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Ag Spectacular

### 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.

### Ellendale Heritage Society to meet May 4

The Ellendale Heritage society will meet May 4 at 9 a.m. in the Community Building .

### Waldorf Petal Pushers to host plant sale May 11

The Waldorf Petal Pushers garden club is having a plant sale on May 11 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Waldorf Community Center. Annuals, perennials, houseplants, succulents will be available. \$20.00 gift cards from Soubas greenhouse will be sold.

### 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.

### Educators evening at FCHM on April 25

Calling all educators! On Thursday, April 25 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. This event is FREE to all educators, RSVPs are not required.

### Waldorf Veterans Memorial Fund Drive

Donations are requested to support the construction of the Waldorf Veterans Memorial. Checks written to WVMP Fund Drive can be mailed to WVMP Fund Drive; Judy Joecks, treasurer, P.O. Box 55; Waldorf, MN 56091. Questions can be directed to Charlie Barnes at (763) 286-2246.

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

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

A word from  
The Word

*I will abundantly bless her provisions; I will satisfy her poor with bread. Her priests I will clothe with salvation, and her saints will shout for joy.*

*Psalms 132:15-16*

# NRHEG prom to be held May 4

By DEB BENTLY  
Staff Writer

In a relatively brief meeting on April 15, members of the NRHEG school board heard about upcoming events and progress on various annual initiatives. Aside from typical actions such as payment of bills and receipt of donations, the agenda was very short.

Board members decided to have the "policy committee" meet to discuss the elements of a new "unpaid leave administrative regulation" brought forward by superintendent Michael Meihak. Meihak told board members the regulation deserves further consideration because it is meant to apply to school employees who work under any of three different contracts, each with different

terms. He made clear this proposed policy pertains only to "unpaid" leave—that is, time beyond what employees have accrued under the terms of their respective contracts.

Meihak said employees have used unpaid time in the past when they wanted to extend time used for "personal" leave. For example, if an employee had three personal days available but hoped to be gone for four days, he or she might simply forgo pay in order to facilitate being gone the extra time. Employees might also consider requesting unpaid leave when their banked time off has been exhausted—for example in the case of an extended illness.

In a conversation after the meeting, leadership of at least one employee organization expressed

School Board

NRHEG



concerns that certain elements of the proposed policy are in direct conflict with employee contracts.

Reports shared during the meeting revealed that prom is scheduled for May 4.

The City of Ellendale has raised \$25,000 and the district Parent Teacher Organization has raised \$10,000 toward an Americans with Disabilities compliant playground being planned for the Ellendale location. Elements of the playground can be installed as they become finan-

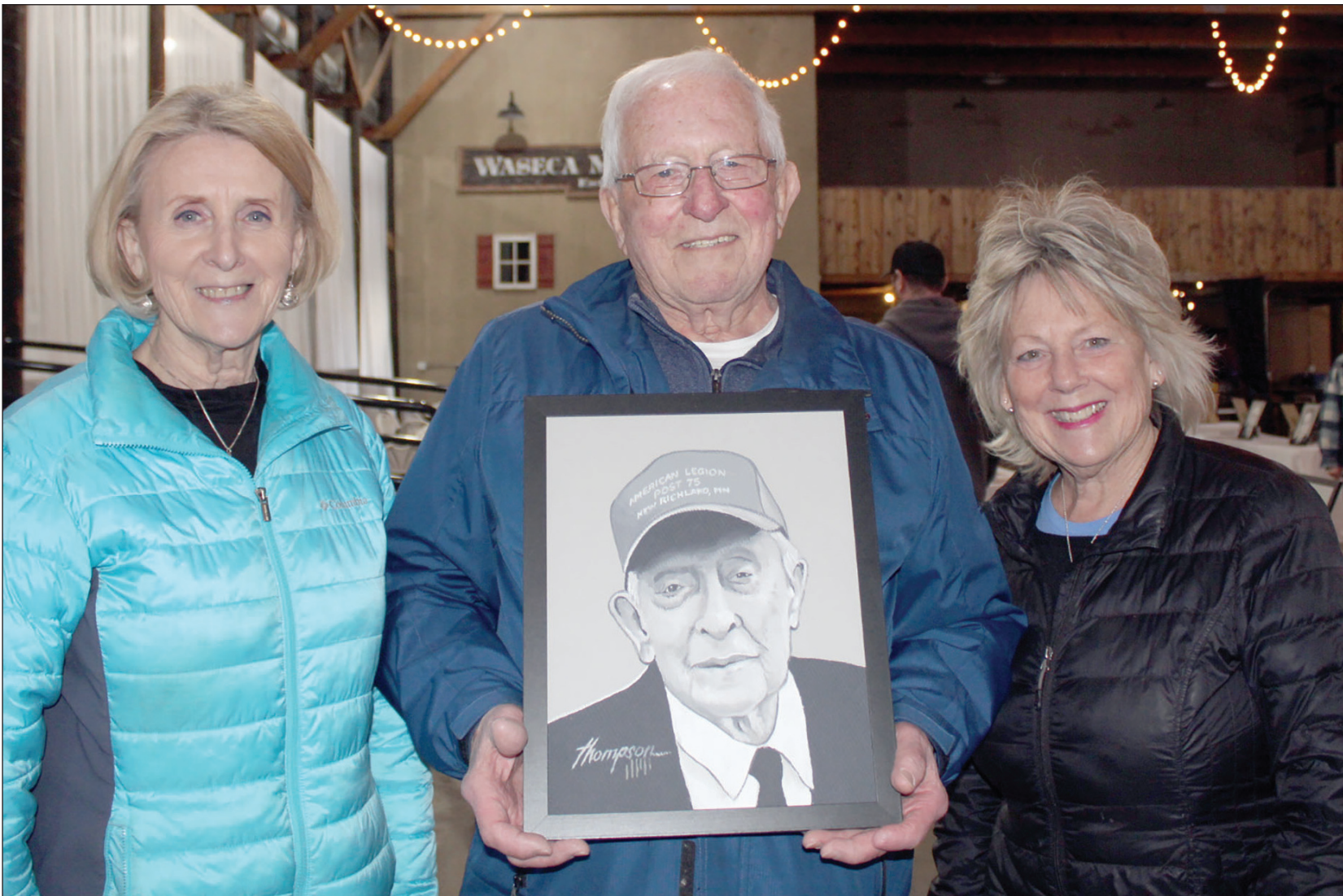
cially viable; the total cost for the intended finished project is about \$125,000.

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) testing will continue at various grade levels into the month of May.

About 115 elementary-age students have signed up for summer T-Ball and baseball programs.

A day-long "Credit Union" activity for the junior class gave high-schoolers an increased understanding of the financial responsibilities surrounding home ownership and borrowing money. Board member Loren Schoenrock took part in the activity and recommended that it be continued. The event was made possible through the South Central Service Cooperative.

## In memory



Mary Routh (left), Charles Evenson, and Leann Fuchs, daughters and brother to well-known New Richland resident Winston Evenson, display the memorial painting of Winston which was set out for public viewing and then given to Charles during an event sponsored by WET Signs and Murals in Waseca.

The Memorial showing took place the afternoon of Saturday, April 20 at The Mill. It featured 70 memorial paintings done by Whitey Thompson, owner of WET Signs. Thompson used photographs as models as he created black and white paintings of people who died between January of 2023 and March of 2024. Also on display were color paintings Thompson has done over time.

Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

# Emergency response

By TRISTAN GEHRING  
Staff Writer

Area Emergency Medical Service (EMS) leaders met with staff from the office of U.S. Senator Tina Smith on April 9 at New Richland's City Hall, to provide information about the status of emergency health care in south central Minnesota. Smith's staff informed leaders she intends to use the information they share as she defends a new law she is co-sponsoring, the Emergency Medical Services Reimbursement for On-Scene Care and Support (EMS ROCS) Act.

Present at the meeting were three members of Smith's staff – Southern Minnesota Outreach Director Jeanne Poppe, Miranda Morgan Lilla, and Sara Silvermail; directors from three area ambulance services – Sarah Sundve of New Richland, AJ Gengler of Dodge Center, and Tyler Wilson of Blooming Prairie; Waseca County Sheriff Jay Dulas; Freeborn County Commissioner Bill Groskreutz; Waseca County Commissioners Brad Milbrath and Doug Christopherson; Blooming Prairie City Administrator Melanie Aeschli-

man; and EMS educator and volunteer member of New Richland Ambulance, Jennifer Lacey.

Currently, Medicare does not reimburse EMS providers for their services when the patient is not transported to a hospital, which Senator Smith's office posits leaves rural EMS providers, who are often called upon to provide care on the scene without transporting, "struggling to balance budgets and stay afloat." This would change under the EMS ROCS Act, allowing for reimbursement in more cases, and, Smith claims, aiding struggling agencies and expanding access to care for Medicare patients who may hesitate to call for an ambulance under current billing and reimbursement structures.

The meeting began with a summary of the current state of EMS in the area. Reports provided the call and transport statistics for Wells, Blooming Prairie, and Dodge Center. All three agencies estimated that between one third and one fourth of their calls did not include a transport, with 40 to 70 percent of those calls



Members of U.S. Senator Tina Smith's staff met with local emergency service leaders in New Richland, April 9.

being for Medicare patients. Ambulance directors estimated their average call took 2 to 2.5 hours.

As discussion continued, there was a clear consensus that EMS departments are not sufficiently funded. Staffing is one important way this shortage manifests itself. The ambulance services represented at the meeting are run largely on a volunteer basis – in some cases there are stipends paid or a few paid positions, but according to Sundve, "It doesn't add up." Blooming Prairie would like to create a paid director position to help address its staffing issues, but doesn't have the funding to do so. Volunteer departments in general, it was said, help people get their start in EMS by supporting them through training, then lose those people in

EMS continued on 4

# Preparing for severe weather

By RACHAEL JAEGER  
Staff Writer

As the past two years have shown, severe weather can strike anytime. April 21 to 27 has been named severe weather awareness week by the National Weather Service, and the months of April to September are statistically the most likely time for strong storms to develop. In observance of this, Denise Wright, Waseca county's emergency management director, has a few tips on how Minnesotans should prepare for the different situations storms can bring.

When a tornado watch comes across the radar, Wright said it means, not that a tornado is occurring, but that conditions are favorable for one to develop. In response, residents living in the area of a tornado watch should be prepared.

The first thing Wright suggests is signing up on the Waseca County government site for the CodeRED Emergency Notification System—a network which is activated when there is a potential for severe weather. CodeRED has been in place since May 2021, according to a video on KEYC.com; it allows residents to receive important non-emergency alerts and time-sensitive messages in real time—providing they've signed up. In addition to registering, Wright suggests one way to "watch" for a tornado is to keep cell phones on hand.

The county can also deliver emergency alerts via the nation's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System, known as IPAWS. This works with CodeRED to share information about life-threatening emergencies. Usually the National Weather Service (NWS) will release pertinent alerts at least one to two days ahead of time.

Another bit of advice Wright stressed is that each family should have an emergency plan and a designated meeting spot. In fact, she added, families should have a place they plan to meet outside of town if weather takes a turn for the worse.

Wright noted that residents can get confused between a tornado watch and a tornado warning. While a watch calls for a bit of "watchfulness," a warning means radar or spotters have indicated a tornado is currently occurring. When a warning is issued, residents need to take immediate shelter. The location should be chosen in advance and needs to be in a sturdy structure, typically in a basement with no windows. Folks who don't have a basement might want to make arrangements in advance with a friend or neighbor who does.

For a family with young children, Wright suggested placing snacks or other distractions either in the basement, or in a place where they can be grabbed easily when evacuating to a place of shelter; all family members should know where the "storm kit" is located, so it can be found and used even with very short notice. She suggests making trips to the shelter as comfortable and calming as possible, so children will not argue about going there when another warning is issued. Wright advises having other items like board games on hand, so children can be engaged while also allowing adults to take note of developments in the situation—whether for the better or worse.

