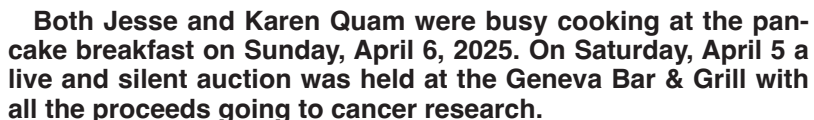


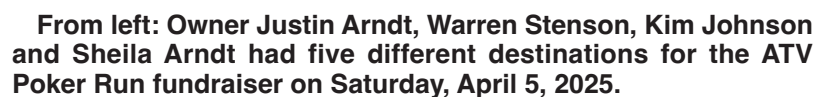


The New Richland Garden Club is taking orders for Supertunia white and pink petunias and Tidal Wave cherry petunias. These are the same petunias used in the city garden on Hwy 30 because they are heat and drought tolerant with continuous blooming through Fall. Call Barb at 507-463-3306 by Thursday, April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

Proverbs 13:11

**Mall** continued on 4

Geneva continued on 3

Poker continued on 3

County continued on 2



FenceLines

by Mark Bernard

Planter's, Corn Planting, Sugar Maker, Egg and Garden Moon

The scurs and Weather Eye keep trying but haven't been able to shake the "S" word. Was last week Old Man Winter's last hurrah or is he just getting his second wind? Starting Thursday, partly sunny with highs in the mid-50's and lows in the mid-30's. Mostly sunny on Friday with highs in the upper 50's and lows in the mid-30's. Sunny on Saturday, with highs in the mid-60's and lows in the mid-40's. Sunday, mostly sunny with a slight chance of a shower or thunderstorm. Highs in the upper 60's and lows in the mid-40's. Mostly sunny on Monday with highs in the upper 50's and lows in the upper 30's. Tuesday, partly sunny with highs in the mid-50's and lows in the upper 30's. Mostly cloudy on Wednesday with highs in the low 60's with lows in the low 40's. On April 10th, the sunrise is back to 6:38 a.m., the same as it was March 8th, the day before DST kicked in. The sun will rise at 6:30 a.m. on the 15th and we'll achieve 13 hours and 30 minutes of daylight on the 16th. The normal high for the 16th is 56 and the normal low is 35. Not exactly poetry in motion, the roller coaster temps are giving the scurs motion sickness.

The Full Moon for the month falls on the 12th and is typically known as the Pink Moon for the ground phlox that carpet wooded areas in parts so the country. It also goes by the Planter's, Corn Planting, Sugar Maker, Egg and Garden Moon. It is also known as the Paschal Moon as it is the first Full Moon after the vernal equinox. Easter is thus determined as the first Sunday following the Paschal Moon. The Ojibwe called this the Frog Moon as frogs were becoming active while the Sioux knew it as the Moon of Greening Grass, important for the buffalo that composed a large portion of their diet, their clothing and dwellings. At the ranch, if we're lucky we can call this the Season's Last Lamb Moon. Hopefully that will be the case. Been a long time coming. Since late November anyway.

Speaking of that, we have been making progress in that respect. We were able to move all the ewes with lambs on the ground together in the main barn over the weekend. It's always a rite of passage when we reach that point. No more diddling around in the lambing barn with small pens so chores become less labor intensive and more streamlined. It was especially exciting this year as we'd been nursing one lamb back to health since shearing in mid-February. It wasn't warm when we started that day. As luck would have it, one of the ewes started the lambing process just as we were setting up. We'd placed a panel to separate and protect the ewe and tiny newborn lamb from the others. Unfortunately, the group knocked the panel over and trampled the lamb. The lamb was unable to get up and was getting chilled. We had little choice but to take him to the house where he could warm up.

We held out little hope that the lamb would make it. By the time we finished shearing, he hadn't gotten up off the deck. After a few hours it started to stir and before long it was crying, trying to get up. We tube fed it warm colostrum supplement and while it was getting stronger, it was unable to get up. Eventually it gained enough strength to stand but couldn't walk. Looking more closely, the lower part of his left rear leg was broken and bent at an angle. Channeling our inner Dr.

Pol, we devised a splint from a couple paint stirring sticks. Wrapping his leg first with an ace bandage, we duct taped the splint in place, then overwrapped it with vet wrap. Within minutes he was motoring around. We moved him to a small dog kennel in the garage for bottle feeding. You couldn't tell he had a broken leg when he was allowed to roam free. After a few weeks of that, we moved him to the lambing barn. He had a larger pen with access to a pelleted ration, hay and water. Time to practice being a sheep rather than a houseguest.

We took the splint off to determine how his leg was healing. It looked straight and promising. Splint readjusted and reattached. A couple more weeks passed, and we took the splint off for good. We allowed him to stay in the pen for a week to see if it was healed as well as it looked. Sunday morning, our little woolly patient was integrated into the large group of ewes and lambs. It didn't take long, and he'd mastered the creep feeder and was able to exercise in the main lot. Sometimes I hesitate to write about some of these small victories as it seems something bad tends to happen to the subjects. I'm taking a leap of faith here and hoping that's not the case this time. You might ask, did you ever name the lamb? Yes we did. We named him Will. Why? Because he definitely had a will to live.

Poppy continues to ease into spring. The mud has subsided and there's a fast track again for pursuing her squirrels. Best of all there are no muddy paws to wipe upon her return to the house. It won't be long, and more garden will be planted so she'll be able to dawdle in another of her favorite places. There should be more sunflowers to hide in on hot days and some wax beans added to the string bean portfolio this year. When they get large enough, her short-legged Corgi body completely disappears under the bush bean canopy. More than one way to frustrate your owners when they can't find you. It's a process finding new and creative ones too.

