at USC Oak View GC, 4:30
May 9 Mankato North Links, 10 a.m.
May 13 at Austin CC, 10 a.m.
May 16 vs. Waseca at Riverview, 4:30
May 20 at Waseca, 12 noon
May 23 Conf. at Waseca, 10 a.m.



Root

■ Track

from Page 6

the 15th-best 800 time in the state meet. She was NRHEG's Most Valuable in track events.

The Panthers also return Gabby Schlaak, Anika Ladlie, Chloe Riewer, Malonna Wilson, Paige Johnson, Keira Lenort, Sierra Misgen, Clara Buendorf and Holly Bartness. Schlaak was the squad's Most Improved athlete last year.

Key graduates last year were hurdler Olivia Kofstad and all-around performer Josie Strom.

The Panthers have finished second in the Gopher Conference meet the past two seasons, edged by two points last year. Ferber isn't ruling out a championship season for the NRHEG girls.

"I think the Gopher Conference is wide open this year," said Ferber, who expects JWP and Maple River to field solid squads.

Ferber figures the Panthers will be strong in the hurdles, jumps and middle distance events.

His biggest concern is numbers.

"We need to have more than one person score in each event," he said.

The key to success? "Hard work and grit," said Ferber, who likes what he's seen from the Panthers' newcomers.

"We have some new athletes that are looking good on our team," he said. "This group of seventh-graders is going to be good for years to come."

Ferber is assisted by Larry Nydegger, Bailie Thom, Kim Johnson and Brian Belcourt.

Evelyn Nydegger, for one, anticipates a fun spring.

"This is going to be a great season," she said. "We had a really good year last year, had a shot at conference. I think we can do it this year. We've got good numbers, a lot of new young kids. It's going to be a

good year."

Despite setting the school record in the 300 hurdles last year, Nydegger is aiming to improve. And of course have fun.

"I want to do that again," she said of the record. "That's always a goal of mine. Honestly, I'm here to have fun this year. I went out and did what I wanted to last year. Obviously, I'd like to do it again, but I'm here to have fun and get the new kids into it too."

What has being a part of NRHEG sports taught Nydegger?

"It's given me a lot of great experiences," she said. "It's given me opportunities outside of athletics, just getting experience out in the world, as well as in the school and in the community. It's been a lot of fun."

She couldn't pinpoint one favorite Ferber story.

"Goodness sakes, there's a lot of stories with that man right there," she said. "He's a very big book."

Wilson also said she looks forward to a great season.

"I just hope that it's a fun year, and I think it will be," she said. "I just hope everyone improves, and that we do good at conference."

Wilson shared she would like to get as close as possible to the school record in the shot put.

She doesn't necessarily agree with the assessment that track is other sports' punishment.

"It's actually more fun than it seems," said Wilson. "It's a lot more fun that people make it out to be. You make so many new friends."

Ferber, in his 35th year as a head coach, did pinpoint a favorite story.

"We were at a meet at Maple River, and we had a young man with a bag of Funions," said Ferber. "He asked if I'd like one. I said sure, and he gave me one."

The joke kicked in when Ferber



Ferber



CAPTAINS — Captains for the 2024 NRHEG High School track and field teams are, front from left: Malonna Wilson and Evelyn Nydegger. Back: Parker Bunn, Will Tuttle and Levin Kitzer.
Star Eagle photo by Eli Lutgens

took his first bite.

"He said, 'Yeah, I just found these in the porta-potty,'" said Ferber. "He was kidding of course, but I didn't know it. I called him 'Pottie Chips' after that. He was a lot of fun to have on the team."

Ferber laughed we asked if so many kids go out for track because of his influence in driver's training.

"Our numbers are always pretty solid," he said. "Track is a fun sport."

But's only half jokingly that he wears a T-shirt with his favorite say-

ing about track being the punishment for other sports.

"One thing I've always said is that it takes a special person to go out for track," said Ferber. "You do have to be a very disciplined individual to go out for track."

NRHEG 2024 Track and Field

April 2 Boys at Hayfield, 4:30
April 9 at United South Central, 4 p.m.
April 16 at Maple River, 4:30
April 22 at Blooming Prairie, 4:30
April 30 at JWP, 4:30
May 2 NRHEG Invitational, 4:30
May 11 Conf. at Maple River, 10 a.m.
May 13 at Waseca, 4:30

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NRHEG Winter Sports Banquet photos



Various photos from the NRHEG winter sports banquet held in the middle of March in the high school gymnasium. Directly above Annabelle Petsinger. Top left, Jared Lee. Top right, Jackson Chrz.

