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Golden Gopher

Blooming Prairie Cancer Auction set for Sept. 5-7

The Blooming Prairie community is kicking it into full force to celebrate the 23rd Annual 2-day Live Auction and other events.

Events kick off Thursday night, September 5, with Premier Gun Bingo. This event gets sold out, so if you are interested in attending, it is a good idea to purchase tickets early. They can be purchased at Coordes Gun Shop in Lansing, the Pizza Cellular, or by calling Connie Trom at 507-456-8431. A highlight of Thursday night is vouchers toward airfare to an African Safari, which will be auctioned off to the highest bidder.

Friday and Saturday night are highlighted by the live auctions beginning at 6:30 p.m. Bingo will take place Saturday afternoon at 4:30 p.m.

Saturday morning, the BP Awesome Blossoms and the Filmore Central Falcons will contribute by hosting events at their 11 a.m. game in BP and by wearing pink.

As usual, the auction itself is shaping up to be incredible with many unique items. A trip to Hawaii with vouchers for airfare will be a big hit, along with other trips and many amazing items. You can check out the highlights on the Facebook page. Raffle Tickets will be sold for a new 2022 CFMOTO 4-wheeler donated by Al & Harriet Severson. Steve Prihoda's Family and friends have once again donated for a Cash Raffle.

Ellendale Heritage Society to meet on Sept. 7

The next meeting of the Ellendale Heritage society will be September 7 in the community building at 9 a.m.

Clarks Grove Historical Society meeting Sept. 12 at 7 p.m.

The Clarks Grove Area Historical Society will meet at the museum Thursday, September 12, at 7 p.m. Michelle Peterson of Sonshine Gardens in Clarks Grove will be enlightening our group as to the dos and don'ts of good gardens. All are invited to attend and to enjoy snacks as well.

WAF Anniversary 7 to 9 p.m. September 19 at Northeast Park Pavilion

The Waseca Area Foundation will celebrate its thirty-fifth anniversary from 7 to 9 p.m. the evening of Thursday, September 19 at Waseca's Northeast Park. Food trucks and live music will be featured. More information is available from the Waseca Area Foundation at 507-835-5990

Supper at Central Freeborn Lutheran Church 4 to 7 p.m. Sept. 23

Central Freeborn Lutheran Church is sponsoring a Soup and Dessert Supper from 4 to 7 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 23. Proceeds will benefit the Foster Care Clothes Trailer and the Hospice Support Foundation. The church is located at 74427 245th Street, Albert Lea. 507-826-3346.

Woodville Cemetery
Tour Sunday, October 6
Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service is planning a walking tour of Woodville Cemetery for the afternoon of Sunday, October 6.

A word from

The Word

If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

Galatians 5:25

New Richland Mayo Clinic closes

In late June, the Mayo Clinic Health System clinic building in New Richland experienced significant damage from weather-related flooding, which resulted in a temporary closure. After a thorough assessment, Mayo Clinic Health System has determined that the building is no longer safe for staff or patient care and will not reopen.

"Providing safe, high-quality ex-

periences for our patients is paramount," says Robert Albright, Jr., D.O., regional vice president of Mayo Clinic Health System in Southeast Minnesota. "We are confident that we will continue meeting the needs of patients at our nearby locations in Albert Lea and Wells, as well as through virtual care options."

Staff previously providing care at the New Richland clinic transitioned

to Mayo Clinic Health System's Albert Lea and Wells locations, and New Richland patients have been receiving in-person care there. The nurse practitioner will continue to work in Albert Lea and Wells permanently, while the additional team members will be offered other roles. Patients also have access to many convenient care options beyond traditional face-to-face visits, including

the newly launched Primary Care On Demand app, which offers access to a primary care physician 24 hours a day, seven days a week — including holidays and weekends.

Mayo Clinic Health System will provide customized support to New Richland patients who are transitioning their care.



Berlin School District #70

History in the air

Group works to preserve local heritage

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

History is in the air at the Ellendale Community Center the first Saturday of each month at 9 a.m. That's when the members of the Ellendale Area Heritage Society hold their regular meetings, transact society business, and then reminisce. They invite anyone interested to join them.

"There's so much interesting history in this area," comments longtime president Barb Mrotz, 85. "We're just doing what we can to record some of it." "For those who lived part of it, they really enjoy having something to spark their memory," comments fellow society member Brenda Dokken, 69. "Having this information helps people understand where they came from." Mrotz graduated from Ellendale High School in 1956, Dokken in 1972.

While society members emphasize they are always keeping in mind what projects they can do to preserve history, their most recent accomplishment has been recording the timeline of area rural schools. In addition to Mrotz and Dokken, Heritage Society members are Jo Lerberg, Lloyd Kaplan, Andy Lerberg, Jim Deml, Dan Nelson, and John White.

According to the Steele County website, the county was organized in 1855, even though Minnesota did not officially become a state until 1858.

One of the county's first rural schools was established in 1862, and was located a couple miles west of Ellendale's current location along what is now State Highway 30.

Ellendale, Mrotz mentions, was not incorporated until 1900, when the railroad determined its planned route and took steps to ensure people would use its services by encouraging the creation of new towns. Just under a mile east of the current city center was a small town named Cooleyville. It, too, had a school building; its district had formed in 1891.

As time went on, "There was a school every couple miles or so," says Mrotz. "Usually there was a small store and a creamery right there, too. That way farmers could bring their milk to the creamery and deliver their kids to school at the same time."

Single-sheet, glossy documents compiled by the heritage society include lists of the rural school districts, maps showing their locations, and photos of buildings, students, or both. In many, the boys are dressed in coveralls holding their hats in their hands. All girls are wearing dresses.

Photos are of highly varied quality since many were taken early in the history of photography; many of the buildings were moved, repurposed,

History continued on 5



School year 1950-1951 Steele County District 82
Standing: Sonja Underland, Sherry Thompson & teacher Miss Betty Winzenberg. Starting at window side, Desk Row 1: Betty Jirousek, Donna Thompson, Pat Moore, Carol Underland; Desk Row 2: Allie Crabtree, Roxanne Anderson, Helen Conklin, Janice Calverley, Jerry Calverley; Paul Underland. Desk Row 3: Judy Calverley, Janice Jirousek, Gene Thompson, Donald Calverley, Gary Calverley, Millie Crabtree.



Barb Mrotz and Brenda Dokken

Mayo closure hurts seniors most

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

My first conscious trip to the New Richland Mayo Clinic came in 2000.

I was not yet three years old. After playing a little too roughly in Amy Ferber's day care, I tripped and went head first into the corner of a dresser. Amy brought me into the bathroom, pulled my hair back to look at my head. The next thing I remember, my dad showed up and we were off to the clinic.

I remember going into the "operating room" where something was put in place to cover my eyes. My dad told me to pretend it was a tent. I remember he tried to make it seem like a game. When he said that, I calmed down as they stitched up my head.

I remember being disappointed when the New Richland Clinic stopped performing procedures, but reluctantly accepting it as part of "changing times."

With the clinic still "closed for repairs" a few weeks ago, I had to go to the doctor. Before even making the appointment, I had first waited almost a month, hoping the clinic would open, so I could see my local physician, Wendy. When I decided I shouldn't wait any longer and called for an appointment, my "nearest" options were Albert Lea or Wells.

Finally I caved and made an appointment (two weeks out was the soonest available date) in Albert Lea. Upon arrival, I was greeted by Traci Hoppe. I know her as the neighbor who grew up three blocks away from me.

She told me the New Richland office might close because of the flooding. I was really disappointed, but didn't think it would happen. I didn't write about it because I didn't want to worry people.

Losing the clinic means more than the loss of a building.

It's a loss of personalized, one-on-one, timely care.

The loss of a New Richland area physician.

And a further inconvenience for seniors.

Closure continued on 2

Ferguson steps into Mayor position

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

New Richland city council member and deputy mayor Janda Ferguson became the city's acting mayor following the resignation of Loren Skelton during the council's July 22 meeting. Citing health concerns, Skelton stepped down so he can move to be closer to family. With his resignation, Ferguson acquired the leadership role through December 31, when the current term ends. Brandy Jacobson was appointed by the city council to fill her open seat.

Ferguson grew up in the Otisco area and graduated from the NRHEG school system in 2000. After graduating from the Rochester Community Technical College and living in Rochester for about 15 years, she returned to New Richland in 2020 during Covid. Said Ferguson, "After living in Rochester for so many years, I really missed that small town connection and wanted that for my child who also attends NRHEG."

She has family members in the area as well, including one sibling, and enjoys being a part of the New Richland

community. Both her mother and father graduated from New Richland High School.

Ferguson has been in public service for the past one and a half years. When she's not busy being mayor, she works for Waseca Utilities. Said Ferguson, "Working there has helped me learn the in's and out's of city government. I also hope my contribution brings a lot to the table and I have learned so much from the staff there. I think I can bring that experience to improve my work as mayor."

Having become acting mayor of

New Richland, she says she will work to be elected to the position for the next term, which will begin in January of 2025. The New Richland city website states that mayors serve a two-year term, while city council members serve for four years.