Wright further advised keeping backup supplies on hand like extra shoes, a portable radio, cash, medications, blankets, formula for babies, bottled water, and canned food or other non-perishable food items like trail mixes. She mentioned that residents should keep important documents and ensure

Weather continued on 3





# FenceLines

by Mark Bernard

## Subtle clues spring is approaching

The scurs need to run the Weather Eye to the Nash-Rambler dealer again. A little too generous on the high temps and rainfall chances last week. Are we done with snow in our vocabulary, or does it remain for another week? Starting Thursday, mostly sunny with a good chance of rain in the overnight. Highs in the mid-60's with lows in the upper 40's. Mostly cloudy on Friday with a good chance of rain. Highs in the mid-60's with lows in the mid-50's. Mostly cloudy on Saturday with a fair chance of rain. Highs in the upper 60's with lows in the upper 40's. Sunday, mostly cloudy with a good chance of rain. Highs in the upper 50's with lows in the low 50's. Mostly sunny on Monday with a fair chance of morning showers. Highs in the low 60's with lows in the mid-40's. Tuesday, sunny with highs in the mid-60's and lows in the upper 40's. Mostly sunny on Wednesday with highs in the low 70's and lows in the low 50's. On April 27th, we experience over 14 hours of daylight, the first time since back on August 15th. Wednesday is May 1st already. The normal high for May 1st is 62 and the normal low is 41. Having exhausted their jellybeans and chocolate bunny supply, the scurs can't wait to dish into their May Baskets.

Planters were largely idle until the 22nd after a narrow window of opportunity from April 13th – 15th. So far so good as the corn planted in that timeframe has a healthy sprout on it already. Soybeans planted at the same time are intact as well. This week promises to bring another window of opportunity as well as the warm, breezy Monday dried soils rapidly after a cold stretch late last week. There is plenty of time and those who missed out on the first opportunity will get a chance. Surprisingly, the memory of replanting is fresh enough in many minds so that the urge to mud crop in hasn't expressed itself. There is time and as several have said, some of the best corn they ever raised was planted in May the past two growing seasons. Not that anyone should become complacent but with the equipment getting larger, the advent of high-speed planters and tile drainage systems their fathers only dreamed about, a lot of crop can go in the ground in short order.

While they didn't affect germinating corn and soybeans, the sub-freezing temps both Saturday and Sunday morning were of some concern in area lawns and gardens. Many including those of us at the ranch covered the tender vegetation we didn't want to see injured. Looking at the 25-degree low Sunday morning was a little unnerving. Fortunately, when perusing official weather reporting sites, the duration of the coldest temperatures was very brief. There was little sign of any frost damage on the fruit tree flower buds that were still relatively small and clenched shut tightly. Likewise with the rhubarb and peonies we didn't cover. There didn't appear to be any injury on either one. One can bet, however, if we hadn't covered some of

them, we would've been wishing we had. Been through too many springs in So. MN to count on the weather doing us any favors.

It normally doesn't and Monday's wind illustrated exactly what I'm talking about. The lawn was greening up nicely with the recent rains and warmer temps. Sunday, I diligently raked and picked up every last stick I could find, including the second time around under the river birch tree. Just a week earlier I'd cleaned up under that and the oak trees for the first time. The ash trees are bad enough, shedding copious amounts of 4" – 10" small diameter sticks over the course of a winter. Given the slightest breeze, the river birch drops sticks and branches out of sheer spite, lots of them. Not that I'm superstitious, but I tempted fate and removed the chains from the tractor for the season. Along with having the yard shipshape, I'd say that almost guarantees we'll see additional precipitation in the frozen form with river birch sticks on top of it.

Along with the greening of the grass and leaves, our feathered friends offer subtle clues that spring is progressing. A brown thrasher was heard in the brushy part of the windbreak on the 17th. The next day, the song of a white-throated sparrow was heard in the windbreak as well. It's become more common in the past several years as the habitat we planted develops, the longer it takes for some of the migrating birds to appear in our backyard. Eventually, when the numbers increase, they show up. One that threw me for a loop while I was cleaning up the backyard mess on Sunday was a yellow warbler. It was perched on the sunflower feeder so I assumed it was a goldfinch. When I approached, it didn't fly off suddenly. It allowed me to get close enough so I could see the striped breast identifying it as a male. It wasn't feeding on the sunflower as they're primarily insect feeders. After listening to recordings of their song, it's likely they've been here; we just haven't noticed them. Shouldn't be a surprise given the bushes, roadside thicket and orchard we have to offer.

Poppy had her usual big weekend which includes more people time than during the week. It also means more outside time. Since Corgi's are herding dogs, this past weekend she got her first chance to watch an open gate. The yearling ewes usually like to hover or come running any time there's an open gate. When you can get an occasion to put the dog into a somewhat controlled environment, you do it. The ewes had moved off into the windbreak so that gave me a chance to do some things in the lot that needed tending with the skid-steer. The ewes looked in our direction, but for whatever reason, declined the invitation. That's OK. Maybe just seeing Poppy was enough deterrent for now. There will be more opportunities. Only in America.

See you next week...real good then.

## Barnyard Babies



Jaxson, 1, and Maisie, 4, Dobberstein were among the crowd of people who attended Farmamerica's "Barnyard Babies" event this past weekend. The two young Ellendale residents attended with their parents, Jeff and Melissa.

Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

# Let's get ready to rumble!

My Facebook memories told me recently that I had spent some time during Covid quarantine showing my children old videos on YouTube of professional wrestling. Apparently, they laughed so hard they cried at times, based on the sheer incredulity of it all.

I also have seen a lot of ads online lately for Wrestlemania, which took place earlier this month. Apparently, this was the 40th year of Wrestlemania! Holy cow, I'm old since I remember vividly the very first time the (then) World Wrestling Federation had this event.

Professional wrestling was an important part of my youth. It was a way that my dad and I bonded, watching both the WWF and the American Wrestling Association (AWA). But the WWF had all the biggest stars, and I started watching when Hulk Hogan was really becoming popular. Hulkamania ran wild! I was always so impressed when he would rip his shirt off to show his well-sculpted upper torso. Whether it was steroid-aided or not, these wrestlers were really built.

It was a special time when "Saturday Night's Main Event" would air, late on a Saturday night. Each time, it was guaranteed to have some big matches with all the biggest names in the "sport." And each time, I would have to beg my mother to let me stay up and watch, usually with the caveat that I had to go to bed early and then could set my alarm to wake up for the show. Yeah, I got a lot of sleep those nights...

Dad told me stories of his own grandmother being infatuated with professional wrestling. When it



## Whatever Flips Your Waffle

by Mark Domeier  
Contributing Writer

would arrive at the New Ulm Armory on its circuit, she and other older ladies would attend and sit in the front row. Their purpose in doing that was so that they could hit the wrestlers who had been thrown out of the ring with their purses.

So when wrestling arrived at the school gym when I was in high school, Dad got tickets. I was so excited that I made signs to hold up, just like I had seen on television. I recall the Iron Sheik being in town, among others. I remember how cool it was to go up and feel the springiness of the mat and also just how soft the turnbuckles were, the same ones guys would get their faces smashed into on a regular basis. Rumor has it that after the show, all the performers went out to the bars together.

Dad didn't tell me at first, but I don't think it took long to figure out that professional wrestling was a scripted endeavor. But there was still a lot to be impressed by. These were athletes for sure, and they had to work hard to be as strong and physical as they were. Not just anybody can climb up on the top rope and execute a maneuver without hurting themselves.

And the storytelling was fun as well. There were some pretty creative people drawing up the story-

lines and putting together who would turn on whom and how the managers of these wrestlers could get involved and even love interests of the stars.

When you think about it, if you were a WWF fan, the whole thing was held together by announcer and interviewer "Mean" Gene Okerlund. He was quite the good actor and really brought a tremendous personality to the screen whenever a wrestling show was on.

I think about all of the wrestlers I enjoyed watching back then and wonder when I stopped watching. I suppose it was when I headed off to college; other things took the place of that time, and Dad wasn't there with me.

Hulk Hogan, as mentioned, was the biggest name in the 80s. There were plenty of foes for him, antagonists who included Big John Studd and King Kong Bundy. My very favorite wrestler of the time, though, was Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka. He would climb to the top rope, give the surfer vibe hand signal, and leap down to land directly on his supine foe.

At times (okay, lots of times), things got a bit ludicrous. Jake "The Snake" Roberts would actually bring a giant snake with him and let it slither over a fallen opponent. "Hacksaw" Jim Duggan would have

a two by four with him as he marched to the squared circle. (Why was it called that? Where was the circular part of it? Was it because it's called a ring, which is normally a circular device?)

I think I started to drift away around the time the Undertaker was coming on the scene. He would actually put people in coffins after beating them. That was a little iffy.

The so-called managers were always entertaining. Bobby "The Brain" Heenan was usually outsmarted. Miss Elizabeth was basically eye candy for Randy "Macho Man" Savage. Jimmy Hart was a little weasel. Captain Lou Albano had rubber bands hanging from various body parts.

All in all, watching pro wrestling always seemed like harmless fun. We tried to cause harm by all the neighborhood boys attempting moves on each other. Somehow, the sleeper hold never knocked anybody out. The figure-four leglock never brought pain to someone. And none of us were strong enough to body-slam anyone, thankfully.

I'm sure if I turned on a wrestling show again, it would be a lot like watching a soap opera after many years away. Some of the same people are still around. There are people mad at each other. And there's plenty of "good" acting!

Word of the Week: This week's word is neophilia, which means a love of anything that is new, as in, "His neophilia led him to try watching pro wrestling, though he quickly realized not much was new from week to week." Impress your friends and confuse your enemies!

# The opposite of déjà vu

Numerous times this week I thought of someone, and they either called me, texted me, or walked in my front door moments later.

First, I was driving to work and thought of my friend Jake. I intended to give him an update on a life situation (positive) and hadn't stopped to see him. As I was driving, I thought of what I would tell him. At the conclusion of my thought, my phone lit up with a text message from him asking me the very question I had just answered in my head.

Ben Schlaak in New Richland walked into my office on Monday. Weeks prior I had told him I would set aside an NRHEG activities poster and calendar for him, but had forgotten. About an hour before he stopped in, I remembered and brought them up front. As it would happen, he stopped in that afternoon and had no idea I had forgotten, again, for weeks.

I find incidents like these happening quite a bit lately, but those are the two that stick strongly in my mind.

It's almost like de javu, but in reverse.

I genuinely believe all of us are connected in some way—so either my theory is proving itself or just maybe I like to find reinforcement for my obscure ideas in my daily travels.

Life has been a roller coaster this month.

Brandon Schlaak, who was once a photographer for the newspaper and was a good friend, died unexpectedly last week. That was difficult to process. I felt a strong sense of "that can't be true" the day I learned. I wouldn't write anything in the paper that day because I simply couldn't convince myself that it was "that Brandon."

For those who knew Brandon, he enjoyed conversation. Famously, so do I. Our visits were never short; when he would come into my office he would usually stay for an hour or two. He was a very kind and caring individual.

My childhood church is closing. The First Congregational Church in New Richland will hold its final service Memorial Day weekend,



## Just a Thought...

by Eli Lutgens

next month in May 2024.

I did not write a column last week because I learned of both of these events and I was far too grieved to write something I felt was appropriate for print.

I have many strong memories of church.

Pastor Pamela is the most prominent.

I love Pastor Pam. She's been here a long time. I was the only person in my confirmation class and I felt I really benefited from the one-on-one teaching. I learn best in smaller groups.

I'll never forget my first homework assignment from her.

I turned in a sheet with literally a one-word answer to her question about her sermon. "Baptism" was my answer.

