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Awards

New Richland Legion meeting April 24
The New Richland American Legion Auxiliary will have their April meeting on Thursday, April 24. This meeting will take place in the New Richland Public library at 5:30 p.m.

Hartland City-Wide Rummage Sale Saturday, April 26
There will be a city-wide rummage sale in Hartland from 8 a.m. till 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 26. Maps will be available at the city hall/post office the morning of the sale.

Kindergarten Card Party at the Waldorf Public Library Saturday, April 26
There will be a Kindergarten Card Party at the Waldorf Public Library at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 26. Come to the library to collect your library card, play games, pose with a GIANT library card, collect giveaways and more. Exclusively for kindergarteners and their families.

Kindergarten Card Party at New Richland Public Library Saturday, April 26
There will be a Kindergarten Card Party at the New Richland Public Library at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 26. Come to the library to collect your library card, play games, pose with a GIANT library card, collect giveaways and more. Exclusively for kindergarteners and their families.

Meatball dinner at Community Lutheran, Geneva starting 11 a.m. April 27
Community Lutheran Church, located at 106 Third Street Southeast in Geneva, will be serving a meatball dinner from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 27.

Straight Talk with Sheriff Jay Dulas at the Waseca Chamber of Commerce office Friday, May 2
Join Sheriff Dulas for Straight Talk from noon till 1 p.m. on Friday, May 2 at the Waseca Area Chamber office to ask questions or address concerns. There will be additional chances every first Friday of the month. Presented by the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism.

City Wide Garage Sale in Geneva Friday, May 2 and Saturday, May 3
There will be a City Wide Garage Sale in Geneva Friday May 2 and Saturday May 3. Visit the Geneva Facebook page for more information.

NR garden Club taking orders
The New Richland Garden Club is taking orders for Super-tunia 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.

A word from The Word
Whoever is righteous has regard for the life of his beast.
Proverbs 12:10

NRHEG teacher Betsy Schoenrock

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

During a recent tornado drill, NRHEG elementary teachers led their students to the parts of the building designated for them to take shelter. Warning her third-grade students in advance that the halls would be full of different groups of students heading in numerous directions, teacher Betsy Schoenrock told class members their job was simply to stay alert and follow her. "Of all the teachers in the school," she suggested light-heartedly, "you can't say you can't see where I'm going."

At 6 foot 5 inches, she tends to stand out in a crowd.

A lifelong area resident, Schoenrock says she has "pretty much always known" she wanted to become a teacher. Daughter of area farmer Leon Schoenrock and NRHEG elementary phys ed teacher Beth, she graduated from NRHEG in 2018 and from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter early in 2022 with qualifications to teach all elementary grades and math for students as high as eighth grade.

By coincidence, the NRHEG elementary site had an open position for a "math specialist," that is, someone to meet with small groups of students and provide targeted instruction to help get them on track with their peers. She was hired to take on the task, becoming part of the district teaching staff for the last half or so of the 2021-'22 school year.

For 2022-'23, administration asked her to be a third-grade teacher, the position she has been in ever since. She says it's exactly where she wants to be.

"It's something you get better at every year," she says of building a set of classroom materials that suit her teaching style and coming up with effective ways to present ideas and skills which work well for children of this specific age. Typically about eight years old, third-graders are still regarded as "primary" students, but are preparing to become "upper elementary."

Especially for those who were enrolled in school during the period of "distance" instruction imposed by the Covid pandemic, thus missing a year of the social learning school provides, Schoenrock observes third-graders are still coming to understand their behavior and choices as part of a bigger picture.

And, of course, they each have their own levels



NRHEG third-grade teacher Betsy Schoenrock learned much of what she knows in some of the same classrooms where she now teaches. Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

"It's always exciting to be there at the moment someone says, 'Aha, I get it!'" Betsy Schoenrock

of interest and inclination toward the various subjects being covered. The fundamental subjects of reading and math tend to dominate classroom instruction time, with frequent asides based on current circumstances.

As an example, Schoenrock tells how a recent discussion of the vocabulary word "strictly" led to a conversation about the ways having "strict" rules shows that parents are working to protect and

guide their children.

An incident during which her students were inconsiderate to a substitute teacher at one of their out-of-classroom sessions introduced the idea of "first impressions," and how they are a one-time opportunity.

Asked what knowledge and characteristics are beneficial for a teacher, Schoenrock observes elementary instruction is always evolving. "It's much different from when I was a student," she says.

Among the top traits, then, she ranks flexibility—the ability and willingness to adjust based on circumstances. "Sometimes when kids don't understand something the first time, you have to keep working at it until you find a way to do it that works for them."

"It's always exciting to be there at the moment

Schoenrock continued on 3

HARTLAND CITY COUNCIL

Hartland approves new fire department equipment

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff Writer

During their April 7 regular meeting, members of the Hartland city council approved spending nearly \$37,000 to acquire replacement air packs for the fire department. Eight tanks and eight masks will be acquired; the equipment being replaced is between 10 and 15 years old. The new equipment will remain usable for about 15 years. The fire department did not receive any billable calls for the month of March.

After discussion, council members concluded that, once new electric meters are installed at city residences, any damage to the meters will be the responsibility of the homeowner. Xcel energy has to finish a wiring project, but the city concession stand will be open next week.

NRHEG middle school teacher Barb Roesler asked council members about the possibility of bringing 15 to 20 NRHEG students from grades 6 to 8 to work on a community service project sometime in May.

Council members were notified to expect a presentation from Jean Eaton of the Southeast Minnesota Area Agency on Aging (SEMAAA) during the May 13 meeting to share information about programs and practices to help keep elderly residents in their homes.

Easter Egg Hunt



Well over 100 area children took part in an Easter Egg Hunt at the New Richland Care Center the morning of Saturday, April 19. Nearly 1,500 plastic eggs with candy, small prizes, and certificates for gifts from area businesses were hidden in two separate areas. Smaller children up to age 6 were allowed to hunt eggs indoors, children ages 7 to 10 were sent outdoors to the facility's courtyard. According to Care Center staff, the egg hunt has been an annual event for some time and is expected to continue indefinitely.

Star Eagle photos by Deb Bently



FenceLines

by Mark Bernard

Planters rolled in

Cooler dampish weather this past week had the scurs turning Weather Eye dials for additional heat and drier weather. Does Mother Nature hold off this week or do we get another big, sloppy wet kiss? Starting Thursday, cloudy with a good chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid-60's with lows in the mid-40's. Partly sunny on Friday with a slight chance of forenoon showers. Highs in the upper 50's with lows in the upper 30's. Mostly sunny on Saturday, with a slight chance of an evening shower or thunderstorm. Highs in the low 60's with lows in the mid-40's. Sunday, mostly cloudy with an increasing chance of a shower or thunderstorms. Highs in the mid-60's with lows in the low 50's. Mostly cloudy on Monday with a continued good chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the low 70's with lows in the mid-50's. Tuesday, partly sunny with highs in the low 70's and lows in the low 50's. Mostly sunny on Wednesday with highs in the low 60's and lows in the low 40's. Our daily increase in daylight is slowing by about one and a half seconds per day. The normal high for April 27th is 61 and the normal low is 39. Easter's over, so the scurs have their goodie supply covered. Will they double down with May baskets?

Planters rolled in places this past week with corn going in until the Thursday rain shut it down. Intense rain dropped anywhere from 1.5" – 3" depending on location. Some reported more, but without documentation backing them up. Was the early planting a good idea or not? There is no right or wrong answer at this point. Most were happy to run their planters through the shakedown mode and as usual, managed to plant more than they anticipated. Some found issues and weren't able to plant a lot, but the planter will be ready when fields are fit once again. Still others planted nothing. Will they regret it? Again, too early to tell. Last year, the crop went in so easily in early to mid-April until rain shut it down and was followed by later April and early May planting, it didn't matter. When it decided to dump nearly 2" of total rainfall in May and June, everyone was in trouble. Nobody was right; everyone was wrong.

I'm just thankful that I can feel like it may have survived winter. I managed to get through it without putting the chains on the tractor. I also didn't need to use the snowblower, although I did hook it up and grease it in case the forecast snow materialized. It didn't and went somewhere else where they must've needed it more. I took down the driveway markers recently and also removed the bunny guards from all the plants protected over the course of the winter. Saturday, it was cool, but nice enough to allow the tiger lily stalks to be removed and plopped in a pile with other yard waste. The culvert running under the driveway had become plugged during the heavy thunderstorm so that was cleaned out as well. There's a tile outlet by the driveway that needs to run freely, draining a small area of the field to the north. Not a major area perhaps, but every little bit counts once it's as wet as it's suddenly become. Luckily, it may allow time finally

to burn some of the piles of storm damaged trees and limbs accumulated over the years. Expect many vermin to soon be homeless.

With car club events looming on the horizon, it was time to get the Studebaker out again. It had accumulated a hefty layer of dust over the course of the winter. It didn't help matters to have a couple bottle lambs as garage residents for a chunk pf it. The amount of grime they can generate is pretty amazing sometimes. As luck would have it, we'd thought about heading to Waseca for an Easter lunch. I made sure it started, then took it on a short six-mile jaunt to limber it up after a long winter's nap. It took off on the first attempt and ran like a daily driver. When I returned I parked it outside as gentle showers were in the forecast. It would save a lot of time and effort on my part. We made our trek to Waseca and after chores I wiped the Silver Hawk down. If it hadn't rained I would've been forced to rinse it off using soft tap water. It's still nothing compared to Mother Nature's original soft water. Simply the best.

