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NRHEG One Mile Color Run, Walk or Stroll 3 p.m., Sat., Oct. 5.

This fundraiser is for a new playground. Check-in is at 2 p.m. The race begins at 3. There will be music, face painting, Moegeo's Food Truck, fire truck and more. The registration fee is \$30 cash or check. There is on-line registration or a mail-in form. Registration includes a T-shirt and race entry. Forms available in both school offices. Children 4 and under free.

Woodville Cemetery Tour Sunday, Oct. 6

Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service is planning a walking tour of Woodville Cemetery for the afternoon of Sunday, October 6. The organization invites interested individuals to keep an eye on the company Facebook page for more information and "sneak peeks."

Correction

The class reunion photo of 1957 from last week's edition should have read: Front row: Zetty Clair Nelson, Yvonne Spinler, Jeanette Theuer and Iris Jensen. Back row: Dave Jellum, Darryl Flim, David Nelson, Howard Wayne, Melvin Schewe, Janet Motz, Mary Lou Deml, Ellen Aller. Missing from the photo of those attending the reunion was Ron Thompson. Thank you, Kathy Paulsen, for submitting the photo along with the fast-pitch softball photo and story.

Waseca Farmers Market Saturdays from 8 a.m. until noon

Every Saturday until the fall season, the Waseca County Fair Grounds will be hosting a farmers market from 8 a.m. until noon.

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.

Farmamerica Open Corn Maze every Sat night in Oct.

Every Saturday night in October from 6-9 p.m. Farmamerica will host a maze under the stars. The cost is \$5 per person and there will be food trucks, yard games and entertainment. Farmamerica is partnering with local FFA chapters for these nights.

A word from
The Word



We also are men,
of like nature with
you, and we bring
you good news, that
you should turn
from these vain
things to a living
God, who made the
heaven and the
earth. Acts 14:15



From left: Mark Griffith, Sarah Sundve and teacher Holly Pederson during the NRHEG mock crash staged near the NRHEG secondary school on Friday, Sept. 20. Ian Riskedahl played the part of a crash victim, but stepped out of character for the sake of the picture. Star Eagle photo by Ben Revermann

NRHEG Mock car crash goes off without a hitch

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Students from the NRHEG secondary school took some time away from their classes the afternoon of Friday, Sept. 20 to view a "Mock Car Crash" arranged by staff from the New Richland ambulance and fire departments, the Ellendale ambulance crew, the Waseca County Sheriff's office and Bonnerup Funeral and Cremation Services.

Students saw two badly damaged vehicles. In and near them were seven "injured" victims—student volunteers with makeup used to simulate injuries.

The point, according to organizers, was to make clear to the young visitors that poor choices can lead to serious consequences. New Richland Ambulance representative Sarah Sundve said the dramatic representation is meant to provide "high impact with low cost. If it saves one life, that makes all this worth it."

Sundve and other members of the organizing team began planning the event in April. Said NRHEG secondary principal Grant Berg, "We're hoping this will educate the students, this is real, whatever damage we can prevent is good."

A damaged sedan and minivan were provided for the event by Misgen Auto Parts. The scenario represented is that driver Winter Pederson was not only intoxicated, but texting while behind the wheel when her car collided with the minivan. Pederson's injured passengers were Hazel and Violet Botten.

Passenger Ian Riskedahl was lying "dead" on the vehicle's hood after having been thrown through the windshield

Driver of the minivan was Orion Rider; in her vehicle were injured passengers Jayden Tonkin, Jade Bauldry, and Laila Schmidt. The teacher who supervised the activity was drama club advisor Holly Pederson.

As the high school kids began crossing the road to approach the crash scene, the "victims" were already in position, the idea being that the accident had only just occurred. Actors continued their roles as one by one the police arrived, then the fire department, then the ambulances, then the hearse. The jaws of life were used to take the top off the car to remove the deceased victim, who was loaded into the hearse and driven away. Winter Pederson was given a mock sobriety test, which she failed; she was arrested, handcuffed and put in the back of a police car.

Mark Griffith, director of South-Central Emergency Medical Services, was present making sure his ambulances performed correctly. Said Griffith, "Not only does this give these emergency responders a chance to use tools they might not otherwise be able to use, which equals more training, it also saves lives. With school starting we have a lot of kids on the road and if they're going to be out, we want them to make smart choices."

Griffith estimates it has been about seven years since a mock crash was



Playing the roles of accident participants in the sedan during last week's "mock crash" were Ian Riskedahl, Hazel Botten, Violet Botten, driver Winter Pederson. In the van were driver Orion Rider and passengers Jayden Tonkin, Jade Bauldry, and Laila Schmidt.



organized in the area. The majority of the emergency responders were volunteers. There had been a drone in the air but it was not a police one, Waseca Sheriff's sergeant Joshua Langr said, "Usually officers drone an area for evidence, so the judge and lawyers get a better understanding of what hap-

pened. If criminal charges come up in court, all of that is used." Extra credit should go to Winter Pederson, who put up a pretty good fight when she was being "arrested." The entire event started at 1:30 p.m. and was over by 2:30, when the students returned to their classes.

School Board
NRHEG

Board approves preliminary 2025 levy

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

During the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (NRHEG) school board's regular monthly meeting on Sept. 16, district business manager Karla Christopherson summarized briefly that, of the district's \$13 million annual budget, about \$2.4 million is covered by property taxes levied against land, homes, and structures within the district's boundaries, which reach into three counties including Waseca, Freeborn, and Steele. The anticipated levy amount reached in preliminary calculations is that, whereas the district levied for \$2,402,000 in 2024, it is likely to levy for \$2,472,000 in 2025, about \$70,000 more, which amounts to less than a one-percent increase.

Based on state law, all publicly-funded agencies must submit a preliminary tax levy to relevant county governments. Counties then send property owners a statement during November letting them know what their anticipated property tax burden from all sources will be during the upcoming year. Taxpayers have the opportunity to attend a "truth in taxation" meeting in December, where they can acquire further information about how their money is being distributed. NRHEG's truth in taxation meeting was set for 6 p.m. Dec. 16 at the district's secondary site located in New Richland.

Public comment was received from Tracy Smith, who has children in the district. Smith pointed out that, while the nurse's office at the Ellendale site is manned full time by a licensed practical nurse (LPN), the office at the New Richland site is sometimes not. "Unlicensed staff does not have the training to understand the types of side effects or unexpected outcomes which might be

School continued on 4

Marching Classic



The NRHEG Panther band took second place in class AAA during the parade competition of the 2024 Marching Classic, which took place Saturday, Sept. 21. Band members were led by drum major Grace Starman and accompanied by band director Seth Schaefer and volunteers Melissa Dunn and Allison Muilenburg.

Star Eagle photos by Deb Bently



FenceLines

by Mark Bernard

Biggest crop ever

The scurs and the Weather Eye were in control again with slight amounts of precip with a return to September. Do we turn the calendar over to October and find more cooling and precip or does summer make one more run at us? Starting on Thursday, sunny with highs in the upper 70's and lows in the low 50's. Mostly sunny on Friday with highs in the upper 70's and lows in the mid-50's. Mostly sunny on Saturday with a slight chance of rain. Highs in the upper 70's with lows in the mid-50's. Sunday, mostly sunny with a fair chance of forenoon rain. Highs in the upper 70's with lows in the upper 50's. Mostly sunny on Monday with an increasing chance of rain into the evening hours. Highs in the mid-70's with lows in the low 50's. Tuesday October 1st, cloudy with a fair chance of rain. Highs in the mid-60's with lows in the upper 40's. Mostly sunny on Wednesday with highs in the low 60's and lows in the mid-40's. The normal high for October 1st is 67 and the normal low is 44. The cooler days find the scurs trying to locate their long winter gatkes just in case.

No sign of winter just yet in area fields as harvest is starting to get off the ground. Some soybeans have been combined and yields aren't necessarily the disaster some feared. Most reported yields are in the 50 - 60 bushel per acre range so far, realizing that there have been relatively few acres combined yet. Some limited corn harvest, although silage has been cut locally. Something area homeowners noticed last week was the sudden influx of uninvited houseguests in the form of multi-colored Asian ladybeetles. Will be a long six to seven months. There have also been reports of "no-see-ums" outdoors, which in this case are actually minute pirate bugs. They are not the same thing as the smaller biting midges commonly found in more northerly climes, especially during the spring months. Like the ladybeetles, minute pirate bugs feed on small soft-bodied insects such as aphids. When the corn and soybeans are nearing maturity as they are now, the pirate bugs run out of aphids to eat, move out of the crops and into areas where humans frequent. They may attempt to taste-test humans, causing an irritating bite. Luckily they don't spread disease and are less apt to bother on cooler days.

