



An article summarizing the March school board meeting included an error regarding the number of third-grade sections the NRHEG Elementary side will have during the 2025-'26 school year. The number of sections is being reduced from three down to two due to limited enrollment at the third-grade level.

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.

Side X Side and ATV Poker Run will take place at Hartland University Bar 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.

The Waldorf Peppy Peppers 4-H Club will host a pancake breakfast from 7 a.m. till noon on Sunday, April 6. On the menu will be pancakes, eggs, sausage, juice and coffee. This is open to the public. Free will donations accepted in support of 4-H.

The annual meeting of the St. Peter Cemetery Association will be held at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, April 5 at St. Peter Lutheran Church in New Richland.

The April meeting of the El-lendale Area Heritage Society will be April 5 at 9 a.m. at the El-lendale community building.

A mini auction and Pancake Breakfast for the Geneva Cancer Auction will be held this weekend at the Geneva Bar and Grill.

The mini auction will be Saturday, April 5 beginning at 2 p.m. A pancake breakfast will be Sunday, April 6 from 8 a.m. until noon.

“Established in 1985, the Geneva Cancer Auction raises funds for cancer research for the sole purpose of eradicating cancer.”

The New Richland Red Hatters will meet April 8 at 11 a.m. Important news, gifts for all who attend.

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.

*I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. **John 16:33***

According to new owners Paulette and Dave Krampitz and prior owner Linda Wagner—Paulette's mother—a whole array of circumstances fell into place to make the transition in ownership of New Richland's Lady Bug Thrift Shop, which happened at the beginning of March, surprisingly smooth.

Perhaps most importantly, after operating the business on New Richland's main street for 12 years, Linda felt she might be willing to hand it over to someone else. Prior to purchasing the Lady Bug, she had operated a different consignment shop for 13 years along Highway 30. "I've been at it for 25 years," she says.

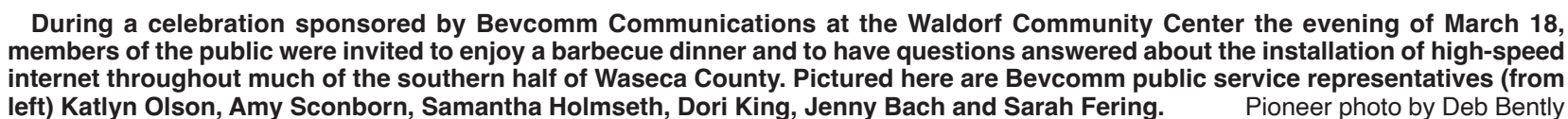
Having invested so much of herself, however, “It couldn’t be just anybody.”

In the meantime, Paulette and Dave had acquired extra free time thanks to Dave's decision to sell his long-time business, Dave's Body Shop.

Along with that, the next door building occupied for decades by the New Richland drugstore and more recently by the New Richland Craft Mall, became available for purchase, creating the opportunity to double the business' display floor.

"Dave went from body work to carpenter," comments Paulette. "From the very start, it seemed he had a vision of what it should be

Lady Bug continued on 4



Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Bevcomm, the Blue Earth based communications company working with Waseca County to have high speed fiber internet made available to residents in the unincorporated parts of the county, drew about 200 people to a barbecue dinner and information session offered at the Waldorf Community Center the evening of March 18.

Amy Schonborn, marketing manager with Bevcomm, mentioned the gathering was an opportunity for residents from within the construction area—both original and expanded—to get their questions answered.

Schonborn explained Bevcomm and Waseca County have been awarded two grants under the Minnesota "Border to Border Broadband Expansion" initiative, meant to help provide high-speed internet access to residents in rural areas who might otherwise be unserved or underserved.

The first award, granted in March of 2024, provided \$4.38 million toward the cost of installing the necessary network of fiber optic infrastructure in all of Byron, Freedom, Vivian and Wilton townships, creating access to service for 492 residences and businesses. The second, received late last year, provided

funds toward installing needed infrastructure to serve 163 residences and businesses in unincorporated areas of Alton, New Richland and St. Mary townships.

Work to install the infrastructure for the first phase was well underway when ground frost ended it in November: of 234 miles of cable scheduled to be buried, only 17 remained. According to company representatives, that was the first of three steps. The second is to install a “drop” at each location, which provides connection to the buried cable. Next, workmen lay cable from that connection across the property owners’ land to the home or office structure where

the hookup is desired. The final step, referred to as "splicing," can be done during winter temperatures. According to one spokesperson, 40 "drops" had so far been completed in territory covered by the first grant.

Current estimates from Bevcomm are that customers in both projects will have service in the spring of 2026.

"We're glad for the opportunity to connect with people," said Schonborn. "Anyone who couldn't be here [for the barbecue] is welcome to contact our office at 1-800-473-1442."

Even "people who don't think of themselves as artists" have some good reasons to pay attention to grant programs offered through the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council (PLRAC), which serves the nine counties of Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca, and Watonwan.

Waseca's Anna Pollock and Pam Trumbull are the organization's two full-time employees: Pollock is the executive director and Trumbull the program director. The two are guided in their work by a 14-member board of directors whose members consist of one from each area city with a population of 10,000 or more, one "at large" member, and one from each county. Waseca County's representative is Waseca High School band director Devon Lawrence.

The organization's work—if "work" it can be called—is to distribute about \$680,000 in publicly designated funding to further the arts and art education within the region.

Pollock makes no effort to conceal her enthusiasm as she describes the task. "We are so lucky in Minnesota"; she shows a map of the upper Midwest which summarizes how much public money per capita is spent in states from North Dakota to Illinois on arts programs. In Minnesota, the amount is more than \$10 a person; in second place is Illinois, with less than \$2.

The most significant part of the funding comes from a 2008 voter referendum which designates a small percentage of state sales tax money toward preserving land and water resources, creating parks and trails, and preserving and supporting culture and the arts. Known as the "Legacy Amendment," the tax began in 2009 and will continue through 2034; just under 20 percent of the total amount collected goes toward arts and culture and is distributed statewide among 11 organizations like the PLRAC. Those regions then accept applications for various types of grants and funding related to the arts. Other state and private programs also support the system.

Pollock and Trumbull relate that, yes, a significant portion of the region's \$630,000 goes toward organizations with the word "art" in their names. "If you name a non-profit art center anywhere in the region, chances are they receive some of our funds," says Pollock.

The two also emphasize that “everyday people” have good reason to take note of PLRAC programs, since existing and recently-devised grant programs can affect them in many ways.

Grants to individuals for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, which will close June 30, are no longer available, but will be as the new fiscal year begins.

Different programs have different deadlines and expectations, so anyone interested in applying should check the PLRAC website.