She didn't question it at all. She didn't have to. Maybe it was the look in her eyes or maybe it was God, but something told me to do better. From that moment forward, I reflected on the sermons she delivered and provided much more detailed responses.

The church owned the house next door to mine all through my childhood, so I acquired many, many fond memories growing up with our pastor for a neighbor.

Among them is running over to show the pastor my "Yu-gi-oh" cards or other trinkets. My siblings and I used to use the large hill in that backyard for winter sledding. We also used to rollerblade in the long, flat, paved driveway.

The First Congregational Church, its pastors and members taught me Christianity is friendly and open. I was encouraged to ask questions and never felt pressured to believe anything simply "because I should" or "because I said so" or "out of fear of going to Hell" or "tradition."

Learning about all of this last

week I felt truly overwhelmed. How does one grieve the closure of their church?

One of my favorite traditions of our church growing up was the Christmas Eve service. Oh, how I enjoyed the candles. There was also the guitarist who came down to play special music for us. And Ruth who sat in front of my dad and me at our regular pew. Or Barb Crumb, our longtime organist.

And Earl, who I liked to run up and hug as a kid attending church.

Oh, and Shelly Moxon, our postal carrier who also is a member. And so many more.

My brother and I used to play "Yu-gi-oh" with each other during services when we were really little. I also remember being allowed to

stay in the Sunday School room and play if I didn't want to attend the service afterwards. Dad really did whatever he could simply to ensure that I had a good time while I was in church. The two lessons my dad told my siblings and me that we had to learn while growing up were:

Love God.

Get married and have kids.

I'm still searching for the words, but I feel I must write something because of the many emotions that have affected me over the past two weeks. Each time I sat down to write, these issues have come flooding to my mind.

Of course the newspaper continues 'newspapering.'

As I think about things that have slipped away from me, my thoughts turn to how badly we all need each other—to those connections. Treasure one another. Be kind. Don't take the good parts of life for granted. And perhaps most importantly, let the people who are important in your life know how you feel about them.

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

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Compostings

by Al Batt

Where did the ceiling go?

**ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING**  
How are you doing?  
I have a cold, my car has a blown engine, I need a new knee and I lost my job.  
Wow!  
But I can't complain.  
**DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE**

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. When I was a lad, there was a town called Bath, which was located down the road. Most things were down one road or another. Bath went away. It became a ghost town that left a rock saying it used to be there. It also left behind the Township sharing its name because the Township was too big to move. Even 149 Guys and a Couple of Trucks Moving Company wasn't large enough to handle the job. A reader wondered what the city slogan of Bath was. That's a great question. The Bath of my boyhood days had a population of 2. I doubt it had a slogan, and I can only guess what it might have been. Perhaps the Bath Corn & Tourism Board had come up with the motto, "We might not be for you." Or "Good enough." "We're over here," "Parking available" or "Bath: a great place to drive past." My suggestion would be, "Bath: I miss it."

**THURSDAY IS JUST A STATE OF MIND**  
It was Thursday, but it seemed like Friday. What's it called when that happens? Temporarily disoriented? A calendar malfunction? Stuck in a day? A mind living in another day? Donovan sang, "It's Saturday night. It feels like a Sunday in some ways." Sam Horn wrote, "Someday is not a day in the week." When Friday arrived, right on time, I was ready for it. I'd been there before.  
You may have done this. I was at a visitation and snaked through in a long line to shake hands, hug and say appropriate words to my dead friend's kin. As I was leaving, I saw that another member of the deceased's family had entered the room. I got back in line and went around again. I placed a mint (a bereavement) in my mouth in case I had mourning breath. Why did I get back at the end of the line? It was because my mother told me never to cut in line.  
**BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT**  
My doctor told me to drink two

glasses of water after a hot bath, but I haven't finished drinking the hot bath.

I was in a rock band called The Hinges. We opened for The Doors. What do you call a bipolar magnet? A magnet.

Since I learned my grandfather came from Transylvania, I haven't been able to look myself in the eye in a mirror.

How do I describe myself in three words? Efficient.

What has five toes and isn't your foot? My foot.

Why did the nurse carry a red pen? To draw blood.

Last night, as I looked at the moon and stars filling the sky, I couldn't help but wonder where the ceiling went.

**NATURE NOTES**  
"How many times can a skunk spray?" Skunks can't run over 10 mph, so they spray instead. Skunks warn perceived predators by stomping their feet, clicking their teeth and raising their tails. They hold their ground or run directly toward a threat. Skunks can spray at about a month old. Skunk spray can be smelled a mile and a half away. Skunks can spray 5 or 6 times before needing to replenish, taking 8 to 10 days to refill. Skunks aren't vocal other than Flower or Pepe Le Pew, but can squeal, chirp, whimper, whine, grunt and smack their lips. Tomato juice isn't an effective way to get rid of a skunk's stench, as it only masks the smell. Mix ¼ cup baking soda, 1 quart of 3% hydrogen peroxide and 1 to 2 teaspoons of liquid dish detergent. Keep out of eyes and don't store.  
"I saw a cardinal this winter with no tail. Will it grow back?" The cardinal might have avoided capture, had its tail frozen to a perch or been caught in something. During a fright molt, all the tail feathers are simultaneously ejected from their follicles in an escape, leaving a predator with a mouth or talon full of feathers or a puff of feathers behind. The tails grow back quickly. If a feather breaks, it remains broken until the next molt, but if a feather is pulled out at the root, regrowth begins immediately. Tailless birds can survive this disadvantage.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**  
"In a world where so many are throwing bricks on others, be the one who builds bridges with them."—Emma Xu.

Geneva City Council

The City of Geneva met in a regular session on Tuesday, February 13, 2024. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Steve Bailey at 7 p.m. at the Geneva Community Center. Present were Council members Phillips, Wayne and Worrell. Absent was Bartsch. Clerk Tufte, Treasurer Mattson, Fire Chief Boswell and Maintenance Jim Beenken were also in attendance. There was one guest.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Phillips/Worrell moved to approve the Minutes and Agenda from previous meeting held January 9, 2024. Motion carried.

Wayne/Phillips moved to approve the Minutes from the Special Meeting held January 16, 2024. Motion carried.

Beenken reported that he had some trouble with one of the pumps and had to purchase a new one. MDH had recently performed their rad chem testing, which is done quarterly.

It was reported that the grant for the Fire Truck and also a grant for Turn Out Gear for the fire department had both been submitted to FEMA.

Tufte updated that she has not received any responses to the request for applications for the positions needed to staff the City Pool. It was decided that, if we do not have applicants prior to April 1st, we will be required to shut the pool again this year.

The Active Transportation Grant and Navigation Grant have both been submitted and should receive informing concerning approval/decline later this year. These grants will assist with the proposed downtown sidewalk project.

Empire Pipe has now completed televising and cleaning sewer lines and Engineer Bienfang will give results at the March meeting.

The PNP Election will be held at the Community Center on March 5th from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. for both City and Township. Tufte has Judges staffed for this election and the two upcoming elections later this year.

Mattson updated the Council on the Audit. The Audit is under final review and we should have results in the next month.

Motion by Wayne/Worrell to approve the Ordinance 01-2024 to uncombine the positions of Clerk and Treasurer effective January, 2024. Motion carried.

The Council went on to discuss revising the City Ordinance on Farm Animals to include naming an Animal Control staff member as well as impounding animals that are seized,

per the recommendation from our City Attorney. Beenken will reach out to two prospects on the position of Animal Control, and once we find that person, we will revise our Ordinance and start the process of enforcing the Ordinance which states no farm animals are allowed in City limits.

The Council has made the decision to start their monthly meetings at 6:30 as opposed to 7 p.m. going forward. Tufte will add the time change to both the Website and Facebook page.

Motion by Worrell/Phillips to approve the Financial Report as presented by Mattson. Motion carried.

Motion by Wayne/Phillips to approve the Bills Payable. Motion carried.

Motion by Phillips/Wayne to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

■ Weather

from Page 1

they are laminated and included in the kit like driver's licenses, social security, or insurance information in case something happens to the originals. While this might seem extreme, she offers that having these documents accessible will prevent possible stress later on if anyone needs to identify themselves or seek assistance. She explained that when someone needs to identify themselves, getting their hands on those needed documents can be nearly impossible if that person has to start from scratch.

Because anything can happen, Wright also said it's important to have a contact person outside of the city in case of a tornado warning. If family members get separated, they have a known plan regarding where they can go to rendezvous if things reach an extreme level.

Wright commended the National Weather Service for being very good at predicting the potential for severe weather even a few days ahead of the possible event.

"Being prepared can reduce fear, anxiety, and losses that accompany disasters," Wright said.



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# Panthers knock off Waseca

## Lee pitches gem in 13-3 road triumph

**By JIM LUTGENS**  
Sports Editor

The NRHEG High School baseball team statisticians had some difficulties during last Thursday's non-conference game at Waseca.

It's about the only thing that went wrong for the Panthers all day.

Freshman left-hander Jared Lee pitched into the fifth inning and Deven Parpart finished it off as the Panthers prevailed 13-3 at Tink Larson field.

"We had great pitching from Jared Lee," said NRHEG coach Shawn Larson. "Waseca scored their runs while Jared was pitching, however all three of their runs were unearned. After Jared, Deven Parpart came in and closed out the game without allowing any more runs."

It was an outstanding performance by the Panthers, who have no seniors on the roster.

"Along with our good defense, we had the bats going today," said Larson. "All in all it was a great performance, and when we play like this, you just want to get to the next game so we can keep playing."



**GREAT DAY —** At left, NRHEG infielder Seth Staloch tags out Waseca's Carter Ellis after catching him in a rundown between first and second base. At right, the Panthers' Jared Lee delivers a pitch.

"When we play like this, you just want to get to the next game."  
— NRHEG coach Shawn Larson

The Panthers had a rough outing Monday as they committed six fielding errors while falling 10-4 to Blooming Prairie at New Richland's Jeff and Carol Reese Field.

"Today was a tough day for us

mentally," said Coach Larson. "We made several errors with our minds. Anytime in baseball when you make mental errors, and are not aggressive at the plate, it is very difficult to win games. The best thing we could do as a team is to try to be more consistent from game to game. Right now we are a roller coaster, and even though coasters are fun, I would like to see us be a little more steady."

The Panthers totaled six hits, two by Jace Ihrke and one apiece from Parpart, Lee, Alden Dobberstein and Carter Martens. Ihrke had two RBIs. Dobberstein doubled. The Panthers walked four times and struck out 11. NRHEG stranded nine baserunners.

Brooks Gilliland started on the mound and took the loss. He allowed six earned runs on 10 hits

through four innings, walking one the fanning two. Martens gave up one earned run in three innings of relief, striking out five and walking four.

After playing Tuesday at Manakto Loyola, the Panthers are scheduled to play Thursday at Hayfield at 4:30. They host Pine Island under the lights Friday at 7 p.m.



**TOUGH LOSSES —** The NRHEG softball team lost a pair of decisions in the past week, falling 7-0 to Bethlehem Academy and 6-5 in eight innings at Blooming Prairie. At left, Panther infielder Tayler Schmidt fires across the diamond. At right, Isabel Stadheim slides safely into second for a stolen base.

Photos by Judy Tweeten

# After falling 7-0 to BA, Panthers nipped at BP

**By JIM LUTGENS**  
Sports Editor

The NRHEG High School softball team ran into a red-hot pitcher last Thursday and lost 7-0 to Bethlehem Academy at Legion Field.

After a scoreless first two innings, the Cardinals put five runs on the board in the third and add two in the fourth, finishing with 14 hits and one error.

The Panthers had one hit, a double by Preslie Nielsen. NRHEG struck out 14 times and did not draw a walk. The Panthers played errorless defense.