I'd be remiss if I didn't say thank you here to LaVonne Meyer. I was thinking I should stop to see her sometime as our paths hadn't crossed for a spell. After all, she was the reason I've spent all these hours writing lord knows what and for whom. Seriously, I remember her asking for an ag related column back in 2003. I still have it. I thought after writing it, it would be an occasional project. Next thing I know, here's LaVonne asking if I could write another one the next week and then another. The rest is history. Anyway, I came into town a few weeks ago and when I went by LaVonne's house, I noticed vehicles in the driveway and people hugging. My heart sank. Too late I thought. I watched the photo presentation tribute on the funeral home website. There was a reason I rarely saw her. She was a very busy lady. She was in the garden a lot too come to find out, much as my Mom was. Mom got to meet LaVonne on one of her visits and thought the world of her. I still have the note that Mom sent her, renewing her newspaper subscription. La Vonne gave it to me a few years back and I still have that too. Pretty sure they've probably had coffee and goodies together while talking about their families, enjoying a good laugh. Thank you LaVonne.

See you next week...real good then.

Where does that come from?

I was watching a show recently, and one of the characters was reciting lines from a Shakespearean play. Another character asked if he knew that whole section by heart, which he did.

Suddenly, I sat up. Wait. Why do we say we know something by heart? Don't we actually know it by brain? Our heart does not store the information we have memorized. So into the internet I went.

I landed back in ancient times, when people thought your actual heart was in charge of memory and emotion. That would also explain why we make hearts to represent love and for Valentine's Day.

So what did those people think the brain was for? Nothing. In fact, the Egyptians, who believed you were reborn in the afterlife just as you had left this one, carefully preserved the heart but threw out the brain while they did the embalming process.

To know something by heart is an idiom. Idioms are an example of figurative language that takes words that normally wouldn't go together and shouldn't make any sense together and gives them a meaning we all understand.

There are other idioms like "heavy heart" and "hits you in the heart" that can also trace meaning to the olden days when people thought the heart controlled emotions and even contained your soul. Both of those idioms are related to feeling bad or disappointed.

But what about saying, "Eat your heart out"? Who would want to do that? We know that it is a taunt, showing off something you've gained that another person does not have. But where would that come from?



Whatever Flips Your Waffle

by Mark Domeier
Contributing Writer

Upon researching this phrase, I found that there is no one answer. In the 16th century, people would say, "Eat one's own heart," which meant to suffer in silence. And if you go into the Bible, you will see the phrase, "To eat one's own flesh," which meant someone was lazy. In the Iliad, we see that to eat one's heart out means to experience immeasurable grief. It's likely been an evolution through time to land where we are today.

Throughout the NCAA basketball tournaments, we would see teams give a last-ditch effort at the end of a game to overcome a deficit and move on with a win. But we know they are not leaping out of ditches, even though they may have dug themselves a hole.

Last-ditch effort has its origins in military slang. Military personnel would dig ditches at different distances from the front lines for protection and as means of communication. To fight up to the last ditch meant going at it until the very end; "to die in the last ditch" was known as being the final group standing in a battle.

Sometimes we don't know how something came to become a popular idiom. If you've ever heard someone say it was "like shooting fish in a barrel," did it ever occur to you to wonder who exactly is putting fish in a barrel and then shooting them?

You've already caught the fish. There's no need to just blow them up.

The first time this phrase was seen in print was 1931, though it's not very clear where it originated. However, it must have been a popular phrase among people for it to be published without explanation.

And if you think shooting fish in a barrel is easy, it might be even easier to take candy from a baby. Both mean that something is simple to do, though neither is very sporting. Speaking of sports, that's where the first indications in print were for thieving sweet treats from infants. In the late 1800s, that phrase was used to describe the ease with which various teams procured victory.

Using one idiom to seamlessly move to another, since we're talking about robbery, let's look at robbing someone blind. We know it means being very deceitful or severely overcharging someone, but where does the blind part come in?

This idiom has been in use since at least the mid-20th century. Some think it comes from people who would actually steal money from blind people begging in the streets. That seems...excessive. It's also thought that the gouging done to overcharge someone means you take everything they have and hold dear, and your sight might be pretty im-

portant.

Rub someone the wrong way is another idiom. Um, no, not going there. Oh wait, it's not bad actually! We know it as meaning you irritate someone, and it comes from the 1800s where it referred to stroking an animal's fur the wrong direction. If we pet Chewbacca the wrong way, our cat will definitely not like that.

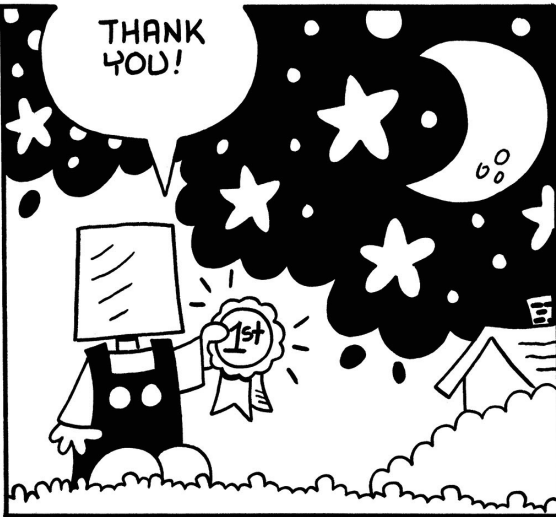
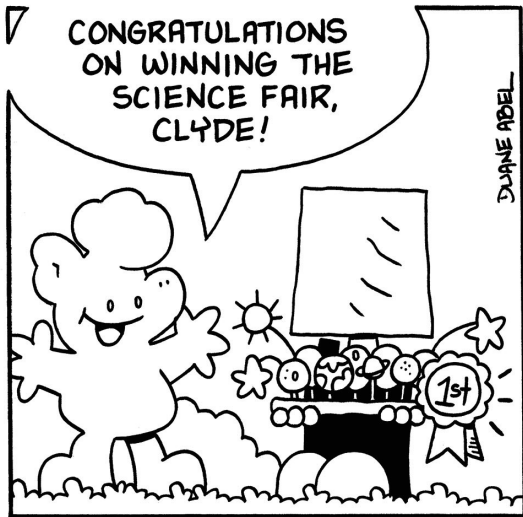
You could also ruffle someone's feathers, which is similar, both in meaning and origin. But why do we say something is "for the birds," meaning it's pretty worthless? I like birds! Most of the time, anyway. They're not worthless.