"Right now, my biggest concern is good budget outcome," said Ferguson. "New Richland has had many issues with floods—they're no overnight fix. We can't keep pushing this back

Mayor continued on 2



New Richland Mayor Janda Ferguson



FenceLines

by Mark Bernard

Summer sun is fading as the year grows

The scurs and the Weather Eye garnered some rain to end August, but so far nothing in September. Does this continue or do we see some rain again soon? Starting on Thursday, mostly sunny with a modest chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 70's with lows in the low 50's. Sunny on Friday with a slight chance of rain. Highs in the upper 60's with lows in the mid-40's. Sunny on Saturday with highs in the mid-60's and lows in the low 40's. Sunday, sunny with highs in the upper 60's and lows in the upper 40's. Sunny on Monday with highs in the mid-70's and lows in the mid-50's. Tuesday, partly sunny with highs in the mid-70's and lows in the mid-50's. Sunny on Wednesday with highs in the low 80's and lows in the upper 50's. We'll slip under 13 hours of daylight on September 5th and won't see that much again until April 6th. The normal high for September 5th is 76 and the normal low is 55. The scurs will be looking for their blankie in case they fall asleep in their hammock this week. Too early for the long winter gatkies just yet.

The heat moved the GDU needle slightly last week, but odds are Mother Nature will pull that back after this week's cool-down into more late-September like temperatures. This will likely put some on edge, especially those with later planted crops. For the most part though, we'll need all of September to get to the finish line, not unlike many years. It can go quickly once harvest starts, however, and given the likelihood that yields will be down, that hopefully will be the case. There is already some speculation about corn test weight and quality. It might be too soon to tell that just as it was last year. A moderately warm finish last year definitely made for a better corn crop that way than expected. This year, there will likely be more issues keeping the dryers in tune with the variable corn moisture coming out of the field. If that proves to be the case, will want to keep a close eye on bins, so corn doesn't develop hotspots.

August rainfall went back to well above normal, although they don't call it the start of a fall recharge for nothing. At the ranch we tallied 8.1" for the month with 7.02" falling in Bugtussle proper. Normal for the month at the SROC in Waseca is 4.82". Their rainfall for this August was 5.7", also above normal. As we've written before, normal growing season rainfall from May to September at the SROC is 23.72". For May through August at the ranch we're sitting at 31.97", in Bugtussle 33.73" and at the SROC, 28.91". NOAA's September outlook for this area is calling for better than even odds of above normal temps and below normal precipitation. At any rate, unless it takes it to the extreme on both, we should have enough soil moisture to take most of the crop to maturity, thus eliminating one more variable that could negatively impact yield and quality.

The early fall bird migration appears to be underway. Swallows gather in large numbers on the electric lines daily. Usually around Labor Day at the ranch we bid farewell to our oriole visitors. As of this writing we've still been seeing some, so have been keeping their jelly feeders filled. The hummingbird numbers have recently jumped. There are plenty of floral offerings in addition to the nectar feeders. They're busy

going from one site to another and chasing each other as they do so. That makes them entertaining to watch, but can wear you out trying to keep up with them. Usually if you wait long enough, they return to the same general area before zipping off again. One of their favorite spots is the morning glories that climb the light pole. They use that as a staging area to feed on the cannas below, perfectly camouflaged until they fly out. It's just good to see hummingbirds again after a summer where we didn't have near the number in the yard that we do some years.

The last two sheep are back home from the State Fair, thanks to some kind folks in Waseca. Now it's time to focus on getting ready for winter by laying in enough small squares of hay and bedding. Pastures have provided an ample amount of forage all summer long for the flock with the abundant rainfall. Now they're also getting the vegetable castoffs, peelings, husks and cobs from the garden. It helps keep the fruit fly population at bay in the house and allows the ewes to eat something other than grass and leaves for variety. If the ewes see you approach their enclosure with a bucket or other container, it's game on. Amazing sometimes how much stuff one can toss over the fence only to see that it's all vanished when you repeat the process.

With all the time away in August, the garden has suffered some. I've pitched several dozen overgrown cukes over the fence to the sheep, along with numerous zucchini. They didn't complain. The heat didn't help matters. I should've picked string beans during the heat, but I figured they'd be there tomorrow. They're mighty tasty right now and, true to their later planting date, are rather sweet after some of the cool nights we've had. Cukes are producing well after some hills had a go round with aphids, not unlike some soybeans did. Not the same species of aphids as most are rather host specific. I had a little permethrin surprise for them, so that solved that problem, along with a little help from beneficial insects such as parasitic wasps. The mummies are a dead giveaway, pun intended. Tomatoes are coming but slower than some years. Usually September is tomato month at the ranch, hence also BLT month. Still nice to have fresh garden produce whenever we'd like, even though it's for such a relatively short time.

Poppy has started to have the run of the house at night. She appears to have decided that it's good policy to wake us up when she needs to go outside for potty. I think all of us are happy about that, especially Poppy, who's not cooped up in her carrier all night. She also continues helping in the garden. One night when picking cukes, I heard some rustling in the string bean patch followed by a crunching noise. Sure enough I could see Poppy's tail above the string bean canopy, and she was underneath it, helping herself. Another night I'd picked a bucket of string beans and set them aside while I was harvesting some zucchini. I looked over to see that she'd decided it was easier to eat the beans I'd already picked vs. picking them herself. It wears us out just trying to keep up with her. Taking a nap usually doesn't hurt.

See you next week...real good then.

of people in government positions, not necessarily New Richland, but people in city positions, tend to answer every problem by raising taxes. She emphasized that she would rather find another path.

Ferguson is the youngest person on the city council at 43 years old.

■ Mayor

from Page 1

or it will create more problems later." She then stressed that a lot

Time to put the phones away



Whatever Flips Your Waffle

by Mark Domeier
Contributing Writer

sent out to hundreds of people instead of just a few who see the note. (Side note: The song "Mean" by Taylor Swift popped up on my Apple Music as I was typing this paragraph. Spooky.)

Phones have also become a distraction in the learning environment. Teachers had varying levels of laxity with allowing kids to have them following instructional time. I allowed them for listening to music, but that can just as easily be done by logging into Spotify on their Chromebooks and putting in earbuds. And yes, I know kids would sometimes do more than just listen to music. Time for change.

We have to make changes to help get kids better prepared for life after high school. I used to be on the side that said we need to help them learn to use their phones at appropriate times, but that side of the pendulum has swung all the way to the other side. I walk into Casey's or Target or wherever and see employees on their phones. And it's not like they put them down when a customer walks in, or even when you need help.

And I can already hear the arguments against this new policy. "What if my parents need to get ahold of me?" Well, youngsters, let me tell

you tales of a time before cell phones. If there was an emergency, the parents would call the office, who would then give you the message. If you needed to call home, you could use the phone we have in the office. Somehow, some way, that method used to work.

I've worked for years on teaching kids to properly use their email. Maybe they, and their parents, can start using that method of communication. "Johnny, you need to take the bus to your grandma's after school tonight" can be an email. We have problems with students and parents missing out on information that is sent via email. This can help cure that ill.

If there is a really big emergency that impacts everyone, by all means, get your phone. If there is a sudden change in a sporting event, go ahead near the end of the day and communicate using your cellular device. If school is shutting down early because the weather doom is upon us, get your plans in place with a text.

Like the English language, there are always exceptions. Some students monitor medical conditions with their phones. We're not going to take that away. There could be other situations that arise where it would

be imperative for a student to have easy access to their phone for messages from family. Those things can be handled on an individual basis.

I'm sure kids will test the system. We'll have to keep an eye on how many bathroom breaks some take, and how long they're gone, since the first thing we thought of was that they would use that excuse to go check their phones, not to use the facilities. But if/when they get busted, the consequences will rapidly escalate; the second offense in a year means a parent has to come retrieve the phone.

I've been reading plenty of material on this subject from schools around the country that have already walked this path. Most of what I see is positive. The learning environment is vastly improved. After the first couple weeks, kids settle into the new normal. It's the same as someone giving up smoking; it's going to be rough at first, but it will get better.

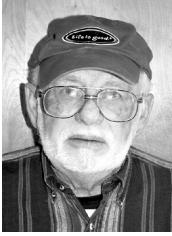
Will the NRHEG policy be perfect? I'm sure there will be some cracks that will need to be filled, and kids are always good at finding those cracks much sooner than we do. But as long as the staff is all in this together, we can make our school a better place to learn. Addition through subtraction!

Word of the Week: This week's word is evanescent, which means fading quickly, as in, "The anxiety from not having their phone became evanescent over time as the student became accustomed to focusing in class." Impress your friends and confuse your enemies!

A very busy month of August for Hanson

This (August) has been a tough month to get a column done. For example:

- A. Our water softener suddenly decided not to work.
- B. The Freeborn County fair was in the first part of August.
- C. Relay for life in Freeborn County was Friday and Saturday August 9th and 10th. (Genie is a cancer survivor.)
- D. Genie's Birthday, August 12th, was Celebrated with Genie and I leading our 31st bus trip through central Freeborn Lutheran Church to the Twins ballgame.
- E. The twins honored genie with a "Happy Birthday" to Genie on the scoreboard. (Genie was honored with 20 birthday cards, plus many in person and by phone happy birthdays.)
- F. Our son Dan and his friend Maureen from Buffalo, New York visited for 3 days during Genie's birthday.
- G. Genie enjoyed meals from Arbys, Main Street, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Hardee's in person with the free meal at her convenience on a later date at Applebee's and Taco



FACT OR FICTION

...you decide

by Bob Hanson, Emeritus

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

John's. Some of the meals were taken out to Big Island State Park, where she saw many birds and critters, including a bald eagle and triplet fawns.