Faith Nielsen pitched all seven innings for the Panthers, allowing seven earned runs while striking out seven and walking one.

"Bethlehem Academy is an all-around good team," said NRHEG coach Kayley Camerer. "They're a strong defensive team with a good pitcher in the circle, and they were able to make solid contact with the ball and put it into

the gaps. As a team, we made some good plays in the field and Faith Nielsen pitched well in the circle with seven strikeouts. The girls worked hard and we are continuing to learn and grow together as a team."

It was much closer Monday as the Panthers fell 6-5 in eight innings at Blooming Prairie.

Erin Peterson went 2-for-4. Adding one hit each were Isabel Stadheim, Olivia Berg, Presley Nielsen, Faith Nielsen, Izley Boerner, Chloe Stork and Tayler Schmidt. Presley Nielsen drove in three runs. Berg and Peterson doubled. Stadheim stole three bases. The Panthers struck out two times and drew one walk.

Faith Nielsen allowed two earned runs on eight hits, with four strikeouts and four walks in 7.2 innings in the circle.

The Panthers committed to errors, the Blossoms three.

"It always is a great battle against Blooming



**ALWAYS SMILING —** Win or lose, it seems members of the NRHEG High School almost always are in a good mood.

Photo by Judy Tweeten

Prairie," said Camerer. "We came out ready to play and aggressive at the plate. We made some defensive errors and gave up some runs early in the game, but the girls responded well and continued to do their jobs. Faith Nielsen did a good job controlling the game in the circle and our defense made some good plays behind her. At the plate we are starting to see the ball better and passing the bat down to the next person. Preslie Nielsen was big for us at

the plate only getting one hit but she did a good job driving in runs off of solid hits to the deep parts of the field. Overall, I am proud of how we never let our mistakes snowball, focusing on controlling what we can control, and our aggressiveness at the plate."

NRHEG hosts Hayfield Thursday, April 25 at 4:30 and plays a weekend tournament at Caswell Park in Mankato.

# NRHEG track girls claim most important first

**By JIM LUTGENS**  
Sports Editor

The NRHEG girls' track and field team secured only one first place in Monday's Blooming Prairie Invitational.

It was the most important one.

The Panthers, bouyed by nine second-place showings, captured first place as a team.

"The girls did well winning the meet with zero first-place finishes," said Panthers coach Duey Ferber. "This was a nice meet to see where we stack up for the conference meet. We are finding out who to put where in the upcoming meets."

"The girls did well winning the meet with zero first-place finishes."  
— NRHEG coach Duey Ferber

NRHEG won with 139.5 points, followed by JWP with 105, Mankato Loyola 103, Medford 93, Blooming Prairie 80, WEM 79, St. Clair 62.25 and USC/AC 24.

The Panthers were again led by senior Evelen Nydegger, who was second in the 100-meter high hurdles in 16.99 seconds, second in the

300 intermediate hurdles in 52.56, and second in the 200 in 27.95. She went 32 feet, 5 inches for third in the triple jump.

The other second-place showings were by Quinn VanMaldeghem, 800, 2:47.35; Juliann Wobbrock, 3200, 13:27.17; Malonna Wilson, shot put, 33-6; Chloe Riewer, long

jump, 15-2; Anika Ladlie, high jump, 4-10; and the 4x800 relay team of Holly Bartness, Clara Buendorf, Ella Jenö and Wobbrock, 12:14.64.

Placing third were Gabby Schlaak, 100 hurdles, 18.31; Ellie Clark, 300 hurdles, 55.58; Wilson, discus, 102-4; VanMaldeghem, pole vault, 7-0; the 4x200 relay team of Sierra Misgen, Riewer, Buendorf



Nydegger

and Clark, 1:57.95; and the 4x400 relay team of Kiera Lenort, Misgen, VanMaldeghem and Buendorf, 4:42.76.

Misgen, Riewer, Schlaak and Ladlie combined for fourth in the 4x100, clocking 56.12.

The other Panther places were by VanMaldeghem, 1600, 6:17.87; Kylie Olson, shot put, 29-4.5; and Schlaak, high jump, 4-4.

The Panthers' next action is Tuesday, April 30 at JWP. They host the NRHEG Invitational May 2. Both meets start at 4:30.

# Boys' track team 4th at invitational

NRHEG track and field senior Will Tuttle was not at 100 percent for Monday's Blooming Prairie Invitational.

It didn't much matter.

He dominated the hurdles anyway.

Tuttle, seeking a second straight state meet appearance, finished first in the 110-meter high hurdles with a time of 15.4 seconds and won the 300 intermediate hurdles in 42.49.

It led the Panthers to fourth place among eight teams. JWP won with 127 points. The Panthers had 97.

Finishing second for NRHEG were Harbor Cromwell, who cleared 10 feet in the pole vault, and th 4x100 relay team of Cromwell, Levin Kitzer, Tuttle and Jaylin Raab, who clocked 46.8.

Kitzer took third in the 110 hurdles in 16.83 and was sixth in the 300 hurdles in 48.9. Lavon Jewison was third in the high jump at 5-8. Charlie Fuller, Jacob Karl, Devon Nelton and Gavin Sletten clocked 9:54.59 for third in the 4x800.

Cromwell, Sletten, Wyatt Tuttle and Raab were fourth in the 4x100. Parker Bunn was fourth in the 300 hurdles and fifth in the 110 hurdles. Brenden Schmidt finished fourth in the pole vault at 8-0.

Other NRHEG places: Karl, fifth, 3200, 11:19.95; 4x200, fifth, 1:49.23 (Fuller, Gavin Lewison, Wyatt Tuttle, Colton Conroy); Raab, 100, 12.09; and Kitzer, 300 hurdles, 48.9.

# NRHEG boys take triangular Budach wins again

The NRHEG golf teams hosted Hayfield and Maple River at Riverview last week.

The NRHEG boys took first, led by Daxter Lee's medalist score of 48. Carter Schlaak shot 54, Shan Hanson 55, Braydon Rollag 56 and Jackson Chrz 63.

"We're starting to see much better scores from everyone, which is great news," said NRHEG coach Brad Root.

The girls, third as a team, were led by medalist Meela Budach's 48. It was her third straight medalist round.

Hallie Schultz shot 57, Elsie Schulez 71 and Alexis Olson 81.



NRHES

Star Eagle

FARM & AGRICULTURE SPECIAL

# Cropping season 2024: a perspective

April precipitation could push back planting dates; increased temperatures expected

**By MARK BERNARD**  
Staff Writer

The 2023 cropping season left almost everyone waiting for the other shoe to drop. Prices softened into harvest, although welcome rains fell in September after the crop was mature as well as in October unlike the two previous seasons. We'll get out our crystal ball and tea leaves again to offer some insight for the cropping year.

We're coming off one of the more bizarre winters ever. With El Niño firmly entrenched, snow fall was sparse, and temperatures were extremely moderate. Some welcome rain fell in December, with most picking up 1" – 2" after a brown Christmas. Total snowfall measured about 17" at the ranch and 14.6" in New Richland. Normal seasonal snowfall at the SROC is 52.3". Despite the light snowfall total, the frost depth was very shallow, allowing much of that moisture to percolate into the soil. Moving snow was a novelty. Many snowblowers were never attached to tractors, let alone operated. Translation: Look out for next winter.

Warm temperatures in March allowed anhydrous to be applied. More fence lines and groves were cleaned out than in any winter in recent memory. April precip has been substantial but not excessive to this point. Warm days allowed some corn planting to begin from the 12th – 14th. There are tales of the odd soybean field being planted. Not so surprisingly, after last year's heavy May rains that resulted in nearly a quarter of the corn acres being replanted, many have taken a go-slow approach. Trust but verify.

If we continue to receive April precipitation, it could push planting dates back. The warmer weather we experienced earlier has been tempered by more seasonal temps as of late. Much of the corn was planted last year in the first week of May. Much of the replant corn was planted in late May. Given the drier than normal and above normal GDU growing season we had, the corn crop in particular was nothing short of amazing for most. April precip as of the 22nd has been generous but not excessive with 3.51" in New Richland, 2.6" at the ranch and 3.02" at the SROC in Waseca. Normal for the entire month of April at the SROC is 3.3".

What do the growing season temperatures and precipitation outlooks look like? Released April 18th, NOAA's 30-day May outlook for our area shows a 40 – 50% chance of above normal temperatures with even odds of above or below normal precipitation. Also released on April 18th, NOAA's 90-day out-

look (April through June) for is calling for 33 – 40% increased odds of above normal temps. On the precipitation side, it's calling for even chances of above or below normal precipitation. Our soil moisture is in much better shape than last year. Tile lines are running, and the soil profile is full in many places. We should be transitioning into an ENSO-neutral period (85% chance) for April – June with a La Niña event developing, 60% chance for June – August, with an 85% chance of it developing for September - November.

That said, it's anyone's guess how and when the La Niña might affect the growing season. For starters, it hasn't happened, yet. Typically, a La Niña tends to increase the odds that we'll see a warmer and drier than normal summer if it becomes entrenched on the earlier side. That's once the transition is complete. In the ENSO-neutral interim, conditions may tend to be more normal. If the transition isn't complete until later summer, the La Niña would tend to increase the odds we could see a colder, wetter late fall and winter. Stay tuned.

What about the Drought Monitor? Southern MN remained under the "abnormally dry" category as of the April 18th report. The southwestern part of IA, eastern Nebraska, and eastern Kansas are all likely to remain under moderate drought for the foreseeable future. There are no indications that severe drought will extend eastward at this point. The US Seasonal Drought Outlook indicates the drought designation in Southern MN will likely be removed with the exception of a sliver south of I-90 in SE MN. The areas of SW Iowa, SE Nebraska and NE Kansas are under a drought, but it's likely to be removed. While much of Nebraska is irrigated, the potential to affect dryland areas remains. The eastern corn belt remains relatively drought free, and areas are facing planting delays due to wet soils. The silver lining is the river levels on the Mississippi should improve given that and more recent moisture here in MN and IA.

Unlike last year at this time, earlier planting intentions leaned towards fewer corn acres on both the state and national level. Corn and soybean prices are both down versus last spring, although in many cases, soybeans hold a slight profit potential advantage in many people's eyes. Fall fertilizer prices were down over the previous year, and in this area, good, early spring planting conditions should help tip the scale towards planting a few more acres of corn than earlier indicated.

Insect potential due to the warm winter is



**CERTIFIED** - Mark Bernard, the author of this piece, has 40 years of experience as a crop advisor in Minnesota and North Dakota. He has been a Certified Professional Agronomist, his preferred title, for 30 years. Bernard also has 19 years of experience with *Pro Farmer* as a Tour Agronomist.

elevated. Conditions for survival of corn rootworm eggs should've been ideal, particularly for western corn rootworm. Northern corn rootworm eggs are seldom affected significantly by cold winters. Ditto with insects such as soybean aphid. Taking an air temperature of -29° F or below, it simply never got cold enough to impact their survival. The insects that migrate in such as black cutworm are also on the radar. There have been some moths captured already in traps this April. Many of the corn hybrids with Bt for corn borer also provide control of black cutworm. Not all, however, and with the renewed interest in non-GMO corn, this insect could bear watching. Even soybean fields are not exempt as we found last year due to planting delays.

We continue to hear about tar spot in corn, although perhaps not to the degree we have the past several growing seasons. Last year, it simply didn't materialize as conditions were too warm and dry for it to gain much traction. Is it still a potential problem? Sure, although the organism needs to be present first, it needs the proper environment for disease development, and needs a susceptible host. That's the one advantage we have in the western corn belt where tar spot hasn't been a widespread problem yet. Seed companies



**CROP REPORT** - Soybeans enjoying late-July growing conditions.

have been working relentlessly, screening hybrids for susceptibility. While they haven't developed any true resistance yet, they have done their homework when it comes to providing growers with tolerant genetics. It can make a huge difference.