The phrase has been in use for over 100 years and has a gross origin. It refers to birds dipping into animal droppings to get seeds to eat. This is not something humans would do; we would see those piles as worthless, unless you used them to fertilize your garden. This may seem far-fetched, but the earlier version of the saying included a word before "for" that was a profane reference to poop.

You may think this pathway to find idioms has been a pile of poop, or maybe you found it intriguing. Don't beat around the bush in your feelings. It's not a big deal if you use your big mouth to give me a back-handed compliment or want to bite my head off. (Just a few more idioms to leave you wondering!)

Word of the Week: This week's word is eclat, which means enthusiastic approval or praise, as in, "The columnist gained eclat from his informative article from some, while others wanted to string him up by his toes." Impress your friends and confuse your enemies!

ZED by Duane M. Abel



www.corkeycomics.com

In Brief

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 through 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.

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.

Waldorf Community

was not supported by all three counties."

Steele County officials expressed concern over a lack of communication from MN Prairie's CEO, especially when it comes to the budget and sharing data.

"When this board asked why there's an essential refund of over a million dollars to the county, it's an interesting red flag that needs to be looked into, and that was met with resistance," Jarrett said.

County

from Page 1

contribution is common among inter-county interactions, and goes on to observe that, having served a three-year term as the chair of the joint powers board through January of this year, "I am not aware of anything being passed by the MN Prairie joint powers board with any significance fiscally or policy wise that

Pickleball every Thursday at old Waldorf School

Waldorf Community Pickleball plays every Thursday from 5:00 till 9 p.m. or so. They meet at the old Waldorf School in the gym, 144 North Street in Waldorf.

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

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

NRHEG Star Eagle

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Story idea? • 463-8112

Compostings

by Al Batt

All about owls,
'1984,' and April

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
I feel like a kid.
That's wonderful. What's your secret?
I tried opening a childproof cap.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE
I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. Can February March? No, but April May. I've known more females named April than I can remember. I asked one if she'd been born in April. She had not. According to the Social Security Administration, April was the 515th most popular name for a baby girl in 2023. The name hit its peak of popularity in 1981 when it was the 25th most popular name for a girl. I was born in March. From 1900 until now, March has never been in the top 1000 most popular names for girls or boys. I don't know anyone with the first name of March. Pity.

George Orwell's book "1984," published in 1949, has this iconic sentence for its first line: "It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen."
T.S. Eliot, in "The Waste Land," wrote, "April is the cruellest month, breeding lilacs out of the dead land, mixing memory and desire, stirring dull roots with spring rain."
If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring? Pilgrims. A 1610 poem contained the lines "Sweet April showers, do spring May flowers." "March winds and April showers bring forth May flowers" has been traced to 1886.

When Mr. T was asked what his favorite month was, he replied, "April, fool."
The Beatles sang, "If you try to sit, I'll tax your seat. If you get too cold, I'll tax the heat. If you take a walk, I'll tax your feet. 'Cause I'm the taxman."

I'VE LEARNED
If I feel stupid, I've just gotten smarter.
A cat will never hold an elevator door open for you.
To sit down in any pants I'm trying on in a store.
Anything makes a good sandwich if you have enough bread.
"From there to here, from here to there, funny things are everywhere!"—Dr. Seuss. "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish."
The talk was about three foods that those seated around the Table of Infinite Knowledge liked that other people might not. I came up

with three quickly: Welsh rarebit (sometimes called Welsh rabbit), a dish of melted cheddar cheese sauce (sometimes including mustard or Worcestershire sauce) served on toasted bread; baked beans on toast with ham; and asparagus pickles. That's a trifecta of fine victuals. I almost said poutine, which consists of french fries topped with cheese curds and hot gravy, but the pickles were a healthier choice.

NATURE NOTES
Owls are like stars. They come out at night. A great horned owl flew in front of my car on a dark night. Owls find roads to be prime hunting locations. An owl-car collision was avoided.

I was stationed at the edge of a lake, an intersection with nature, ready and willing to be astounded by all I might experience. Canada geese flew in for a water landing. I think of geese as accomplished fliers and I don't think of them as fancy aerialists, but some used a tricky technique to slow themselves for a safe and effective landing. The geese stopped flapping their wings and rolled their bodies upside down while twisting their long necks so that they remained right side up. Then, they rotated their bodies to right themselves just in time for a gentle splashdown. If they'd been passenger geese, the travelers aboard would have applauded the landing. The maneuver the geese performed is called whiffling. Slowing their descent is what I think the big birds wearing goose down were doing, but they might have just been showing off. Either way, it was impressive.

