



Inside:

- 3 - NR Garden Club
- 4 - Ellendale Food Shelf
- 6 - Looking Back
- 7 - Weekly Crossword
- 8 - Sports
- 9 - Classifieds
- 10 - Congratulations!

Inside



State Bound

NRHEG High School Blood Drive 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. March 14
NRHEG student groups are sponsoring a blood drive from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the high school gym. Donors can schedule online, or come to the school during open times.

County Veterans Memorial plaque requests by March 15
Anyone wishing to add a new plaque to the Waseca County Veterans Memorial on the courthouse property can apply anytime. Applying by March 15 will ensure the newly ordered plaque is in place by Memorial Day. Anyone wanting further information should contact the county Veterans' Services office at 507-835-0680. Applications can also be completed online at <https://www.co.waseca.mn.us/134/Veteran-Services>.

Waldorf Fire Department St. Patrick's Day fundraiser, March 16
The Waldorf Fire Department will host a pancake breakfast fundraiser on St. Patrick's Day from 8 a.m. till noon on Sunday, Mar. 16 at the Waldorf Community Center.

Story Chasers at New Richland Public Library Wednesday, March 19
There will be Story Chasers at the New Richland Public Library at 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 19. Kids will make their way through an obstacle course that will mimic the movements in the stories. This free event is geared for ages 0-5 and is also a Romp 100 Event.

Melissa Schulz playing at Papa Olie's in Waldorf March 29
Melissa Schulz will perform at Papa Olie's in Waldorf from 7-10 p.m. on Saturday, March 29. She is a local Waseca musician, plays keyboard with drum tracks and performs pop, rock, and country covers from the 50s to today's hits.

NRHEG Music Boosters Flower Fundraiser through April 4
Members of the NRHEG Music Boosters are selling \$20 gift cards to Souba Greenhouse of Owatonna and Albert Lea. The music program receives a portion of the sale. Gift cards can be used at either Souba Greenhouse location, never expire, and can be used to purchase any type of products sold by the business.

Hartland University Bar Poker Run Saturday, April 5
Side X Side and ATV Poker Run at Hartland University Bar starting at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 5. There will be a 50/50 drawing, silent auction and Bloody Mary bar, cost is \$15 per person. Proceeds go to the Wounded Warrior United Minnesota.

A word from The Word
But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect. 1 Peter 3:15

Section Champions



STATE TOURNAMENT BOUND - The NRHEG Girls' Basketball team won its sixth section championship in school history Friday night at the Taylor Center in Mankato after a come-from-behind 66-64 victory over Glencoe-Silver Lake. The girls played Wednesday night against Providence Academy in the opening round of the 2AA state tournament at Williams Arena in Minneapolis. Full story on Page 8, Congratulations on Page 10.

Star Eagle photo by Eli Lutgens



Members of the NRHEG DECA team after competing at district competition in Owatonna in January. From this level, ten competitors advanced to the state level.

Chloe Stork headed to national business competition
By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer
NRHEG Junior Chloe Stork, daughter of Dan and Stacy Stork of New Richland, says she can barely believe it.
Chloe is among five people in her category statewide who will be representing Minnesota at the DECA national-level competition in Orlando, Florida from April 26 to 29. She won the honor while competing in the organization's state contest held in the Twin Cities March 2 to 4.
Chloe was one of ten NRHEG students who had advanced to state-level competition after making a strong showing in the District 1 com-

petition in Owatonna on Jan. 10. Also competing at state were Harbor Cromwell, Kyera Eustice, Cole Hutchens, Gavin Lewison, Carter Martens, Devon Nelton, Makenna Reeder, Wyatt Tuttle, and Owen Wayne.
Chloe is in her second year in DECA and has competed in a number of different categories.
NRHEG DECA coach Michael Meihak states having a national-level competitor from the local program is impressive on many levels. First, Chloe was one of at least 64

Stork continued on 2



Chloe Stork will be competing at the national level DECA competition in Orlando, Florida in April. She won the opportunity during the state tournament on March 2, 3 and 4.

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
County addresses ice damage, donations, highways
By DEB BENTLY
News Editor
Official business transacted during the March 6 meeting of the Waseca County board of commissioners included a temporary suspension of application fees by property owners who must repair "ice ridge damage" along shorelines within the unincorporated areas of the county.
The six-month waiver was suggested by county land and water resources director Chris Howard, who told commissioners ice conditions this year have led to widespread, extensive damage to shorelines which will probably require considerable landscape work and "riprapping" to resolve. Under normal circumstances, landowners must apply for a \$75 permit from the planning and zoning department for any work on property which requires moving five cubic yards of material or more. Howard said he hopes waiving the fee will encourage people to come in for the "free" permit, and more importantly, for some free advice.
"The rules surrounding work at the waterline can be somewhat confusing," he stated. "Technically, the local government is in charge of everything above the normal high water line and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is in charge of everything below that line."
He pointed out a permit from the DNR can cost up to \$1,200, while a fine for failing to get the permit can be even higher. "We don't want to see people encounter trouble with agencies because they don't know what the expectations and rules are," Howard said.
Encouraging as many property owners as possible to complete planning and zoning applications, Howard said, might give him more opportunities to alleviate confusion by visiting individual properties and providing information, guidance and advice regarding steps forward.
In another matter, county public works director Jim Kollar summarized an upcoming project meant to increase safety on about 27 miles of county concrete roads. He mentioned his department had applied for a grant in 2022 under a federal "highway safety improvement program" to create recessed one-eighth-inch channels at the edges and center lines of those roads which would then be marked with "wet reflective" paint. That grant was awarded, with the news funds would be supplied in 2025.
He explained the reflective quality comes from small beads mixed in with white and yellow roadway markings. If such paint is applied at grade, he said the beads are typically worn away within a year, which is why the recessed channel is important. In order to be eligible under the grant program, the stretches of highway needed to be "in fair/good condition" and "identified as a high priority" based on the number of head-on or "road departure" incidents which occur there.
Due to receive the special markings are sections of County

County continued on 2



FenceLines

by Mark Bernard

Migrating birds know what time it is

The scurs and Weather Eye have matters under control once again. Have we seen the last of Old Man Winter's shenanigans or will he be getting his second wind? Starting Thursday, mostly sunny with highs in the upper 60's and lows in the upper 40's. Partly sunny on Friday with a good chance of evening showers and possibly a thunderstorm. Highs in the mid-70's with lows in the upper teens. Cloudy Saturday, with a good chance of rain and snow. Highs in the low 50's with lows in the upper teens. Sunday, mostly sunny with highs in the low 30's and lows in the upper 20's. Mostly sunny on Monday with highs in the upper 40's and lows in the mid-20's. Tuesday, partly sunny with highs in the low 40's and lows in the mid-20's. Mostly cloudy on Wednesday with a good chance of rain. Highs in the upper 30's with lows in the low 20's. Starting on the 13th, our daylight will increase at three minutes and two seconds per day. The Full Moon is on the 14th, and we reach 12 hours of daylight on St. Patrick's Day. The normal high for March 17th is 40 and the normal low is 23. The scurs are hoping to ditch the "S" word in our forecasts soon.

The Full Moon for the month is on the 14th and corresponds to a total lunar eclipse this time around. The Full Moon goes by several names, but is known most commonly as the Full Worm Moon. It's during this time frame that worms and other invertebrates become active once again. They provide food not only for birds as they migrate through, but more importantly for their young as the high protein content they contain is critical for their development. This moon also goes by the Full Sap Moon as maple trees are being tapped for the wonderful syrup boiled down from the sap collected. The Ojibwe called it the Full Crust Moon for the crust forming on the snow as it melts and refreezes. The Sioux knew it as The Moon of Sore Eyes as the bright sun reflecting off the snow made it difficult to see. At the ranch, we know it as the Garden Hose Moon. We can begin leaving it attached to the hydrant, allowing buckets to be hauled over shorter distances.

The aforementioned lunar eclipse will occur starting on March 13 around 11 p.m. and reach its peak around 2 a.m. on March 14th. One small problem: If the weather forecast is accurate and odds are it likely will be, it may be cloudy. Given the potential scope and intensity of this system, there are better than even odds we'll be able to see it from the ground. If you want to rent a plane to see it above the clouds, that's always an option. One the positive side, after a lunar eclipse, there's normally a solar eclipse in about two weeks. This one is no exception, so look for a partial solar eclipse to occur on March 29th. Again, one small problem. The peak will happen before sunrise here, although we should be able to see the shadow of the moon as the sun rises off the horizon. We'll know a little more next week as the event gets closer.