Already in place for some time is a "youth scholarship" option available to children in grades 3 to 12. Those in grades 3 through 6 are eligible for \$300 toward art education; grades 7 through 12 for \$500. According to Trumbull, more than 150 area youth received a share of about \$58,000 under this program in 2024-'25; PLRAC has designated \$75,000 for youth scholarships in the 2025-'26 fiscal year. Examples of eligible arts training include dance classes,

PLRAC continued on 3

Compostings

by Al Batt

The comeback of the trumpeter swan

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
You should come over tomorrow. We're having Himalayan rabbit stew.
What's a Himalayan rabbit?
I found him a layin' on the road.
DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE
I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I have volunteered to help with tornado cleanups. A fellow helper said he'd seen where a tornado had embedded an oat straw into a telephone pole. I said I'd seen a chicken blown into a pop bottle without losing its life or even bending a feather. My story might have been a slight exaggeration.
If time passes quickly when you're having fun, we must have had fun. I applied to Texas A&M. I was accepted at a Texas A&W. I went to a different institution of higher learning. In a monumental lapse of judgment, a high school classmate agreed to be my college roommate. We covered things in ketchup until I learned he could cook. He died while watching a high school hockey game on TV. If he had survived that, I'm sure he'd have cracked wise about that's what happens when someone born in Hartland, Minnesota, watches hockey. I wish I could laugh about that.
I'VE LEARNED
No one has ever been in an empty room.
Roy Rogers had a quick Trigger.
Only three things are certain: death, taxes and that politicians blame everyone except themselves.
A good sledgehammer may be the last tool you'll ever need.
I like to read a newspaper when I'm eating alone. It's my newsfeed.
I remember getting my first pine tree air freshener for a car. There was no longer a need to hang an unwashed sweat sock from the mirror to make my Ford smell better.
I saw a beached whale on the shore of the Outer Banks of North Carolina. We were warned by an official "Leave that whale alone" guy not to move the body. Who could get that close to the dead beast without being overwhelmed by the smell?
BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT
The doctor said, "Don't worry, Michael. Everything is going to be OK." I said, "I'm not Michael." The doctor replied, "I know. I am."
I know someone who is possessed by an owl. Who?
If I use my trusty binoculars and read their lips correctly, my neighbors think I'm nosey.
What goes up the hill, down the hill, and yet stands still? A road.
Do you want a box for your leftovers? No, but I'll arm wrestle you for it.
What did the turkey say to the turkey hunter? Quack, quack, quack.
Why aren't the Colgate University athletic teams nicknamed The Toothpastes?
NATURE NOTES
A robin sang, "cheerily, cheer up, cheer up, cheerily, cheer up." It was a good morning. The rain had fallen. It rarely ascends. I wondered what a wet squirrel smelled like as I watched one move dexterously through the wet trees like a mini-Tarzan without a vine to swing on.
The trumpeter swan was a widespread and common breeder throughout Minnesota until the mid-1800s, when it became overhunted. The last record of a wild breeding population in Minnesota was from 1885, and the trumpeter was declared extirpated in the state by the mid-1900s. Its reintroduction efforts began in 1966 and continued through 2012. It's grand to have the big white birds back. A Breeding Trumpeter Swan Survey conducted in 2022 estimated the statewide population at 51,860 swans. Trumpeter swans are named for their loud, resonant call, often described as sounding like a trumpet, bugle or French horn. Tundra swans, once called whistling swans, nest in the Arctic of northern Canada and Alaska. Lewis and Clark provided the first written description of tundra swans. The birds' whistle-like calls prompted Meriwether Lewis to dub them "whistling swans." Adult male swans are called cobs, adult females are pens, and the young swans are cygnets. I hear the collective nouns flock or bevy used most often. A herd of swans seems to fit.
Starlings develop yellow bills during the breeding season, with the base of the lower mandible being blue in males and pink in females. Robert Louis Stevenson wrote, "A birdie with a yellow bill Hopped upon my window sill, Cocked his shining eye and said: 'Ain't you 'shamed, you sleepy-head!'" Clellan Card played Axel on "Axel and His Dog," a popular children's show and said, "A birdie with a yellow bill Hopped upon my window sill, Cocked his shining eye and said, 'What's that in the road...ahead?'"
MEETING ADJOURNED
Anthony D'Angelo wrote, "Wherever you go, no matter what the weather, always bring your own sunshine."

HERITAGE BITS



Beard Judging Winners; Kevin Hamor, Craig Blouin, Jerry Blouin, Wayne Dobberstein, Bob Anderson, & Doug Hunt

Shaving Contest Committee; Brenda Burshem, Barb Dobberstein, Jim Johnson, & winner Doug Hunt

Compiled by BRENDA DOKKEN (4/3/25)

■ PLRAC

from Page 1

music lessons, and purchasing an instrument to be part of a band program. The "scholarships" are not paid to the young people themselves, but instead to the person, organization or business supplying the training.
New beginning in July is a similar program for adults, who can apply for \$250 toward "taking any sort of arts-related class anywhere in the region." These could be in the fields of

music, painting or drawing, writing, acting or directing, and many more. Pollock says money has been designated for 100 such grants so that "people who don't think of themselves as artists" can broaden their understanding of the arts. Grants can be used not only toward registration costs, but also for the purchase of needed tools or supplies.
Pollock emphasizes that state regulations set some boundaries regarding what types of organizations can receive PLRAC funds, but wants people to know if they have questions, they can contact the organization and receive guidance and assistance.
She also wants those who have ap-

plied with the organization in the past to know PLRAC has worked to simplify its application process. Although this article does not mention them, there are also continuing and new grant programs intended for art organizations.
Pollock goes on to joke that area residents could "throw a stone and hit an arts program we've helped with" since grants are given to schools and area organizations for a wide variety of arts enhancements. Among arts experiences funded within Waseca County in the recent past are a "Songs in the Park" program by the city of Janesville which received a \$2,500 grant; a \$2,000 school arts project at TEAM

Academy; \$2,500 to the Waseca Chorale; a \$9,000 "arts and cultural heritage" grant to the Waseca Art Center; \$2,500 to the Waseca Latino Cultural Celebration; a \$6,125 "arts and cultural heritage" grant to the Waseca-Le Sueur library system; a "small arts project" grant of \$1,295 to support clinics offered during the Waseca Marching Classic; three \$300 youth scholarships for children in grades 3 through 6; seven \$500 scholarships for students in grades 7 to 12; a \$4,000 grant for the 2024 Summerburst concert series in New Richland; and a \$2,000 grant to the Waseca Lakes Association "Lake-fest" in 2024.

Briefs

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.

NR garden Club taking orders
The New Richland Garden Club is again taking orders from the com-

munity for Supertunia white and pink petunias and Tidal Wave cherry petunias. These are the same petunias used in our City Garden each year on Hwy 30 because they are heat and drought tolerant with continuous blooming through Fall. Call Barb at 507-463-3306 by Thursday, April 17 to place your order or with questions. These will be available for pickup at our annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 18.

Wingstock 2025 at the Geneva Bar and Grill Saturday, May 3
Backyard Wing Cook-Off and Wing Eating Contest, Wingstock 2025 is happening again at the

Geneva Bar and Grill starting at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 3. Tickets \$15 presale, \$20 at the door, limited availability. Purchase tickets at Geneva Bar and Grill or Thru 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.

NOTICE

Summit Township Board of Appeals and Equalization meeting

Monday, April 7

7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall

Andy Jewison

Summit Township Clerk

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Consolidated Communications' Community Fund Awards \$195,000 Grants awarded to 32 non-profit organizations in the Greater Mankato area

MANKATO, Minn. — March 12, 2025 – The Consolidated Communications Community Fund of the Mankato Area Foundation is awarding \$195,000 in grants to 32 local non-profit organizations across the Greater Mankato area. Consolidated's Community Fund focuses its support on local programs that meet critical community needs, such as hunger and homelessness, along with initiatives that provide opportunities for innovative education and learning.