Turkey vultures monitored the roads no matter where I drove. To them, each road is an aisle in the grocery store. Road-killed deer, raccoons and opossums were available for their dining pleasure.
I listened to a tufted titmouse calling "Peter-Peter-Peter" in Lamoni, Iowa. That's what the mnemonic is. It could have been producing a clear whistle that said pita-pita-pita, cheeva-cheeva-cheeva, or here-here-here. The plural is titmice, and the name has nothing to do with mice. It derives from Old English words meaning "small bird." The collective noun for titmice is a banditry. One titmouse flew near me, its big, dark eyes giving it the look of a bird that is constantly surprised. It used its feet as a plate to hold a seed and its beak as silverware to open and eat the food.

MEETING ADJOURNED
Don't flunk gratitude. Be kind.

■ Poker

from Page 1

go with the drink was a custom assortment of add-ons: beef sticks, olives, pickle spears, Colby cheese sticks, Worcestershire Sauce and celery salt. The beef sticks were purchased from Neighbor's Meats of New Richland. Justin said, "Yeah, when we do meat raffles or need something from the meat market, usually it's from Neighbor's."

Sheila explained the game, "Sign up is right now till 1 p.m. The starting point is Hartland University and players end up here again tonight at 7 p.m. This will count Hartland University as two stops, five stops total. Participants can choose their routes for the ride after being given the list of 5 bars. All 5 bars must be stopped at for completion. Players are given two cards at sign-up. Five bars mean five games of poker. Best five hands is the winner of a prize basket filled with gift cards and random fancy donated items." The five bars can be visited in any order, but are listed as Hartland University, Hartland; Half Pint Brewery, Waseca; Classics Pub, Waterville; Indian Island Winery, Janesville; and finishing back at Hartland.

The scavenger/blackout card game was similar to bingo. Pictures had to be taken of random objects, the first to a full stamped card was the winner. Pictures included a coon hat, overalls, a 'For Sale' sign, a group of mailboxes, a Minnesota license plate, a windmill, a red tractor, an Ameri-



From left: John Eustice, Owners Justin and Sheila Arndt, Jen Clasen, Rich Rottman, Sidney Koziolk, Tom Gislason, Jenna Auen, Nick Robran and Warren Stenson were all present for the Hartland University Bar's Second Annual ATV and Poker Run fundraiser on Saturday, April 5, 2025.

can flag, PBR Beer, a Minnesota state flag, police car, peach moonshine, a lake, a gazebo, "Croc" shoes or a tire swing. For the silent auction, poker runners could bid on 48 separate items: a Leinenkugel's Beer basket, hand sewn cardinal pictures, donated shirts, Easter candy basket, model tractors, a Sasquatch blanket, Burberry glasses, gift certificates to the Orange Door bar, Ducks Unlimited banquet tickets, chips and salsa, banana bread, breads and jams, candle baskets, door mats, assorted beers and vodkas.

Hartland University Bar would like to thank the Glenville Legion Post 264 for their \$500 donation, Hartland FD for their \$250, Lianne Possin, Angie Wilson, Tom Gislason, Nick Robran, John and Kristen Eustice, Sidney Koziolk and the staff of Hartland U. None of this is possible



From left: Ted, Justin Arndt, Warren Stenson and Derek were all present for the Hartland University's second annual ATV and Poker Run fundraiser on Saturday, April 5, 2025.

without any of them! Hartland University plans a Bug Run in August, and a 9/11 Ride to Remember in September. To keep up with University Bar news, find them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.p>

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.p> or on Instagram at https://www.instagram.com/hartland_university_bar/, they update regularly. They also have once a month meat raffles.

■ Geneva

from Page 1

Inside the Geneva Bar and Grill on Saturday, not many seats remained unoccupied. The silent auction was holding steady; 13 items tempted bidders to write down their names. Auctioneers called out numbers and recorded bid winners for the live auction. A steady stream of people continued to arrive, leaving some with no choice but to stand. Items continued to be delivered as the auction continued; donors set their contributions near worker Barb Kuchenbecker. Within minutes of being dropped off, a tray of a dozen cupcakes brought in another \$15 for the cause.

Jim Manges and Jamie Hagen served as auctioneers on Saturday afternoon with the assistance of longtime helpers Joel Langlie, Barb Kuchenbecker, Vicki Manges, Tina Hagen, Karen Quam, Ruth Hagen, Judy Christensen, Laura Zvorak, Diane Willert, Kathi Wobschall, Tessa Enzenauer and Brandon Enzenauer.

One of the first items up for bid was a genuine Major League Rawlings Baseball that had been autographed by Lou Burdette back in 1957. Steve Pence donated the baseball which he purchased many years ago. Burdette, who once played with the Milwaukee Braves, had been one of Steves' favorite baseball players when he was growing up in the 1950s. He recently decided to donate the treasure to help raise money for cancer.

Among the silent auction items were a children's fishing package-fishing poles-tackle equipment. A pizza basket, a grilling basket, a Tostito's/Margarita basket, an Easter basket, a spring gardening basket, a chicken planter with sprouting seeds. American flag apparel and much more.

Partway through the auction it was announced that DeWayne "Whitey"



MULTIPLE GENERATIONS - Whitey and LaJune Hagen with two of their great grandchildren, Kyler and Makara who helped "walk" many of the items around the Geneva Bar & Grill on Saturday afternoon so people could get a closer look at the items "up for bid." Kyler and Makara are the children of Colin and Lindsey Wiegman, and grandchildren of Keith and Ruth Hagen.

Hagen has been informed by his doctors that he is now cancer free. He expressed his thanks to the many dedicated people and doctors in our area who help in the fight against cancer.

Jacquie Deml was out front, before she walked in she was asked what part she's played in the cancer auction, "We've participated in the regular auction for 30 years. We live in town and we know all the people putting it on. Like it or not, cancer affects everyone eventually at some point, I lost my first husband to cancer. But that aside, this is a good community event and it's nice to see everyone out together."