Daylight Saving Time means our tails are dragging at the ranch. As if we weren't tired enough. The sheep don't adjust immediately either. It's less noticeable on brood ewes that have lambed. Their focus is to see how much they can eat once feed is placed in front of them. They were all still sacked out Sunday morning when I started chores. They looked at me sleepily,

wondering what I was doing an hour earlier than normal. Once they saw the white buckets, they realized grain would soon be served. Accordingly, they arose and turned up the volume. The bottle lambs have been the most affected. On their fixed schedule, feeding them an hour early has caused some to refuse their bottle. Not eating is a cue to watch their health very closely. Matters can spiral out of control quickly if you don't. Time to pick either Daylight or Standard time and move on people. For those wondering how long it takes for sunrise to get back to the same time as it was the day before changing the clocks, this year it's 33 days. Absolutely asinine.

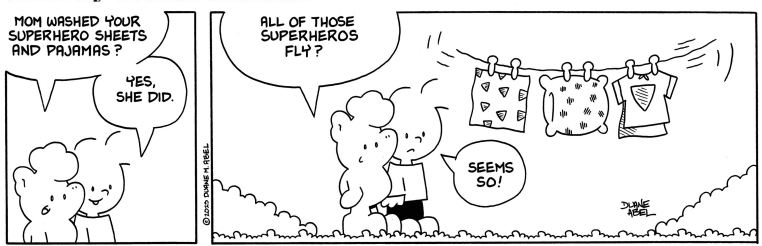
The migrating birds know what time it is. They follow the sun just as the rest of the non-human portion of the planet does. Aside from the nocturnal birds such as owls, when it's dark out, it's time to sleep. When the sun comes up, it's time to become active and seek nourishment. Many birds are starting to make their presence shown. Even though we saw the first robin back on the 2nd, more have arrived. Likewise with red-winged blackbirds and grackles. Last week's blizzard likely hampered their progress.. Numerous flocks of geese are making their move north. Mostly Canada geese and several small flocks of specklebellies. On the 10th, we heard our first killdeer of the spring. We'll still need a couple more snows on the robins' tail before it can officially be spring.

The blizzard clean up was about as fun as expected. With the soil thawing down several inches and getting a healthy dose of rain (.66" at the ranch) before the snow fell, it was a recipe for disaster. The 10+" of snow was wet and heavy, making a snow blower of limited value. With the soft ground, it was easy to leave ruts and tear up major hunks of sod once the front end of the tractor or skidsteer started to sink. Living on a hill with one small flat spot doesn't help matters. There's no cab on the skidsteer either, so while it was my weapon of choice, it probably made for one of the most miserable snow moving experiences of my life. The wind howled the entire three hours I was on it. I was cold and irritated by the time I got done. Then I got to warm up for 15 minutes before doing chores! Nothing remotely fun about any of that.

Poppy survived the big storm, although it limited where she could travel. The snow was too deep in many places, so she needed to pick her spots with those stubby Corgi legs. I shoveled the porch on the patio and a path, so she could keep her daily squirrel exercise intact. There was a 3' drift that made it a challenge, but I persevered. As the snow has left, the yard has become muddier. Poppy has been very good about staying out of the mud. Before chores we usually tether her, so she doesn't get into things she shouldn't and later relieve herself of them in the house. As she picked her way around puddles to the barn she had a decision to make. Either walk through a huge puddle or bypass it by walking around it through the snow bucket and exiting on the other end. She chose the latter. Sometimes you can see those little gears turning and other times, not so much.

See you next week...real good then.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



www.corkeycomics.com

Hats off to a great coach



Whatever Flips Your Waffle

by Mark Domeier
Contributing Writer

The running for the Gopher Conference championship each of those years and played in two of the conference championship games.

The first game Onika coached was a loss to Waseca. I remember it distinctly because it brought an end to a long winning streak for the varsity, buoyed by the Charlie Wagner era. Someone came up to me after that game and said Onika should be fired for losing that game. Whoa, hold your horses. We'd grown so accustomed to winning here that any loss is cause for dismissal?

I told that person to give her time to grow as a coach and implement her program. She followed a lot of what she learned from working with John, but also had some of her own ideas to inject her personality into how things were done. And sure enough, a few years later we were back in the state tournament.

I was lucky to coach Onika back in 8th grade; my students always think it's cool to see her picture on my sports bulletin board. She was a hard worker and was very coachable. She'll tell you this day that she probably had no business running the point guard position, but because we had lost some of our best ball handlers to the high school teams, she

was willing to take that on when asked.

I also had the privilege to watch her grow as a varsity coach. Between announcing home games and keeping book on the road when my daughter was in high school, I had a unique spot at games to hear timeout huddles and to know some of how practices and games were handled. Jayna and I had a lot of great conversations about coaching while she was playing for Onika, and I never once heard a word of complaint. She admired how Onika ran things, even if that didn't include a lot of varsity playing time. Onika had helped Jayna understand her role, and she was happy to fulfill that, just as Onika had been when I asked her to do something difficult.

I've been so impressed with Onika's growth as a head coach. No coach ever has everything figured out because new problems pop up all the time. But Onika knows the game inside and out, puts in the hours to get her team prepared, and gets the most out of the kids she has, always asking them to buy in to what the program is about.

And what is it about? It's about teamwork, camaraderie, and overcoming obstacles. It's also about bas-

ketball, but those other things come first. When you buy in as a team, the skills are easier to build. This year's varsity team is a great example of that. The girls work together, hang out together, and stick up for each other. They've also improved tremendously as basketball players over the last few years. Coincidence?

We celebrate sports in this area and support our kids, which is awesome. We need to do the same with our coaches. Win or lose, I know all our coaches work really hard to build successful programs. Sometimes the success is not seen in the won-loss records, but there is growth behind those games.

Onika Peterson has the right formula for both ends of that spectrum. The kids who work hard and buy in know they have a supporter for life in their coach, and that has translated into success. That success was shown by a second trip to the state tournament this week. The girls played a tremendous game in coming back to win in the section final, but credit also goes to Coach Peterson for pushing the right buttons at the right times.

I'm sure Onika will slug me when she reads this, but she deserves some accolades for what she has built. I'm proud to call her my friend and continue to be excited about the girls' basketball program, long after I last coached. Go Panthers!

Word of the Week: This week's word is bible, which means to eat or drink noisily, as in, "The girls' basketball team tended to bible when they all got together for team dinner." Impress your friends and confuse your enemies!

■ Stork

from Page 1

competitors in the "Hotel and Lodging" management category. Second, the current NRHEG DECA program is only in its third year, having been formed by Lise Weegman, who was the school's business teacher at the time, in the 2022-2023 school year. Finally, and a point of personal victory for Meihak, "It was fantastic to hear the name of a small school like NRHEG announced from the stage." Meihak points out the competition tends to be dominated by large schools—for example, the Wayzata district had 170 students competing at state. In those larger districts, students can register for DECA as a class and have daily access to work time and guidance. NRHEG's team has weekly practices.

Chloe mentions the "Hotel and Lodging" competition includes scores of a number of different types. First, as are competitors in all categories, participants are given 60 minutes to take a 100-question

multiple-choice test. Some questions ask about the business world and business practices in general. Others are specific to the lodging industry. Chloe mentions. As the seven minutes end, competitors finish and leave the room, again all the while adhering to professional-level expectations.

The second element of the round is a "role play" scene. "We're given a summary of a scenario," she explains. "It describes what role we're taking, who we're meeting with, and what the purpose of the meeting is." In one round this past weekend, Chloe describes, the scenario was that she worked for a large, successful hotel chain which wanted to open a line of hotels particularly friendly to families and to people traveling with children.

After reading the description, "We have ten minutes to come up with a plan." The only tools available during the planning phase are paper and a writing utensil. "So we can take some notes as we go in to our meeting, but that's all."

Competitors then have a strictly enforced seven-minute meeting. They enter the room, introduce themselves, and work to appear as profes-

sional as possible as they present their plans to the judge, who sits across a table from them and listens. "The judge doesn't say anything," Chloe mentions. As the seven minutes end, competitors finish and leave the room, again all the while adhering to professional-level expectations.

The score from the role play scenario has two parts. One is for the viability of the plan. The other is for how well the competitor met professional standards such as appearance, personal interaction, mode of speaking, and more—including the quality of their opening and closing handshakes.

Both at district and state level, Chloe describes, the first round of competition included a test and two role-playing scenarios. Those who advanced to the next round completed another test and took part in one role play.

