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NR Legion sponsors Memorial Day program

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

The New Richland American Legion invites all members of the public to its annual Memorial Day program, scheduled for 11 a.m. Monday, May 26, in the NRHEG Secondary School gymnasium. Along with ceremonial observations, the program will feature Legion president Rick Rotman as speaker. The school choir will sing the national anthem, “My Country ‘Tis of Thee,” and “America, the Beautiful.” Seniors Harbor Cromwell and Cole Hutchinson will give readings.

After the ceremony, participants are invited to The Willows restaurant, which will be offering lunch that day even though it’s typically closed on Mondays. A limited menu will feature pulled pork sandwiches and potato salad for \$11 a person.

Graduation Open house ads available

Celebrate this year’s graduates in the paper with a photo and open house announcement. Cost is \$25 for one week or \$40 for two weeks.

Please email steagle@hickorytech.net or call 507-463-8112. The form can be found on the Star Eagle Website.

NR Legion Auxiliary to meet May 22

The New Richland American Legion Auxiliary will have their May meeting on Thursday, May 22. The meeting will take place at the public library at 5:30 p.m.

Ride for Heroes at the Clark’s Grove Pour House on June 21

There will be a Ride for Heroes at the Pour House in Clarks Grove on June 21. Registration is at 8:30 a.m., kickstands go up at 10:30 a.m. Following the motorcycle run, enjoy food, live and silent auctions and music. Help us raise money for local veterans.

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 Pickleball every Thursday at old Waldorf School

Waldorf Community Pickleball plays every Thursday from 5 p.m. 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.

A word from The Word

Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.

1 Corinthians 16:13

Restart the Beat teaches use of AEDs

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

Staying calm may be both the most important and the most difficult element of responding to a crisis, suggested emergency medical technicians (EMTs) Brittany Boswell, Merisa Thompson and Caleb Carnes during an event sponsored by the Ellendale Area Foundation the evening of May 12.

About 25 people gathered at the Ellendale United Methodist Church for a training session titled “Restart the Beat,” an opportunity to learn about the operation of four newly acquired automatic electronic defibrillators (AEDs) due to be installed in three city churches and the town’s community center. The devices were acquired by the Ellendale Area Foundation at a cost of about \$5,250 and are being distributed to the facilities free of charge; installation and posting of signs will be the responsibility of the organizations.

As EMTs began to describe the operation of the AEDs, reassurance seemed to be their central goal.

“Everything about operating them is pretty automatic,” said Boswell. “As soon as it’s turned on, it starts to give you instructions.”

AEDs, the presenters explained, are used when someone’s heart has stopped beating.

“If someone goes down,” said Boswell of an apparent heart attack, “you want to call 9-1-1 right away.”

“Get [EMTs] rolling,” stated Thompson. “Once you call here in Ellendale, we can get to you in about eight minutes.

Calling 9-1-1 has another advantage, Boswell mentioned. The emergency dispatcher is likely to stay on the line to answer questions, offer support and provide updates on the status of emergency response personnel.

Someone who is alone with an unconscious victim should call 9-1-1, then acquire the AED unit and begin resuscitation efforts, the EMTs ad-



Members of the Community of Ellendale Foundation board of directors organized and operated a “restart the beat” education session meant to teach residents about operating the new Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) due to be installed soon at a number of different community churches. The AEDs were purchased using Foundation funds.

Board members are (from left) Tiffany Krueger, Jo Lerberg, Jack Harpel, Arlen Brekke, Allie Larson, Colleen and Michelle Sletten.

“If there are people around, delegate,” said Boswell, offering the example that one person could be calling 9-1-1, another could be acquiring the AED machine, and a third could be shaking the victim, asking whether he or she is responsive, and checking for pulse and respiration.

In response to an audience question regarding a very weak pulse or very faint breathing, Boswell assured that using the machine would not harm someone whose heart is still beating faintly. She went on to mention that Minnesota’s “Good Samaritan” law protects those who are acting in good faith from liability.

She also mentioned that, if no pulse has been detected after 10 seconds of feeling for a pulse either at the neck or on the wrist, EMTs feel it is valid to say the victim has no pulse.

Packed with the AED machine are some pieces of equipment useful when preparing to use the device. Central to the defibrillator’s function are two adhesive pads about 5 inches square. These are to be adhered to the skin in locations above and to the left of the heart and below to the right of the heart, creating a pathway for an electric pulse. Since it’s very important that the pads have strong contact, all clothing must be removed from the two locations, and sometimes hair must be shaved. In preparation for these needs, a scissors and



Ellendale emergency responders (from left) Merisa Thompson, Brittany Boswell, and Caleb Carnes were the instructors for the Community of Ellendale Foundation’s informational session regarding Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) to be installed in community churches in the near future.

Photos by Deb Bently

razor are packed with the units.

Also included is a CPR mask, a sort of shield which can be used to perform rescue breathing without directly contacting the victim’s mouth.

EMT trainers demonstrated that the AED machines start automatically upon being opened; a recorded voice begins with instructions to locate the adhesive pads.

“From here, you follow the in-

Activity Fair publicizes possibilities at NRHEG

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

Possibility was the focus on May 6 as all students at the NRHEG Secondary building strolled through an “Activity Fair” conceived and planned by students Harbor Cromwell and Chloe Stork.

Student representatives from 34 school-based activities set up tables in the gymnasium and shared what they like, and what they gained from being involved in everything from sports teams to the drama club to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

“We wanted everyone to realize that, even if we are a smaller school, we have a lot to offer,” said Harbor.

“It’s pretty impressive how many options there are.”

“I heard people talking about it for the rest of the day,” observed Chloe.

“I like to think we got some people thinking about the possibilities.”

Both Harbor and Chloe say their own experiences at school have been enriched by the activities they’ve joined, and they want the same for others.

“Helping kids find more involvement is a way to give them purpose,” said Harbor. “Instead of ‘I have to go to school,’ maybe their attitude could change to ‘I get to go to school and do this thing I like.’

“It could help make things better

for everybody.”

The event went on all morning, with two grades moving through at a time. Light music played in the background, and various tables had decorations and items meant to catch people’s interest.

Harbor and Chloe met each group as it arrived, shared their personal experiences and observations, and encouraged students to approach the event with open minds. The two organizers say they wanted a relaxed, pleasant environment for the activity fair which would encourage everyone to mingle and ask questions.

“We wanted them to be able to walk around with their friend groups,” mentioned Chloe. “That way they would be more comfortable, and they would talk about their impressions.”

The two say it was very important to them that middle schoolers attend the fair. “That way we lay some groundwork for the future,” commented Harbor.

Along with strengthening student engagement, Harbor and Chloe speculate the fair could help bolster the ranks for some of the activities.

“One thing, we wanted people to know they don’t have to limit them-

Fair continued on 13



Senior Harbor Cromwell and junior Chloe Stork conceived and led an “activity fair” which recently took place at NRHEG.



Owen Bartlett and Dakota Schlaak shared information about the benefits of joining the Fellowship of Christian Athletes during the activity fair.

Michael Supalla dies in grain bin accident

Rural New Richland resident Michael Supalla, 75, died the morning of Monday, May 12 while trapped inside an overhead grain bin at his farm. The Waseca County Sheriff’s Office received a 911 call for assistance at approximately 11:20 a.m. Michael’s wife Gretchen called for emergency assistance after she was unable to make contact with him inside the bin, which contained corn. The sheriff’s office, New Richland police department, New Richland fire and rescue, Waseca fire and rescue, Ellendale fire and rescue, and North Memorial Ambulance personnel responded to the scene. Emergency personnel extend their deepest condolences to the victim’s family and friends.

ELLENDALE CITY COUNCIL

Fire department gets their new Jaws of Life

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

At the Ellendale city council meeting the evening of Thursday, May 8, council members were informed the new Jaws of Life has been delivered to the fire department with training for the Jaws beginning on Monday, May 12.

Olson Excavating will begin repairing the leak under Fourth Avenue this week and they should be in town for two weeks. It will cost \$1,900 to replace a non-functioning chemical fluoride pump, one of three at the wastewater plant. A quote for \$1,650 to reset the west Ellendale stone sign was tabled from Sequoia. It has become lopsided and needs to be fixed. The banner for the new Casey’s is now hung. More details coming soon.

Six picnic tables were ordered for the park, blue and yellow, at \$52.50 plus shipping. The tables are about 190 pounds and have been ordered. There will be a tether ball game added to the park because attendance there has risen. Portable Pickle Ball and bag toss are also being considered. The grills will be sanded down and painted by maintenance. For the Dutton Drive storm sewer outlet, a swale will be dug on the south side, so it will drain into the holding pond. A swale captures rainwater and redirects it. If this repair is not done, flooding, which is damaging numerous residents’ yards, will continue in the street. Ellendale Fall Cleanup is scheduled for September 13 from 9 a.m. to noon. The public hearing to discuss the new fire hall will be on May 29, at 6:30 p.m.

The Fire Relief Association received an insurance reimbursement in the amount of \$1,140. The amount covers the financial loss which occurred when some of the fish purchased for the fish fry was discovered to be unusable. The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) will be sending a speed sign for the east road from Blooming Prairie, TH30. Ellendale will be responsible for the

Council continued on 2



FenceLines

by Mark Bernard

Gardening has been a slow go

The scurs must’ve bumped the lever on the Weather Eye and temps plummeted. Did Mother Nature ignore the memo from Old Man Winter to turn off the AC and turn up the furnace? Starting Thursday, mostly sunny with a good chance of afternoon showers. Highs in the mid-60’s with lows in the low 40’s. Mostly sunny on Friday with a slight chance of showers late. Highs in the mid-60’s with lows in the mid-40’s. Mostly sunny on Saturday with a modest chance of a shower. Highs in the mid-60’s with lows in the upper 40’s. Sunday, partly sunny with a moderate chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 60’s with lows in the upper 40’s. Mostly sunny on Memorial with a fair chance of rain. Highs in the mid-60’s with lows in the upper 40’s. Tuesday, partly sunny with highs in the upper 60’s and lows in the low 50’s. Mostly sunny on Wednesday with highs in the low 70’s and lows in the mid-50’s. On May 23rd we creep over 15 hours of daylight, about the same as last July 19th. Memorial Day is May 26th. The normal high for May 26th is 72 and the normal low is 52. The scurs will honor those who served as well as remembering loved ones. A picnic could break out as well.