The spring bird migration continues, although some of the noticeable changes are with the birds that are here year round. The rooster pheasants frequent our backyard and pretty much anywhere else they choose. They're frequently spotted using the corridor on the north of the barn. One can tell when they're afoot. The sheep are suddenly focused on something and frequently that something is a rooster pheasant in spring breeding plumage splendor. The male goldfinches too are nearing their full sunshine yellow. It won't be long, and we'll be looking twice to see if it's a bunch of dandelions or goldfinches. If they fly, then you know. One of the recent migrating birds signaling the changing season was spotted on Sunday. The white-throated sparrows are annual guests at the ranch. Their tenure here on their way to boreal forests to the north is of short duration. It's usually no more than a few weeks before the orioles and hummingbirds start to appear. Seems like I just took their feeders down not that long ago.

Poppy had an appointment at the vet's office on Monday. She'd been shaking her head & digging at her right ear, so it was time to get it checked out. When Sarah took the swab, her ears appeared relatively clean. When Dr. Mike came in and looked with the scope, I thought perhaps the light would shine right through. there were signs of some inflammation in the ear in question. Some medication was applied and dispensed, so we could continue her treatments at home. Her toenails were trimmed professionally while at the vet's, so it wasn't catch as catch can like at home. She's much stealthier in the house on the laminate floor now. It's still a best two out of three falls treating her ears so far though. If you read breed descriptions for Corgis, they were originally bred to be low to the ground, quick and strong little cattle dogs. That sounds about right. Even though Poppy looks small and cuddly, when putting those drops in her ears, it's like wrassling with about 30 lbs. of raw gristle. Looks are definitely deceiving.

See you next week...real good then.

Gold medal or bust

We were reading some stories in class recently about iconic athletes from the past and the work they had to put in to become the very best in their sports. Many of the names are not familiar to most people: Babe Didrickson, Gertrude Ederle, and Gretel Bergmann among others. All three of these women were Olympic-level athletes during the first half of the 20th century and basically had to train themselves to reach the peak of their sports.

Athletes in the 21st century have it much different. There are numerous opportunities to have others help you get better at your particular sport. In addition, we know so much more about how the body operates, which helps athletes train better.

Looking back at those women, Didrickson and Ederle both won medals at the Olympics. Bergmann did not have the opportunity since she was German but also Jewish, and thus she was not allowed to compete for her country in 1936 when Hitler was in charge, even though she had just set the world record in the high jump earlier that year. She was disappointed, but shrugged and went on with her life.

I wonder how Olympic athletes take defeat these days. All of them undergo so much work to get to that stage, only to have failure stare most of them in the face. Jerry Seinfeld used to do a bit about the silver medal being the "first loser." Of course, all of us sitting on the couch watching would be ecstatic to have any Olympic medal.

But I'm sure the disappointment when you've worked and trained for years is extreme. And if you lose by a tenth or even a hundredth of a sec-



Whatever Flips Your Waffle

by Mark Domeier
Contributing Writer

ond in an event, that silver medal doesn't look as good. The mantra of, "At least you competed in the Olympics," probably doesn't sit well either.

I've always looked at sports as a great chance to be part of a team and to compete. Winning is fun, and I'm super competitive, but I've lost plenty in my life and learned to deal with that. Some losses are harder to take than others, but life goes on. Just play solitaire some time to get a dose of reality in wins and losses!

But with all the training and off-season teams and camps out there, the attitude about sports seems to be shifting. For some athletes, it becomes more about the "me" than the "we." Non-school teams are selling the idea of playing sports at the college level, where we know there are lucrative chances to make money. Plus, you get to keep playing sports at a high level.

It becomes a "gold medal or bust" situation. Organizations like JO volleyball and AAU basketball and all the traveling baseball teams will keep telling kids how great they can be if they play for those teams. And those organizations will keep adding new teams as long as there are kids (and parents) willing to believe that.

But the math doesn't work. Let's say there are ten girls in a grade who

play off-season volleyball. And the grade ahead of them has the same number, as does the grade behind them. They all believe they will become very good players, and they very well might. However, there are only six players on a volleyball court at a time. I've rarely seen a varsity coach rotate more than nine or so players in a competitive game.

So some kids don't make that cut. Sure, they are on the varsity, but they're not talented enough to break into that rotation. This brings out entitlement issues at times. Parents and kids become upset at their lack of playing time. "But I played/paid for all that extra volleyball! I should be playing!"

Not only that, but off-season teams have schedules that are demanding and sometimes conflict with school sports. Players want to leave practices early because they have to get to their non-school, off-season sports practice.

Wait a second.

I had a parent tell me that their child's off-season sports team tells the kids that the priorities are 1. In-season sport 2. Family 3. Off-season sport. That's the right way to look at things, but this is often not the case for all those teams. Kids (and parents) get the impression from the non-school team that they had better

not miss anything for that group or risk being ousted or have playing time cut.

But then those kids will miss part of their school sport and expect no repercussions. Let's find the priorities here. After all, it's been said by many college coaches that they want well-rounded athletes that participate in more than one sport. But that means being committed to your in-season sport first and foremost.

Listen, play sports you love in the off-season. That's how you get better. And we're a long way from just shooting at your driveway hoop all summer. But play them with caution. You still should play other sports and make them the #1 item during their season. You should know that playing time is not guaranteed just because your parents forked over thousands of dollars to groups that are willing to make as much money as possible. And you should be cautious about playing a sport year-round because of a higher risk of injury.

Play sports for the right reasons. If you happen to become a great athlete, that's wonderful and we'll celebrate you. But we'll also celebrate the teams that compete at a high level because all the players bought into the program and understood their roles.

After all, even the bench players of the gold-medal winning Olympic teams still get the gold.

Word of the Week: This week's word is whatness, which means the essence or inherent quality of a thing, as in, "The whatness of sports should be competing, getting better, and having fun." Impress your friends and confuse your enemies!



Just a Thought...

by Eli Lutgens

I've got Snickers on my mind

From the moment I woke up Friday morning until the moment I returned home in the evening, Snickers was on my mind.

We welcomed Snickers, a tortoiseshell (yellow and brown) cat, into the Star Eagle office sometime around 2010, give or take two years in either direction. I was roughly 12 years old at the time. Snickers was the "office cat," a stray we took in out of compassion with no idea what she would come to mean to me and to my family. She became my "housepet" in a sort of backwards way—I moved into the office, where she had been living for more than a decade. Two years ago I remodeled some unused space at the back of the Star Eagle office into an apartment; Snickers became my constant companion—until Friday, when she took her final cat nap.

Waking up Friday, I was instinctively careful of how I moved my legs. Snickers notoriously liked to make her way to my feet while I was sleeping. Though she wasn't there when I dozed off, she often was when I awakened.

When Snickers and I first started living together, it took us a while to adapt our respective habits. Though I did not intend to let her sleep with me, I eventually realized she had no intention of staying out of my bedroom. So we compromised.

Snickers would jump up on my bed next to me while I read before going to sleep. As soon as the light flicked off, she would hop off. Then, once I was fully asleep, she would make her way to the tops of my feet.

I loved it. Waking up I could still move or roll over, and as long as I shifted her body with care, she'd just stay right on my feet. An excellent foot warmer.

The road to that compromise was a little bumpy, as you can imagine, but Snickers always found a way to appease us both.

When I arrived back to an empty home for the first time Friday evening, I followed my ingrained habit of opening the door slowly. Snickers would often be waiting for me just inside the door. After a couple of collisions, I learned to enter with caution.

Walking across my apartment, I realized I was placing my feet as if a cat might wrap herself through them. Snickers would often follow me as I moved around my apartment—one time, even into the shower. Even Thursday morning, she laid outside the shower on the rug, waiting for me, safe from the streaming water.

I think working without her by my side will be the hardest. Every Monday and Tuesday for the last two years, Snickers has sat on my lap, my shoulder blades or next to me for the long hours needed at my computer to put the paper together. She seemed to crave physical contact: before I changed office chairs, she knew just how to position herself on the top edge of the chair back to look—and maybe feel—like an old-fashioned "stoll," a shoulder wrap often made of animal fur.

But she wasn't just sentiment and warmth. Snickers was also very smart.



Snickers lays on my hand as I relax after a long day of work.

She chose one post where she would sharpen her claws, then didn't scratch anything else in my entire house.

When she would be loud, I would speak to her in a quiet voice, then she, in turn, would start meowing much more quietly.

I've already mentioned how smart she was with the sleeping arrangements. Early on, she tested every available option—my arms,

Star Eagle photo by Eli Lutgens shoulders, head—before deciding on my legs. Not only was that the safest place for her, it may have benefitted me as well. Having a cat on my feet seems to have done away with my occasional tendency to sleep walk.

I could not have asked for a better roommate. Thanks for the memories, Snickers.

RIP Snickers
20?? - April 18, 2025

In Brief

NRHEG Grand March 3:30 p.m. in the high school gym Sat., May 3

NRHEG grand march will be at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, May 3 in the high school gym. Participants are scheduled to stop by the New Richland Care Center between 2 and 2:30 prior to grand march. Afterwards, prom participants will travel to Stillwater for a meal and dance on a chartered boat followed by After Prom games and fun at WhirlyBall in Bloomington.

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.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



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

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Compostings

by Al Batt

It is a serious thing to be alive in this world

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS’ CLUB MEETING
It’s a sad thing.
What’s that?
All I’ve saved for a rainy day is the umbrella I lost.

DRIVING BY BRUCE’S DRIVE
I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. Vital statistics from the CDC and NCHS show the states that have the longest life expectancies are: 1. Hawaii (79.9 years) 2. Massachusetts 3. Connecticut 4. New Jersey & New York 6. Minnesota (78.8 years) 7. New Hampshire & Rhode Island 9. Vermont 10. California. Nebraska is 13, Wisconsin 14, Iowa 16 (77.7 years), North Dakota 17 and South Dakota 24. The shortest-lived people reside in 1. Mississippi (70.9 years) 2. West Virginia (71) 3. Alabama 4. Louisiana 5. Kentucky 6. Tennessee 7. Arkansas 8. Oklahoma 9. New Mexico 10. South Carolina. Many sources show the average lifespan of someone living in Canada is 3 years longer than someone living in the U.S.