At state competition, Meihak summarizes, 12 competitors advanced to the championship round in each category. The top five became eligible to compete at the national level.

Somewhat ironically, Chloe could not be present either at the awards following the first round or those an-

nouncing the championship.

"It was a crazy week," she admits. Since she and many of the other nine state-level competitors are also in winter sports programs, the group left the competition venue each day as their schedule allowed. Chloe only learned she had been advanced to the championship level after finishing Monday night's girls' basketball game. Similarly, after she completed the elements of the finals round Tuesday morning, she and team members returned to school.

The award ceremony was not until about 4 p.m. that day. Chloe's parents were the ones to deliver the news of her accomplishment.

"I could barely believe it," she said, mentioning the advantages many of her competitors from larger schools have.

Chloe's parents and Michael and Sarah Meihak will also be traveling to Orlando for the national event. She admits she's somewhat nervous about the level of competition she will be facing there; she notes there will be more than 10,000 students competing in the numerous categories. "I'm not really expecting to win," she says. "My plan is to do my best to represent NRHEG."

■ County

from Page 1

State Aid Highways (CSAH) 2, 3, 17, 27, 33 and 40.

Low bid on the project was from "Sir Lines-A-Lot" out of Edina. Total cost for the project will be \$590,000. The grant will cover about \$338,000; county state aid funds will cover the remainder. Work will begin this summer and be completed by August 30.

County emergency management director Denise Wright informed commissioners that, following the death of area resident and businessman Steve Melcher on January 16, his family had requested that memorials take the form of donations to the community emergency response team (CERT); Melcher had been a CERT member for 10 years. As required by county policy, the board officially received the donations, which totaled more than \$650. Wright told commissioners the money will be used toward training and equipment for use with the CERT program.

Board members voted to schedule a "bond capital improvement plan" hearing during their April 1 meeting. Such hearings are required when the county government is considering borrowing money. Explaining the process of acquiring a "bond" can take up to six months, county ad-

ministrator Michael Johnson recommended necessary steps be undertaken as soon as possible, since the option for the particular type of bond which he believes to be most financially beneficial may be expiring in mid- or late summer.

The bond in question would acquire funds toward upgrades, remodeling, and new construction meant to resolve safety and space constraints experienced by the sheriff's department, district court, and county offices.

Commissioners expect a summary of current construction plans during their March 18 meeting, which means they did not yet know the anticipated cost of the projects. Lengthy discussion took place as board members addressed the question of what maximum bond amount should be published in the public notice. Though it is expected construction costs will be in the range of \$10 to \$12 million, commissioners eventually voted to release a public notice which says the county is considering borrowing "up to" \$17 million—under the steps followed to acquire a bond, the final actual amount can be no higher than the "up to" figure provided in the public notice.

Commissioners were caught between the conflicting possibilities of "sticker shock" from the public at the \$17 million figure and the uncertain financial circumstances surrounding the possibility of tariffs.

NRHEG Star Eagle

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

PHONE: 507-463-8112

FAX: 507-463-0804, email: steagle@hickorytech.net

USPS No. 382-040, address: 128 North Broadway

Mail: PO Box 248, New Richland, MN 56072

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

ELI LUTGENS
MELANIE PILTINGSRUD
DEB BENTLY
JIM LUTGENS
JESSICA LUTGENS
TERESA ROSACKER
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Publisher/Editor
Copy Editor
Staff Writer
Sports Editor
Staff Writer
Advertising Sales
Editorial Assistant

Contributors: Al Batt, Bob Hanson, Mark Bernard, Mark Domeier, Dick Herfindahl, Barb Mrotz, Brenda Dokken, Judy Tweeten, Rachael Jaegar, Tristan Gehring, Ben Revermann, Payge Rosacker, Darin Reese, Rachel Loverink

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Area college students honored

BROOKINGS, S.D. (01/17/2025)-- More than 3,900 students were recognized for their outstanding academic performance over the fall 2024 semester at South Dakota State University by being named to the dean's list.

To earn dean's list distinctions in SDSU's colleges, students must have completed a minimum of 12 credits and must have earned at least a 3.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale.

Overall, 3,901 students from 40 states and 32 foreign nations are on the list. More than 1,600 students received a 4.0 GPA, and those are indicated with an asterisk.

Congratulations to these distinguished scholars on earning this academic achievement.

Grace Arthur of Ellendale, Minnesota (56026), in SDSU's College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences.

Erin Peterson* of Hartland, Minnesota (56042), in SDSU's College of Nursing.

Sydney Gahlon of Janesville, Minnesota (56048), in SDSU's College of Education and Human Sciences.

Kayli Hinz of Janesville, Minnesota (56048), in SDSU's College of Education and Human Sciences.

Lucas Loeffler of Janesville, Minnesota (56048), in SDSU's College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences.

Kia Buendorf of New Richland, Minnesota (56072), in SDSU's College of Education and Human Sciences.

Erin Jacobson of New Richland, Minnesota (56072), in SDSU's College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences.

Kaden Nelson of New Richland, Minnesota (56072), in SDSU's College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences.

Fargo, N.D., Jan. 21 — A student/students from your coverage area earned a place on the North Dakota State University fall 2024 dean's list.

Students must earn a 3.50 grade point average or higher and be enrolled in at least 12 class credits to qualify. For the semester, 4,322 students made the list.

Bushlack, Alix Elizabeth; New Richland, Human Development & Family Sci.

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. (January 29, 2025) - The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire extends congratulations to the students named to the fall 2024 deans list. Their academic performance has been outstanding, and we recognize these students with pride.

Dean's list eligibility requirements:

At the end of each semester, each of UW-Eau Claire's four colleges recognizes excellence in scholastic achievement by publishing the dean's list.

To be eligible, a student must:

- Be in good academic standing.
- Have a minimum semester GPA of 3.70.
- Have completed at least 12 credits during the semester, with no incompletes, no courses below the 100 level, no repeats and no Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory registrations (except in degree credit-bearing courses that are offered only on the S/U grading system in which a grade of S has been earned).

Students from the area who were named to the Dean's List are:

(Students attend the Eau Claire campus unless otherwise noted below.)
HOMETOWN, STATE; NAME, COLLEGE, CAMPUS (if Barron County)
Ellendale, MN
Rachel Horejsi, College of Arts and Sciences

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Rachel Horejsi, College of Arts and Sciences

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Members of the New Richland Garden Club met recently to discuss their plans and events for the year. Pictured are (seated, from left) Deloris Bartholmy, club co-president Stacy Bethke, Diane Smith, (standing, from left) club treasurer Charles Espe, Barb Finseth, Chris Possin, Julie Economy, Sheryl Schanil, club secretary Kris Pfeffer, co-president Brenda Berg, Eleanor Schlaak, and Jodi Johnson. Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

Garden Club plans sale, summer projects

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

Members and guests of the Town and Country Garden Club held the group's first meeting of 2025 at Trinity Lutheran Church in New Richland the evening of March 3 with 15 people attending; the club boasts 20 members altogether.

There is no cost or obligation to join the organization, which was established in 1965 and has the motto "Educate, Cultivate, Decorate." Anyone interested in joining is in-

ited to attend a club meeting: they take place at 6:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church the first Monday of each month March through June and September through November.

Individuals are also invited to help with club projects whether they are members or not. Information is available from any club member.

Three projects were discussed during the meeting.

One topic was the May 17 plant sale, the organization's only fundraiser, scheduled from 9 to 11:30 that

morning. For the sale, club members bring plants they have started themselves or split from their own perennials and from the city garden, as well as some annuals from local nurseries. The intent is to have the sale on the open lot along Hwy. 30 between the high school and Neighbor's Meats if it is still available for their use. The location has been the site of the sale the past few years.

Members addressed the question of whether to alter the configuration of the club's garden along Hwy. 30.

At issue was a nearby city water pipe which city crews had trouble mowing around last summer because the mower did not fit easily between the pipe and some of the garden plants. The choice was between increasing the size of the garden to incorporate the pipe or reducing it slightly to leave wider space. The consensus was to alter the shape of the garden slightly so the mower would have a

Garden continued on 5



Serving the fish, beans, cole slaw and tartar sauce at the Ellendale firefighters' fish fry were (from left) Travis Ladwid, David Modder, Allison Muillenber, Nolan McGowan, and Jake Kaplan. Star Eagle photos by Deb Bently



Offering beverages to diners on Friday were Frank Altrichter and Charlie Splinler.



