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■ Inside



Graduation



Sierra Misgen hugs her sister during the parent appreciation portion of the graduation ceremony.

Misgen earns top honors at NRHEG

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editorial Assistant

NRHEG Valedictorian Sierra Ellen Misgen, 18, is the daughter of Mark and Sara Misgen and family to Payton, Markus, Makota, Preston, Makenna and Amelia. She plans to attend the University of Minnesota Duluth to study exercise and rehabilitation science.

While in high school, Misgen has been part of National Honor Society, track, competition cheer, sideline cheer, cross country, yearbook, volleyball and basketball.

Misgen has been active in the community, participating in youth cheer camp, youth cheer team, her church's youth group and church camp. She was also a lifeguard and water safety instructor at the Owatonna Country Club.

Of achieving valedictorian, Misgen said she is proud to know all her hard work has paid off and was worth it.

Misgen's parents said, "We're incredibly proud of Sierra and all she's accomplished. She works hard and gives her all. Watching her balance school, sports, and activities is unreal. Being valedictorian truly reflects her dedication, and as her parents, we couldn't be happier."

Misgen advises students to always try their best, work hard,



Misgen

Misgen continued on 5

Ellendale Heritage Society to meet June 7

The Ellendale Area Heritage Society will meet Saturday, June 7, at 9 a.m. in the community center. Visitors and those interested in becoming members are welcome.

A word from
The Word

Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

1 Timothy 4:12

Class of 2025



Grace Starman embraces her grandpa, Don Starman.



PARENT APPRECIATION - (At left) Carter Schlaak hugs his mom, Erin Schlaak. (At right) Jace Ihrke hugs his mom, Amy.



From left Aspyn Stenzel and Mallory Schlinger.
Star Eagle photos by Eli Lutgens

Class of '25 graduates 55

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

They stood together for the final time. One by one, they walked out into the world.

The 55 members of the NRHEG class of 2025 graduated Sunday afternoon in a packed high school gymnasium in New Richland.

Principal Grant Berg got the show rolling as he lightheartedly welcomed and thanked NRHEG board members, faculty, staff, parents, guardians, and all those who made

graduation possible.

Berg said he wanted to keep the introduction short and sweet, and he did. "Today is their (the graduates') day. Thank you."

Berg introduced the NRHEG choir which performed "This is Our Day" arranged by Masa Fukada.

Class speakers Cole Hutchens, Harbor Cromwell and Grace Starman, elected by their peers, addressed the group's shared experiences in elementary grades, secondary school, and looking toward the future.

"If my kindergarten self could see me up here today, I think he'd have just two questions," Hutchens began. "Did school really go that fast? And 'Have the Vikings finally won a Superbowl?'"

"I remember a time when the biggest decisions we had to make were things like what color folder to use or what your friend was trying to trade you for lunch," Hutchens continued. "Life was simple and we were just getting started."

Hutchens shared fond moments of elementary school through high

school, including memories of football, climbing snow hills, an Eagle Bluff trip, the Covid pandemic and much more.

"All of this led us here today," Hutchens concluded. "We have all made a difference in each other these past twelve-ish years. If we keep looking back in the past, we will miss the future... With that being said, I will leave you all with this quote from Aidan Schlaak's favorite singer, Adele, 'For this is the end.'"

Graduation continued on 2

Honored for service NRHEG says farewell to three long-tenured staff

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The NRHEG years of service and retirement recognition program for the 2024-2025 school year took place on the last day of school, May 30, after students had departed. The gathering recognized milestones in the careers of school staff members. Emcee for the one-hour event was school superintendent Michael Meihak, who told everyone lightheartedly, "We've got a lot of names to get through so just clap whenever you want."

Retirees at NRHEG included administrative assistant to the superintendent, Sue Kulseth, who has been in the role for the past 10 years.

Barb Hagen, State MARSS data coordinator and assistant to the guidance counselor and athletic director, retired in January after working for the district for 27 years. Hagen had prepared a few words for the occasion but assured everyone when she pointed to her speech, "It's not this long I promise, it just looks like a lot." After indicating a table in the front of the room where a large number of her family members was seated, she began, "I want to

Farewell continued on 12



After 14 years driving school bus, Dale Agrimson is retiring from NRHEG. His plans are to move to Tennessee with his wife Pam to enjoy the beautiful climate and spend time soaking up the scenery on his motorcycle.

Sandry earns salutatorian honors

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editorial Assistant

Tayla Sandry, 19, is NRHEG's salutatorian for 2025. She is the daughter of David and Sherri Sandry of Waldorf. Tayla has two siblings, Reid and Addison. Her future plans are to attend college for a degree in elementary education.

During her time in school, Sandry has been selected for the National Honor Society, was part of the prom committee and yearbook club, and was the golf team manager.

She volunteered at vacation bible school, was a Sunday School teacher, and she worked for the New Richland School Age Care program.



Sandry

Of her accomplishment of becoming salutatorian, Sandry says, "I am very proud to have earned this. I have worked hard to achieve good grades for my entire school career." She says her family is very proud she has pushed herself academically while maintaining a steady job.

Sandry's suggestion for younger classmates is that they get the work done right away. She added, "If you procrastinate and do it at the last second, it won't be your best work and it will cause you unnecessary stress."

Regarding being named salutatorian, Sandry said she had always hoped she would be eligible to be either valedictorian or salutatorian and has worked toward it.

She believes something she will miss most about high school is "all of the activities and time spent with my friends. I will also miss homecoming." Her favorite memories include being on homecoming court her senior year because of all the fun activities. "My favorite was when we all went out to Applebee's after the coronation, and we told the waiter that it was Harbor's birthday, so they sang Happy Birthday to King Cromwell."

Sandry's favorite subjects in school were English, Spanish, and foods class. Her least favorite was math. Señora Olson was one of Sandry's favorite teachers because "she made Spanish fun"; Ms. Chartrande, "I'm so glad she joined our school for

Sandry continued on 4



FenceLines

by Mark Bernard

Dabs of rain make ideal soil

After a cooler than anticipated week, the scurs got the temperature slide loose on the Weather Eye and turned up the heat. Have they broken the magic spell or do our seesaw temperatures continue? Starting Thursday, mostly sunny with a fair chance of an evening shower. Highs in the mid-70's with lows in the mid-50's. Partly sunny on Friday with a fair chance of forenoon rain. Highs in the low 70's with lows in the mid-50's. Partly sunny on Saturday with a good chance of rain. Highs in the mid-70's with lows in the upper 50's. Sunday, mostly sunny with a good chance of thunderstorms developing. Highs in the upper 70's with lows in the upper 50's. Tuesday, sunny with highs in the upper 70's and lows in the upper 50's. Mostly cloudy on Wednesday with highs in the mid-70's and lows in the upper 50's. Our gain in daylight slows to under a minute per day on June 7th, and we'll only accumulate approximately six more minutes before the summer solstice on the 21st. The normal high for June 7th is 76 and the normal low is 57. The scurs have a sudden hankering for strawberry shortcake & whipped cream.

Oddly enough, the Full Moon arrives on June 11th and is known as the Full Strawberry Moon. This tasty delicacy will soon be in season. There might be a few folks who don't like strawberries, but I know of very few of them. One of my favorites as a kid was strawberry shortcake topped with real whipped cream made from Jersey cream. In the summer it was even more cream colored than normal, yellowed by the carotenoid pigments picked up from the grass the cows grazed on. Other names for this Full Moon include Honey Moon and Green Corn Moon as the corn was coming up in the settlers fields. While the Ojibwe and Sioux often didn't get along, they did agree that this was the Strawberry Moon. Doubtful they had whipped cream. At the ranch, we know it as the Garden Planted Moon. Well, mostly anyway.

Amazing what adding a little sunshine and heat to the equation did for crops over the weekend. The corn crop suddenly looked like it really had some potential. The color improved dramatically, and it appeared to be growing rapidly. It should be when we start racking up over 20 GDU's per day. The soybeans did likewise with some of the later planted fields emerging like gangbusters and the early planted fields putting out a trifoliate every few days. Fields of both crops having suffered severe sandblasting were replanted ahead of the Monday night-Tuesday rainfall event. Weed control measures have been taken in both crops, although some had decided that it was perhaps a tad early yet. Monday's windy conditions Monday were also a factor. Off target movement is never a good thing.

There are still some lingering reminders of the disaster that 2024 was. With May and June rainfall

totals being measured in feet, one can easily surmise why. Running up and down the rows, it's incredible in some fields how many rocks there are this spring. Wet conditions substantially curtailed rock picking operations on some farms. Many are scrambling to get them picked up to avoid picking them up later with the corn head or wrecking the blades on the chopping head. The drowned-out spots are not unexpectedly loaded with weeds and weed pressure in general is up over some years. Many fields could not be sprayed. Something else that's become more noticeable as well is the presence of volunteer trees in some fields. Where weed control operations were curtailed this is especially true. Couple it with vertical tillage ahead of soybean planting or no-tillage at all, it comes as no surprise.

As mentioned, a major proportion of the garden is planted. The first string beans and sunflowers went in last Thursday. Last week's dabs of rain made for ideal soil moisture in the seed zone. Friday and Saturday night the vine crops were all planted including pumpkins, gourds, squash, cukes, muskmelons and even the lowly zucchini. It's been a while since we attempted to raise muskmelon, so I am looking forward to seeing how they do. One is an heirloom variety I remember my folks growing and the other is a variety we grew when we first started gardening here back in the late 1980's. Sweet corn and Indian corn went in Sunday night. Some four o'clocks were planted just ahead of the rain Monday night on ground that had been tilled for that purpose. Hummingbirds and sphinx moths are the primary beneficiaries. Planting a garden always brings with it the hope for success. The true success is being able to share the bounty with others.