Consolidated's 2025 Grants are being awarded to the following organizations: Redemption Project – virtues-based training for inmates, \$5,000; Waseca Le Sueur Library – Romp 100 Challenge, \$1,500; Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota – STEAM programming, \$10,000; Committee Against Domestic Abuse – direct assistance for victims, \$10,000; Connections Ministry – drop-in center programming, \$10,000; ECHO Food Shelf – dairy products for children, \$10,000; Feeding Our Communities Partners – BackPack and Power Pack Food Programs, \$10,000; Junior Achievement of Greater Mankato Area – Entrepreneurial JA Company Program, \$10,000; Minnesota State University, Mankato – scholarships, \$10,000; Partners for Housing – Emergency Shelter Program, \$10,000; South Central College – scholarships, \$10,000; VINE – PEARLS mental health initiative, \$10,000; Educare Foundation – Ed Waltman Mini-Grants, \$7,500; American Red Cross – disaster recovery services, \$5,000; Footnotes Trauma Foundation – care for veterans and abuse victims, \$5,000; Good Counsel – literacy tutoring, \$5,000; HACER – anti-bullying initiative, \$5,000; Jonathan Zierdt Cancer Fund – Caring Box Program, \$5,000; Key City Bike – bikes for kids and adults, \$5,000; Lake Crystal Recreation Center – Fit Kids Program and senior lunch and learns, \$5,000; Life-Work Planning Center – Women in Transition Program, \$5,000; Loyola Catholic School – video production equipment, \$5,000; MRCI – community-based day service programming, \$5,000; MY Place – academic program, \$5,000; Open Door Health – school-based healthcare, \$5,000; Seeds of Hope – summer camp for foster kids, \$5,000; Lasting Imprint – congen-

ital heart defect kits, \$4,000; St. Peter Food Shelf – upgrade of industrial floor scale, \$4,000; Living Earth Center – youth gardening initiative, \$3,000; Ruth's House – transitional housing for families, \$2,000; 5 Sparrows Foster Closet – basic needs for foster families, \$1,500; Twin Valley Council Scouting America – handbooks for new scouts, \$1,500.

"We are proud to support 32 non-profit organizations and their good work positively impacting our community and our region," said Jennifer Spaude, senior vice president of corporate communications. "Consolidated's Community Fund contributes to our legacy of building strong communities, connecting people in the greater Mankato area and enriching how they work and live."

Consolidated's Community Fund grants are awarded on an annual basis through a grant application process administered by the Mankato Area Foundation. Grant requests for the next fiscal year will open in early fall and are due Dec. 1, 2025. More information can be found at consolidated.com/community-fund.

Built on a tradition of community leadership and company giving, the Consolidated Communications Community Fund has given more than \$6.8 million to non-profit organizations since it was founded in 1963. The Consolidated Communications Community Fund focuses its outreach to communities in southern Minnesota and is administered through the Mankato Area Foundation. Learn more at consolidated.com/community-fund.

Consolidated Communications Holdings, Inc. is dedicated to moving people, businesses and communities forward by delivering the most reliable fiber communications solutions. Consumers, businesses and wireless and wireline carriers depend on Consolidated for a wide range of high-speed internet, data, phone, security, cloud and wholesale carrier solutions. With a network spanning more than 63,000 fiber route miles, Consolidated is a top 10 U.S. fiber provider, turning technology into solutions that are backed by exceptional customer support. Learn more at consolidated.com.

■ Ladybug from Page 1

like."

A 15-foot opening in the wall was the first step. A bathroom was updated, a broom closet was made into a dressing room, and the lighting was consolidated to a single switch.

"You used to have to walk through the store, pulling on about 15 different strings," observes Dave. "This way is much better."

With the expanded space came expanded options. A display area for furniture was not only created, but set up as a comfortable, homey space which both shows the items offered for sale to better advantage and also offers a place for pleasant visits. Some tools and gardening equipment, which had never been among the store's offerings before, found a space.

Mostly, though, "We could spread everything out and make the whole space more appealing," says Paulette.

"We've had people thank us for keeping the business in town, and for helping the buildings on main street stay occupied," mentions Dave.

To celebrate the Lady Bug's 53 years in business, and their new expansion, Paulette and Dave are planning a "Grand Re-Opening" event on Saturday, April 26.

Since taking over daily operation of the store at the start of the month, Paulette, Linda, and four employees—some of whom volunteer their time—have been kept busy receiving consignment items, sorting through and pricing them, and placing them in appropriate places for display.

Business is brisk, Paulette says, with 25 to 30 customers a day coming in to browse.

"Some people come every day," she mentions. "They know we're always putting out new items, and they want to keep informed."

Linda relates business has always been reliably busy, but assures, "Things will get easier. You'll get better at everything, and people will

start to build routines."

Along with so much that is new, the basic business model of the Lady Bug as a consignment store has been the same since the business was founded by Carol Schultz and Mavis Langlie in 1972.

Linda has a scrapbook passed on to her by Schultz which tells the story. The business was first located in an unused chicken coop on Langlie's property east of New Richland along Highway 30. The name "lady bug," she adds, is based on the insect's abiding presence in the building. The store moved to a larger structure on the same property as it grew. Eventually, however, Langlie decided to withdraw from the business, so Schultz moved to the building along New Richland's main street next to Wagner's grocery.

When she bought the shop in 2013, Linda says she had no wish to argue with success, so she kept the business practices the same, and they continue now under Dave and Paulette's ownership.

"People find clean items in good condition," describes Linda, who continues to work for the business nearly every day. "We want them to make an appointment, and then they bring it to the store."

The "appointment" consists mostly of dropping the items off, although new consignors will need to take a few minutes to set up an account and be assigned a number. Especially back when their children were young, Linda mentions she would bring items to the Lady Bug. She still has the number assigned to her back then: 35.

"We're up to 3,500 now," she relates.

The Lady Bug staff checks with consignors about whether they want any items which don't sell returned to them. If they do, that information is recorded. Items are sorted through, priced, and placed on display to be sold. "We decide whether we're going to display things," notes Linda. "Sometimes there are items that we don't believe people will buy. Then we either return them to the owner, or do something else with them."

When pieces sell, the shop keeps

"We feel very fortunate, and we hope to be running the business for a good, long time."

— Paulette Krampitz

half of the selling price, the other half is credited to the consignor's account to be paid later.

The shop undergoes a changeover in February and August.

"You've got to keep seasonal," comments Linda. "People won't be buying winter clothing in the middle of summer."

During the changeover, consignors are notified and given a time window to come to the store and reclaim any of their items. Any season-sensitive pieces remaining are donated to a church in Albert Lea, which holds a garage sale, then uses the proceeds toward mission work.

"It's been a very successful system," notes Linda of the overall process. The three observe that there's no predicting what items will be brought in next.

Fairly recently, Linda describes, she encountered a "first-ever" consignment: an elaborate wooden box—a "kit" of sorts—for storing the ashes of a cremated pet. After doing some research regarding similar items online, she says she set a price and put it on display.