Star Eagle photo by Eli Lutgens

First fraternity of farmers, ‘the Grange’

Thursday, April 11 at FCHM agricultural historian, T.J. Malaskee delves into the long forgotten history of America’s first fraternity of farmers, The Grange.

The Grange was a radical post-Civil War Era movement that pushed for progressive measures to heal the nation through agriculture, education, equality, and social interaction as the United States saw growing tension between western rural farmers and eastern urban industrialists.

The Grange—more formally known as the Patrons of Husbandry—was founded by Minnesota-Farmer, Oliver H. Kelley in 1867 and the rural movement took off here in his home state, eventually reaching a membership of over one million men and women across the country. Find out more about this

intriguing history and learn how the Grange has played a role in your life today!

This event is free for FCHM members and \$5 for non-members. Memberships start at \$30 for individuals and \$45 for households.

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 am until 4 pm. For more information, please call our office at 507-373-8003

Pajama Day at FCHM

Thursday, April 18 is Pajama Day at FCHM! Get on your comfiest or cutest PJs and come visit FCHM! Get into the museum for free if you come in PJs. Don’t worry, you won’t be the only one, the staff looks forward to enjoying this cozy day too! The museum will be open from 10:00 am- 8:00 pm.

Later that night there will be a lecture at FCHM, wearing pjs will not grant you free access to the lecture, just to the museum.

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cational 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 am until 4 pm. For more information, please call our office at 507-373-8003

MVAC offering paid summer internships

Summer jobs are a learning and earning experience with the MVAC/Waseca County Internship Program.

Minnesota Valley Action Council (MVAC) is accepting internship applications from any students living in Waseca County, ages 18-25, who are enrolled in a community college or a 4-year college and in good academic standing. Income is not an eligibility factor for this internship.

Paid internship goals include developing skills and learning about Waseca County career opportunities.

“We want to draw back students that go to college so that they are able to get jobs in their hometown or home county instead of having them find jobs in the Cities,” Stephanie Landsteiner, MVAC Family Resource Specialist in Waseca County says.

Interns will work and learn more

about what they’re studying – getting a feel for the job they’re taking classes in, Landsteiner explains.

The goal is to offer eight MVAC/Waseca County internships this summer.

“Typically, juniors or seniors in college are who we’re looking to connect with to help them get experience in their field of study and see what jobs are available to them in the community they grew up in,” Sarah McDonald, MVAC Youth and Senior Services Coordinator says.

Interns earn \$15 an hour, work up to 29 hours in a week and the course of the internship is 300 hours total. Students provide their own transportation. Internships usually start the beginning of June and wrap up when students go back to fall classes.

Landsteiner asks students to apply now so she can match their interests with a business or government host.

“I work with the students to best fit their field,” she adds. “Whatever they’re interested in doing an internship in, we’ll explore that with them and reach out to the different businesses.”

Some internship hosts, since the program began in 2022, include newspapers, a media and production business, a veterinary clinic, a financial advising firm, and the county sheriff’s office.

An intern had an interest in criminal justice such as court administration. She decided to try the sheriff’s office internship and saw staff involved in more than making arrests.

“She learned about SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) and other different programs that they have,” Landsteiner says.

There are benefits to students beyond exploring the career they’re taking courses in at school.

“They’re also building their resume and deepening their networks,” McDonald says. “Those are things that are going to help them get that job and stay on or find something else in their communities.”

Applications are available by calling Landsteiner at MVAC’s Waseca County office, 507-835-8240, or by email steph@mnvac.org and through MVAC’s website <https://www.mnvac.org/programs/employment-training/wacounty-internship>.

MVAC is a Community Action Agency helping those in need secure affordable housing, viable transportation, employment and training for employment, as well as creating educational opportunities for children.

#helpingpeoplechanginglives

History of oracle cards April 18 at FCHM

On Thursday April 18th at 7:00pm Peggy Benson will be at FCHM talking about this history and use of oracle cards. An oracle deck is a series of cards with pictures and/or words on them that can be used for goal-setting, to lift your mood, or to

connect with your higher power. Each deck has a theme. During this lecture Peggy will discuss the history of the oracle and explore how to use these cards to guide you in transforming your hopes, aspirations, and dreams into reality. Several decks

will be utilized to understand how each type has a theme. Peggy is an Elemental Space Clearer @ Lightworker, Intuitive, Advanced Integrated Energy Therapy Practitioner®, Visionary, Certified Yoga Teacher RYT-200, and creator

of Mojo Mist ©. She has studied and worked with oracle cards since 2016. This event is free for FCHM members and \$5 for non-members. Memberships start at \$30 for an individual or \$45 for a household.