What a wild week weather-wise. Our warm weather skedaddled over the weekend and GDU’s tanked as a result. Saturday we accumulated zero GDU’s and the remainder of the week doesn’t hold much promise in that department. We’ve seen some significant rain which should be welcomed as long as it doesn’t get carried away. Some started doing their rain dance. The weather can turn on a dime and frequently does so. We actually weren’t in dire straits for moisture despite some seed in dry soil. We had built ample sub-soil moisture in March and April. With very little uptake by the emerging crop, there was plenty to get us to early July before approaching the “we gotta have some” point. These soils tend to perform at their best when we’re able to utilize stored soil moisture with some timely rains along the way. Never hurt, but with moisture in reserve, it becomes less critical.

The wind last Thursday and Friday caused some crop injury on both corn and soybeans. While the growing point on the corn was still nearly an inch underground yet, the early planted soybeans are a different story. Fortunately, many cropping systems today leave more residue on the soil surface. This helps protect fields from blowing. Fields that were worked fairly black with large open expanses nearby sustained more crop injury. Generally, it’s not wholesale destruction and particularly if replanting soybeans is warranted, it should be accomplished easily by stab-bing in additional seed. It’s still early enough that timely action should result in respectable yields. And speaking of respect, it was the Rodney Dangerfield of tillage implement’s turn to shine once again. The lowly rotary hoes usually spend most of their lives relegated to the back of the machine sheds or parked in

groves out of the way. Fields and areas of fields that had been rotary hoed were largely spared by the windblown soil. One more reason some still keep a rotary hoe around.

Fortunately, gardening has been a slow go at the ranch. While it would’ve been nice to plant a bunch of the seeds before the rain, avoiding the potential beating the transplants would’ve taken with the high winds wasn’t all bad. There will be plenty of time to plant what we need to put in. Some are more gung-ho about seeing how early they can plant and that’s fine. Their schedules and mine are not the same. The recent weather points up some of the inherent risks of early planting on some items. I’ve heard from several that the wind completely destroyed their tomatoes and peppers. That’s fine. We’ll hopefully get ours in soon and have some to donate to the cause. Like the folks who run the green-houses like to tell people, if the weather wrecks them, come on back. We’d love to sell you more!

The rain may have put gardening on hold, but that hasn’t stopped the lawn from getting ugly. It became a very dusty, dirty affair the past couple weeks. If you had told me May 1st we’d need to wear goggles and a dust mask to mow, I would’ve said you’re nuts. I was more concerned about avoiding the water hazard in the road ditch just a few weeks ago. With all the cell phones and social media outlets, getting stuck by the road with the mower would’ve made for some wonderful camera fodder. At least I have lots of dandelions. They have become my guidance system. The way the grass overwintered poorly in spots, I can use the dandelions to track where I’ve mowed.

I neglected to mention seeing the Harris’s sparrows in the backyard last week. Their stay was much more abbreviated than some years. Obviously in no hurry to get to their summer homes where it has still been snowing as of late. The common yellowthroats have been singing away at the ranch since the 14th. The Baltimore orioles have certainly kept the jelly feeder busy. There are at least three males in full color. The catbirds are also frequent visitors. Hummingbirds are being spotted occasionally, but methinks some warmer temps would help the cause.

Poppy had the luxury of several “dog days” recently. Like most Corgi’s, she treasures her “people time”. The lawn got mowed just ahead of the rain, so her potty time isn’t spent looking for bare spots to do her business. The rain makes her thick coat so soft afterwards and she generally likes to take lengthy naps on or around her humans to dry off. I personally haven’t had as much time to spend with her indoors as I’d like, so when I do, it’s usually spent playing ball trying to wear her out. That way she’ll hopefully sleep at night. Oddly enough, that hasn’t been a problem for me. I really don’t need to play ball in order to accomplish that anymore.

See you next week...real good then.

used to store power. The city clerk’s office has a water issue in the crawl space. This is ground water, not a broken pipe. The staff has been temporarily relocated to the Community Hall meeting room. Mayor Groth would like to remind everyone this spring, “Mow your lawn.”

■ Council from Page 1

battery maintenance. This is a solar powered unit, but batteries are

Living in an online environment



Whatever Flips Your Waffle

by Mark Domeier
Contributing Writer

Much of that time is spent doing the work with me there to assist. BUT THEY ARE IN MY CLASSROOM.

Anton took a geology class with a lab last year at MSU. That sounds cool, right?

It was an online, asynchronous class.

What? How is a lab class done online? Shouldn’t there be hands-on learning and looking at actual rocks, not just pictures of them?

Oh, but it gets better. This year, he had a public speaking class.

All online. All asynchronous. I’m offended as a teacher. There’s no public in public speaking without people.

And this is where we seem to be heading in education. I look at our senior class at NRHEG this year. These kids were in 7th grade when the pandemic hit, so they bore the brunt of learning, along with me, how to navigate an online school process.

And then they helped take it to a new level. We have an inordinate amount of students doing online schooling of some kind or other. So many enjoyed sitting at home and doing things at their own pace that they have chosen to do as much of that as possible.

This is not real life anymore. But there continues to be that push to have as many people stay home to work as possible. I thought we didn’t like lockdowns? Yes, I know there is a difference, and I understand being introverted lends itself to working on your own. But interacting with people is and should be a reality in our world.

A concern is that students are working with flexible deadlines. My bills don’t have those, but if you become so accustomed to flexibility, you have a more difficult time dealing with the realities of adulthood and everyday life.

That’s my concern for the class of 2025. There are so many that have chosen to float a bit that when they have to come back to earth, it could be a jarring experience.

I also worry about so many of the online classes and their rigor. I’ve had numerous students over the past few years pop in for assistance on some of their online work. Part of the problem I’ve witnessed is the lack of direct access, right now, to those instructors. The other part is some of the work does not seem like college level. I’ve seen assignments that look like something I would assign to freshmen...in high school.

If we’re going to offer all these op-

tions to students, then there has to be more oversight into what they are doing. For Anton’s online public speaking class, some of the material was recordings of lessons taught during the pandemic. So the professor is basically mailing it in and collecting a paycheck. I reuse materials all the time (especially bad jokes), but there are often tweaks and adjustments made based on the group sitting in my classroom. Again, the difference is people sitting in my classroom.

If our students don’t get used to being around others and having the capability to interact, we might as well just let AI take over now. If they have an easy cloud to float on without having to put much effort into a college class, good luck on innovation and ingenuity in the future.

We will probably offer some form of online schooling here at NRHEG soon. We have to, in order to keep up and keep kids with us. I hope we can find classes that are worth the effort and that give our students intense educational opportunities.

And I hope our graduating seniors have not been so irrevocably harmed by this shift in education that they flounder when they face real life. Every year, I wish the seniors good luck. I do so again, but there is a very different tenor in my voice with this year’s best wishes.

Word of the Week: This week’s word is gormless, which means dull or stupid, as in, “While the student found some of his classes to be gormless, he recognized the importance of being in front of the teacher to learn.” Impress your friends and confuse your enemies!

ZED by Duane M. Abel



www.corkeycomics.com

I never could have dreamed this big

This is the date of a column I never dreamed I would be writing. The date of my first fact or fiction column was 5-16-02 a total of 23 years ago. My first column was about the Minnesota fishing opener in May of 2002. This column is partially about the Minnesota fishing opener May 10, 2025.

The Governor’s fishing opener was held in the Cross Lake area May 9-10 2025. This was the 77th year with the Governor of Minnesota, Governor Tim Walz, leading the great show. (I have attended one opener, the one held in Albert Lea. I refer to it as a Black and White opener as I got skunked!!)

The 2025 Governor’s fishing opener in Minnesota was one of the best. The temperature was ok. The wind was not a gale from the north. There wasn’t any ice on the lake to worry about. The fish were biting a little in all the lakes. The good Governor was polite in letting the Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan catch more fish than he did. (Governor Walz caught three Northerns.)

About 250,000 people fished the opening day.

The rest of this column will be a running of words with the emphasis being “Fact or Fiction”; you decide.

A. The captain of the charter fishing boat from the river bend resort on “Lake of the woods” has relatives in the Hartland area. Namely, grandma Sharon and mom Lynnell.

B. Chandler Anderson was present at Central Freeborn Lutheran Church Sunday School hour Sunday, May 11, 2025 in regards to the viewing of the fellowship hall mural, of which he was the artist. My reaction was, “Wow.” (Chandler is also the artist of the outdoor mural off of highway 30

in downtown Ellendale, completed in 2025.)

C. Sunday morning, May 4 a light frost was seen on the rooftops of many houses in Albert Lea.

D. Did you know a live person is featured in the window of the library every Tuesday in New Richland? The person requests an appointment. (I’ve seen a lot of library windows, but this is the only one I’ve seen with a live person!!)

E. The tentative plan is to make the abandoned railroad track north of Albert Lea into a walking bicycle trail all the way to Waterville. It will be called “SongBird.”

My vote for one of the best employees is the cashier at Casey’s in Ellendale. I purchased a slice of pizza and a fountain Coke to go paying with a credit card. I take the pizza and pop to the car and started the car as I’m about to leave, she comes running out the door waving something. What was she waving?? My credit card I’d left in the credit card machine. I’m sorry; I was so astonished I didn’t get the name. (I’d guess she was in her twenties.)

Genie attended the Salad Luncheon at Lion Lutheran Church in Albert Lea on Friday, May 9, 2025. Genie asked me to let you readers know the food and service was great. (She renewed memories with fellow nurse Tammy Williams of Alden at the Luncheon.) (Yes, Tammy, my flu shots are up to date!!)

I’m glad the winning Twins team came out of hiding!!

Thanks to the letter carriers and contributors for the great results once again on the second Saturday in May.

Bob is a retired AAL (Aid Association for Lutherans)



FACT OR FICTION

...you decide

by Bob Hanson, Emeritus

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

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.