In the backyard we continue to see the hummingbirds as they move through on their migration south. When the weather began to cool, their numbers seemed to start making a subtle decline. They're still here, just not as many or as active when the morning temps are in the 40's. There have been some other infrequent visitors such as a red-breasted nuthatch. We see them occasionally, although their visits are usually of short duration. What has probably been the most attractive to the bird population has been the birdbath. It needs to be filled daily as the robins in particular like splashing about in it. With the lack of rain, there haven't been many puddles or earthworms for them to eat. They've apparently been enjoying the nannyberries as many mornings, nannyberry pits frequently line the bottom of the birdbath. When the last of the jelly is gone from the oriole feeder, it'll soon be time to put one of the suet feeders out again. Had best check the supply on that as I suspect we may be fresh out.

The apple trees at the ranch have produced their biggest crop ever, coming at a cost. As I mentioned in an earlier column, as loaded as they became, there has been structural damage to the trees that will need to be dealt with to salvage them. Getting the apples all picked off them first will be the first step. The apple quality has been exceptional. An apple crisp made from the Haralson apples revealed some of the brightest flavored apples ever. Despite all the scab on the outside of the apples, the insides were pristine with very little evidence of insect pests. Honeycrisps have been the same way. The biggest disappointment was the pear crop. After seeing a good pollination season unfold, things went downhill from there. Scab set in and many of the lower set fruit dropped prematurely in several wind events. The ground had become so hard that the fruit that was set higher up fell with such force that the pears were split open well before they could be taken in the house to ripen. Pretty sure the bunnies and deer enjoyed them though.

Sad news on Tuesday morning when I read about Schwan's closing down their home delivery operation. We had the Schwan's man stop at the farm when I was growing up. It was always fun to see what Mom had ordered, especially the ice cream treats. The offerings were high quality, and, while the prices weren't cheap, the products weren't usually available in the local grocery store. And the ice cream was exceptional. We had the Schwan's man stop at the ranch for many years as well. It was great to have something warm and wholesome on hand we could make quickly, especially when our schedules made getting to the grocery store difficult. Fast forward to the sale of the company. A name change to Yelloh. Huh? It's been Schwan's forever. Dumb move. Tie delivery charges to the dollar amount of product ordered. OK, I get it, then don't move the goalposts when discounts are applied. Product availability also became erratic. The cardinal sin, however, was to mess with the ice cream recipe, particularly the vanilla. It suddenly tasted no better than the bargain brand stuff from the grocery store. RIP Schwan's.

Poppy keeps getting a little more freedom as we've been able to trust her when leaving her for extended periods. She still needs to go out every so many hours, however, so one needs to mindful of that. One morning we had one of those fun-size thundershowers approaching. It was still a little over an hour out according to the radar, but Poppy was super about waking me up, so she could go outside to do her business. About 15 minutes before the storm arrived, Poppy was back, pawing at me again. This time I thought it was just the thunderstorm getting her riled up, so I rolled over and went back to sleep. She relented and left me alone. We did chores about an hour later and came back in the house for breakfast. When I went to fill Poppy's food and water bowls, I happened to glance over under the dining room table. Oopsie! Poppy had left a dog log trail, apparently as a result of my ignoring her pleas earlier. Not a big deal and my fault. Lesson learned. Ignore the Corgi at your own peril.

See you next week...real good then.

Roll on, highway, roll along

Now that school is in full swing, I find myself traversing State Highway 30 every day. I once tried to do the math on how many times I've driven the ten-mile stretch between Ellendale and New Richland. It seems incalculable, but it's in the thousands.

You probably have a road like that. If so, it's likely something you drive to work. It might be the same road you take to get to some stores you frequent. You might also count the number in the thousands for how often you've been on that road.

I grew up about three miles outside of New Ulm. There was an S-curve at the time, though it's a lower-case s now that they've redone the road. I knew that road like the back of my hand. (Which, now that I look down at my hands while typing, is a really weird saying. I mean, I see them a lot, but I don't know if I could draw every vein and wrinkle from memory.) I even drove it in dense fog a couple of times, the kind of fog that you would need a knife to cut through. But you get to a point where your instincts know exactly when you've reached a point where the steering wheel needs to be used.

Is your road like that? Could you drive it in your sleep? I don't recommend that; it could be quite dangerous!

I've driven Highway 30 for so long, yet it seems like it always needs repairs. I know that it's been



Whatever Flips Your Waffle

by Mark Domeier

Contributing Writer

completely redone a couple of times in my career, but it never seems like too long after the construction is done that you start seeing cracks in the tar. Then you see the little fill-in tar used in those cracks. It's always fun when they put the fresh oil down and have the gravel on top of that to drive over.

We count on our roads being drivable. Using a state highway like I do means that it is likely one of the first plowed out in the winter. Interstates are right up there, too. For those of you on gravel roads, you know you are near the end of the line for plowing and maintenance.

When there is construction on your road of choice, then you get to deal with detours. And suddenly, your whole schedule is thrown off. You might have to go miles out of your way to get back to your path. The last time Highway 30 was worked on for a big project, we had the dreaded pace car that would lead you down the one side of the road that could be driven on; you had to hope your timing was just right, or

you might wait a very long time.

The only thing better than having a good road is discovering a shorter path to your destination. When I first moved here, I would head to Mankato to visit a friend and watch football on Sundays. I tried three different ways of getting there to find the best route. (Remember, we didn't always have Google Maps to tell us which way to go. How did we ever find where we were going?) I headed up Highway 13 to Highway 14. I went on Highway 30 to Highway 83, and I tried Highway 30 to Highway 22. I settled on the 83 trip since it brought me right to the part of Mankato I needed to be.

The roads on which we travel can be therapeutic. If you don't have far to go most days, you likely just flip on the radio for the short commute. I find that listening to podcasts and audiobooks is a good way to go that 20-mile round trip, and it helps me both get ready and unwind from the day. There are plenty of days I make multiple trips if I am announcing a game in the evening. Even there, some-

times I could just stay in school, but my drive works wonders for my mindset.

When I started teaching here, I began my day in New Richland and traveled over to Ellendale for the afternoon. I really enjoyed that drive since I had to reset my brain from teaching high schoolers to middle schoolers. At that time, I would listen to Jesse Ventura when he had a show on KFAN, though he was replaced by Paul Allen when the former ran for governor.

Some of you might carpool down those roads, taking turns to get to the same location. Having someone with in the car can also be relaxing. Georgia Dinneen and Marlene Schoenrock traveled between buildings the same as me, but I don't ever recall carpooling, not because we didn't get along, but because our schedules were different, especially when I was coaching.

Whatever roads you drive along and however you spend your time while driving, may you drive safely and in comfort. The roads may be the same, but every day is a new and different day!

Word of the Week: This week's word is outragbe, which means to emit strange noises, as in, "He knew he was in trouble when his car started to outragbe a mile out of town." Impress your friends and confuse your enemies!

31st Lutheran Night at the Twins

This was the 31st year of chartering a coach bus to Lutheran Night at The Twins.

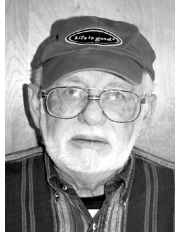
The 1st year AAL (Aid Association for Lutherans) helped us with payment of the fee to Charter a bus to the Lutheran Night at The Twins. Since then, with changes along the way, the dollar amount is \$250.00 to be used to help sponsor a community project under Thrivent.

This has been done yearly through F.R.O.G. of Central Freeborn Lutheran Church Rural Albert Lea, Minnesota.

August 12. The \$250.00 dollars sponsored by Thrivent was in the from of a Debit card to the tune of \$250.00 that was used as partial payment of the chartered bus.

The Twins organization honored all military Veterans with reduced rates to the Twins game. F.R.O.G. (Fully Rely on God) identified the veterans.

F.R.O.G. used the \$250.00 to give \$10.00 back to each veteran on the bus, of which there were eight. \$10.00 was given to each of the



FACT OR FICTION

...you decide

by Bob Hanson, Emeritus

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

seven on the bus who helped.

Lead in singing the national Anthem before the game started. There was one person on the bus with the birthday of August 12 (Genie Hanson) with her being recognized on the Twins Scoreboard. The bus of 57 was fully occupied with each person on the bus getting \$10.00 back.

Deal or no deal was played on the bus on the way to the Twins. Thanks to the Twins organization, 27 Twins related prizes were part of the deal or no deal drawings.

Some interesting items related to the Twins bus trip.

A. The bus was filled the earliest ever this year. Each bus person paid \$60.00 to go.

B. After cancellations plus other changes, the net result of 12 people wanting to go couldn't get a seat on the bus.

C. Brad Bjerke and Al Anderson proved chivalry is a Twins fan greatness. They gave up their seats, so two people could go to the game in honor of their wedding Anniversary. Tera and Tony Hagen enjoyed their Anniversary.