"We sold it," she observes. "You just never know what you'll be working with." The internet is a useful reference when staff members setting the price come ac-

ross items outside their area of expertise, she says, but warns, "You've got to be reasonable. You can't go pricing things so high that people won't buy them."

The internet has proven useful to the Lady Bug in another way as well. "One day, a new lady was shopping. I got into a conversation with her, and I asked her where she was from."

The answer, "Ohio," took her completely by surprise. "So I asked, 'How did you hear about this store?'"

The woman had been visiting some family members in Blooming Prairie and found herself with some spare time. "She 'googled' it," remembers Linda. "I think over time we've had more and more customers who find us that way."

Paulette and Dave express gratitude for the alignment of circumstances which have put them at the helm of the long-standing business and have allowed them to make improvements.

"We really appreciate the chance to keep the business growing," comments Paulette. "To do that, we need everybody—our consignors, our customers, and our employees."

"We feel very fortunate, and we hope to be running the business for a good, long time."



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Schultz retakes the reins for NRHEG softball

Panthers expected to field young but enthusiastic squad

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

In terms of wins and losses, who knows what to expect from the 2025 New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School softball team.

But you can bet the Panthers will play hard and have fun along the way.

After a one-year head coaching stint by Kayley Camerer, a former Panther who guided the squad to a record of 7-14 overall and 3-8 in the Gopher Conference last year, Wendy Schultz has come out of coaching retirement to lead the 2025 Panthers.

Schultz has a ton of coaching experience, starting her 26th year (27th counting the Covid season when they practiced a week and played no games), and has an impressive career win-loss record of 305-179. She's assisted by Nate Jensen.

Last year's Panthers graduated a lot of talented players, including all-conference pitcher Faith Nielsen, the team's co-Most Valuable Player, Golden Bat recipient and co-MVP Preslie Nielsen, all-conference and Golden Glove award winner Isabel Stadheim, Erin Peterson, Payton Bunn and Tayler Schmidt. The Panthers will also miss sophomore pitcher/infielder Izley Boerner, who sustained an ACL injury in basketball after being the softball team's Most Improved Player and earning all-conference honorable mention honors last year.

The Panthers return two starters around which to build, junior catcher Addy Stadheim and sophomore shortstop Olivia Berg.

The rest of the varsity includes seniors Aspy Stenzel (utility) and Ava Cummins (utility), juniors Chloe Stork (infield, utility), Camryn VanMaldeghem (infield) and Kyera Eustice (outfield), sophomores Faith Phillips (catcher, outfield) and Paige Johnson (outfield, and freshmen Brooklyn Sommer (pitcher, infield), Ezra Boerner (catcher, infield), Jovey Knudson (infield, outfield), Kenley Gehrke (utility), Tru Thao (utility), Alexa Viktora (utility), Mallory Groskreutz (outfield) and Alamae Gutierrez.

The Panthers are yet to elect 2025 captains.

So what does the coach expect? "We hope to get better and improve the entire season," said Schultz. "We want to be playing our best ball at playoff time."

Schultz said the Panthers' strengths are work ethic, team speed and a great attitude. Her main concern is a lack of varsity playing experience.

Schultz's coaching philosophy is, not surprisingly, pretty simple: "Work hard at practice and games, have a positive attitude, and be a great teammate!"

Returning state entrant Randolph returns most of its lineup and figures to lead the way in the Gopher Conference, with United South Central and Bethlehem Academy contending for the title. She looks for Belle Plaine, Jordan and LCWM to be the top teams in Section 2AA.

"Even though we've had three weeks of practice and a scrimmage, it's hard to get a handle on who will be playing, and where, since some kids missed the first week of practice due to playing in the state basketball tournament, which is a great thing," said Schultz. "Then there are some kids on the Costa Rica trip and miss a week and a half of practice."



Members of the 2025 NRHEG High School softball team include, front from left, Aspy Stenzel, Ava Cummins, Brooklyn Sommer, Jovey Knudson and Kenley Gehrke. Back: Ezra Boerner, Olivia Berg, Mallory Groskreutz and Izley Boerner.

Star Eagle photo by Jim Lutgens

"Even though we've had three weeks of practice and a scrimmage, it's hard to get a handle on whole will be playing, and where."

— NRHEG coach Wendy Schultz

time. We also have one player participating in the band/choir trip who will miss three days of practice. We're just working hard with who we have at practice."

NRHEG High School 2025 Softball Schedule

Monday, March 31 at Austin, 5 p.m.

Tuesday, April 1 at Blooming Prairie, 4:30

Thursday, April 3 vs. Randolph, 4:30

Monday, April 7 at Triton, 4:30

Thursday, April 10 vs. United South Central, 4:30

Monday, April 14 at Waseca, 4:30

Thursday, April 17 at Bethlehem Academy, 4:30

Monday, April 21 vs. Blooming Prairie, 4:30

Thursday, April 24 at Hayfield, 4:30

Friday, April 25 at Tri-City United, 5 p.m.

Friday, April 25 at Tourn. at Caswell Park

Saturday, April 26 Tourn. at Caswell Park

Monday April 28 vs. JWP, 4:30

Thursday, May 1 at Kenyon-Wanamingo, 4:30

Tuesday, May 6 vs. Martin Luther/GHEC, 4:30

Thursday, May 8 vs. Maple River, 4:30

Monday, May 12 at Medford, 4:30

Tuesday, May 13 vs. Blue Earth Area, 4:30

Thursday, May 15 at WEM, 4:30



2025 coaches for the NRHEG High School baseball team are, from left, Wendy Schultz and Nate Jensen.

Star Eagle photo by Jim Lutgens

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New coaches take over for NRHEG track and field

Co-coaches Nydegger, Schlaak succeed finally retiring Ferber

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

For the first time in many, many years, a new era begins for New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School track and field. Coach Duey Ferber, who guided the Panthers to many successful seasons, finally retired as head coach.

Taking over as co-head coaches are former assistants Larry Nydegger and Kim Schlaak. A former Panther, Schlaak was a highly successful high school hurdler as Kim Johnson. They expect the 2025 Panthers to battle hard and, hopefully, take home a trophy or two.

"We hope for the girls to challenge for the conference title again after finishing as runner-up the past two seasons," said Nydegger. "I would like to see the guys be in the top three after finishing third last year."

When you talk about the 2024 Panthers you have to mention Evelyn Nydegger, the coach's daughter, and Will Tuttle. A two-time state qualifier, four-time team MVP and four-time all-conference performer, Evelyn holds the school record in the 300-meter hurdles. Tuttle, also a school hurdles record holder, was a state qualifier and all-conference athlete last year.

"These two scored the bulk of the points," said Coach Nydegger. "Those are some big shoes to fill."

Returning letterwinners for the girls are Sierra Fish, Quinn VanMaldeghe, Anika Ladlie, Gabby Schlaak, Kylie Olson, Clara Buendorf, Sierra Misgen, Holly Bartness, Chloie Riewer, Julieann Wobbrock and Ella Jeno.

