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Sports

**NR American Legion Auxiliary to meet April 25 at library**  
The New Richland American Legion Auxiliary will have their April meeting on Thursday, April 25th. This meeting will be held at the New Richland public library at 5:30 p.m.

**Fire and safety class April 20**  
Area students interested in certification for an upcoming Fire and Safety Class sign-up at the NRHEG high school office.  
A field day will occur April 20 at the Area Sportsman's Club in New Richland. Class only open to first 25 students. More info can be found at the sportsman's club website.

**Baked Potato Bar and special speaker April 20 in Ellendale**  
The Ellendale Gathering Place Mural Project is hosting a Potato Bar with special guest speaker Al Batt on April 20 from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Ellendale Methodist Church at 200 6th St. North. A 50/50 raffle will be available for \$5 a ticket with winner announced that night. Al Batt will be speaking at 6:30 p.m. This is a freewill donation, with all proceeds going towards the mural project.

**NR Garden Club taking orders for flowers, pickup at annual plant sale May 18**  
The New Richland Garden Club is again taking orders from the community for Supertunia white and pink petunias and Tidal Wave cherry petunias. These are the same petunias used in our City Garden on Hwy 30 each year because they are heat and drought tolerant with continuous blooming through Fall. Call Barb at 507-463-3306 by Thursday, April 25th to place your order or with questions. These will be available for pickup at our Annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 18th.

**Dr. Charles Karuku at Nation's Glory Barn 6 p.m. April 19**  
Charles Karuku is the Founder and President of International Outreach Church, a growing diverse multi-racial congregation in the Twin Cities. He will be speaking at Nation's Glory Barn at 6 p.m. on Friday, April 19. More information is available by email at thenationsglorybarn@gmail.com.

**Educators evening at Freeborn County Historical Museum on April 25**  
Calling all educators! On Thursday, April 25th from 4 - 6 p.m., FCHM is hosting an Educators Evening at the museum. This is a perfect opportunity to meet with other education professionals and learn how FCHM can help you in the classroom.

Collaboration and connection are key to continue moving forward in educational settings like museums and schools. Come and enjoy small bites, mocktails and cocktails while exploring all FCHM has to offer- guided tours, History2Go! Kits, field trip sign-up, door prizes, discounted membership. You will also have the opportunity to network with other educators from Freeborn County.

A word from

The Word



Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Matthew 5:4

# Small town, big heart

## New family restaurant, Jessie's Joint, opens in Geneva

**Mexican style lunch food served six days a week**  
By DEB BENTLY  
Staff Writer

Jessie and Erick Alvarado are being literal when they say their business along Central Avenue in Geneva is a "family" restaurant; at least to date, everyone who works there is one of the six members of their family. Jessie and Erick have lived in the Geneva area for the past three years with their offspring Gavin, 21; Isiah, 17; Julia, 15; and Jaxon, 10.

Both Jessie and Erick "grew up" in the restaurant and hospitality field. Jessie's parents helped run The Creamery, a sit-down restaurant located in Otisco about 20 years ago. Erick's family still operates a restaurant in his home region in Mexico. Both helped with busing tables and other simple tasks during their childhoods. Erick mentions that he's always preferred being behind the scenes, although the term is open to interpretation, since restaurants in Mexico frequently have an "open" kitchen; customers can see every step as their food is prepared and served.

"We both said we wouldn't do it again," laughs Jessie. "But when we learned this building was for sale, we couldn't stop ourselves." The cafe is in the same location as the former Noris Cuisine.

"It's a gorgeous place. We loved coming here. And it's all set up with a very efficient commercial kitchen."

The doors opened on January 31: Hours are from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday.

The family members who put in the most hours are Erick, Julia and Isiah; the two young adults attend an online school, and so can adjust their schedules to be compatible with their jobs.

The lunch and breakfast menus offer a fair number of items with elements of Mexican cuisine. A breakfast burrito; a combination of eggs, vegetables and meat in a warmed tortilla shell, and much more. Many items on the menu include family member's names: Julia's Fajita, Isiah's Burrito.

"We want people to know we're serving them the kinds of foods we like to make for ourselves," observes Jessie. "It's another way we're a family restaurant."

Erick, who does most of the cooking, says he enjoys the task—one of his favorite parts is knowing he is giving his customers a treat that makes their day more pleasant.

Joining him in that sentiment is Julia. "She's our baker," comments Jessie. "When the doors close at 2 p.m., she stays and bakes rolls and other treats."

Jessie teases Julia for insisting that she mix all dough completely by hand. "There's a professional stand mixer ready for use," she says, "but Julia won't use it."

"It wouldn't be 'hand-made' if you mixed it with a machine," responds Julia, who admits she first thought the idea of her family acquiring the cafe was "a little bit crazy." But her time as server and baker has changed her mind. "I like it," she comments. "It feels good to see people really enjoying something you've prepared for them."

Julia takes special pleasure in having found a way to make vegan cinnamon rolls for certain customers who have made that part of their lifestyle.



Erick, Jessie, and daughter Julia Alvarado

Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

Jessie remembers family holidays growing up. "We're a bunch of people who just love to be in the kitchen," she recalls. "There we'd be, shoulder to shoulder, all working to get everything ready."

"There's something truly rewarding, when the hard work is all done, about sitting down and watching people appreciate the results. It doesn't matter whether it's family at a holiday or customers in our restaurant. It feels good to serve people."

Now nearly three months into the operation of their cafe, the Alvarados note that change is in the air. That is, as the winter months turn to summer, they are trying to anticipate how patterns and interests among their customers are likely to change.

"We've been developing a new menu," says Jessie, "and we'll be rolling it out in the near future."

In addition to adjustments in the food they offer, the family is looking at adding special beverages

**"We both said we wouldn't do it again. But when we learned this building was for sale, we couldn't stop ourselves."**  
— Jessie Alvarado

and treats suited to warmer days—iced coffee, for example.

"We want to give our customers a variety that suits their daily choices," says Jessie. "It's important."

**Jessie's continued on 2**

# Bevcomm Bash

**By DEB BENTLY**  
Staff writer

Waseca County learned in March that its application for a \$4.38 million grant to install fiber internet in four of its townships had been approved. It was a triumphant moment, given that the county had twice previously completed the lengthy and demanding application process, but had not received any funding.

Under the grant, Byron, Freedom, Vivian and Wilton townships—essentially the southwest third of the county—will be having fiber cable installed.

Like the two before it, the successful application was supported, completed and submitted by county leaders—including commissioner DeAnne Malterer and county administrator Michael Johnson—and staff of the Blue Earth based telecommuni-

cations company Bevcomm. Aside from area residents who wrote letters of support, relatively few people in the 500 homes and businesses within the affected townships were aware of the application or the possibilities it presented.

With the promise of the grant secured, Bevcomm began the process of public outreach by holding a "Bash" at the Waldorf Community Center the evening of Thursday, April 4; about 125 people attended.

Regarding the event, Bevcomm CEO Bill Eckles commented, "I think our Broadband Bash was a great success Thursday night. The support we are seeing for the Fiber to the Home project (FTTH) in Waseca County has been amazing. Everyone from the homeowners to the County Commissioners have been great to work with. We are looking forward

to Bevcomm becoming part of the Waseca County community."