G. Clarks Grove monthly museum night in the primary elections were put on hold because of many conflicts.

H. The annual soup and dessert supper is Monday, September 23rd, at Central Freeborn Lutheran Church Rural Albert Lea. Genie and I are both involved in getting ready for the biggest event of the year. (Please loosen your belt prior to attending!!)

Doctoring in August that Octogenarians do as part of living!

Over the years, Genie has found many other celebrities sharing the

same national holiday of August 12th. For example Cynthia Crabtree by Beaver Lake, Richard Eastvold of NRHEG fame, Paul Hanson of Beaver Lake, Gale Nelson Albert Lea, Jess Nelson of New Ulm, Cherrie Schlitz of Albert Lea to name a few big heads on August 12th.

Wife Paula says to hubby Paul: "You got home late last where were you?" Hubby Paul replied, "I was out with Just Friends." Readers, Ask Paul Hanson of Beaver Lake to explain his doings on a full moon on Monday night August 12th.

The sad thing this time of year is daylight hours are less every day.

"Thank God for small towns." You know you're in a small town when: Third Street is on the edge of town.

You know you're in a small town when: You don't use your signals because everyone knows where you are going.

You know you're in a small town when: A baby is born on June 14 receives gifts from local Merchants as the first baby of the year. You know you're in a small town when: You speak to each dog you pass by name and he wags his tail at you.

You know you're in a small town when: You drive into a ditch five miles out of town and the word gets back before you do.

You know you're in a small town when: you dial a wrong number and talk for 15 minutes anyway.

You know you're in a small town when: You can't take a walk for exercise because every car that passes you offers you a ride.

You know you're in a small town when: You miss a Sunday at church and receive a get-well card.

You know you're in a small town when: Someone asks how you feel and listens to what you say.

"Thank God for small towns and the people who live in them."

■ Closure

from Page 1

People live in small towns for many reasons: a sense of community, a lower cost of living; a calmer, more peaceful lifestyle; connection to family and friends. The list goes on.

Small towns are struggling. The loss of local services makes it worse. We lost our pharmacy in 2019. No one saw that coming either.

The city of New Richland released the following statement regarding the decision, which was announced on Thursday:

"The City of New Richland is disappointed in Mayo Clinic's decision to close this facility, and while we don't necessarily disagree that they won't be able to meet the needs of our local community with their locations in Albert Lea, Wells and virtually, they will add an unnecessary transportation component to the lives of many of our elderly community members and those with young children."

Over the years the clinic has served me, my family and many, many others.

Reed, my elderly neighbor, long-time employee, and very good friend, does not drive. After the pharmacy closed in 2019, my family and I delivered Reed's med-

ications. Now, we'll have to drive him to appointments in other towns. (With the help of Pam and Larry Goehring.) This situation is one nearly every local family with an elderly member will now have to work through.

It appears obvious this decision from Mayo is based on financial factors. It's incredibly unfortunate, disappointing and sad the organization values its bottom dollar more than providing localized care.

According to healthleadersmedia.com, in 2023 Mayo Clinic outperformed industry average monetarily and grew 82 percent from the year before. Their net operating income is \$1.1 billion and includes a 6 percent operating margin—pretty impressive for a "non-profit" organization.

"In fact, as HealthLeaders previously reported, it was forecasted that the ideal margin range for not-for-profit hospitals will likely reset to one to two percent in the future, making six percent all the more impressive."

Mayo's total revenue in 2023 was \$17.9 billion.

The Rochester Post Bulletin reported that, since 2017, Mayo Clinic Health System has closed at least 17 brick-and-mortar clinics in the Upper Midwest, while also investing millions of dollars into its rural hospitals. Other area Mayo Clinic closings include, most recently, Waterville, Janesville, Alden and Blooming Prairie.

It goes without saying the people in New Richland will miss the clinic; the loss is yet another

wound to the integrity of our community and our lifestyle.

NRHEG Star Eagle

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

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Compostings

by Al Batt

The highlight is the top of the turbine

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
I took an Uber from the airport. The driver told me he always went the extra mile.
How did that go?
He dropped me off a mile past my destination.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE
I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Deep thoughts occur as I drive past his drive. I savored the morning surrounded by yellow wildflowers like goldenrods, sunflowers, cup plant and sow thistle, signaling the end of summer and the start of school.

I looked at the back of a laundry detergent box that had a photo of my missing sock on it. I'd gotten up in the morning wondering if I'd sustained an injury while sleeping or if I always felt that way. My wife was heading off to a ladies' weekend. She ran through a litany of the things they'd be doing. I listened intently as a veteran husband should. She told me she was sorry, but no men were allowed. I remembered the things they were going to do, and I think that with time and counseling, I'll be able to recover from that great disappointment. My wife and I bought a TV two Christmases ago after going years without one. We had led a remote-control-free life. So far, we've watched nothing but some college basketball games involving a grandchild. Why haven't we watched more than that? It's because I didn't enroll in the TV Remote Control School, so I wasn't going to watch TV in her absence.

I floated on a pontoon on a local lake, where I narrated the mysteries and marvels of the natural and human history of the area. Before we launched, I told a friend I'd rent him my lawn mower at a sensible rate to mow my lawn as long as he bought the gas. He didn't jump at the chance. I mentioned I'd watched a loved one play tennis. I've known the fellow who refused to mow my lawn under those reasonable terms for a long time, so he asked me what I knew about tennis. That hurt. I do know how to spell it.

After three years of drought, Minnesota recorded the wettest April-June period in state history. In July 2020, Iowa entered a drought. It was the state's longest since 1954-1959. It ended in 2024 after a wet spring.

I'VE LEARNED
Happy 95th birthday to Ona Meyer. She was born the year the Great Depression began, but it wasn't her fault.

Anyone who thinks onions are the only vegetables that can make you cry has never been hit in the nose by a large zucchini.

The highlight of many rural townships is at the top of a wind turbine.

When life gives you lemmings, jump.

Sometimes, "nothing makes sense" makes sense.

I'll never be the man that one-size-fits-all clothing thinks I am.

I'll never receive a free set of steak knives when I board a Delta flight.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT
Why can't humans hear dog whistles? It's because dogs can't whistle.

What sports team is made up of criminals? The Pittsburgh Steelers.

Why are Apple stores so dark? They have no Windows.

I wanted to be a Gregorian monk, but I didn't get the chants.

Hamburger Helper works only if the hamburger admits it needs help.

Using a turn signal isn't like giving information to the enemy. Jokes about tofu are tasteless.

NATURE NOTES
Young robins swamped the birdbath. The enthusiastic and pugnacious birds were splashing and splashing. Chickadees and cedar waxwings kept me entertained. Waxwings are named for the waxy red tips on their secondary wing feathers. According to Doug Tallamy, professor of entomology and wildlife ecology at the University of Delaware, a pair of chickadees needs 6,000 to 9,000 caterpillars to raise a brood. Insects are best for feeding fledglings because chickadees can't afford pizza or cheeseburgers.

A sultry afternoon didn't stop the red-eyed vireo from singing, "Here I am. In a tree. Look at me. Vireo." The ornithologist Bradford Torrey said, "The red-eye's eloquence was never very persuasive to my ear. Its short sentences, its tiresome upward inflections, its everlasting repetitiousness, and its sharp, querulous tone long since became to me an old story; and I have always thought that whoever dubbed this vireo the 'preacher' could have had no very exalted opinion of the clergy."

Most of our woodpeckers have black and white plumages, but the northern flicker is brownish with a white rump patch conspicuous in flight.

Grasshoppers rub their legs together—stridulation. Crickets and katydids use their wings to make music.

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Brandy Jacobson joins New Richland Council

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Beginning with the August 19 regular meeting of the New Richland city council, city resident Brandy Jacobson is temporarily occupying the open position previously held by Janda Ferguson. Her term will end December 31.

Council members tabled their decision regarding an updated council pay policy for 2025. They voted to purchase six new chairs for council chambers at a total cost of about \$375.

Following advice from the Edina-based consulting firm ABDO, council members altered the fees residents will pay for water and sewer services. ABDO had determined the water delivery side of the system is overfunded, while the sewer disposal side is underfunded. The "base" and "usage" rates for water will be lowered by a dollar each; the "base connection" and "usage" rates for sewer will be increased by \$1.50 each, leading to an overall increase of 50 cents.

Work performed on the city's water delivery and removal systems over the past couple of months has included testing for mercury, as required by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Cameras were also sent down a number of city water lines, including those on First Street east of Division. That process revealed the location of an outdated sewer line which may be allowing undesired inflow; a process called "smoke testing" is under consideration to learn more. The city is awaiting input from Paul Plaetz of the Minnesota Rural Water Association (MRWA) about how to proceed. City water staff suggested plugging the manhole along Aspen Avenue near Boot Creek. It was reported that "snail catchers" in the wastewater treatment lines are working well; staff suggests an air conditioner and a dehumidifier located in the water treatment plant will require replacement in the fairly near future.