The reptilians and amphibians continue to pique my interest. As cottonwood fuzz floated by, I spotted one of my little helpers in the garden, blending in with the dark colored soil. A redbelly snake no bigger than a large nightcrawler slithered and coiled as I attempted to pick it up. Cute little feller, probably looking for insects, slugs, or other pests. With the flying/biting insects, particularly the blackflies, being a nuisance. I'd begun to wonder what happened to the toad population. After the chorus frogs ran their course, I expected the toads to step up to the plate with their usual mating ritual singing. I was disappointed to only hear faint traces of trilling from the wetland. I finally saw my first toad of the season just last week. Toads overwinter by burrowing below the frost line. With little snow cover, the frost went relatively deep. Did the open winter affect toad survival as it did some of the grass hay and area lawns? Looking at the ears frozen off on some of this year's lamb crop, I wouldn't bet against it.

Poppy's daily agenda is pretty simple. Play, dawdle, chase squirrels, eat and sleep on the new couch. She still needs to get her heartworm, flea and tick meds once a month however. After taking the chewables without incident for a couple years, she suddenly decided they really weren't her style. It became a 20-minute process to get them in her gizzard. Since we were out of her medication, we asked if there were any alternatives to the two-tablet regime we'd been using. Fortunately, there was a newer and less expensive option, also in treat form. Once Mrs. Cheviot procured a test dose from Holly, she set about figuring out how to work the tablet into Poppy's routine. Since the new medication needed to be taken with food, that presented another challenge. Getting Poppy to eat twice a day happens most days, but sometimes not. This time however, the trickery worked. Poppy downed both her food and the new meds after some initial hesitation. Corgis can change if they have to, I guess.

See you next week...real good then.

A different approach to reading

I've preached for years to my students that if they have someone else read their paper out loud to them, they will find many of the mistakes they miss prior to turning it in. The idea is that the other person might pause when reading if they are confused. They might pause when they encounter something they know is wrong, such as putting the same word twice by accident.

I finally demanded that they do this with a story earlier this year. We spent an entire class period with the kids going around having their papers read back to them. I thought we might finally make a breakthrough in proof-reading!

Nope. Not even close. As I marked up paper after paper, finding those silly mistakes that should be caught when read aloud, I pondered the problem. Why didn't this work? What was I missing?

Then it struck me. I had been thinking about MCA tests as well, and our scores were not optimal. Kids struggle with reading, and I'm constantly thinking about why that is and how to change it.

I did some math, putting two and two together. The students read papers out loud but still didn't notice easy mistakes. They have a hard time reading and comprehending. The answer?

Oral interpretation. That was my favorite and most influential class in college. Oral interpretation is about taking a written piece and not just reading it, but performing it. We were taught how to read the spaces and the punctuation.

What in the world does that mean? Reading punctuation is about pausing any time you run across a period, comma, question mark, exclamation



Whatever Flips Your Waffle

by Mark Domeier
Contributing Writer

point, etc. When I listen to kids read, they just keep going at those spots. This can completely change the meaning of a paragraph. Punctuation marks are meant to be pauses.

Plus, end mark punctuation can be critical to reading. Take this sentence: "She had been down at the docks that night." Okay, pretty straightforward, telling you when and where someone was. But add a question mark instead, and the meaning changes a bit: "She had been down at the docks that night?" It's as if the narrator can't believe it. Or if you add an exclamation point: "She had been down at the docks that night!" Now it becomes a revelation.

So when you read out loud, or even to yourself, you should always be scanning ahead a bit to notice those end marks. It can be tough, and if you don't, you can always go back and re-read the sentence for the full effect.

Now for reading the spaces. How does that work? That's pretty simple. Slow down. When we race from word to word, sometimes they blend together and we lose the context of the passage. Plus, if we just skip past words we are unsure about, we also miss out on important parts of the story. See the spaces and enunciate your words.

I talked to other teachers, including those in the elementary. Was I missing anything here? Mrs. Ihrke suggested

adding the WhoWhatWhenWhere-WhyHow questions. Great idea! We would work on answering those along with our other activities.

I crafted a weeklong unit for my 7th graders to try to zero in on reading better out loud. We started with Dr. Seuss' "To Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street." I divided the story up into small segments, and we worked on reading it out loud, focusing on the spaces between the words, trying to make them clear. Kids would ask about pronunciations since Seuss was known for making up some words. We finished with a classwide read-along.

Next, I trimmed half-page sections of "The Outsiders," since all the kids had read it earlier in the year. It was material they knew. We spent time learning how to mark up a page for reading it to the class. We underlined words we wanted to emphasize, wrote out how to pronounce words, and circled punctuation marks. After working on all that, the students read those pages and we rediscovered some good parts of the book.

Finally, I had them select a half-page from the books they were currently reading for my class. They went through and marked up copies of those pages the same way and practiced them with their classmates. They ended by getting up in front of the class and reading their selections.

This was a lot of fun! The kids did

really well overall. Now the next step begins.

I need the kids to keep buying into this concept. Granted, you can't always read out loud for things, but if you work on slowing down and doing this in your head, the same ideas can buoy you to better reading comprehension. However, I followed up with some short stories and had the kids partner read. That kept the momentum going and gave them more confidence as they continued asking the essential questions.

I'm already thinking about next year. I want to continue some things with these kids as they move through 8th grade and see if my theory is correct. Plus, I plan to start the year doing oral interpretation with my new 7th graders. Let's get them going right away and work on it throughout the year.

Reading is essential. I wrote last week about the dying form of the novel and how sad that is. I also wrote about reasons people don't read as much, inability being a big reason. I hope to chip away at that. At the very least, I want my students to be able to comprehend the basics they need to survive and thrive in life.

I'd love it if they loved reading. I'd love it even more if they read out loud with an enthusiasm and verve that would have that on display. Maybe that will be part of what I do with them in 8th grade!

Word of the Week: This week's word is sanguineous, which means confident or optimistic, as in, "The student was sanguineous before his presentation, knowing that he would read well in front of his peers." Impress your friends and confuse your enemies!

■ Graduation

from Page 1

Cromwell was the second speaker and talked about the significance of senior year. He talked about the present, "today."

"Standing here now, knowing this is the last time the class of 2025 will be in the same place, makes me miss the past, but more than that, it makes me cherish the memories we've made together," Cromwell stated.

"Senior year was a rollercoaster. There were late nights spent finishing assignments, or just staying up talking because we knew time was running out... There were big wins—like beating tough competition and passing tests we didn't think we'd pass. And there were hard losses too—games that didn't go our way, plans that fell through, friend-

ships that changed, and the quiet realization that some things won't ever be the same."

Cromwell said student activities taught him that being a leader isn't just a title, "It meant learning to lead with heart, to listen with respect and to keep going even when things didn't go as planned."

"To the class of 2025—thank you for the laughs, the lessons, and the memories," Cromwell closed. "We may be going our separate ways, but this year, this time, and this class will always be a part of who we are."

The final class speaker was Starman

"Saying goodbye to each other is not the end of the story, it is instead the beginning of the next chapter of our lives," she said. "Today, June 1, 2025, we embark on our next step... The day we've dreamed of since kindergarten is finally here, and we've achieved that dream. We have all walked the same path until now. That path goes 56 different ways and we

will all walk our own."

Starman said leaving behind the comfort and security of assigned seating and daily routines may be a little scary, but in exchange graduates earn their freedom to discover who they are without the walls of high school defining who they are.

"As we move on to the rest of our lives, we will face challenges that we feel utterly unprepared for—but we are ready for them," Starman ended. "Keep the memories close. They're your reminder of how far you've come. Don't be afraid to move forward. The world is waiting. You're more ready than you know."

Berg introduced the NRHEG band, which played the traditional "last song together," a composition played sometime during the seniors' career, and one they selected as a favorite.

This year's choice was "Jupiter: Bringer of Jollity" arranged by Gustav Holst.

Gisele Cazares led the parent ap-

preciation statement, after which graduates came down off the stage and delivered flowers to the parent figures in their lives.

Following the parent appreciation, a compilation of videos and photos from the class of '25 was shared.

Berg introduced salutatorian Tayla Sandry and valedictorian Sierra Misen.

Short biographies of both these honored students appear in this week's Star Eagle.

School board members Amy Ihrke and Kelly Delacruz, alongside superintendent Michael Meihak and Principal Berg, presented diplomas to the graduates.

When finished, Berg told graduates, "It's time," and asked the graduates to stand and move the tassels on their caps.

"You are now officially graduated," said Berg. "I want to congratulate all of the graduates and thank everyone for their attendance. I wish you all the best."

Congratulations to the class of 2025

I really enjoy attending high school graduations. There's something richly fulfilling to me in getting all the names, information and photographs needed to truly record the event. It's not only current coverage to be included in the newspaper, it's a milestone event being recorded and kept on file, perhaps for some of these folks to read and remember decades down the line.

This year I arrived about 45 minutes early and found myself a good seat, thanks to Amy Ihrke who was kind enough to allow me an aisle seat in the front. With my place claimed, I corralled the graduates and we headed down to the commons for some photos. This year's photos were done in record time, about nine minutes. In that time I photographed the boys, the girls, the honor students and the valedictorian and salutatorian.

I think the kids were well taught.

Arriving back to the gymnasium, I learned I still had 20 minutes until the program began. Amy told me to sit down and relax.

We got to chatting. Numerous topics presented themselves.

My graduation.
Principal Berg.
The day's ceremony, now only a few minutes away.



Just a Thought...

by Eli Lutgens

My graduation felt like it went by in the blink of an eye. The morning, the program, and my party afterwards. I will never forget teachers reminding us, "This will be the last time you and your fellow graduates are all together in one space."

Principal Berg was my seventh- and eighth-grade history teacher. For a special memento, each student handed Berg a golf ball as they walked onto the stage. Last year it was shampoo. He said he appreciated the golf balls much more.

I really enjoyed having Mr. Berg as my teacher. His class was informative and he enjoyed teaching. But my middle school brain couldn't quite understand that.