During the three-hour meeting, those attending were invited to speak with the 10 or so Bevcomm representatives to have their questions answered and their concerns addressed.

Area residents were asked to sign up for at-home consultations during which they would be provided with more information about how the installation would go at their site. Those in attendance also had their questions answered by Bevcomm staff, including CEO Bill Eckles.

Eckles informed residents the main cables will be buried parallel to roads throughout the four townships beginning in June. Somewhat later, depending on location, individual customers will have cable buried across their property and up to their homes.



**Consultant Steve Kraus, Waseca county commissioners Brad Krause and DeAnne Malterer, county administrator Michael Johnson, Waldorf mayor Rob Wilkening and county sheriff Jay Dulas were among public representatives who met and spoke with those in attendance at the "Bevcomm Bash" on April 4.**

No one is required to allow the lines to be installed on their private property, however, according to discussion at recent county board meetings, doing so could increase their property value by \$3,000 to \$5,000. While there is no charge to install the

## NEW RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL

# Skelton, Gehrke sworn in

By JESSICA LUTGENS  
Staff Writer

Two major changes were made to the New Richland City Council during its first meeting of the month on Monday, April 8. Loren Skelton was sworn in as mayor following the resignation of Chad Neitzel from the position last month, and the council approved the appointment of local resident Ryan Gehrke to the open council seat left by Skelton's appointment as mayor. Gehrke was approved via a 2-1 vote, with Councilperson Jason Casey voting against due to the lack of communication with other individuals who submitted letters of interest for the position.

The ambulance report, submitted in writing, stated that the New Richland ambulance has had 29 runs for the year as of April 4. Two applications for new members were received as a result of flyers going out with resident water bills last month, and the council approved the applications along with the report.

The fire department report stated that the NRPD responded to two medical calls in March. The purchase of new helmets for members at a total cost of \$2,242.40, to be paid out of the equipment fund, was approved. The council also approved the raising of annual retirement pay, which is accrued over 10-20 years, to \$1,500 per year of service. The report was approved.

The police report, presented by Chief Tanyce Bruegger, stated that the NRPD had 297 calls for service in March, bringing the total for the year to 816. It was noted that the department's LEXIPOL subscription was renewed at a cost of \$3,173.07 as well as the South Central Drug Investigation Unit Membership at a cost of \$3,750. Squad maintenance was also performed at a cost of \$1,277.30. The report was approved.

In new business, a purchase request for media for a water filter was approved at a cost of \$2,020. Resolutions 22-06 and 22-07, accepting donations of \$1,000 to St. Olaf Lake's lifeguard and swimming lesson program and the fire and ambulance departments.

The administrator's report stated that the city's new utility payment vendor went live last week, and information about this year's citywide cleanup day will be included in water bills this month. The meeting then went into closed session before adjourning at 7:38 p.m.

**Bevcomm continued on 2**







Compostings

by Al Batt

Everything went according to plan

**ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS’ CLUB MEETING**  
My family was poor while I was growing up, but we didn’t know it.  
How could you not know that? We were terrible at math.

**DRIVING BY BRUCE’S DRIVE**  
I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I’m not a hurkler-durkler. To hurkle-durkle is a Scottish term meaning to lie in bed or to lounge around when one should be up and about. I was up early and gadding about the countryside when I walked into a noisy convenience store in Nebraska and was reminded that music comes out of everything today. “Would you like a pickle card?” said the friendly cashier.

I thought she was asking me if I wanted a baseball card featuring a picture of a dill pickle or of the catcher who had five seasons in the major leagues, Pickles Dillhoefer. His best year was as a backup catcher for the St. Louis Cardinals in 1920. The pickle card had nothing to do with baseball. Pickle cards are better known as pull-tabs to the rest of the country. The uniquely Nebraska origin of the term “pickle card” comes from the days when they were sold illegally in taverns and bars in Nebraska. The cards were kept in large, empty “pickle jars,” which could easily be hidden when the situation demanded.

**A PERIPATETIC GUY**  
It had been a long drive, all uphill, but at least I wasn’t Prometheus, the mythical god of forethought, who had his ever-generating liver eaten by an eagle. I don’t require luxury accommodations. I like a bed, a bathroom and no liver-eating eagles.  
“We heard you were coming. Your room is ready for you and it’s just the way you like it,” said the hotel clerk with a smile wider than her face.  
“Do you say that to every guest?” I asked.  
“Yes.”  
“Keep it up. I like it,” I smiled back. It all went according to plan. The room was lovely.

**I’VE LEARNED**  
Eric Annexstad of St. Peter is part of a Norseland Community Preservation Association crew that volunteers to clean ditches of trash. He has found the most popular beer based on tossed cans is Keystone Light. I pick up trash from the local ditches and find that Busch Light is the commonly discarded can. I don’t know what that says about the local taste or economy.

To enjoy the scenery on a de-tour.  
Sweatpants can make you look athletic or lazy.  
You don’t need a parachute to go skydiving. You need a parachute to go skydiving twice.  
Every mirror sold is a used one. You can kiss yourself in a mirror, but only on the lips.  
Your socks are wearing shoes, too.  
I was once pi years old.  
Making trophies would be a rewarding career.  
A penny should have a joke on the back. A cents of humor.  
Selfies have replaced autographs.  
We are rarely what another driver thinks we are.  
A swear jar is any jar you can’t open.

**BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT**  
A farmer with a parrot on his shoulder walks into a bank. The banker said, “Where did you get that thing?” The parrot replied, “In Iowa. They’re everywhere there.”  
What’s red and invisible? No ripe tomatoes.  
“Dad, could you tell me what an eclipse is?” “No sun.”  
What month has 28 days? All of them.  
If I have seven apples in one hand and eight apples in the other hand, what do I have? Really big hands.

**NATURE NOTES**  
A reader said there was a headless rabbit in his yard. Was the perpetrator Colonel Mustard in the library with a candlestick? I’d put nothing past Colonel Mustard, but when folks encounter such a sight and perform a thorough crime scene investigation, they come up with a list of usual prospects (cat, the mob, celebrity chef and Colonel Mustard). I’d take Colonel Mustard off that suspect list and guess that the culprit was an owl. A great horned owl’s signature method when dealing with large prey is to behead the victim before it’s taken to the owl’s nest or eating perch. Out of 28 owl kills in a study conducted in Kansas, 60% of the prey items were decapitated. A great horned owl has a deadly grip and uses its bill and talons to cleave a bunny head as fast as a world-champion rodeo cowboy can rope a steer. Apparently, rabbit brains and eyes are a delicacy for owls and are nutritious by being full of fats and proteins.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**  
“Kindness in ourselves is the honey that blunts the sting of unkindness in another.”—Walter Savage Landor.