Bolton and Menk, an engineering company located in Mankato, worked in New Richland in mid-August to install GPS locatable water valves, known as "curb stops," which allow control of water flowing from main lines into individual homes or busi-

nesses.

City staff reported the safety lights on the Highway 30 crosswalk leading to the secondary school have been repaired. Crushed asphalt was spread in some city alleyways. Weekly maintenance tasks were completed at Legion Field, City Hall, the city shop, library, water plant, and the city and St. Olaf Lake parks. A routine burn took place at the city dump on August 14.

City administrator Anthony Martens reported he has met with Kurt Meister of Community and Economic Development Associates (CEDA) regarding a grant being sought by the city economic development authority. According to the CEDA website, the association provides assistance preparing and submitting grant applications. It was reported that the city's USDA grant request documents would be complete by August 27.

The New Richland Care Center reported it had received 43 referrals in

NEW RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL

July; 23 were declined, 20 were accepted, leading to the admission of six new patients. At the same time, enrollment of current patients decreased by six due to discharges, deaths and transfers.

Care Center staff said the summer family picnic had strong attendance. Gratitude was expressed to caterers and vendors Red Leaf Café, Nancy Jane's Bakery, and Judy Hendrickson. Local musician Todd Uptadel put on a great concert thoroughly enjoyed by all. A silent auction held during the event raised \$800, which will be used toward landscaping around the facility's north patio.

The Center also expressed gratitude to the New Richland and Waseca American Legion halls for the donation of a flagpole kit. John Hulloper will install the flagpole when he does some upcoming work on facility sidewalks.

Center leadership also mentioned that the addition of "Juneteenth," which brings the total number up to 11 federally mandated holidays, will create some complications when it comes to staffing.

Farm and safety day set for Sept. 10

We are hosting our 26th annual Waseca County Farm Bureau Farm and Home Safety Day at our new location at the WASECA COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS this year on Tuesday, September 10, 2024. We are looking forward to seeing 256 students and their teachers there. The schools in attendance will be Janesville Public, Trinity Lutheran of Janesville, Waterville Elysian Morristown, Waseca Public and Waseca Team Academy.

You can almost feel FALL in the air already. Soon the colors will be changing, too. Our farmers will soon be harvesting their crops, so they can feed the world!! Remember to thank a farmer

for their labors and help support their work. Farmers are always trying to be safe on the roads, so we need to slow down as well, so everyone is safe. As a farmwife, I pray that each year we have no accidents and that our weather is good to harvest.

This important program for our community shows how to be safe in your home and on farms. We have quite a few farm volunteers and businesses that help to support this program. I want to thank Kwik Trip Waseca, Dominoe's of Waseca, Culligan Waseca, Waseca Fair Board and our local FFA students from Waseca High School. I am grateful for every-

one's willingness to help and make this a success!

Our Six Safety Stations are:

- 1) Animal Safety-Summers Ridge Veterinary, Janesville.
- 2) Tractor/PTO Safety-Andy Jewison, Kibble Equipment, Owatonna
- 3) ATV/Snowmobile/Boat Safety-Jay Dulas, Waseca Sheriff's Office
- 4) Electrical Safety-Jack Schwab, Steele/Waseca Cooperative Electric, Owatonna
- 5) Chemical Safety-Matt Tricka, Crystal Valley Cooperative, Janesville
- 6) Lawn Mower/Chainsaw Safety, Jacob Katzung & Matt Levisay, Northland Farm Systems, Owatonna.

Come out to see our highlight of the day, our mock farm accident at 11:30 a.m., which involves our Waseca Sheriff's Office, Waseca Fire & Rescue, North Waseca Ambulance and their helicopter with one of our local students. The accident will involve a tractor accident. Remember always to check your surroundings when out and about and in our homes, so you can avoid accidents.

Our event runs from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. We hope to see you out there to learn about our safety program!

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Golden Gopher



Former NRHEG cheerleader Isabel Stadheim will now be cheering on the Minnesota Gophers. The University of Minnesota Cheerleaders cheer at all home and away football games and all home basketball games. Comprised of both Coed and All Girl styles, Minnesota utilizes athletes of both styles to compete at the UCA National Championships in the Small Coed Division, as well as Gameday.



The new Minnesota State trooper patch.

MN state patrol gets new look after five decades

“ASK A TROOPER” by Sgt. Troy Christianson of the Minnesota State Patrol

Question: I heard the Minnesota State Patrol got a new design for your patches and squad cars. Can you talk about that?

Answer: You are correct. For the first time in more than 50 years, the Minnesota State Patrol has a new look.

Last year when the Minnesota Legislature approved a replacement design for the Minnesota seal and flag, State Patrol leaders took note.

“That decision presented us with a unique opportunity to create something different to represent our division and culture within the State Patrol and its staff throughout the state,” said Col. Christina Bogojevic, chief of the Minnesota State Patrol.

A working group made up of 13 sworn and non-sworn members of the State Patrol worked for four months with a design agency to come up with and refine the new design. “We wanted something that represented the strong history and legacy of our division, something that is identifiable with the state of Minnesota, all while giving it a more modern update. The redesign was an opportunity for us to create something highlighting our pride in serving Minnesota,” said Lt. Col. Jeremy Geiger, who led the group.

The new look — with heavy ties to symbolism — reflects the values and history of the State Patrol. The North Star — a four-pointed star and the same one used on the redesigned state seal — represents the cardinal directions, just as we serve Minneso-

tans to the north, south, east and west. The Mississippi River, abundant in its contribution to our state and serving as a critical artery for transportation, lends itself to our role of maintaining and securing an efficient transportation network and connecting with others. The Norway pines, the state tree of Minnesota, underscore the steadfast and reliable commitment of the State Patrol, working for Minnesotans 24 hours a day, seven days a week, through all seasons, all year long.

The new look for the State Patrol isn’t just a redesigned patch on our troopers’ shoulders. It includes badges, hats, squads, license plates, buttons on uniforms, signage and so much more. In fact, there are more than 188,000 pieces of equipment that will need to be updated with the new design. State Patrol leadership is prioritizing updates on squad cars and uniforms, and being diligent about updating items where they were already scheduled to be replaced. To complete the whole process will take somewhere from six to nine months and an estimated \$4 million.

You can avoid a ticket — and a crash — if you simply buckle up, drive at safe speeds, pay attention and always drive sober. Help us drive Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths.

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota send your questions to Sgt. Troy Christianson — Minnesota State Patrol at 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester MN 55901-5848. (Or reach him at, Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us)



Waseca County commissioners and leaders, Waseca Chamber of Commerce members and others met with state-level leaders during a morning reception on Tuesday, August 20. Photo by Deb Bently

State-level leaders visit county

By DEB BENTLY
Staff writer

Area representatives, senators and candidates took part in a “legislative update” during the August 21 regular meeting of the Waseca County board of commissioners. Speaking for 10 or so minutes each were Representative Peggy Bennet (District 23A); Representative John Petersburg (District 19B); Tom Sexton, running for the District 19B seat for which Petersburg is not seeking reelection; Senator Gene Dornink (District 23); and Senator John Jasinski (District 19).

During the session, Commissioner Doug Christopherson expressed frustration about what he perceives as a shift toward state-level control using farm field drainage as an example. “There are more and more permits needed, with more red tape, more permits, and more fees,” he stated.

Petersburg, who has been a representative since 2013, told commissioners, “This biennium has been quite disappointing in a lot of different ways.”

Petersburg criticized decisions made this past year as seeking too much jurisdiction at the state level. “We need to let those who are elected locally have more control,” he stated. Drawing a connection between “centralized control” and an increasing

number of agencies and employees, he said “That doesn’t sit well with those who actually know what’s best for their communities.”

He offered the example of school districts, which received funding increases, but also had numerous new requirements imposed on them, so that, “We haven’t really given them any new money to work with.”

Petersburg also commented that metropolitan area projects seemed to be prioritized, and expressed regret he was not able to steer funding toward infrastructure work and a new water tower for the city of Waseca.

Representative Peggy Bennet also commented on funding for education, also expressing the opinion that, thanks to “sixty to seventy new mandates,” the “unprecedented” amount of funding which went to schools does not provide the local flexibility she would rather see. She referred to the READ Act as “one ray of light” toward helping schools strengthen their literacy programs, and also mentioned some former barriers to having members of law enforcement as a presence in school buildings—referred to as a “resource officer”—have been removed. “Resource officers are back for those districts that want them,” she stated.

Senator Gene Dornink criticized the DFL majority for its emphasis on

creating an omnibus spending bill when the second year of a biennium has always previously been dedicated to “bonding” and “infrastructure.” He mentioned a lawsuit has been filed claiming that this year’s “omnibus” bill is unconstitutional.

He expressed pleasure though, with the bipartisan cooperation he experiences as a member of the agriculture committee, where he feels some good progress was made. As a member of the labor and industry committee, he expressed frustration that recommendations and action seem to be aimed more toward larger businesses, with minimal attention paid to the smaller businesses which are so important in outstate Minnesota.

Senator John Jasinski also referred to 2024 as a “tough” session, in which “lots of bad policy” was passed. He accused Democrats of creating the omnibus bill to advance their own agenda and fund initiatives rather than working on infrastructure.

After eight years in the senate, Jasinski called the 2023-2024 biennium “The worst two years I’ve ever seen.”