The Geneva Bar & Grill was busy

Sunday morning as the annual Geneva Cancer Pancake Breakfast was served from 8 a.m. to noon. Jesse Quam was kept busy frying pancakes on his grill and they were served along with scrambled eggs, sausage, orange juice, milk and coffee. New this year were biscuits and gravy—which must have been a real hit because before the morning was over all that had been prepared had been served and enjoyed by the 100 people who turned out for the breakfast.

The busy crew of workers for the morning included Jamie Hagen, Zella McKinney, Barb and Jack Kuchenbecker, Jim Manges, Adam Lewer, Tina Hagen, Vicki Manges,

Jesse Quam, Karen Quam, Laura Zvorack, Diane Willert, Ruth Hagen, Judy Christensen, Brandon Enzenauer, and Tessa Enzenauer. The volunteers worked together and took care of everyone who came to enjoy breakfast and the opportunity to visit with friends and neighbors.

A major element of the morning's success were the many supplies which were donated. The Cancer Auction organization expressed thanks to Tim Simon, who donated all the eggs, Jamie and Tina Hagen, who made and donated the biscuits and gravy, the Clarks Grove Fire Department and "Bleachers" for the donation of the sausages.





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From left: Issac Roberts was on hand for the rubber glove demonstration at the Community Emergency Response Team's CERT classes. Also pictured are instructors Linda Coon and Vicki Neidt on the lower level of the Sheriff's Office on Thursday, March 27, 2025. Star Eagle photo by Ben Revermann

Disaster training helps prepare response teams

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff Writer

The Waseca County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) has been holding a series of training session which began on March 25 and will continue through April 15. Classes meet on Thursday evenings in the lower level of the Waseca Sheriff's Office, except for April 1 and April 15 which will be held at the Public Safety Building.

County emergency management director Denise Wright explains anyone wishing to become a certified CERT member must attend a series of seven classes which covers nine topics likely to be valuable in the face of a major emergency. She explained, "We do these classes, which are free, in the spring and in the fall. If you want to become certified and you're just now learning about them, you can't start late. You'll just have to wait until next autumn." This spring's session originally started out with 12 participants; those who complete the full regimen of courses will receive a certificate of completion.

Among topics covered are disaster preparedness, team organization, disaster medical operations, and numerous levels of first aid.

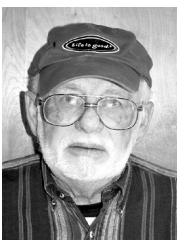
During the March 27 class, Vicki Neidt, a retired registered

nurse with more than 40 years' experience working in a hospital setting, led the session. Using a child-sized cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) mannequin, Neidt demonstrated how to determine whether an unconscious individual is breathing, how to look for blocked airway passages and how to help position a victim in a way that will make it easiest for him or her to breathe. Neidt told trainees not all techniques are useful or ideal in all situations: "These practices are to provide the greatest good for the greatest number of people." She also mentioned emergency services personnel often find the patient has already found the best position with little or no assistance—she said people tend to do this naturally while lying on the ground, but CERT responders should know and use the principles to increase a victim's chances of survival.

Neidt also showed trainees how to make a "cuff and collar shoulder sling," how to wrap a wound to inhibit bleeding, and how to best apply gauze to stomach wounds.

In the future for members of the CERT training are fire safety and utility controls, disaster medical operations, light search and rescue operations, disaster psychology, terrorism awareness and a disaster simulation drill.

Final moments before departure



FACT OR FICTION

...you decide
by Bob Hanson, Emeritus

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

goodbye, I heard you say, 'I wish you enough.' May I ask what that means?"

He began to smile. "That's a wish that has been handed down from other generations. My parents used to say it to everyone." He paused a moment and looked up as if trying to remember it in detail and he smiled even more. When he said, "'I wish you enough,' we were wanting the other person to have a life filled with just enough good things to sustain them." Then turning toward me, he

shared the following as if he were reciting it from memory.

I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright no matter how gray the day may appear.

I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun even more.

I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive and everlasting.

I wish you enough pain, so that even the smallest of joys in life may appear bigger.

I wish you enough gain to satisfy

your wanting.

I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess.

I wish you enough hellos to get you through the final goodbye.

He then began to cry and walked away.

Readers, especially those over seventy, have you ever said goodbye to someone knowing their next trip to see you will be at your funeral? Genie and I have.

P.S. The basis for this column was from an article by a young lady named Brenda Gonzales. I suspect she has gone through the trip before the funeral.

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.

■ Mail

from Page 1

scented candles as being among the best-selling items, while pointing out her customers frequently say how surprised and pleased they are with the variety of crafts being offered.

"We change out our products as the seasons change," Jennie notes. "There are new items being put out on display almost constantly." She also mentions nearly all craft vendors are willing to create custom pieces.

She offers the example of a wooden plaque shaped like the state of Minnesota which shows the location of all state parks. At a customer's request, the supplier also began producing similar maps for the state of Wisconsin. She invites people to contact the business through Facebook if they have questions or requests.

"If people want a name added to something or some other type of personalization, they should feel free to ask," says Jennie.

The Craft Mall business began in 2020, when Johnson and local craft show planner Sarah Jo Vulcan set up

the shop on New Richland's main street in response to pandemic-era restrictions. "We set people's crafts out in one location, so we could have a kind of constant show with only one person needed to supervise it. That way crafters had at least one outlet for their work," recalls Jennie.

"It got to be known as the place to go if you need a gift." But while the Johnsons were grateful for consistent support from locals, they knew the business would benefit from greater visibility. "When we learned this

place might be available, we checked into it right away," she says of the intersection location.