At the end of eighth grade, he asked us students to give him a review. He handed us a sheet of paper and told us he'd been grading us for two years; it was our turn.

I used every inch of both sides of the paper. I told Berg the good things

and the bad. Which, really, the only "bad" was I felt like he needed to be more energetic at the front of the classroom. I told him not to make the history he was teaching seem even longer ago by an apparent lack of enthusiasm. I was overly critical as an eighth-grader, but I swear, every time I saw him after that, he always seemed more energetic. I stopped by his classroom numerous times, after I graduated (nearly 10 years ago in 2016). I heard many students proclaim him as their favorite. It was interesting to see Berg "grow" as a teacher. More accurately, to see through a different lens, from a different perspective.

In total I spent a little over two hours at this year's graduation. My favorite photos were, again, taken during the "parent appreciation" element of the program; it was both a privilege to be there to capture those moments, and a challenge. Another "feel-good" accomplishment was

but we do not know who did this but GOD does.

On a lighter note I would like to thank the people who did all the chalk drawings on our sidewalks. It was so refreshing to see these drawings and to know how much work it took to make them. It truly made our day. Thank you again.

Sharon Eckart

Dear Editor,

I am hoping the right people see this in the Star. Last memorial day flowers and the pot were removed from my sister's husband grave. She was very sad over this. But again this year flowers and pot were taken again. How can people steal from a grave. My sister was so hurt, not because of the flowers but because she could not understand why people could be so cruel. This is bad

NRHEG

StarEagle

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Compostings

by Al Batt

Blinking fluid is real

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS’ CLUB MEETING
Do you have any tattoos?
I don’t think so.
You don’t know?
There are places I don’t want to look.

DRIVING BY BRUCE’S DRIVE
I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I visited a rest area in Iowa. On a wall, there was a familiar painting. When I was a boy, I thought the most famous couple in the world were the two in “American Gothic,” Grant Wood’s frequently parodied, iconic painting. Who were these two figures, and what was their relationship? Many people assume they’re husband and wife. Wood called the two some father and daughter. Wood modeled the pair after his 32-year-old sister and his 62-year-old dentist. He painted the duo with elongated necks and faces, and they looked stern, somewhat quizical, and serious. Wood intended to applaud the hardworking, honest and dignified farmers of the Midwest.

That painting reminds me of the farmer who told a visitor, “The black cows always eat more than the brown cows.”
“Why is that?” asked the puzzled guest.
“We have more black cows than brown cows,” answered the farmer.
I spoke at a couple of things in Louisiana. The term “Cajun Holy Trinity” refers to the trio of onions, green bell peppers and celery that are a foundational component of Cajun and Creole cuisine. I ate gumbo, jambalaya and étouffée, which are distinct Cajun and Creole dishes. I had to ask which was which. I was told that gumbo is a soup or stew served over rice, jambalaya is a rice dish cooked with other ingredients, and étouffée is a thick sauce served over rice. I didn’t know what things of unknown origin were in each dish, so I questioned a couple of restaurant employees. Their answers were basically the same: “You don’t want to know.”

I’VE LEARNED
“You’re a lot like your father.”
“You’re a lot like your mother.”
When I hear those comments, I take them as the utmost compliment.
I’m glad blinking doesn’t make any noise.

Despite being titled “Fargo,” no scenes for that movie were filmed in Fargo. Some were shot at Wally McCarthy Oldsmobile in Richfield, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and Chanhassen Dinner Theatre.
Nothing makes a person feel older than a new driver’s license photo.

In 1925, Skinner’s Manufacturing Company in Omaha introduced Skinner’s Raisin Bran. Other bran cereals existed, but Skinner’s debuted the first with raisins.

We talk to ourselves when we need an expert’s opinion.
Eye drops are blinking fluid.

U.S. Census Bureau figures show the states with the highest percentages of poverty in 2023 were Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, West Virginia, Kentucky and Oklahoma.

BAD JOKES

DEPARTMENT

What do you call an insect that can’t decide whether or not to eat your house? A ter-might.

Santa Claus is tough on his elves. He’s a real sleigh driver.

I start my new job hanging mirrors tomorrow. It’s something I can see myself doing.

I meant to publish this earlier: April was Procrastination Awareness Month.

Studies show I should brush my teeth with my non-dominant hand, but a toothbrush works better.

A politician held a rally in a small town. He asked, “What can the government do for you?”

A man said: “We have two problems here. The first one is that we have no doctor in town.”

The politician pulled out his iPhone and had a short conversation. Concluding his call, he said, “That’s taken care of. There will be a doctor here next month. What’s your second problem?”

“We can’t get a cellphone signal here,” said the man.

NATURE NOTES

I walked around Lake Sagata-gan at the St. John’s Abbey Arboretum. A family of Canada geese (Ma, Pa and five goslings) moved toward the water. One baby had difficulty climbing over the trunk of a fallen tree. To the gosling, it was Mt. Everest. It cried. The gander walked back to see if he could help and stepped onto the log just as the gosling reached the summit. The gander’s big foot landed directly on top of the little fellow. More crying ensued. They both shuffled into the water, appearing no worse for the wear, but I expect the gosling had nightmares.

Some Canada geese undertake a northward molt migration in late May and early June. This migration consists of non-breeding geese, including young and failed breeders, who travel to northern and subarctic areas to molt their flight feathers and spend the summer.

MEETING ADJOURNED

“Thank you. You’re a kind person. It doesn’t cost anything to be kind. People forget. Kindness doesn’t cost a dime.”—Allan Wolf, “Zane’s Trace.”



Heather Blake, who along with her husband Travis took ownership of Four Seasons athletic wear in downtown Waseca, is planning to transition the business back toward its original focus on sportswear, gear, and supplies.

Photo by Deb Bently

Four Seasons changing under new ownership

By DEB BENTLY
Staff writer

When Heather and Travis Blake took ownership of Four Seasons Apparel and More from Jaala and Jeremiah Miller at the beginning of April, it was a bit like returning home for Heather, who has had many connections with the store beginning back when she took part on the Bluejay softball, basketball and volleyball teams prior to graduating in 2005. The store was founded in 1976 by Tom and Cindy Piche, who operated it for decades before selling it to the Millers in 2014.

Heather says she feels a strong association with the business because not only did her aunts

Linda Ziemke and LuAnn Anderson play for the 4-Seasons softball team in the 1980s, the Piches’ daughter Angie coached her in Community Ed softball and Jane Bartelt’s daughter Jayme coached her fast-pitch summer team. She says the Piches and Bartelts have been great family friends, and Heather has many memories of being at the store visiting Jane and Cindy, buying tennis shoes and Bluejay gear.

Shortly after graduating, while in her 20s, Heather even had a part-time job at the store, which has been

in the same location at 124 North State Street in Waseca’s downtown since its inception.

“Next year will be the store’s fiftieth anniversary,” she notes with excitement.

“There will be a learning curve,” she observes. “I want to figure out what the needs are as we

return to something closer to the original model of the business.” She makes the observation that the Millers added an online store, brought new technology and expanded the equipment for creating custom apparel. She calls attention to some remodeling and improvements to the building done by the Millers during their ownership, saying they really did a nice job updating the store.

Heather says she intends to reinstate the original company name, “4-Seasons Athletics,” while increasing the stock she carries of sporting goods and coming to a better understanding of the steps she can take to keep more in town.

“For most of my life,” she comments, “4-Seasons Athletics has been the place to go for uniforms, sports attire and custom clothing.”

4-Seasons continued on 5

Chamber welcomes New Richland Craft Mall as New Member

WASECA, MN — The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the addition of the New Richland Craft Mall to its growing list of members. The Chamber Ambassadors officially welcomed the New Richland Craft Mall, owner Jennie Johnson, with a warm reception, celebrating their commitment to the local business community.

Kristie Biehn, Chair of the Waseca Chamber Ambassadors, expressed her excitement about the new membership. “We are thrilled to welcome the New Richland Craft Mall to our Chamber family. Their dedication to providing a unique shopping experience and supporting local artisans is a wonderful asset to our community,” said Biehn.

Mikhail Rostislavovich, President of the Waseca Chamber Board of Directors, also shared his thoughts. “The New Richland Craft Mall exemplifies the entrepreneurial spirit that strengthens our local economy. We are proud to support their journey as they continue to grow and serve the area.”

The New Richland Craft Mall first opened in 2020 as a creative solution during the pandemic when traditional craft shows were limited. What began as a temporary endeavor quickly transformed into a beloved destination for local



Left to right back row: Larry Johnson, Marcy Buchele, Jodie Thompson, Mikhail Rostislavovich, Kevin Walter. Front Row: Kristie Biehn, Store owner Jennie Johnson, and Abby Clemons

shoppers. Co-founder Sara Jo Vulcan joined early on, and their success led to renting a storefront in the historic old drug store.

After four years of success, the owners have made the significant decision to purchase a larger space, providing greater visibility and room for expansion. The new location will feature additional amenities, including food trucks, picnic tables under the awning, and even rideable animals like those found in shopping malls.

Beyond offering a diverse selection of hand-crafted items, the New Richland Craft Mall aims to support local vendors and offers special shopping experience. With plans to expand their collection of babies, wedding, and memorial crafts, the Craft Mall remains committed to fostering local creativity and community connection.

For more information, please contact the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce, 507-835-3260

MN soybeans are driving green tech

From the fields to the firehouse to the rooftop, Minnesota soybean farmers are driving environmental innovation, and the public is invited to see it in action.

Soy & Tech Day, to be hosted by Farmamerica on June 18th from 9 AM – 1 PM is a one-of-a-kind event showcasing the cutting-edge ways soybeans are shaping a cleaner, more sustainable future for all Minnesotans.