He classified this year’s transportation bill, which passed unanimously, as a “bright spot” and expressed frustration with a change

which now divides prison sentences for those convicted of minor crimes “half and half,” meaning that 50 percent of the sentence will be spent behind bars and 50 percent will be served as probation.

Jasinski commented he hopes the next round of elections will undo the current DFL “trifecta.”

“You want some checks and balances in the decision-making process,” he said of this year’s circumstances. “We don’t want to leave 49 percent of the state without representation.”

Candidate Tom Sexton drew attention to the shrinking number of people interested in law enforcement careers. He told commissioners, his wife, Waseca resident Jeanne Sexton, had been rear-ended in a traffic accident only hours before, stated his gratitude for the quick, professional response by law enforcement and safety personnel.

He quickly pointed out though, that, “There is a crisis,” in the law enforcement field, which stems from the many restrictions and the threat of prosecution which have been imposed on the profession in the recent past. Sexton claimed, “We’re going to have to make some tough decisions,” then said he looks forward to the opportunity to represent Waseca area citizens at the legislative level.

Thiele graduates from FBI course

By Rick Bussler
Steele County Times

Steele County Sheriff Lon Thiele hasn’t been one to shy away from enhancing his leadership skills over the past few years. And just last month he found himself in the middle of another prestigious training opportunity.

Thiele was one of 52 law enforcement leaders from across America to take part in the FBI’s National Command Course program in Quantico, Va. The long-time sheriff attended the training with a police chief from a small community in southern Minnesota. Thiele said they were selected by the FBI’s Minneapolis Field Office.

The course was created by the FBI in 2020 as a unique training opportunity for chief executives of America’s law enforcement agencies with fewer than 50 sworn officers.

“It was an opportunity to learn another style of leadership,” said Thiele. “This was amazing training. Compared to others, this would be one of the top trainings I have attended.”

The program’s purpose is to foster long-lasting relationships, increase agency effectiveness, and promote partnerships to tackle emerging crime problems across the country.

The NCC holds two sessions an-

nually with each session one week in duration. The training includes seminars taught by experts with a format and curriculum specifically designed for smaller agencies like Steele County.

Some of the topics covered included physical wellness, psychology of leadership, First Amendment issues, stress and suicide in law enforcement and strategic leadership.

One day the group traveled to Mount Vernon where they learned about George Washington, America’s first president. Thiele was surprised to learn how often Washington failed in his attempts at leadership. “He learned from his mistakes and taught other soldiers how to increase their skills,” Thiele said. “He failed at so much, but instead of sitting back, he learned from it and went on to become president of the U.S.”

In less than two months since the training, Thiele said he has already utilized it in Steele County. One of his greatest desires is to create a succession plan for when he eventually retires from law enforcement.

“I don’t take this education to just store on a bookshelf,” Thiele said. “I want to use the training to enhance the skills of my deputies. I share whatever knowledge I bring back in regards to leadership,” he said, adding he wants to create future leaders



Sheriff Lon Thiele receives his certificate from an FBI official after graduating from a week-long FBI National Command Course. Only 52 law enforcement leaders from around the country were honored to take part in the training in mid-July.

within his department.

Thiele was complimentary to the FBI for this training geared to smaller departments. “The FBI is

really looking out for smaller agencies like ours,” he said, adding the FBI is not just focused on bigger agencies.



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■ History

from Page 1

or both in the first half of the 1900s. “Roads improved. Transportation improved. The districts began to consolidate in 1910,” summarizes Mrotz. She points out, however, that some regions valued their local districts very highly. About 12 rural schools still existed in the Ellendale and Geneva area in the 1950s. “Some had nearly new buildings when they closed,” she observes.

Mrotz and Dokken are both pleased with and proud of the society’s accomplishment in putting together the information about the rural districts. Given the time and effort it took to collect the needed information and materials, they feel they may have accomplished the task just in time—before it might have become altogether impossible.

There have been other triumphs. For Ellendale’s centennial in 2000, the society put together a comprehensive publication summarizing elements of the city’s history and development. Now more than 20 years old, the publication is also a snapshot of the community at that time and something of an artifact on its own.

Society members were also very pleased to be able to trace the whereabouts of the collected newspapers printed during Ellendale’s earliest years. Newspapers have long had a system for binding each year’s worth of editions into a large book. The collection of books had passed through a number of hands as ownership of the paper changed.

When the books were found, the society sent them to the state historical society to be scanned and recorded, making them available for future researchers. The books themselves, many of them quite brittle due to their age, are now owned by the society.

Also an important historical re-

source is the society’s full set of yearbooks for the Geneva and Ellendale school districts.

Mrotz remembers back to when the society formed. Area residents were invited to a local meeting arranged by an instructor from the University of Minnesota. They were advised that, if no one began collecting some of the area’s history, it might be lost forever.

“He told us not to use up our energy putting together a museum,” remembers Mrotz. “We were supposed to collect information and people’s accounts, and do what we could to keep track of those.”