D. A Queen, Lor, Singlewald, led the seven singers of the national anthem.

E. All 57 bus passengers found their way back to the bus after the ballgame!!!

F. The Twins Won!!!

G. Marty, the great bus driver, left

the sleeping to us on the way back to Albert Lea.

H. On behalf of Genie and myself, we enjoyed our time with you, the Twins fans.

I. At this point there are 22 good Twins fans and two fans you can help Genie and me convert to Twins fans on our list to go in 2025.

J. Based on not making or losing a lot - The event was a success, as F.R.O.G. was ahead to the tune of \$45.40.

The next Tentative

SCPH seeking proposal for opioid response

[STEELE COUNTY, MN] – [09/19/24] – Steele County Public Health (SCPH) is launching a Request for Proposals (RFP) process for the 2025 Steele County Opioid Response Initiative Grant. The RFP, application form, workplan template, and budget template are available on the SCPH website. The application deadline is Friday, November 1, 2024 at 12 p.m.

The 2025 Steele County Opioid Response Initiative Grant aims to address the impact of the opioid epidemic in Steele County by funding community projects focused on prevention, treatment and recovery, harm reduction, and criminal justice. The goal of the grant is to support initiatives that equitably serve communities most affected by the opioid crisis and promote sustainable, long-term solutions.

A virtual information session will be held on Thursday, October 3, from 9 - 10 a.m. to provide details about the application process. The meeting link is available on the SCPH website. This meeting will be recorded and posted on the SCPH website for those who are unable to attend.

All questions regarding the Opioid Response Initiative Grant should be directed to Steele County Public Health via email at SCPHN@Steele-CountyMN.gov no later than 12 p.m. on Friday, October 18, 2024. Questions and answers will be posted on the SCPH website no later than one week after their submission.

Steele County Public Health is dedicated to preventing disease, promoting wellness, and protecting the health of Steele County residents through a variety of services such as family health programs, immunization clinics, and home health care. SCPH also provides resources for radon and water testing, health education, and emergency preparedness to realize its vision of Healthy People in Healthy Communities. Learn more: https://steelecountymn.gov/public_health.

Star Eagle

is for sale at these locations:

CLARKS GROVE - Gopher Stop

ELLENDALE - Casey's Lerberg's

GENEVA - Geneva Bar & Grill

HARTLAND - Nielsen's Conoco

NEW RICHLAND - Wagner Foods Casey's

WASECA - Casey's Kwik Trip

HOPE - Kwik Trip North Krause Feeds & Supplies

And At The Star Eagle Office

Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Donation



The Flatlanders organization made a donation of comfort bears to the NRHEG elementary school. In August, Flatlanders donates stuffed bears to students who have been injured or are otherwise in need of a comforting hug. Flatlanders, A.B. A. T. E. of Minnesota is a non-profit organization that is committed to educating motorcyclists and the general public about motorcycling. The organization promotes safer riding through education, not legislation.

'American Bikers for Awareness, Training, and Education' is the acronym.

Flatlanders enjoys participating in the Buddy Bear Run to deliver bears to nearby emergency responders, and recently began including the local elementary school nursing office in order to share hope and comfort in emergency situations!! Flatlanders is thankful to everyone who made it out for a beautiful day to ride and contribute to a great cause, as well as to our public services for everything they do each day.



Immanuel Lutheran Church of Freedom Township is holding the fourth of four special services marking year 150 since the church drafted its constitution in 1874. Visitors are invited to join the congregation at a 10:45 a.m. service on Sunday, Oct. 6. The church is located south of Janesville along county highway 3.

Area church celebrating 150-year anniversary Sunday October 6

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Freedom Township was founded in 1874, and has been celebrating its 150th year with special services held quarterly since last October. The final observance is scheduled for 10:45 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 6, at the church, located about eight miles south of Janesville along County Highway 3. All who would like to attend are welcome.

The guest pastor at the upcoming service will be Rev. Dr. Lucas V. Woodford, president of the Minnesota South District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

According to church history, the congregation has been meeting in the same building since 1874: The structure is much changed, however, having nearly doubled in size thanks to additions built over time, including the 1949 project of raising the building and constructing a basement, which serves as the church social hall, underneath.

The church operated its own parochial school from 1884 to 1945, gradually growing from simply having the pastor teach

OBITUARIES

Richard Haug

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Richard “Dick” Haug, beloved husband, dad, grandpa, great-grandpa, brother, brother-in-law, uncle and friend, who left us on Tuesday, September 17 at the age of 94.

Dick was born December 3, 1929 in Steele County, Minnesota. Throughout his life Dick embodied kindness, generosity, and an unwavering sense of integrity. He graduated from Ellendale High School in Minnesota in 1947 and quickly joined the U. S. Army, serving 21 years, and rising to the rank of Command Sergeant Major. After retiring from the Army, Dick worked a short time with his brother-in-law at the Fertilizer Plant in Clarks Grove. He then went on to become Manager of the Clarks Grove Co-op Creamery in Clarks Grove, Minnesota for 25 years. Dick’s retirement from the creamery coincided with the closing of the creamery. To keep busy after retirement, Dick volunteered to be a Ride Share driver for Ride Services in Albert Lea, MN. Until age 80, he, in his words, enjoyed taking the “old people” to their various appointments. Dick touched countless lives while in the Army, working at the creamery and volunteering with his dedication and love for working with people.

Dick loved athletics, both as a participant and fan. As a participant, he enjoyed softball and was a regular at the golf course. As a fan, he was an avid fan of both the Twins and the Vikings. As his grandchildren grew up, he became a fan of whatever sport each was involved in.

Dick is survived by his wife of 72 years, Arlyss (Demmer); his two children, Dan (Patti), and Renae Mesch; five grandchildren, Kelsey Mesch (Joe Slattery), Karter White (Steve), Brittany Critchfield (Kyle), Davis Haug, and Alecia Guervara (Ruben); and eight great grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister, Irene



Richard Haug

Wanous of Owatonna, Minnesota; sisters-in-law Norma Demmer of Albert Lea, MN and Devonna Olson of Amery, WI.

Dick was preceded in death by his parents, David and Luella Haug, as well as his brothers Dale and Lowell Haug, son-in-law Gary Mesch, mother-in-law, seven brothers-in-law, and six sisters-in-law.

Family and friends are invited to celebrate Dick’s life at Lutheran Church of Hope in Broomfield, Colorado, on Wednesday, September 25, 2024 at 10 a.m. Viewing will be held one hour prior to the service. Lunch will be served following the service and prior to burial, which will be at 1:30 p.m. at Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver, Colorado, with full military honors. In lieu of flowers, any donations are requested to be made to Lutheran Church of Hope in Broomfield.

If unable to attend, the funeral service will be webcast at the following website — www.lchope.org/watch. The service will also be archived on the website for several months following.

Dick’s absence will be deeply felt by all who knew him. His spirit will live on in the memories all have shared with him and the multiple lives he has touched.

DEATH NOTICES

Leslie Christensen

Leslie James Christensen, 94, passed away on Monday, September 23, 2024. A funeral service will be held at 11am on Thursday, September 26, 2024 at the Cross of

Glory Lutheran Church in Hartland, MN. A visitation will be held from 9-11am on September 26, 2024 at the church. Pastor Marcia Pedersen will be officiating.

Full obituary to print next week.

LOOKING BACK

25 Years back

● Homecoming 1999 officially got underway on Monday night at New Richland when the Homecoming Royalty was introduced and the new King and Queen were crowned. The gymnasium was decorated in black and gray and white pillars that served as a backdrop on the stage for the royal court. The candidates were all welcomed to the stage area and each of the five couples then took their turn of walking on the runway, which was lit with small white lights that had been laid out on the gymnasium floor.



● Margie Borys with the samples of the new “ELLEDALE” fragrance and cologne.

In June 1999, Margie became an independent Sales Representative for Good Scents Ltd. The business originated in Princeton, Ill. Mary Jo Hetrick started the business in the basement of her home, mixing fragrances and filling mail orders. She now runs a store in Princeton making custom fragrances.

● Micheal Randy Dobberstein, son of Jim and Melanie, was born on September 8, 1999 at 10:08 p.m. weighing 7 pounds. 15 ounces and measuring 22 inches long. Grandparents are Elmer and Mable Dobberstein of Ellendale and Donald and JoAnn Ress of Faribault. Micheal has two big brothers, Brian and Jeff, and two big sisters, Michelle and Allyson.

New Richland Class of 1959



The New Richland graduating class of 1959 celebrated their 65th reunion at the Timber Lodge in Owatonna on September 17. Front Row: Lorraine (Goracke) Treinen, Rica (Jensen) Van, Pat (Clunis) Severson, Ruby (Grotsun) Alphs, Ruth Ann (Swenson) Armstrong, Gayle (Bethke) Rosenmayer, Eileen (Miller) Harguth, Back Row: Lowell Miller, Tony Martinson Not pictured: LaVonne (Hagen) Meyer.