Ellendale fish fry serves more than 500

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

Well over 500 diners benefited from the March 7 fish fry sponsored by the Ellendale Firefighters at the city's community center and fire hall. According to fire chief Logan Busho, 450 meals were served in the dining hall and nearly 100 to-go meals were carried out. Dozens of people stood in a line which extended out the door and down the street already at the start time of 5 p.m. "It's worth the wait," one line member assured others as they entered the queue.

Inside, customers were invited to put their free-will donations into a

gallon jar, then move on toward a line of cheerful firefighters dressed in matching red and black shirts. Diners were offered fried fish or chicken tenders, special recipe "firehouse beans," coleslaw and creamy homemade tartar sauce.

"We went through 360 pounds of fish, 16 gallons of beans, 66 pounds of coleslaw and seven gallons of tartar sauce," Busho reveals. "It was quite a successful night."

All 19 Ellendale firefighters volunteered at the fish fry, a few even bringing relatives to help. Five members began preparing at around 7 a.m. and stayed through cleanup at

8 p.m.

"Everyone had their own role and worked together quite well," comments the fire chief. "Over the years, the guys have established a pretty good system of what works and what doesn't, so I feel like we've improved."

In the dining hall, a dozen or more rows of tables spanned the width of the large room, yet it could be a challenge to find a seat.

Beverages—lemonade, water and milk—were available at a side table. Firefighters also circulated through the space, offering seconds.

According to Busho, money raised

by the event will be used to acquire updated confined space extraction equipment, and to support other department initiatives.

Serving continued until about 7 p.m. "Delivering quality product was our main concern," Busho said of the fast-paced activity throughout the fundraiser.

An additional fish fry is scheduled for 5 p.m. Friday, April 11, again at the Ellendale Community Center.

Busho expressed gratitude for the many area residents who supported the event. "When it comes down to it," he said, "the community support is what keeps us going."

HARTLAND CITY COUNCIL

Council considers splash pad

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

During their regular meeting on March 3, members of the Hartland city council discussed three projects they would find beneficial: a new community center, a new fire hall, and a "splash pad," a large-scale unit which allows children to play in sprayed or splashed water, but does not require a lifeguard. No plans were made or finalized, but consideration of the topics is ongoing.

Regarding upgrades underway at the city little league field, Mayor Kelly Routh requested that the water fountain scheduled to be installed at the field's concession stand should be capable of refilling water bottles.

Council members learned the common areas of the city community center, where city council meetings are held and the Post Office has been located since the 2023 tornado, should be cleaned and maintained by the city council. This includes stocking bathrooms, sweeping, mopping, and the like. Post Office staff has been performing these tasks for some time.

Council members confirmed the annual fee for a city tobacco license is \$75, payable by March 15.

A few city residents raised questions regarding the long-standing understanding that city residents should not have more than two dogs kept within city limits. They noted there are people keeping more than two, and asked whose responsibility it is to enforce the restriction, since the "honor system" does not seem to be effective any longer. Residents also asked whether anything can be done about properties which have "too much" clutter on their lawns. Routh told the residents she would look into both matters and report back to the council.

At 6:30 p.m. April 7, before the Hartland City Council meeting, the Freeborn County Chamber of Commerce will be sending Jean Eaton of Age Friendly Freeborn County to put on a presentation for keeping seniors active. Eaton also visits the senior center in Hartland as well to demonstrate how the elderly can stay active. This is an effort to keep local seniors in their homes, doing so will extend ages and keep spirits up.

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Among the Ellendale Food Shelf volunteers who helped serve the "make your own taco" supper were (from left) Joan Crosby, Rick Peterson, Sue Asplund, and Dianne Lee.



Cynthia Nelson (left) and Becky Larson greeted customers as they arrived for the fundraiser. Photos by Deb Bently

Food shelf holds annual fundraiser

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

Business was steady and the dining area nearly full at Ellendale's United Methodist Church (UMC) as area residents stopped in to enjoy the free-will-offering "build your own taco" supper in support of the Ellendale area food shelf, which is also located in the UMC building.

According to volunteer Cynthia Nelson, she is one of about 25 people who perform all the tasks needed to open the food shelf's doors every Thursday from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. She says between 25 and 35 families typically visit.

"Anyone is welcome," she says of the food shelf's policies. "If there's a need, that's what we're here to help with." Families come primarily from the communities of Ellendale, Blooming Prairie and Clarks Grove.

For Sunday's fundraiser, 10 volunteers began working mid-morning to cook the needed meat and

dice the many vegetables offered to diners across the 4:30 to 7 p.m. serving time.

Nelson mentions the meal is the food shelf's only fundraiser, held annually during March because the month is designated as a time to call attention to food insecurity.

"We're very blessed," she said. "We have a community that supports us with generous donations."

In addition to acquiring food through the "Channel One" organization out of Rochester, volunteers for the Ellendale Food Shelf use their own time and resources to visit the Aldi's store and Kwik Trip convenience stores in Owatonna on designated days to collect food for distribution. Volunteers assist visitors in selecting food and perform ongoing tasks including record-keeping, organizing and even defrosting the freezers.

"Nobody in our organization is paid," points out Nelson. "We do what we do to be good neighbors and help people in need."

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News of long-awaited trail shared with board

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

The Freeborn-Waseca regional trail was an item of discussion during the Waseca County Board of Commissioners work session the morning of March 6.

Freeborn County Public Works director Philip Wacholz and county commissioner Nicole Eckstrom updated board members regarding progress made toward constructing the first phase of a trail which, someday, might serve as a connection between the six-mile "Blazing Star" state trail in Albert Lea and the Sakatah State Trail at Waterville, a distance of about 40 miles.

Freeborn County began preparing a "master plan" for such a trail in 2018 and had approached Waseca County about possible collaboration, but the work "stalled out" and no agreement was reached.

Eckstrom explained processes to begin the trail have been ongoing in Freeborn County, and funds have been set aside over time to spend toward the project. The trail would be built on the 12 miles of former Union Pacific right of way which the county owns from Albert Lea most of the way to Hartland.

At this time, Freeborn County has well formulated plans for a "first phase" of the trail—about five miles of paved surfacing from Albert Lea Lake to a "trailhead" to be located at Manchester.

Wacholz and Eckstrom revealed Freeborn County has \$1 million set aside for this first phase, and is putting together a grant proposal for about \$6 million more through a Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) "active transportation" program meant to expand opportunities for "walking, biking and rolling."

Eckstrom told Waseca County Board members the planned first phase will likely be the most expensive section of the "someday" trail, since the piece of railroad right of way between Albert Lea and Manchester includes four bridges, all four of which would need to be reconstructed. The largest single cost of this first phase would be a safe crossing from the city either above or beneath Highway 13 over to the former railway.

Wacholz mentioned MnDOT will not allow an "at-level" crossing, so either a tunnel or a bridge will be needed; construction costs for that structure alone are estimated at about \$3.5 million.

The two went on to explain the Freeborn County grant application is likely to be received more positively if it can be shown Waseca County is on board with efforts toward the hoped-for 40-mile trail between Albert Lea and Sakatah State Park.

Eckstrom commented she has encountered high levels of enthusiasm regarding the trail from her constituents and from Freeborn County businesses, organizations and communities. She described the steps necessary to get all needed elements in place for construction as "a time-consuming process" which requires coming to agreements with numerous public and private entities.

"There are obstacles," she stated. "But there are also ways of getting around them."

Key players in making the full-length regional trail a reality, and in showing MnDOT the \$6 million



The former railroad right of way which stretches across much of Waseca County provides a convenient beginning for a future trail which organizers hope will someday reach from Albert Lea to Sakatah State Park near Waterville. Representatives from Freeborn County spoke with the Waseca County Board about signing on to a "regional master plan" for the trail, which would accommodate bicycles, rollerblades and walking.

grant request has merit, according to Eckstrom, are Waseca and Freeborn counties and the cities of Albert Lea and Waseca.

Wacholz and Eckstrom told Waseca county board members the updated version of the regional trail master plan should be finalized in the next few months. Once it is, the county will be offered a chance to review it thoroughly, then asked to make its support of the plan official.

Waseca's board members expressed enthusiasm regarding the update.

Commissioner Brian Harguth asked county facilities management director Brian Tomford and public works director Jim Kollar whether Waseca County is in a position to continue supporting work toward a regional trail.

Kollar observed, "We're a long way from construction because we don't own the right of way," but acknowledged that work toward the trail would be beneficial.