Through live demonstrations, attendees will explore how soy farmers

are:

- Reducing carbon emissions and soil compaction: See the Soil Warrior prepare seed beds and simultaneously plant soybeans.
- Keeping firefighters safer: Watch firefighters extinguish fires with a revolutionary, PFAS-free fire suppressant SoyFoam.
- Reducing petroleum products and waste: Watch a Roof Maxx application and learn how soy oil rejuvenates shingles.
- Removing PFAS from water

and making low-carbon biofuels with Plasma Blue.

Whether you’re a farmer, student, community leader, or simply curious about the future of agriculture and sustainability, Soy & Tech Day is your chance to witness how Minnesota’s soybean growers are leading the charge in green innovation.

For more information and to RSVP, visit farmamerica.org/event/soy-tech-day. If you have any questions, contact Jessica Rollins at jessica@farmamerica.org.

rica.org.

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.





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OBITUARIES

David Warke

David Allan Warke, age 86, passed away peacefully on May 28, 2025, at St. John's Lutheran Community- The Woodlands, surrounded by his family.

A funeral service honoring both David and Karen Warke will be held at 10:00AM on Saturday, June 7, 2025, at Trinity Lutheran Church in New Richland, with a visitation beginning one hour prior. Interment will be held at St. Olaf Cemetery in New Richland. The service will be livestreamed and can be viewed by visiting www.BonnerupFuneralService.com.



David Warke

David was born on January 26, 1939, in Manchester, Minnesota, to Clayton and Eileen (Hallum) Warke. He was baptized and confirmed at West Freeborn Church, where his faith began to shape his kind and caring spirit.

David attended Freeborn School and graduated from New Richland-Hartland High School in 1956. On October 31, 1957, he married his soulmate and best friend, Karen (Tollefson) Warke, embarking on a lifelong adventure filled with love and companionship. David proudly served in the Army from 1961 to 1967, dedicating his life to his country and community.

A hardworking truck driver, David worked for Tipton Trucking and Warren Transport before starting his own company, DKW Transport, in 1989. His bond with Karen deepened as they navigated both life and the open road together. Sharing the thrill of trucking, Karen obtained her CDL and even took her road test with the Hunting Elevator pickup and trailer, a testament to their enduring partnership. They cherished special moments playing cards, golfing, and hosting lively family gatherings, especially Tollefson Christmases that brought joy to all.

David had a remarkable gift for

connecting with people of all ages, always taking a genuine interest in others and their well-being. He cherished trips to Mexico, Arizona, and Florida with close friends who held a special place in his heart.

Those left to cherish David's memory include his sister, Janice Perkins, of Albert Lea; brothers-in-law, Larry (Rosanne) Tollefson, of Aitkin, and Leland (Susan) Tollefson, of Rochester; sister-in-law, Dorothy Tollefson, of New Richland; as well as many special nieces, nephews, great nieces, and great nephews, and numerous friends who will forever hold his memory in their hearts.

In addition to his parents, Clayton and Eileen Warke, David was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Karen Warke; a sister, Janet Loken; and a brother-in-law, Roger Loken.

The family wishes to extend their heartfelt gratitude to the staff at St. John's and St. Croix Hospice for the compassionate care provided to David.

Memorial donations preferred to the New Richland Area Foundation, 501 Elm Ave. E., Waseca, MN 56093.

■ Sandry from Page 1

my last year"; and Mr. Domeier, "I loved being teacher's assistant for him."

Sandry said she most looks for-

ward to living somewhere warm in her future. In ten years, she said she will hopefully be living somewhere warm and teaching kids that she loves.

As for advice she would give herself as a freshman, Sandry says, "Don't let school stress you out so much. It's still important, but you also need to focus on living your life and having fun."

HERITAGE BITS

The Grand Centennial Parade



Sunday morning, July 23rd hot air balloon rides were available



Lerberg's Store since 1901. Andy, Mary, & their daughters, Angie Entwisle, & Wendy Schultz winning photo by Sheila Treece



Compiled by BRENDA DOKKEN 6/5/25

Open House

The daughters of Doris Beckman invite you to an open house in celebration of her 100th birthday Saturday June 14 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at 402 7th St. N.W. New Richland.



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Waseca Sheriff Jay Dulas and deputy Brayden Berg.
Photo by Deb Bently

Law enforcement ‘scholarship’ helps sheriff’s office hire deputy

By DEB BENTLY
Staff writer

Deputies Brayden Berg and Gavin Kritzeck took the sheriff’s department oath of office during the May 6 Waseca County board meeting, both were welcomed heartily as the county’s newest deputies.

In the time since joining the department, Sheriff Jay Dulas reports Berg’s vigilance during a routine exchange led to him locating illicit drugs. On another occasion, he participated in a high-speed chase which led to successfully apprehending someone subsequently charged with felony-level crimes.

This quick start on Berg’s part might be said to align with another element of his career path: his recent training.

Berg is the first member of the Waseca Sheriff’s Department to have joined the staff through Minnesota’s “Intensive Police Officer Education and Training” (IC-POET) grant program.

Introduced early in 2024, IC-POET was created to help counter the shortage of law enforcement officers. Dulas explains any Minnesota law enforcement agency can apply. The steps are to identify individuals who would like to be an officer with the agency, but do not yet meet the qualifications for the required license. To be eligible, individuals must have already completed a two- or four-year degree, but it need not be related to law enforcement. Departments can apply for as many grants as they have open positions and qualified candidates.

Having found a suitable candidate, the agency applies for a grant through the ICPOET program. Candidates are paid a full-time wage while they participate in an intense six-month training. They attend classes eight hours a day, rather than the more typical four, completing the full roster of required subjects in half the time required for more traditional training programs.

Provided at no cost to either the candidate or the agency, the special courses are offered either at the technical college in Alexandria or at a facility in Hennepin. Many of the supplies and materials needed are also included as part of the

grant.

Berg’s class of 32 ICPOET participants, he mentions, included individuals previously trained in rather diverse areas including realtors and lawyers. Berg had previously completed training in his home state of Wisconsin to become a conservation officer, but had not met the requirements to be a sheriff’s deputy in Minnesota.

A final step in the qualification process, completed after classroom and skills training, is passing the Minnesota Police Officer Standards Test.

Under the terms of his agreement with Waseca County, Berg is now obligated to remain with the sheriff’s department for a minimum of two years. He sees no difficulty, saying Waseca County “feels more like home than home does.” He offers the example of assistance he received from Dulas and others in finding a local apartment.

Dulas explains that, though there was no financial cost, the county took some risks by entering into the ICPOET arrangement. For one thing, there was a six-month wait between the time Berg accepted the job and could begin performing it. For another, with the two-year commitment as part of the arrangement, the sheriff’s department needed to do its best to determine in advance whether Berg would be a good fit for the Waseca County community.

The research phase included not only state-required psychological and physical exams, but visits to Berg’s hometown and to the Wisconsin university where he first attended training. The sheriff says the research, as well as Berg’s response to the elements of the process, gave him persistent confidence.

“Our department is grateful to the State of Minnesota for making this program available,” Dulas commented, “and to the board of commissioners for supporting our decision to take part. This saved our deputy the cost of acquiring the training and brought us a new member of our local community.

“We appreciate the contributions he’s made so far, and look forward to seeing more in the future.”

■ Misgen from Page 1

avoid procrastinating and not be afraid to ask questions or ask for help.

She said she was not always certain she would manage this accomplishment. “However, I worked hard throughout high school in hopes that I would achieve this award. I always worked hard in school and did the best I could in each of my classes.”

Misgen said what she will miss most about high school is being able to see and talk to her friends every day and being involved in sports.

Her favorite memories include competing at Competition Cheer Nationals as part of the NRHEG team in Orlando, Florida, and plac-

ing eighth in the nation.

Misgen’s favorite subjects in school were math and Spanish; and her least favorite was English.

Her favorite teachers in school were Mr. Ferber and Señora Olson. “Both of these teachers greatly influenced both my academic life and my life outside of school. They taught me valuable lessons, making a lasting impression on my life inside and outside the classroom.”

For her future, Misgen is looking forward to cheering at UMD, meeting new people and starting college.

In ten years, she hopes to have a doctoral of physical therapy and be working as a physical therapist.

Misgen said if it were possible to travel back in time and give herself advice during her freshman year, it would have been, “It’s okay not to be perfect; making mistakes is normal, and we use them as lessons to learn and grow.”

Most likely our last fishing trip together

On Sunday Morning May 18, 2025 five “fairly good fishermen” left for five days of fishing on Leech Lake Walker, Minnesota.

Because of timing problems, it was decided to fish five days rather than our usual one week, the week after the Minnesota opening of Walleye - Northern Fishing.

Bob Goetz from Austin, Steve Davis from Lonsdale, Lyle Schultz and Paul Profit from Owatonna plus Bob Hanson from Albert Lea met at the Blue Water Lodge late afternoon on Sunday May 18, 2025 on Leech Lake.

We managed to get our two boats in the water and fished for about two hours. The result was no Walleyes and no Notherns.

We Fished after our great breakfast on Monday morning prepared by Chef Paul. It was cold and raining so we took our time going fishing.

We came into our beautiful comfy cabin for a late lunch and early supper after catching nothing.

Back fishing about 6 pm. Result



FACT OR FICTION

...you decide

by Bob Hanson, Emeritus

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

the same as before nothing. We settled for a few games of cribbage while watching the Twins win.

Tuesday was a repeat of Monday. The result was the same: No fish, played cribbage, watched the Twins win. (Paul was the champ at Cribbage.)

Wednesday was a repeat of Monday and Tuesday weatherwise. Paul caught the first and only fish. (A Northern about 5 lbs)

After 3 nights of no stars and only one fish caught, I'm confused as to what is wrong.

Thursday the weather was better but no Walleyes or Nothern did we catch.

Friday was a bit warmer, less wind. Paul caught one Walleye, a three pounder.