Open hours at the Craft Mall are Wednesday and Thursday from 1 to 6 p.m., Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jennie, teenage daughters Olivia and Paige, and three vendors staff the store. Jennie suggests people keep an eye on the company Facebook page, since store hours are likely to change as warmer weather takes hold.

Story Idea?
463-8112

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Saturday, April 26, 2025
@ 10:30 am (doors open at 10:00 am)

Bayview/Freeborn Funeral Home
1415 Hwy. 13 N., Albert Lea for
the following purpose:

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

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History Center of Freeborn County free admission

April 4, 2025 – Thanks to Arcadian Bank, we're excited to announce that for the entire month of April, admission to the History Center of Freeborn County is FREE for ALL!

Stop in and explore our more than thirty captivating exhibits. Check out the hands-on stations too, visit the Research Library and gift shop! Please note that programming is not included in this offer.

Make the most of this opportunity and discover the rich history of our community. We can't wait to

welcome you!

The Freeborn County Historical Society is a non-profit educational and cultural institution established in 1948, committed to building the future by preserving the past. HCFC collects, preserves and tells the story of Freeborn County's past through museum exhibits, research, collections, tours, and educational programs. The History Center is located at 1031 Bridge Avenue, Albert Lea, MN. For more information, visit us online at love-history.org.

Retro vibes take over downtown Albert Lea

Albert Lea, Minnesota – Get ready to flashback to the raddest decade at the Albert Lea Convention & Visitors Bureau, Historic Downtown Albert Lea, and The 112 on Broadway present Shop Sip 'N Stroll – 80s Edition on Saturday, April 12, 2025.

Shoppers and sippers are invited to dress in their best 80s outfits and hit the streets of historic downtown Albert Lea from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., enjoying sips, drawings, and exclusive deals at participating businesses.

Official Tumbler & Passport Purchase: Score your Shop Sip 'N Stroll tumbler and passport as sales start Monday, March 31, at the AL CVB (132 N Broadway) or at participating stores. Your passport is your all-access pass to enjoy sips and participate in drawings at each stop. The full experience is just \$25—but quantities are limited! Must be at least 21 years of age to purchase and participate.

Event Day: On April 12, throw on your leg warmers and neon fits, grab your tumbler and passport, and join the downtown fun! All attendees are encouraged to

dress up for surprises in store throughout the event.

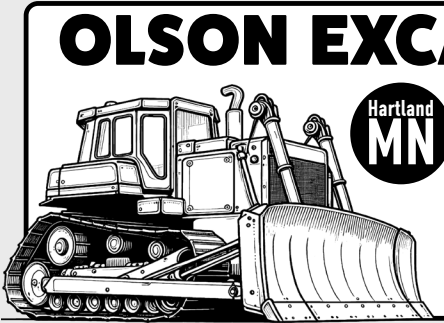
After the stroll, keep the party going with an 80s bash at The 112 on Broadway!

Listed below are the participating businesses:

- Daisy Blue Naturals
- Leuthold's
- Events at the Broadway
- The Homestead Boutique
- All the Things - studio & boutique
- Between Friends Boutique
- Mom's Bread Company
- Plymouth Shoe Store
- Realty ONE Group Black Diamond (The Outlet)
- Creating Sew Much
- Jeni's Fine Jewelers
- 112 on Broadway

The AL CVB is dedicated to promoting Albert Lea as a premier destination for visitors, enhancing the local economy, and enriching the community through tourism initiatives and events. By supporting this event, you are also supporting the initiatives of the AL CVB, which are vital to the revitalization of our downtown and the enrichment of our community as a whole.

Story idea? • 463-8112



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ACROSS

1 Aggressive stinging wasp

3 Butterfly with distinctive tails on its wings

6 Midwestern butterfly known for its migration

8 Moth with prominent eye-spots

11 Small sap-sucking pest

12 Parasitic fly whose larvae infest mammals

14 Short-lived insect near Mid-

DOWN

2 Larval stage of a butterfly or moth

4 Stinging insect often found near picnics

5 Shield-shaped insect with a pungent odor

6 Nocturnal relative of the butterfly

7 Common pest in Midwestern homes

9 Beneficial beetle found in Mid-

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Weather is teasing us about things to come

The weather across not only Minnesota, but the rest of the United States as a whole, has been unusual. In Minnesota we had some snow, but not as much as in northern Minnesota. It seems as if the wind has been blowing hard every day. This doesn't make me a meteorologist, but I don't have to be one to know that our weather patterns have been changing.

I am looking forward to my first visit of the season to the cabin. Each year I am welcomed to a surprise, and the way the wind has been, I am pretty sure that I will have to fire up the old chainsaw. Each year brings a surprise, and for a couple of years it was no trees across the driveway. I am wishing for that again this year, but the way the winds have been, I doubt that I will be so lucky.

Visiting the cabin for the first time is something that I always look forward to. I know that there will be work involved in the first visit, but after a couple of days I will have some time to relax. I enjoy getting the cabin ready for the summer season.

I will have to bring food for the



Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl
Outdoors Writer

birds and a few canned goods for the humans. I always get teased by my boys about the amount of canned goods that I bring, but I am too old to change my ways, and I like to have options.

We haven't put the dock in for about three years, but this year I want to put it in. It makes it easier for the "old guy" to get in and out of the boat. We haven't fished in the lake for a couple of years, so I think it's time to see what fish are in there. The lake freezes out periodically, but it always seems to have a way of coming back. Our lake is a designated E-1 lake, so the DNR does not manage it because of the designation. The last time that I fished the lake, it was loaded with bass, and the following winter it froze out. I have hopes of

being able to find a few bass swimming in our lake again.