Despite the possible dry weather and continued global turmoil, there's still potential for another profitable cropping season. 2024 will definitely require input costs to be watched carefully. Marketing is crucial. The opportunity to lock in a profit may be short-lived, so it'll mean being ready to pull the

trigger and avoiding the temptation to be greedy. In the near term, the same applies to planting. With more moisture to deal with, it makes the days when fields are fit even more precious. Corn that was planted April 13th – 15th has a nice sprout on it already. Some who missed that planting window may be getting antsy. By the same token, mudding the crop in is seldom a good idea in April and May. A lot of very good yields when planting in May the past two seasons. Plenty of time before hitting the panic button. Live long and prosper.

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FARM & AGRICULTURE SPECIAL

# Century farm award winners announced

The Minnesota State Fair and the Minnesota Farm Bureau recognize 97 Minnesota farms as 2024 Century Farms. Qualifying farms have been in continuous family ownership for at least 100 years and are 50 acres or more. Century Farm families receive a commemorative sign, as well as a certificate signed by Minnesota State Fair and Minnesota Farm Bureau presidents and Governor Tim Walz. Since the program began in 1976, more than 11,000 Minnesota farms have been recognized as Century Farms.

Family farms are recognized as a Century Farm when three requirements are met. The farm must be: 1) at least 100 years old according to authentic land records; 2) in continuous family ownership for at least 100 years (continuous residence on the farm is not required); and 3) at least 50 acres and currently be involved in agricultural production.

2024 Century Farm families are listed by county, then by the farm's city or township, family or farm names and year of original purchase:

Anoka  
Cedar - DeLong Dairyvale Farm, 1924  
Beltrami  
Bemidji - Gullicksrud Family Farm, 1924  
Benton  
Foley - Pekarek Farm, 1924  
Oak Park - Chapp Farm, 1921  
St. Cloud - Jurek Farm, 1882  
Big Stone  
Ortonville - Helgeson, 1920  
Blue Earth  
Blue Earth - Ferdinand Henry William

Tank Farm, 1907  
Mapleton - Clark Ward Farm, 1911  
Truman - Wilde's Prairie View Farm, 1918  
Brown  
Sleepy Eye - Schroepfer, 1884  
Carlton  
Cloquet - Swenson's Dairy, 1911  
Cass  
Motley - Bendson Family Homestead, 1919  
Chippewa  
Maynard - Loe Farm, 1912  
Chisago  
Harris - Moline Farm, 1923  
Clay  
Hawley - Dunham Farm, 1915  
Clearwater  
Bagley - Friborg Farm, 1920  
Clearbrook - Bjerke-Stoller, 1905  
Shevlin - Julin Family Farm, 1912  
Crow Wing  
Brainerd - Bordwell Dairy Farm, 1923  
Dakota  
Hastings - Reinardy Family Farm, 1924  
Faribault  
Faribault - Paschke, 1920  
Wells - Hankerson Farm, 1902  
Fillmore  
Mabel - Spande Family Farm, 1896  
Preston - Plainview Farm, 1916  
Preston - Rumpus Ridge Farms, 1881  
Preston - Schmidt Farm, 1901  
**Freeborn**  
Alden - Drescher Farms, 1924  
Emmons - Andersland Farm, 1923  
Goodhue  
Zumbrota - Edgewood Farm, 1924

Houston  
Brownsville - Driscoll, 1894  
Spring Grove - Berquam-Krogstad Family Farm, 1855  
Hubbard  
Laporte - The Stevens Farm, 1918  
Jackson  
Jackson - Gazda Family Farms, 1897  
Lakefield - Bailey/Hass, 1924  
Kandiyo  
Atwater - Heining Family Farm, 1877  
Willmar - Fixsen Farms, 1908  
Kittson  
Lancaster - Blazejewski Farms, 1902  
Koochiching  
Loman - Mannausau Farm, 1924  
Lac Qui Parle  
Canby (Providence Township) - Buer Farms, 1924  
Dawson - Boraas Farms, 1881  
Le Sueur  
Cleveland - The Puffaff Farm, 1886  
Lincoln  
Lincoln - Fink Family Farm, 1924  
Lyon  
Marshall - DeVos Family Farm, 1924  
Russell - Dahneelman Farm, 1901  
Marshall  
Oslo - John & Judy Nelson, 1920  
Stephen - Anderson Farm, 1890  
Martin  
Dunnell - Ream/Schultz Farm, 1898  
McLeod  
Brownston - Zimmerman Farm, 1919  
Meeker  
Darwin - The John Dacy Homestead, 1871  
Litchfield - Mark and John Hulterstrum, 1923

Mille Lacs  
Oak Park - Dahlstrom Farms, 1922  
Princeton - Gerth Farm, 1909  
Princeton - Gerth Farms, 1924  
Princeton - Shelley Farms, LLC, 1923  
Morrison  
Little Falls - Waltman Farm, 1912  
Pierz - Hilltop Farm, 1924  
Royalton - Warzecha Farm, 1919  
Mower  
Elkton - Gustav & Anna C. Hanson Farm, 1896  
Rose Creek - Anderson Farm, 1910  
Rose Creek - Roy & Nancy Corbitt Farm, 1888  
Waltham - Schlichting Farm, 1913  
Nobles  
Worthington - Kuhl Family Farm, 1896  
Norman  
Shelly - Aamodt Farm, 1880  
Twin Valley - Christensen Sunny Brook Stock Farm, 1918  
Olmsted  
Rochester - Mahoney-Kuile Farm, 1882  
Rochester - O'Neill Farms, 1899  
St. Charles - Biers Farm, 1924  
Otter Tail (East)  
Vining - Mickelson Homestead, 1884  
Otter Tail (West)  
Pelican Rapids - Colosky Farm, 1924  
Pine  
Hinckley - Sadler Farm, 1917  
Pine City - Geisler Farms, 1920  
Pine City - John & Freda Johnson, 1923  
Pipestone

Jasper - Bill and Jody Brockberg, 1924  
Pope  
Glenwood - Koubsky Family Farm, 1920  
Redwood  
Lamberton - The Turbes Family Farm, 1924  
Walnut Grove - Swoffer Family Farm, 1887  
Renville  
Granite Falls - Rolland & RaeAnn Hegna Farm, 1924  
Franklin - The Steinbeisser Farm, 1924  
Renville - Schneider Farm, 1903  
St. Louis  
Iron - Mobraten Farm, 1921  
Stearns  
Albany - Gill Dairy Farm, 1911  
Freeport - Von Wahlde Farm, 1923  
Holdingford - Feia Family Farm, 1924  
Kimball - Bridgeside, LLC, 1924  
Todd  
Long Prairie - Jason & Amanda Parker, 1915  
Traverse  
Traverse - The Pedalty Family Farm, 1900  
Wadena  
Wadena - Homestead Juntunen, 1902  
Watsonwan  
Madelia - Skarphol Farm, 1902  
St. James - Askeland Farm, 1917  
Wilkin  
Wilkin - Skrove Riverland, 1924  
Winona  
Altura - Speltz Farms, Inc., 1874  
Wright  
Buffalo - Elwood F. Ledin Farm, 1923

Cokato - Melquist Farm, 1882  
Watertown - Hoernemann Farm, 1921  
Yellow Medicine  
Hazel Run - Norgaard Farms, 1919  
Hazel Run - Norgaard/Thompson, 1917  
Wood Lake - William Timm Sr. Farm, 1890

Information on all Century Farms will be available at the 2024 Minnesota State Fair. A database of all Minnesota Century Farms is also available at [fbmn.org](#).

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About the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation: To ensure Minnesota's agricultural vitality, the Minnesota Farm Bureau amplifies its members' voices through engagement, grassroots advocacy and agricultural awareness. Learn more about their efforts as an advocate for their nearly 30,000 members and 78 county Farm Bureaus at [fbmn.org](#).

# Sesquicentennial farm families announced

The Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) is pleased to recognize 44 recipients of the Sesquicentennial Farm award for 2024.

Since the program began in 2008, 559 families have received the honor.

To qualify, a family farm must be in continuous family ownership for at least 150 years, be 50 acres or larger, and currently be involved in agricultural production.

A commemorative certificate signed by Governor Tim Walz, Minnesota Department of Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen and MFBF President Dan Gleasing will be awarded to qualifying families, along with an outdoor sign signifying Sesquicentennial Farm recognition.

Becker  
Audubon - Olliane Sharp Anderson, Paul Anderson, James Sharp, 1871  
Chippewa  
Montevideo - Elling Jorgenson Farm, 1869  
Chisago  
Harris - Lowell & Lori Colliander, 1870  
Dakota  
Rosemount - Fahey Farms, 1874  
Dodge

Hayfield - Terry Gulbransen, 1857  
Douglas  
Brandon - Skrove Squirrel Hollow Farm, 1874  
Carlos - Gary and Diane Botzet & Family, 1874  
Farwell - Guiles Family Farm, 1866  
Kensington - Oakdale Farm, 1866  
Faribault  
Winnebago - Eldon Jones Family Share Trust, 1874  
**Freeborn**  
Albert Lea - Roger & Shirley Enderston, 1861  
Albert Lea - Donald and Joanne Johnsrud Farm, 1865  
Albert Lea - Roger J Pestorious and Jeannie Pestorious, 1871  
Emmons - Nicholson Farm, 1860  
Emmons - Schmidt-Stroklund Farms, 1861  
Houston  
Spring Grove - Berquam-Krogstad Family Farm, 1855  
Kandiyo  
Atwater - Shirley Dahl and Joyce Dahl, 1874  
Lac qui Parle  
Montevideo - Bornus, 1874  
Montevideo - Heieren, 1873  
Le Sueur

Montgomery - Rynda, 1872  
Meeker  
Darwin - The John Dacy Homestead, 1871  
Grove City - James & Arlene Johnson Farm, 1873  
Mower  
Rose Creek - Willis & Elizabeth Corbitt, 1872  
Rose Creek - Nelson Family Farm, 1874  
Nicollet  
Courtland - Gerald and Gloria Firtzner/Firtzner Brothers Inc., 1874  
Renville  
Hector - Gerald & Dorothy Johnson, 1872

Morton - Richard H. Scheffler, 1874  
Sacred Heart - Dambrotten Farms, 1871  
Sacred Hard - Sonja Thune, Springdale Farm, 1866  
Rice  
Faribault - Janet Low, Jean Low, Gail Low-McGillen, 1867  
Kilkenny - The Murphy Family, 1861  
Webster - Lawrence & Kathleen McFadden, 1872  
Scott  
Webster - Shimota Family Farm, 1874  
Sibley  
Arlington - Family of Merrill Sickmann, 1874  
Arlington - Darlene Steffer, 1869

Stearns  
Pennock - Pierce Farms, 1873  
**Steele**  
Owatonna - Hill Crest Farm, James R. and Elaine Springer and Carol and Eugene Staltman, 1874  
Owatonna - Mark & Ruth Pfeifer, 1874  
Stevens  
Morris - Wagner Farm, 1874  
**Waseca**  
Janessville - Cole and Jenny James, 1874  
Waseca - Thomas F. Sommers & Ricky Sommers, 1873  
West Polk

Fisher - Nisbet, 1874  
Winona  
Altura - Speltz Farms Inc., 1874  
Wright  
Watertown - John B. & Danice L. Motzko (Florek Farm), 1873  
About the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation: To ensure Minnesota's agricultural vitality, the Minnesota Farm Bureau amplifies its members' voices through engagement, grassroots advocacy and agricultural awareness. Learn more about their efforts as an advocate for their nearly 30,000 members and 78 county Farm Bureaus at [fbmn.org](#).