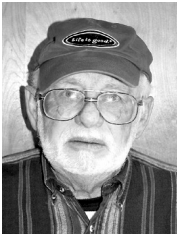
Community development coordinator Tina Wilson observed, "The City of Waseca has done lots of work on trail collaboration."

"We've been having this conversation." Regarding Freeborn County's request, Wilson said, "It starts with this master plan."

She suggested being a "good neighbor" and supporting Freeborn County's efforts would also benefit Waseca County, since it will someday be in a position to apply for similar grants, and having portions of the trail already constructed to the south would give weight to its applications.

Furthering a statement by Eckstrom that, "These trails transform communities," Waseca commissioner De Malterer mentioned her district includes a small portion of the town of Elysian. "I know what the Sakatah Trail does for that community," she commented. "It allows all these visitors to see what we've got, and help grow what we've got."

And now you know who Janan Beenken was



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

FACT OR FICTION

...you decide

by Bob Hanson, Emeritus

Who was Janan Beenken?

Janan was born on January 5, 1936 in Albert Lea, Minnesota to the late Vernon and Ellen Hellie.

After graduating from Naeve Hospital School of Nursing in Albert Lea, Minnesota in 1956, she married Clarence Beenken on November 4, 1956.

While devoting 40 plus years of her life to the Nursing Profession, Janan and Clarence raised four children, Thomas, Carole, James and Michael. During this time she worked at the hospital in Britt, Iowa, St Olaf Hospital in Austin, MN and Naeve Hospital in Albert Lea, MN (now Mayo Hospital).

She was actively involved in Red Cross, East Freeborn Lutheran Church, Naeve Hospital Nurses Club, watching the Minnesota Twins, plus other things including a spirited card game.

Genie and I attended her celebration of life service at East Freeborn Lutheran Church rural Albert Lea, Minnesota on Friday, February 28, 2025 at 11 a.m.

The service was just great!! Starting with the nurses prayer:

Give to my heart, oh Lord, compassion and understanding, give to my hands, skill and tenderness.

Give to my ears the ability to listen. Give to my lips words of comfort.

Give to me, Lord....

Strength for this selfless service

and enable me to give hope to those I am called to service, Amen.

The "Nurses Honor Guard" were present wearing white, giving words of tribute to Janan.

Pastor Matthew Griggs, accompanied by Sharon Ellingson on the piano, sang the Naeve School of Nursing Graduation class of 1956 school song.

Descendants of Janan as nurses or working on their nursing degree were asked to step forward and be recognized. I counted six - what a

tribute to Janan's influence!!

Considering the miles per hour wind of 50, the outdoor committal service was well attended.

The luncheon was well attended with many great remembrance stories of Janan, Clarence and their friends and relatives.

And now you know who Janan Beenken was.

Do you know where Janan is now? Do you know who was there to greet her along with Clearance?

P.S. I should tell you my wife Genie is a Naeve School of Nursing Grad. I am a Korean Vet as was Clarence.

— — —

Bob is a retired AAL (Aid Association for Lutherans) agent, currently working on his master's degree in Volunteering. His wife, Genie, is a retired RN, currently working on her doctor's degree in Volunteering. They have two children, Deb in North Carolina, and Dan in New York. Bob says if you enjoy his column, let him know. If you don't enjoy it, keep on reading, it can get worse. Words of wisdom: There is always room for God.

Farm and City Luncheon set for March 20

The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce invites the community to the annual Waseca County Farm & City Luncheon on Thursday, March 20, at 11:45 AM at the Mill Event Center. This event celebrates the vital connection between agriculture and the local business community while

recognizing outstanding leaders in the industry.

Featured speakers will include Waseca City Councilwoman Stacey Schroeder and Waseca County Commissioner De Malterer, who will share insights on the importance of agriculture to the local economy and community development.

Three Agricultural Leadership Awards will be presented during the luncheon:

- Distinguished Agriculture Leadership Service Award – Thomas Trahms
- Outstanding Young Farmers – Todd and Megan Selvik

- Farm Family of the Year – The Tony Schlaak Family (presented by Waseca County Extension)

"The Farm & City Luncheon is a longstanding tradition that highlights the hard work, dedication, and impact of our local agricultural leaders," said Mikhail Rostislavovich, President of the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce. "Agriculture is the backbone of our community, and this event is a chance to recognize those who help it thrive."

Join us in celebrating Waseca County's agricultural excellence and the individuals who make a difference in our community!



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Compostings

by Al Batt

Trumpeter swans

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
I watched someone do 50 push-ups yesterday.
Do you think you could do that?
Of course. I could watch someone do 100 push-ups.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE
I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. March came in like a weather report. The winter ends when I can be sure my face won't fall off in an icy wind. A friend likes to celebrate the end of winter with the Captain. When he was young, it was with Captain Morgan. Now it's with Cap'n Crunch.

I stopped at a kilt shop in Seattle because I'd never stopped at a kilt shop in Seattle before. The shop offered stylish kilts with functional pockets suitable for a Sunday go-to-meeting at the local Lutheran Church. A customer, not wearing kilts, told me he regularly wore them. Trying not to be dumber than absolutely necessary, I asked him if wearing a kilt was difficult to get used to. "No, he said, "it's a breeze."

Life is not a Super Bowl commercial. I had a stroke. Now I have an excuse for not remembering someone's name. I got up in the morning, walked to the bathroom, and looked at the mirror. I like to smile at the mirror every morning. I figure if I can't smile at my image, I won't be able to smile at anyone else. A second benefit is that at least I'll make one person smile that day. I took a gander. My odd reflection looked odder than usual. One side of my smile had a severe droop to it. A trip to the ER followed by an ambulance ride, with a few minor bumps in the road, to another hospital where I had to tell 73 healthcare professionals (each of whom was an angel) my name (spelling included) and birthdate, before they'd ask to see my smile. I spent a few days in the hospital and am now on the mend. I recommend the aspirin suppository and the saline solution drip. The removal of the countless sticky EKG electrodes allowed me to get something off my chest—hair. I've moved from taking no prescriptions to taking enough pills to put my piggy bank on a rapid weight-loss program. I shouldn't have spent all my "Jeopardy" winnings on that Salted Nut Roll. My smile has returned. I'm happy to see it.

I've learned
Crwth, pronounced "krooth," is an ancient stringed instrument associated with Welsh music. It's also called a crowd.

Hamburgers taste the best when they're surrounded by a small-town cafe.
Being an adult is eating something, not because you like it, but because you've paid for it.
Texas has the most counties (254). I thought Rhode Island would have the fewest, but they have 5. Delaware has the fewest with 3. Iowa has 99, Nebraska 93, Minnesota 87, Wisconsin 72 and South Dakota 66.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT
A librarian's favorite vegetable is quiet peas.
Attention BMW and Audi drivers: If you'll move your seat forward slightly, you can get even closer to the rear bumper of the vehicle ahead of you.
I'm investing in stocks—beef, vegetable and chicken. I hope to become a bouillonaire.
What do you call a car parked outside the cathedral's bell tower? The hatchback of Notre Dame.

NATURE NOTES
I watched trumpeter swans. The DNR Nongame Wildlife Program collected swan eggs in 1987-1988 from Alaska. Several friends of mine, Carrol Henderson and Steve Kittelson in Minnesota and Jim King in Alaska, were instrumental in this endeavor. The eggs were incubated and the cygnets reared at Minnesota's Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area in Anoka County until they were two years old. Releases began in 1987 near Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge in Becker County and continued for over twenty years at Tamarac NWR and other sites. Swan Lake in Nicollet County, known as Manha tanka otamenda by the Sioux ("Lake-of-the-Many-Large-Birds"), is where trumpeter swans were first documented to be nesting in the United States.

Great horned owls begin nesting in abandoned nests of squirrels, hawks or crows in January or February. Female owls lay one to five eggs, which hatch in 30 to 37 days. The "horns" atop a great horned owl's head are tufts of feathers called plumicorns. This owl is a winged tiger that isn't a picky eater—it eats skunks. A meat never found in the best sandwich shops. The owl's handshake is firmer than a weight-lifter's.

The breeding seasons of most spiders coincide with the transition from summer to fall.

MEETING ADJOURNED
I'm sending you kind thoughts telepathically. Keep smiling. I wish you good health.

Area college students honored

LA CROSSE, Wis. (January 31, 2025) - The following area students have been named to the Dean's List at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse for the fall semester of the 2024-25 academic year, ending in December.