School

from Page 1

caused by some medicines,” said Smith. Stating that errors made by staff have already put students in danger, she went on, “For everybody’s safety and welfare, the district should have licensed [medical] staff available at all times.”

School board members were presented with certificates of appreciation in observance of “School Board Appreciation Month,” as sponsored by the Minnesota State School Board Association. As he presented the certificates, district superintendent Michael Meihak thanked board members for their dedication to the district’s students and their willingness to contribute their time, experience, and knowledge to keep the district moving forward.

During administrative reports, elementary principal Craig Kopetzki told board members parents have been complimenting the new student drop-off zone which is part of the expanded paved area added during this past summer’s construction projects. Kopetzki explained the new zone has a clearly marked one-way traffic pattern which reduces wait times and congestion.

District community education director Macy Whiteside provided information about preschool education programs. At the Ellendale site, 18 3-year-olds and 23 4- or 5-year-olds are registered; in New Richland, there are 17 3-year-olds and 23 4- or

5-year-olds, for a total of 82 participants.

Secondary principal Grant Berg told board members students seem to be complying with the newly implemented cell phone policy which forbids phones from being visible or in use during class hours. He reported that “Impact Teen Driver” seemed valuable and worthwhile, and that he hopes to schedule it every year from now on. The hour-long presentation, which includes comments and observations from state highway patrol officers and a dramatic video regarding the consequences of poor choices while driving, was presented to NRHEG sophomores on Sept. 4.

Student travel arrangements occupied a significant portion of the evening’s meeting.

Secondary social studies teacher Theresa Buendorf summarized the summer trip to Australia which she supervised this past summer through the student travel company Education First (EF). Buendorf said a total of 48 travelers from NRHEG spent 10 days in Australia and New Zealand; the group included six parents who paid to accompany one of their children, as well as one adult chaperone for each six student travelers—the EF company’s recommended number.

Buendorf was given approval to organize a 2026 trip to Europe. She told board members the 10-day journey would include London, England; Paris and Versailles, France; Switzerland; Lichtenstein; and Munich, Germany. As has been the case for previous trips, participants would be expected to pay for the trip in ad-

vance; EF’s price is \$4,829. Any who cannot pay the cost all at once can arrange to pay monthly installments.

A trip to the 2024 Future Farmers of America (FFA) national convention came within one vote of being disallowed by school board members, all of whom expressed disapproval they were learning in September about the organization’s intent to transport 10 students to Indianapolis for an October 22 to 25 event. Members also expressed discomfort with the request to use a district school bus and driver as transportation, and with the apparent intent to have only one male chaperone even though the trip was scheduled to include participants of both genders. After a motion to disallow the trip failed on a 4 to 3 vote, board members instead came up with a list of criteria which needed to be met before the trip would be allowed. These included either sharing transportation with other FFA groups in the region or finding another means of transport which did not entail a school bus; taking at least two chaperones, one of each gender; and ensuring that criteria for selecting participants were fair and equitable.

After spending roughly 40 minutes of their meeting time on the topic,

board members asked Meihak to draft a set of criteria for all future requests which involve student travel.

Before going into a closed session to address the annual evaluation of Superintendent Meihak’s job performance, board members authorized spending up to \$51,000 for new storage cabinets to be installed in the secondary band room. They also authorized spending no more than \$4,000 as a retainer fee to a legal firm whose task is to take care of legal paperwork which will transfer ownership of two parcels of land on the east side of School Street to the school district. Current owners of the property have agreed to donate the land, which Meihak says total to be about the size of two residential lots, to the school, as long as the district takes care of the necessary legal work and fees.

FFA advisor Dan Sorum has since told the Star Eagle he is able to comply with the criteria and is going forward with the trip. He observed that his request to take a school bus was to make the trip eligible for a \$500 grant from the Minnesota Corn and Soybean Growers Association: the grant was contingent upon using a vehicle powered by biodiesel fuel.

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Compostings

by Al Batt

Murmurations of starlings

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

You should come over and see my new dog. It's a rescue.

Ah, you've finally realized I'm a dog whisperer.

No, that's not it. I want to see if the dog bites.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. I went for a stroll. There was no time like the present, as I could see the dust of the day galloping away from me. There were a good number of people scrolling as they walked. I hoped they weren't ruining a good walk by doomscrolling. I'll admit to yapping on the phone occasionally while walking.

Earlier, I'd been working in the hot sun. Moving one pile to where it used to be and another to where it once had been. It was exciting work, but it was a scorcher. I mumbled to myself, "It must be 100 degrees." I talk to myself because I know I'm listening. It wasn't 100 degrees, but I had to check when the latest day of the year had been when the temperature reached 100 in Minnesota. It was on Sept. 22, 1936, when it hit 100 degrees in Ada in Norman County. I was in Des Moines for work a while back and read that Des Moines had hit 100 degrees on Sept. 11, 1927. I reckon other parts of Iowa, a well-known tropical getaway, likely hit 100 at later dates. On July 20, 1934, it was 118 degrees in Keokuk and on April 20, 1918, Lenox received 24 inches of snow. I needed to tell myself about the snowfall in order to dry the sweat I feared I might drown in.

A family member visited. He lives in Phoenix, along with 1,608,139 other people. He doesn't know them all. I guess it's not a close-knit community. Shade is a hot commodity there, but he likes Phoenix because it has a dry heat. Apparently, you have to tell someone "It's a dry heat" every day or you're forced to leave Phoenix. Phoenix's record-breaking streak of 100-degree days this year ended on Sept. 17 after 113 consecutive days of triple-digit temperatures. It had been as hot as a stolen habanero. How hot was it on Sept. 17? Only 93 degrees. Parka sales at the Phoenix boutiques skyrocketed.

I'VE LEARNED

Eating, sleeping and breathing are words to live by.

To respect my elderberries.

If we were penguins, you'd remind me of everyone I know.

People who tell us to do our

own research have never done their own research.

Rewards programs are good at saving us money on things we wouldn't buy if we weren't members of a rewards program.

The three stages of life are wanting stuff, accumulating stuff and getting rid of stuff.

ASK AL

"What is a co-signer?" An idiot who can write.

"What football player wears the biggest helmet?" The one with the biggest head.

"What would you do if you had \$1 billion?" Nothing.

NATURE NOTES

Pale green corn rootworm beetles wander away from cornfields in late summer to visit gardens where they feed on flowers and vegetables.

I'm seeing murmurations of starlings, those wondrous shape-shifting flocks. I listened to the hummingbirds—the hum of the wings and their chattering voices. Hummingbirds drop their internal temperature, inducing a temporary state of torpor, and need less energy, and therefore less food, to withstand frigid temperatures. If you spot a motionless hummingbird, don't be alarmed. It's torpor. Young hummers migrate along the same routes and winter in the same places their ancestors have, some making an 18-hour flight across the Gulf of Mexico.

One group of pelicans will drive prey towards another group of pelicans. The American white pelican eats up to three pounds of fish per day. It also eats salamanders, tadpoles and crayfish.

The downy woodpecker makes a whiney call that descends in pitch at the end. The hairy woodpecker's call is similar but doesn't descend in pitch at the end.