NRHEG

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Compostings

by Al Batt

Declining bird populations

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
Do you get a deer license each year?
I don't hunt for deer.
Why not?
I figure if a deer loses something, it can hunt for it by itself.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE
I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I was turning the yellowed pages of a book to see if its wondrous words were worth donating to a library for its book sale. I remembered the comfort that book had brought me while I was growing up on a dairy farm. I enjoyed milking cows. In the barn, I could read a book, listen to the radio, and do my persistent chores at the same time. The cows were Holsteins, the radio was a Philco AM-only wooden console, and I was happy.

I found myself in Stanton, Iowa. It wasn't hard for me to find me. I knew right where I was. It's a gift. I saw the largest Swedish coffee pot in the world (it could hold 640,000 cups of coffee) and the world's largest coffee cup and saucer, which serves as a water tower and is capable of holding 2.4 million cups of coffee. Why all that coffee? It was in honor of Virginia Christine, who was born in Stanton and portrayed Mrs. Olson in Folger's Coffee TV commercials for 21 years. She played a smiling, Swedish woman ready to bring happiness to a young married couple by giving the bride a can of Mountain Grown Folger's Coffee. A single cup of it restored marital bliss.

I drove through Brewster, Nebraska, in the rural charm of the Sandhills. It's the county seat of Blaine County. Brewster has a population of 12, and Blaine County 431. I didn't count them. Brewster had the county courthouse, a couple of churches (UCC and Lutheran) and Uncle Buck's Lodge scattered throughout the 12 people.

I'VE LEARNED
The research team of personal injury lawyers at Osborne & Francis analyzed the drivers of all the US states based on six key factors, including crashes caused by distracted drivers, drunk driving fatalities and arrests, speeding, low seat belt use, and the number of uninsured drivers. Those components showed where operators are more likely to break the rules and make the roads more dangerous. New Mexico exhibited the worst behavior, followed by Wyoming, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas and South Dakota. The best behavior was found in Minnesota drivers, followed by New Jersey, Iowa, New York and Utah.

If you don't like the way your lawn looks, cover it with disabled lawnmowers.

Bill Withers was making aircraft toilet seats in a Los Angeles factory when he wrote the song "Ain't No Sunshine." When the song went gold, the record company presented Withers with a golden toilet seat.

I have something most billionaires will never have—enough.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT
A man in an interrogation room said, "I'm not saying a word without my lawyer present."
Cop: "You are a lawyer."
Lawyer: "So where is my present?"

A genie asked me, "What's your first wish?"
I answered, "I wish I were rich!"
The genie said, "OK. What's your second wish, Rich?"

Overheard in the bakery: "Do you have sticky buns?"
"Yes."
"Well, then, don't sit down."

"Name a country without the letter R in it."
"No way!"

NATURE NOTES
American white pelicans glided overhead on 9-foot-wingspans. In my yard, common grackles were everywhere. Despite that, they're becoming less common, with a cumulative population decline of 54% from 1966 to 2014. In Minnesota, the decline averaged 2.03% per year since 1967. Since 1966, when the Breeding Bird Survey began monitoring, the house sparrow has experienced a decrease of 3.61% per year. In Minnesota, the decline has been 4.08% annually. House sparrow declines have resulted from intensive agriculture. The increasing use of pesticides reduces insect populations, which lowers food availability for nestlings, and efficient farming practices limit the availability of waste grain.

I kept baby geese on the porch. What kind of geese were they? They were porch-a-geese.

The bumblebee was indecisive on a lovely May day. It landed on one flower briefly and then moved to another. It was a May bee maybe.

Birds can be appetites with wings. Having milo (sorghum), which resembles BBs, in a birdseed mix is like having banana chips in a trail mix. I don't want banana chips in my trail mix, and few birds want milo in their trail mix.

MEETING ADJOURNED
"You can love completely without complete understanding."— Norman MacLean, "A River Runs Through It and Other Stories." Thanks to Dave and Deb Manning of St James for sharing this. Be kind.

New Richland Bonds \$3 million for construction

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

During their regular meeting on May 12, New Richland city council members authorized issuing nearly \$3 million in bonds to support street and utility improvements to South Ash Avenue and South Broadway Avenue due to take place this summer. The city has engaged David Drown Associates, Inc. in Minneapolis as its independent financial advisor for the bonds and will be selling them by a competitive negotiated sale.

Council members learned the New Richland Area Foundation has allotted \$7,500 toward upgrading the restrooms in City Hall; the facilities will be brought up to Americans with Disabilities

Act (ADA) compliance. Full cost for the project is expected to be \$10,000. Other significant awards are \$1,500 to the New Richland Care Center and \$500 in support of the city library's summer reading program.

The city council enacted an ordinance making it illegal to park along the east side of Ash Avenue in the 300 block across from the school between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on days when school is in session. Permits will be available through city offices for property owners on Ash Ave South who are affected by this restriction.

At the request of the American Legion, May 23 has been officially declared Poppy Day in the town of New Richland. The Fire

NEW RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL

Department completed pump training for April. There will be a water balloon fight on the last day of school at the school; everyone is invited, the kids are excited.

The New Richland Care Center is seeking candidates for a number of positions including director of nursing, a certified dietary manager, an activities director, registered or licensed practical nurses and certified nursing aides. Some interviews have taken place with more to be scheduled in the future.

At the recommendation of city administrator Tony Martens, the council approved assigning the

duties formerly listed as the responsibility of the city clerk and the city treasurer to Martens' position. The remaining position in the city administration office will be changed to "deputy clerk." Some research among comparable area cities shows that most are now using this title for the position.

Council members approved \$1,400 for the purchase of an air conditioner to be installed in city garage C.

The New Richland swimming area will not be open summer 2025 due to staff shortages. Those who have prepaid for summer swim lessons will be refunded.

Board discusses cost of new facilities

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Remodeling and construction for planned Waseca County law enforcement and district court facilities could be accomplished for somewhere between \$15.5 and \$18.1 million, predicts Minneapolis engineering company Adolfsen and Peterson Construction.

In the "pre-design" phase until now, work to plan a remodeling and construction of the local jail has officially begun. This project will upgrade the jail in order to retain its state department of corrections (DOC) certification and overcome longstanding space limitations encountered by the county court and related offices. During their May 6 regular meeting, county commissioners reviewed preliminary floor plans and gave approval to move forward with design work.

The concept design featured about 21,000 square feet on two levels. A site plan indicates the justice center structure would occupy most of the space, which currently consists of a parking lot, to the west of the courthouse annex. A new parking lot would be constructed on the county-owned property at the northwest corner of the block—a vacant space purchased for this contingency some time ago.

Once planning is complete, some remodeling and upgrade work could begin fairly soon with construction of the new building at least one year away.

County board members had previously set the maximum bonding amount for the work at \$17 million; county administrator Michael Johnson has previously stated the entire cost of the project does not need to be bonded, since the county has been anticipating and designating funds for a project related to the law enforcement center for some time.

Also during the meeting, recently hired sheriff's department deputies Gavin Kritzeck and Brayden Berg were sworn in. Sheriff Jay Dulas administered the oath; family members filled available seating and cheered for the special event.

Public health nurse Sarah Berry informed commissioners that nine community members had applied to serve on the "Opioid Advisory Committee" meant to assist in decision making regarding funds provided to the county as a result of a massive lawsuit against pharmaceutical companies which profited heavily from the distribution of highly addictive, opioid-based pain relievers. Barry reported guidelines dictate the group can have no more

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

than 20 members, but do not really specify a minimum. She also stated that beginning the group's work with these members would allow everyone to consider what additional skills or education the group would like to see added as membership grows.

Three of the board members are county employees, the remainder are community members who have an interest in the topic: Laura Cain, Rachel Cornelius, Jay Dulas, Nicole Grams, Rosalie Grams, Molly Kortuem, Abigail Malterer, Scot Peterson, and Karissa Stenzel.

During the work session prior to the county board meeting, commissioners heard from Waseca High School teacher John Hanson and head of the city of Waseca's heritage preservation commission (HPC) Julie Anderson.

The two asked whether Waseca County would like to take "ownership" of an online tool which provides information about numerous locations of historic interest, most of which are within Waseca city limits, with some being in unincorporated areas.

Students in Hanson's local history class have researched the locations, gathered information, and published it in an online "tour" which can either be read on a screen or narrated by a phone or tablet while the user is walking around the site.

If it were controlled by the county, rather than by the Discover Waseca Tourism group as it is now, Hanson offered that students in other county schools could prepare similar tours for locations in their own communities.

Commissioners responded positively, saying an online tool like that would build a positive impression with visitors and prospective residents, since it would be easily located and accessed online.

In a similar vein, commissioners approved moving forward with an application to be designated as a "Telecommuter Forward!" county by the office of Broadband Development, a division of the state department of employment and economic development.

Broadband consultant Steve Kraus suggested to commissioners that the recognition would be another credential to list when communicating with businesses or organizations considering Waseca County for new or expanding development.





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OBITUARIES

Michael Supalla

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Michael (Mike) Laurence Supalla, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend who touched countless lives with his warmth, generosity, and extraordinary work ethic. Mike left us too soon, following a tragic farm accident, but his legacy of love, dedication, and faith will continue to shine in the hearts of all who knew him.

Mike was born on February 27, 1950, to Laurence and Irene (Ignaszewski) Supalla. From a young age, he farmed alongside his parents, learning dedication, responsibility, and perseverance. He also learned that success isn't measured in single seasons, but in generations of careful tending.

As a mischievous young lad, he loved playing pranks and spent countless hours playing baseball with neighboring farm friends and cousins. He attended New Richland-Hartland High School, where he gained recognition in football, wrestling, and baseball. He married his high school sweetheart, Gretchen Tukua, on June 21, 1969.

As a young adult, he re-established the New Richland Reds baseball team and co-founded the Minnesota Waxy Corn Growers Association (MWCGA). He took great pride in teaching a 'city' girl to become one heck-uva tractor driver, and together they were honored as the 1984 Waseca County Young Farmers of the Year. They owned and operated Supalla Trucking Company, where they formed lasting friendships along the way.