Back for the boys are Jacob Karl, Brendan Schmidt, Gavin Lewison,

Gavin Sletten and Wyatt Tuttle. Athletes to watch include Olson (throws), VanMaldeghe (sprints), Wobbrock (distance), Ladlie, Riewer (jumps), Gabby Schlaak (hurdles), Karl (middle distance), Lavon Jewison (jumps) and Schmidt (pole vault).

"We have some strength in the throws and the individual running events," said Nydegger. "We have lots of experience on the girls' team. Our boys have lots of energy. We hope to see that turn into competitive performances."

A concern is low numbers. "It will be tough to get multiple entries and scorers in all of the events," said Nydegger.

The key to success for the 2025 Panthers?

"Stay healthy and grow as competitors," said Nydegger.

Nydegger's philosophy as a coach?

"I want to get everyone involved in some way," he said. "We need to find the events where they can challenge themselves."

According to Nydegger, JWP is the both the boys' and girls' favorites in the Gopher Conference.

Nydegger and Schlaak are assisted by Brian Belcourt, Bailie Thome and Therese Buendorf.

The Panthers opened the season March 24 with an indoor meet at Minnesota State-Mankato, facing four other schools.

First-place finishes for the girls were by Wobbrock (1600, 5:55.5), VanMaldeghe (400, 1:04.14) and Olson (shot put, 33-11). Anika Ladlie was second in the high jump at 4-6.

Placing first for the boys: Jewison (high jump, 5-10), Karl (800,



Returning letterwinners for the 2025 NRHEG girls' track and field team. Front from left: Sierra Misgen, Holly Bartness, Chloie Riewer, Julieann Wobbrock and Ella Jeno. Back: Sierra Fish, Quinn VanMaldeghe, Anika Ladlie, Gabby Schlaak, Kylie Olson and Clara Buendorf. Photo by Larry Nydegger



Returning letterwinners for the 2025 NRHEG boys' track and field team are, from left, Jacob Karl, Brendan Schmidt, Gavin Lewison, Gavin Sletten and Wyatt Tuttle. Photo by Larry Nydegger



2025 co-head coaches for the NRHEG High School track and field teams are, from left, Kim Schlaak and Larry Nydegger. Star Eagle photo by Jim Lutgens

NRHEG Track & Field 2025
Tuesday, April 1 at Hayfield Invitational, 4:30
Tuesday, April 8 at USC True Team, 4:30
Tuesday, April 15 at Maple River, 4:30
Tuesday, April 22 Girls at Blooming Prairie, 4:30

Tuesday, April 29 at JWP, 4:30
Thursday, May 1 NRHEG Invitational, 4:30
Tuesday, May 6 True Team Section, TBD
Saturday, May 10 Gopher Conference at JWP
Thursday, May 15 at Waseca Invitational, 4:30

Everyone returns for NRHEG golf boys

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

If there's anyone who knows his way around New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School - and Riverview Golf Course - it's 34-year member of the NRHEG staff, Brad Root, starting his 15th season as head golf coach.

Root, assisted by Kara Wilkenson and Kim Olson, lost no senior boys off last year's squad then went 4-14, placing 9th in the Gopher Conference and 14th at the sub-section level.

Returning lettermen are senior Carter Schlaak, junior Hudson Chrz, sophomores Shan Hansen and Tyler Kress, and 8th-grader Matthew Williams.

The boys' roster also includes senior Drew Jackson, junior Justin Beauvais, sophomore John Lynne, freshmen Braydon Rollag, Reid Sandry, Braxton Arnold and Chase Hanson. 8th-graders Brayton Kruger, Sealey Anderson and Aiden Groth, and 7th-graders Hayden Ripka and Dakota Clark.

"We had a good season last year,

and the boys got some good experience, so we are pretty well set on six varsity spots," said Root. "Someone may emerge as a surprise to help us. We did not have many JV meets last year, so the non-varsity players didn't get much meet experience last year. The varsity boys have pretty good golf skills, but need to work on the mental side of the game and course management this year and consistency."

Root tabbed Hayfield as the conference favorite and Waseca as the team to beat at the section level.

Root's expectations?

"Course management is a huge part of the game, as well as becoming strong mentally," he said. "We need to move from being practice players to tournament players, making sure they are prepared for whatever weather conditions exist, as well as dealing with situations on the course. We would like to advance our team to section and get an all-conference selection or two this year. We want them to learn the game so they can enjoy it throughout their life. As always, we want

"The varsity boys have pretty good golf skills." — NRHEG coach Brad Root

our student-athletes to enjoy the sport and have fun while at the same time representing our school well. We will be working on the rules and golf etiquette so our golfers will be knowledgeable and welcome wherever we travel to play."

Last year's girls finished 15-8 last year, taking fifth in the conference and sixth at sub-section. Graduating off that squad were Meela Budach, Hallie Schultz and Elsie Schultz.

Freshmen Alexis Olson, Olivia Wilkenson and Gabby Nelton return as starters.

The squad also includes freshman Acadia Kormann.

The NRHEG girls have a 14-year record of 160-70 under the guidance of Root, who lists USC and Hayfield as conference favorites and Waseca in the sub-section.

And for the Panthers?

"I think we can finish third or

fourth in the conference, and fifth or sixth in the sub-section," said Root.

The coach feels good about the Panthers' good team chemistry and great work ethic. He looks for them to display a positive attitude, even in poor weather, while taking risks in making aggressive shots.

NRHEG High School 2025 Golf
Tuesday, April 8 at Oak View GC, 4:30
Monday, April 14 at Prairie Ridge GC, 4:30
Monday, April 21 at Riverview GC, 4:30
Thursday, April 24 at The Oaks GC, 4:30
Tuesday, April 29 at Wedgewood Cove,



Root



Among the members of the 2025 NRHEG High School girls' team are Alexis Olson, left, and Olivia Wilkenson. Star Eagle photo by Jim Lutgens

1 p.m.
Thursday, May 8 at North Links GC, 10 a.m.
Tuesday, May 13 at Austin CC, 1 p.m.
Thursday, May 15 at Riverview GC, 4:30

Monday, May 19 at Lakeside GC, 10 a.m.
Thursday, May 22 at Lakeside GC, 1 p.m.
Saturday, May 24 at Prairie Ridge GC, 4:30

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The 2025 NRHEG High School varsity baseball team includes, front from left, Isaac Bauleke, Ryan Schlaak, Quen Meyering, Evan Berg and Jordan Brouwers. Back: Carter Martens, Brock Ziemke, Aiden Schlaak, Aaden Hanna and Jace Ihrke. Not pictured: Alden Dobberstein, Seth Staloch, Wyatt Larson and Owen Wayne.

Star Eagle photo by Jim Lutgens



The 2025 NRHEG High School junior varsity baseball team includes, front from left, Logan Lewis, Fynn Baumann, Dakota Schlaak, Charles Tufte and Dominic Olson. Middle: Shane Service, Levi Whiteside, Braylon Carlson, Calvin Nissen and Bodie Newgard. Back: Sean Lassahn, William Viktora, Zander Hanna, Cameron Christopher and Ryan Schlaak.

Star Eagle photo by Jim Lutgens



The 2025 NRHEG High School boys' golf team. Front from left, Dakota Clark, John Lynne, Braxton Arnold and Braydon Rollag. Middle: Tyler Kress, Jace Hanson, Shan Hansen, Brayton Kruger and Kailin Hudson. Back: Ayden Groth, Hayden Ripka, Matthew Williams, Reid Sandry and Drew Jackson.