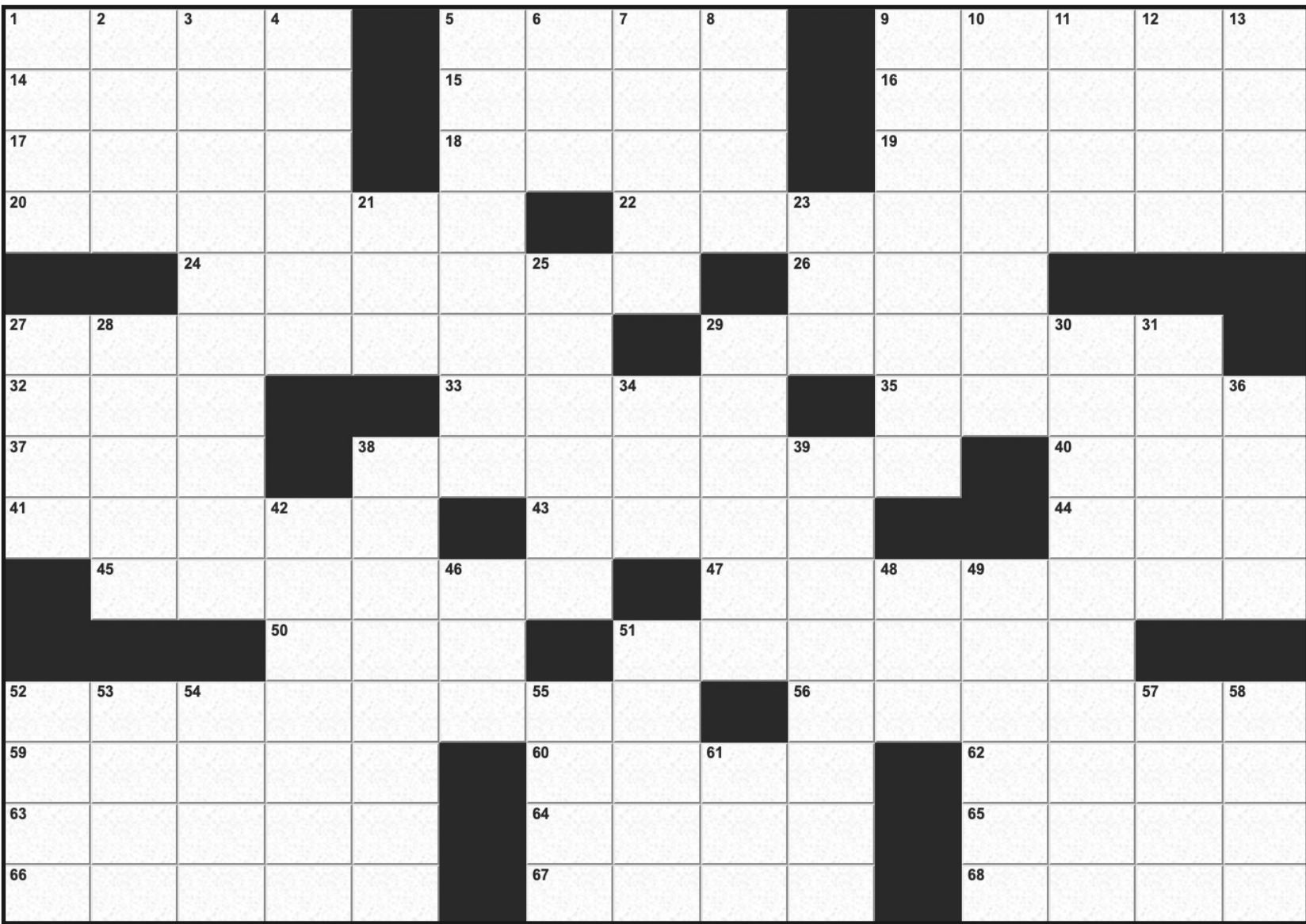
Mast is a term used to describe the fruit of trees and shrubs. A mast year is when a particular species produces more fruit than normal. Oaks have cycles of high and low yields. Oak masting happens every 2-5 years. In a mast year, seed-eating animals are unlikely to eat all the seeds produced, leaving the rest to sprout. An abundance of acorns is said to augur a harsh winter, but that's untrue.

In September, monarch butterflies congregate in large numbers and by the end of October, they have left the state in a mass migration to their winter grounds.

MEETING ADJOURNED

To have a kind word and not share it is like stealing.

Crossword Theme - unexpected arrivals



Congratulations 2024 Royalty and good luck Panthers!

THEN NRHEG HOME COMING

NRHEG ROYALTY

- 2023 - Hallie Schultz and William Tuttle
- 2022 - Eva Wayne and Makota Misgen
- 2021 - Brenlee Knudson and Alex Dobberstein
- 2020 - Grace Tufte and Thor Routh
- 2019 - Jayna Domeier and Blake Ihrke
- 2018 - Jayna Finseth and John Reynolds-Hinderscheit
- 2017 - Benji Lundberg and Makenzi Rhoades
- 2016 - Alex Blaschko and Rachel Collins
- 2015 - Michael Altermatt and Jessica Nafe
- 2014 - Ryann Hagen and Nick Bartness
- 2013 - Charlie Wagner and Carson Field
- 2012 - Maddy Schwierjohann and Riley Schue
- 2011 - Anna Schlaak and Seth Petranek
- 2010 - Kaylee Maxon and Cody Root
- 2009 - Alyssa Hagen and David Lindell
- 2008 - Emily Dahle and Tim Bartness
- 2007 - Trevor Bordelon and Hillary Johnson
- 2006 - Lindsey Hagen and Matt Mangskau
- 2005 - Alison Anderson and Phil Olson
- 2004 - Whitney Hagen and Andy Tomsche
- 2003 - Erin Anderson and Matt Wenzel
- 2002 - Stacy Lura and Matt Groskreutz
- 2001 - Ellen Johnson and Alex Barnett
- 2000 - Nikki Cromwell and Tony Schlaak
- 1999 - Heather Wayne and Joe Moon
- 1998 - Faith Van Bockern and Chad Knudson
- 1997 - Linda Schlaak and Justin Schlaak
- 1996 - Jenny Hagen and Dan Routh
- 1995 - Amanda Paulson and Gabe Routh
- 1994 - Jenny Broskoff and Micah Eastvold
- 1993 - Gretchen Jensen and Matt Eastvold
- 1992 - Jane Nordhorn and Terry Truebenbach
- 1991 - Ronda Hendrickson and Shane Reese
- 1990 - Jennie Hanson and Brian Brekke



NRHEG HOMECOMING 2024

WHO WILL REIGN? — Candidates for this year's NRHEG Homecoming are, front: Mallory Schlinger, Tayla Sandry, Lia Johannsen, Sierra Misgen, Hannah Brunsen, and Violet Elise Aronson.Back: Jayden Fleming, Harbor Cromwell, Owen Bartlett, Cole Hutchens, Alden Dobberstein and Jase Knudson/ Coronation took place Tuesday, September 24 at 7:30 p.m. at the high school gymnasium in New Richland. Photos of the court will be featured in next week's edition.

NRHEG HOMECOMING 1997 - 25 YEARS AGO



1999 Homecoming King, Joe Moon and Queen, Heather Wayne.

NEW RICHLAND - HARTLAND ROYALTY

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1989 - Heidi Bullock | 1982 - Sue Crosley | 1971 - Bev Possin | 1960 - Judy Echternach | 1949 - Kathryn Johnson |
| 1988 - Renee Gekeler | 1981 - Joni Kozirolek | 1970 - Marlene Miller | 1959 - Judy Frisk | 1948 - Virginia Shurson |
| 1987 - Jennifer Lewison | 1980 - Lori Schultz | 1969 - Marilyn Peterson | 1958 - Jean Ann Olson | 1947 - Mary Bruzek |
| 1986 - Sandy Peterson | 1979 - Cindy Holmen | 1968 - Gratia Hokanson | 1957 - Karen Erickson | 1946 - Alice Piltingsrud |
| 1985 - Michelle Thompson | 1978 - Judy Bartness | 1967 - Karen Tukua | 1956 - Joan Frisk | 1945 - Geraldine Ackmann |
| 1984 - Rochelle Johnson | 1977 - Lori Entwisle | 1966 - Cheryl Engesser | 1955 - Kay Wenzel | 1944 - Jean Routh |
| 1983 - Stacey Thompson | 1976 - Karin Edwards | 1965 - Lynda Lyndgarrd | 1954 - Carol Tollefson | 1943 - Lila Larson |
| | 1975 - Susie Stafford | 1964 - Barb Finseth | 1953 - LaJune Strand | 1942 - Queen Unknown |
| | 1974 - Dawn Hendrickson | 1963 - Maureen Linnihan | 1952 - Audrey Johnson | 1941 - Gladys Krause |
| | 1973 - Kris Thompson | 1962 - Diane Wyrum | 1951 - Thelma Root | 1940 - Queen Unknown |
| | 1972 - LeAnn Evenson | 1961 - Collette Linnihan | 1950 - Eileen Arnfelt | |

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NRHEG HOME COMING NOW

35 Years Ago

Last Year Of Two Homecomings!



1990 - HOMECOMING KING Brian Brekke and Queen Jennie Hanson greeted the residents of their new realm after their crowning. Star photo by M. A. Engesser



1990 - JENNIE HANSON (right) gasps with surprise as Homecoming King Brian Brekke has placed the Queen's crown on her head. Other candidates for Queren of the new NRHEG were, from left: Jena Richards, Sara Degen, Jessica Krueger and Sandy Stoddard. Star Photo by M. A. Engesser



1989 Ellendale-Geneva King Scott Holmes is crowned among congratulations. At left is Prince Cory Bailey. Photo by M. A. Engesser



1989 - New Richland-Hartland Homecoming Queen Candidates Raquel Supalla, Ann Felsheim, Michelle Hagen, Amber Nissen and (Queen) Heidi Bullock at coronation festivities. Star Photo by M.A. Engesser



1990 - Preparing to relinquish their thrones to new reigning homecoming royalty are Ellendale-Geneva's 1989 Queen and King, Patti Stadheim and Scott Holmes, and New Richland-Hartlands' 1989 Queen, Heidi Bullock. Star photo by M. A. Engesser



Patti Stadheim appears shocked when she realizes she's been crowned Ellendale-Geneva's 1989 Homecoming Queen. Others are, from left, Shannon Peterson, LaNeil Leak, Melanee Goslee, Michelle Eake, and Piness Amanda Patterson. Star photo by M. A. Engesser