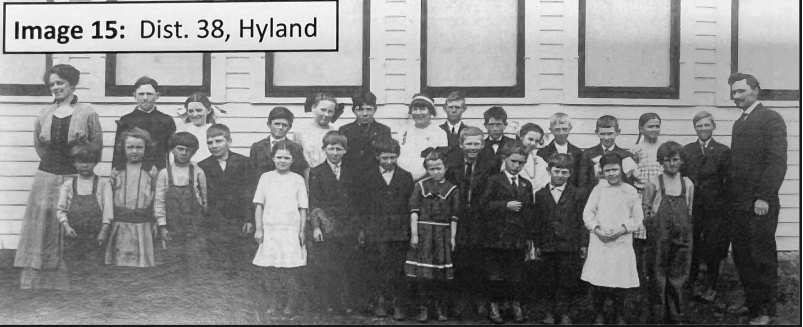
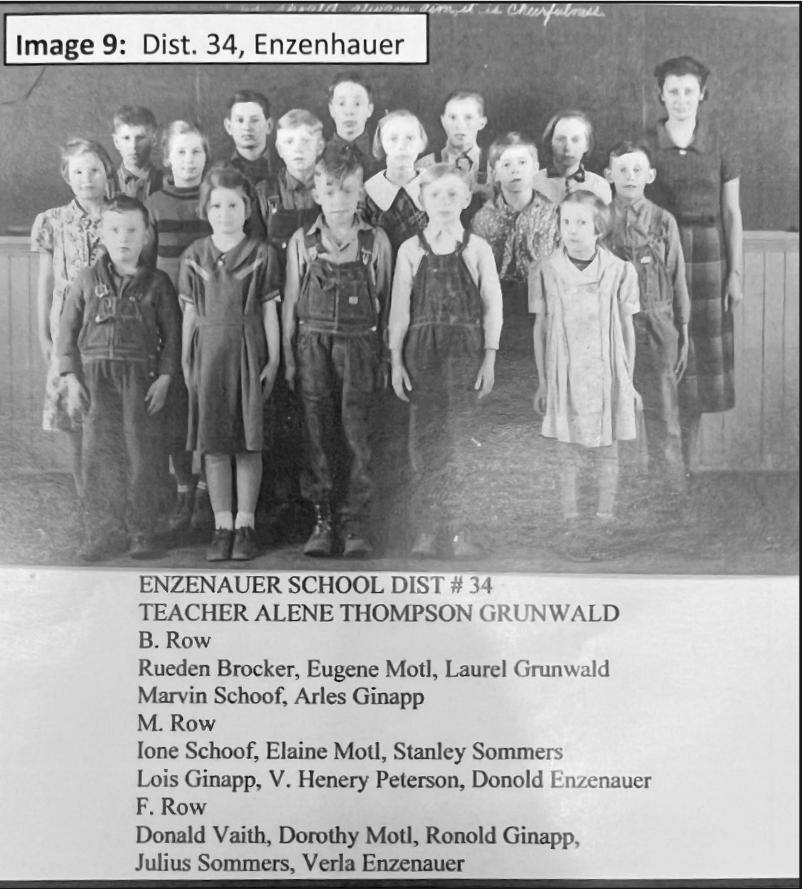
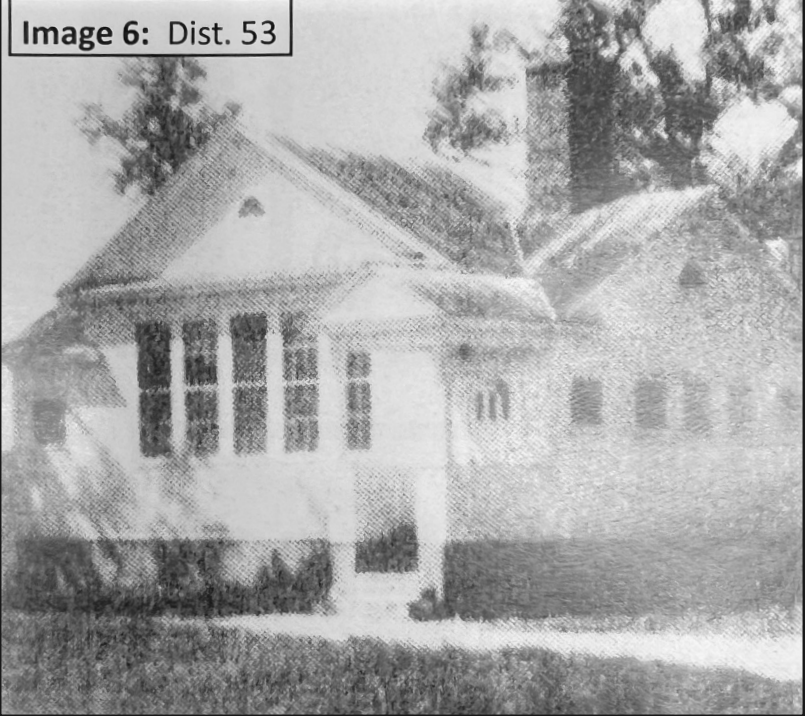
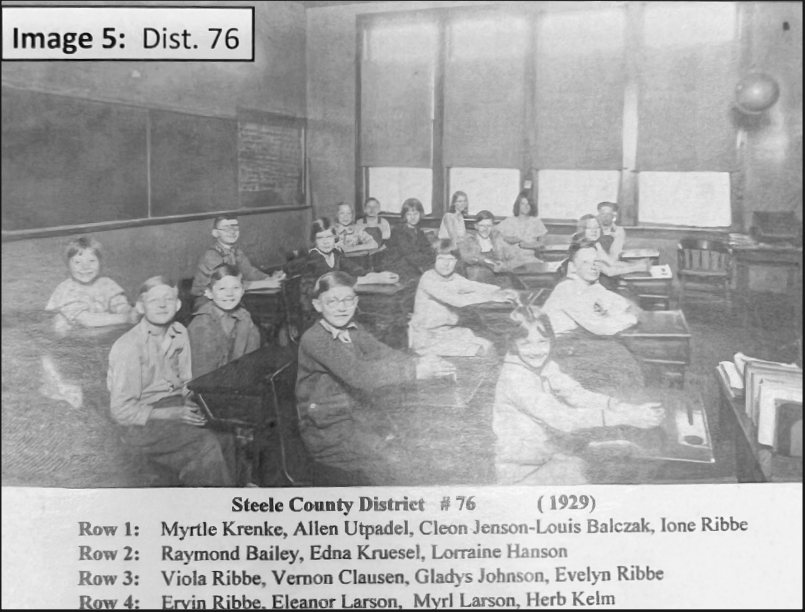
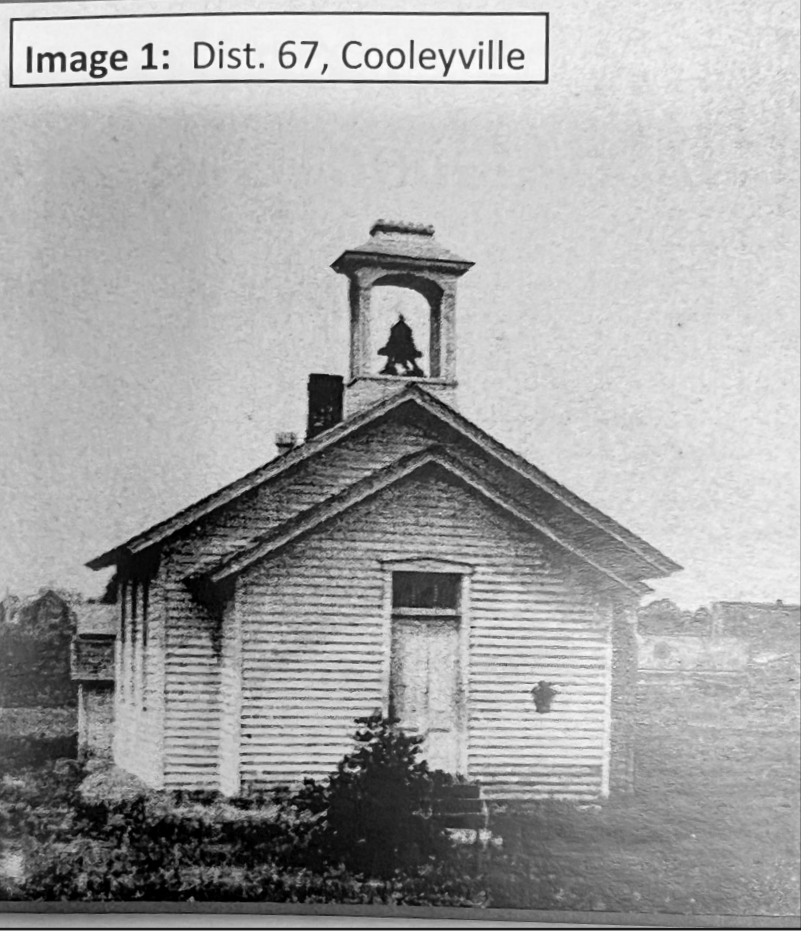
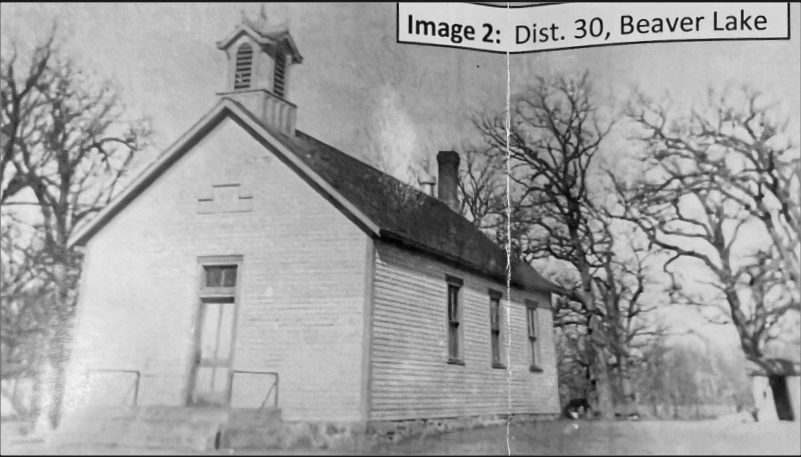
That advice, she mentions, has been difficult to follow. Community members have come across fascinating artifacts including a buffalo hide coat and gloves, a replica of the “sleds” once used on an elevated rail slide leading down into Beaver Lake, and a four-foot-tall manually wound wall clock which supported the bell system used at the Ellendale school.

These items and others are in display cases built at society expense in the Ellendale Community Center building. “There are some things we just couldn’t turn away,” Mrotz mentions.

Mrotz and Dokken explain the society holds fundraisers to support its projects. Most recently, group members sold ice cream sundaes during Ellendale Days. “We’re always discussing ideas for ways to raise money,” says Dokken. “Without it, we wouldn’t get far.”

As members of the society grow older, they fervently hope there will be others with sufficient interest to join the group and continue preserving history. “This is important work,” comments Dokken. “It’s also fun.” She mentions that it feels good to complete a project which will help others recognize and appreciate what has come before.

“The stories and the experiences are fascinating,” she says. “We have to do what we can to keep them coming.”



The Ellendale Area Heritage Society recently produced two pamphlets which include the names, locations, and pertinent dates regarding rural school districts—often referred to as “one-room schools”—which eventually consolidated to become the Ellendale, Geneva, and then Ellendale-Geneva school. Given the time and effort it took to collect the needed information and materials, group members Barb Mrotz and Brenda Dokken speculate the task may have been accomplished “just in time,” before it might have become altogether impossible. The brochures, which include the photos seen above as well as maps showing the school building’s original locations, are available from the Heritage Society.

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Schatz joins music staff

‘I wanted to continue my education journey in a small school’

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writer

Joining the NRHEG music staff this year is newlywed Josephine Schatz from Montgomery, Minnesota. Schatz obtained her degree in K-12 music education from MSU Mankato and says she went into teaching, because, “I know school is a safe place for students and I want students to know that my classroom is a safe place for them to come. I want students to leave my classroom knowing they are appreciated and always have a place here.”

When asked what led her to apply to NRHEG, answered Schatz, “I grew up in a small school and knew

“I want students to leave my classroom knowing they are appreciated and always have a place here.”

— Josephine Schatz

that I wanted to continue my education journey in a small school. I also was excited to teach elementary students. I have spent some time teaching elementary, but it is primarily new and I am so excited!”

When not teaching, Schatz and her husband enjoy spending time at the lake and hosting their friends for cookouts or bonfires; she says she

could talk on the subject of dogs forever; “We currently don’t have a dog because of the wedding and moving into our house [in Montgomery], but one day we for sure want a dog!”

Schatz believes her favorite part of teaching will be the community. “I am excited to meet families and students and get to know them.”



Josephine Schatz

NRHEG’s new 5th grade teacher

John Sand brings years of experience to elementary staff



John Sand

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writer

NRHEG Elementary welcomes John Sand as the new grade five teacher this year. Originally from Cannon Falls, Sand currently resides in Austin, where he has previously taught for a year at Pacelli Catholic School and five years at Austin Public Schools.

Sand’s family includes a daughter going into tenth grade and a son entering seventh grade. “They enjoy exercising, CrossFit, and biking,” he says. “They both

enjoy playing sports and nature. I enjoy being in nature, especially visiting state parks, national parks, and wilderness areas. I try to visit the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness every year.” In fact, Sand says he could talk about the BWCA forever if someone gets him started, specifically: “the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and the importance of protecting it for future generations of humans and other living organisms.”