I long for the day when I can be out on our lake relaxing and fishing, which go hand in hand. The stairs going down to the lake are long and tiring to climb. I haven't gone down there for a couple of years, but I will be descending down those stairs this summer. I did fall up the stairs a couple of years back, which was embarrassing, but luckily, I was alone. I always take my phone along whenever I go for a walk or take a "trip" (pun intended) down to the lake.

I hope to have my son, Brad, and my grandson, Dylan, help put the dock in this year. When I say help, it means that they will do the work, and I'll offer moral support. They're so good at helping the old guy that I can

never thank them enough.

Until next time: If you want to have an outdoors camping experience that brings you close to nature, you might want to try Scenic State Park. This park is in Itasca County, West of Marcell off of Hwy. 7. I have visited this park a few times on a day trip. It has boat, canoe, kayak and paddle board rentals and a boat access where you can fish two lakes. And there is at least one more lake with an access in the park, virgin pines, swimming beach, and wilderness-like setting, Scenic State Park is well deserving of its name. Here, visitors can hike the Chase Point Trail for hypnotic views of Coon and Sandwick Lakes and listen to the wind whistle through the giant pines. The park's overnight facilities include campsites (boat-in, drive-in, backpack), and a cabin. The historic lodge houses interpretive displays.

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.

First deliberate murder in Freeborn County

Join the History Center of Freeborn County (HCFC) for our first Old Time Radio Show on Thursday, April 10, 6:30 p.m., or 7:30 p.m. Experience the magic of the "Golden Age of radio!" Immerse yourself in the nostalgic entertainment of the 1920s to 1960s and relive the glory days of radio dramas.

We will be diving into the criminal case of the State of Minnesota vs. Henry Kreigler, involving the first deliberate murder in Freeborn County. The defendant killed Nelson Boughton of Oakdale. I. W. Perry

and Gordon E. Cole appeared for the State and A. Armstrong, Perkins & Perkins and W. R. Kinyon appeared for the defendant. After a lengthy and interesting trial, a jury returned a verdict against the prisoner of "murder in the first degree," and the court sentenced him to be hung. This was the first case of hanging in southern Minnesota, and the writer believes the only one that has occurred in the history of this part of the State under sentence of a court. Many thought then, and still believe, that the defendant in this case was insane. Kreigler

was a German and could speak but little English, but his actions throughout the trial indicated plainly that he was either crazy or half-witted, or was feigning very naturally. He would dance, in his chains, all the way from the jail to the court house, and in a dozen other ways his actions were those of insanity.

HCFC members get a discounted rate of \$5, and nonmembers are welcome to join at \$10.

You won't miss out on this unforgettable event!

The Freeborn County Historical

Society dba Freeborn County Historical Museum, Library and Village, is an independent, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization governed by members via a Board of Directors. Each year we, together with volunteers, provide presentations, educational and outreach programs, special events, museum exhibits, and more. We currently own and operate the museum and village. For more information, visit us online at fchmnm.org.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Wednesday - 5:15 p.m. Supper; 6 p.m. Bible Study

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

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

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

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

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

CROSS OF GLORY LUTHERAN
Hartland, Minnesota
Rev. Marcia Pedersen

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

HARTLAND EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
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 very 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.vibrantlifefg.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.stisidore.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

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

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

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Freedom Township
Rev. Larry Sipe
Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Worship

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

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC
Waldorf, Minnesota
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship

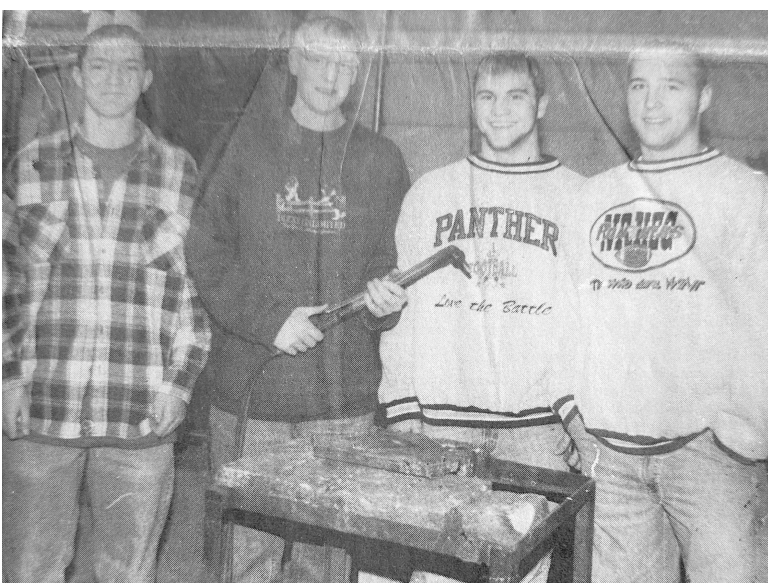
TRINITY LUTHERAN
Wilton Township
Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor
Sunday - 10:45 a.m. Worship

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

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

LOOKING BACK

25 Years Back



- These members of the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Future Farmers of America Mechanics Judging team will enter state competition during the FFA State Convention, later this spring. They placed second with 350 points, one point behind Blooming Prairie. From the left they are Travis Root and Chris Bartsch, who tied for fourth individually with 117 points; Nathan Schlaak, eight individuals with 116 points and Nick Budach, who scored 99 points.

- Engagement Announcement. Richard and Mary Bakken of New Richland announce the engagement of their daughter, Anne Bakken to Troy Polikowsky, son of the late Allan Polikowsky and Patricia and Mark Mehrhoff of Ida Grove, Iowa. Anne is a 1995 graduate of New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School and is now currently a junior at Winona State University, Rochester Campus. Troy is a 1994 graduate of Denison High School and is now a junior at Winona State University Campus.