ELLENDALE-GENEVA ROYALTY

- 1989 - Patti Stadheim and Scott Holmes
- 1988 - Tara Stollard and Scott Crabtree
- 1987 - Chris Thompson and Matt Kubiawicz
- 1986 - Shari Johnson and David Thompson
- 1985 - Lisa Goodnature and Jeff Misgen
- 1984 - Colette Hemingway and Jay Crabtree
- 1983 - Billie Jo Johnson and Edward Deml
- 1982 - Michelle Kubiawicz and Joel Langlie
- 1981 - LuAnn Johnson and Michael Plunkett
- 1980 - Tammy Harpel and Rick Thompson
- 1979 - Jean Reistad and Steve Bailey
- 1978 - Teri Horan and Craig Bailey
- 1977 - Jeanette Wayne and Neil Jensen
- 1976 - Debbie Vaith and Dennis Miller
- 1975 - Pam Cornelius and Spencer Kubat
- 1974 - Gala Vander Stoep and Dean VanHal
- 1973 - Teri Jensen and Dave Lieberg
- 1972 - Debbie Grosland and Tim Donovan
- 1971 - Mary Beth Goodnature and Brian Wayne
- 1970 - Nancy Yanke and Robert Sommers
- 1969 - Vicki Wayne and Rodney Thompson
- 1968 - Carol Lageson and Dave Richards
- 1967 - Sue Muri and Steve Wayne
- 1966 - Stephanie Langlie and Lonny Klemmensen
- 1965 - Teresa Nechanicky and Tom Misgen
- 1964 - Cheryl Wayne and Tim Thompson
- 1963 - Katie Bryant and Sheldon Lieberg
- 1962 - Lois Christensen and Bruce Thompson
- 1961 - Mary Waage and Gary Hartly
- 1960 - Sandra Verplank and Allan Hartly
- 1959 - Mary Jorgenson and Ray Bailey
- 1958 - Connie Wayne and Larry Paulsen
- 1957 - Marilyn Fischer and Warren Torgerson
- 1956 - Jeanette Grimstead and Corlyn Paulson
- 1955 - Barbara Langlie and Dale Mroitz
- 1954 - Audrey Hemingway and Lowell Humburg
- 1953 - Audrey Steffen and Paul Toft
- 1952 - Delores Janka and Arnold Halvorson
- 1951 - Louise Thompson and Kenneth Lunning
- 1950 - Pat Disher
- 1949 - Barbara Anderson
- 1948 - Jean Bartsch
- 1947 - Betty Jean Edwardson
- 1946 - Kathleen Balbach
- 1945 - Zola Randall and Marlowe Sorenson
- 1944 - Idella Muri
- 1943 - Dorothy Lonergan and Merlyn Swearingen
- 1942 - Marjean Randall
- 1941 - Barbara Webb
- 1940 - Margaret Smith
- 1939 - Gen Paulson
- 1938 - Beulah Ferguson

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Elijah J. Lutgens
Star Eagle Publisher
9/26/24



Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl
Outdoors Writer

Beginning of a good week at the cabin

When my son and I left for “up north” on Saturday morning, it seemed like a decent morning. Once we got north of the Cites, it got cloudy and there were numerous lightning strikes. As we drove further north, it started to rain. By the time we reached Grand Rapids, it had cleared up and the sun came out. It actually turned into a beautiful day. The wind eventually picked up and it started cooling down. There was that hint of Fall in the air, which was a relief from the hot, muggy weather that we had left behind. Even though it was warm and sunny, that smell of fall in the air was invigorating. As I sat down to write this column, I could hear the sound of a Pileated Woodpecker working on a nearby birch tree. I had spotted him earlier in the day as he flew from a nearby tree as I approached. Having a close encounter with that bird helped me realize just how large those birds can get.

Later that day when I checked the trail cameras, I found that a few critters had visited our cabin over the last few days/nights. There were two different black bears and numerous deer. This always gives me a good feeling, except for when they destroy or run off with my feeders. Spotting any kind of wildlife restores my faith in nature and the natural order of things.

This week I was able to make it to a couple of different lakes. One

was Spider, which I have now visited a couple of different times this year. The other was Sand Lake on the Bowstring chain. We have always called it “Big Sand” because it is fairly large and connects to quite a few other lakes. We spent quite a bit of time there as a family when the boys were young.

One of the resorts that we stayed at on Big Sand is, sadly, no longer there. They sold the cabins off in separate parcels, a practice that is no longer done in Itasca County.

This whole area of the state still has so much of its natural beauty intact. That is why we purchased land in this area. I still find it hard to believe that we bought this beautiful parcel of land and built our little cabin ourselves. This was a dream come true for me. Thanks to my sons and grandsons, we have made it a reality.

Until next time: Man seems to be taking away too much of our habitat. There seems to be less and less natural habitat existing in our area. Our land is being sold off to China and other countries for the almighty dollar. Selling thousands of acres to other countries and rich businessmen will hurt our country in the long run.

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

Application deadline extended for FEMA Assistance

ST. PAUL –Homeowners and renters who suffered damage to their property from the severe storms and floods of June 16 -July 4 have additional time to apply for federal disaster assistance.

FEMA has extended the application deadline to October 27, 2024, for survivors in the 21 Minnesota counties designated for Individual Assistance.

FEMA assistance may include funds for temporary housing while you are unable to live in your home, such as rental assistance or reimbursement for hotel costs; funds to support the repair or replacement of your primary home, including privately-owned access routes, such as driveways, roads, or bridges; and funds for disaster-caused expenses and serious needs, such as repair or replacement of personal property and vehicles, funds for moving and storage, medical, dental, child care, funeral expenses, and other pre-approved miscellaneous items.

Disaster survivors who have not yet applied for FEMA assistance should apply online at DisasterAssistance.gov, use the FEMA App

on your phone, visit a Disaster Recovery Center or call 800-621-3362. If you use a relay service such as video relay service, captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA your number for that service when you apply.

For even more information about the disaster recovery operation in Minnesota visit www.fema.gov/disaster/4797.

###

Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency, or economic status. Reasonable accommodations, including translation and American Sign Language interpreters via Video Relay Service will be available to ensure effective communication with applicants with limited English proficiency, disabilities, and access and functional needs. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-3362. If you use video relay service, captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA your number for that service.

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Wednesday - 5:15 p.m. Supper; 6 p.m. Bible Study

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

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Mary Iverson
Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee
Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting
Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting (first Wednesday)

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

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

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

CROSS OF GLORY LUTHERAN
Hartland, Minnesota
Rev. Marcia Pedersen

Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship
Tuesday - Council meeting (First Tuesday)

WEST FREEBORN LUTHERAN
Hartland, Minnesota
Rev. Marcia Pedersen
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship
Tuesday - Council meeting (First Tuesday of the month)
Quilting meets 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, see newsletter for dates.

HARTLAND EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
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Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship
MANCHESTER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
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Pastor Phillip K. Lepak
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

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

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Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship (times very for holidays)
Monday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting

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

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Pastor David Modder
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 10 a.m. Kids church

Check the website for additional updates
www.vibrantlifeag.com

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

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

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

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Hollandale, Minnesota
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

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101 East Park Avenue
Hollandale, Minnesota
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Worship; 10:45 a.m. Sunday School

ZION LUTHERAN, ELCA
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Deacon Billie Jo Wicks
Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship

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

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

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

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

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Father Peter Schuster
Sunday - 8 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation; 8:30 a.m. Mass with Children's Church; Preschool Sunday School during Mass
Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. - Faith Formation classes for grades K-Confirmation
www.litomysl.webs.com
www.stsidore.school.webs.com

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RATE INCREASE NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR CENTERPOINT ENERGY MINNESOTA CUSTOMERS

CenterPoint Energy Minnesota Gas has requested approval from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) to increase natural gas distribution service rates in 2024 and 2025. The requested increase is approximately 6.5% or \$84.6 million for 2024 and approximately 3.7% or \$51.8 million for 2025. The requested increase will add about \$5.91 to a standard monthly bill of a residential customer in 2024 and an additional \$2.58 to a standard monthly bill of a residential customer in 2025.

CenterPoint is requesting this rate change to accommodate the increased expense to operate, maintain and deliver natural gas through our distribution system. CenterPoint continues to make meaningful investments to support the advancement of low and zero-carbon technologies and maintain the safety and integrity of its natural gas distribution system that benefits our customers and communities. These investments include infrastructure projects to replace or upgrade existing pipelines, provide safe and reliable service and comply with federal pipeline regulations.

The MPUC may either approve or deny the requested changes or may approve a lesser or greater increase than was requested for any customer class or classes of service.