After completing our fishing Friday we decided all good things must come to an ending, namely as an 88 year old, an 86 year old, an 84 year old, plus a 70 plus year old, this was most likely our last fishing together. “Too bad, So sad, it was a good run while it lasted!!

Feeding the birds was okay. The number of birds feeding every day was about the same as previous years. A female Raven was an everyday visitor getting sunflower and kernels of Corn for her babies.

Based on the following we think

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 PM to 7:00 PM, 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:

- 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, 7:30pm 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.

Wind Down Wednesday returns June 11

Albert Lea, Minnesota - The community is invited to kick off summer in style at Wind Down Wednesday on Wednesday, June 11, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. in beautiful downtown Albert Lea. This free, family-friendly event features live music, local vendors, kids’ activities, fitness classes, food trucks, and more.

The day’s entertainment begins with live acoustic Americana from 8th Hour from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., followed by a gentle Chair Tai Chi fitness class led by Sue from the Senior Center from 1:30 to 2 p.m. At 2:15 p.m., kids can join in the fun with Minute to Win It challenges, fol-

lowed by a high-energy Zumba Jams mini class with Kristy from 3 to 3:30 p.m. The day will end on a high note with a full concert by the Tony Cucchetti Band from 6 to 8 p.m., bringing foot-thumping country, rock, and soul to the streets of downtown.

Additional activities throughout the day include face painting, yard games, bounce houses, train rides, cold drinks, vendor booths, and food trucks. The first 25 attendees will receive a free swag bag filled with goodies from local businesses.

“We’re excited to bring back Wind Down Wednesday for another summer of music, movement, and

ness mini class

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM: Tony Cucchetti Band – Foot-thumping country, rock & soul concert

Sponsorship and Swag Bag Opportunities Still Available!

Local businesses are encouraged to get involved by sponsoring the event or donating 25 items for the popular Swag Bag giveaway. It’s a free and effective way to gain visibility and connect with attendees.

To learn more about participating, sponsoring, or attending, visit www.WindDownWednesday.com

Geneva Cancer Run set for June 14

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

Geneva Cancer Run is a not-for-profit organization which has given about \$300,000 to area residents battling cancer and struggling to pay for the many costs associated with treatment.

Organization president Dee Randall invites drivers and riders to the organization’s fourteenth “cancer run.” Registration will begin at 9 a.m. at the Geneva Bar and Grill on Saturday, June 14. The ride will depart at about 11 a.m. Randall reveals past rides have included as many as 170 motorcycles; cars are also welcome. A “breakdown trailer” will accompany the ride.

Randall cautions all riders to be sure in advance that they have

sufficient fuel for the full ride, since there is no gas station in Geneva—she suggests Ellendale and Clarks Grove as the closest fuel stops.

The ride will travel about 100 miles making three stops; cost is \$15 per rider. The first stop will include lunch with a suggested \$5 minimum free-will donation. The ride returns to Geneva for its final stop, where a meal will be available. There will be live music by Todd Uptadel and Musicians Against Cancer, and a live auction will offer a rich variety of items for sale; Randall invites anyone who would like to donate auction items to contact her at 507-219-1241 if they would like items picked up, otherwise they can be dropped off at the Geneva Bar and Grill.

Also a feature of the fundraiser will be a raffle. Tickets are already available. Four winners will be selected at random, winning as much as \$500 for first place and \$100 for fourth; participants need not be present to win. Raffle tickets can be purchased online at genevacancerrun.itemorder.com/shop/sale.

The Ellendale-based business 10,000 Custom Designs is working with the Geneva Cancer Run on a new feature for the annual ride: GCR merchandise, including shirts and other custom items. Orders can be placed online through May 21; buyers can choose to pick up their purchases at the Ellendale location, have items shipped to them directly, or

pick them up the morning of the ride in Geneva. Some t-shirts will be available for purchase during registration on June 14.

Randall also wants ride participants to know they can arrange to camp overnight in Geneva, either prior to the ride, the night after the ride, or both. She mentions Cancer Run organizers will be available Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights to offer assistance for anyone choosing to camp. “No need to ride home in the dark!” she says enthusiastically.

“This organization and this event have helped so many people over the past 14 years,” says Randall. “Please help us continue our efforts.”

■ 4-Seasons from Page 3

She points out the store has an easily accessed location with curbside parking.

Already on display is custom wear with the colors and designs to show support of teams at all area schools including NRHEG, WEM and JWP.

A lifelong resident of the Waseca

area, Heather is a member on the Bluejay Boosters, Bluejay Fastpitch and Waseca Lakeside Club. She is a past board member of the Waseca Wrestling Club.

Heather says she is already beginning to make connections with local schools, community education departments and associations to see what needs Four Seasons can meet for them. She says the screen printing equipment used by the Piches in their business is still there, and she hopes to make increasing use of it to personalize items to meet customer

needs.

She admits it may take a while to change people’s mindset away from going directly to a big-name store in another town when they need athletic wear, but she also believes business will grow as people discover the personal service and community connection Four Seasons Athletics will provide.

“Waseca is a very supportive community that comes together in both good times and bad,” she observes. “I think everyone wants to see that sense of community stay strong, so

they want to see local businesses thrive and keep their money working locally.”

Four Seasons’ hours of operation are now from noon until 5 p.m. on Tuesday through Friday, and from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Saturdays.

“I really invite people to stop by, see what we have to offer, and share any information about their needs and interests,” she says. “We’re ready to be flexible, and to respond to people’s needs.”

NRHEG High School Graduation • Sunday, June 1, 2025



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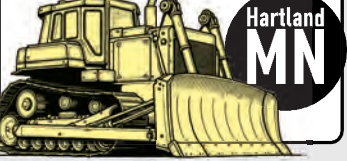
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Star Eagle photos by Eli Lutgens

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Enjoying the little things in life

I love waking up in the morning to the sounds of birds chirping as they go about starting their day. The birds in our neighborhood sometimes wake me up fairly early and by their sounds I can recognize most of them. Cardinals have a distinct calling and so do robins, chickadees, and finches. The mourning dove is probably my favorite and even the crows with their sharp, shrill cawing are there to embrace the morning. When a woodpecker is in the area, I can always tell by the distinct chirping noise that it gives off. The evening brings sounds of owls and the ever-present mourning dove.

When I visit the cabin, I am



Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl
Outdoors Writer

greeted with many different bird sounds. You can always tell when a woodpecker is around because they give off a certain cry. Bluejays also have a certain unmistakable sound that they emit. During the day it is the usual suspects but as the sun sets there are many sounds coming from

the forest that I do not recognize. Some of these sounds can be a little scary-sounding and will tend to keep a person close to the cabin on a dark night.

The woods seem to take on a totally different personality at night. The night sounds of the woods are

not the ones that you hear during the day. These sounds seem to come from deep within the woods and many are unrecognizable. It is almost like a game lying in bed and listening to the sounds of the forest at night, trying to distinguish what sound is coming from what critter.

Until next time: There is nothing more relaxing than spending time in the outdoors and taking time to watch nature up close.

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.

In Brief

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.

Lego Screenprinting at New Richland Public Library Tuesday, June 10

Embark on a colorful Lego adventure at 10:30 am on Tuesday, June 10th at New Richland Public Library. Kids ages 8-12 will create a unique picture using Legos and a screen press.

St. Joseph's Church of Waldorf Summer Festival Sat. June 14

Join us for fellowship at the St. Joseph's Church of Waldorf on Saturday, June 14. All denominations welcome. 4:30 p.m. fellowship, 5

p.m. mass with a meal to follow with free will donation.

Farmers Market with a Kids Day at Geneva Bar and Grill Saturday, June 14

There will be a Kids Day along with the Farmers Market at the Geneva Bar and Grill from 9 a.m. till 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 14. There will be an inflatable slide, kids bingo, temporary tatoos and more.

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.

Detroit Tigers vs. MN Twins Lutheran Night at the Twins Thursday, Au-

gust 14

The 32nd Annual Lutheran Night at the Twins will be leaving at 3:45 p.m. from behind Hy-Vee in Albert Lea on Thursday, August 14. Cost is \$65 per person and is paid in advance. For reservations, call Bob or Genie Hanson at 507-373-8655 or Wayne or Bev Indrelie at 507-402-8228.

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.

Star Eagle seeking writer to cover NRHEG Area

We would really like to hire another writer to work 10-20 hours per week writing stories and covering events in the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva area. Pay is \$15 per hour. Assignments include feature articles and coverage of area events. Applicants will be expected to come up with their own ideas in addition to other assigned stories. To apply, please call, email or stop into the Star Eagle. 507-463-8112 steagle@hickorytech.net 128 N. Broadway, NR

LOOKING BACK

25 Years back



- Since Lee Mendenhall decided earlier that this would be the last year that he would teach Agricultural technology and act as advisor for the Future Farmers of America, the FFA members presented him with some models of machinery to keep his mind on agriculture during his retirement. Making the presentations at the FFA Annual Awards Banquet, Thursday night were Nick Budach (left) vice president of the organization and Nathan Wayne (right), president. Budach presented him with a 1966 Farmall 806 and a 2000 QuadTrac Case IH 2000. Presented by Wayne were a 1966 John Deere 4020 with a 2-row corn picker and elevator and a 2000 John Deere 810.

- Nicholas Budach of New Richland has been accepted for admission at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato. Nicholas, a 2000 graduate of New Richland - Hartland - Ellendale - Geneva High School, is the son of Gary and Kris Budach of New Richland.

- Engagement Announcement. Darla J. Clayton and Neal K. Bat, both of Hartland, announce their engagement and forthcoming marriage. Darla is the daughter of Orville and Gwenn Deppe of Waseca. Seh is a medical representative for ALMC. Neal is the son of Donald and Glenda Batt, Hartland. He is a diesel mechanic for Hartland Farm Equipment. A Saturday, May 27, 2000 wedding is planned at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Waseca.