His greatest joy was his family. For 56 beautiful years, he and Gretchen built a life rooted in love and hard work. Together, they raised their family and nurtured their farm, through challenges and triumphs. Their bond was the foundation of everything they grew—both in the land and in their family. Mike (or “Rotz” as his family called him) poured his heart into his wife, three daughters, sons-in-law, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. He was their biggest champion, always encouraging their dreams and celebrating successes. His pride in them was immeasurable, and his love was unconditional. Whether offering quiet wisdom or a reassuring presence, “Rotz” led by example—teaching his family the importance of responsibility, kindness, and taking pride in a job well done.

Mike enjoyed checking on fields, picking rocks (not so much), cheering on his grandkids, spending time at the lake, side-by-side riding with friends, golfing, fishing, vacationing with friends and family, warm winters in



Michael Supalla

Nuevo Vallarta, and dreaming the Minnesota Vikings were Super-bowl Champs.

Mike's absence leaves an immeasurable void, but his spirit will live on in the fields he tended, the lessons he imparted, and the love he gave so freely.

Mike is survived by his wife Gretchen, three daughters: Sharra (Scott) Hagenbrock of Celina, TX, Raquel (Todd) Hansen of Owatonna, MN, Lynsey (Matt) Heim of Owatonna, MN; Eight grandchildren: Lindsey Hansen (special friend Buzz Pool), Eric (Amanda) Hansen, Michael, Tyler, and Madison Hagenbrock, Caleb, Kade, and Paige Hullo-peter; and 6 great-grandchildren: Ethan, Abigail, and Noah McGur-ran and Taitym, Zoey, and Rylinn Hansen; siblings Chris (Kevin) Johnson, Barb (Dave) Lyndgaard, Randy (Sue) Supalla, brother-in-law Elliott (Nancy) Tukua; Aunts Anne Theder and Marian Mithun; Uncle Bernard (Eleanor) Ignaszewski; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was proceeded in death by his parents Laurence and Irene Supalla, and siblings and in-laws: Betty and Reuben Woitas, Georgene and Tom Lenort, and Jolene and Roger Buchholtz.

A visitation for Mike will be from 4-7 p.m. on Thursday, May 15, 2025 at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca. A Funeral Mass will be held at the Church of All Saints in New Richland on Friday, May 16, 2025 at 10 a.m. Burial will follow at Calvary Cemetery in New Richland. In his honor, the family kindly requests donations to the Church of All Saints or to the New Richland Fire Department.

The family is deeply grateful for the swift response of the New Richland, Waseca, and Ellendale First Responders. They are truly overwhelmed by the outpouring of generosity and support from friends, family, and neighbors.

Rest in peace, Rotz. You were truly one of a kind.
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Ardean Douma

Ardean D. Purdie-Douma, age 99, of Mankato, (formerly of New Richland) Minnesota, died Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at Lakeshore Inn Nursing Home after complications of a stroke in March of 2024. The memorial service will be held at Nasinee Funeral Home on Saturday, May 17, 2025 at 11 a.m. Visitation will be held 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home. Burial will be in St. Olaf Cemetery in New Richland following the service and the luncheon. Please see nasinecfh.com to leave online condolences.

Ardean was born December 29, 1925 to parents Elmer and Esther (Brandt) Beyer in Vivian Township, Waseca County, MN. She was baptized Jan. 17, 1926 and confirmed April 21, 1939 at the First Lutheran Church in Wells. She attended Dist.#33 country school and graduated from Minnesota Lake High School in 1943 as salutatorian of her class, and became a graduate of The Minnesota School of Business

(Globe College) in Mpls.

Ardean was hired at Security State Bank, Wells, where she met Loren “Brownie” Purdie. They were united in marriage on July 14, 1946 at Peace Church in Minnesota Lake and had six children: Sharon, Gary, Vicki, Nancy, Terri and David. In January, 1959 the family moved to New Richland, MN. During that time, Ardean worked for E.F. Johnson Company in Waseca. Brownie passed away on Feb. 8, 1991 and she continued working at E. F. Johnson for a total of 35 years. She was active in Trinity Lutheran Church in New Richland, serving on the church council, and other organizations in the church: Altar Guild, WELCA, Quilting group, and also served on the New Richland Care Center Advisory Board. She was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary since 1947.

Ardean met Donald Douma at a dance in Mapleton in January of 2003. They married May 14, 2005 at Centenary United Methodist Church in Mankato. They enjoyed wonderful

years together living in Mankato until Don's death on March 22, 2014.

During her life she enjoyed playing cards and was an avid Bridge player. She enjoyed dancing (also western line dancing), bowling, golfing, cross word puzzles and other games. Ardean supported her grandchildren in their sporting activities and endeavors, and was an avid professional sports fan.

Ardean is survived by her four children: Sharon (Buddy) Sand of Rochester, NY; Nancy Purdie (John Johnson) of Rochester, MN; Terri Purdie and David (Lana) Purdie, all of New Richland, MN; 11 grandchildren; 2 step-grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great-granddaughters; daughter-in-law, Kathy Purdie-Maas; son-in-law, Roger Herbst; sister, Arbutus Miller; sister-in-law, Kay Beyer; along with many nieces, nephews and their families. Don's children: Donelle (re Grant) Tanner, Dennis (Susan) Douma, and Curt Douma, and their children.

Ardean was preceded in death by



Ardean Douma

her parents, husbands, Brownie Purdie and Don Douma; daughter, Vicki Herbst, son, Gary Purdie, grandson, Joey Herbst; brothers: Eugene (Lois) Beyer and Marlin Beyer; and brother-in-law, Donnie Miller.

Continuing to learn throughout life

By PASTOR KYLE SMITH
Ellendale

With graduations coming up this time of year, it's not uncommon at commencement speeches to hear something about the need to be a life-long learner. And it's true, we are to be lifelong learners. Even after graduating from high school or college, we should still seek to learn and grow. Formal education is meant to be a starting point, not the end. Indeed, the best formal education one can get isn't so much the content of what is learned, but about having the building blocks to build upon what they have learned and the desire to continue to learn. Unfortunately, we often forget this truth. Forgetting this truth in our general lives is unfortunate enough the way it is, but it is so much more tragic when we as Christians forget about the need to continue to learn.

At times we think, whether consciously or subconsciously, "I went to Sunday School, I know enough about God." Or, "I go to church regularly, I learn all that I need to learn there." We may even think, "I know all the basics; that's it for me. I'll leave the rest up to my pastor." Going to Sunday School growing up is great, attending church regularly is great, and expected, and trusting our pastor is great, but is the, "I don't need to learn and grow anymore," kind of attitude God expects us to have? What does the Bible say?



In the Bible, God makes it clear to us that He desires and expects us to continue to grow in knowledge and faith in Him. One good example of this truth is found in 2 Peter 3:18, "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." However, this growth is not simply for the sake of growth. As always, we must consider the context of 2 Peter 3:18.

2 Peter 3:18 is the verse in Peter's second epistle. As usual, the last section of verses in an epistle is the author's closing words. Here, in 2 Peter, Peter uses his closing words to continue in the teaching of Paul contained in the letters he sent to them. Peter acknowledges that some of what Paul had written is difficult to understand, which is why he must be studied and continued in, for, "The ignorant and unstable twist to their destruction, as they do the other Scriptures (v. 16)." Peter also warns us in v. 17 to, "Take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your stability." In other words, part of the reason for the continual study of Scripture, including difficult portions of Scripture, is to stand firm in the

faith. Therefore, we are to grow in grace and knowledge, so that we continue in the faith handed to us, lest we slip and fall, looking godly on the outside, but in the heart having been taken captive.

And so, as we come upon graduation season once again this year, I encourage you to take time for some self-reflection. Have you graduated from learning, or are you still curious about the things of God? Are you satisfied with your knowledge of God or are you continuing to learn? May this graduation season be a reminder to us of the importance of continuing to grow in the knowledge of God and be transformed by the renewing of our minds.

Jon A. Berg

Jon Albert Berg, age 73, of Owatonna, Minnesota, passed away peacefully on May 7, 2025. Born on January 27, 1952, he was the son of Albert and Helen (Rice) Berg.

Jon was a successful entrepreneur who served as the co-owner and CEO of North Central Plastics where he played a pivotal role in the company's growth and success. His work ethic and leadership, alongside his father and business partners, helped propel a thriving business.

Despite facing the early loss of his mother at the age of 15, Jon carried her memory with him throughout his life. He often spoke of her with deep affection and gratitude, and her influence shaped his character and values.

Jon was married to Sheryl (Edwardson) Berg for 20 years, and together they raised three children: Christian, Jenna, and Leah. He was a loving father and found immense joy in his grandchildren: Caleb, Norah, Alera, Arlo, Greta, Otto, Lucas, and Freya.

He is survived by his children and grandchildren. He was pre-



Jon Berg

ceded in death by his mother, Helen (Rice) Berg; his father, Albert Theodore Berg Jr.; his sister, Ellen Hanson; and his infant brother, Peter.

A private service will be held, and Jon will be laid to rest at First Lutheran Cemetery in Ellendale.

In lieu of flowers, Jon's family would appreciate memorials to go to Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna. Michaelson Funeral Home in Owatonna is entrusted with arrangements.