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# Waseca farm family of the year

## Sommers named to county's most distinguished award

By ELI LUTGENS  
Publisher/Editor

The most distinguished agricultural award given out at the 2024 Waseca County Farm and City Luncheon went to Sommers Brothers Custom Baling, LLC, operated by Brian & Kirsten Sommers and Matt & Nicole Sommers.

"It was easy for the committee," Christy Kallevig said as she introduced the Sommers. "Strong farm families have an impact not only on agriculture, but also their community as a whole. And so do the Sommers."

Sommers Brothers Custom Baling LLC started in 2006; the company specializes in preserving fodder in large, square bales for customers in and around Waseca County. Founders of the Waseca based business were brothers Brian and Matt Sommers. The Sommers were selected for this honor in November of 2023, prior to the sudden death of Brian in January. In addition to operating the baling service, the families operate 525 acres, raising corn and soybeans. Until 2022 they also operated a dairy farm with their father, Mark Sommers.

Both brothers have been involved with the South-Central College Farm Business Management program.

Brian was and Kirsten is an active volunteer in programs including Waseca County 4-H, Waseca County American Dairy Association Board, Waseca Youth Football, Waseca Youth Wrestling, Waseca Community Education Baseball/T-



**FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR** - The Sommers Family was named Waseca County's Farm Family of the Year for 2024. To the left are Kirsten Sommers and her children: Owen (the oldest), Caden, Evelyn and Jameson (the youngest). On the right side are Matt and his wife Nicole and their children Danielle and Henry.

Photos by Eli Lutgens

Ball and Sacred Heart School Board. Brian and Kirsten have four children, Owen, Caden, Evelyn and Jameson.

Matt was elected for District 2 Waseca County Soil and Water District board. Matt and Nicole have two children, Danielle and Henry.

After accepting their award, Matt simply gave an emotional, "Thank you," before passing off the micro-

phone.

Kirsten expressed her gratitude for the honor.

"For those of you who are customers of the baling business, you would primarily be in contact with Brian over the years as the contact for baling jobs and running the baler," Kirsten said. "He was the face behind the tractor baling your hay, grass, or corn stalks."

"As Brian and I had more children, and the older they got, Brian might have passed over the reins a time or two to our kids, especially Owen and Caden," Kirsten continued. "The six of us enjoyed interacting with all of the customers as we were baling for you while you were picking up bales. We always had to have that done before the rain came."

Kirsten talked about Brian's pas-

sion for 4-H and how much he enjoyed showing dairy cows at the county fair.

"Owen, Caden, Evelyn, Jameson, Brian and I were all in the show ring together this past summer," Kirsten continued. "It was a memory to hold onto forever because all six of us won't be there in person together again. We will continue to make incredible memories at the fair. It will just look a little different."

Brian was a regular attendee at the annual Farm and City Luncheon.

"I know Brian would have been very honored to receive this award," Kirsten concluded. "We know he would be proud of us and our accomplishments. I know he is smiling down on all of us today."

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Star Eagle

FARM & AGRICULTURE SPECIAL



Kathy Guse speaks after accepting her distinguished ag award during the annual Farm and City Luncheon.

Photo by Eli Lutgens

## Guse is ‘stalwart’ in local ag community

**By ELI LUTGENS**  
Publisher/Editor

The Waseca County Distinguished Agriculture Leadership award recognizes distinguished individuals who have dedicated their lives to the advancement of agriculture in Waseca County. Individuals will have demonstrated outstanding leadership in the community, place of business or employment, and the advancement of the agricultural industry.

This year’s award went to Kathy Guse and was awarded during the annual Farm and City Luncheon, held at the Mill in Waseca on March 21, 2024.

“Alongside her husband Marvin, Kathy dedicated 42 years to farming,” Vicky Singlestad said as she introduced Guse. “Kathy’s upbringing on a dairy farm instilled in her a lifelong passion for agriculture... Kathy is a testament to how important and impactful women in agriculture are.”

Singlestad talked about Kathy’s continued involvement in the agriculture community following her retirement in 2016. In 2011 she initiated Farm Camp, which over the years has educated thousands of children about modern farming practices.

“Thank you to everyone,” Guse said as she accepted her award. “It is important for all children to think about agriculture and about how and where their food is produced.

“Thank you for your support,” Guse continued. “If you ever have a chance to teach about ag, please reach out to us and take part.”

Kathy’s Story

Kathy Guse was described by the selection committee as a stalwart figure in both the agricultural and wider community, having dedicated her life to both farming and public service. For 42 years, alongside her husband Marvin, she tirelessly tended to their farm, cultivating corn, soybeans, and raising hogs and beef cattle. Kathy’s hands-on approach to farming saw her alongside Marvin in the fields during planting and harvest, skillfully maneuvering tractors, trucks, and other farm equipment. In 2016, health considerations led Kathy and Marvin to transition

away from active farming, opting to rent their land while continuing to reside on the farm. Despite retiring from the day-to-day operations, their passion for agriculture remains undiminished. They remain actively engaged in the farming community, attending meetings and staying abreast of developments in the industry.

Kathy’s connection to farming runs deep, having grown up on a dairy farm herself. This lifelong involvement spurred her to take action in educating others about agriculture. In 2011, she founded Farm Camp, a program aimed at bridging the gap between urban communities and agriculture. Through her leadership and the support of dedicated volunteers, Farm Camp expanded to three locations in Minnesota, reaching hundreds of children each year. Kathy’s commitment to volunteerism extends beyond agriculture. She served on the Waseca County Board of Directors for over a decade, including a four-year tenure as president. Her involvement in organizations like the Waseca County Farm Bureau Home & Safety Day and Farm America demonstrates her dedication to promoting safety and education within the community.

Her contributions have not gone unnoticed, with Kathy receiving accolades such as the President’s Club award from the Minnesota Farm Bureau, the Southern Minnesota Ag Ambassador award, the Director’s Award from Farm America, and the Minnesota State Commodity Challenge Advisor Award.

Outside of agriculture, Kathy has been actively involved in various community initiatives, including serving on school boards and volunteering with organizations like Junior Achievement. Her passion for educating the public about farming and ensuring the safety of rural communities shines through in her numerous endeavors. Kathy’s tireless dedication to agriculture and community service has left an indelible mark, enriching the lives of countless individuals and leaving a legacy of education, advocacy, and stewardship.

## Singlestad is named Waseca’s outstanding young farmer

**By ELI LUTGENS**  
Publisher/Editor

The Waseca County Outstanding Young Farmer award is presented to a farmer between 21–39 years of age who utilizes innovative methods, has made improvement in farming operations, and demonstrates service to community organizations and conservation practices. This year’s winner was Waseca area farmer Mike Singlestad. He was recognized during the annual Farm and City Luncheon Thursday, March 21.

“He’s committed to excellence; it is evident in every facet of his work,” Mark Scharf said of Singlestad as he introduced him.

“Thank you to all of those close family and friends who have supported me through all of my farming activities,” Singlestad said. “Especially my parents: Before I could walk, they would take me out to the barn in the stroller and let me sleep outside while they helped the mother cows give birth.”

Mike grew up on a farm just north of Waseca, harvesting corn and soybeans and also operating a farrow-to-finish hog operation. He is the fourth

generation to farm on the acreage which was purchased in 1946 by his great-grandfather Sever Singlestad and his grandfather Geb Singlestad.

Growing up, he was active in 4-H and FFA. He graduated from high school in 2003 and went to college at SDSU in Brookings, South Dakota, graduating with a degree in environmental management. While there, he was on a soils judging team.

During college in the summer and a few years after, he worked at the Southern Minnesota Research and Outreach Center in Waseca. In 2012 he started contract finishing hogs with Big Gain in Mankato. A year later, in 2013, his parents sold him part of the family building site and the old farmhouse. He liked working with pigs; in 2015 he tore down some of the first hog barns his parents owned and replaced them with a new wean-to-finish barn.

Mike raises about 3,800 head of wean-to-finish pigs each year. When purchasing the family swine operation, he made significant remodeling investments in the facilities to ensure long-term viability for his operation.



Mike Singlestad alongside his parents, Vicky and Scott.

Star Eagle photo by Eli Lutgens

One of his most recent investments has been the integration of solar power to improve the energy efficiency of his swine operation.

In 2018, he started renting land from his parents. He raises corn and soybeans and farms with his parents Scott and Vicky and his brother-in-law, Craig Baxter.

He is also willing to make significant changes in his cropping operation. He works with McPherson Crop Management, an area independent crop consulting organization, to utilize his manure production to its maximum extent and to implement best environmental practices in his production methods.

He has also worked part-time at the Costco Depot near Owatonna for three years as an equipment operator. Working with his Farm Business Management Instructor, Mark Wehe, Mike has learned record keeping methods which utilize modern com-

puter systems, including PC Mars. Mike has grown his operation and has matured as a manager. He is always open to new ideas and methods.

Mike is very active in the community. He currently serves on the Waseca County Farm Bureau board, where he was vice president for four years and president for four years. In his role, he works with a very progressive group of Waseca County producers advocating for farm policies that benefit the progressive agricultural community. He is currently a member of the Minnesota Soybean and Corn Growers organizations.

Mike is also active in the Tuscan Lodge, the area Masonic Lodge; He is currently the group’s secretary, but has served in many other important roles in the lodge. He has been a mason in the lodge for more than 20 years.

## Sorensen’s named Freeborn County farm family of the year

**The Sorensens**

This year’s Farm Family of the Year was James and Jacque Sorensen of Alden. Not only have the Sorensens lived and worked on their family farm for generations, they are also active members of the community, being present in area sports, church events and other local committees.

“This family has always done more than just show up,” said Minnesota Extension Regional Director Christy Kallevig.

The couple stood to receive an official plaque and cookies with their young grandsons, Brecken and Caden Sorensen. They also each delivered a few words of gratitude.

“I think being in a community is what it’s all about,” Jacque Sorensen said.

The family will be recognized again at the Farm Fest event in August.

Kallevig also recognized past winners of the Farm Family of the Year Award, asking them to stand and be recognized.

Guests were served a meal and enjoyed friendly conversation before the program officially began.

The guest speaker of the luncheon was Darin Johnson, a fourth generation farmer of Johnson Farms in Wells, which he co-owns with his uncle.

Additionally, Johnson is the vice president of the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association and the upcoming president of the organization.

Key elements of Johnson’s speech included the importance of family farms in the rural Midwest.

“Agriculture simply equals family,” Johnson said. “It really is the engine that drives the Midwest economy.”

Johnson spoke about trips he had



James and Jacque Sorensen and family are pictured after receiving their Freeborn County Farm Family of the year plaque.

“I think being in a community is what it’s all about.” — Jacque Sorensen

taken to promote U.S. agriculture in other parts of the world such as Brazil, China and the Philippines. He also shared that he is cautiously optimistic about the upcoming farm bill being passed through Congress. In closing, Johnson ended his speech reminding those present of why area agriculture is so vital:

“Let us remember that behind every statistic and every acre of land,

there are families like mine and all of yours who embrace the values of hard work, resilience and stewardship of the land,” he said. “The stories remind us of the importance of supporting and preserving family farms not just for the sake of agriculture, but for the future of our communities.”

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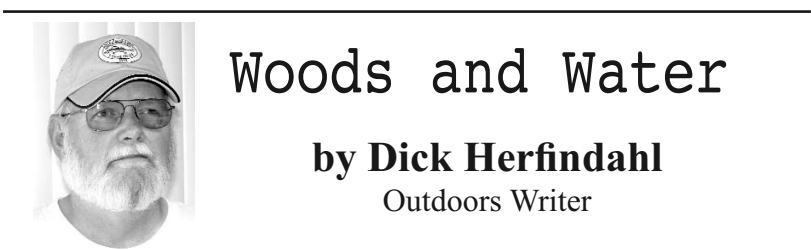
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# A fishing opener without a plan

After 27 years of attending the Governor's fishing opener, I have officially not been invited to this year's event. This does not make me feel sad, as it will free me up to fish when and wherever I want. No more itinerary to follow, just my own idea of where to wet a line. In all reality, the event has not been the same since Covid. There is no more community get-together on Friday, which to me was the backbone of the event because it brought the people of the community together with the media and other participants in the event. I guess they're weeding out some or one of the old guys.