- These members of the NRHEG Future Farmers of America received the Region FFA Degree. They are from the left: kneeling, Nathan Wayne, Joe Moon, Nick Kaplan: standing, Chris Barch, Scott Demmer, Eric M. Anderson, Tom Schutlz, Nich Budach and Cody Yard. They were thrilled with the degrees and seemed to find something very seriously hilarious about the situation!

50 years back

- The New Richland-Hartland High School Senior Choir was making their final appearance Friday evening, with members of the choir, who graduated that evening, here. The occasion was both happy and sad, as the faces testify.

- Susan Crumb, French Horn player and Donna Peterson, saxophonist, with the New Richland-Hartland High School band have been selected to travel in Europe with the United States Collegiate Wind Band for three weeks this summer. They starred in district and region-state contests, recently, along with a number of other New Richland-Hartland band members.

- These Waldorf-Pemberton Brownies received their Girl Scout wings in a fly-up ceremony at the Girl Scout Award banquet, Friday. They are from the left: Lorie Goodrich, Chris Peroutka, Kristy Kipp, Cindy Miller and Stephanie Adams.

- Reid Nelson, former New Richland-Hartland High School baseball player, had an outstanding year at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, this spring as a freshman. Coach Jim Clark is looking forward to a better year next year with all of the team made up of Sophomores and juniors. In conference statistics Nelson had 12 hits in 40 minutes at bat, scoring 11 runs. He had 12 RBI's, walked seven times and struck out 7 times, for a batting average of .300. Of his 12 hits, one was a two-bagger, one a three base hit and three home runs and he stole four bases.

75 years back

- A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Glen Christenson at the Waseca Memorial hospital, Tuesday, June 27. There are now two sons in the Christenson family, the other boy is named Neil.

- Twenty-five years ago, June 17, 1925 in the Trinity Lutheran Church at 8:00 pm. Miss Zona Marian Pierce became the bride of Liouss Bennett Johnson. Rev. Edward Nervig officiated at the double ring service. Attending the bride were her sisters, Miss Cora and Miss Sara Pierce and Miss Valborg Johnson, sister of the groom. Author Ellingson was the best man.

- Mr. and Mrs. Albert Dagner had an odd experience when pulling radishes in their garden this week a long radish came up a little hard and when it got to the surface it revealed a metal object attached to the bottom which resembled a horseshoe. Closer examination revealed it to be part of a good luck breast pin.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship
Wednesday - 5:15 p.m. Supper; 6 p.m. Bible Study

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

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

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

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

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

CROSS OF GLORY LUTHERAN
Hartland, Minnesota
Rev. Marcia Pedersen
Sunday - 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 newsletter for dates.

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

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

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

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

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

VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH
Ellendale, Minnesota
Pastor David Modder
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 10 a.m. Kids church
Check the website for additional updates www.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 Cirkse, 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
Hollandside, 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
Hollandside, Minnesota
Pastor Jesse Krusemark

Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship
FAMILY OF FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH
Rev. Neal Ooms
101 East Park Avenue
Hollandside, Minnesota
Sunday - 9 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
Leonard Township
Pastor Dave Klawier
Sunday - 10:15 a.m. Worship

FIRST LUTHERAN, LCMC
Hope, Minnesota
Pastor Sandy Miller
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 10:15 a.m. Youth/Adult Study

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Clarks Grove, Minnesota
Pastor James Cameron
Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. Worship

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DISTRICT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
COUNTY OF WASECA
Case Type: CIVIL OTHER/MISC
Case No.: 81-CV-25-200

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.,

Plaintiff,

vs. **SUMMONS BY PUBLICATIONS**

The Estate of James Ross;
Charlie Ross; Thomas Ross;
Audra Ryan; the Unknown Heirs
of James Ross; The Secretary of
Veterans Affairs, an Office of the
United States; and John Doe
and Mary Roe,

Defendants.

THIS SUMMONS IS DIRECTED
TO THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF
JAMES ROSS.

1. **You are being sued.**
The Plaintiff has started a lawsuit
against you. The Complaint is at-
tached to this Summons. Do not
throw these papers away. They
are official papers that start a law-
suit and affect your legal rights,
even if nothing has been filed with
the court and even if there is no
court file number on this Sum-
mons.

2. **You must BOTH reply,**
in writing, AND get a copy of
your reply to the person/busi-
ness who is suing you within
21 days to protect your rights.
Your reply is called an Answer.
Getting your reply to the Plaintiff
is called service. You must serve
a copy of your Answer or Answer
and Counterclaim (Answer) within

21 days after three weeks of pub-
lication of this Summons.

ANSWER: You can find
the Answer form and instructions
on the MN Judicial Branch web-
site at www.mncourts.gov/forms
under the "Civil" category. The in-
structions will explain in detail
how to fill out the Answer form.

3. **You must respond to**
each claim. The Answer is your
written response to the Plaintiff's
Complaint. In your Answer you
must state whether you agree or
disagree with each paragraph of
the Complaint. If you think the
Plaintiff should not be given ev-
erything they asked for in the
Complaint, you must say that in
your Answer.

4. **SERVICE: You may**
lose your case if you do not
send a written response to the
Plaintiff. If you do not serve a
written Answer within 21 days,
you may lose this case by default.
You will not get to tell your side of
the story. If you choose not to re-
spond, the Plaintiff may be
awarded everything they asked
for in their Complaint. If you agree
with the claims stated in the Com-
plaint, you don't need to respond.
A default judgment can then be
entered against you for what the
Plaintiff asked for in the Com-
plaint.

To protect your rights,
you must serve a copy of your An-
swer on the person who signed
this Summons in person or by
mail at this address:

Alexa V. Marsh
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102

5. Carefully read the In-

structions (CIV301) for the An-
swer for your next steps.

6. **Legal Assistance.** You
may wish to get legal help from
an attorney. If you do not have an
attorney and would like legal help:
~ v i s i t
www.mncourts.gov/selfhelp
and click on the "Legal Advice Clinics"
tab to get more information about
legal clinics in each Minnesota
county.
~ Court Administration may
have information about places
where you can get legal assis-
tance.

7. **Alternative Dispute**

Resolution (ADR). The parties
may agree to or be ordered to
participate in an ADR process
under Rule 114 of the Minnesota
Rules of Practice. You must still
serve your written Answer, even if
you expect to use ADR.

8. **THIS LAWSUIT MAY**
AFFECT OR BRING INTO
QUESTION TITLE TO REAL
PROPERTY located in Waseca
County, State of Minnesota, le-
gally described as follows:

Lot 4, in Block 5, in North Loon
Lake Subdivision being parts of
Lots 3, 4, and 5, of Bennett's Ad-
dition in the N 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of

Section 7, Township 107 North,
Range 22 West in the City of
Waseca, State of Minnesota, ac-
cording to the Plat thereof on file
and of record in the Office of the
County Recorder in and for the
County of Waseca, Minnesota.

The object of this action is to ob-
tain a judgment in the amount
due under the Note and Mort-
gage, an adjudication that Plain-
tiff's mortgage is a first-priority
lien, an order directing sheriff's
sale of the property, and such
other relief requested in the
Amended Complaint on file with
the Court.

Dated: May 22, 2025

TROTT LAW, P.C.

By: s/ Alexa V. Marsh
Alexa V. Marsh (#0505082)
Samuel R. Coleman (#0389839)
Attorney for Plaintiff
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
Telephone: (651) 432-4867
amarsh@trottlaw.com
scoleman@trottlaw.com
25-0064-LIT02

Published in the NRHEG Star Eagle
on June 5, 12 and 19, 2025

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CenturyLink's basic local service rates for
residential voice lines are \$20.96-\$26.00 per
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\$28.25-\$48.25 per month. Specific rates will
be provided upon request.

CenturyLink participates in the Lifeline
program, which makes residential telephone
or qualifying broadband service more
affordable to eligible low-income individuals
and families. Eligible customers may qualify
for Lifeline discounts of \$5.25/month for
voice or bundled voice service or
\$9.25/month for qualifying broadband or
broadband bundles. Residents who live on
federally recognized Tribal Lands may
qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they
participate in certain additional federal
eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is
available for only one telephone or qualifying
broadband service per household, which
can be either a wireline or wireless service.
Broadband speeds must be at least 25 Mbps
download and 3 Mbps upload to qualify.

A household is defined as any individual or
group of individuals who live together at the
same address and share income and
expenses. Services are not transferable,
and only eligible consumers may enroll in
these programs. Consumers who willfully
make false statements to obtain these
discounts can be punished by fine or
imprisonment and can be barred from these
programs.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, visit
[https://www.centurylink.com/aboutus/comm](https://www.centurylink.com/aboutus/community/community-development/lifeline.html)
[unity/community-development/lifeline.html](https://www.centurylink.com/aboutus/community/community-development/lifeline.html)
for additional information about applying for
these programs or call 1-800-201-4099 with
questions.



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Public Hearing Notice

Region Nine Development Commission will hold its annual FY26 budget hearingat 7:15 p.m.,
Wednesday, June 18, 2025, at South Central Service Cooperative, 2075 Lookout Drive, North
Mankato, MN.
Published in the NRHEG Star Eagle on June 5, 2025

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ON TO STATE – NRHEG sophomore Kylie Olson competes in Saturday’s Section 2A track and field meet at Mankato West. She placed second, advancing to state.



SO CLOSE – The Panthers’ Lavon Jewison clears the high-jump bar in Saturday’s section meet in Mankato. He finished third, just missing the state meet. Photos by Larry Nydegger

Panthers advance three individuals to state meet

Olson reaches in shot put, Ladlie, Schlaak in high jump

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva girls’ track and field team has advanced three individuals to the state meet.

Kylie Olson, Anika Ladlie and Gabby Schlaak will represent the Panthers in next week’s state meet after a stellar showing in the Section 2A meet Saturday at Mankato West High School.