FCHM announces matching funds campaign

ALBERT LEA, MN—Freeborn County Historical Museum, Library and Village’s executive director Stephanie Kibler and Board of Directors’ president Tony Segura announced today that the nonprofit received a three-month \$10,000 challenge grant from anonymous donors. The grant will match dollar-for-dollar

all donations from supporter’s March 1 through May 30.

“Whether it’s installing a remarkable exhibit of the highest quality, helping children experience history through tours and hands-on activities, or offering lectures and programming year round,” said Kibler, “everything that FCHM does is made

possible by our loyal supporters. Their generosity of support in time and treasure makes it possible for us to continue to build the future by preserving the past. We are extremely grateful for our anonymous donors to invest in our organization in a way that encourages others to offer their support.”

Donations can be made online at fchmmn.org, by calling the museum with your credit card, on Venmo, by USPS, or by stopping in the museum Wednesday and Friday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm or Thursday, 10:00 am to 8:00 pm.

Unexpectedly crystallized honey

It might be said I owe the members of NRHEG’s culinary competition teams an apology.

I went along last month as 10 “ProStart” students took part in state-level competition. ProStart is a program sponsored by the National Restaurant Association. It creates opportunities for students who enjoy preparing and serving food to see the career possibilities the field offers.

I felt it was something the newspaper should cover—state level competition. I was glad to go. But the day was going to be long, with everyone boarding the bus at 6 a.m. and an anticipated return time about 12 hours later.

I took along a book thinking I would be in need of entertainment.

Boy, was I wrong.

There was plenty of bustle and activity as we arrived and found the locations that would be significant to us, specifically the work spaces allotted to each of the two five-member teams. Time flew, and suddenly it was 9:45, when NRHEG’s first team was scheduled to begin preparing its dishes. Each competing group was required to display a menu which included an appetizer, main entree, and dessert.

No cooking could begin until the one-hour timer was started, and all food had to be on the tray, ready for delivery to judges, before the closely-watched second hand reached zero. There were 18 teams at the competition. About



In My Humble Opinion by Deb Bently

every half hour, another two would be given the “go” signal and the furor would begin anew.

It was riveting.

Team members told me they had been practicing and refining their systems for weeks. Everyone had specific jobs to do, and only a relatively tight space to do them in. They not only had to work quickly, but their objective was to present tasty, visually appealing finished products that would catch the attention of the panels of judges. Every cut, every turn of the whisk, was important.

Oh, and they were surrounded by tournament officials watching everything they did. There were separate scores and awards for knife skills, sanitation, teamwork, team spirit, menu design, “essence of taste,” creative plating (how the food looks as it is served), management, and, finally the grand award, culinary preparation and a trip to national-level competition. Adults with clipboards were circulating everywhere, referencing the menus, confer-

ring on the sidelines, and occasionally asking questions. “Time remaining” announcements were heard all around the room.

There were even moments of somewhat dark humor—for example when one team had to struggle to get some unexpectedly crystallized honey out of its bottle.

Nearly every team raced through the last few minutes, just managing to put their visually attractive and luscious-smelling dishes onto the tray as the last seconds were counted down. Words are not sufficient to describe, but one NRHEG team served a lemon asparagus salad with shallots, pistachios and a poached egg as an appetizer, honey-glazed salmon with zesty rice as an entree, and a lemon mousse dessert garnished with white chocolate, pistachios and fresh blueberries. The other NRHEG team began with savory French crepes with bacon, tomatoes, baby spinach and cheese as an appetizer, seared tilapia with steamed asparagus and sauteed potatoes as an entree,

and coffee mousse with chocolate shavings and a mint sprig for dessert.

The other 16 teams produced equally sophisticated finished meals.

Perhaps all that will help you picture how dynamic and suspenseful it was to be in that gigantic ballroom at RiverCentre. There was constant activity. The room was filled with luscious smells. The contestants were deeply engaged in each phase of their preparations.

I am not qualified to be a judge, but I almost wished I could be, just for the sake of tasting all those beautiful foods.

NRHEG’s only award at the end of the day was to an individual student, Peyton Curtis, for “knife skills.” Only four of the 90 students competing were selected for this particular acknowledgment. The prize? A five-piece knife set. With or without a title, though, every competitor that day was a winner as far as I was concerned. They had faced and overcome tremendous challenges.

As I emptied my backpack at home that evening, I came across the book I had taken along. I was almost surprised to find it there, having not thought of it even once during the 14 hours of the trip.