1. Pick a number between 1 and 10
2. Double the number.
3. Add 8 to the result.
4. Divide the result by 2.
5. Subtract the original number.
6. Convert this into a letter of the alphabet.
A = 1, B = 2, C = 3, D = 4, E = 5, F = 6, G = 7, H = 8, I = 9, J = 10, K = 11, L = 12, M = 13, N = 14, O = 15, P = 16, Q = 17, R = 18, S = 19, T = 20, U = 21, V = 22, W = 23, X = 24, Y = 25, Z = 26
7. Think of the name of a country that starts with this letter.
8. Think of an animal whose name starts with the country’s second letter.
9. Think of the color of that animal.
Are you thinking of a gray elephant in Denmark?

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT
I watched “Duck Soup” and ‘A Night at the Opera,” starring the Marx Brothers: Chico, Harpo, Groucho, Gummo and Zeppo. I’d forgotten about their sister, who was a great Olympic runner. Her name was Onya. They honor her at the beginning of every race.
I just found out Albert Einstein was a real person. I thought he was a theoretical physicist.
I bought a horse named Mayo. Sometimes, Mayo neighs.
What do you call an ungrateful water heater? A thankless water heater.

NATURE NOTES
The sun had just gotten up, and the turkeys were doing roadwork. They relish standing in the middle

of a road and attempting to stare down cars. Large flocks of black-birds fed in a field near the road. One black squirrel was near them. Seeing the lake, the duck said, “What a dive.” Minnesota diving ducks are the canvasback, redhead, ringneck (ringbill), scaup (blue-bill), goldeneye, bufflehead and ruddy duck.

From Mary Oliver’s poem “Invitation”: “...it is a serious thing just to be alive on this fresh morning in this broken world. I beg of you, do not walk by without pausing to attend this rather ridiculous performance...” It was a cool and damp morning. The yard held many fallen sticks I gathered while listening to robin, cardinal, redwing, dove and pheasant voices. A vesper sparrow sang, “Oh-oh-my-mymy, its-such-a-beautiful day” from an elevated perch. My farming father loved hearing that. That sparrow sings at any time of the day but gets its name from its evening hymns (vespers). “Listen to my evening sing-ing-ing.” I watched an eastern phoebe pursue flying insects I couldn’t discern. My birdfeeders are locally owned and operated. LBJs filled the space below the seed dispensaries. Little Brown Jobs, including white-throated sparrows, song sparrows and chipping sparrows. I saw kinglet, sapsucker, bluebird, yellow-rumped warbler, bumblebee, butterfly, dragonfly and meadow-lark nearby. After giving a bazillion talks, I’ve learned that no one who has heard a western meadow-lark song ever forgets it.

I take in the feeders at night because of the rampaging and pillaging done by raccoons. Each morning, I return those feeders to their proper places. Blue jays magically appear to grab any peanuts I put out.

I saw red admiral butterflies the first week of April. They’re named for the red-bar markings on their black upper wings. They have white in the upper corners of the forewings. The undersides of the wings, often visible when the butterfly perches, are mottled in brown, tan and black, with a pink band and white spotting on the forewing. Some red admirals migrate south in the fall, and others overwinter in the adult or pupal stage. The caterpillar host plants are from the nettle family, including stinging nettle and wood nettle. The adults feed on sap flows, fermenting fruit and bird droppings, visiting flowers when other foods are unavailable.

MEETING ADJOURNED
“The best portion of a good man’s life is his little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love.”—William Wordsworth.



“We can cross this bridge together”
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NR Lions raising funds for playground

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer
A free-will donation breakfast offered by the New Richland Lions Club on Sunday, April 27 is raising funds to support the accessible playground due to be installed beginning in June at the NRHEG Elementary site in Ellendale. The breakfast menu includes eggs, sausage, pancakes, French toast and milk, orange juice and coffee, served from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the New Richland community center in city hall.

Playground planners are preparing for installation of about 10 new ac-

cessible features scheduled to begin in mid- to late June. Ulland Brothers contractor out of Albert Lea is donating time and equipment to prepare the site. Volunteers and skid loaders are being sought to help with removal of the old equipment shortly after the end of the school year and placement of wood chips once the new items have been installed.

Due to be in place as the 2025-’26 school year begins are a multi-faceted “learning wall” with a variety of activities; a pair of sand diggers, one of which is operated from a location on the sidewalk; some sound-based

play pieces; and three types of swings which allow children of various abilities to interact together.

Tim Truelson, sales consultant with Flagship Recreation, comments the range of selected equipment encourages “side by side” play, which is meant to reduce the sense of isolation handicapped visitors sometimes experience when play structures have stairs or narrow openings.

According to playground project leaders Wendy Schultz and Beth Schoenrock, fundraising to continue expanding the accessible side by side play options will continue until the

ultimate goal of \$200,000 is reached. Space in the school’s playground area has been designated for future phases including a “sway-fun” glider; using it, groups of children can all be seated together and use their arms and bodies to create a rocking/swaying motion.

Schultz mentions fundraising efforts began about two years ago and have included soliciting donations, selling a cookbook, and two events which are scheduled to be repeated each year—a “Color Fun Run” in the fall and a “Holiday Hangout” craft fair prior to Christmas.

Americana welcomes AuBree Nienoord

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer
After working for another agency located in Austin for the past three years, AuBree Nienoord says she is excited about a whole list of things as she settles in to her new position at the Americana office located in Ellendale.

“I love the small-town feel,” she begins. “Everyone is open and friendly, and offering to help me make connections in the community.”

She also looks forward to working with a wide variety of clients—from individuals and families to retail and production businesses.

“Americana is an insurance ‘broker,’” she explains. “I have the

resources to give customers access to options provided by between 10 and 20 companies, rather than only one.”

Along with that, Nienoord says she is grateful for the flexibility that comes with being part of the Americana network: if she is away from the office working with a customer, other knowledgeable representatives can take phone calls and provide assistance, allowing her the time to meet personally with clients at their locations.

“I get to know them, their property and their priorities,” she says of such visits, mentioning that relationship can help customers find the best-suited options and allow her to be of more assistance in times of need.

“It gives us a bit of an upper hand

communicating with the insurance companies,” she explains. “I know what this farm or this business looks like, I know something about the ways the structures are used and what goes on there.”

Nienoord also appreciates that her persistent presence in town—the Americana office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. most weekdays—makes her easily accessible to her clients.

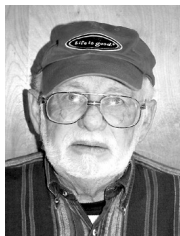
“I have a happy personality,” she comments. “I think that will bring something positive to every inter-

action,” even if it’s one of those times when “people might need a sympathetic ear.”

She comments “I think being an optimist is a good way to approach things. We all know we have to be prepared for bad things that can happen, but life is better when we expect things to work out for the best.”

Nienoord and her spouse Jermaine plan to live in Otisco, which has a central enough location for her work in Ellendale and his, in Owatonna, with a heating and air conditioning (HVAC) company. It also places them more centrally with family members from both sides.

Attend the Lady Bug’s grand re-opening April 26



FACT OR FICTION

...you decide
by Bob Hanson, Emeritus

forgetting to do something is an acceptable excuse.

F. Many businesses and events give a senior discount.

Your choice of your eggs sign at the fireman’s benefit for Alden-Conger on Sunday, April 13, 2025 read: Runny, Not so runny or will never run again.

Do the Yankees have a doctored bat? It seems they just might as even weak hitters are hitting some home runs.

It seems Genie and I are too old to be sparking under a full moon. Why so? Cause the last two full viewing

moons, the moon was nowhere to be seen in the sky. We refer you to Saturday night April 12, 2025 for the second time.

Short Shorts:

A. There is something about the last name of Lerbergs. The Lerberg person can change her last name, and even so, you know she will be successful. Welcome back to the field of coaching at NRHEG. Wendy, you da one!!

B. The snow is gone, the grass is turning green, pocket gophers are digging, tulips are budding, Norwegians are shedding their long johns,

it is done snowing ‘til October this fall. Yes, happy days are here again!!

Genie and I attended the Valentine’s brunch at Cross Of Glory Lutheran Church in Hartland, Minnesota on Sunday, February 23, 2025. In this column I referred to it as fabulous.

On Saturday, April 12, 2025, Genie and I attended the Salad Luncheon at Hartland Lutheran Church in Hartland, Minnesota. Some of the members expressed their wanting an equal or better comparison to Cross Of Glory in this column!! (They thought their brunch was better. And now you readers can see I am in trouble!! Please give me a week to solve my being in trouble.)

— — —

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.

■ Schoenrock from Page 1

someone says, ‘Aha, I get it!’

“And it’s fulfilling to see how students grow and mature and learn new skills over time.”

Teaching is a demanding job, she points out, so it’s important to be able to remain calm and in control. She mentions, for example, when her 25 class members are working independently practicing their math

skills. “The room is quiet, and then all of a sudden they all have a question.”

She speculates she would enjoy it if the walls of her classroom had whiteboards all around the perimeter. “Then I could be looking over all their shoulders at the same time.”

Having a mother who is a teacher has played a persistent role in Schoenrock’s career. For one thing, it gave her an early introduction. “Mom would bring me along on teacher workdays and ‘farm me out.’” She recalls helping put up bulletin boards and generally assisting with preparations for the start of the

school year or the change in seasons.

Now that she is on staff, Schoenrock says her students notice the identical last names and frequently need an explanation of the polite titles “Mrs.” and “Miss.”