“I am extremely proud of our girls’ team,” said NRHEG co-head coach Larry Nydegger. “To have so many kids reach the section meet is a big deal! I am excited for our three representatives at the state meet, who are going for the first time.”

Olson, a sophomore, reached state by placing second in the shot put at sections, registering a personal-best throw of 36-6.5.

Anika Ladlie qualified for state by standard, clearing 5 feet for third in the high jump. Schlaak did the same, going 5 feet but taking eighth on the basis of more misses.

The NRHEG girls’ team finished 10th out of 23 teams scoring with 32.5 points. Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton win with 79.

Other section places for the

“I am excited for our three representatives at the state meet, who are going for the first time.”
— NRHEG coach Larry Nydegger

Panther girls: Chloe Riewer, seventh, 100, 13.37 and seventh, long jump, 15-10.5; Quinn VanMaldeghem, fourth, 400, season-best 61.72; Julian Wobbrock, seventh, 1600, 5:24.04 and 11th, 800, 2:43.62; Ellen Jen, 13th, 800, 2:48.82; Schlaak, ninth, 100 hurdles, 17.33 and ninth, 300 hurdles, 52.47; 4x100 relay, seventh, 53.37 (Riewer, Ladlie, Schlaak, Clara Buendorf); 4x200, fourth, season-best 1:49.72 (Riewer, Sierra Misgen, Buendorf, VanMaldeghem); 4x400, seventh, 4:44.44 (Misgen, Peyton Frye,

Olson

Ladlie

Schlaak

Buendorf, VanMaldeghem.

Olson, Ladie and Schlaak will compete in the state meet at St. Michael-Albertville High School.

Ladlie and Schlaak will be in the high jump at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 10. Olson will compete in the shot put at 4 p.m. Wednesday, June 11.

The NRHEG boys sent four participants to the section meet.



ROOM TO SPARE – NRHEG’s Brendan Schmidt finished 11th in the pole vault in Saturday’s section meet, clearing a season-best 10-2. Submitted photo

Unfortunately, no one is moving onto state.

The Panther boys finished 21st among 24 schools with eight points. Maple River was first with 74.

The closest the Panthers came to qualifying an individual for state came in the high jump, where Lavon Jewison finished third with an effort of 6 feet. The state qualifying standard was 6-2.

“The expectations for Lavon were high after his strong performance at the sub-section meet, where he tied the school record of 6-4,” said Nydegger. “That is one of the realities of competition; not every day will be your best day, and Lavon experienced that today. It will, however, be great to see his name on the record board!”

The Panthers’ Jacob Karl compet-

ed in two events. He finished seventh in the 1600 with a time of 4:56.34, and 11th in the 800 with a personal-best time of 2:15.07.

Charlie Fuller finished 10th in the triple jump with a jump of 37-3.

Brendan Schmidt finished 11th in the pole vault with a height of 10-2, his season best.



END OF THE LINE – The NRHEG baseball team saw its season end in the section tournament last week. At left, Panther head coach Shawn Larson, At right, NRHEG pitcher Owen Wayne.



Season concludes for NRHEG baseball squad

The season came to an end for the NRHEG High School baseball team in last week’s section tournament as the Panthers lost to Triton at Dodge Center.

Earlier in the week, the Panthers dropped their second section contest 3-1 at Sibley East.

“We were grateful we are in the double-elimination portion of the bracket,” said

NRHEG head coach Shawn Larson.

Owen Wayne kept the Panthers in the game at Sibley East, pitching all six innings while striking out four and walking four.

“Owen had a great day pitching,” said Larson. “He was doing a great job of mixing pitches and keeping his baserunners in check. This game was a pitcher’s duel as our pitcher

did his job as much as we could ask of him.”

The Panthers totaled four hits two by Aaden Hanna and one apiece by Wayne and Aiden Schlaak.

“We had hits and baserunners,” said Larson. “We just were unable to put them together at the right time.”

The game was a clean one defensively, with

the Panthers committing two errors to one for Sibley East.

The Panthers graduated seniors Seth Staloch, Alden Dobberstein, Schlaak, Hanna, Carter Martens, Jace Ihrke and Brock Ziemke.

The Panthers were coached in 2025 by Larson, Jeff Reese and Marcus Fischer.

Season ends for NRHEG golfers

The season concluded the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva golfers in last week’s section tournament.

The NRHEG girls had only three players so they did not have a team score. Individually: Olivia Wilkenson 127, Alexis Olson 135.

Panthers head coach Brad Root reported Matt Williams registered a season-best 92 for 18 holes.

“The other boys did not play up to their best,” said Root.

Other NRHEG scores: Reid Sandry 91, Braxton Arnold 100, Braydon Rollag 101, Shan Hanson 110

The NRHEG boys finished in 13th place in the section and did not advance a golfer to this week’s section play.

Story idea?
463-8112

Starman Graduation Speech



Grace Starman

Today is the last day NRHEG’s Class of 2025 will be together. Our past together as classmates, as teammates, and as friends is going to change forever. Our present is now rapidly becoming a part of the past. However saying goodbye to each other is not the end of the story, it is instead the beginning of the next chapter of our lives as graduates. As adults.

Today, June 1st, 2025, we all embark on our next step. Whether we are continuing our education at college, entering the workforce, or taking a gap year while we figure out what we want to do with the rest of our lives, this is the next step. The day we’ve dreamed of since Kindergarten is finally here, and we’ve achieved that dream. We have all walked the same path until now. Now the path goes 56 different ways, and we will all walk our own—some confidently, some cautiously, and some still figuring out which direction to turn. It’s a little scary, sure. We’re leaving behind the security of assigned seating and daily routines, of knowing what to expect when we walk through the doors. But in exchange, we’re gaining something even more valuable: the freedom to discover who we are without the walls of high school defining us. We might stumble, take detours, or even question our direction entirely—but that’s okay.

Our time at NRHEG wasn’t just about academics or activities—it was about the people. We were shaped by more than just textbooks and tests. We were shaped by the people: the teachers who somehow had endless patience (even when we clearly didn’t do the reading), the coaches who pushed us past what we thought we could handle, and the paras who always seemed to know when we just needed a break or a laugh. And of course, the classmates. Some became lifelong friends, others just helped us survive group projects without losing our minds. Some days they made us laugh

until we couldn’t breathe; other days... well, let’s just say they taught us valuable lessons in patience and self-control. Even the tough days, the ones where we wanted to give up, or when someone’s words stuck with us for the wrong reasons-- shaped us. They made us stronger, more self-aware, and (hopefully) a little wiser. We’re leaving behind a building full of people who helped make the bad days bearable and the good days unforgettable. Whether they lifted us up or tested our limits, they were part of our story. And as we move on, we carry those lessons—and all the inside jokes, awkward moments, and hallway memories—with us.

As we move on to the rest of our lives, we will face challenges that we feel utterly unprepared for, but we are ready for them. Whether it be moving out, leaving the state, or something like doing taxes without crying, we know what to do-- even if it doesn’t feel like we do. We’ve learned more than we think. We’ve solved problems, adapted to change, and survived ASSIGNED group projects—and if we can survive those, we can survive just about anything. We’ve figured things out one step at a time before, and we’ll keep doing that. We’ll carry with us not just the lessons we learned in class, but the laughter we shared with friends, and the confidence we gained every time we got back up after falling short. The future might not come with a step-by-step guide, but we don’t need one. We’ve got resilience, curiosity, and the ability to ask for help when we need it. So keep the memories close—they’re your reminder of how far you’ve come. But don’t be afraid to move forward. The world is waiting, and you are more ready than you know.

Closing Thought:
“The future is in good hands — because it’s in your hands.”

NOTICE

Berlin Township Board Meeting

Monday, June 16, 2025

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

(in the Board Room)

Helen Schmidt, Berlin Township Clerk

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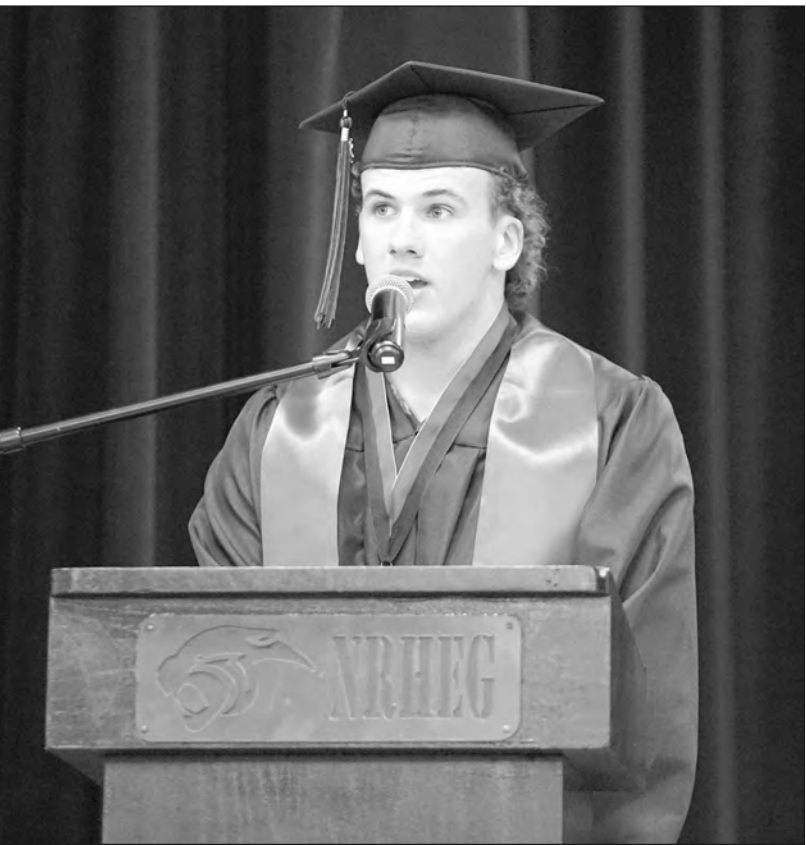
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Cole Hutchens Graduation Speech



Cole Hutchens

Among Us during class with my friends and watching the Fortnite Travis Scott Concert. Also I want to give a huge shout out to Quizlet during this time.