So, NRHEG ProStart, thank you. Your accomplishments were overshadowed only by your effort and determination. Excellent work—and thank you for the entertainment.

MSU Mankato Champions



2023 NRHEG graduate and Minnesota State Mankato student/band member Anton Domeier celebrates with the MSU Athletics Band after the girls team won this year's national championship.

Grant has always been a ‘free spirit’

I always like to brag about my kids and grandkids, and in this case, it is my youngest grandson, Grant. He went to Wisconsin River Falls and graduated with a degree in Animal Science. He also earned a degree in Outdoors Management. He did an internship in the state of Main guiding youth on outdoors trips, hiking, camping, rock climbing and kayaking.

This internship helped him get a job working for Community Education in Albert Lea. This winter he applied for an opening for an assistant activity director at St. Olaf College and after a couple of interviews, he was offered the job. He is now commuting between home and Northfield and is hoping to find an apartment in Northfield sometime in the spring.

Whenever we went to the cabin and Grant was along, he would go fishing with us. One time, I had given him one of my lures to use. It



Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl
Outdoors Writer

was a new one that I had never used. Of course, having never used the lure, I was hoping he would at least catch one. It wasn't long before Grant started catching one fish after another with that lure. The cool thing about it is that I was glad that he was catching fish, even though he was out-fishing old Grandpa.

Grant has always been sort of a “free spirit,” so when he worked at the Rock wall for Community Ed, he felt the calling to do something a little more challenging. He would go to Duluth ice wall climbing with some of his classmates from college. They also went rock climbing in Colorado

a couple of times, and also rock climbing in Missouri and around Duluth. He has also gone camping with some friends in the Boundary Waters.

Now in my younger years, I liked living a little bit on the edge, but heights were never my thing. In the service you had no choice, and when given a choice, I avoided it unless it was to shingle my house or help someone else shingle theirs.

I am proud of what all of my grandsons have accomplished, and Grant seems to be the most adventurous of them all. One time I was babysitting him when he was about five

years old. He came over to me while I was sitting on the couch. He sat down next to me, looked up at me and said, “You know grandpa, I’ve been thinking, I maybe shouldn’t start school until I am about ten.” I did not want to laugh because he was so serious, but I did chuckle all the way home.

Until next time: I am getting anxious to do a little fishing. It seems that when we have a nice day, it comes with a mini hurricane. I do hope that Mother Nature will soon finish messing with us. I have been daydreaming from time-to-time about sitting in my boat, casting towards the lakeshore. I do not believe that I have caught that fish in my daydream yet, but that might be what keeps me coming back for more.

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.



Joey Batt, a senior at Minnesota State Mankato, is the granddaughter of Star Eagle columnist and rural Hartland resident Al Batt.

Titles
from Page 1

each. Kyreese added five rebounds and three steals, while Malik finished with five assists and five steals.

“How about the last 24 hours for Minnesota State University?” Mavericks coach Matt Margenthaler said. “It’s a basketball school. It’s a basketball town. It’s a lot of fun. I’m proud of our women, proud of our men, and we’re going to enjoy this one.”

“I don’t even know what to say right now,” Kyreese Willingham said. “It’s just an unbelievable feeling. All the credit to Malik for finding me.”

Malik Willingham was named Elite Eight Most Outstanding Player. Kyreese also qualified for the all-tournament team.

The team finished the season with a record of 35-2. NSU finished 32-3.

The men’s title game was a sharp contrast to the women’s championship, which the Mavericks led from start to finish.

Batt, a senior from New Ulm who was named to the all-tournament team, finished with 10 points, six assists and five steals.

“This was so amazing,” said Batt, “It was one of the best experiences, but I don’t think it’s hit me yet and it might not hit me for a few days. The growth that this team showed this season is insane. These guys are like my second



family, and I’ll always be a Maverick.”

“This has just been incredible,” said coach Emilee Thiesse. “When you go back to Joey’s freshman year, and to watch this program grow with Joey at the helm has been amazing. It’s not just this team; it’s a lot of other teams that have helped us build this culture. But this team is extra special.”

The Mavericks, who started the season 2-4 while Batt was sidelined with an injury, finished 32-5, finishing with an 11-game winning streak.

Winona State is on the only other men’s team from Minnesota to reach the Division II national title game. Winona State reached the national championship three consecutive seasons – 2006, 2007 and 2008 – and won the title in ‘06 and ‘08.

The last school to win the Division II title in men’s and women’s basketball in the same season was Central Missouri State in 1984.