“They often get said so quickly, kids don’t even notice the difference until you call their attention to it,” says Schoenrock.

She goes on to say her “favorite” times of the school year are not the exciting ones—the beginning, the ending or the holidays. “I like it best when things can be stable,” she says. “When we can stick to our routine and keep moving forward smoothly

with our learning.”

Part of her “routine” is to avoid assigning homework.

“We prioritize our time at school,” she says of her classroom. “I ask my students to apply themselves while they’re here, then go home, ‘just be kids,’ and spend time with their families.”

Another part is to emphasize the use of paper and pencil over electronic devices. “We’re learning number facts and handwriting,” she says. “The best way to do that is in our heads and with our hands.”

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Join the History Center of Freeborn County (HCFC) at Mom's Bread Co. as we recreate a Hotel Albert menu on May 3, 6:30 p.m.

The Hotel Albert played a significant role in the history of Freeborn County. The evening will include a brief history of Hotel Albert, live music and dinner, paired with Three Oak Vineyard and Winery wines. The menu features mussels in a white wine sauce, green salad, chicken breast stuffed with yummy goodness, mashed potatoes, and strawberry ice cream. Ice cream punch and coffee will also be served.

This is a fundraising event for the History Center. Tickets are \$100 per person. Limited to 60

guests. Dress in period costume if you like.

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 Director. 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 fchmmn.org.

The Willow's take-and-bake Easter Dinners well received

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Willow's Restaurant offered a solution for area residents who preferred to have their holiday celebrations at home, but did not want the fuss and bother of preparing a homemade meal: take home, ready-to-bake dinners for up to four adults. Customers were asked to place orders in advance and were able to pick up their mostly cooked, oven-ready food on Saturday, April 19. On the menu for the day were two full racks of ribs, slices of ham, cheesy hash browns and scalloped corn. The cost was \$60.

Chris O'Brien, youngest son of the owner, did most of the hard work for the customers. "We got all our orders on Wednesday the sixteenth. I had everything ordered by Thursday. Then, while keeping up on the day-to-day operations of the Willow's, I had everything thawed and set up by Friday. The Saturday before Easter, I started around 10 a.m. with the hash browns, then the ribs, then the corn. By two o'clock I had the first batch done. By three I had the next batch done and so on. We had 15 separate meals to fulfill."

Owner Julie Arnold said, "This sort of started when Covid hit. We didn't do it last year. 2024 was just the buffet. Next year we are doing the take-and-bake again for sure, on



Chris O'Brien and his mom, Julie Arnold pre-sold take-and-bake Easter Dinners on Saturday, April 19.

both Easter Sunday and Mother's day." While O'Brien was still cooking and handing the meals out, they only had a little time to cool, "They weren't like hot hot, just a little warm, they didn't need oven mitts or anything." The meals were served in two twin trays, not too big, that slid right into the oven for 30-35 minutes at 350 degrees, said O'Brien, "All the food was separated with parchment paper; Serving size was for four adults or a small family."

Although they are usually closed on Mondays, The Willow's will offer a limited menu on Memorial Day, May 26. After the veterans' breakfast and program at the NRHEG school in New Richland, there will be a post program lunch at The Willow's; all are welcome to come and enjoy the limited menu of \$11 BBQ pulled pork sandwich and potato salad.

Hartland City-Wide Rummage Sale

There will be a city-wide rummage sale in Hartland from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday, April 26. Maps available at the city hall/post office the morning of the sale.

Saturday, April 26

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New Richland City Wide-Garage Sales this weekend

SPRING SALES	2025
Southeast 1. 335 Balsam Ave S (Fri. 3pm-6pm, Sat. 8am-12pm) Boys & Girls clothing up to size 8, Women's clothing small & medium sizes, Men's XL clothing, Household & miscellaneous items. Priced to sell! 2. 325 2nd St. SE (Sat. 8am-5pm) Assorted craft items such as wood, blankets, keychains, Boy toys for all ages, many miscellaneous household items. 3. 360 Aspen Ave S (Fri. 9am-5pm, Sat. 8am-5pm) If bad weather NO sale Crafts, Nick-nacks, collectable things, books, men's & women's clothing, miscellaneous dishes, new & used tools, DVD's, DVD player, table & chairs, bike rims, wooden file box, TV stand, 1952 US Mail stagecoach with horse, lamps & other miscellaneous items. Southwest 4. 202 Birch Ave S (Fri. 9am-6pm, Sat. 7am-1pm) Household items, women & men's clothing, toys, books, infant to 5T boys' clothes, shoes, kitchen items, essential oils, baby carrier wraps, CD's, DVD's, sofa table. 5. 515 2nd St. SW (Fri. 12pm-6pm, Sat. 9am-5pm) MOVING SALE! Miscellaneous furniture & household items, clothing, ice fishing gear, bikes, grill, volleyball net. 6. 404 Cedar Ave S (Thur. 12pm-5pm, Fri. 9am-5pm, Sat. 9am-3pm) Tools, boat, hunting & fishing items, fence post & snow fence, garden items, other miscellaneous items. 7. 507 1st St. SW (Sat. 9am-2pm) Knives, hatchets, LP records and sleeves, books, McCoy pottery, 10X16 treasure boxes, stereo speakers, carom board, grinding wheels, vacuum & other miscellaneous items. 8. 408 2nd St. SW (Sat. 9am-5pm) Never used tools, storage racks, kitchen appliances, portable grills, scooter (will need batteries), red tractor, men's 2X clothing, top load washer and dryer, size 10 hunting boots. 9. 335 Ash Ave S (Thu. & Fri. 3pm-6pm, Sat. 8am-11am) New Stuff Daily! Fresh homemade sourdough bread, kitchen items, furniture & dressers, ladies gently used clothing size small, bikinis, All items listed are brand new: baby swings, bed rails, barbies, Disney princess, cribs, play mats, hot wheels, ride on toys, lift top desk & chair, smart changing pad/scale, kitchen set, Vtech, star wars, dinosaurs, Elsa ice palace, giant stuffed unicorn & tiger. Northwest 10. 411 6th St. NW (Sat. 8am-??) Grinder, hammock, metal detector, black table, clocks, paper shredder, electrical cords, garage blower, garage vacuum, men's size 7 tennis shoes, jackets, snowplow, clothes & other miscellaneous items. 11. 505 4th St. NW (Fri. 4pm-7pm, Sat. 8am-12pm) 2-person tent, sleeping bag, air mattress's shredder, milk cans, inspirational books, CD's, queen sheets, ceramic dolls, record albums, men's clothing, computer speakers, antique rocking chairs, & other miscellaneous items.	12. 409 6th St. NW (Sat. 8am-12pm) Console curio cabinet, quilt rack, pizzaz pizza maker, lamps, rugs & other miscellaneous items. 13. 520 4th St. NW (Fri. 4pm-7pm, Sat. 8am-12pm) Treadmill, Barbie Dream House, Barbie's w/ accessories, Paw Patrol bike w/ helmet, girls 2T-3T clothing, baby items, Pack-N-Play, nursing pillows, play mat, baby toys, kids' ride on toys, children's guitar, highchair, vanity, mirror, hot wheel tracks, girls' shoes. Northeast 14. 221 1st St. NE (Royal Villa) (Fri. 4pm-7pm, Sat. 8am-12pm) Weber grill, floor lamps, air purifier, new garment bag, storage stand, toaster, CD's, couch, large mirror, fan, boy's toddler clothing, large bean bag chair, Coco-Cola plates, games, craft paper, microwave. 15. 303 Aspen Ave N (Sat. 8am-2pm) Teen boy & girl clothes, women's clothing size L-3X, flowerpots, garden décor, Christmas lights/inflatables, home décor, Knick knacks, storage cubes, kerosene heater, sand blaster, 4-wheel dolly's, lawn spreader, many miscellaneous items. Lots of good deals! Outside of town 16. 25819 155th St. (Sat. 7am-11:30am) Everything is priced to move! Trampoline, portable basketball hoop, gardening supplies, tools, toys, bicycles, electronics, sports equipment & more! 17. 25477 110th St. (Sat. 8am-4pm) Kids toys, kids clothing, home décor, antique doors, tools, outdoor toys & kitchen supplies. 18. 14179 200th Ave (Hartland) (Fri. 3pm-7pm, Sat. 8am-12pm) Hunting gear, knives, wood, wall & garden art, art kids, fashion jewelry, x-mas stuff, antique sewing machines & other miscellaneous items. 19. 32957 Hwy 13 (Sat. 8am-3pm) Clothing and other miscellaneous items. 20. 17340 240th Ave (St. Olaf) (Fri eve, Sat. 8am-??) Moving Sale!!-Furniture, tools & miscellaneous items. 21. 20798 Matawan Ave (Sat. 8am-2pm) Household items, décor, appliances, puzzles, games, books, DVD's, adult clothing, outboard motors. 22. 24685 180th St. (Fri. 10am-4pm, Sat. 8am-2pm) Boys clothing 3mo.-5T, 6T pajamas, girls clothing 8-12. Maternity & juniors(S) clothing, lots of toys, household & other miscellaneous items, outside table & chairs. 23. 12301 260th Ave (Sat. 8am-3pm) Small desk, table & chairs, misc. chairs, weber charcoal grill, LOTS of miscellaneous items! 24. 23808 Hwy 13 (Fri. 5pm-7pm, Sat. 7am-11am) Clothing: Women's S-2X, Men's 2X, Girl's NB-5T, Boy's NB-2T, kids & adult shoes, toys, furniture & baby items.

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Image displays a newly completed grass waterway that was built with the assistance of Waseca SWCD.