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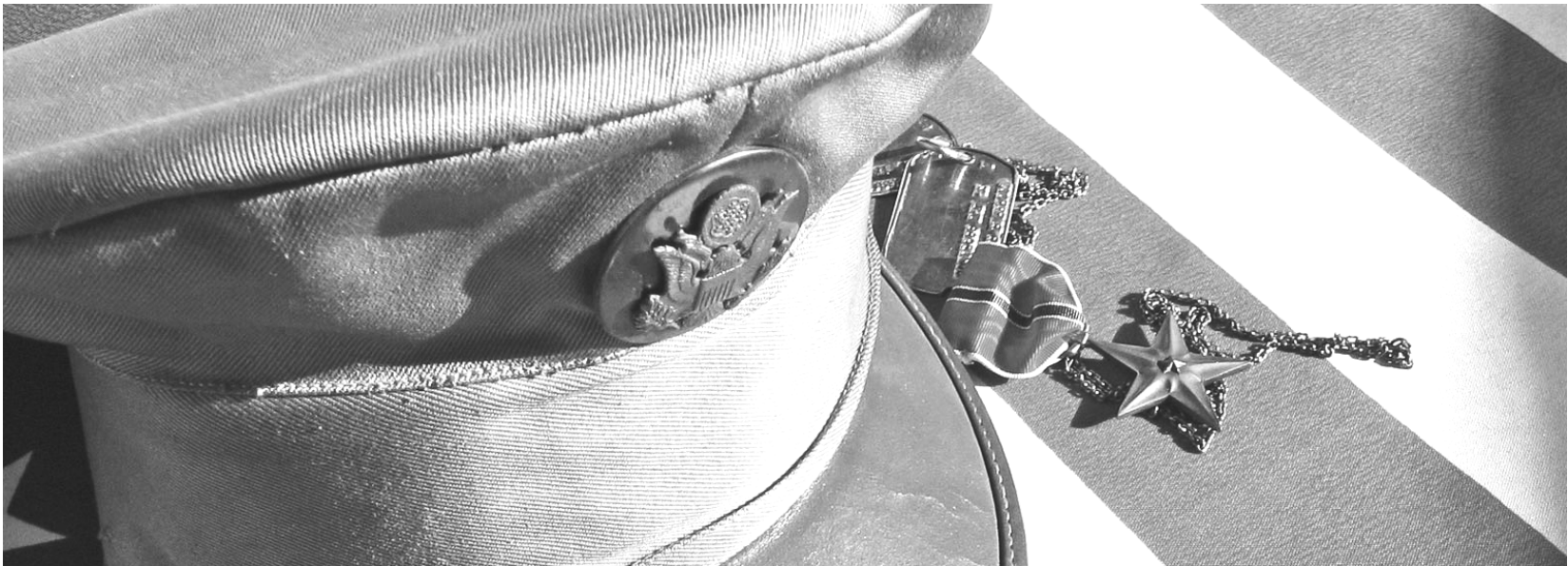
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MEMORIAL DAY

MAY 26, 2025



Area Memorial Day ceremonies

Memorial Day Events

Veterans organizations will celebrate Memorial Day, Monday, May 26, 2025 in accordance with the following schedule. Please set aside time to attend one of these featured events in commemoration of those who have and are currently serving our country in the military. The events especially pay tribute to those who have given the ultimate sacrifice of their lives, establishing freedom in the United States of America.

New Richland

The New Richland American Legion invites all members of the public to its annual Memorial Day program, scheduled for 11 a.m. Monday, May 26 in the NRHEG Secondary School gymnasium. Along with ceremonial observations, the program will feature Legion president Rick Rotman as speaker. The school choir will sing the national anthem, "My Country 'tis of Thee," and "America, the Beautiful." Seniors Harbor Cromwell and Cole Hutchinson will give readings.

After the ceremony, participants are invited to The Willows restaurant, which will offer lunch that day even though it's typically closed on Mondays. A limited menu will feature pulled pork sandwiches and potato salad for \$11 a person.

The American Legion members will meet at the Legion Post at 8 a.m.; they

will leave town at 8:25 a.m. to arrive at Calvary Cemetery at 8:30 and then go on to other area cemeteries.

The Church of All Saints will celebrate a Mass at Calvary Cemetery at 10:30 a.m. with Father Frerichs officiating. In case of rain, Mass will be held at the church.

Waldorf

The Waldorf American Legion Post # 587 Memorial Day Program will be at the Waldorf Community Center located on Main Street at 10:15 a.m. with Waseca area veteran and veteran advocate Jeremiah Miller as the speaker. Prior to the program at 9 a.m., a graveside service will take place at Zoar's Cemetery. Following the program, graveside services will be presented at St. Joseph Community Cemetery and First Lutheran Church Cemetery. A potluck dinner will begin at noon in the Community Center; everyone is welcome.

Ellendale and Geneva

Members of the Ellendale and Geneva Legion and VFW will meet at the Ellendale community building at 7:30 a.m. on Monday, May 26, Memorial Day. All veterans and current members of the military are encouraged to join them as they take part in brief ceremonies at area cemeteries: Litomysl at 8:15 a.m.; St. Marys at 9:15 a.m.; Geneva at 10:15 a.m.; Ellendale at 11:15 a.m.

Jerry Ibberson will speak during the programs at Geneva and Ellendale cemeteries.

St. Aidan's: Memorial Day observations at St. Aidan's Cemetery will include an Honor Guard presentation at 9:15 and a 9:30 Mass with Deacon Paul Tschann. No event will be held if it rains.

Hartland

Hartland American Legion Post 266 will hold a Memorial Day service at Cross of Glory Church social hall beginning at 9 a.m. on Memorial Day. The NRHEG music department will participate. Hospitality will follow from the Cross of Glory Altar Guild.

Clarks Grove

A Memorial Day service will be at 9 a.m. at the Clarks Grove Baptist Cemetery.

If it rains, no service will take place. Freeborn

A 10 a.m. service will be held at the West Freeborn Lutheran Church Cemetery, including Freeborn American Legion Post honor guard.

Freeborn

Cross of Glory – 9 a.m. Memorial Day Service, guest speaker & lunch, NRHEG Band will play.

West Freeborn – 10 a.m. Memorial Day Service.



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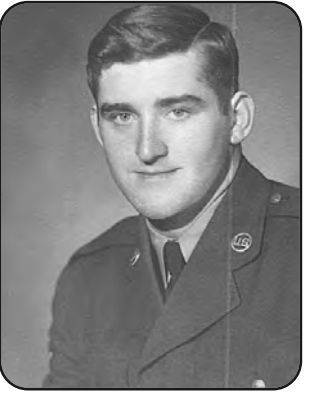
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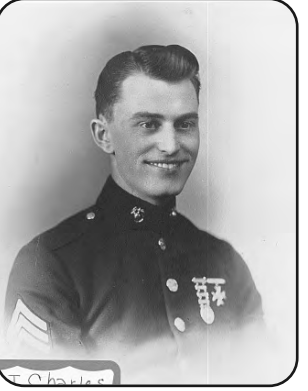
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8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

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MEMORIAL DAY • MAY 26, 2025



Jamie Harshman



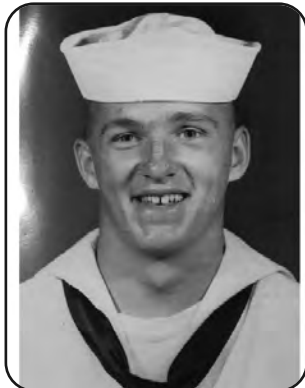
Glen Herbst



Floyd Johnson



Russell M. Krueger



David Lienke



Robert J. Meyer



O'Dean Miller



Albert G. Flor



Anthony Holmes



Philip Kloczek



Eugene Langlie



Arnold Loken



Emery Gene Millang



Robert Miller



Eugene L. Hagen



Harry Jensen



Ole A. Knudson



Beatrice Largent



Hubert Lust



Jerold Eugene Millang



Carl Joe Myhr



Rodney Hatle



Burnette E. Johnson



Ralph Krueger



Art Lerberg



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James Paulson



William "Bill" Robinson



George "Bud" Shurson



John Somage



George Tukua



Gilman Olson



Randy Paulson



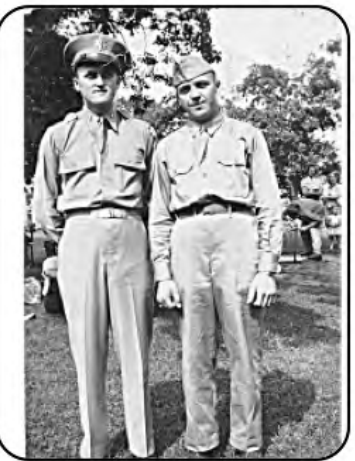
Ronald Roehrs



Merle Shurson



Darrol Sponberg



Gilman Tukua



Glen Olson



Donald Peterson



Paul Romine



Virgil Shurson



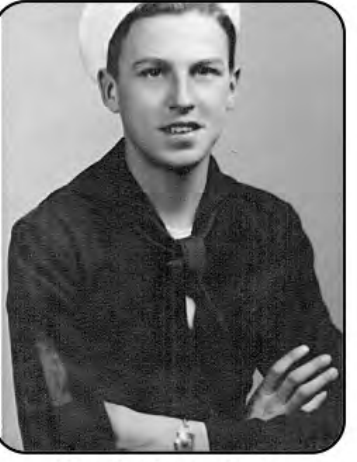
Laurence Supalla



Jule Tukua



Jerry Olson



Herb Prescher



Vernon Root



Kenneth Sibilrud



Virgil Thofson



Norman Tukua

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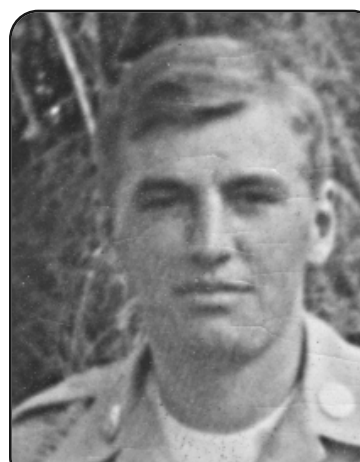
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Russell Olson	Orrin Ribbe	Ewald Schlaak	Dale Smith	Vernon S. Thompson	Eugene Warke
					
Earl Parriott	Thomas Ribbe	Larry Schutrop	Don Smith	Eugene 'Duke' Tukua	David Wenzel
					
Oscar "Buddy" Berg	Lyle Bergner	Robert Busho	Darrol Sponberg	Dennis Byrne	David Possin
					
Christopher Hagen	Robert "Bob" Meyer	Edwin Jensen	Larry Otto	Red Crumb	Richard Crumb
					
Winston Evenson	Bud "Stanley" Tollfeson	Walter Loken	Clifford Loken	Waylen Busho	Claude Mucha

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Shown here are some pictures taken at the cabin. One is of the trumpeter swans that nest on our lake. There is nothing better than waking up to that sound. Another is one taken at sunset at our lake.