- Two New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High school basketball players were named to the Gopher All Conference boys basketball team. They are Rusty Routh, 6'3" junior forward, and Brian Hullopetter, a 5'10" senior guard.

- "Alive In The Spirit," the summer event for Catholics in southern Minnesota to celebrate the Jubilee Year 2000, has been honored with an Addy Award for its event logo. The log which features a soaring dove in various shades of orange, represents the Holy Spirit and growing faith. The Addy Award was presented by the LaCrosse Area Ad Club as part of a competition sponsored by the American Advertising Federation. The design was created by Mediawerks, a national marketing firm based in Winona.

- A daughter was born to Gina Brian Haman of Bellevue, Nebraska, on Friday March 24, 2000. Kuri Jane, she has been named, has one brother, Gavin 2 1/2 years old. Grandparents are Richard and Janet East-vold of Hartland.

50 Years Back



- Carmen Johnson (middle) won the New Richland-Hartland High School Physics class Hot Air Balloon Race, recently. Tied for second were Carol Winegar (left) and Marti Moen (right). The experiment results, calculations and graphs proved these students to be true winners of this year's race.



- Engagement Announcement. Alan Kaiser and Mary Lynn Kaiser announce their engagement and forthcoming marriage. Mary is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Kaiser, rural Janesville. Mary is a 1974 graduate of Waldorf-Pemberton High School. Alan is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Kaiser of rural Wells, he graduated from Waldorf-Pemberton High school in 1973. The wedding is planned for July.

- Kristin M. Stokke of New Richland has been accepted at Bemidji State College for admission next fall, according to E.J. Aalberts, registered at BSC. Kristin, daughter of Wayne M. Stokke will join about 1100 other new students at Bemidji State next fall for a week of orientation to college life and BSC campus.

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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
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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.

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Karen Flatness, City Clerk

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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



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Local scouts



The NRHEG Girl Scout troop 47967 donated 93 packages of cookies to the New Richland Food Shelf. They want to thank the community for making enough donations to the troop to cover the cost! Picture from left to right Alexis Olson, Violette Botten and Hazel Botten.

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Bottom left, Jace Ihrke with his "Gustavus Mom," NRHEG Administrative Assistant Sue Kulseth. Sue is pleased with Jace's choice of Gustavus because her youngest daughter, Kourtney, attended there and graduated in 2021. At top Ihrke is pictured above with coaches Jeff Jimenez, Chad Sykes, Jace Ihrke, Marc Kruger, Neil Fuchs and Brian Belcourt. Bottom right, Jace with his sister, Tatum; nephew Nolan; and parents Mike and Amy.

Star Eagle photos by Deb Bently

Ihrke signs on with Gustavus

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

NRHEG Senior Jace Ihrke signed a letter of intent to play football with Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter during a ceremony the afternoon of Wednesday, April 2 at the NRHEG Secondary School. A four-year member of the NRHEG squad, Ihrke played as both an offensive and defensive lineman with the team.

During the ceremony, head foot-

ball coach Marc Kruger mentioned only 7 percent of high school athletes go on to participate in college sports. He also pointed out Ihrke will join 2024 NRHEG graduate Jaylin Raab on the Gustavus team and may well be facing off against fellow NRHEG team member and 2025 graduate Owen Bartlett, who signed recently with St. Olaf; 2022 graduate Tyrone Wilson, who now plays with Augsburg; and 2023 graduate Brady

Schlaak, now on the St. Scholastica team.

Ihrke tells of having spoken with football programs from Augsburg, Waldorf, St. John's, Central Lakes, Moorehead and Morris, and having selected Gustavus because he found the coaching team there most approachable and helpful.

Said Kruger, "Colleges were interested in Jace because of his motor, size and speed. On the field he had

no quit in him, and he often made great plays because of it."

Ihrke expects to be a defensive lineman with the Gustavus program, and notes he will be "starting over" as a freshman member and will be working hard to demonstrate the many ways he can become an asset to the team. He will likely be reporting to Gustavus in early August to begin practice.

Upset bid falls short for baseball Panthers

NRHEG trails 3-2 after six innings

For no less than six full innings, the NRHEG baseball team had to be thinking upset in their 2025 season opener Friday.

That changed in the top of the seventh.

The LeSueur-Henderson Giants, expected to field a pretty good squad this year, plated six runs in the seventh to walk away with a 10-3 decision at Reese Field in New Richland.

"We had a good showing for the first game of the season," said NRHEG head coach Shawn Larson. "Most of the game was played defensively sharp for both teams."

Owen Wayne was sharp on the mound for the Panthers, striking out seven straight at one point as the Panthers took a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the third, when Wayne doubled in what would be the Panthers' lone run.

The Giants answered with four runs in the top of the fifth, but the Panthers plated two in the bottom half to pull within 4-3. It stayed that way until the top of the seventh."

Wyatt Larson and Ryan Schlaak singled for the Panthers' only other hits, with Wyatt scoring NRHEG's run.

Wayne finished with nine strikeouts and four walks, allowing four earned runs on five hits in 6 1/3 innings.

"Owen had a very controlled start with us on the mound tonight," said Coach Larson. "If Owen pitches this way, we will be in a lot of games

SEASON OPENER – Above, NRHEG pitcher Owen Wayne delivers a pitch during the Panthers' season opener against LeSueur-Henderson at Reese Field in New Richland. Below, NRHEG first baseman Alden Dobberstein snags the throw to complete a double play.

Star Eagle photos by Jim Lutgens