Controlling erosion in Waseca County

As many of us have heard for most of our lives, March comes in like a lion and goes out like lamb. It seems that this year March came in like a lion and then out like one, with snowfall at both the beginning and end of the month. There was more snow in March than we’ve had all winter. With or without snow, winter can be harsh on bare soils in rural Waseca County. For most of this winter, we saw minimal snow, cold temperatures, and days that were very windy. This may be the perfect storm for invisible soil loss caused by high wind speeds. You may not notice the soil when it leaves, but you will notice when it is gone.

Soil is one of the key components to having a successful yield. It is filled with microorganisms and essential nutrients that can be beneficial in supporting plant life and agriculture as a whole. Heavy tillage, reduction of organic matter, and leaving the soil bare can speed up the loss of soil on agricultural lands. In addition to operational practices, soil often gets blown or washed away after expedited snow melt or extreme weather.

Luckily, there are many conservation practices that can help keep your soil in place.

Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) financially and technically supports landowners completing projects that conserve soil on their land. This could range anywhere from planting a cover crop after harvest of a cash crop or a structural practice like a grassed waterway.

If you have been frustrated with an area on your field where water continually concentrates and creates gully erosion during heavy rains, it could be a suitable area for a conservation practice. Repairs of problem areas like this can be costly and timely to manage over the years. A grassed waterway could be a good option to help solve a problem like this.

Grassed waterways are channels planted with a perennial cover that carries runoff and sediment at a slower rate to prevent erosion on farm fields. Grassed waterways can be paired with filter strips to prevent additional nutrients and soils to run off into neighboring streams or ditches. Not only does a grassed water-

way benefit the area it is constructed on, but the field as a whole. It directs water in a way that works with the land, rather than struggling against it.

Another practical solution to erosion is planting cover crops after harvest or interseeding them into a standing cash crop. Cover crops can create a shielding blanket over the soil that provides many practical benefits. For many people the primary benefit is reducing erosion. For others it may be increasing organic matter, increasing water infiltration, suppressing weeds, or other personal benefits. Cereal rye can be particularly beneficial for reducing erosion because it has an extensive root system that can help in stabilizing the soil. It is also a winter hardy plant; if planted in the fall, it will continually grow the next spring as well, as conditions allow. Cereal rye is just one of many different types of cover crops that can be helpful in reducing erosion, depending on your operation needs.

Of course, adopting any new practice requires commitment and patience, especially when it involves erosion. Waseca SWCD may be able to assist in alleviating some of the financial and technical burdens of adopting or installing a new practice. Waseca SWCD can connect you to cost share programs that will help in reducing some of the financial burdens to the practice application, and also provide engineering assistance customized to your land.

While some people may be ready to commit to something new, others may need some time to educate themselves and learn before they are willing to commit to a new practice or install a structural project. Waseca SWCD can be here to support you regardless of the capacity needed. We can also connect interested individuals to educational events and resources.

Adopting a conservation practice that helps prevent erosion will lead to long-term benefits that help you and your farm be productive and resilient in a changing world. Maintaining your soil and land now will be part of the key to sustaining your legacy for years to come.

Fewer Easter traditions and celebrations

By PASTOR KYLE SMITH
Ellendale

Easter is here! For some of us, it’s a shock how quickly Easter comes. For others, particularly for those who participate in Lenten Services, we’ve already been preparing for Easter, or perhaps it’s better to say, “God has been the one preparing us for Easter.” Either way, Easter Sunday will be here before you know it.

I’m not sure if it’s just me and the family I grew up in, but it seems there are far fewer Easter traditions and celebrations than Christmas. As I was growing up, every year around Christmas we would get together with extended family, eat a big meal, read the Christmas story from Luke 2, exchange presents, and of course, go to church on Christmas Eve. Those are all great traditions that my wife and I have kept up for our new family, and we’ve even added a couple more. But what about Easter traditions?

Personally, I can’t think of too many Easter traditions off the top of my head. Perhaps you can. Of course, there’s going to church, getting together with family, eating a big meal, perhaps hunting for Easter eggs, but that’s about it. It



seems a bit odd to me that as Christians, we would have more Christmas traditions than Easter traditions. Yes, we celebrate Jesus humbling Himself by coming into the world and putting on flesh, but why would He do such a thing? To suffer, die, be buried, and rise from the dead to defeat sin, death, and the devil. Jesus was born to save us and every sinner who comes to Him through his work in His life, death, and resurrection. The reason why Christmas is such a big deal is because it is leading up to Easter Sunday. If you’re looking for traditions to help you and others remember the reason for the season and to have your hearts better prepared for celebration on Easter Sunday, here are some options to consider.

1. Observe Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Yes, I know these are not on Easter Sunday, but they do wonders to help our hearts be prepared to celebrate Easter for what it is, the celebration of Jesus

Christ rising from the dead. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, as well as the other days in the season of Lent, have a strong emphasis on why Jesus went to the cross in the first place. Jesus went to the cross to die for our sins, so that we don’t have to. Jesus went to the cross, so that he would suffer instead of us. Jesus went to the cross to take our place. Jesus went to the cross and rose again to proclaim victory and give His righteousness to all who receive faith in Him. When we take the time to participate in Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, our hearts are better prepared for the joy of Easter morning.

2. If you have kids, you may consider doing a project with them, such as baking Resurrection Rolls. Resurrection rolls are cinnamon-coated marshmallows, wrapped in dough, then baked. When you break them open, they are empty inside, representing Jesus’ tomb on Easter morning. Another fun idea

if you have kids and do an Easter Egg hunt is to put a Bible verse on a small piece of paper in each Easter Egg. That way, the kids still get their candy, but they also are reminded of what Easter is all about.

3. Whether you have children or not, perhaps you take some time to read the resurrection story from Luke 24:1-49 or John 20:1-29. If there are multiple people in your household, one person can volunteer to read the whole passage or multiple people can take turns reading. Undoubtedly, your pastor will be preaching on the resurrection of Jesus on Easter morning, so you may have already heard part of the story, but chances are, he won’t cover every verse.

Whatever traditions you have, I pray that this upcoming Easter Sunday and the entire Easter Season will be a blessing to you and your family. May the Lord use this last part of the Lenten Season and the beginning of the Easter Season to refresh your hearts and strengthen your faith in the risen Son of God, Christ Jesus our Lord, who lived, died, and rose again for us.

NOTICE

Berlin Township Board Meeting

Monday, May 12, 2025

7:00 p.m. in the Ellendale Comm. Bldg.

(in the Board Room)

Helen Schmidt, Berlin Township Clerk

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MOVEMENT ON THE BASE PATHS — At left, NRHEG’s Chloe Stork rounds third base and races to home during the Panthers’ 15-8 victory over Blooming Prairie at Legion Field in New Richland. At right, the Panthers’ Ezra Boerner slides safely into second.



Softball Panthers return to winning ways

NRHEG mows down Blooming Prairie 15-8 after 7-0 loss to tough Bethlehem Academy team

The NRHEG High School softball team got back to its winning ways Monday, defeating visiting Blooming Prairie 15-8 in a Gopher Conference game at New Richland's Legion Field.

The Blossoms scored first, on a solo home run in the top of the first inning, but they didn't score again until the fifth. By then, the Panthers had a 9-1 lead. They broke it open with six runs in the bottom of the fifth.

"I was proud of the way the girls played tonight, especially on the defensive end," said NRHEG coach Wendy Schultz. "Cam and Olivia had a lot of action on the left side and made a lot of nice plays. Defensively, the whole team played

well as we committed one error. Offensively, the girls got the bats going and had quite a few solid hits. It was a good team win."

Cam VanMaldeghem, third base player, and Aspy Stenzel led the Panthers, both going 3-for-4. VanMaldeghem scored three runs, drove in three and had two stolen bases. Stenzel scored twice.

Paige Johnson was 2-for-2 with two RBIs, Olivia Berg 2-for-3 with a double, two RBIs and three stolen bases. Addie Stadheim, Chloe Stork, Kiera Eustice and Ezra Boerner added one hit each.

The Panthers combined for three strikeouts and two walks while scoring 10 earned runs.

Brooklyn Sommer pitched for the

"I was proud of the way the girls played tonight, especially on the defensive end."
— NRHEG coach Wendy Schultz

Panthers, allowing seven earned runs on nine hits, with two strikeouts and four walks.

Last Thursday, the Panthers lost 7-0 to Bethlehem Academy at Faribault in a game that was called after six innings because of lightning.

"We lost to a tough team," said Coach Schultz. "I was happy with the way the girls played defense

tonight, committing only one error. We struggled getting runners on base, but Aspy and Cam both had great hits that were doubles."

They were the Panthers' only hits on the day as NRHEG hitters struck out 12 times and did not draw a walk.

Sommer gave up seven earned runs on nine hits, fanning three and walking five.



Berg



E.Boerner

The Panthers, 2-2 in the Gopher Conference and 2-4 overall, play today at 4:30 at Hayfield and Friday at 5 p.m. at Tri-City United before a weekend tournament at Caswell Park in Mankato. They host JWP Monday at 4:30.



BIG ARM – NRHEG shortstop Aiden Schlaak fires to first from his shortstop position. Below, coach Shawn Larson talks to Seth Staloch at third base.



TOUGH OUTING — NRHEG starting pitcher Wyatt Larson delivers during the Panthers’ 10-3 loss to Hayfield at Reese Field in New Richland. Photo courtesy Steele County Times

Progress at Blooming Prairie

Panthers keep it close after 10-3 loss to Hayfield

The NRHEG High School baseball team dropped a 10-3 decision to Hayfield at Reese Field in New Richland last Tuesday.

After taking a 4-0 lead in the top of the first inning, sparked by an NRHEG fielding error and an injury to the starting pitcher, the Vikings led 8-0 before the Panthers scored twice in the bottom of the third.