I'm ready for some cabin time

I am finally heading for the cabin this week. My son, Brad, and I are heading to the cabin for a few days. This is one of the latest dates that I have been there. We plan on doing some work on the cabin and will also relax with some fishing time.

I have become a little more reluctant to take the boat out alone these days. The next time that I am at the cabin alone, I may get try going out for a short time.

I have heard of a few fish being caught on our area lakes. The higher-than-normal temperatures have returned to a little normal or below. A sudden drop in temperatures can have an effect on fishing.

The fish bite will slow down for a day or two until the fish adjust to the drop. Once they begin to get accustomed to the temperatures, the bite should return to normal. Cold affects



Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl
Outdoors Writer

the fishing more than a hot spell, although sunny, calm and hot makes it harder to be on the lake and a shallow lake like Albert Lea Lake is hard to fish in weather like that.

I've heard that there were some nice crappie being caught on Fountain Lake. I plan on visiting the lake as summer progresses. I keep telling myself that, but I always seem to find a way to put it off.

Until next time: Big waves of

change are happening in Madison Lake! Thanks to Get Out MORE, the Madison Lake Public Water Access (PWA), located on the eastern side of the lake, has been newly renovated with big safety and accessibility improvements – just in time for boating season. The last time this PWA was updated was back in the '90s, when boats and towing vehicles were much smaller! From dream to ribbon-cutting, this new boat launch is

part of a \$150M statewide investment – made possible through legislative support – to modernize outdoor recreation and make it easier for everyone to enjoy boating, canoeing, and kayaking. Look for these exciting upgrades at Madison Lake's newly renovated PWA:

- * More accessible parking
- * Dual launch ramps and updated docks
- * AIS and tie-down lane
- * Stormwater protection
- Bonus: Fishing is a \$4.4B industry in MN, and improvements like this fuel both our passion and our economy.

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.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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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)

LESEUR 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 - 10:30 a.m. Worship
Tuesday - Council meeting

(First Tuesday)
WEST FREEBORN LUTHERAN
Hartland, Minnesota
Rev. Marcia Pedersen
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship
Monday - Council meeting (First Monday of the month)
Friday - Quilting meets 9:00 a.m. twice a month, see news-letter 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

FAMILY OF FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH
Hollandale, Minnesota
Rev. Neal Ooms
Sunday—8:45 a.m. Worship; 9:20 Worship and kids church (now an eagle brook viewing church)

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
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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 Klaviter
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; Pre-school Sunday School during Mass
Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. - Faith Formation classes for grades K-Confirmation
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ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
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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
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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



- Linda Emstad, sixth grade instructor at the Middle School, Ellendale, was elected Teacher of the Year 2000 in the New Richland - Hartland - Ellendale- Geneva School district last week. She will be competing for state of Minnesota Teacher of the Year in fall. Books and class have been a part of Linda's life for 26 years.

- For the first time since its resurrection in 1995, the title of Miss Waseca County is sought by eight young women. The Miss Waseca County 2000 contestants are: Nicole Werth from New Richland, Christina Steward from Waseca, Amanda Tesch from Waldorf, Courtney Judd from Waseca, Stacy Lewer from Waseca, Mariah Routh from New Richland, Courtney Adams from Janesville and Jennifer Mackey from Waseca. Together, these eight women will earn scholarships totaling \$2,000.



- Spanish classes at New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School spent several days last week making Pinatas. Here Jennifer Foley, Spanish instructor, watches as Alex Barnett takes several healthy swings at the creation he and his team made. Finally he hit it so hard the entire Pinata flew across the room, nearly hitting a number of students and strewing candy about.

- Engagement Announcement. Gordon and Brenda Ednet of New Richland announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Misty Lynn, to Jeremy Ralph Krueger, son of Ralph and Irene Krueger of New Richland. Misty is a 1996 graduate of New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School and is a CRDA for Dr. Kieper in Rush city. Jeremy is a 1997 graduate of New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva, is a student of Pine Tech College in Pine City studying gunsmithing. Saturday, June 3 is the day of the wedding.

- Twelve area wrestlers brought home medals from the region wrestling meet at Rochester, March 25. They were from the left: front, Ben Barner, Alex Moen, Clay Krueger and Dylan Ferber, all placed fourth; back: Justin Tufte, third: Tim Rysavy, fourth: Gaven Schlaak, first; and Matt Holland, second.

50 years back

- Honor students of the graduating class at Waldorf - Pemberton High School are from the left, front: Lynn Drager, Conita Tesch, Cynthia Murphy, Susan Schubbe, and Becky Ewert, back: Deborah Webster, Bonnie Benson, Darla Goodrich, Dan Geary and Lynn Ewald. Graduation will be Friday, May 30 at the Waldorf school building at 8 p.m.

- Mrs. Bill Nock is pictured here with a cousin, Mrs. Kath Simonson and her son, Paul Simonson of Helosingsborg, Sweden, who spent some time here and in other places in this country recently, visiting relatives and vacationing.

- Valerie Van Alen of Menomonee Falls, Wis. was on the Dean's list at Illinois University at Normal, Ill. She is a second year student and is majoring in music. She plays the flute.

At present she is touring the state of Illinois with the concert band. Valerie is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Young of New Richland.

- A baby boy was born on May 7th at Owatonna Hospital to Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Tesch of Meriden. The little lad weighed in at 6 lb. and was given the name of Jason Lynn. Jason has one sister, Amie Kay. Jason's grandparents are Mrs. Stewart Fell and Mr. and Mrs. Eldor Tesch of Waseca, and great grandparents are Mrs. Otto Tesch of Waldorf and Mr. Herman Krueger.

75 years back

- Miss Millicent Haug of Minneapolis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Haug of Wrenshall, was married to Herbert Kuhlmeier of Superior, Wis. at St. Lukes church Saturday afternoon, June 10. Pastor C. Morgan performed the ceremony at 4 o'clock. Mr. and Mrs. Kuhlmeier spent their honeymoon at New Orleans, La., with Mr. and Mrs. W. Woodrow, the latter, Mrs. Kuhlmeier's sister, Dorothy Haug. They will live in Superior, Wis.

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Friday May 30th 10-3 PM
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I go crazy trying to get pictures...

I have one of those electronic picture frames. I'm sure you know what I mean, it stores photos and then shows them on a small screen one at a time. Now that I've had it for about a year, it has photos taken in every season.

I go kind of crazy trying to get pictures of wildflowers in spring—really, it's quite amazing how many there are, and what a variety a person can find. Some of them are around for less than two weeks, so if I miss them in one year, I have to wait for the next one to get a photo. Of course there are also wildflowers in summer, and I get pictures of those, too, but there's not the same level of urgency because those blooms seem to stick around longer.

I have to say my summer focus is wildlife. It is delightful to have good pictures of various elusive animals. I can't say I have a particularly extensive collection, but I am pleased to say I have one or two of an otter and a fair number of deer. I also have photos of both a black squirrel and a white one. The most success I have is with birds, perhaps mostly because they position themselves in such visible places. I have a few of swans that I am fairly pleased with, some of Canadian geese leading young fledglings. I have had the good luck to get two pictures of bald eagles I am very satisfied with. And then the loons...oh, the loons. They are quite bold, coming surprisingly close to my family's pontoon. If we are not noisy or boisterous, my telephoto lens can get some great shots.



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

As the electronic photo frame cycles through, it comes to photos taken in fall. I would say my objective for autumn pictures is capturing combinations of colors. I think of a mountain ash tree I am acquainted with. It covered itself in berries last fall: they were bright orange-red and beautiful to look at. They made a very nice photo contrasted against the green of the tree's leaves. As time went on, other trees nearby began to change color.

I still smile when I think of the morning we were headed out to go fishing. I sat on the boat trying to get a good angle that showed the bright colored berries in the foreground and the orange-brown leaves of a nearby tree in the background. I spent a few minutes trying to get the right angle before the boat headed out onto the lake. "Oh well," I thought to myself. "I'll get it when we come back."

A couple hours later when we returned, the berries had all been eaten by a flock of excited birds still chirping and bouncing through the branches. Of course I've always understood a photographer should get the shots at the best opportunity, but

that adventure really drove the message home.

I started writing this column, though, because of the winter photographs. Now that the leaves are green and the temperatures above freezing, those pictures of the ground covered

in white seem to be from years ago, rather than a time that could be measured in weeks. There's one of my car parked on the ice next to a fish house; that one seems especially long ago.

The good news is, I find pleasure in them all.

Each one is a frozen moment that allows me to travel in both time and space, back to where and when it was taken. My electronic photo frame is a slide show of moments I found beautiful enough, significant enough, or unusual enough to capture, so I'm grateful both for its capabilities, and for the trouble I took to select and upload the pictures.



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RIVALRY WIN — The NRHEG High School baseball team scored nine runs in the bottom of the sixth inning while defeating visiting WEM 16-9 Friday at Reese Field in New Richland. Above left, Carter Martens gets a force out at first base. In the middle, Aiden Schlaak rounds third on his way to home while Alden Dobberstein trails. Right, Owen Wayne slides safely into second with a stolen base. Lower left, Levi Whiteside prepares to deliver a pitch. Star Eagle photos by Eli Lutgens



Baseball Panthers rally past WEM

NRHEG 10-runs Medford on Senior Appreciation Night at Reese Field

No matter what the sport, Waterville-Elysian-Morristown is almost always an arch-rival opponent for the NRHEG Panthers.

They made the most of it Thursday, sending the Buccaneers home with a 16-9 setback at Jeff and Carol Reese Field in New Richland.

The Panthers, who led most of the day, found themselves trailing 9-7 after six and a half innings, but put it away with a nine-run sixth of their own.

“Tonight we were very good except when we fell off a bit in the fifth inning,” said Panthers head coach Shawn Larson. “Our offense was on hand today. Both the top and the bottom of the lineup were productive. We also had several pitchers take the ball today, so this win was very much a team effort.”

Owen Wayne went 3-for-4 and

“I am proud and grateful for the time that I have had to share with these young men.”