Students will leave his class-

“I wanted to teach, to work with kids, to help them learn. I love learning and believe that we learn something new every day.”

— John Sand

room at the end of the year with a desire to continually learn, Sand hopes. “I wanted to teach, to work with kids, to help them learn. I love learning and believe that we learn something new every day.” His favorite thing to teach? “I think my favorite part of

teaching this year will be teaching mathematics.”

Sand also enjoys learning other languages, reading books, riding bicycles, visiting other countries, and cheering on the Vikings.

Koerber joins special education team

‘My goal is to always bring out the best in my students and showcase their abilities’

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writer

Joining the special education team at the NRHEG secondary building this year is Stephanie Koerber. Originally from Freeborn, Stephanie currently resides in Albert Lea along with her husband, Tom, daughter, Briella, who is in third grade, and 3-year-old

son, Dale.

Koerber graduated from Southwest Minnesota State University in December 2023 with a Bachelor of Science in Special Education: Academic and Behavioral Strategist, and was employed elsewhere as a Kindergarten/1st grade special education teacher in January of this past school year.

“I applied to NRHEG to be closer to family and for my kids to grow up in a small town community,” she says. “I love that everyone feels like family in a smaller school setting.”

Koerber hopes one thing students leave her classroom with is the knowledge that they are capable of anything when they set

“I love that everyone feels like family in a smaller school setting.”

— Stephanie Koerber

their mind to it. “My goal is to always bring out the best in my students and showcase their abilities.

I also hope they don’t mind my dry sense of humor!”



Stephanie Koerber



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NRHEG’s new 4th grade teacher

Lindsay Reisdorfer brings familiar face to elementary staff

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writer

Fourth grade teacher Lindsay Reisdorfer might be a familiar face; she came to know the community, students and staff at NRHEG School District when she began as a substitute teacher in the district two years ago. “During my time working here, I was welcomed warmly by both students and staff,” she says. “Easily, I saw one of the many things that makes the NRHEG district exceptional. It is a small town school district, where students, staff and community care deeply about the success and well being of everyone. I was fortunate to apply and be hired on permanently.”

Reisdorfer is from Mason City, Iowa, and attended both North Iowa Area Community College (NIACC) and University of Northern Iowa (UNI), graduating with a degree in elementary education and a literacy minor.

“My husband, Aaron, and I moved to Albert Lea in 2015 with our son, Hunter. Hunter is 11 years old now and our youngest son, Jackson, will soon be 7. Our family also consists of a playful German Shepherd named Rizzo and a sassy black cat named Jasper.” Reisdorfer taught full-time in Albert Lea. “My first year there I taught fourth- and fifth-grade special education and an additional two years as a kindergarten

teacher.”

When asked what her favorite part of teaching is, Reisdorfer replied, “Connections. One of my favorite things about teaching is facilitating connections. I enjoy leading student interactions that help drive academic success, building stronger social re-

lationships and empowering students with skills that encourage life-long learning.” Reisdorfer says she hopes her students leave her classroom at the end of the year with inspiration and motivation to learn about the world and others around them.



Lindsay Reisdorfer



Nikki Cromwell

Cromwell joins administrative staff

Former para, parent of two NRHEG students, takes on role formerly held by Teri Kormann

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writer

Nikki Cromwell, a resident of Geneva, is the new administrative assistant in the NRHEG secondary building, replacing Teri Kormann upon her retirement. Cromwell is married to Michael Pederson and has two “awesome” kids: senior Harbor and Winter, who will be a junior. “We have a four-year-old Rottweiler named Luna and one cat named Cat.”

Cromwell has a degree in massage therapy from the Minnesota School of Business in Rochester and has been a massage therapist on and off part time and full time for 18 years.

When asked why she applied to NRHEG, Cromwell replied, “I actually was a special education para in Ellendale for six years while my kids went to school there, so I am very familiar with the staff and students. As I was working in the concession

stand last winter during a basketball game, I realized how much I missed being around the kids and staff and all of the energy they gave me. I found out Teri was retiring and it was a light bulb moment. I had to apply for her position!”

Cromwell claims everyone knows she is a ‘people’ person; she believes the interactions with all of the students and staff will be her favorite part of the job, “and the fact that I

will get to see my kids in their school environment again,” she adds.

When not at school, Cromwell has a wide variety of interests and activities. “I am really into reading,” said Cromwell, “especially fiction. If someone has read the same book as me and it is one that I love, I could talk forever about it. Also anything health related, like lifting weights, eating a certain way, natural alternatives....I am very into those con-

versations.”

Cromwell says she also loves going to comedy shows, camping, kayaking, and hiking. Anything else? “Fun fact: I worked on a commercial fishing boat in Alaska for two summers after high school. I was a deckhand and caught salmon and shrimp. Hardest job I have ever had, hands down, and I would do it again.”

FACS kitchen has a new face

Chartrand: ‘I have wanted to be a teacher since I was 6 years old’

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writer

The Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) kitchen in the high school has a new face this year; Calle Chartrand recently moved from the Twin Cities to Ellendale (along with her mini goldendoodle named Daisy and a charcoal Lab named Gunner) to take the position of departed teacher Kelly Delacruz.

Chartrand obtained her undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota Duluth in Health and Physical Education, and attended the University

of Wisconsin Superior where she obtained her Master’s in Educational Administration. “I have wanted to be a teacher since I was six years old,” she says. “My first grade teacher was amazing and the reason I am an educator today.” Chartrand served as a physical education specialist in St. Paul Public Schools before coming to NRHEG.

“Watching my students evolve into their own unique selves over the years,” is what Chartrand names as her favorite part of being a teacher. She goes on to say, “Seeing and witnessing

all of the amazing things our students accomplish in school, the community, and after they leave our doors is truly incredible and so rewarding.”

Outside of school, Chartrand says she can be found digging in the garden

or planting flowers. “I am very active and love to work out, and also play hockey and softball. I enjoy being at our family lake place, fishing, and floating on my boat.”



Calle Chartrand

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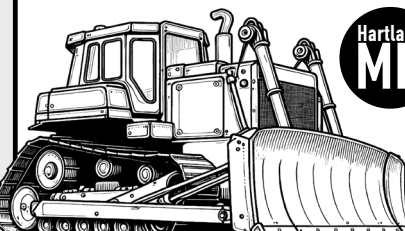
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Shown here are two pictures of my grandson's first real hunting day of the year. He is shown here with his favorite hunting companion, Maggie.

Some people just have no common sense

I just read an article in my latest copy of Outdoor News that shows how low people can stoop. A driver in Wright County seemed to think it would be cool to run over two adult Trumpeter Swans and three chicks. According to the tire marks, this person went out of their way to do this.

A few years back, some airhead drove up on the boulevard on Front Street to run over some geese. These people have no respect for nature and wildlife. My question is: what kind of person does this?

My grandson, Trevor, along with his dog, Maggie, were taking advantage of the early waterfowl season on September 1st. He sent me a video of Maggie retrieving a duck that he had shot. She has been a good dog for him, and when I mentioned that, he told me, "She's still got it." One thing about Trevor, if he shoots a bird or some other game, he doesn't waste it; he prepares and eats it.

Trevor can transition from fishing to waterfowl season in a heartbeat. He loves both sports and is good at both of them. Once again, I have to say how proud it makes me to see him enjoying the outdoors and all



Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl
Outdoors Writer

that it has to offer. One thing about my sons and grandsons is that they play by the rules and respect the environment.

I love spending time with my grandkids, but I am greedy; I just can't get enough.

Walk-In Access lands opened up on Sept. 1

Walk-In Access areas were opened for public use beginning Sunday, Sept. 1 through May 31, 2025, with the purchase of a \$3 Walk-In Access validation.

The program pays landowners to allow public access to their property and no additional landowner contact is necessary. This year, hunters and other people can access around 30,000 acres of private land at more than 280 sites in west, central and

southern Minnesota.

Through new legislation, acres enrolled in the program will be open to public uses in addition to hunting, such as bird watching, nature photography and similar compatible uses, starting with approximately half of the total acres this year. All Walk-In Access sites are shown on the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Recreation Compass (<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/maps/ccompass.html>). Digital maps for individual Walk-In Access sites, along with more information, can be found on the Minnesota DNR website (<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/walk-in/index.html>).

Current funding for the program includes a grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Walk-In Access validations purchased by hunters, a surcharge on nonresident hunting licenses and donations from hunters.