By then it was too late. The visitors cruised to the win.

"We got off to an extremely difficult start, with an error to start the game," said NRHEG head coach Shawn Larson. "That was followed almost immediately by the removal of our pitcher after being struck by a batted ball."

More of the same followed.

"The next two innings continued in this way with our focus slightly off, and execution that followed our focus," said Larson. "If we want to compete like some of the teams we are losing to, we need to play with our minds more than we have been."



Wyatt Larson was the unfortunate starter for NRHEG on the mound. Levi Whiteside was the first to relieve, going 5 2/3 innings while allowing three earned runs on seven hits, with four walks and three strikeouts. Fynn Baumann finished on the mound, giving up one earned run on one hit in 1 1/3 innings.

A.J. Deen, Owen Wayne, Aiden Schlaak, Ryan Schlaak, Jace Ihrke and Carter Martens had one hit apiece. Wayne drove in three runs.

Four Hayfield pitchers combined for eight strikeouts and four walks.

"Tomorrow we will get a much needed

practice, and hopefully we will turn it around Thursday," said Coach Larson.

The Panthers were rained out Thursday. They played Mnday at Blooming Prairie and kept in close in a 3-1 final. It was, according to Coach Larson, more like it.

"Today the people that were in Blooming Prairie witnessed what a baseball game is supposed to look like," he stated. "Unfortunately, we were on the losing side of it, but this game was played cleanly on both sides of the ball for both teams. Baseball is a beautiful thing in the nice weather with kids competing the way

we saw today."

Wayne was again competitive on the mound, pitching four innings and leaving with the score tied 1-1. Larson went the rest of the way and took the loss. They combined for eight strikeouts and seven walks, allowing three hits total.

Alden Dobberstein was 2-for-3 with a double and an RBI. Wayne and Deen had one hit apiece.

The Panthers play Tri-City United at Montgomery Friday in a 5 p.m. doubleheader. They're at JWP at 4:30 Monday and host Mankato Loyola at 5 p.m. Tuesday.

Panther track teams 5th, 6th at Maple River

The NRHEG High School track and field teams traveled to Mapleton last Tuesday for the Maple River Invitational.

The girls finished fifth among six schools.

Chloe Reiwer raced to gold in the 100-meter dash, winning in a season-best 13.8 seconds. She was third in the long jump at 14-10 and tied for sixth in the pole vault at 6-6.

Kylie Olson, a sophomore, won the shot put at 33-11 and took fourth in the discus at 88-8.

Sophomore Clara Buendorf was second in the 200, clocking a personal-best 28.85. Anika Ladlie cleared 5-2 for second in the high jump.



Olson



Buendorf



Ladlie

Julianne Wobbrock, an 8th-grader, was third in the 1600 in 5:57.

The Panthers' Gabby Schlaak placed in both hurdle events, taking fifth in the 110s in 17.72 and sixth in the 300s in 55.7. She was fifth in the long jump at 14-2.

Other NRHEG top-six places: Sierra Fish, 6th, discus, 86-0; Peyton Frye, 7th, 400, 1:10.3; 4x400 relay, 4th (Sierra Misgen, Morgan Studier, Buendorf, Frye); 4x200, 6th (Misgen, Buendorf, Gia Cazares, Tiffany Jewison); 4x100, 5th (Riewer, Ladlie, Cazares, Studier).

St. Clair Immanuel Lutheran won with 165 points, followed by Minnesota Valley Lutheran with 143.5, JWP 137, Maple River 94, NRHEG 88.5 and USC/AC 32.

The top placewinner for the NRHEG boys was junior Jacob Karl, who finished third in the 1600 in a personal-best 5:11.5.

Also placing in the top six: Lavon Jewison, 4th, high jump, 5-6; Harbor Cromwell, 6th, 200, 24.0; 4x200, 4th (Charlie Fuller, Wyatt Tuttle, Nathan Hager, Noah Weller); 4x400, 6th (Cromwell, Col Hutchens, Logan Schell, Gavin Sletten); 4x100, 5th (Hutchens, Colton Conroy, Hager, Cromwell).

Boys' team standings: Maple River 171, Minnesota Valley Lutheran 155, JWP 115, USC/AC 103.5, St. Clair/Immanuel Lutheran 78.5, NRHEG 46, Martin County West 23.

The NRHEG girls competed Tuesday at Blooming Prairie. Both squads are at the JWP Invitational April 29 at 4:30.

Golfers face Triton, Bl. Prairie

The 2025 NRHEG Panther Invitational was held Monday at Riverview Golf Course in rural New Richland.

No team scores were reported as the Panthers faced Triton and Blooming Prairie.

Scores for the NRHEG boys: Reid Sandry 45, Shan Hansen 53, Chase Hanson 54, Braydon Rollag 55, Tyler Kress 57, Matthew Williams 61.

For the girls: Alexis Olson 70.

The Panthers play today at 4:30 at The Oaks Golf Club and Tuesday at Albert Lea's Wedgewood Cove at 1 p.m.

HCFC announces matching fund campaign

ALBERT LEA, MN—The History Center of Freeborn County announced today that the non-profit received a \$4,000 challenge grant from donors. The grant will match dollar-for-dollar all donations from supporter’s April 16 through May 30.

“Our first priority is the Winjum Home porch, as we are eager to get the home in the village cataloged and new interpretation installed,” said Executive Director Stephanie Kibler. “Whether it’s installing a remarkable exhibit, helping children experience history through tours and hands-on activities, or offering lectures and programming year round,” said Kibler, “everything that FCHM does is made possible by our loyal supporters. Their generosity of support in time and treasure makes it possible for us to continue to build the future by preserving the past. We are extremely grateful for our donors to invest in our organization in a way that encourages

others to offer their support.”

Donations can be made online at lovehistory.org, by calling the history center at 507/373-8003 with your credit card, on Venmo @FCHM1031, by USPS, or by stopping in the history center Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

ABOUT HCFC

The History Center of Freeborn County is a non-profit educational and cultural institution established in 1948, committed to building the future by preserving the past. FCHM collects, preserves and tells the story of Freeborn County’s past through museum exhibits, research, collections, tours, and educational programs. The Museum is located at 1031 Bridge Avenue, Albert Lea, MN. Museum can be reached at 507/373-8003. Visit us at fchmmn.org or find us on Facebook.

Inaugural National Home Visiting Week is April 21-25

Impact on maternal and child health outcomes

The first-ever National Home Visiting Week takes place April 21-25, an observance to celebrate and recognize home visitors and the positive impact they make on maternal and child health outcomes.

Home visiting connects pregnant and parenting families with young children to trained family support professionals who provide customized coaching and guidance through pregnancy and the early stages of a child’s development. Utilizing a variety of evidence-based models, home visiting supports healthy birth outcomes, increases family self-sufficiency and helps children enter school fully prepared to succeed.

At Waseca County Public Health, our Family Home Visiting serves to support young families at no cost. Our programs are completely voluntary and best served when we can enroll prenatally. Some of the activities families can expect from these services are reviewing developmental milestones,

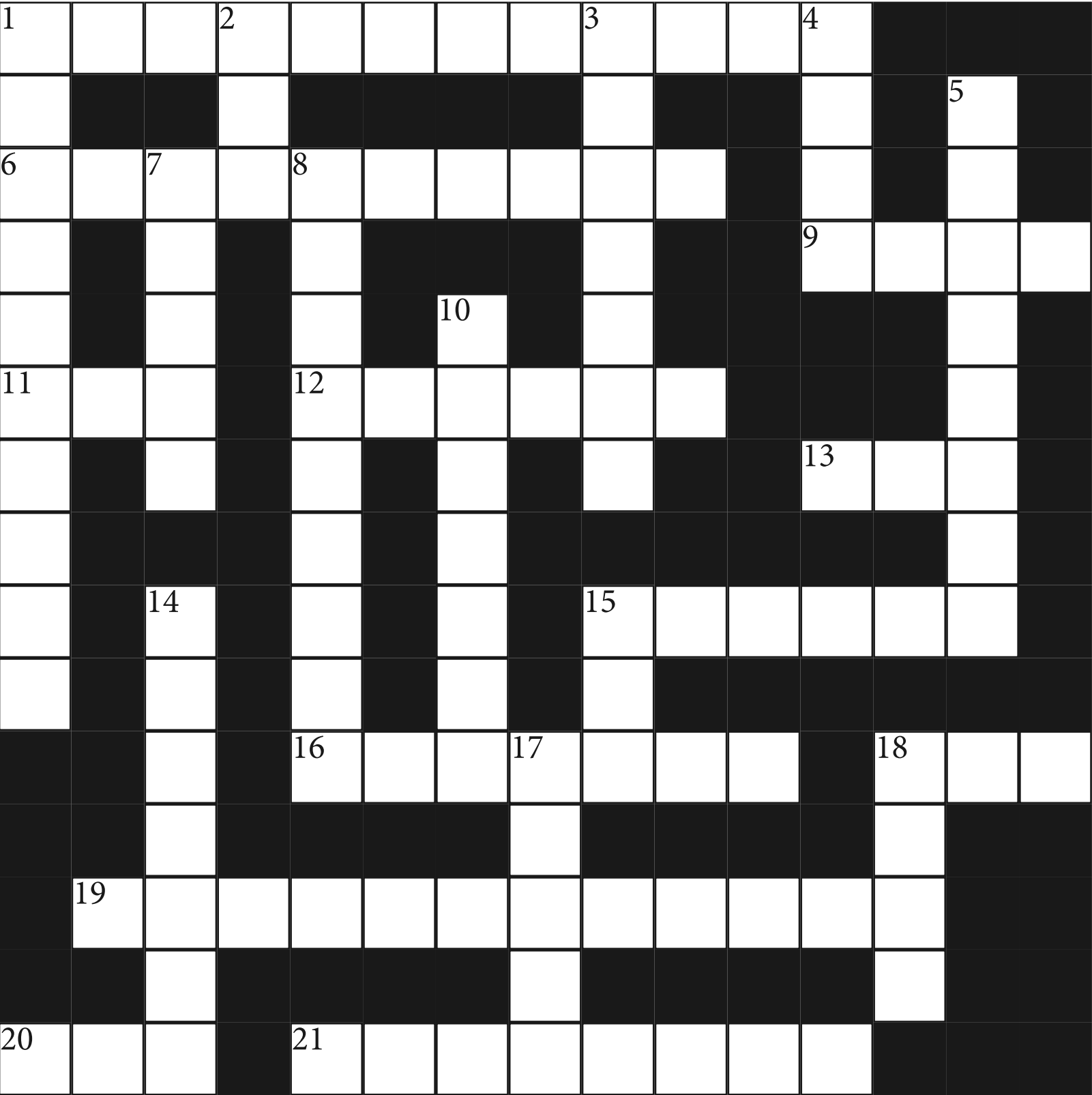
making positive family memories, and exploring your questions through the parenting journey.