The MPUC will likely decide on the requested rate increase by early 2025. If final rates are higher than interim rates, customers will not be charged for the difference during the time the customer is billed for the interim rate. The customer may be charged for the difference between a lower interim rate and a final higher rate beginning on the date that final rates are ordered by the MPUC.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Administrative Law Judge Ann O'Reilly will hold four in-person public hearings and two virtual public hearings so that customers have an opportunity to comment on the company's request. Any CenterPoint customer or other person may attend or provide comments at the hearings.

You are invited to comment on the adequacy and quality of CenterPoint's service, the level of rates or other related matters. You do not need to be represented by an attorney. The hearings will begin at their scheduled time and end after everyone present has had an opportunity to comment or ask questions.

Public hearings schedule		
Date	Time	Location
Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2024	6 p.m.	Hennepin Technical College 9000 Brooklyn, Blvd, Room 193/195 Brooklyn Park, MN 55445
Thursday, Oct. 17, 2024	6 p.m.	Blue Earth County Historical Society 424 Warren St., Room A Mankato, MN 56001
Monday, Oct. 21, 2024	6 p.m.	University of Minnesota Urban Research and Outreach- Engagement Center (UROC) 2001 Plymouth Ave. N., Room 105 Minneapolis, MN 55411
Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2024	6 p.m.	Central Lakes College 501 W. College Drive, Room C236 Brainerd, MN 56401
Friday, Oct. 18, 2024	1 p.m.	Virtual Webex
Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024	6 p.m.	Virtual Webex

Bad weather? Find out if a hearing is canceled – call (toll free) 855-731-6208 or 651-201-2213 or visit mn.gov/puc.

Virtual Public Hearings
Public hearings have been scheduled as follows to be held via video conference.

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024, at 1 p.m. and Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024, at 6 p.m

Attend by Internet Connection (Audio and Video)
To join the virtual hearing using a computer, tablet or smart phone, where you will have audio and video capability, go to: https://minnesota.webex.com. In the gray box where it says, "Enter Meeting Information," type the Event Number below for the public hearing date you are attending:

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 1 p.m.	Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024 6 p.m.
2496 344 9575 Password: CPE# (2730 when dialing from a phone or video system)	2493 567 4629 Password: CPE# (2730 when dialing from a phone or video system)

Directions for Commenting Through Webex

- Log on 5-to-15 minutes before the hearing begins. You will be asked to join the hearing through a Webex application or through a plug-in for your web browser.
- Enter the Event Number shown in the box above.
- Then, enter your name, email address and an event password (if required). Click "Join Now" to be granted access to the virtual hearing.
- When you enter the hearing, your microphone will be muted. If you would like to ask a question or comment during the meeting, use the chat function to send a message to the meeting moderator. You will be placed in the queue to comment. When it is your turn to comment, your name will be called and your line will be unmuted. You will be able to ask questions or comment on the proposal.

Attend by Telephone (Audio Only)
You do not need internet access to join the hearing by telephone. However, you will only be able to hear (not see) the speakers. You will still be able to comment and ask questions. Use the information in the box below to call into the hearing. You will be asked to enter the access code for the hearing:

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 1 p.m.	Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024 6 p.m.
Phone: 855-282-6330 Access Code: 24963449575	Phone: 855-282-6330 Access Code: 24935674629

If you would like to ask a question or comment during the hearing, press *3 on your telephone. You will be placed into the queue to comment. When it is your turn to speak, the last few digits of your telephone number will be announced by the moderator and your line will be unmuted, allowing you to be heard by all participants.

Public Hearing and Process Information
Administrative Law Judge Ann O'Reilly will preside over the public hearings and will provide the Commission with findings of fact, conclusions of law and recommendations after the conclusion of the evidentiary hearing.

The purpose of the public hearings is to receive public input on the proposed rate increase. At the public hearings, interested persons have the opportunity to: (1) ask questions of the utility and agency staff; and (2) offer verbal and written comments on the merits of the proposed rate increase. Members of the public may participate without needing to intervene as a party. Representation by legal counsel is permitted but not required.

Please note that the public hearings will end when all attendees present have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been concluded. You are encouraged to join the meeting at the scheduled start time to be placed in the queue to comment. Commenters will be called in the order they enter the queue. Therefore, it is best to arrive at the beginning of the hearing.

Written comments may be submitted during the comment period before and after the public hearings. Follow the instructions below to provide written comment.

Contact Ashley Marcus at 651-201-2192 or ashley.marcus@state.mn.us if you have questions on how to participate or have trouble accessing the public hearing remotely.

WRITTEN COMMENTS TO THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
You can still submit comments even if you do not attend a public hearing. Comments will be accepted through **Dec. 20, 2024, at 4:30 p.m.**

- Comments must be received by **4:30 p.m.** on the close date.
- Comments received after the comment period closes may not be considered.

How to Submit a Written Comment

Written comments can be submitted via: (1) the Commission's eComments website; (2) electronic mail; (3) U.S. Mail; or (4) facsimile. To learn how to submit a written comment, visit mn.gov/puc/, select "Get Involved" from the dropdown menu at the top of the page and then select "Public Comments and How to Participate." This will take you to the Commenting in a PUC Docket page, where you will find a list of ways to comment. Be sure to reference PUC Docket Number 23-173 in the subject line of your comment.

If you do not have access to the internet, you may send or deliver your comment to:

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Ste. 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

For assistance in submitting comments, or if you have questions, contact the Commission's Consumer Affairs Office at:

Phone: 651-296-0406 or 800-657-3782
Email: consumer.puc@state.mn.us
Be sure to reference Docket Number 23-173

Important: Comments can be reviewed by the public on the MPUC's website, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The MPUC does not edit or delete personally identifying information or any other information from comments received.

EVIDENTIARY HEARINGS
The purpose of the evidentiary hearings is to allow CenterPoint, the Minnesota Department of Commerce, the Minnesota Office of Attorney General – Residential Utilities Division and parties who have formally joined the contested case, to present testimony and to cross-examine each other's witnesses on the proposed rate increase.

Formal evidentiary hearings on CenterPoint's proposal will be held on **Dec. 18, 19, and 20**, starting at **9:30 a.m.** each day. The evidentiary hearings will be held in Public Utilities Commission Small Hearing Room, 121 7th Place, St. Paul, Minnesota. The parties may stipulate to some witnesses appearing via Microsoft Teams.

The parties shall arrange with Commission staff to obtain a video conference link. Members of the public who wish to attend the hearing may do so in person. If they would like to attend virtually through Teams, they may request an electronic invitation by contacting Judge O'Reilly's legal assistant at michelle.severson@state.mn.us. If you wish to formally intervene in this case, as a party to the litigation, you must serve and file a Petition to Intervene, pursuant to MN Rules. 1400.6200.

TO LEARN MORE

Current and proposed rate schedules for CenterPoint Energy Minnesota Gas are available at:

CenterPoint Energy
505 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Phone: 612-372-4727 or 800-245-2377
Web: CenterPointEnergy.com/RateCase

Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101
Phone: 651-539-1534
Web: https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp

Select 23 in the year field, type 173 in the number field, select Search and the list of documents will appear on the next page.

The MPUC is asking customers to comment on CenterPoint Energy's request for a rate increase. Send comments to the MPUC's Consumer Affairs Office (CAO) or contact the CAO for assistance with submitting comments:

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101
Phone: 651-296-0406 or 800-657-3782
Email: consumer.puc@state.mn.us

Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call through their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service.

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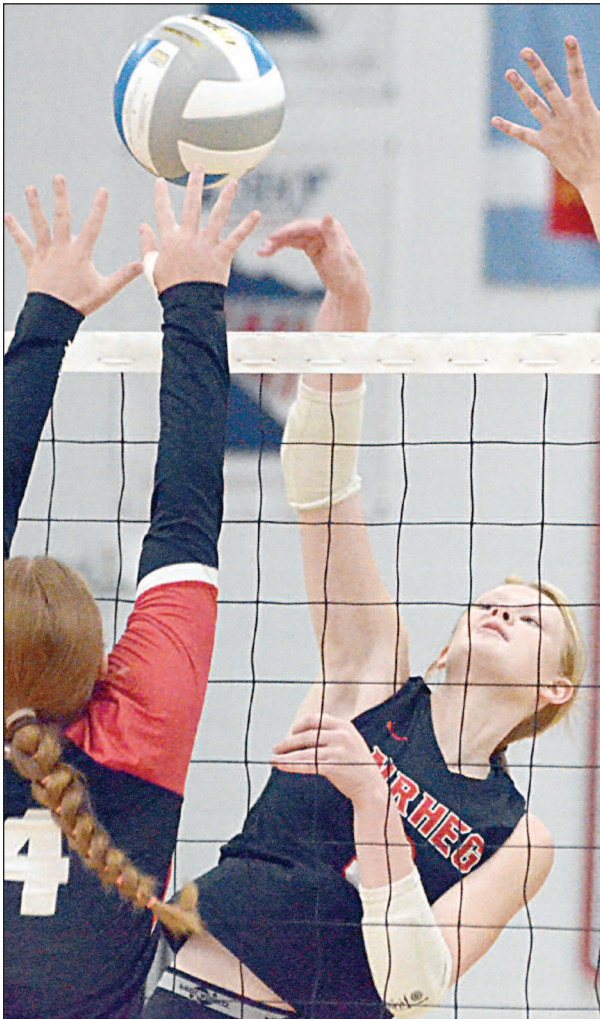
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UPSET SPECIAL — The NRHEG High School volleyball team knocked off Gopher Conference leader Bethlehem Academy last week, rallying for a 3-1 victory in New Richland. At left, the Panthers' Anika Ladlie spikes as Brylie Becker defends. At right, Gabby Schlaak (1) tips over the Cardinals' Mikayla Dienst.