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OBITUARIES

**Gerald S. Hojberg**  
Gerald Stoa Hojberg, 90, passed away Monday, April 15, 2024. A funeral service will be held on Monday, April 22, 2024 at Community Lutheran church in Geneva at 11AM. Burial will be held at the Geneva Cemetery following the service. Visitation will be held for an hour prior to the service at the church and from 3-5PM on Sunday, April 21 at Bayview Freeborn Funeral Home. Pastor Leandra Anderson will be officiating.  
Gerald was born at home near Geneva, MN to Peder Einer and Myrtle (Stoa) Hojberg on May 28, 1933. His family moved closer to Clarks Grove when he was a young boy. Gerald attended country school just down the road from the farm. Gerald finished 8th grade at the country school to then assist his father on the farm. He was married to Dona DeRaad to divorce several years later. They had two daughters, Barbara, and Jeanette. Gerald bought the family farm in the early 1960’s.  
In the 1970’s, he was known for his Clay Honey Wagon rentals and Push Button Farming equipment sales. He sold used equipment and always seemed to have a part or know someone that had the part for

any piece of farm equipment or tractor that a customer was looking for. He started a septic tank cleaning business for rural homes. Gerald loved his septic tank cleaning business. He would go out on Sundays, Holidays or at the last minute to help someone whose tank was backing up and going to ruin a family get together. He could drive down any county road in the surrounding area and tell us he cleaned this person’s tank or if he had done it more than once. He would tell stories about how he saved a family get together or would be invited in to eat with them.  
Gerald loved the Trails Truck stop until he could not drive that far. He enjoyed the conversations with the local people, truckers and of course the waitresses. Whether it was morning or afternoon, we knew we could find him at his favorite place for coffee, the former Gopher Stop in Clarks Grove. This is where he would debate politics, talk farming, grain prices, roll dice and joke with his friends and the workers there.  
Gerald moved to Whispering Oaks in Ellendale in 2019, which was home till January 2023. He moved to Bancroft Creek Estates by Albert Lea to be closer to family and friends.

He is survived by his daughters Barbara Langerud of Colorado Springs, CO, and Jeanette Beenken of Glenville, MN. Grandchildren Hillarie Langerud, Albert Lea, Natalie (Andrew) Marshall, Colorado Springs, Logan Beenken (Meridith), Marshall, MN. Great grandchildren, Jarrett Langerud, Julian Langerud, and Brynn Marshall of Colorado Springs, along with many nieces and nephews and grand nieces and nephews.  
He was preceded in death by his parents, brother and sister-in-law, Kenneth and Gunhild Hojberg, and sister and brother-in-law, Eleanor and Ferris Peterson.

**Special note**  
I would like to thank all the people of the Clarks Grove, Geneva and Ellendale communities who kept an eye on Gerald before he moved to assisted living. There were so many kind and considerate people who would help him in the doors, get his coffee for him, follow behind him at 45 miles per hour and grudgingly but also knowing that one day they will be him and hope that someone would be as kind. Thank you to all of you who came the summer of 2019, to buy his old farm equipment, tractors, and rummage through all his parts that he had saved for years. I loved all the stories and fond memories that summer. After living in a big city for so many years, I had for-

Gerald Hojberg

gotten the kindness and consideration that rural community people share with each other when someone is in need. I thanked the Lord for all of you each time, I went back to Colorado Springs.  
The care given to Gerald was excellent along with the kindness and support to the family by the staff at Bancroft Creek, Good Samaritan Center, and St Croix Hospice. You all put a smile on his face, as I know he put a smile on your face too, with the conversations and his quirky comments. Please make any donations to Bancroft Creek Assisted Living, St Croix Hospice or Good Samaritan Society. Sincerely, Barbara Langerud.

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OBITUARIES

Brandon Schlaak

Brandon Lee Schlaak, born on August 6th, 1987 to Gary and Christine (Berg) Schlaak in Albert Lea, MN, was a beloved son, brother, uncle, and friend. He passed away on April 8th, 2024 at his home in New Richland, MN.

Brandon spent his early years in Palisade, MN before settling in New Richland with his family. He was a proud graduate of NRHEG School in 2007, where he excelled as a multi-sport athlete in football, cross country, wrestling, and baseball. In his wrestling career, Brandon earned the nickname "Showtime" from Coach Cyr for always showing up when it was time to shine. His dedication and skill earned him third place in the individual MN State High School Wrestling Tournament in 2007. Brandon's junior year baseball season began with a game that was played at the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome.

After graduation, Brandon briefly attended Riverland College before pursuing various job opportunities working at Holland Ag, Hi Yield, and Arctic Ice. He also gained experience a summer at Veyance Technologies in Iowa. His generosity knew no bounds, as he later took on the role as a caretaker for his grandfather and mother. Brandon embodied the true essence of kindness and generosity. His adventurous spirit led him on family trips, including visits to Nebraska, annual camping excursions with the Schlaak family to Yogi's in Warrens, WI, and a trip to Florida with his mom and brother, Gaven.

Whether it was grilling up delicious smash burgers or Philly cheesesteaks for family and friends, or assisting with coaching the NRHEG wrestling team, his willingness to help others shone through in everything he did. He was often referred to as the "Supervisor" as he waited for others to take on some of the unfavorable chores and knew someone else would complete the job. He had a passion for playing video games and was known as "Madden" for his impressive ability to recall game stats with ease. His love for family gatherings and activities was evident in his enthusiasm for every moment spent together. One family



Brandon Schlaak

snowmobile outing had Brandon excited for an eventful day, until a few minutes into the ride when he quickly turned around to head back home because he was cold.

He found joy in spending time with his nieces and nephews, creating cherished memories that will be forever treasured. Brandon's love for his family was unparalleled. His smile and kind heart touched the lives of many, and his absence will be deeply felt by all who knew him.

Brandon will be lovingly remembered by his parents, Christine Schlaak and Gary (Jackie) Schlaak; brothers, Justin (Kim), Nathan (Lindsey), and Gaven (Rachel); nieces and nephews, Kordell, Aidan, Gabrielle, Ryan, Dakota, Madison, and Graham; grandmothers, Sylvia Berg and Carol Schlaak; aunts and uncles, Carol (Mike) Hedberg, Charlie (Amy) Berg, Neil (Jill) Schlaak, Keith (Kelly) Schlaak, Donna Schlaak, and Linda (Darrin) Stadheim; along with numerous cousins.

He was preceded in death by his grandfathers, Bill Berg and Harlan Schlaak.

A funeral service was held on Sunday, April 14th, 2024 at St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Alma City, MN; Pastor Robert Harting officiated. Interment is at Alma City Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers and gifts, memorial contributions may be given to Brandon's family.

A passionate soul with a heart of gold, Brandon will be deeply missed by all who knew him. May his spirit soar among the stars, forever guiding and watching over us with love and laughter.

Brian Reese

Brian J. Reese, 73, of Owatonna, formerly of Ellendale, passed away peacefully on Thursday, April 11, 2024 at Benedictine Living Community in Owatonna, MN.

A visitation was held from 3-5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at Bonnerup-Ellendale Chapel, in Ellendale, MN. A private funeral and burial will take place on Thursday, April 18, 2024 at First Lutheran Church in Ellendale, with burial to be held at the church cemetery. The service may be viewed by visiting [www.BonnerupFuneralService.com](http://www.BonnerupFuneralService.com)

Born on July 6, 1950 in Albert Lea, Brian was the son of the late Merle and Zola Mae (Gibson) Reese. A proud native of Ellendale, Brian spent his early years working alongside his dad on the family farm. As a young man, he earned a commendable blue ribbon for his steer while showcasing his knack for agriculture as a member of the 4H Beaver Lake Beavers.

Brian's journey in life was marked by hard work and dedication. After his education at the Southern School of Agriculture, he embarked on a fulfilling career as a Maintenance Mechanic at Bird's Eye in Waseca, retiring in 1996 after many years of service.