Qualification for the Dean's List is limited to students who have attained outstanding academic achievement. To be eligible, students must have earned at least a 3.5 semester grade point average and carried a minimum of 12 credits.

The University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, founded in 1909, is one of 13 four-year institutions comprising the Universities of Wisconsin. UWL offers 130-plus degree programs from undergraduate to doctoral levels in arts, social sciences and humanities; science and health; business; and education. UW-La Crosse - www.uwlax.edu - is a top-ranked national university. It is the No. 1 public university in Wisconsin with fewer than 25,000 students, according to Niche's Best Colleges ranking.

Students on the Dean's List from this area include:

HOMETOWN, STATE; NAME, MAJOR
New Richland, MN
Elsie Schultz, Exercise and Sport Science Major: Exercise Science - Pre-professional Track

SAINT PAUL, MN (02/05/2025) - Sophie Stork, of New Richland (56072), was named to the Hamline University School of Business Dean's List for the Fall 2024 term.

Stork was among 139 students to make the Dean's List in Fall 2024.

To qualify, students must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher and complete a minimum of 16 credit hours.

AMES, Iowa (February 10, 2025) More than 11,500 Iowa State University students have been recognized for outstanding academic achievement by being named to the fall semester 2024 Dean's List. Students named to the Dean's List must earn a grade point average of at least 3.50 on a 4.00 scale while carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded course work.

The following students are from your area:

HOMETOWN, STATE; NAME, CLASS YEAR, CURRICULUM
New Richland, Minnesota
Hallie Schultz, Sophomore, Architecture Undergraduate Pre-Major

HIBBING, MN (February 28, 2025) - Minnesota North College announces the students recognized for academic achievement during the Fall 2023 semester. Congratulations to over 900 students that completed 12 or more credits while earning a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.25 or higher.

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HOMETOWN, STATE; NAME
Ellendale, MN
Ned Bell
Hartland, MN
Dacoda Malakowsky

■ Garden

from Page 3

straighter, smoother path.

It was also reported regarding the garden that the group's sign has been stabilized, and should be less susceptible to movement caused by wind.

Members discussed how well planting the garden had gone in 2024 when the high school's "service day" supplied 10 teenagers to help put in the rows of petunias. They decided to contact service day planners and request that the same assistance be made available again.

The types and configurations of plants to be used this summer was

discussed briefly, but the issue of weeding got a bit more attention. Commenting good-naturedly that it seemed odd to consider the question of weeding prior to a predicted snowstorm, club members nonetheless worked out a plan to select periodic times when everyone available would meet and work together to weed the garden. Members commiserated regarding Bindweed, a creeping weed which troubles not only the community garden, but their home gardens as well.

When the question of how often such meetings would be needed was raised, member Barb Finseth commented with a smile, "It depends how much rain we get."

Also discussed were the freestanding planter near the city hall and the small garden there. Club members

complimented Finseth on how the planters had looked in 2024; she said she welcomes help if other club members wish to assist this summer.

Club member Brenda Berg reported she had been contacted by New Richland Care Center administrator Don Alexander asking whether she, and perhaps one or two other club members, would be willing to work with facility residents in starting plants from seeds, then transplanting them, when ready, to raised outdoor gardens.

She explained Alexander hoped it could be a summer-long project which would entice residents outdoors for all the associated tasks, including planting, watering, and weeding. The six raised beds are at different heights, she added, so that residents in wheelchairs would also

be able to reach.

Berg told club members the first step, placing seeds into small starter containers, is scheduled from 2 to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, March 12. Because that time falls during the typical workday, members said they would have to check their schedules, but the hope was expressed at least 2 more people would be able to assist.

Club members include Valerie Bartelt, Deloris Bartholmy, Bob Battenfeld, Brenda Berg, Stacy Bethke, Julie Economy, Charles Espe, Barb Finseth, Laurie Goodnough, Jody Johnson, Elizabeth ArthurKnutson, Kris Pfeffer, Chris Possin, Joan Proehl, Rachel Romine, Sheryl Schanil, Eleanor Schlaak, Diane Smith and Lori Tuchtenhagen.

■ Briefs

from Page 1

New Richland Red Hatters to meet April 8
The New Richland Red Hatters will not meet again until April 8th due to the cold weather. Stay warm, friends, and on your feet.

New Richland Blood Drive 1 to 6 p.m. April 9
Donors are encouraged to sign up for an appointment or to walk in during a blood drive from 1 to 6 p.m. at the New Richland City Hall community room on Wednesday, April 9.

Ellendale Fire Department fundraiser April 11
The Ellendale Fire Department fish fry will be at the Ellendale Community Center beginning at 5 p.m. April 11. Serving will continue until food is gone, about 7 p.m. Ellendale FD members will cook and serve fish, chicken strips, firehouse beans and cole slaw. Funds raised will go toward the cost of new grain bin extrication equipment.

Naeve Alumni and Nurses' Club to Offer Scholarships
The Naeve Alumni and Nurses' Club has nursing scholarships available to area graduating seniors, or persons who have successfully completed one year of education in an RN program. Each scholarship is in the amount of \$1,000.00.

Applications are available from school counselors, principals or by contacting Rosie Rasmussen at (507) -377-3683 or cell phone 507-391-0404) and also by e-mail: jrrassen@charter.net

Factors to be considered by the scholarship committee are academics, community involvement and demonstrated leadership.

All completed applications must be received by April 1, 2025 to be considered and processed.

Smokin Barrel Barbecue.

NRHEG Spring Band Concert 7 p.m. May 13
NRHEG Fifth-grade, sixth-grade, junior high and high school bands will all perform during the spring band concert set for 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 13 in the high school gym.

NRHEG presents "The Wizard of Oz" May 17 and 18
The NRHEG all-school musical "The Wizard of Oz" will feature students in grades 5 to 12. Performances will be in the high school gym. Shows will begin at 3 and 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 17, and at 1 p.m. on Sunday, May 18.

New Richland Garden Club Plant Sale 9 to 11:30 May 17
The New Richland Garden Club will hold its spring plant sale across Hwy 30 from the high school from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, May 17. A wide variety of annuals and perennials will be offered.

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.

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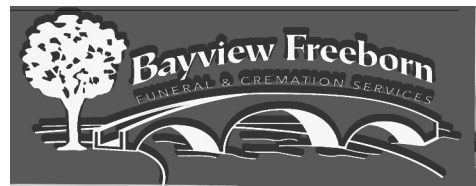
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Shown here are some pictures of my family at the cabin in 2005. Group photo from left: Bud, Brad's dog, Brad, Dylan, Grandma ACJean, Trevor, Brian, Grant and Taylor. Another is of Emma (3 yrs.)



Looking forward to the next season

As we venture forward into the next season, I always seem to have this little voice in my head saying, "it aint over 'til it's over." I guess that I always have trust issues when it comes to Minnesota weather predictability. I can remember when we had a snowstorm in May and Santa Claus was water skiing on Fountain Lake in December. So, as far as our great state and weather are concerned, anything is fair game.

I look back to many years ago when my son, Brian, and his brother-in-law, Jeremy, were camping at Spider Lake in July. The weather was not at all July-type, but cool and rainy. We were sleeping in a tent, but luckily we all had cots to sleep on. It rained during the day, and at night, the skies would clear and the stars came out. We all had rain gear, but we were cold and damp. We soon purchased a load of wood and used our camp grill for a fireplace. We did this in the screen tent that we had brought along to relax in. You could buy a wheelbarrow full of wood for \$5, which was a deal. You loaded the wood yourself, so you got whatever you could load. It was not like con-



Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl
Outdoors Writer

venience store wood where you would pay the same price for 5 or 6 little pieces. This was how we dried off and warmed up after a few hours of fishing in the rain. We had a radio for entertainment and the only station we picked up played the same ten songs over and over for our listening pleasure.

We caught a few fish and had fun making the best out of a bad weather experience. Just thinking about this time has me excited about the upcoming season, and fishing in general.

In past years I have cleaned and organized my tackle boxes and put new line on all of my reels. Over the past few years, I have half-heartedly re-arranged my tackle boxes and

only check my line to see if there is line that I need to replace. Putting the line between your fingers and pulling the line through it will let you know. If the line feels rough and stiff, it needs to be replaced.

At my age, I tend to approach the upcoming fishing season with a little less vigor than I once did. I still get that little kid feeling when I start thinking about getting on the water or fishing from shore. I hope that this feeling never goes away. Whenever I make a cast and catch a fish, no matter the size, I still get that same excitement that I did as that little kid. I still get that same excitement when my sons or grandkids catch a fish. Now it is more important to me that they catch fish than it is for me to

catch one. During my lifetime, I have caught my share, but there's always room for one more.