In 2023, more than 280,000 families engaged in home visiting services across the U.S. Organizations throughout the country are celebrating National Home Visiting by sharing their services on social media and other digital channels.

“Our family home visiting program is invaluable in the early years of parenting,” says Healthy Families Minnesota South Central Counties Home Visiting Program Manager, Liz Heimer. “In 2024, 100% of our families shared that they are more confident that they can do a good job raising their child due to being part of Healthy Families.”

For more information or to make a referral or self-referral, please email Sam Holicky at sam.holicky@wasecacounty.gov or call our office at 507-835-0685 to inquire about Family Home Visiting.

CROSSWORD CANDY

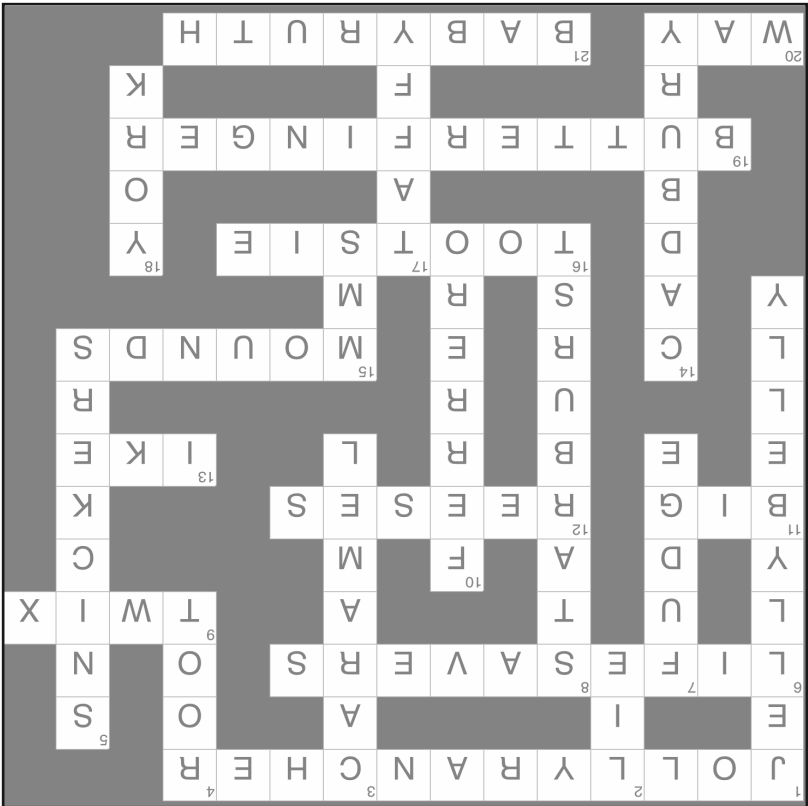


ACROSS

- 1 Hard candy with intense fruit flavors
- 6 Ring-shaped hard candies
- 9 Cookie bar with caramel & chocolate
- 11 First word of shredded bubble gum
- 12 Peanut butter cup candy
- 13 Second name in chewy candy
- 15 Dark chocolate & coconut candy bar

DOWN

- 1 Gourmet jelly bean brand
- 2 Candy should be a principle part of one’s diet
- 3 Chewy, sweet, brown candy
- 4 Part of plant some candy flavors come from
- 5 Peanut & caramel chocolate bar
- 7 Rich chocolate confection
- 8 Chewy fruit-flavored squares
- 10 Italian confectionery company



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You are cordially invited to the 2025 Annual Meeting of Bayview/Freeborn Funeral & Cremation Services for the 86th year in business

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:

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

PUBLIC INVITED

Please join us for a brief meeting, lunch and fellowship.

RSVP appreciated but not required by calling 507-373-4330 or email bayviewfuneral@gmail.com

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You needn't go too far to experience good fishing

We have been receiving some much-needed rain, but I am sure that the farmers are getting anxious to start their field work. As for myself, I am more than ready to get up to the cabin for the first time this year.

Once I get there, I plan to stay for a while. I have been up there so many times by myself that I have actually come to enjoy the solitude. If I want to talk to someone, besides the critters, I always have my cell phone. I check in with my wife, Jean, at least once a day and also, my two sons.

When I get up there this time, I believe that the dock will be in and ready to use, thanks to my grandson Dylan and his stepbrother Caden. I may go up next week if things work out.

I can't wait to take in the smell of pine trees for the first time this year. Just like the sounds of the woods, there are certain odors that I also associate with "up north."

I hope that Pickeral Lake can, once again, be a good lake to fish for northern. It froze out about three



Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl
Outdoors Writer

years ago and was stocked again in 2023. Pike grow fast in these shallow lakes of southern Minnesota, so the fish should be keeper-size in another year. A few years ago, the northern fishing was fantastic with many 30+inch fish being caught. The last couple of years the winters have been mild, so the chance of freezing out was lessened.

The fishing should be good in many of the area lakes this year. I am looking forward to doing more fishing locally this summer. There are many lakes in the area to fish in and I look forward to exploring more of them. I haven't fished Beaver Lake in years and that may be one to try. I would also like to go to Reeds Lake by the town of Ely-

sian to bring back memories of many openers years ago.

Before I started going to the Governor's Opener, I would go to Reeds Lake for the opener. I was able to catch a few walleye on the opener. Eventually, there were more and more folks coming there for the opener and the small parking area at the landing would be so packed that, if you got there late, you had to park on the side of the road. That was when I decided to go to Fountain Lake on the opener. I surprised myself and the boys by catching walleye and northern on our first day of fishing there. It was a well-kept secret that there were walleye in the lake. I will be trying Fountain again this year before the

jet skis and water skiers get too abundant. I'd guess that early morning or late evening would be best for fishing this lake in the summer.

Until next time: From the DNR: Anglers and paddlers have wasted little time getting out on open water across Minnesota. However, with water temperatures still dangerously low, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reminds anyone around lakes, rivers, and ponds that cold water is dangerous and unexpected falls quickly can turn tragic.

About 30% of fatal boating accidents each year happen during the cold-water period, and many involve victims who weren't wearing a life jacket. The most effective way to survive a fall into cold water is to wear a life jacket and make sure it's buckled or zipped.

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

LOOKING BACK

25 years back



- Waseca County American Dairy Association held its annual banquet and princess coronation on Saturday evening at the Waseca American Legion club rooms. Region X Dairy princess Amy Demmer (center) did the honors of crowning Amy Harguth (left) and Amy Dobberstein Waseca County Dairy Princess 2000. Each were presented with a bouquet of roses as the 2000 princesses and received a portrait of themselves for serving as 1999 princesses.

- Valorie Crumb. Lundberg - Lee American Legion Auxiliary Unit 266 of Hartland has announced the selection of Valorie Crumb as their candidate to attend the 54th session of Minnesota Girls State. Girls state will be held June 11 - 17 at Bethel College in St. Paul. Valorie is the daughter of Brett and Lori Crumb of Hartland and is a junior at NRHEG, and is an A honor roll student along with being a member of SHOC.



- Melissa Barber broke the school record in the Accelerated Reader Program at the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Middle school last week. She read 12 books at the 6.5 grade level in the past quarter to earn 133 points. Here she sits beside the computer the students are tested on after reading each book. Melissa is the daughter of Wayne and Sarah Barber of New Richland.

50 years back

- These three Waldorf-Pemberton High School band members will travel with the United States Collegiate Wind Band for three weeks in Europe this summer. They are Dan Geary, Bonita Tesch and Cindy Murphy.

- Dale Hoffman of the Waldorf-Pemberton FFA chapter, was recently elected to the office of District Treasurer. He will assume his duties on April 24 at the District FFA Banquet at Owatonna. Dale is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Hoffman of rural Pemberton. Other officers elected were Corey Seppman, president; Dave Schneider, secretary; Dennis Morgan, reporter and Rich Kelm and Mike Strobel, district sentinels.

- Jane Mueller, daughter of Mrs. Armin Mueller of Waldorf and the late Mr. Muellert, has been awarded an Aid Association for Lutherans Church Vocation College Support System Scholarship during the 1974-75 academic year.

75 years back

- Mr. and Mrs. Fred Proehl received the announcement of their first granddaughter, born to Mr. and Mrs. Roy Hall (Lulu Proehl) of Milan, Ill., on Mother's day, May 14. The little girl weighed seven pounds and nearly 13 ounces and has been named Margret Lucille. The Halls have a son, Arvid, who is five years of age.