Star Eagle photo by Jim Lutgens

Building blocks are in place for NRHEG baseball

Hall of Fame coach Jeff Reese returns as volunteer assistant

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The building blocks are in place for the 2025 New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School baseball team.

If they come together as hoped, it could be an exciting season for the Panthers.

Former junior varsity coach Shawn Larson returns in his second season as head coach, assisted by Marcus Fischer and Jeff Reese. A volunteer coach, Reese is a Hall of Fame inductee, and the Panthers' playing field is named after him and his late wife, Carol.

Last year's Panthers finished with an overall record of 7-13.

The varsity roster includes seniors Alden Dobberstein (pitcher, shortstop, second base), Aaden Hanna (pitcher, outfield), Carter Martens (pitcher, third base) Aidan Schlaak (pitcher, infield), Seth Staloch (shortstop, second base) and Brock Ziemke (first base), juniors Isaac Bauleke (outfield), Evan Berg (outfield, infield), Jordan Brouwers (outfield, third base), Wyatt Larson (pitcher, catcher, third base), Quen Meyering (outfield) and Owen Wayne (pitcher, second base, shortstop), and sophomores Fynn Baumann (pitcher, outfield), Braylon Carlson (outfield), Chase Johannsen (shortstop, second base), Dominic Olson (pitcher, second base), Ryan Schlaak (pitcher, catcher, outfield) and Shane Service (outfield).

Larson said it's unknown at this time if the Panthers will be using any freshmen.

"Alden Dobberstein and Carter Martens are the players who have been with this team the longest," said Coach Larson. "These two seniors look to lead both offensively and defensively this season."

He looks for help from everywhere possible.

"I look forward to contributions of everyone," said Larson. "We have a cast of players that are

"We have a cast of players that are capable of good things. Look for players like Aiden Schlaak, Wyatt Larson, Owen Wayne and Jordan Brouwers to have good seasons and really help out. We have the potential to be competitive in the section and conference."

— Head coach
Shawn Larson

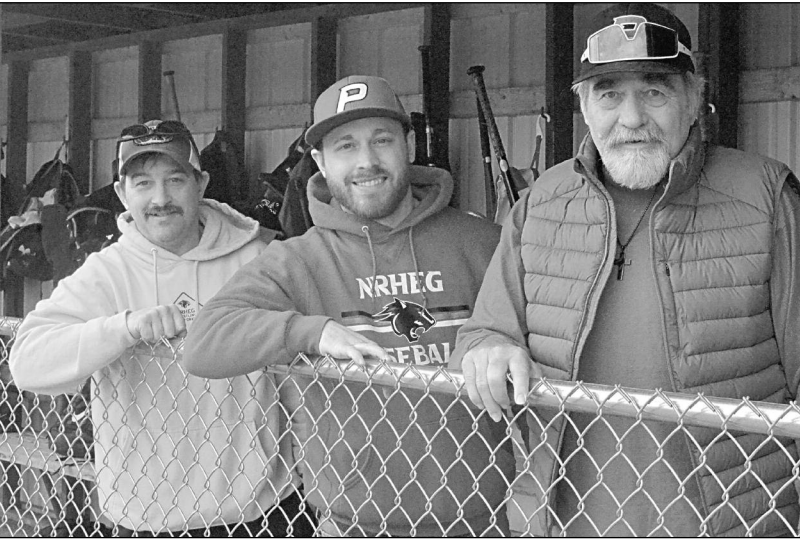
capable of good things. Look for players like Aiden Schlaak, Wyatt Larson, Owen Wayne and Jordan Brouwers to have good seasons and really help out. We have the potential to be competitive in the section and conference."

Larson said the Panthers' section includes a number of extremely talented teams including United South Central, Maple River, Hayfield, Randolph and Kenyon-Wanamingo.

"Based on last season, I would say that Kenyon-Wanamingo is probably the preseason favorite," said Larson.

NRHEG Baseball 2025

- Tuesday, April 1 at Madelia, 4:30
- Thursday, April 3 at Randolph, 4:30
- Friday, April 4 vs. LeSueur-Henderson, 4:30
- Monday, April 7 vs. Triton, 4:30
- Thursday, April 10 at United South Central, 4:30
- Friday, April 11 vs. Martin Luther/GHEC, 4:30
- Monday, April 14 vs. Waseca, 5 p.m.
- Thursday, April 17 vs. Blue Earth Area, 5 p.m.
- Monday, April 21 at Blooming Prairie, 4:30
- Friday, April 25 at Tri-City United, 5 p.m.
- Monday, April 28 at JWP, 4:30
- Tuesday, April 29 vs. Mankato Loyola, 5 p.m.
- Thursday, May 1 vs. Kenyon-Wanamingo, 4:30
- Thursday, May 8 at Maple River, 4:30
- Friday, May 9 vs. LCWM, 4:30
- Monday, May 12 vs. Medford, 4:30
- Thursday, May 15 vs. WEM, 4:30
- Friday, May 16 vs. Bl. Prairie, 7 p.m.



2025 coaches for the NRHEG High School baseball team are, from left, head coach Shawn Larson, Marcus Fischer and Jeff Reese.

Star Eagle photo by Jim Lutgens

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Driving country roads has changed since the 60's

As we venture into the next season, I like to take some time to go for a drive around the area. Driving on gravel is usually a little more difficult in the spring, but it's not as bad as it was over 50 years ago. Before I went into the service, I worked at Conger Creamery as a driver and carrier of milk cans. Carrying those milk cans made me lean and strong and taught me a lot about having a good work ethic. In the spring, driving on gravel roads as the frost went out of the ground was a challenge. There were times that the bumper of the truck was almost pushing the gravel when the truck would fall into the ruts on the road. I had a couple of experiences that were pretty hairy, but I survived, and I actually learned a lot about myself in the process.

Despite my age slowing me down, I still enjoy exploring nature. I still have that one unfulfilled dream of camping out on the shores of Spider Lake. Both of my sons, at different times, have offered to do that with me, but between the weather and



Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl
Outdoors Writer

mosquito infestations, we have yet to make it work out.

I started my outdoors adventures by tenting in this area and in northern Minnesota. In northern Minnesota, the weather can be more unpredictable, maybe not as much as in past years, but there is still a certain gray area. One time many years ago, I borrowed my son Brian's pickup with a topper, hooked up the boat and headed north to Spider Lake for a few days. I pitched a tent, put all the gear in it and, after a little fishing, it was time to turn in. That night we got 5 inches of rain in just a couple of hours. The water ran under my tent like a river and almost everything got soaked. I finally grabbed my sleeping bag and pillow and tried sleeping in the cab of Brian's S10 pickup.

The next morning, after trying to sleep in the cab of that small truck, I cleared out a place in the back for my sleeping bag and pillow. The truck had a topper on it, so I slept dry the rest of the trip. It started out as a bad experience, but I made the most of it and, even today, I remember it as a very fun experience.