8th Grade got to be a little better than 7th. We finally got to be back at school again, with the new Hybrid system. Some of the pros were that you didn’t have to be staring at a chromebook screen for 7 straight hours everyday and you could finally see some of your classmates again. But on the bad side, you had to wear a mask at all times, still couldn’t see all of your classmates or friends, and having sports during this time was super difficult. Once again, Mrs. Ramaker is a name that comes to mind when I think about 8th grade. Still telling us about her dog and how she’s been doing. It was kinda hard to feel like we were the top dogs in 8th grade because of the amount of people that were at school. But just like 7th grade, we were looking forward to things getting back to normal.

Freshman year opened a whole new door of opportunities for everyone on stage today. We got to choose our own classes for the first time and finally know what it felt like to be a high schooler. 9th Grade was the beginning of football practice with the high schoolers. After one of the morning practices, the seniors pulled all of the freshmen aside. They told us that they wanted to win really badly and if they wanted to win they would have to make us work harder in practice. We definitely didn’t understand at the moment what they were talking about, but looking back, I think us football players know now. But back then, I just wanted to survive a practice without getting plowed over by Ralph Roesler. We learned about

Shakespeare’s story of Romeo and Juliet. I remember going to Harbor’s house and doing this project where we had to act out Romeo and Juliet scenes. I won’t go any further into that. We were encouraged into joining more clubs, sports, and extracurricular activities that we didn’t even know existed.

Sophomore and Junior year for some people, felt like getting defenestrated over and over again. If you don’t know what defenestrated means, then you haven’t taken an English class with Mr. Domier. From getting your driver’s license to taking the ACT, everyone was busy doing something. Around this time, everyone was starting to figure out what they were interested in doing after school. Of course, there was still time, we thought. Specifically junior year, everyone was on their own side quests throughout the school year. Some of these activities included becoming PSEO warriors, choosing a career path like “The game of life”, Prom, and taking Spanish 1. Quick tip: Do not take Spanish 1 as a junior and don’t take Spanish 2 as a senior because you will get made fun of if you don’t know Spanish as well as the lower classmen.

All of this led us here today ladies and gentlemen. From the ups and downs and lefts and rights, we made it to the end of junior year, which means we made it to senior year. In all seriousness, we have all made a difference in each other these past 12ish years or so. Now if we keep looking back in the past, we will miss the future. So with that being said, I will leave you all with this quote from Aidan Schlaaks favorite singer, Adele, “For this is the end.”

Harbor Cromwell Graduation Speech



Harbor Cromwell

Standing here now, knowing this is the last time the Class of 2025 will be in the same place, makes me miss the past—but more than that, it makes me cherish the memories we’ve made together.

One of the best parts of senior year was helping plan our Spirit Weeks—Homecoming and Snow Week. From picking dress-up day themes to organizing games with blindfolds, whipped cream, and talent shows, it was nothing but pure fun. Our Court members went all out—from their dramatic intros to hilarious competitions that had the whole school laughing. There’s just something unforgettable about watching your classmates sprint across the gym in ridiculous outfits or trying to eat a donut off a string with no hands. Sure, that kind of thing happens every year—but knowing it was the last time we’d see Aidan Schlaak and Brady Koople battling it out in a balloon-stomping competition... that hit different.

Of course... nothing during those spirit weeks beat the Homecoming football game, where we crushed Medford 43-8. That night felt like the perfect ending to a week full of energy, laughter, and memories we’ll never forget.

Senior year was a rollercoaster. There were late nights spent finishing assignments—or just staying up talking, because we knew time was running out. Early mornings where sleep was short and the days felt long, but most of us pushed through. There were big wins—like beating tough competition, and passing tests we didn’t think we’d pass. And there were hard losses too—games that didn’t go our way, plans that fell through, friendships that changed, and the quiet realization that some things won’t ever be the same.

But through all of it, we showed up. For each other. For our teams. For our school. The highs made us celebrate, and the lows helped us grow. That mix—that mess—is what made this year unforgettable.

Being part of Student Council, DECA, and FCA taught me that leadership isn’t about a title—it’s about showing up, doing the work, and bringing people together. Whether we were planning events, competing at DECA, or starting our mornings with FCA, each moment was a chance to grow and represent something bigger than ourselves. Representing our school—in competitions, sports, and leadership—meant carrying the pride of our community and trying to make it better every time we stepped up. It meant learning to lead with heart, to listen with respect, and to keep going, even when things didn’t go as planned.

And of course, shoutout to the teams and memories that made high school truly unforgettable. Friday night football games under the lights—nothing beats that feeling. Early morning wrestling bus rides, tough matches, and our great teammates who always had your back. Track meets, where the thrill of a relay or hitting a new PR made all the work worth it. DECA trips that turned into core memories. FCA meetups that reminded us what mattered most. These weren’t just activities—they were moments that brought us together, pushed us, and showed us what it means to be part of something bigger.

To the Class of 2025—thank you for the laughs, the lessons, and the memories. We may be going our separate ways, but this year, this time, and this class will always be a part of who we are.

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From left: Sara Ihrke, Jennifer Hatton and Sheri Howieson were honored on the last day of school for NRHEG on Friday, May 30, 2025 for 15 years in the district.

Star Eagle photo by Ben Revermann



From left: Brook Krohn and Kim Routh were honored on the Friday, May 30, 2025 for 20 years in the NRHEG district.

Star Eagle photo by Ben Revermann

■ Farewell
from Page 1

thank this table, my one-year-old granddaughter, my husband. Thanks to all of my family for being my motivator. Twenty-seven years in the counselor's office, I've made all my lifelong friends here. I've watched three generations of students grow up and that cannot be replaced. I know I will miss you all, but I know I will miss the students most."

Hagen, whose family is known for horsemanship, was given a cut metal sign that says "The Hagens" and shows two horses as a retirement gift.

Also retiring was bus driver Dale Agrimson, who served the district for 13 years. Agrimson was given a cut metal sign whose design included a motorcycle and his last name.

For thirty-five years in the district: Brad Root: industrial tech/physical education teacher. Mr. Root was quick to accept his award and exit.

For twenty years in the district: Brooke Krohn, school social worker. Kim Routh, paraprofessional.

For fifteen years in the district: Dorthy Brouwers, bus driver. Jennifer Hatton, science teacher. Sheri



Nathan Jensen took home the 'Nobody Knows How Long he's Been Here Award' on Friday, May 30, 2025 at the NRHEG Years of Service Awards.

Howieson, Paraprofessional. Sara Ihrke, interventionist (k-2).

For ten years in the district: Corrine Schuller, payroll manager. Stacy Hutchens, community education. Sue Kulseth, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent.

For five years in the district: Loren Haroldson, paraprofessional. Elizabeth Nelson, preschool teacher. Grace Nelson, preschool teacher. Maryann Schlaak, paraprofessional.

Meihak said, "We have another award, the 'Nobody Knows How Long he's Been Here,' award goes to Technology Specialist, Nathan Jensen."

Honored



This Memorial Day, the city of Waldorf performed its annual celebration program honoring departed United States veterans at the Waldorf Community Center. American Legion Post #587 performed honors over gravesites for Wilmer Pick, Howard Barker, and David Hodgkins. An honored speaker this year at the Waldorf Memorial Day program was Jeremiah Miller, a noted Waseca resident actively serving in the Army National Guard. He is well known for many activities and services supporting and helping local veterans. A dedication by American Legion Commander Phillip Marquardt at the Waldorf Veterans Memorial Park also took place for a plaque honoring Waldorf's new Veterans Memorial Garden. The new plaque was created and donated by the Thomas L. Madden American Legion Post #587. It reads: "No matter what capacity served in, Active Duty, the Guard, or Reserves, your service matters. Anyone willing to take an oath of enlistment in God's name and fulfill duty to the best of their ability deserves respect to be honored, cared for, and remembered." ~CW4 Jeremiah Miller.

2025 Graduate

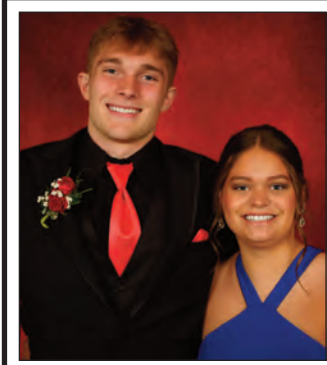


Kaylei Thompson

Daughter of Mitch and Missy Thompson recently graduated with honors from Minnesota Connections Academy. Her future plans attending school studying to be an Auto-body technician.



A Graduation Open House in honor of Aaden Hanna Son of John Hanna and Miriam Hanna will be held at the Ellendale Community Center 507 2nd St. S. Ellendale on Sunday, June 8 from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.



A Graduation Open House in honor of Lia Johannsen and Harbor Cromwell will be held at the Geneva Community Center on Friday, June 6 from 4 p.m. - 7 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.



A Graduation Open House in honor of Lainee Krohn, daughter Tim and Brooke Krohn will be held at the Geneva Community Center on Sunday, June 8 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.



A Graduation Open House in honor of Aidan Schlaak, son of Nathan and Lindsey Schlaak will be held at his home 26406 90th St. New Richland, on Saturday, June 7 from 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.

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 **A Graduation Open House** in honor of **Alden Dobberstein**, son of Luke and Brenda Dobberstein will be held at his home **8674 W. Hwy. 30 New Richland**, on Friday, June 6 from 4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

 **A Graduation Open House** in honor of **Sierra Misgen** Daughter of Mark and Sara Misgen will be held at **the Ellendale Community Building** on Saturday, June 7 from 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.

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