Away from work, his adventurous spirit shone through his love for motorcycle riding, snowmobiling, horseback riding, and raising Arabian and Quarter horses. Brian's competitive side was evident in his participation in various sports like softball and arm wrestling, where his strength and tenacity made him a formidable opponent.

Brian's downtime was filled with his favorite pastimes. He found solace in the tranquility of hunting, trapping and fishing. His ability to fix anything earned him a reputation as the go-to handyman. Despite his toughness, Brian had a softer side, enjoying live music and dancing, attending auctions, as well as indulging in action movies and classic Westerns.

Those left to cherish Brian's memory include his two children, Brooke (Lon) Thiele and Mitch Reese (Shelby Dawson), and their mother, Jean Reese; grandchildren, Savannah Thiele and Jasmine Thiele, Isaiah Dawson, Brayden Reese; siblings, Candace Duros and Scott Reese; nieces and nephews, Chad Duros, Quang (Mindy) Nguyen and their children, Rachel (Anders Long), Tina Ngyuen and Peter Nguyen, Todd Reese and his children, Ozzy, Charli, and Jillian Reese, and Courtney (Brian) Armstrong and their children, Paige, Reese, and Kinsey Armstrong.

Brian was preceded in death by his parents, Merle and Zola (Gibson) Reese.

A special thank you to the staff of St. Croix Hospice, Benedictine Living Community in Owatonna, Alternative Resolutions, and Mayo Clinic for providing such great care for our



Brian Reese

Dad. We are forever grateful to you. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Benedictine Living Community of Owatonna and The Steele County Humane Society.

Marcelene Lange

Marcelene Lange, 91, passed away on Sunday, April 14, 2024 at the Good Samaritan Society of Albert Lea, MN. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, April 19, 2024 at St. Theodore Catholic Church in Albert Lea. A visitation will be held an hour before the service. Father Kurt Farrell will be officiating. A private family burial will be held at a later date at St. Aiden's Catholic Cemetery.

Marcelene was born on July 4, 1932 to Daniel and Estelle Connor at their home in Bath, MN. After living there for four years, the family moved to rural Clarks Grove. As the oldest of three children, she attended the District 23 Country School for six years. The family moved to Geneva in 1948 and Marcelene graduated from Ellendale High School.

In 1951, Marcy married Irvin Jensen. While he was enlisted in the Army, they lived in Washington State, where their son Steve was born. Upon Irvin's discharge, they returned to Bath, MN where their sons Wayne and Neil were born and raised and lived there until their divorce in 1978. Marcy then moved to Albert Lea and married Orville Lange in October 1985. They were together until Orville's passing in November 2010. Marcy moved to the Good Samaritan Society where she enjoyed socializing and playing dominoes with friends.

Marcy loved to golf and go bowling. She was a strong and independent Irish woman, leading the Rusty Nails group at the YMCA and was a member of the Professional and Businesswomen's organization in Albert Lea.

Marcy is survived by her son

Steve (Sally Dietz) Jensen, his children Stacy (Michael) Finlon, Laurie (Harry) Davis, and Kelly (Pete) Mattson and grandchildren Jake Pirkel, Abby Pirkel, Taylor (Matt) Brose, Elin and Svea, and great-grandchild Jett.; son Wayne (Diane) Jensen, their children Brady (Amy) Jensen, Tara (Jon) Kormann, Dana (Austin) Krumwiede and grandchildren Aubrey, Lyla, Kinsley, Marayah, Brooklyn, Jayce and Emmitt; son Neil (Becky) Jensen, their children Marissa (Ben) Beck, Macaela Jensen and their grandchild Brooks; her Brother Paul Connor; brother-in-law Lloyd Johnson; nephew Daniel (Shannon) Johnson; and special friends LaVada (John) Benz.

Marcelene is preceded in death by her parents Daniel and Estelle; first husband Irvin Jensen; second husband Orville Lange; and sister Jeanne Johnson.



Marcelene Lange

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be directed towards the Albert Lea YMCA.

DonnaMae McCamish

DonnaMae Monique McCamish, 70, a lifelong and cherished member of the Ellendale community, passed away on Thursday, April 11, 2024 at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis, MN.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 3 p.m., on Monday, April 22, 2024 at the United Methodist Church in Ellendale, with a visitation beginning at 2 p.m. The service will be livestreamed and can be viewed by visiting DonnaMae's obituary at [www.BonnerupFuneralService.com](http://www.BonnerupFuneralService.com). Burial will be in Geneva Cemetery. Born in Owatonna, on September

27, 1953 to the late Harry and Marie (Guse) Farr, DonnaMae was a dedicated telephone operator at Qwest Communications for three decades and was the proud owner of Tamae Ceramic Shop. A multitasker at heart, DonnaMae also juggled roles as a waitress, saleswoman for Mary Kay, Tastefully Simple, and Norwex, and the beloved nanny, known as "Mae Mae" to Steve and Terri Engel, and their grandson, Wyman.

DonnaMae's impact extended far beyond her professional endeavors. A member of the United Methodist Church in Ellendale, she tirelessly served her community on the Ellendale City Council and the Steele Co. Recycling board, and played a vital

role in enhancing local parks. Known for her generosity, quick wit, and elegant demeanor, DonnaMae was a social butterfly who loved crafting, sewing, gardening, reading, and solving Sudoku puzzles. Her love for travel and exploring new sights was evident in her wanderlust spirit and family-centered adventures.

Those left to cherish DonnaMae's memory include her daughter, Chanelle McCamish; grandchildren, Whitney McCamish, Sydney McCamish, Bo McCamish, and Blake Feder; great-grandchildren, Atlas, Lucian, and Estelle; and a brother, Ron Farr. She was preceded in death by her parents, Harry and Marie Farr, and her life partner, Craig Budenske.



DonnaMae McCamish

Jacquolyn Braulik

Jacquolyn "Jackie" Ann Braulik, 88, of Owatonna, died Monday, April 15, 2024 at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis.

She was born April 26, 1935 in New Richland, Minnesota the daughter of Floyd and Gertrude (Bethke) Haushahn. She grew up in New Richland where she graduated from high school in 1953. Following her schooling, she worked at Federated Insurance in Owatonna.

She was united in marriage to Jack Braulik on June 2, 1956 at the Congregational Church in New Richland. The couple made their home on a farmstead south of Owatonna where they raised their family.

Along with being a wife and mother, Jackie worked as the book-

keeper for Richard Moore's Shaklee Products in the mornings and worked in home healthcare in the afternoons and evenings providing a valuable service to many people allowing them to remain in their homes.

Jackie enjoyed sewing in her younger years. She made Halloween costumes for her children and grandchildren, and made doll clothes for the grandchildren. She also enjoyed making Easter baskets and loved to shop for clothes at her favorite store, The Dress Barn at the outlet mall in Medford. She loved her animals and many people knew Jackie from her many walks with her pets throughout the neighborhood.

Jackie was a member of Associated Church for many years and attended as long as her health allowed. She is survived by sons, Jim (and

Lucy) Braulik of Mason City, IA and Todd (and Sallie Newbowers Braulik) Braulik of Owatonna; grandchildren, James (and Katie) Braulik, Sarah Braulik, Jeffrey (and Stephanie) Braulik, Charity Braulik, Misty Obermolte, Candy Braulik, Jacob Newbowers Bartel and Alec Newbowers; 9 great grandchildren and 1 great great grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Floyd and Gertrude; husband, Jack Braulik and sisters, Arlene Kroeger and Bobbie Smith.