In today's world, small campers and travel trailers have replaced the tent, for the most part. I know that most folks would rather stay in a camper than a tent, but I feel that a tent gets you just a little closer to nature. After I had tented for a few years, I acquired a couple of cots. My Uncle Orville gave me one cot and my Uncle Ben gave me one. That was just right. I took both cots along whenever I went

tenting. If I was alone, then I used one for sleeping and one to store my gear on.

I may just buy a tent and try it out by spending a night or two at the State Park. By starting out close to home, I can find out if it will be something that I want to do on a more regular basis. I may find out that tenting isn't meant for old guys and that will be it. I'll never know until I try it out.

Until next time: I believe that I will have to start taking inventory on my tackle boxes. I won't be needing much in the line of tackle this year. I know that I need some replacement line on a couple of my reels. I definitely do not need any more lures. I believe I heard my wife telling me that 40 years ago. I didn't listen. I know that there are a couple of new "sure fire" lures that are just waiting for me to show up at Cabela's or Fleet Farm.

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LOOKING BACK

25 Years Back



- Jim Simser, New Richland-Hartland's most successful football coach, was inducted into the Minnesota State football Coaches Hall Of Fame last Friday in Minneapolis. Pictured here with his wife, WinnAnn, Jim displays the plaque he received. Simser left here in 1900 to take over the Fairmont high school football program. During his years at New Richland, he earned nine conference championships, one section and two state championships. In those days WinnAnn was known to New Richland fans as Mrs. Coach.

- Kari Klug was selected as a winner of the 2,000 British Airways Student Ambassador Scholarship. Klug will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship toward her participation in the British and Irish Heritage program this summer. Klug was one of eight student Ambassadors selected from several hundred applicants across the nation. Klug is an 8th grade student at NRHEG Middle School and a member of the Mankato area delegation that will visit the United Kingdom and Ireland this summer.

- Mitch and Amy Thompson of New Richland are the parents of a son born Monday, February 21, 2000. He was born at Naeve Hospital in Albert Lea. Braeden Mitchell, as he has been named, weighed 7 lbs and 15 oz. The grandparents are Harold and Helen Thompson and John and Melodee Bokelmann, all of New Richland. Dean Ziemke of Janesville, Paul and Doris Coyle of Waterville and Joyce Ziemke of Waseca.

- Kristin Shultz, a 1999 graduate of New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva high school received an Eddie Cochran Scholarship from Rick Johnson, president of the Low Bucks Car Club, recently.

50 Years Back

- Here, some of the members of the cast of 'Aunt Cathie's Cat,' to be presented by the New Richland-Hartland high school junior class evening with curtain time at 8 p.m. at the high school auditorium. They are discussing some of their frightening experiences in a spooky mansion they rent. They are from front: Corrine Morstad; back; Renae Wenzel, Lori Kofstad, Kris Prescher, Marsha Herbst and Adryn Peterson.

- Ewalod Brothers, Guy, Jay and Lynn display the handsome silver tray premier consignor award they received as top exhibitors at the Atkinson, Neb. Bull Sale last week. They consigned five Shorthorn Bulls, which were among the 35 bulls consigned. There were 10 exhibitors from the Midwest.

- Engagement Announcement. Mr. and Mrs. Joyce Reese of New Richland and Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Echubert of Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their children, Peggy and Allan. Peggy is a 1970 graduate from New Richland-Hartland high school. Allan is an 1868 graduate of Southern Door high school Sturgeon, Wisconsin.

- Jennie Ann Tweeten, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arlo Tweeten of Hartland, was baptized at Hartland Evangelical Synod Lutheran Church, Palm Sunday with reverend Ronald Mathison officiating.

75 Years Back

- This Thursday morning at 10 o'clock a baby girl weighing 9 pounds and 7 ounces was born to Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Stephenson of Albert Lea at Naeve hospital. The mother is the former Rebecca Hatle, daughter of Mrs G. O. Hatle.

- Vernice Reb, daughter Ed Reb of near New Richland, became the bride of Roman Stolach, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Stolach of near Easton in a ceremony at the St. Casimers church at Wells Tuesday morning at 8 o'clock. A complete account of the event will appear in The Star next week.

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

FAMILY OF FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH
Rev. Neal Ooms
101 East Park Avenue
Hollandale, Minnesota
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Worship; 10:45 a.m. Sunday School

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

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

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

FIRST LUTHERAN, 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 Missouri Synod
Waldorf, Minnesota
Rev. Larry Sipe, pastor
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Study

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
Minnesota Lake, Minnesota
Rev. Larry Sipe, pastor
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

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NOTICE
Berlin Township Board Meeting
Monday, April 14, 2025
7:00 p.m. in the Ellendale Comm. Bldg.
(in the Board Room)
Helen Schmidt, Berlin Township Clerk

Important Information Regarding Property Assessments
This may affect your 2026 taxes.

Notice is hereby given an 'Open Book Meeting' to replace the Board of Appeal and Equalization of **CITY OF ELLENDALE** shall meet:

Date/Time: Wednesday, April 9, 2025 at 1:00-3:00 PM
Location: Blooming Prairie City Council Chambers
Address: 138 Hwy Ave S
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you disagree 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 your assessments and make corrections as needed. Generally, you must appeal to the local board before appealing to the county Board of Appeal and Equalization.

Given under my hand this 15 day of March, 2025

Steve Grogan
City of Ellendale Clerk

City of Hartland
Advertisement for Bids
Fire Hall Community Center

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received at the Hartland City Hall, PO Box 487, Hartland, MN 56042, until 9:00 am, Monday April 14th, 2025 at which time they will be opened and read aloud by the City Clerk, said bids to be for the furnishing of all labor and materials to complete the following described local improvements under MN Statutes, Chapter 429:

Contract services include the following:

Concrete
Plumbing
Electrical
Construction of building

The Hartland City Council reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive irregularities and informalities therein, and to award the contract in the best interest of the City. Bids arriving after the designated time will be returned unopened.

Immediately following expiration for the time for receiving bids, the City Clerk will open the bids at the Hartland City Hall office. The City Council will consider such bids in the Council Chambers at a special meeting held at 6:00 p.m. on Monday April 14th, 2025.

Send email request for blue print to allyson@aroaccounting.com or call 507-383-2707.

Karen Flatness, City Clerk

Important Information Regarding Property Assessments
This may affect your 2026 taxes.

Notice is hereby given an 'Open Book Meeting' to replace the Board of Appeal and Equalization of **BERLIN TOWNSHIP** shall meet:

Date/Time: Wednesday, April 9, 2025 at 1:00-3:00 PM
Location: Blooming Prairie City Council Chambers
Address: 138 Hwy Ave S
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you disagree 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 your assessments and make corrections as needed. Generally, you must appeal to the local board before appealing to the county Board of Appeal and Equalization.