- Mr. and Mrs. James Jeddelloh are parents of twin sons born Thursday afternoon at the Memorial hospital, Waseca. One weighed 5½ pounds and the other son was 6 pounds. Mr. Jeddelloh is attending Macalester College and will graduate at the end of this quarter. Mrs. Jeddelloh is the

Attend the Church of your Choice!

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor

Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship
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 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.stisidoreschool.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, Minne-

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.

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Kwik Trip
HOPE - Krause Feeds & Supplies

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DARLENE ABRAHAM HAS MOVED

DARLENE ABRAHAM
2195 CENTURY AVE S, APT. 220
WOODBURY, MN 55125

Thank You New Richland, my hometown, for everything! I've had a wonderful life here. You are all my family, and I will miss you very much. Clarence and I had the gift of living, working and raising our children in a supportive community; 52 years in our home and 10 years at Royal Villa. Abraham's store's amazing customers, along with our caring friends and neighbors, were a big part of our life. I have moved to be nearer to my family.

Darlene

PUBLIC NOTICE
City of Ellendale Public Hearing
REGARDING: Property Tax Abatement
Applications

Notice is hereby given the City Council of Ellendale, Minnesota, will hold a public hearing on May 8, 2025, at 6:30 pm at the Ellendale City Hall, 106 Sixth Avenue W, Ellendale, Minnesota to accept public comment on property tax abatement applications for the construction of new residential homes. Per the City Tax Abatement Policy, any person who constructs a new single-family home, duplex, or who increases the value of a residential property by at least 50%, or who files application material and seeks formal approval from appropriate local jurisdiction by April 15, 2025 may be eligible to receive a 100% tax abatement of the City's share of increased real estate taxes which result from increased value (i.e. not from increased tax rates), for a period of five (5) years.

Eligible applicant properties are:
301 4th St. N.; 304 3rd Ave. W.; 504 Park Ave.

Dated: April 17, 2025

Steve Engel

Steve Engel
City Clerk/Treasurer
City of Ellendale

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PROPOSED ASSESSMENT

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of New Richland in Waseca County, Minnesota will meet at **6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 12th, 2025**, in the city hall, located at 203 Broadway Ave N, New Richland, MN 56072, to consider, and possibly adopt the proposed assessment for the 2025 Street & Utility Improvements Project, consisting of improvements to the following:

- Ash Ave S from 2nd St SW (Trunk Highway 30) to 4th St SW
- Broadway Ave S from 2nd St SW (Trunk Highway 30) to 4th St SW
- 4th St SW from Ash Ave S to Broadway Ave S
- 3rd St SE from Broadway Ave S to dead end

The area proposed to be assessed for such improvements includes all properties located along the above-described roadways.

Adoption by the council of the proposed assessment against such properties may be taken at the hearing or at any subsequent City Council meeting. The total estimated cost of the improvement is \$2,970,000.00.

The proposed assessment roll is on file for public inspection at the city clerk's office. The total amount of the proposed assessment is declared not to exceed \$458,765.80. Such assessment is proposed to be payable in equal annual installments extending over a period of 20 years, the first of the installments to be payable on or before the first Monday in January 2026, and will bear interest per annum of 1.5 percent above interest rate on the bond issued by the City to finance the improvements. To the first installment shall be added interest on the entire assessment from the date of adoption of the assessment resolution or November 15, 2025, whichever is later until December 31, 2026. To each subsequent installment when due shall be added interest for one year on all unpaid installments.

You may at any time prepay the entire assessment to the City Clerk, 203 Broadway Ave N, New Richland, MN 56072. No interest shall be charged if the entire assessment is paid on or before November 15, 2025. You may at any time thereafter, pay to the City Clerk, 203 Broadway Ave N, New Richland, MN 56072, the entire amount of the assessment remaining unpaid, with interest accrued to December 31 of the year in which such payment is made. Such payment must be made before November 15 or interest will be charged through December 31 of the succeeding year.

Written or oral objections will be considered at the meeting. No appeal to district court may be taken as to the amount of an assessment unless a written objection signed by the affected property owner is filed with the municipal clerk prior to the assessment hearing or presented to the presiding officer at the hearing. The council may upon such notice consider any objection to the amount of a proposed individual assessment at an adjourned meeting upon such further notice to the affected property owners as it deems advisable.

An owner may appeal an assessment to district court pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 429.081 by serving notice of the appeal upon the mayor or clerk of the city within 30 days after the adoption of the assessment resolution and filing such notice with the district court within ten days after service upon the mayor or clerk. However, no appeal may be taken on the amount of the assessment unless a written objection signed by the property owner was filed with the city clerk before the assessment hearing or presented to the presiding officer at the hearing, unless the failure to object was due to reasonable cause.

Minnesota Statutes Section 435.193 through 435.195 authorize a municipality to defer the payment of assessments against homestead property owned by persons 65 years of age and older, or who are retired because of permanent and total disability under circumstances where it would be a hardship for such person to make the assessment payments. When deferment of the special assessment has been granted and is terminated for any reason provided in that law, all amounts accumulated plus applicable interest become due. Any assessed property owner meeting the requirements of this law, may, within 30 days of the adoption of the assessment resolution, apply to the city clerk for the prescribed form for such deferral of payment of this special assessment on his/her property.

Anthony Martens
City Administrator

Published in the NRHEG Star Eagle on April 24th.

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PHB's Lawyer Ellie James

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

Ellie James has been a lawyer with Patton, Hoversten and Berg (PHB) law office in Waseca since this past December, but her connection to legal work has been ongoing ever since she earned her master's degree in business administration and began to work with the human resources office at Rice County in 2017.

"It seemed I was working with lawyers all the time," she recalls. "I began to realize it was a job that aligned with who I am."

As for what that means, she comments many people may have a misconception about how lawyers spend their work time. "We are by nature researchers, readers, and writers," she clarifies. "Every word counts." She goes on to say much of her time is spent keeping current with court decisions which affect matters she is working on, drafting documents, and communicating with clients.

Ellie, 34, completed her law degree in 2022, then spent a couple of years serving as a law clerk in an area courtroom before taking on her job at PHB.

Among the types of cases she handles are estate, probate, family law, and business and employment law. She says she is glad to be working at a firm with such a strong connection to the area community.

Ellie grew up in Waseca and graduated as a Bluejay, while her husband, Jacob James, graduated as a Buccaneer. Now married for 15 years, the two of them live in Elysian and have five children: Mackenzie, 14; Madelynn, 13; Meredith, 7; Weston, 9; and Miriam, 2.

"As you would guess, I feel really connected to the community, its people and its culture," she observes. "I want the best possible outcome for people because it not only helps them; in many cases it helps keep the community stable."



Ellie James, a lawyer in the Waseca office of Patton, Hoversten and Berg, has deep roots in the area. She graduated from Waseca High School and has always lived in or near Waseca County.

Photo by Deb Bently

Recognizing that people sometimes seek a lawyer's assistance when they feel a sense of urgency or uncertainty, Ellie assures, "Processes in law are very important and sometimes take a central role, but they don't move fast." Falling in line with her statement, lawyers make sure their work is carefully researched. She points out court procedures are usually scheduled weeks or even months apart.

"Sometimes that doesn't line up with the idea of urgency," she observes, "but it makes sure everyone has time to make certain their information is well prepared and their claims have a sound basis in law."

What she and other lawyers can do for people who feel caught up in a crisis, she says, is to help them take a practical look at their circumstances and learn what steps are available moving forward.

Ellie says she feels particularly honored when she can work with clients in drafting their estate plans. "People have given a lot of thought about how they want to see things continue," she describes. "It's a privilege to help them set everything up, so their wishes will be clear and things will play out as they choose."

She goes on to say, for her, PHB is just the right size to allow for connection and collaboration. "We have a small-town atmosphere and a small-town approach," she says. "We lawyers can build relationships with our clients and use that understanding to do the best possible job for them. The staff is a size that allows us to seek each other out and make use of each other's expertise."

"I'm really grateful to be where I am, helping the people this role allows me to help."

Award Winners

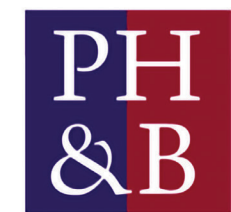


From left, Jordan Brouwers, Harbor Cromwell, Chloe Stork. NRHEG Juniors Brouwers and Stork were recipients of 'ExCel Awards' and NRHEG Senior Cromwell a Triple A Award.

The ExCEL Award honors Excellence in Community, Education and Leadership and is a unique recognition program designed exclusively for Minnesota high school juniors who are active in school activities, leaders in their schools, and who demonstrate a strong commitment to community service. This award is sponsored by the League's corporate partner TruStone Financial Credit Union.

Nomination Criteria - Every League member school is invited to nominate one girl and one boy for the ExCEL Award. Nominees must:

- Be a junior in high school
 - Make satisfactory progress toward graduation
 - Participate in an MSHSL fine arts and/or athletic activity
 - Hold a leadership position(s) in their school
 - Volunteer in their community
 - Meet MSHSL General Eligibility Requirements (Bylaw 206)
 - Triple A Award
- To be eligible for the Academics, Arts, and Athletics Award a student must:
1. be a high school senior at the time of nomination. Schools may nominate one senior boy and one senior girl for this award.
 2. have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher at the time of nomination.
 3. participate in at least one League-sponsored athletic program and one arts/activity program.
 4. comply with the MSHSL's Student Code of Responsibilities.
 5. complete the application form and submit it to your school. Each school can submit two finalists to their administrative region secretary by the deadline date specified by the region committee.



www.phblawoffice.com

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Patton, Hoversten & Berg Welcomes Our New Lawyers!

We are proud to welcome Ellie James to Patton, Hoversten & Berg, PA. Her high academic achievements and important work experiences to date add additional depth to the legal services we are able to provide for all our clients in each of our four offices.



Ellie James

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