A funeral service will be held Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 11:00 AM at Michaelson Funeral Home in Owatonna with visitation one hour prior. A lunch reception will immediately follow the service and then burial in St. Peter Cemetery in New Richland.



Jacquolyn Braulik

Memorials are preferred to the Humane Society.



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ONE-SIDED WIN — The NRHEG baseball team 10-runned United South Central 13-3 in five innings last week at Jeff and Carol Reese Field. From left, Seth Staloch slides safely into third; Carter Martens prepares to put the tag on a baserunner at third; Alden Dobberstein dives and scores. Star Eagle photos by Eli Lutgens

# Nine-run inning lifts baseball Panthers past USC, 13-3

NRHEG plates game-winning run in final at-bat at BEA

By JIM LUTGENS  
Sports Editor

All things considered, last week was not a bad one for the NRHEG High School baseball team. Especially when you consider the Panthers have a first-year head coach and a squad with no seniors.

That didn't seem to matter last Tuesday as the Panthers traveled to Blue Earth Area and toughed out a 4-3 victory.

"The last couple of days of baseball could not be any more fun and exciting!" said NRHEG coach Shawn Larson. "We were walked off yesterday in extra innings, and today we were able to close out a one-run game in the seventh inning."

It was close most of the day. The Panthers led 3-0 after the top of the sixth inning, but the Bucs scored three in their at-bat to tie it.

The Panthers scored the winning run in the top of the seventh, when Carter Martens delivered a clutch two-out single to drive in Alden Dobberstein.

Martens, Dobberstein and Devon Parpart collected one hit apiece as the Panthers capitalized on seven

Blue Earth Area fielding miscues. Dobberstein had two RBIs, Martens and Brooks Gilliland one apiece. Parpart stole three bases, one more than Dobberstein and Jared Lee.

Gilliland started on the mound and got the win. He gave up three earned runs on three hits through 5 2/3 innings, striking out three and walking five. Parpart pitched 1 1/3 inning of hitless relief. NRHEG had only one error.

"We were able to take advantage of a couple of errors early in the first inning," said Coach Larson. "The game remained a tight, fun game with both teams having opportunities. Our team is really coming around and I could not be any prouder. I am especially proud of freshman Brooks Gilliland who got the start pitching for us today. We are currently running short of available pitchers due to having four games in a short span. Brooks was fantastic, sticking to the strike zone and the defense had his back!"

The Panthers 10-runned visiting United South Central 13-3 in five innings Thursday.

"For the third time this week, we

were in a close exciting game for the first four innings," said Larson.

As luck would have it, NRHEG got into a rhythm with the bats and combined that with some defensive errors by the Rebels, plating nine runs in the bottom of the fifth to end it early.

Four Panthers had a multi-hit game. Dobberstein was 2-for-4 with three RBIs and two runs, A.Deen 2-for-4 with an RBI, Martens 2-for-3 with two RBIs, Jordan Brouwers 2-for-2 with two RBIs. Adding one hit each were Lee, Jace Ihrke, Gilliland and Seth Staloch.

Lee, a left-hander, pitched all five innings, allowing one earnd run on four htis, with six strikeouts and three walks.

The Panthers had two errors, USC one.

According to Larson, the Panthers have played better because they've hit the ball better.

"We had 12 hits in this game, which is a major reason we had better results than we have been having," said Larson. "We are really starting to get moving in the right direction."



A WELCOME SIGHT — Former head coach and current NRHEG assistant Jeff Reese watches from the dugout as the Panthers prevailed 13-3 over United South Central.

The Panthers traveled to Truman Friday and took a 12-1 nonconference loss to Madelia-Truman/Martin Luther/Granada-Huntley-East Chain.

The Panthers managed only one hit, a single by Aaden Hanna They struck out seven times, walked twice and had six fielding errors. Hanna started and took the pitching loss, with Wyatt Larson throwing an inning in relief.

"Today was a day showing that we are young and inexperienced

compared to some teams," said Coach Larson. "We had too many errors tonight. That combined with them hitting where we weren't, and us striking out or hitting the ball right to the defense. It is safe to say that we are capable of playing better than that. Hopefully we can use next week to get back in the groove."

The Panthers return to action at Waseca Thursday, April 18 for a 5 p.m. nonconference game. They host Blooming Prairi Monday, April 22 at 4:30.



PLAY AT THE PLATE — At left, NRHEG catcher Adalyn Stadheim prepares to tag a sliding Blooming Prairie baserunner during the Panthers' 5-2 loss last week at Legion Field. At right, NRHEG's Faith Nielsen delivers a pitch. Photos by Johnnie Phillips/Steele County Times



# Softball Panthers snap skid with 10-run win at Truman

By JIM LUTGENS  
Sports Editor

From the first inning on, it was an uphill battle for the NRHEG softball team.

The Panthers, who saw United South Central take a 3-0 advantage, never could catch up and lost 8-0 at Wells last Thursday.

The Rebels, who totaled 11 hits and one error, added single runs in the fourth and sixth and three in the fifth while holding the Panthers to two hits.

Izley Boerner and Faith Nielsen singled for the Panthers, who committed five fielding errors.

The Rebels doubled and hit a

home run.

Nielsen pitched for the Panthers, allowing three earned runs while walking two and striking out one.

M. Anderson, the winning pitcher, struck out 12 and walked none while going the distance.

The Panthers kept it close through five innings Friday against Blooming Prairie, but fell 5-2 at Legion Field in New Richland.

The Blossoms plated three runs in the second and one in the fifth, adding an insurance run in the top of the seventh.

Boerner, Isabel Stadheim, Olivia Berg, Addie Stadheim and Chloe Stork hit safe for the Panthers. RBIs

went to Stork and Preslie Nielsen. The Panthers fanned three times and walked once.

Faith Nielsen pitched seven innings, allowing two earned runs with five strikeouts and one walk. NRHEG had six errors.

"Blooming is a tough hitting team," said Panthers coach Kayley Camerer. "They were able to hit in key moments of the game. Our goal today was to attack each at-bat and make solid contact with the ball. We were able to make solid contact through the entire game and our defense continues to grow and improve from game to game."

On Monday, the Panthers put nine

runs on the board in the top of the first and never looked back while defeating Granada-Huntley/East Chain/Martin Luther/Truman 16-0 at Truman. The Panthers led 12-0 after three innings and 16-0 after four.

NRHEG leaders: Isabel Stadheim 3-for-3 with three runs; Berg 2-for-4 with three runs; Preslie Nielsen 2-for-3 with three RBIs; Faith Nielsen 2-for-4 with two RBIs; Boerner 2-for-3. Erin Peterson doubled and drove in four runs while walking twice.

Faith Nielsen pitched for the Panthers, finishing with nine strikeouts and no walks in four innings.

The Panthers had one error.

"Our bats came alive from the top of our lineup to the bottom," said Camerer. "It was great to see every-one get involved, pass the bat down the order and continue to attack each individual at-bat. Defensively, we are continuing to gain experience and confidence with every play. Faith Nielsen pitched a fantastic game with nine strikeouts and our defense behind her continues to play great."