Given under my hand this 24 day of March, 2025

Helen Schmidt
Berlin Township Clerk

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
2025 DOWNTOWN SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS
SAP 024-635-025
CITY OF GENEVA
GENEVA, MN

RECEIPT AND OPENING OF PROPOSALS: Proposals for the work described below will be received online through QuestCDN.com until **11:00 am** on **Tuesday, April 29, 2025**, at which time the bids will be opened and publicly read at the office of the City Clerk, City of Geneva, 406 1st Avenue SE, Geneva, MN 56035.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK: The work includes the construction of approximately:

Mill Bituminous Pavement (2.0")	6,485	SQ YD	12"-18" RC Pipe Sewer	725	LIN FT
Aggregate Base, Class 5	1,765	CU YD	4"-6" Concrete Walk	21,864	SQ FT
Bituminous Patch Special	2,150	SQ YD	Concrete Curb & Gutter	3,171	LIN FT
Type SP 9.5 Wearing Course (3,B)	1,200	TON	Lighting Unit	12	EACH
Traffic Control	1	LS	1.5"-2" Non-Metallic Conduit	1,934	LIN FT
Seeding	0.7	ACRE	Paint Striping	2,174	LIN FT

together with numerous related items of work, all in accordance with Plans and Specifications. This project is subject to Prevailing Wage Rates, Truck Rentals, Equal Employment Opportunity Provisions, and Responsible Contractor Certification.

COMPLETION OF WORK: All work under the Contract must be complete by June 1, 2026.

PLAN HOLDERS LIST, ADDENDUMS AND BID TABULATION: The plan holders list, addendums and bid tabulations will be available for download on-line at www.questcdn.com or www.bolton-menk.com.

TO OBTAIN BID DOCUMENTS: Complete digital project bidding documents are available at www.questcdn.com or www.bolton-menk.com. You may view the digital plan documents for free by entering Quest project #9569693 on the website's Project Search page. Documents may be downloaded for \$50.00. Please contact QuestCDN.com at 952-233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in free membership registration, viewing, downloading, and working with this digital project information.

BID SUBMITTAL: A bid shall be submitted online no later than the date and time prescribed. For this project, the Owner will only be accepting online electronic bids through QuestCDN. To access the electronic bid form, download the project document and click the online bidding button at the top of the advertisement. Prospective bidders must be on the plan holders list through QuestCDN for bids to be accepted.

BID SECURITY: A Proposal Bond in the amount of not less than 5 percent of the total amount bid, drawn in favor of City of Geneva shall accompany each bid.

OWNER'S RIGHTS RESERVED: The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any irregularities and informalities therein and to award the Contract to other than the lowest bidder if, in their discretion, the interest of the Owner would be best served thereby.

DATED: March 28, 2025 /S/ Jannell Tuft
City Clerk

Published:
QuestCDN: April 3, 2025
NRHEG Star Eagle: April 3, 2025, April 10, 2025, April 17, 2025

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
2025 STREET & UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS
CITY OF NEW RICHLAND
NEW RICHLAND, MN

RECEIPT AND OPENING OF PROPOSALS: Proposals for the work described below will be received online through QuestCDN.com until **11:00 am** on **Thursday, April 10, 2025**, at which time the bids will be opened and publicly read at the office of the City Administrator, City of New Richland, 203 North Broadway, New Richland, MN 56072-0057.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK: The work includes the construction of approximately:

Remove Bituminous Pavement	10,009	SQ YD	12"-21" RC Pipe Sewer	2,853	LIN FT
Clearing & Grubbing	20	TREE	8" PVC Pipe Sewer	2,285	LIN FT
Common Excavation	8,855	CU YD	4"-8" PVC Watermain	2,660	LIN FT
Aggregate Base, Class 5	2,857	CU YD	1" Curb Stop and Box	30	EACH
Type SP 9.5 Wearing Course (3,C)	1,723	TON	Concrete Curb & Gutter	4,918	LIN FT
Type SP 12.5 Non-Wearing (3,C)	1,196	TON	4"-6" Concrete Sidewalk	22,379	SQ FT
Traffic Control	1	LS	Seeding	2.3	ACRE

together with numerous related items of work, all in accordance with Plans and Specifications. This project is subject to Responsible Contractor Certification.

COMPLETION OF WORK: All work under the Contract must be complete by July 31, 2026.

PLAN HOLDERS LIST, ADDENDUMS AND BID TABULATION: The plan holders list, addendums and bid tabulations will be available for download on-line at www.questcdn.com or www.bolton-menk.com.

TO OBTAIN BID DOCUMENTS: Complete digital project bidding documents are available at www.questcdn.com or www.bolton-menk.com. You may view the digital plan documents for free by entering Quest project #9578919 on the website's Project Search page. Documents may be downloaded for \$50.00. Please contact QuestCDN.com at 952-233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in free membership registration, viewing, downloading, and working with this digital project information.

BID SUBMITTAL: A bid shall be submitted online no later than the date and time prescribed. For this project, the Owner will only be accepting online electronic bids through QuestCDN. To access the electronic bid form, download the project document and click the online bidding button at the top of the advertisement. Prospective bidders must be on the plan holders list through QuestCDN for bids to be accepted.

BID SECURITY: A Proposal Bond in the amount of not less than 5 percent of the total amount bid, drawn in favor of City of New Richland shall accompany each bid.

OWNER'S RIGHTS RESERVED: The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any irregularities and informalities therein and to award the Contract to other than the lowest bidder if, in their discretion, the interest of the Owner would be best served thereby.

DATED: March 14, 2025 /S/ Anthony Martens
City Administrator

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Local scouts



Local Scouts from Troop 7 collected 397 pounds of food and \$100 monetary donation for the Ellendale Area Food Shelf and 485 pounds of food for the New Richland Area Food Shelf during their Scouting for Food event. Thank you to both communities for your support! Pictured with the deliveries is Devon Nelson and Jordan Brouwers. Not pictured: Wyatt Larson and Jacob Karl.

LOGIX

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Champions



The 5th grade NRHEG girls won the MSF 11U state championship during March in St. Paul. Back from left: Coach Tayler Schmidt, Charlotte Simmons, Kenzie Leonardo, McKenna Moody, Brynna Christensen, Kendall Whiteside, Alexis Olson. Front: Madison Erickson, Kelsey Warke, Evelyn Schlaak and Libbie Mullenbach.

State Tournament



The NRHEG 6-8th grade wrestling team participated in the NYWA State Tournament this past weekend. They were the winners of pool 8. Back row from left: Hunter McFarland, Adrian Naser, Grahm Jacobson, Wyatt Hendrickson, Jacob Klaras, Cooper Cords, Owen Schlaak. Front row: Coach Zach Jacobson, Riften Jacobson, Julian Naser, Bo Holland, Coach Matt Holland. Not pictured: Eli Hendrickson, Coaches Lance Perkins and Scott Kloczek.

Donation



South Country Health Alliance, a county-based purchasing organization that provides Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare coverage for those in seven rural Minnesota counties, recently presented Let's Smile with a Community Impact Program grant of \$130,000 to support their dental care initiatives for low-income families in Steele, Waseca, and surrounding area. Let's Smile was selected as a grant recipient due to their exceptional commitment to providing accessible preventive and follow-up dental care to children who might otherwise go without. Their innovative approach, including setting up portable dental units in schools to remove barriers such as transportation and scheduling challenges, stood out during the comprehensive grant review process. Additional information about South Country's Community Impact Program can be found here: South Country Health Alliance Announces Recipients of \$2.16 Million in Grant Funds through its Community Impact Program – South Country Health Alliance. Pictured: Representatives from the Waseca Intermediate School, South Country Health Alliance and Let's Smile.

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NRHEG Star Eagle

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