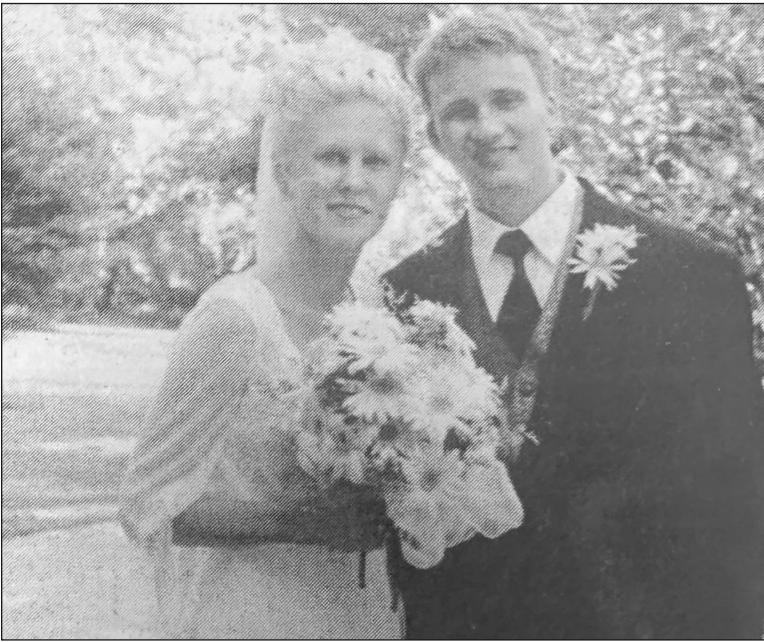
Until next time: I will be heading to the cabin again soon with my son, Brad, and his son (my grandson), Dylan, for a little fishing and enjoyment at the cabin. Hopefully, the weather cooperates. As far as weather goes, it has been perfect the last few days and it is a great time of year to enjoy the outdoors. Going to the State Park and enjoying the many trails that they have can be not only good exercise, but also very refreshing. There is also wildlife to be seen at the park, so enjoy! Fishing from shore is still an option and it seems that the weeds that were crowding the shoreline in early summer have gone away for the most part.

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

LOOKING BACK

25 years back- 35

- New Richland Hartland Ellendale Geneva School District 2168 will be holding a general election on Tuesday November 2, 1999. At the election, three members will be elected to the school board for terms of four years each. School Board members whose terms are up for election this year are: Shirley Jensen, Gretchen Supalla, and Richard Chicos.
- The Child Care Advisory Group at Albert Lea Medical Center will again offer free First Aid and CPR training to area day care providers and child care workers. The program format includes four hours of First Aid training in infant, child and adult classifications. In addition, four hours of CPR training under the American Health Standard will be presented by Albert Lea Medical Center Ambulance staff.
- It's not just a better building, its better access to medical care for patients at Owatonna Clinic- part of Mayo Health System. "It will be more efficient for staff to go between the emergency room and urgent care and allow us to add space for additional emergency room staff," said David Berg, administrator at Owatonna Clinic. Patients also will have better access and can enter directly into urgent care on evenings, and weekends through the north entrance.
- Corey Clark, son of JoAnne and Doug Hacker of Ellendale, has been named to the 4th Quarter Gold (3.75) Honor Roll at the Minnesota State Academy for the deaf Faribault.



• Kristina and Micah Eastvold. Kristina and Marie Wilemon and Micah Richard Eastvold were married at 2 p.m. at the Kemper Center Chapel in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Pastor Mitch Dowell performed the double-ring-ceremony. Kristina is the daughter of Wiliam and Kathy Wilemon of Winthrop Harbor, Illinois. Matron of honor was Jennifer Kapity, friend of the bride. Bridesmaids were Tanya Miller, friend of the bride, Stephanie Breckenfeld, cousin of the bride, and Amy Greenwald, friend of the bride. The flower girl was Stephanie Mongulla, friend of the bride.



• Back L. to R: Genevive Toland (sophomore), Vivian Randall (Jr.), Principal B. E. Bergeson, coach, Iris Wayne (Jr.), Violet Jensen (Sophomore); Front L. to R.: Helen Johnson (Sr.), Verna Gruetzmacher (Jr.), Olive Lewisin (Sr.), Captain. The First class to graduate from Ellendale High School was in 1923 (before that only classes 1-8 were taught in Ellendale). There was both a girls and a boys team, each coached by the same person. In 1925, after a season of games against the surrounding towns, the girls record was; 10 wins, 1 tie and 1 loss. They had outscored their opponents 509 to 229. The girls win was a very important event in this newly formed district and the trophy still looks very impressive.

50 years back



• Dick and Anita Borland have been remodeling and setting up their new restaurant for a week, but Monday was the big day in Clarks Grove for the couple. After running various restaurants and cafes over the years, most recently the Chow House in Albert Lea, they've opened up shop just 3 miles from their rural Clarks Grove home.

• Steve's Market owners, Steve and Donnavan Eaker, recently returned from the American Meat Processors Association Annual Convention held at Bally's Grand Hotel in Reno, NV on August 3-6. Steve had entered his homemade meat products in the Product Show, and came away with a Grand Champion, placing in Ring Bologna and a Champion placing in Smoked Turkey. He also placed fifth in Dried Beef. Judging was done by professors from different universities throughout the country and other experts in the meat industry for the Product Show.

• Jean Richards, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Richards of Ellendale, is recently enrolled at Lowthian College in Minneapolis. Lowthian College is dedicated to the teaching of fashion merchandising and is accredited by AICS, Washington, D.C. Jean's major will prepare her for a career in retailing and related business.

Compiled by Payge Rosacker

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Pastor Mary Iverson
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LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
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New Richland, Minnesota
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Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship (times vary for holidays) Monday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting

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Todd Lundgren, Pastor
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Bible Study; 10:30 a.m. Worship

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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)

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Sunday - Summer Service time is 9:30 a.m. Worship; 9:15 a.m. Sunday school. (No summer Sunday school) Worship is at 10:30 a.m. beginning after Sept. 3. Food shelf is open every Thursday from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

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

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Pastor Jesse Krusemark
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PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN
Lemond Township
Pastor Dave Klaviter
Sunday - 10:15 a.m. Worship

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

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

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

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

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Freedom Township
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

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

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC
Waldorf, Minnesota
Father Brian Mulligan
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship

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

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SEASON-OPENING ACTION — At left, NRHEG quarterback Alden Dobberstein (6) throws a touchdown pass to Owen Bartlett in the first quarter last Thursday despite pressure by Randolph’s Carter Olson. In the middle, Bartlett hauls in a catch. At right, NRHEG defenders Jordan Brouwers (54) and Jace Ihrke (57) combine to stop Tristan Zingler. Star Eagle photos by Jim Lutgens and Eli Lutgens

Panthers start strong, finish flat in season opener

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

When they were finally able to take the field following a two-hour rain delay, things started well for the NRHEG High School football team in last Thursday’s season opener.

By the end of the second half, it was another story.

The Panthers took an early 8-0 lead and held a 16-6 halftime edge, but visiting Randolph rallied to win 28-16 in New Richland.

“We had to wait awhile to get our first game of the season in,” said NRHEG coach Mark Kruger. “Kickoff was at 9 p.m. because of lightning.”

And the Panthers produced some

“We were able to move the ball in the second half, but just not able to finish.” — NRHEG coach Marc Kruger

early fireworks, with Owen Bartlett scoring on a 71-yard pass from Alden Dobberstein in the first period. Ryan Schlaak ran for the two-point conversion.

After the Rockets scored in the first quarter, the Panthers’ Harbor Cromwell carried for a 5-yard touchdown run. Bartlett ran for the PAT.

“Owen Bartlett was off to a career

and half, but just not able to finish.”		First Quarter		Fourth Down		0-5	1-2
Randolph held a 309-253 edge in total yards, racking up 20 first downs to the Panthers’ eight.		NRHEG — Owen Bartlett 71 pass from Alden Dobberstein (Ryan Schlaak run)		Fumbles lost		1	1
Cromwell was the Panthers’ leading ball carrier with 42 yards on 12 carries. Dobberstein, who did not throw an interception, was 7-for-15 passing for 154 yards. Bartlett finished with three catches for 131 yards.		RAN — Tristan Zingler 6 run (kick failed)		Turnovers		1	1
Schlaak led the defense with eight solo tackles and two assists.		Second Quarter		Penalties		5-15	5-25
The Panthers play at Norwood-Young America Friday at 7 p.m.		NRHEG — Harbor Cromwell 5 run (Owen Bartlett run)		INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS			
		Third Quarter		Rushing — NRHEG: Cromwell 12-42; Dobberstein 10-31; R.Schlaak 5-17; Rest of team 1-9; RAN: Zingler 17-57; Leifeld 3-17; Rest of team 11-43			
		RAN — Tristan Zingler 10 run (two-point conversion good)		Passing — NRHEG: Dobberstein 7-15-0, 154; RAN: Ford 17-24-0, 176; Kriesel 1-1-0, 16			
		Fourth Quarter		Receiving — NRHEG: Bartlett 3-131; Knudson 4-23; RAN: Kriesel 8-62; Opelt 1-10; Rest of team 9-120			
		RAN— Colton Ford 16 pass (two-point conversion good)		NRHEG Defense — R.Schlaak 8 solo tackles, 2 assists; Cromwell 4 tackles; Brouwers 4 tackles, 1 assist 3 tackles for loss; Bartlett 2 tackles, 1 assist; Knudson 2 tackles; Staloch 2 tackles; Ihrke 2 tackles, 1 assist; Fleming 2 tackles; Hanna 1 tackle; Larson 1 tackle, 1 TFL; Hutchens 1 tackle; A.Schlaak 1 fumble recovery			
		RAN — Hunter Kriesel 16 pass (two point-conversion failed)					
				RAN		NRHEG	
				Total plays		60 45	
				First downs		20 8	
				Rushing		117 99	
				Passing		18-25-0 7-15-0	
				Passing Yds.		192 154	
				Total Yds.		309 253	
				Third Down		6-11 2-8	