The Panthers host Bethlehem Academy Thursday at 4:30.

# NRHEG track girls 2nd at BP

Coach Duey Ferber did the math, and it added up to a great meet for the NRHEG girls' track and field team.

"Six first places and four second places," said Ferber, "equals a good night."

The Panthers finished second in USC/AC's Kent Viesselman Invitational at Wells last Tuesday. LCWM/Nicollet won with 295.5 points. NRHEG had 275. Six teams competed.

Three of the Panthers firsts belonged to senior Evelyn Nydegger, who won the 100-meter high hurdles in 17.48 seconds, the 300 intermediate hurdles in 50.42, and the triple jump at 32 feet, 3 inches.

Quinn VanMaldeghem won the 800 with a time of 2:34.67. Anike Ladlie took the high jump at 4-10.

Kiera Lenort, Sierra Misgen, Chloe Riewer and Camryn VanMaldeghem teamed to win the 4x200 relay in 1:59.46.

Other NRHEG places: Malonna Wilson, second, shot put, 32-8 and fourth, discus, 90-0; Riewer, second, long jump, 15-3 and fourth, 100, 14.10; Lenort, third, 200, 29.5 and second, high jump, 4-8; Gabby Schlaak, third, 100 hurdles, 18.05 and fifth, high jump, 4-6; 4x800, fourth, 12:47.52 (Aranson, Holly Bartness, Ella Jen, Julieann Wobbrock); Kylie Olson, fourth, shot put, 30-11; Jen, fifth, 1600, 6:42.76; Camryn VanMaldghem, fifth, 400, 1:11.13; Ellie Clark, fifth, 300 hurdl, 56.81; Clara Buendorf, fifth, 800, 2:55.53; Wobbrock, fifth, 3200, 14:20.09; Zoe Wilson, sixth, 200, 31.24.

The NRHEG girls and boys compete at Blooming Prairie Monday, April 22.

# NRHEG boys third at BP

Thank goodness for the hurdle races.

That's what coach Duey Ferber was thinking after his squad's third-place finish in United South Central's Kent Viesselman Invitational at Wells last Tuesday.

Will Tuttle won the 110-meter high hurdles in 15.52 seconds. He finished first in the 300 intermediate hurdles in 42.35.

Other points in the hurdles were Levin Kitzer, third, 110 highs, and third, 300 intermediates; and Parker Bunn, fourth, 300 intermediates.

Finishing second were Gavin Sletten, 800, 2:31.17; Jacob Karl, 3200, 11:34.74; 4x100 relay, 46.5 (Kitzer, Will Tuttle, Harbor Cromwell, Jaylin Raab); 4x400 rela, 3:58.96 (Bunn, Sletten, Wyatt Tuttle, Raab). Lavon Jewison cleared 5-6 for third in the high jump.

Other Panther places: Devon Nelson, fourth, 1600, 5:34.51; Cromwell, fourth, pole vault, 9-0; Raab, fifth, long jump, 17-8' 4x200, fifth, 1:50.4 (Beauvis, Sletten, Wyatt Tuttle, Conroy); Brendan Schmidt, sixth, pole vault, 8-6.

# Budach wins again

The NRHEG High School golf teams competed at Waseca Tuesday.

For the second consecutive meet, the Panthers' M e e l a Budach took medalist honors with 44 strokes for nine holes. Hallie Schultz shot 49, Alexis Olson 67 and Elsie Schultz 68.

For the boys, Daxter Lee shot 61, Hudson Chrz 62, Jackson Chrz 65, Carter Schlaak 66 and Shan Hanson 67.



Budach





I can always rely on looking back at the beauty of Minnesota to bring sunshine to my day. There is a picture of the Jugland Dam before the drought, and one taken by the channel on a cool November morning a few years ago.



# Another day closer to the fishing opener

Although I have always enjoyed attending the Governor's Fishing Opener each year, I may not be attending this year, but I'll see how it goes.

When I look back at some openers before I started attending the Governor's Opener, I always took one or both of my sons with me. Fishing was usually fruitful, and we always caught a few fish. Those were fun days making fond memories of fishing with my two sons. Fishing with my sons or any of my grandkids was (is) always way different than fishing with a few friends. Whenever I am fishing with my kids or grandkids, I am always pulling for them to be the ones catching fish. While fishing with friends, it is more likely a competition where you definitely want to catch fish.

When I was a kid, my Uncle Ben would sometimes take me fishing with him. As we grew older, I tried to repay the favor a few times. We went to Reed's Lake on a couple of



## Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl  
Outdoors Writer

different occasions. Reeds is just southeast of Elysian. My son Brian would go along with us, part of it might have been because Uncle Ben would want to stop for lunch at the Dairy Queen in Waseca. We caught fish on Reeds, whether it be bass, northern, crappie or an occasional walleye. I still have fond memories of those times and we did not have the electronics that we have today. We had to store the memories in our mind where we could play them over and over again whenever we needed them. My depth finder was the anchor rope marked off in 10-foot sections by electrical tape.

In many ways, I still like what I like to call "old school fishing" a lot better than using the depth finder or locator. Over the years I had gotten particularly good at reading a flasher, but my last one met its demise when the squirrels chewed the end off of the transducer when the boat was parked in the backyard. I could not find a new one because they had discontinued that model. Probably because it was not "squirrel proof" enough.

I still like fishing "old school" by trolling the shoreline, making sure to keep my distance from the weed edges. On most of the northern lakes

that I fish, you can see the weeds clearly because the lakes are so clear. I do like my Hummingbird fish finder, primarily because it lets you know what lies ahead, as far as structure.

I love being on the lake in early morning trolling the shoreline for bass, walleye, or pike. You do not have to get up at dawn to catch pike because they seem to sleep in a little later, like some fishermen.

Whatever species you are seeking, being on the lake or sitting on the shore in early morning is always enjoyable.

Until next time: It looks like the weather has taken a turn for the better. It may just be that we can now call our weather spring like.

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.

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**ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor  
Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship  
Wednesday - 5:15 p.m. Supper; 6 p.m. Bible Study

**ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Otisco, Minnesota  
Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor  
Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship

**TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
New Richland, Minnesota  
Pastor Mary Iverson  
Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee

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

**LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
New Richland, Minnesota  
Pastor Dan Kordahl  
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting

**VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
New Richland, Minnesota  
Pastor Dan Kordahl  
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship

**VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH**  
New Richland, Minnesota  
Brian Schanil Pastor  
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School  
Tuesdays: The Shepherd's Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark

**CROSS OF GLORY**

**LUTHERAN**  
Hartland, Minnesota  
Rev. Marcia Pedersen  
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship  
Tuesday - Council meeting (First Tuesday)  
Wednesday - 7 p.m. Confirmation

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

**HARTLAND EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN**  
Hartland, Minnesota  
Pastor Phillip K. Lepak  
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship; Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.