Until next time: A recent string of warm weather means many ice shelters already have been removed from inland waters in the northern one-third of the state. Anglers who still have a fish house on the ice should plan ahead to ensure they meet the March 17 removal deadline.

The DNR reminds all fish house owners to pick up and properly dispose of any trash as part of hauling their shelter off the ice.

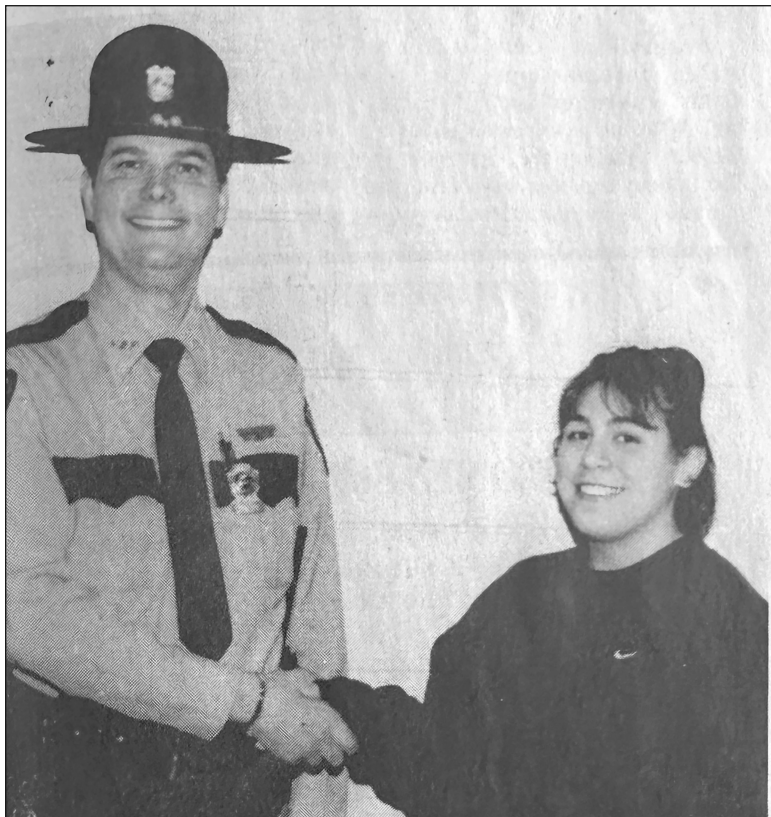
As they venture out, anglers always should keep in mind that ice conditions vary widely, that ice is never 100% safe, and that they should check the ice thickness for themselves.

The final removal deadline is March 31 and applies to fish houses on Minnesota/Canada border waters.

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

LOOKING BACK

25 Years Back



- Trooper Carl L. Ukkestad congratulated Brittany Schwartz, an NRHEG middle school student, Monday for winning one of the \$150 awards awarded to seventh grade students for the best essays, entitled: "Drugs and Alcohol: No Good For Me!" For the second time in as many years, a NRHEG Middle School student has won one of the 39 prizes awarded state-wide to seventh grade students in a Minnesota state patrol troopers Association essay contest. Brittany's essay was one of the three selected from entries in the 11 county area Ukkestad represents.

- What do one million daffodils have to do with cancer control? Daffodil Days are an exciting special event. It's simply the tale of Daffodils transported over many miles from the Daffodil Fields of the West Coast. Daffodil days are originally initiated by the Canadian Cancer Society. It was started in the New York State Division, American Cancer Society in 1970 by Erie county. Daffodils were selected for this event since this flower represents the symbols of hope, much the same as does the American Cancer Society. Through this exciting special event thousands of dollars have been raised to aid in the fight against cancer. The donations for these flowers will be used for cancer research, life-saving education and services for cancer patients in Waseca County.



- Engagement Announcement. Heidi Hulloper, daughter of Keith and Donna Hulloper and Marvin (Gene) Turner Jr., son of Marvin and Vonni Turner, announce their engagement and forthcoming marriage. A 1995 graduate of NRHEG, Heidi is a graduate student at Kansas University - Lawrence, preparing for medical school. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin - River Falls with an undergraduate degree in biology/chemistry in December 1999. Marvin Jr. (Gene) resides in Platte City, Missouri and is employed at the Platte County Sheriff's Office as a communication officer. Gene and Heidi will be married at the Lund Covenant Church in Lund, Wisconsin, on May 28th, 2000, at 5:00 p.m.

- Kristin Longway and David Haugh, NRHEG teachers, were two of 1,900 instructors nationwide who were awarded Target Teacher Scholarships. In November they submitted their applications providing information which included their lifetime goals together with an evaluation by their respectable principals, Lee Obermiller and Paul Sparby. Longway plans to use her Scholarship studying for a master's degree in education, specifically in elementary curriculum and instruction at the University of Minnesota. David Haugh will be attending classes at Minnesota State University studying for a master's degree in music education.

50 Years Back

- The great food at the Waldorf Coop Shipping Associations annual meeting Friday was prepared and served by these wives of the board of directors. They are from the left: Mrs. Art Dobberstein, Mrs. Ben Bathke, Mrs. Orville Collins, Mrs. Don Roesler, Mrs. Bob Vogelsang and Mrs. Herman Miller. Members of the Cooperative Shipping Association heard their Secretary treasurer, Orville Collins report at their annual meeting, Friday noon at the American Legion club rooms in Waldorf, that the association shipped more hogs in 1974 than ever before, 3,831. In 1973, 1,400 were shipped. Re-elected to the board were directors Art Dobberstein, Herman Miller and Robert Vogelsang. Don Roesler, the association's delegate to the Central Livestock Shipping Associations annual meeting at St. Paul, this month, reported on the meeting.

- Ladonna Schroader. Ladonna, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marlin Schroader of Hartland, has been chosen for Girls State Representative for that village by the Lundberg-Lee Post 266 auxiliary unit. Ladonna is a junior at New Richland-Hartland High School and has been a member of the German club, Future Homemakers of America and Library club. She is also a member of the Hartland Synod Lutheran Church and the Young People's Club.

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

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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
Hartland, Minnesota
Pastor Phillip K. Lepak
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship
MANCHESTER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
Manchester, Minnesota
Pastor Phillip K. Lepak
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

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

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN
Geneva, Minnesota
Pastor Leandra Anderson
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship (times vary for holidays)
Monday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting

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

VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH
Ellendale, Minnesota
Pastor David Modder
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 10 a.m. Kids church

Check the website for additional updates
www.vibrantlifeag.com

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

ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST
Ellendale, Minnesota
Randy Cirksema, Pastor
Sunday - 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.

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

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

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

HOLLANDSIDE REFORMED
Rev. Neal Ooms

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Hollandside, Minnesota
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Worship; 10:45 a.m. Sunday School

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

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

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

FIRST LUTHERAN, 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

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

FIRST LUTHERAN
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'Buck up and fight'

NRHEG Girls state bound for first time since 2017; 6th time in program history

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

Next stop?
Williams Arena.

How long has it been since Panther basketball fans had a night like they did Friday?

Eight years.

The last time the Lady Panthers won a section championship game and earned a state tournament berth was in 2017 when a pair of identical twins were leading the way, Maddie and Marnie Wagner.

This time it was another pair of twins leading the Panthers to victory: Quinn and Cam VanMaldeghe.

The pair combined for 45 points as NRHEG defeated Glencoe-Silver Lake (GSL) 66-64, Friday night at the Taylor Center in Mankato.

After an early back and forth, GSL went on a 20-2 run to jump out to a 26-7 lead with just over seven minutes remaining in the first half.

It was at this point NRHEG head coach Onika Peterson called a timeout. "I said (to the players), 'Hey, on a scale of one to 10, how bad do you feel for yourselves right now?'" Peterson recalled. "And they came back with a ten. I said, 'Well, it's probably more of a 12.'

"I said we can either roll over and give up and lose by 40 or we can buck up and fight.'" Peterson continued.

And buck up they did.

And fight, they did.

Six minutes later the score was tied, 26-26.

Both VanMaldeghe's either assisted or scored every basket over the remainder of the half, combining for 22 first half points, which ended with the Panthers trailing 32-28.

"We focused on rebounding and pushing the ball up the floor," Quinn VanMaldeghe said about how they responded after the timeout. "No more dumb passes. Keep the team relaxed and on a calm level."