— NRHEG baseball coach Shawn Larson

scored three runs, Seth Staloch 3-for-5 with four runs and four RBIs. Aaden Hanna, Alden Dobberstein and Jordan Brouwers had two hits each, with one apiece by Carter Martens, Aiden Schlaak, and Jace Ihrke added one hit each. Brouwers, Martens, Schlaak and Dobberstein doubled.

Calvin Nissen, Levi Whiteside, Dakota Schlaak, Ryan Schlaak and Ihrke pitched for NRHEG, with Ihrke getting the win.

Last Monday, the Panthers hosted

Medford for Senior Appreciation Day and won 15-5 at Reese Field.

“It was a lot of fun to get all of the seniors on the field at the same time,” said Coach Larson. “I hope the seven seniors that we have (Alden Dobberstein, Aaden Hanna, Aidan Schlaak, Jace Ihrke, Seth Staloch, Carter Martens, and Brock Ziemke) enjoyed playing together tonight. I am proud and grateful for the time that I have had to share with these young men.”

Owen Wayne, a junior, started on

the mound and had a nice night, allowing three earned runs on four hits, with 10 strikeouts and two walks.

“Owen was great on the hill tonight,” said Larson. “He had an aggressive mindset and was attacking the zone. Owen looks like he is close to postseason form, and we will just encourage him to continue his routines, because we can trust him right now.”

Offensively, Aiden Schlaak was 3-for-4 with five RBIs. Wayne had two hits, with Hanna, Doberstein, Martens, Ihrke, Brock Ziemke and Ryan Schlaak adding one each.

“We have been making decent contact with the ball for a little over a week,” said Coach Larson. “Today the hard -it balls were falling in.”



FULL SPEED AHEAD – Camryn VanMaldeghem of the NRHEG High School softball team rounds second and sets her sights on third during the Panthers’ 14-2 victory over Blue Earth Area at Legion Field in New Richland last Tuesday. Star Eagle photo by Jim Lutgens

Streak ends abruptly at Waterville

NRHEG softball team blasts BEA 14-2, Medford 17-0 but falls 21-11 to WEM

The NRHEG High School softball team fashioned a winning streak last week.

It abruptly ended on Thursday.

After defeating Blue Earth Area 14-2 and Medford 17-0, the Panthers fell 21-11 to WEM in six innings at Waterville.

“We took one on the chin tonight defensively, committing 12 errors,” said NRHEG coach Wendy Schultz. “The game went much better offensively as the girls accumulated 16 hits. However, the errors were too much to overcome.”

Aspen Stenzel led the offense, going 4-for-4 with a double and three runs. Faith Phillips was 3-for-4 with a double and four RBIs. Brooklyn Summer and Ezra Boerner had two hits each, with Sommer dri-

ving in four runs. Addy Stadheim, Jace Knudson, Kyera Eustice, Olivia Berg and Chloe Stork had one hit apiece.

Sommer took the pitching loss.

The Panthers defeated visiting BEA last Tuesday.

Camryn VanMaldeghem was 3-for-3 with a double and a triple, Boerner 3-for-3 with two runs. Stenzel, Berg, Phillips and Stork contributed on hit each.

Sommer registered the pitching victory, allowing one earned run on six hits, with no walks and two strikeouts.

“This was a great team win,” said Coach Schultz. “The girls continued playing well offensively, accumulating 12 hits. The battery of Brooklyn and Addy worked hard tonight.

We’re hoping to keep it rolling.”

A day earlier, the Panthers sent Medford packing after four innings at Legion Field.

VanMaldeghem was 3-for-4 with a home run, a double four runs and three RBIs, Stork 4-for-4 with a double, Boerner 3-for-4, Stenzel 2-for-4, Stadheim 2-for-3 with two doubles. Adding one hit each were Sommer, Phillips, Berg and Eustice. Sommer, who hit a home run, was the winning pitcher, not allowing a hit or a baserunner.

“The whole team hit well tonight, lots of extra base hits,” said Schultz. “The girls played great defense, committing no errors. Medford did not reach base one tonight. It was a great team win.”

The Panthers, seeded 12th among

15 teams, opened Section 2AA tournament play Tuesday at No. 5 Belle Plaine. The winner plays today at 5 p.m. at No. 4 St. James or home against No. 13 Medford. The section semifinals and final are Saturday at Caswell Park in Mankato.

Gopher Conference standings

United South Central	10-0
Randolph	9-1
Bethlehem Academy	8-3
Kenyon-Wanamingo	7-5
Hayfield	6-4
JWP	4-6
NRHEG	3-6
Blooming Prairie	3-6
WEM	3-7
Triton	3-7
Medford	0-11



IN THERE – The Panthers’ Kyera Eustice slides safely into third as the throw is off line during NRHEG’s 14-2 triumph last week at Legion Field in New Richland. Star Eagle photo by Jim Lutgens

NRHEG golfers complete third round of conference

The NRHEG High School golfers traveled to Austin Country Club for the third round of section play last Tuesday.

Eighteen-hole scores for the NRHEG boys: Reid Sandry 87, Shan Hanson 105, Chase Hansen 107, Matt Williams 106, Braydon Rollag 111, Braxton Arnold 118.

For the girls: Alexis Olson 120, Olivia Wilkenson 120.

On Thursday, the Panthers hosted JWP at Riverview Golf Course.

NRHEG boys’ scores for nine holes: Carter Schlaak 56, Brayton Kruger 66, John Lynne 67, Haydon Ripka 70, Sealey Anderson 73.

For the girls: Wilkenson 59, Olson 61.

The Panthers play today at 1 p.m. at Waseca’s Lakeside Golf Course.



Madisynn Langfitt and Grace Starman shared information about taking part in Readers' Theater performances and the One Act Play.



Molly Johnson and Winter Pederson staffed a table at the activity fair to tell everyone at the secondary school about the benefits of joining Family, Career and Community Leaders of America.



Quinn VanMaldeghem showed her personal style while sharing information about the girls' basketball program at NRHEG.

■ Fair

from Page 1

selves,” commented Chloe, mentioning she has been in three sports and seven other activities. “They can compete in sports and be on the math team or Student Ambassadors or Knowledge Bowl.

“If you don’t try something, how will you know if you like it or not?”

Planning for this month’s activity fair began last fall, Harbor said, after he learned about similar events at other school districts. He recruited Chloe’s help in planning and preparations, all with an eye to having her, a junior, continue the momentum into the future.

“Next year, we want to put the hammer down right away in fall,” said Harbor. “We gave them some ideas here at this event, maybe having another one will get some of them to consider signing up as the school year gets going.”

Among the clubs and organizations with tables at the activity fair were student council, band, color guard, yearbook, DECA, Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), National Honor Society, Prostart, the Anti Bully Club (ABC) and the Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA). Among the MSHSL sponsored sports and competition teams were football, volleyball, cross country, wrestling, boys’ and girls’ basketball, one-act play, dance, hockey, gymnastics, trap shooting, track, softball, baseball, golf, choir, cheerleading, speech team, art,



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Thank you



The NRHEG Junior High baseball team would like to thank the local sponsors whose generous donations have helped make our 2025 season a great one. Thanks to the support of businesses and community members, the junior high team was able to purchase new jerseys, catchers' gear, a scoreboard, and warmups. A special shout-out goes to Steve Schlaak for designing and making the new Ellendale scoreboard. From the coaches, players, and families: Thank you for being part of our team, both on and off the field.

Back Row: Wyatt Hendrickson, Mack Gilliland, Aiden Routh, Jacob Klaras, Tyler Piepho, Memphis Schlaak, Owen Schlaak, Gus Bethke, Alec Wyrum, Brock Holland, Andy Nelson

Front Row: Dylan Malakowsky, Hudson McMann, Adrian Naser, Hudson Walther, Clayton Kaplan, Ben Service, Axel Ladlie, Tucker Flatness, Jaxon Duenes and Wyman Follien.

Albert Lea’s summer concert series returns

Albert Lea, Minnesota - The highly anticipated Thursdays on Fountain summer concert series returns to Fountain Lake Park beginning May 29 and running through August 28, 2025. Held every Thursday evening from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., this free community event invites everyone to enjoy live music in the beautiful lakeside setting of downtown Albert Lea.

Thursdays on Fountain has become a cherished tradition, celebrating the spirit of community while supporting local and regional musicians. Each week features a different artist or band, bringing fresh sounds and lively entertainment to residents and visitors alike. The North Lot will also continue to host food trucks at select shows, offering even more reasons to come downtown and make an evening of it.

"Thursdays on Fountain is more than just a concert series; it's a gathering space for our community, a celebration of local culture, and an opportunity to showcase all that Albert Lea has to offer," said event organizers. "By continuing to bring in new bands and performances, we help strengthen Albert Lea's vibrant arts scene and create lasting memories for people of all ages."

Businesses and organizations are invited to be part of this exciting community tradition through sponsorship opportunities. Sponsoring Thursdays on Fountain is a great way to support the arts, engage with the community, and showcase your brand. For sponsorship details, contact holly@explorealbertlea.com.

2025 Thursdays on Fountain Lineup:

- May 29 – Eclipse
- June 5 – Albert Lea Community Band
- June 12 – Robby Vee (Eddie Cochran Weekend)
- June 19 – In the Fields
- June 26 – Evan Riley
- July 3 – Melissa Schulz Music (Food on Fountain) (Food, 7:30 p.m. start time, following the parade)

July 10 – Ron & Steve Unplugged

July 17 – Papa Greezy (Crazy Days)

July 24 – Patchouli

July 31 – Music at the County Fair

August 7 – Holly Day Music

August 14 – Root River Jam

August 21 – Lost in Austin

August 28 – Flashback (Food on Fountain)

Mark your calendars and join us each week at Fountain Lake Park for an unforgettable summer of music, food, and community.

Farmamerica wins big with virtual reality

(Waseca, Minnesota) – Farmamerica has been named a runner-up in CareerViewXR's 2025 Production Grant Program. This recognition means cutting-edge virtual reality technology will soon be available to visitors who want to explore agricultural careers.