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

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

**COMMUNITY LUTHERAN**  
Geneva, Minnesota  
Pastor Leandra Anderson  
Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship (times vary for holidays)  
Monday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting

**SIMPLY CHURCH**  
105 Second Street North East  
Geneva, Minnesota  
Todd Lundgren, Pastor  
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Bible Study; 10:30 a.m. Worship

**VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH**

**Ellendale, Minnesota**  
Pastor David Modder  
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 10 a.m. Kids church  
Check the website for additional updates  
www.vibrantlifeag.com

**FIRST LUTHERAN, AFLC**  
Ellendale, Minnesota  
Pastor Kyle Smith  
Saturday - 8 a.m. Men's Bible Study  
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship  
Monday - 7 p.m. Call to prayer  
Wednesday - 9:30 a.m. Bible Study; 6 p.m. Confirmation; 7-9 p.m. Youth Group (No confirmation during summer)

**ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST**  
Ellendale, Minnesota  
Randy Cirksema, Pastor  
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Worship; 9:15 a.m. Sunday school. (No summer Sunday school)  
Worship is at 10:30 a.m. beginning after Sept. 3. Food shelf is open every Thursday from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

**CENTRAL FREEBORN LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Pastor Matt Griggs  
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship  
FM Transmitter is used for those wanting to listen through their car radios at FM 90.7

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

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

**HOLLANDALE REFORMED**  
Rev. Neal Ooms  
101 East Park Avenue  
Hollandale, Minnesota  
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Worship;

10:45 a.m. Sunday School  
**ZION LUTHERAN, ELCA**  
Rural Ellendale  
Deacon Billie Jo Wicks  
Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship

**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN, ELCA**  
Meriden, Minnesota  
Deacon Billie Jo Wicks  
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship

**PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN**  
Lemond Township  
Pastor Dave Klawiter  
Sunday - 10:15 a.m. Worship

**FIRST LUTHERAN, LCMS**  
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

**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; Pre-school Sunday School during Mass  
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**FIRST LUTHERAN**  
Missouri Synod  
Waldorf, Minnesota  
Rev. Michael Matthews, pastor  
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Study

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN**  
Minnesota Lake, Minnesota  
Rev. Michael Matthews, pastor  
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship

**ST. PAUL UNITED**  
Minnesota Lake, Minnesota  
Interim Pastor  
Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. Worship

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

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Freedom Township  
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

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

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

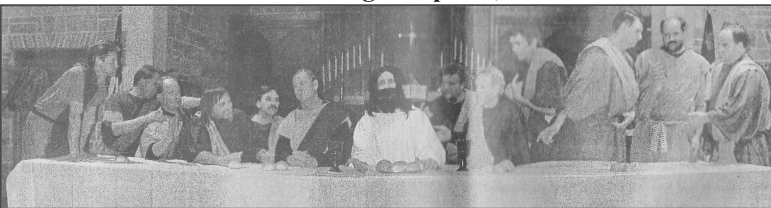
**TRINITY LUTHERAN**  
Wilton Township  
Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor  
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship (summer) and 10:30 a.m. (winter)

**THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**  
Brad Donner, Branch President  
Waseca, Minnesota  
www.lds.org  
Sunday - 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School  
Wednesday - 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages 12-18

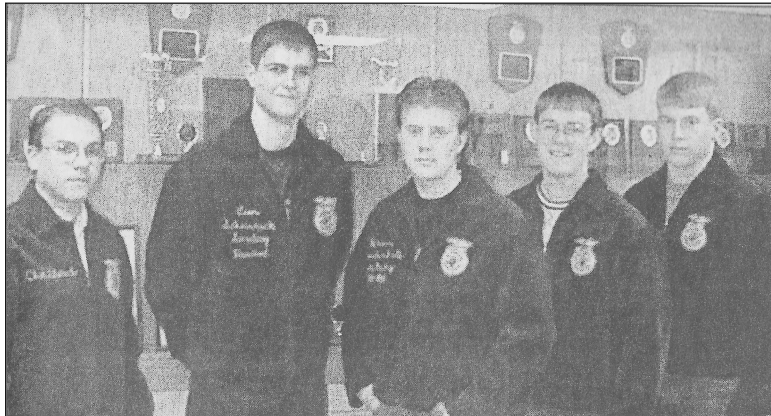
**NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE STAR EAGLE.**

## LOOKING BACK

25 Years Ago - April 8, 1999



- On Holy Thursday members from the First Lutheran Church in Ellendale performed the Living Last Supper. After learning that there was someone in their midst who would soon betray Jesus each apostle shared his disbelief as they wondered if they were the one. It was a very special performance that served to remind everyone of the true meaning of the Easter Season. Pictured from L-R Butch Kruckeberg (Nathaniel), Jeff Schmidt (James the less), Ross Sletten (Andrew), Kevin Hamor (Judas), Steve Engle (Peter), Ron Langlie (John), Dean Reiter (Jesus), Don Anderson (Thomas), Gene Helland (James the Elder), John Christenson (Phillip), Chuck Crabtree (Matthew), Steve Halverson (Thadeas), Wayne Schimek (Simon the Zealot). Directors were Norine Jensen and Marj Rossing, with narration done by Paster Halbakken, and a song sung by Eric Eden.



- FFA Mechanics team members from the left: Lyndon Pederson, Cory Hoerler, Luke Wiersma, Tony Foster and Jeff Theuer. The 1999 Region 7 Ag Mechanics contest was held March 26, at South Central Technical College. NRHEG Team members placed first overall with 437 points. Individuals from the team also did well. Tony Foster placed 1st overall with Luke Wiersma placing 2nd and Lyndon Pederson 8th. The boys were tested on problem solving in each of these areas - Arc welding, construction with metal and wood, shop, tractors, corn planters electrical, motors and sensing devices.

- Twenty years ago, members of the First Baptist Church of Clarks Grove believed there was a need to provide a time where pre-school children and their parents could come together for a time of learning for children and for parents to share ideas on parenting. The program has grown over the years and is staffed entirely by volunteers, who are willing to give time, talent, and energy in working with parents and children, because they love the Lord and His plan for the family. WEE School (Weekday Early Education School) is a non-denominational preschool designed for the young child and their parents. There is no tuition fee to attend WEE School. "In working with the children we strive to remember play is "child's work", and for learning to take place is through play, whenever possible" said Carol Nelson, school director.

37 Years Ago - April 8, 1987



- HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES: (first row) Angie Brekke, Sarah Deml, Vonda Humburg and Jodie Lee. (back row - previous members) Kim Anderson, Mayro Leak, Shari Johnson, Gary Hanson, Sharon Deml, Wendy Lerberg and Stacy Wallace. Wednesday of last week, four local students were inducted into the National Honor Society. Those receiving this honor were Angela Brekke, sophomore, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arlen Brekke; Sarah Deml, sophomore, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Deml; Vonda Humburg, junior, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Verdel Humburg; and Jodie Lee, junior, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Lee. To be chosen for membership to the National Honor Society a student must have a B average or above. Those qualifying scholastically are then put on a list that is circulated to the teachers for input on three other areas: leadership, service and character.

- The Heart-aid Fund Drive that is underway in Ellendale for the Ambulance Service has received approximately \$1500 in donations in its first week. Donating to this most worthy cause was the Ellendale Municipal Liquor Store, with a contribution of \$1000. Two memorials were given in memory of E.B. (Speed) Nelson and Mrs. Mary Heger, plus other gifts, to bring the \$10,000 target closer to home.