I have fond memories of all the folks from some of the smaller communities coming out in force for the Friday night community dinner, which was attended by hundreds of folks from around that particular area. One such fishing event was



## Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl  
Outdoors Writer

hosted by Pequot Lakes on two different occasions and the attendance by the community was impressive for a smaller city. Another good memory was from Park Rapids in 2013, where even though the weather was cold, the Friday evening turnout was great. I got to meet my fishing host, Brett Kent, and his wife, Barb, who were gracious hosts. Brett was a true story teller.

I have written many times about taking my two sons to Reeds Lake on the opener. We always had good luck there, but the lake started getting a

little too crowded, so I changed plans for the next year. Our last opener fishing together was on Fountain Lake where we caught both walleye and northern. That was a good time.

Until next time: With the opener only a few weeks away, it is time to make plans for fishing one of our many area lakes. If you have plans to go farther north, you may already have a destination in mind. I plan on visiting Fleet Farm and Cabela's to stock up on some more unnecessary fishing tackle before the opener is upon us.

I spotted the neighborhood cardinal at my feeder this morning. I have heard him around the neighborhood, but this is the first time that he has made an appearance for a while. There are certain birds that give me a good feeling when I see them and then there are the blackbirds and starlings which are a story for another time.

With the rain that we have gotten this past week, hunting for a few night crawlers at night could be productive. I can remember my uncle Ben teaching me the art of catching crawlers, when I was a young aspiring fisherman. There is an art involved when trying to coax a crawler out of its hole without breaking it.

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.

# Lenten Season is my new favorite season

By Pastor Kyle Smith  
Ellendale

As a kid, I seem to recall being asked frequently what my favorite time of year is, and I always said, "Spring." The funny thing is, I enjoy spending time outside in the warm sunshine, so I enjoy summer more than spring. It wasn't until I was an adult that I realized how I can both enjoy summer so much and yet always say spring is my favorite season.

Do I enjoy the muddy yards that often accompany spring? No. Do I enjoy the fact that one day it's warm and beautiful out and the next day there may be snow on the ground? Also no. Do I enjoy feeling like I need a jacket in the morning and short sleeves in the afternoon? Again, no. But when I have these experiences, they remind me that soon the grass will be green and stay green for some time, they remind me that consistently warm days are coming, they remind me that soon I will be able to walk outside in a T-shirt in the morning and stay in a T-shirt all day long. In other words, the reason why spring is my favorite season isn't because I enjoy spring, but it's because



I enjoy summer. Spring is my favorite season not because of the season itself, but because I'm confident of what's coming next.

Naturally, this leads me to consider not only our Gregorian calendar, but also the church calendar. We are coming off of Easter Day, which means the Lenten Season isn't far behind us. Regarding the Lenten Season, I have heard people say things such as, "It's too sad." or, "I don't want to feel discouraged." As a result, some Christians would rather not participate in Lent whatsoever, or if they do, only Good Friday. Still, others would rather skip even Good Friday and jump straight to the "good part."

Do I enjoy the penitential season of Lent, where there's an even stronger focus than usual on the sorrow over my sin? Does it make me feel good writing sermons and

preaching on Jesus' journey to the cross, where He willingly was mocked, tortured, beaten, and put to death for my sin? Do I enjoy giving up something I enjoy, such as coffee, as a reminder that Jesus denied Himself and took up His cross for me? I can't say any of these things give me joy. But do you know what it does for me? Observing the season of Lent reminds me of what Christ has done for me, it reminds me of what is to come, it helps to prepare my heart for Easter, grows my desire for and makes me that much more joyous on Easter Day.

In a way, I don't enjoy the Lenten Season. And yet, the Lenten Season has started to become my favorite season in the church year, not because of what happens during Lent, but because of what Lent points forward to, because of what comes after Lent, Easter Sunday and Easter Sea-

son when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, who not only in His life and death, but also in His resurrection proved that He truly is God and that He crushed the serpent's head and defeated sin, death, and the devil for us.

Usually, New Year Resolutions happen at, well, the new year. But it seems to me that, not only since it is springtime, a time of growth and new beginnings, but also with the joyous Easter Season in Christ's resurrection, it may be a good time for us to reflect on our faith in Jesus. How are our spiritual disciplines going? Are we spending time in God's Word as we would like? Are we spending time in prayer as we would like? Are we regularly gathering together as the body of Christ to receive the good gifts God has for us? Perhaps with all these new beginnings with the weather starting to feel more like spring, perhaps in light of what Christ has done for us on Good Friday/Easter Sunday, we may have a time of growth and new beginnings in our faith through the working of the Holy Spirit.

## Attend the Church of your Choice!

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>New Richland, Minnesota<br>Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor<br>Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship<br>Wednesday - 5:15 p.m. Supper; 6 p.m. Bible Study                                          | <b>LUTHERAN</b><br>Hartland, Minnesota<br>Rev. Marcia Pedersen<br>Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship<br>Tuesday - Council meeting (First Tuesday)<br>Wednesday - 7 p.m. Confirmation                                                      | <b>ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH</b><br>Ellendale, Minnesota<br>Pastor David Modder<br>Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 10 a.m. Kids church<br>Check the website for additional updates<br>www.vibrantlifeag.com                                                                                           | Hollandale, Minnesota<br>Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Worship; 10:45 a.m. Sunday School                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>ST. PAUL UNITED</b><br>Minnesota Lake, Minnesota<br>Interim Pastor<br>Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. Worship                                                                                                               |
| <b>ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>Otisco, Minnesota<br>Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor<br>Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship                                                                                                                                            | <b>WEST FREEBORN LUTHERAN</b><br>Hartland, Minnesota<br>Rev. Marcia Pedersen<br>Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship<br>Tuesday - Council meeting (First Tuesday of the month)<br>Quilting meets 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, see newsletter for dates. | <b>FIRST LUTHERAN, AFLC</b><br>Ellendale, Minnesota<br>Pastor Kyle Smith<br>Saturday - 8 a.m. Men's Bible Study<br>Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship<br>Monday - 7 p.m. Call to Prayer<br>Wednesday - 9:30 a.m. Bible Study; 6 p.m. Confirmation; 7-9 p.m. Youth Group (No confirmation during summer) | <b>ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN, ELCA</b><br>Meriden, Minnesota<br>Deacon Billie Jo Wicks<br>Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST</b><br>Minnesota Lake, Minnesota<br>Interim Pastor<br>Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship                                                                                                                              |
| <b>TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>New Richland, Minnesota<br>Pastor Mary Iverson<br>Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee<br>Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting<br>Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting (First Wednesday) | <b>HARTLAND EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN</b><br>Hartland, Minnesota<br>Pastor Phillip K. Lepak<br>Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship; Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.                                                                                      | <b>ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST</b><br>Ellendale, Minnesota<br>Randy Cirksema, Pastor<br>Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Worship; 9:15 a.m. Sunday school. (No summer Sunday school)<br>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.     | <b>PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN</b><br>Lemond Township<br>Pastor Dave Klawitter<br>Sunday - 10:15 a.m. Worship                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>Freedom Township<br>Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL</b><br>New Richland, Minnesota<br>Pastor Pamela Jensen<br>Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship                                                                                                                                                                | <b>MANCHESTER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN</b><br>Manchester, Minnesota<br>Pastor Phillip K. Lepak<br>Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship                                                                                                             | <b>CENTRAL FREEBORN LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>Pastor Matt Griggs<br>Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship<br>FM Transmitter is used for those wanting to listen through their car radios at FM 90.7                                                                                                       | <b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH</b><br>Clarks Grove, Minnesota<br>Pastor James Cameron<br>Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. Worship                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST</b><br>Pastor Ava Adams-Morris<br>Waldorf, Minnesota<br>Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship                                                                                                                             |
| <b>LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>New Richland, Minnesota<br>Pastor Dan Kordahl<br>Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School<br>Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting                                                                                                 | <b>ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH</b><br>New Richland, Minnesota<br>Father Glenn Frieheis<br>Friday - 10 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays p.m. Mass<br>Sunday - Mass at 8 a.m.                                                         | <b>EAST FREEBORN LUTHERAN</b><br>Pastor Matt Griggs<br>Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship<br>FM Transmitter is used for those wanting to listen through their car radios at FM 89.3                                                                                                                  | <b>HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH of LITOMYSL</b><br>Father Peter Schuster<br>Sunday - 8 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation; 8:30 a.m. Mass with Children's Church; Preschool Sunday School during Mass<br>Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. - Faith Formation classes for grades K-Confirmation<br>www.litomysl.webs.com<br>www.stsidiorecschool.webs.com | <b>ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC</b><br>Waldorf, Minnesota<br>Father Brian Mulligan<br>Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>New Richland, Minnesota<br>Pastor Dan Kordahl<br>Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship                                                                                                                                                              | <b>COMMUNITY LUTHERAN</b><br>Geneva, Minnesota<br>Pastor Leandra Anderson<br>Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship (times vary for holidays)<br>Monday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting                                                                   | <b>ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>LCMS<br>Hollandale, Minnesota<br>Pastor Jesse Krusemark<br>Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>FIRST LUTHERAN</b><br>Missouri Synod<br>Waldorf, Minnesota<br>Rev. Michael Mathews, pastor<br>Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Study                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>TRINITY LUTHERAN</b><br>Wilton Township<br>Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor<br>Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship (summer) and 10:30 a.m. (winter)                                                                                                          |
| <b>VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH</b><br>New Richland, Minnesota<br>Brian Schanil Pastor<br>Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School<br>Tuesdays: The Shepherd's Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark                   | <b>SIMPLY CHURCH</b><br>105 Second Street North East<br>Geneva, Minnesota<br>Todd Lundgren, Pastor<br>Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Bible Study; 10:30 a.m. Worship                                                                           | <b>HOLLANDALE REFORMED</b><br>Rev. Neal Ooms<br>101 East Park Avenue                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>ST. JOHN LUTHERAN</b><br>Minnesota Lake, Minnesota<br>Rev. Michael Matthews, pastor<br>Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS</b><br>Brad Donner, Branch President<br>Waseca, Minnesota<br>www.lds.org<br>Sunday - 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School<br>Wednesday - 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages 12-18 |
| <b>CROSS OF GLORY</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>VIBRANT LIFE</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE STAR EAGLE.</b>                                                                                                                  |

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## LOOKING BACK

### 100 Years Back - 1924

- A goodly turnout of baseball fans gathered at the State Bank assembly hall last Friday evening to discuss the prospects of the 1924 team. Eleven directors were elected, namely: E.M. Schwenke, Geo. Hovig, H.F. Bestmann, Dr. B.A. Leopard, J.W. Kreuzer, Donald Brown, B.C. Rotegard, Dr. A.A. Doyle, C.I. Virnig, H.T. Tyrholm and O.S. Martinson.
- With Standard Oil setting the example, fifteen corporations have agreed to discontinue roadside advertising that disfigures landscapes. Manufacturers of tires, automobiles, soap, flour, motor parts, oil, yeasts and products are included among those that will discontinue disfiguring the landscape with billboard advertising. This is more than a concession to public opinion and good taste; it is also good business. Roadside advertising is wasteful advertising.
- When Edd Weed uncovered his pansy bed last Friday he found several of the plants in full bloom, and was able to pick a small bouquet of the fresh flowers.
- The boys in the office failed to mention last week that Rev. Peacock helped with the egg and poultry meeting last Saturday evening by singing a few songs of his own composition.
- The Matawan school is closed this week on account of so many of the pupils having the measles.