As one of just five organizations across the entire country to receive this honor, Farmamerica is getting an incredible package: a full 12-month CareerViewXR subscription for up to 1,000 students and a state-of-the-art HTC VIVE virtual reality headset. Just imagine, visitors will soon be able to step into the boots of agricultural professionals and experience the diversity of ag careers through an immersive experience at Farmamerica's visitor center.

"We're thrilled to receive this grant. These virtual reality experiences will bring agricultural careers to life in ways we never could before," said Jessica Rollins, Executive Director of Farmamerica. "Students can literally step into the fields, climb aboard farm equipment and see themselves succeeding in these essential careers. Whether it's getting hands-on with crop science, experiencing livestock management up close, or discovering cutting-edge agricultural technology, these experiences will inspire our next generation of agricultural workers."

The CareerViewXR platform will take Farmamerica's educational offerings and field trips to the next level. Visitors already love the self-guided and guided walking tours, family events, day camps, farm animal interactions, and interactive exhibits. Now, with this incredible new technology, we're able to help everyone understand how agriculture provides communities with food, fiber, renewable fuels and sustainable jobs.

What makes CareerViewXR so special? It brings jaw-dropping field trips right to the classroom through stunning 360-degree web-based tours and companion virtual reality videos. The best part? You don't even need fancy equipment to experience it. The content works great on laptops, cell phones, and tablets that students and job seekers already have.

Farmamerica is a non-profit agricultural interpretive center that connects people with the evolving story of agriculture through educational hands-on experiences like historic farm tours, day camps, and family-friendly events, partnerships, and community engagement. The 360-acre Farmamerica site is located right off Highway 14 on County Road 2, west of Waseca, MN.

New medication management program

Taking medicine the wrong way can cause serious problems, like bad side effects or even life-threatening issues. Managing your medicine correctly can help prevent these problems, improve how well treatments work, help you feel better, and save money by avoiding extra trips to the emergency room or hospital. Programs like this can also help people remember to take their medicine and give them more control over their own health.

Public health nurses will give personal support by visiting people at home. They will help organize and check your medicines and prescriptions. Nurses can explain your prescriptions, over-the-counter medicines, and daily vitamins or supplements. They can also help you spot side effects, avoid mistakes, and make sure you are taking your medicine the right way. Nurses can answer your questions and help you understand your treatment plan, all in the comfort of your own home.

"Medication management is going to be very beneficial to our community. It is a huge need without many providers to help. I am excited to be able to provide this service and make a difference in the community," says Waseca County Public Health Nurse Lacey Cords.

The new Waseca County Public Health medication management program is open to people of any age with private insurance or Medical Assistance (MA). It is an important step toward healthier lives for all.

For more information or to schedule a visit, contact Waseca County Public Health Nurse, Lacey Cords, BSN, RN, PHN at 507-461-7766 or lacey.cords@wasecacounty.gov.

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Recognition



NRHEG students Brady Koopal and Alexis Olson were recognized in Golden Valley at the Perpich Center for the Arts for the MSHSL Visual Arts Festival on Saturday, May 10. They both received the Award of Excellence. Brady's work, titled Conquest and Fate, won in the painting division and Alexis' work, titled Velociraptor, won in the craft division. They are pictured with their art instructor Cynthia Gail.

Garden Club Sale



Brian Vairma bought plants from Jody Johnson from the New Richland Garden Club Plant Sale at City Hall on Saturday, May 17, 2025. Star Eagle photos by Ben Revermann



From left: Monty, Jessica and Alex Revermann bought plants from Julie Economy, Brenda Berg and Barb Finseth at the New Richland Garden Club Plant Sale on Saturday, May 17, 2025.



A Graduation Open House in honor of Olivia Wencil Daughter of Ed and Melissa Wencil will be held at the Izaak Walton League Building, 1546 SW. 58th St., Owatonna Sunday May 25 from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

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Clarks Grove Historical Society hosts speaker Dale Peterson

By BEN REVERMANN Staff writer

The Clarks Grove Historical Society's annual meeting took place the evening of Thursday, May 15 at the organization's heritage museum. Special guest for the evening was Dale Peterson, the Freeborn County "Fuller Brush Man."

Inside the doors of the Clarks Grove Area Heritage Museum was an antique gumball machine that gave out gumballs for just a penny. Tom Mattson said, "It might be a little old, but that machine still works just fine." His wife Mel is the president of the historical society. She headed up the meeting for the night. After the formalities, Mel said, "Kathy has a story for you guys." Kathy Jensen, the Secretary/Treasurer, said, "It was Tuesday afternoon, a man showed up and said some of his relatives had grown up here and he wanted to know about them. He looked around and when he was done, he handed me a \$100 bill. His dad grew up here." Someone asked, "What was his last name?" To which Jensen replied, "Christenson." One of the elders in attendance named Everett asked, "Was it Hannah Christenson? I remember where the farm was and that there was a doctor out there." To which Jensen replied, "Yes, and what a wonderful memory Everett has."

Also in attendance was Dale R. Peterson, manager for the Fuller Brush Company, known as the Fuller Brush Man for Freeborn County since 1970—a total of 55 years. Born in 1936, Peterson had been selling new and used cars for Olson Motors when he answered a help wanted ad in the paper. After the 9 a.m. interview, he asked, "When would you like me to start?" To which his inter-



Dale R. Peterson, the Fuller Brush Man for Freeborn County from 1970 till present, gave a presentation at the Clarks Grove Area Heritage Museum on Thursday, May 15, 2025. Star Eagle photo by Ben Revermann

viewer replied, "About 10 a.m. this morning." He said at the peak of the "traveling salesman" times, there were about 10,000 salesmen crisscrossing America for the Fuller Brush Company. Peterson said he went through 15 Dodge Caravans during that time, and when he kept track of his mileage for a while, he found he had put on over two million miles just driving in Freeborn County alone.

Peterson is still active with the Fuller company. He distributed catalogs to those in attendance, saying he wanted to acquaint them with products the Fuller company offers today.

He said when he started having people work as salespeople under him, he was encouraged to hire women: "Back then we referred to the Fuller gals as 'Fullerette's.'" He said at some point he got

tired of waiting for the brushes and other products to arrive in the mail, "So I started refitting my van to hold on to some stock and keep it with me at all times. After I started doing that, I would have a brush or two to pass out and that sped things up a lot." He ended his speech by handing out plastic, black, Fuller Brush Company letter openers to everyone present.

There will be a full lineup of things going on at the Clarks Grove Area Heritage Museum over the summer. June 12 will have a visit from Sorenson's Appliance. On July 10 they will have "The Singing Cowgirl" and more. To close the informative night, snacks of open-faced, egg and ham salad sandwiches were served alongside chocolate chip cookies and coffee.



Damazion Porter (Tinman), Christian Huntington-Cully (Lion), Olivia Johnson (Scarecrow) and Sophia Williams as Dorothy.



The Treble Triple Trio in alphabetical order: Ariel Anhalt, Addy Buenger, Kaitlyn Dobberstein, Sierra Fish, Alamae Gutierrez and Abby Williams.



Sophia Williams and Olivia Johnson were enjoying apples during the NRHEG Music Department's presentation of The Wonderful Wizard of Oz on Saturday, May 17, 2025.

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

By BEN REVERMANN Staff writer

Dorothy Gale from Kansas made an appearance at the NRHEG music department's presentation of "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" in the high school's secondary auditorium. Three separate performances the weekend of May 16 and 17 featured lots of lights, effects, and, of course, music.

L. Frank Baum published the original, "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" in 1900. It sold out immediately. There would also be a 1902 Broadway musical and a 1939 major motion picture. But for the NRHEG high schoolers, it was a chance to sharpen their acting skills and to get

acquainted with an old classic. The play was directed by Krista M. Reeder; Solveig Sundblad was the acting coach.

The classic story begins on a farm in Kansas. Tension builds after Dorothy's dog Toto supposedly bit an angry, vengeful neighbor named Almira Gulch, played by Caralee Koopal. Almira claims she will get a police order to have Toto taken away. Dorothy's Aunt Em, played by Gaby Schlaak, and Uncle Henry, played by Harbor Cromwell, reluctantly consent to let Almira take the dog. Dorothy, played by Sophia Williams, becomes distraught. When Toto escapes from Almira and returns to her, she decides she has to run away to

keep from losing him forever. After being outsmarted by Professor Chester Marvel, played by Wyatt Larson, Dorothy returns home in the midst of a storm; her house is picked up by a twister and dropped into Oz.

As it drops into this strange new land, the house falls on and kills the Wicked Witch of the East. Her sister, the Wicked Witch of the West, played by Madeline Schlaak, vows revenge. Dorothy is informed only the Wizard of Oz can help her, but she must make a perilous journey to request his help. In her travels, she meets the Scarecrow, played by Olivia Johnson; the Tinman, played by Damazion Porter; and the Cowardly Lion, played by Christian Hun-

tington-Cully. The foursome battle their way to the Wizard, played by Wyatt Larson, before finishing off the Wicked Witch in her twisted castle in front of her evil Monkey Generals, Kendel Kloeck and Hailey Staska.

Krista Reeder expressed her gratitude to the nearly 100 student musicians, staff and volunteers, the administration, the custodial staff, the P.E. team and coaches, the Music Boosters, to Ashley, the parents of the ensemble members and stage crew, to Sue, Nikki and Deb, to Rielly, Kaitlyn, Olivia, Abbie, all parent volunteers, Mr. Schaefer, Mrs. Kloeck and her family, Deke, Mason and Makenna.

A Graduation Open House in honor of Cole Hutchens Son of Rob and Stacy Hutchens will be held at his home, 21809 170th St. New Richland on Friday May 30 from 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

A Graduation Open House in honor of Tayla Sandry Daughter of David and Sherri Sandry will be held at the Waldorf Community Center, 109 Main St., Waldorf on Saturday June 7 from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

A Graduation Open House in honor of Madisyn Ferguson Daughter of Janda Ferguson will be held at New Richland City Hall on Saturday May 31 from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

A Graduation Open House in honor of Ben Hagen Son of Brad and Allyson Hagen will be held at the Harguth Barn, 32450 State Hwy. 13, Waseca Friday June 6 from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.