102 Years Ago - April 6, 1922

- We live in an age when one cannot afford to cling long to precedent for guidance or rely on preconceived ideas for information. The time honored hedge hog prognosticating the proximity of spring on the second day of February has long been held up as an object of popular scorn. Even the first robin is greeted with the same distrust that the present generation impartially exhibits toward all established institutions. As he hops about in the snow the thought uppermost is that he was not a wise robin at the best and those more uncharitably inclined resort to the common vernacular to observe that he must be nutty. But a man's a man for all of that and he wouldn't be half a human without his signs and portents. We must have some harbinger of the change of seasons and even modern conditions cannot deny us of some visible sign to denote that the great change has taken place. "Spring's here," yelled a delighted citizen to the world one day this week. "What makes you so sure about it?" said another who had heard the remark and was hoping for some substantial evidence that his own convictions that we would probably have another snowstorm or two before the weather settled down, were wrong. "Oh, it's plain enough. Can't you see for yourself? Look down there. He's just putting up the last one." Down the street a man was unloading something from a wheel cart and putting it up in the middle of the square. He set it out carefully and then stood back to take a squint to see that it stood fairly to all points of the compass. It was Policeman Gardner. After one more adjustment he seemed to be satisfied and started off with the empty cart, his face wearing even a more genial smile than usual. The object left behind faced the world in all directions and loudly proclaimed in bright, red letters: "Keep to the Right." "By thunder, you are right," exclaimed the second citizen. "Spring is here for sure."

- Mrs. Chris Thompson of Geneva has purchased the dwelling next to where her parents live from her brother, Thenus Jensen. She will take possession of the place as soon as it is vacated by Mrs. C. A. O'Malley and daughters, who have been residing there for about a year and a half. Mrs. O'Malley expects to leave about the middle of this month from Blooming Prairie, where she will make her home with her brother, Will Dugan, who owns a large residence in that village, which he has been renting out as he has been a widower for some time. Mrs. Thompson is at present at the Carl Loven farm, where she is nursing Mrs. Loven through her illness.

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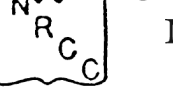
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### JOB OPPORTUNITY

## NRHEG SECONDARY

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The NRHEG Secondary School seeks to hire an Administrative Assistant to the Secondary School Principal. For more information, check out our website:

<https://www.applitrack.com/nrheg/onlineapp/>

This full-time, 10-month position is essential to school operations: monitoring student absences, coordinating communication from the secondary school, and providing essential organizational support to the Secondary School Principal.

Successful candidates will demonstrate organizational skills, oral and written communication skills, and the ability to engage warmly and confidently with all community members and guests.

Ideally, the start date for this position will be before the completion of the current school year to allow for ample cross-training prior to formally assuming the role on July 1.

Get your news in the Star Eagle  
e-mail [steagle@hickorytech.net](mailto:steagle@hickorytech.net)



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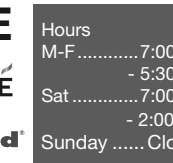
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Please submit a cover letter, resume and references to Principal Hengel at [principal@stcasimirsschool.net](mailto:principal@stcasimirsschool.net) or by mail to: St. Casimir's School, 330 2nd Ave. SW, Wells, MN



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##### ELEMENTARY TEACHER 4TH GRADE (LONG TERM SUB)

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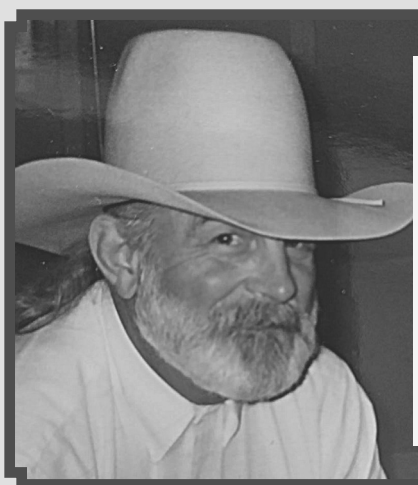
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## CELEBRATION OF LIFE



Leo Hayunga, born June 15th, 1942, passed on Jan 13th, 2024

A Celebration of Life for Leo will be held on May 7th, at 1:00 p.m. at the American Legion in Waseca.

Leo will be remembered for his kind heart, sense of humor, & love for his family, friends, and animals. He leaves behind a legacy of laughter & cherished memories.



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- 1) To hear the report of officers
- 2) To elect Directors
- 3) To transact such other business as may legally come before said meeting

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Students of the Month

24

BRENNA Sommer

6 COMP  
CHEER  
4 SIDELINE  
CHEER  
4 STUCO  
3 FCA  
2 NHS  
2 CLASS  
OFFICERS  
134-H



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH



Brenna Sommer

Activity: Competitive Cheerleading, Sideline Cheer, 4-H, FCA, NHS, Student Council, Class Officers  
Grade: Senior  
What do you like most about participating in the activities that you are involved in? I love being a part of a team and building relationships. I also feel that the activities I am involved in have shaped me into a better leader, friend, and person in general.  
What motivates you to do your best? My teammates push me to be the best I can be. My family has also always been very supportive of me, and I wouldn't be the person I am without them.  
Who is your role model and why? My role model is my mom because she has taught me how to be a strong, independent, and compassionate person. She leads by example, and is my biggest fan as well as my shoulder to lean on.  
What advice would you give to other students especially students in elementary and middle school? Do not be afraid to try new things and get involved. I have made some of my best memories and friendships by joining sports and activities. Also, don't let other people's opinions dictate how you conduct yourself. Surround yourself with those who are supportive and kind.  
What makes you a good teammate? I am a good teammate because it is my personal goal to always be positive and kind to those around me. I want others to feel confident and comfortable in the activity we are in, so I do my best to create a positive atmosphere for everyone.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH



Levin Kitzer

Sport/Activities: Basketball, Track and Field, DECA  
Grade: Senior  
What do you list most about participating in the activities that you are involved in? I like how it gives me an opportunity to compete and hang out with friends.  
What motivates you to do your best? I am motivated by my desire to improve and perform better.  
Who is your role model and why? My role models are my parents because they're cool.  
What advice would you give to other students especially students in elementary and middle school? Be involved in more activities and don't be discouraged by thinking you'll be bad at something.  
What makes you a good teammate for the sport/activity that you are involved in? I am always positive and encouraging my teammates.

STUDENT ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

24

LEVIN Kitzer

5 BASKETBALL  
3 TRACK & FIELD  
2 DECA



STUDENT ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

Letter of intent



On Thursday April 11, surrounded by friends, family and coaches in the high school gymnasium, NRHEG senior Daxter Lee signed his letter of intent to play basketball at the University of Dubuque in Iowa next season. Pictured, above from left, Mark, Daxter, Rachael, and Jared Lee.

Story Idea?  
463-8112



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Bin Huang | Emily Strobel | Holly Jorgensen | Gail Zollner | Ron Hager | Andrew S. Harrison  
John L. Moon | Curt Jorgensen | Ethan Becker | Keshiah Winters | Zackery Knapton  
Dianne Suarez | Brenda Hager | David Phillips | Bill Wood | Rick Kvien | Mark Zollner  
Raylyn Erickson | Griffin Jordal | Addy Lorenz-Tomczek | Nova Maas  
Eagen Nystrom | Cora Patrick | August Schroht  
Kristi Westergaard - Accompanist

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NR Garden Club



NEW BEGINNINGS - An important sign of spring appeared this past weekend as work began on the New Richland Town and Country Club's garden along highway 30.

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