### 76 Years Back - 1948

- Richard Tyrholm of Crumb & Tyrholm informs The Star that his company will definitely move its factory to Hartland.
- Teachers in the New Richland high and grade schools have all been granted an increase in salaries for the ensuing year ranging from \$200 to \$400.
- Orville Becker, who has been conducting a radio repair shop in the rear part of Tyrholm's furniture store, has become imbued with a desire to enter the television field. A job in that line suddenly developed in Minneapolis and he made a quick decision.
- Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Hagen entertained for dinner and supper Sunday for Mr. and Mrs. Merton Bickford, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Katzung and Mrs. Josephine Swanson all of Albert Lea and Irene Christenson.
- Thomas Callahan of southwest of New Richland was a caller Tuesday forenoon. He wanted to know why his Star did not arrive until Monday of the week after the paper was issued, and that's what we would like to know.
- Hugh Williams, student in veterinary medicine at Iowa State college, is having a vacation from his studies and is spending the time with his parents, Dr. and Mrs. R.C. Williams, in New Richland.

### 50 Years Back - 1974

- First grade students at New Richland elementary school have been studying the use of the telephone with their instructors, Mrs. Michael Pfeiffer and Mrs. Melford Westeng. A movie was shown and equipment demonstrated.



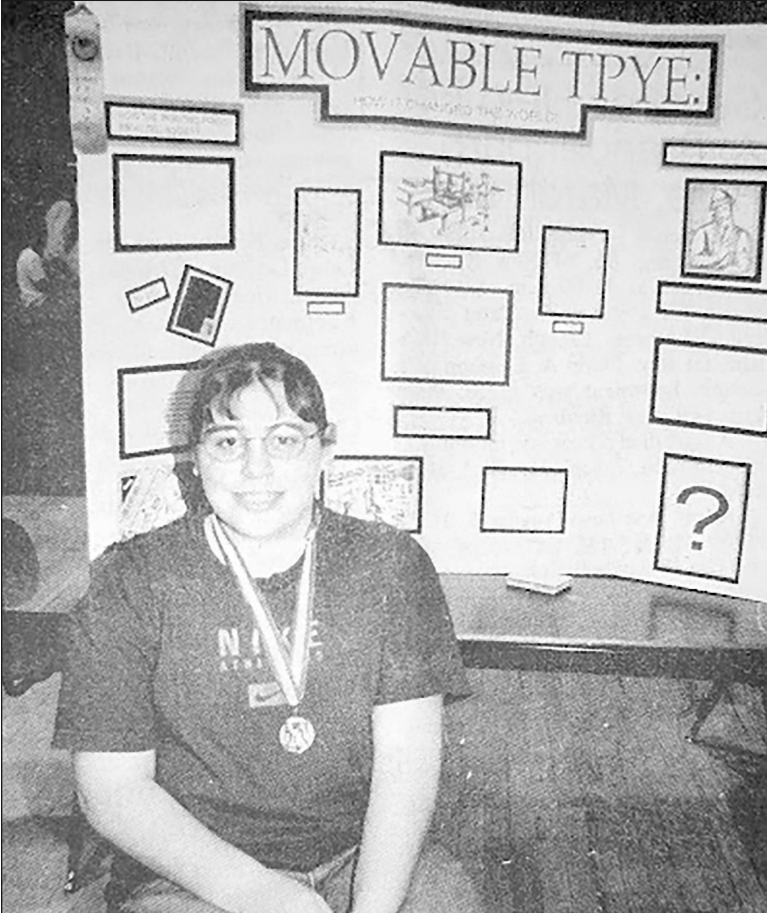
Some of the 22 starred Waldorf-Pemberton instrumental soloists at the recent small group music contest at Lake Crystal were from left: Dan Groskreutz, Al Roesler, Dana Dane, Curt Tesch, Jackie Massop, Doug Hankerson, JoAnn Wallace and Marilyn Tieglund. Missing when the photo was taken were Cindy Bluhm and Cheryl Waknitz.



Brad Nelson, New Richland FFA chapter's sentinel, presented the New Richland Star with a plaque in recognition of the outstanding publicity given to the FFA. Margaret Engesser accepted the award on behalf of the Star.

### 25 Years Back - 1999

- Melissa Lonning, a junior at NRHEG High School, has been selected as New Richland's Girls' Stater by the Andrew Borgen American Legion Post #75 Auxiliary at New Richland. Alternate is Jessica Kubat.



Brittany Schwartz earned the top prize in the Middle School History Fair at Ellendale, earning a gold medal and blue ribbon with her project.



LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COUNTY OF WASECA  
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
DISTRICT COURT  
PROBATE DIVISION  
Court File No. 81-PR-24-217

Estate of  
Paul J. Miller, also known as Paul  
Joseph Miller,  
Decedent  
NOTICE OF INFORMAL PRO-  
BATE OF WILL  
AND APPOINTMENT OF PER-  
SONAL

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REPRESENTATIVE AND  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that an amended ap-  
plication for informal probate of the  
Decedent's Will, dated March 15,  
2015, ("Will"), has been filed with  
the Registrar. The amended applica-  
tion has been granted.  
Notice is also given that the Reg-  
istrar has informally appointed  
Diane J. Miller, whose address  
12828 210th Avenue, New Rich-  
land, MN 56072, as personal repre-  
sentative of the Estate of the  
Decedent. Any heir, devisee or  
other interested person may be en-  
titled to appointment as personal rep-  
resentative or may object to the ap-  
pointment of the personal repre-  
sentative. Unless objections are

filed with the Court (pursuant to  
Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-  
607) and the Court otherwise or-  
ders, the personal representative has  
full power to administer the Estate,  
including, after 30 days from the  
date of issuance of letters, the  
power to sell, encumber, lease or  
distribute real estate.  
Any objections to the probate of the  
Will or appointment of the Personal  
Representative must be filed with  
this Court and will be heard by the  
Court after the filing of an appropri-  
ate petition and proper notice of  
hearing.  
Notice is also given that (subject to  
Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-  
801) all creditors having claims  
against the Estate are required to  
present the claims to the personal

representative or to the Court Ad-  
ministrator within four months after  
the date of this Notice or the claims  
will be barred.  
Dated 04/15/2024  
Deanna Verdick,  
Deputy Probate Registrar  
Dated 04/15/2024  
Shannon Asselin  
Court Administrator

Attorney for Personal Representa-  
tive Christopher M. Roe #0323305  
Blethen Berens  
100 Warren Street, Suite 400  
Mankato MN 56001  
Telephone: (507) 345-1166  
Fax: (507) 345-8003  
Email: croe@blethenberens.com  
Published in the Star Eagle Thurs-  
day April 25 and May 2, 2024

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- 2) To elect Directors
- 3) To transact such other business as  
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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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Norm Gehring displays the plaque he received acknowledging 54 years of service as the Wilton Township clerk. With him are fellow township leaders Denny HoeHN, Lester Kroeger, Curt Johnson and Todd Stencil. Photo by Rachael Jaeger

# Gehring honored during 37th annual banquet

**By RACHAEL JAEGER**  
Staff Writer

Waseca County held its thirty-seventh annual County Township Association Banquet at the American Legion on Wednesday, April 10. Andy Miller awarded Norman Gehring with a plaque recognizing him for 54 years of service as the Wilton Township Clerk.

In attendance were a number of county commissioners and board members from Alton, Freedom, Iosco, New Richland, Janesville, Otisco, St. Mary's and Woodville townships. Jason Forshee, fire chief in Waseca, reported there had been 304 fire calls in 2023 – about forty fewer than the previous year. “Obviously, it’s been a busy start to this year with the big fires,” he added. “I have to give a shout out to the local farmers who helped haul water. We had so much help from helicopters and airplanes to twelve fire departments.”

DeAnne Malterer, Waseca County Commissioner for district 2, was also invited to the podium. She told those in attendance how encouraging it was to attend the lobby days in St. Paul and meet the senators and representatives.

“I keep hearing from people who say they’re not going to go because it doesn’t do any good,” Malterer said, adding that she recognizes the division up in the Cities is frustrating, that there is a lobbyist who firmly stated that showing up matters. Malterer recalled the lobbyist saying, “All I have to do is

walk into their office with one of their constituents. They sit up straighter and they are much more responsive. They want to hear what your views are. If you can’t go, email them, call them. They’re there to serve you.”

The night began with a social hour from six until seven, with Andy Miller welcoming all the township clerks and thanking others for attending. Among those who were present included Joan Mooney, Director of the Waseca County Historical Society and her board members: Gregg Johnson from Waseca, Dale Groskreutz from New Richland, Carol Raimann from New Richland, Linda Finley from Janesville, Dawn Hargren from New Richland, Marty Buum from Waseca, Dan Forrest from Waseca, and Brian Harguth from Waseca. She thanked all the townships for supporting the historical society.

“Whenever we’ve visited the township halls, you’ve got a real take on the American government and where it all starts,” added Mooney. “It’s a humbling experience and you have our utmost respect.”

For dessert, twelve pies were brought to the American Legion hall to signify the twelve different townships.

“Thank you to all the townships that showed up tonight,” Harguth said. “The townships are what make up the county.”

## Flag presentation



The Waldorf American Legion post 587 presented a flag to the House of Restoration. The House of Restoration runs a Thrift Store in the old Waldorf School among other things. Pictured is Mayor Rob Wilkening and Charlie Barnes, both Legion Members and Kathy Grinnell of the House of Restoration located at 144 North Street in Waldorf.

## State award



The city of Waldorf won the State of Minnesota Wastewater Treatment Facility Operational Award. It is in recognition of exceptional compliance with its Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for the year 2023 signed by Katrina Kessler, MPCA Commissioner.

Pictured front from left: Mayor Rob Wilkening, Public Works Ron Fischer. Back Row: Councilmembers: Kevin Lines, Carrie Ferch, Missy Sorbo and City Engineer Brent Kavitz.

# County 4-H celebrates volunteers during National Volunteer Week

Each year, thousands of volunteers in Minnesota donate their time and energy to make their communities a better place to live. These volunteers will be among the millions across the country who will be spotlighted during National Volunteer Week, April 21-27, 2024.

One group that relies heavily on volunteers is the University of Minnesota Extension’s 4-H Youth Development Program. During National Volunteer Week and every week throughout 2024, Minnesota 4-H celebrates and appreciates its more than 7,500 volunteers – each one critical to the success of 4-H programs and making a difference in the lives of youth. In Waseca County

4-H, 70 volunteers serve as club leaders, project leaders, committee members and in advisory capacities for the 4-H Youth Development Program. Research shows that Minnesota 4-H volunteers help youth gain leadership skills, serve their communities, improve their decision-making skills and develop

career readiness.

Missy Eaton, an eight-year Waseca County 4-H volunteer, volunteers for 4-H because she “believes 4-H is a great program. I learned a lot as a youth participating in 4H and want to give those benefits to other kids. I really enjoy watching the kids learn by doing.” She encourages all adults to volunteer with 4-H because, “Adults should always stand behind our next generation and be a part of making them better than ourselves!” What better way to do that than by giving your time and energy to a youth program, like 4-H.

The work of 4-H volunteers is continuous. Every day volunteers lend a helping hand to make 4-H programs more beneficial to the residents of Waseca County. Those interested in joining the team of 4-H volunteers are invited to contact the University of Minnesota Extension - Waseca County 4-H at 507-835-0600, mnext-waseca@umn.edu, or visit the website at [www.extension.umn.edu/Waseca](http://www.extension.umn.edu/Waseca)



Waseca County 4-H volunteer Missy Eaton assists youth on proper techniques for giving their animal science projects medication at a recent Livestock Quality Assurance training in New Richland. Missy is one of the 70+ volunteers who dedicate time and energy to helping youth grow in their skills and knowledge in the 4-H program.

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