Volleyball Panthers hand BA first conference defeat

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The Bethlehem Academy Cardinals came to town last Thursday brimming with confidence, having won all four of their Gopher Conference matches while assuming an all-too-familiar first place.

They're still atop the standings. But their conference record now contains a loss, thanks to a come-from-behind 3-1 victory for the NRHEG volleyball team at New Richland.

After dropping game one 25-22, the Panthers stormed back to win 27-25, 25-22 and 25-23 to claim a hard-fought and, according to first-year coach Bethany Tennis, much-needed victory for NRHEG.

"The girls battled BA," said Tennis. "This win was much needed for our program. "We have been working hard this season and have had a lot of close matches end with us on the bottom. The girls played their volleyball and finished each set with the mentality that they weren't doing down easy, which is something we had not been executing to the best of our abilities in previous matches."

"This win was much needed for our program." — NRHEG coach Bethany Tennis

Strong defensive play enhanced the Panthers' ability to attack offensively, according to Tennis.

The coach said Gabby Schlaak had a great night with 21 kills, 4 blocks, and 10 digs. Addy Stadheim had a season high of 42 assists and middle Chloe Stork was big at the net with 9 blocks. The team effort from all players was present during tonight's game, and we plan on continuing with that same energy for the remainder of the season."

Complete statistics: Schlaak 21K, 10D, 4A; Camryn VanMaldeghem 7K, 18D 1S, 5A; Anika Ladlie 6K 2D, 3B; Mallory Schlinger 6D, 1A; Izley Boerner 8D; Stadheim 2K, 8D, 42S, 3A, 2B; Chloe Riewer 11D; Stork 7K, 3D, 1S, 9B; Meela Budach 1K, 3D, 1S, 1B.

The win improved the Panthers to 2-2 in the conference and 7-6 overall. BA fell to 4-1 and 6-6.

Two nights earlier, the Panthers

lost 3-0 at Medford, falling 25-18, 25-13, 25-20.

"Coming off some tough losses, we were hoping to play with cohesiveness and confidence," said Tennis. "Our record does not showcase the talent on the team. We are going to continue to take each loss as a learning opportunity, making adjustments so we can come out on top. I am proud of this team's flexibility in switching up our defense and I trust we will make the connections that need to happen for future success."

Individually: Schlaak 9K, 13D; VanMaldeghem 7K, 10D, 3B; Ladlie 2K, 1D, 3B; Boerner 8D, 1A; Howe 4K, 2D, 1A; Stadheim 1K, 4D, 22S, 1B; Riewer 9D, 1A; Stork 1K, 1D, 5B; Budach 3D.

After hosting Jordan Monday, the Panthers play tonight at Blooming Prairie, Saturday at the Tri-City United Invitational, Oct. 1 at home against Hayfield and Oct. 3 at JWP.



DOMINANT PERFORMANCE — The NRHEG High School football team won its second game of the season last Friday, 34-0 at St. Clair/Mankato Loyola. At left, the Panther's Aaden Hanna (9) blocks a punt. In the middle, Jordan Brouwers (54) gets into the face of the quarterback. At right, Jace Ihrke (57) takes down a ball carrier.



Another week, another blowout for NRHEG football

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

After the first two weeks of the season, it looked like it could be a very big challenge for the NRHEG High School football team to turn things around after sta.

So far, so good.

A week after handling Mayer Lutheran, the Panthers ventured to Mankato Friday to face St. Clair/Loyola and came home with a lop-sided 34-0 victory.

"It was a really great game for the Panthers," said coach Marc Kruger. "We dominated in all areas. We're very proud of the effort. There was a ton of standout performances. The

defense pitched a shutout, we blocked a few punts, we were able to move the ball through the air and on the ground. Now, it's time to get ready for Homecoming."

Last Friday, it was obvious the Panthers were only thinking about the task at hand.

The Panthers scored the only points of the first quarter on a safety, forcing the quarterback into intentional grounding in the end zone.

It was 16-0 at halftime as Harbor Cromwell scored on a nine-yard run and Jase Knudson caught a 17-yard pass from Alden Dobberstein. Aaden Hanna caught a pass for a

Panthers win again, host Medford for Homecoming this Friday

two-point conversion, NRHEG's lone successful PAT of the night.

Owen Bartlett tallied two touchdowns in the third quarter, on a 1-yard run and a 16-yard pass from Dobberstein.

Sean Lassahn tacked on a fourth-period score on a 15-yard run.

Cromwell finished with a team-high 67 yards rushing on 12 attempts. Lassahn ran six times for 50 yards, Ryan Schlaak 39 on eight runs.

Dobberstein was 4-for-10 passing for 54 yards and two interceptions. The Panthers, 2-2, host Medford

for Homecoming this Friday at 7 p.m.

NRHEG 34, St. Clair/Loyola 0

NRHEG	2	14	12	6	— 34
SC	0	0	0	0	— 0

First Quarter

NRHEG — Safety (intentional grounding in end zone)

Second Quarter

NRHEG — Harbor Cromwell 9 run (kick failed)

NRHEG — Jase Knudson 17 pass from Alden Dobberstein (Aaden Hanna pass from Dobberstein)

Third Quarter

NRHEG — Owen Bartlett 1 run (PAT failed)

NRHEG — Bartlett 16 pass from Dobberstein (kick failed)

Fourth Quarter

NRHEG — Sean Lassahn 15 run (kick failed)

	NRHEG	SC/ML
Total plays	43	43
First downs	12	4
Rushing Yds.	177	33
Passing Yds.	4-10-2	6-14-1
Total Yds.	54	63
Third Down	3-6	0-10
Fourth Down	0-1	0-3
Fumbles lost	0	0
Turnovers	2	1
Penalties	5-51	4-20

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing — NRHEG: Cromwell 12-67; Lassahn 6-50; Ryan Schlaak 8-39; Dobberstein 7-17; Gavin Sletten 1-3; Bartlett 1-1; SC: 25-26

Passing — NRHEG: Dobberstein 4-10-2, 54; SC: 6-14-1, 63

Receiving — NRHEG: Knudson 2-28; Bartlett 1-16; Aidan Schlaak 1-10; SC: 6-63

NRHEG Defense — R.Schlaak 6 tackles, 1 assist; Jace Ihrke 4 tackles, 2 assists; J.Brouwers 2 tackles, 1 assist, 1 safety; Carter Martens 2 tackles; Cromwell 1 tackle; J.Fleming 1 tackle, 1 assist; Wyatt Larson 1 tackle; Cole Hutchens 1 tackle; A.Schlaak 1 int.; H.Winkler 1 int.

Karl 4th, Wobbrock 19th in Panther CC Invitational

The NRHEG High School cross country teams hosted several schools for their annual Panther Invitational last Tuesday at Riverview Golf Course near New Richland.

Teams in attendance were Blooming Prairie, Mankato/Loyola, Maple River, Medford, Pacelli, Randolph, Tri-City United, WEM/JWP and NRHEG.

As usual, the Panthers' Jacob Karl had another strong performance., placing fourth with a time of 18.09.

Mankato Loyola showed their strength as a team by taking four of the top 10 spots, winning the event with 24 points.

"Jacob showed that he is one of the stronger runners in this area and I feel that he will be getting below

that 18-minute barrier very soon," said NRHEG coach Larry Nydegger.

On the girl's side, Pacelli took the team title with 33 points.

Julieann Wobbrock and Ella Jenno were the top two finishers for the Panthers, clocking 24.09 and 24.21 to finish 19th and 21st, respectively.

Amelia Duryee (28.54) and Holly Bartness (30.49) finished 44th and 47th, respectively.

"We didn't have a full team to score today," said Nydegger. "Julieann continues to be our top finisher for the girls."

The Panthers run today at 4:30 in the WEM/JWP Invitational and next Thursday at 4 p.m. at Waseca's Lakeside Golf Course.



PANTHER INVITATIONAL — NRHEG's Jacob Karl, left, runs with the pack during last week's Panther Invitational at Riverview Golf Course. Julienann Wobbrock, right, crosses the finish line.

Photos by Johnnie Phillips, Steele County Times