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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; 10 a.m. church Tuesday - Council meeting (First Tuesday) Wednesday - 7 p.m. Confirmation	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.vibrantlifeeg.com	Hollandale, Minnesota Sunday—9:30 a.m. Worship; 10:45 a.m. Sunday School	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. Wednesday, 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 confirmation during summer)	ZION LUTHERAN, ELCA Rural Ellendale Deacon Billie Jo Wicks Sunday—8:30 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 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)	HARTLAND EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN Hartland, Minnesota Pastor Phillip K. Lepak Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship; Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.	ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST Ellendale, Minnesota Randy Cirkse, 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.	ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN, ELCA Meriden, Minnesota Deacon Billie Jo Wicks Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Pamela Jensen Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship	MANCHESTER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN Manchester, Minnesota Pastor Phillip K. Lepak Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship	ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST Ellendale, Minnesota Randy Cirkse, 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.	PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN Lemond Township Pastor Dave Klawiter Sunday—10:15 a.m. Worship	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 Freichs Friday - 10 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays p.m. Mass Sunday - Mass at 8 a.m.	CENTRAL FREEBORN LUTHERAN CHURCH Pastor Matt Griggs Sunday - 8:30 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	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH 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 Pastor Leandra Anderson Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship (times vary for holidays) Monday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting	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 90.3	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.litomysl.webs.com www.stsidioreeschool.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 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	SIMPLY CHURCH 105 Second Street North East Geneva, Minnesota Todd Lundgren, Pastor Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Bible Study; 10:30 a.m. Worship	ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS Hollandale, Minnesota Pastor Jesse Krusemark Sunday—9 a.m. Worship	ST. JOHN LUTHERAN Minnesota Lake, Minnesota Rev. Michael Matthews, pastor Sunday—10:30 a.m. Worship	NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE STAR EAGLE.

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Pearl Jamison

Celebration of Life
Pearl Jamison passed into the arms of her Lord and Savior on Nov 27, 2023. A Celebration of Life for Pearl Jamison, Mother of Carlene (Larry) Kuglin, Ross (Yin Mai) Jamison and Doug Jamison will be held on Thursday April 11th at Vibrant Life Assembly of God, 702 3rd St S, Ellendale, MN 56026. Visitation will be at 10:00am and service starts at 11:00am. Lunch to follow.

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

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

DATE OF MORTGAGE: May 28, 2009

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$132,560.00

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

MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING:

Recorded on June 2, 2009 as Document Number 280110 in the Office of the County Recorder of Waseca County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: East 55 feet of the S 1/2 of Lot 11, Block 9, First Addition to the Village, now City of Waseca, Minnesota, according to the Plat thereof on file and of record in the Office of the County Recorder in and for said County and State.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 605 3RD AVENUE SE, WASECA, MN 56093

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

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE

DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$114,979.74

TRANSACTION AGENT: None

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

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17.276.1120

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None

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

whole or in part.

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

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: May 30, 2024 at 10:00 AM.

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

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

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or

unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on December 2, 2024.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

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

Dated: March 21, 2024

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

Published in the NRHEG Star Eagle March 28, April 4, 11, 18, 25, and May 2, 2024

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Important Information Regarding Property Assessments

This may affect your 2025 property taxes.

The Board of Appeal and Equalization for Freedom Township will meet on Thursday, April 18, 2024, from 9-9:30 a.m. at the township hall. The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you disagree with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local board of appeal and equalization. The board will review your assessments and may make corrections as needed. Generally, you must appeal to the local board before appealing to the county board of appeal and equalization.

Published in the Star Eagle, April 4, 2024.

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Important Information Regarding Property Assessments

This may affect your 2025 taxes.

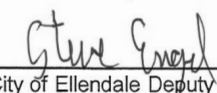
Notice is hereby given an 'Open Book Meeting' to replace the Board of Appeal and Equalization of CITY OF ELLENDALE shall meet:

Date/Time: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 at 1:00-3:00 PM
Location: City Council Chambers
Address: 138 Hwy Ave S
Bloomington, MN 55917

The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you disagree with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local Board of Appeal and Equalization. The board will review your assessments and make corrections as needed. Generally, you must appeal to the local board before appealing to the county Board of Appeal and Equalization.

Given under my hand this 27 day of March, 2024


City of Ellendale Deputy Clerk/Treasurer



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On the hunt



HOPPY HUNTERS - About 40 people gathered at New Richland City Park on Saturday for the New Richland Ambulance crew's third annual Easter egg hunt. Nearly 1,000 eggs were distributed across the park for children of all ages to find. Ambulance crew members supervised the egg hunt, and also spent hours filling the plastic eggs beforehand.

Star Eagle photos by Deb Bently

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