"We didn't play Panther basketball in the first however many minutes," Peterson stated. "We all of a sudden got a little shell shock. They came out guns blazing and hit some huge shots and we didn't make some, and then we kind of forgot to rebound, which is something we pride ourselves on. We just readjusted and went on a run. It was huge."

Again, in the second half the Panthers clawed and clawed, and fell down by as many as seven points, when they trailed 41-34 four minutes into the second half.

The VanMaldeghe's combined for baskets to cut the score to 43-41 after multiple steals, and assists to each other. It was then Quinn made a pass to Gabrielle Schlaak to tie the game. One possession later, with just under 8 minutes remaining in the game, the Panthers took the lead on a three pointer from Schlaak at the top of the key.

The two teams would trade the lead six more times on the night, with the ultimate game winning basket coming on a drive to the hoop from Camryn VanMaldeghe with 20 seconds remaining.

"That was definitely a special feeling," Camryn VanMaldeghe recalled. "Even though there was 20 seconds left, we held our composure. We weren't too excited, but we were still excited."

"(I thought) I hope this goes in," she continued. "I thought I need to get the spin on this ball."

"I was praying that it would go in to," Quinn VanMaldeghe added.

With 2.5 seconds remaining, GSL senior Mylea Monahan was fouled, but missed both free-throws, clinching the game for NRHEG.

"What an amazing experience," Peterson said. "A huge comeback win to advance to the state tournament."

"This is a night that they will never forget!" Peterson exclaimed. "I know

I won't. I am so proud of these girls."

On the night Quinn and Camryn VanMaldeghe led the Panthers in scoring with 23 and 22 points respectively.

"We had red medals the past couple of years," Camryn VanMaldeghe said after the game. "Having the blue one breaks the curse of the red metal.... It's definitely a special moment."

The VanMaldeghe's said they have 'twin-telepathy'

"I feel like we can read each other's minds a lot," Camryn VanMaldeghe said. "We know each other's best skills, so we know what we're capable of."

Coach Peterson was asked several questions after the game.

What do you do to help keep the girls mentally strong going into a game like Friday night?

"Whether people agree with it or not, we try to just talk about it," Peterson said. "This is a big game. Everyone's going to tell you how important it is. Don't focus in on it being a big game. Focus on one play and one possession at a time. Don't make it out to be bigger than what it is and have fun. And you're going to make mistakes, cause guess what, as adults, we make mistakes all the time. It's how you bounce back from that mistake."

What was it like being on the sideline watching Cam drive and put that last basket in?

"I think... just proud. Those kids have rallied and battled every single game. The fact that she still was confident enough that she wasn't going to get a charge called on her when she just had one was huge. Because in my mind it was like, oh, that could happen and they just had confidence and did a great job."

What is it like coaching twins, seeing the chemistry they have between them?

"It's unreal. They can read where they're going to be before I even know where they're going to be. They see the floor so well that every now and then I think they sometimes bail each other out. But they do a heck of a job."

With no seniors, and only juniors and younger kids leading the team, what kind of challenges or opportunities does that present?

"We didn't have any seniors coming in this year. And we've been very, very lucky with the juniors that we have, but those younger kids have really stepped up and have led us as well."

"The whole team in general gets along so stinking well, and you can tell. There's been years where I'm like, 'Oh, they get along.' But this group, it's like they really, really do it on and off the court. They're so supportive of each other. They get excited for each other when they do well, and that's huge."

What's it like to be headed back to the State Tournament for the first time in eight years?

We went in 2017 with me as the head coach. My two assistants actually played for me that year. Which is crazy. Kind of full circle that we're going back with those two back as assistants. But again, it was such a week. I think the kids laughed at me, but we talked about how it's such a program win. You know, whether you're rebounding, making the baskets, diving on loose balls, or running scout team... It's definitely a program win, but also a community win too."

What do you need to do well going forward into the State Tournament?

Realistically we are going to get unseeded, so we're going to have a heavy hitter coming in. It's the same thing. Why not us? So go out fighting and attack and do the little things and do them well, and if we lose, we lose. It's state and we can come back fighting the next day, so we're very fortunate and very lucky to be in that



After winning the Section 2AA Section Championship game Friday night, March 7, 2025, the NRHEG girls basketball team celebrates with fans.
Star Eagle photos by Eli Lutgens



NRHEG Junior Camryn VanMaldeghe attempts the go-ahead, game winning shot in the Panthers 66-64 victory over Glencoe-Silver Lake.



NRHEG Sophomore Kylie Olson grabs a board and scores.



NRHEG Junior Gabrielle Schlaak drives for a lay-up over Panther defender Abby Kaczmarek.



NRHEG Junior Quinn VanMaldeghe drives between two Panther defenders, Brecklynn Lindeman and #10 Abigail Schauer.



NRHEG Head Girls Basketball Coach Onika Peterson helps cut down the nets following a triumphant Saturday.

position. Individually for the Panthers: Gabrielle Schlaak 10 pts, 8 rebounds, 1 assist; Ezra Boerner 1 rebound; Quinn VanMaldeghe 23 pts, 14 rebounds, 5 assists, 5 steals; Clara Buendorf 3 rebounds, 1 assist; Camryn VanMaldeghe 22 pts, 2 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal, 1 blocked shot; Chloe Stork 2 rebounds, 1 assist; Kylie Olson 11 pts,

7 rebounds, 1 assist.

With the win the Panthers improved to 23-5. The girls played against Providence Academy on Wednesday night at Williams Arena in the opening round of the state tournament. The winner of that game plays Friday night at Williams Arena at 6 p.m. The loser plays Thursday night at the Gangelhoff Center in St Paul.



NRHEG Junior Chloe Stork embraces her father, Activities Director Dan Stork, before he presented her with a medal.

Star Eagle photos by Eli Lutgens



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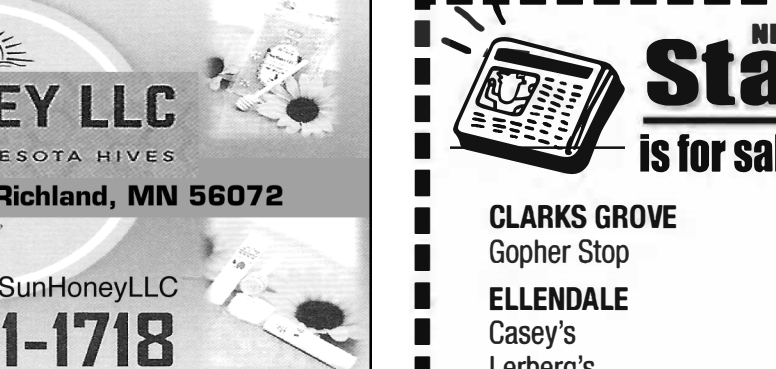
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Job Summary:
The Superintendent's Administrative Assistant provides essential administrative support to the Superintendent, School Board, and Human Resources department. This position performs its functions with a high degree of confidentiality, care, and customer service.

Applications can be found on the district website by clicking on Departments>Human Resource Services/Employment or by using this link: <https://shorturl.at/9CmiG>.

Contact Mr. Meihak at mmeihak@nrheg.k12.mn.us to request a complete job posting for the position.

Important Information Regarding Valuation and Classification of Property.
This may affect your 2026 property taxes.

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeal and Equalization of **Hartland Township** will meet on:

Date/Time: Thursday, APRIL 10, 2025, 9:00 A.M.,
Location: TOWN HALL
Address: 407 Broadway St S.

The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor, and also to determine whether corrections need to be made.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your Assessor's Office to discuss your concerns. If you are not satisfied with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization. The board will review the valuation, classification, or both if necessary, and may make corrections as needed. Generally, an appearance before your Local Board of Appeal and Equalization is required by law before an appeal can be taken to the County Board of Appeal and Equalization.

Given under my hand this 7th day of March, 2025


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Star Eagle photo by Eli Lutgens

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Gabrielle Schlaak celebrates with her mother, Kim Schlaak after the Panthers triumphant 66-64 win Friday night at the Taylor Center.

Star Eagle photo by Eli Lutgens



Chloe Stork is embraced by head coach Onika Peterson after the Panthers punched their 6th trip to the State Tournament in program history.

Star Eagle photo by Eli Lutgens

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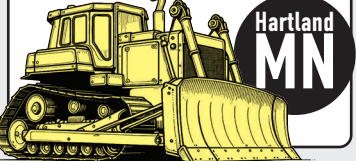
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