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SERVING THE NEW RICHLAND-HARTLAND-ELLENDALE-GENEVA AREA

No. 21 Vol. CXXXIX \$2 Office in New Richland, Minnesota 56072 Thursday, May 23, 2024

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Homely Surprise



New Richland Pastors, from left, Pamela Jensen, Scott Williams, Dan Kordahl.

Local pastors, students lead annual Baccalaureate service

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

NRHEG Seniors, surrounded by friends, family and local church leaders, gathered together in worship Sunday evening for the annual Baccalaureate service held in the high school gymnasium in New Richland.

Leading this year's service were 21-year outgoing pastor of the 1st Congregation Church in New Richland, Pastor Pamela Jensen; accompanied by Pastor Scott Williams,

leader of St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church of New Richland; and Pastor Dan Kordahl of Le Sueur River Lutheran Church and Vista Lutheran Church.

Pastor Williams led the call to worship. Keira Lenort and Evelyn Nydegger read the Scripture readings from Philippians 4:4-8 and Numbers 6: 22-27



From left Annabelle Petsinger, Evelyn Nydegger and other NRHEG seniors.

Service continued on 15

CORRECTION

An article in last week's edition about New Richland's Mayor Loren Skelton contained an error.

Skelton was not removed by police from the school on Friday. Following a meeting with the superintendent, he was placed on paid leave and sent home. The police were not involved in the interaction. Confusion arose because of the normal presence of an officer in the school. The way the questions were phrased to the superintendent and local police led to the miscommunication.

A line in the article also referenced Skelton not being a licensed teacher.

Skelton has a degree in Elementary Education and K-12 Physical Education as well as a Master of Science degrees in Physical Education/Administration.

Ellendale Heritage to meet June 1 at 9 a.m.

The Ellendale Heritage Society will hold their next meeting June 1 at 9 a.m. in the Ellendale Community building. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Change in Worship times beginning June 2 for two area churches

Sunday worship service time will change starting June 2 for Cross of Glory Lutheran church to 9:00 a.m. and for West Freeborn Lutheran church to 10:30 a.m. This will continue through this year.

NR Summer Burst Concert Series returns June 23, July 21 and Aug. 11

The concerts in the park series will continue for a third season of music for the New Richland area communities. Concerts are held at the New Richland City Park (114 1st St. SE) on Sunday afternoons with free admission. (Free will offerings are accepted.) An additional concert is held prior to each park performance at the New Richland Care Center for its residents.

June 23rd: The Whiteside-walls - The upper Midwest's premier doo-wop, rockabilly and rock and roll band, known for 50's and 60's music will perform the songs we all remember!

July 21st: Just Friends Gospel -The well-known group of singers from the surrounding areas of New Richland, Owatonna, Wells, and Austin.

August 11th: Gold Star - Come and listen to this local band from Mankato who plays a variety of music including classic country, 50's/60's music, and

Briefs continued on 15

A word from
The Word



For all have
sinned and fall
short of the glory of
God. Romans 3:23

Very soon, it will all be history

Final service at First Congregational Church Sunday, May 26, 2024

Cookies and coffee to follow Sunday service

By JIM LUTGENS
Staff Writer

Almost every Sunday since 1882, there has been some sort of activity at First Congregational Church in New Richland.

It has been said that if you step into the building and listen closely enough, you can almost hear the echoes of countless worship services, weddings, receptions, funerals, baptisms, Sunday school activities, and fund-raising dinners.

There's a lot of history within those walls. Soon, however - very, very soon - it will all be history.

In light of waning attendance, church elders have made the painfully difficult decision to cease services after May 26.

There will be one final chance for folks to bid farewell to a church that was a staple of the community for many decades, and Pastor Pamela Jensen made it clear that she's inviting any and all interested persons to attend the final services at First Congregational Sunday, May 26 at 10 a.m.

Jensen, the church's pastor the last 21 years, has mixed feelings about it, starting with sadness.

"I am, of course, feeling the sadness of an ending," she said. "But I am retiring from the paid ministry and look forward to worshiping with my husband again!"

Ask almost anyone else associated with the church about its closure and they express a deep sadness. For some, it's the only church they've ever known; their history in the church dates back two generations.

For Shelly Moxon, it started with her parents, Donald and Audrene Smith, and before that it was Donald's parents, Harry and Amanda Smith. Moxon's sister, Anne Hagen, has also been active in the church.

Moxon, baptized and confirmed at the church, is genuinely heartbroken to see it close.

"How does it feel?" said Moxon. "That's not even a fair question to ask. It's heart-wrenching. It's very, very difficult. There just aren't any words to describe how it feels. Don't make me start to cry."

Bruce Berg, chairman of the church's trustees, can relate. His parents, Harlan and Leah, were always in church, as were Berg and his eight siblings



New Richland's First Congregational Church. Below, Pastor Pamela Jensen.

Star Eagle photos by Eli Lutgens

growing up. He remembers a time when the church was as big and as busy as any in town. It is noteworthy that former New Richland Star Publisher Margaret Engesser taught Sunday school there.

But Berg and all others involved can also see the proverbial handwriting on the wall. With younger folks moving away and older people dying, there just aren't enough active members - or dollars - to keep it all up and running.

"It's disappointing, but necessary," said Berg. "Unfortunately, I'm afraid it's the future of churches in small towns."

Jensen has seen a steady decline in active members since she took over as pastor.

"When I began serving First Congregational Church, there were 40 or 45 regulars in Sunday worship," she said. "Sunday school children and confirmands have grown up and moved away, while I have had the privilege of officiating at the funerals of nearly 30 of my brothers and sisters."

Jensen has also officiated at a few weddings and baptized a few babies, the most recent - Aria Leigh

Church continued on 15



Christensen joins city of New Richland

By TRISTAN GEHRING
Staff Writer

Heather Christensen. Christensen, 34, started as New Richland's assistant city clerk on April 15, 2024. She is a New Richland native who spent a few years away before coming back to the area. "I'm happier than ever," she says about her new role. "I'm super excited to be working for my hometown. It's so cool to see how everybody I graduated with has grown and to get to know the community."

Of her new position, she says, "I've always loved the idea of working for my community. It's something that's appealed to me my entire life, helping." She also explained that she handles big situations very well, with little stress, though she tends to "sweat the small stuff." Over the next few

Christensen continued on 10



New Richland's new assistant City Clerk Heather Christensen.

Photo by Tristan Gehring

May 24 declared Poppy day in New Richland

The City of New Richland declared May 24, 2024 as Poppy Day. All area citizens are asked to pay tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom by wearing the Memorial Poppy.

The red poppy is a nationally recognized symbol of sacrifice worn by Americans since World War 1 to honor those who served and died for our country in all wars. It reminds Americans of the sacrifices made by our veterans while protecting our Freedoms. Led by the American Legion Auxiliary, each year members of the American Legion Family make available these red poppies with a request that the person accepting the poppy donate to support the Auxiliary's veteran outreach programs as well as supporting the future of veterans, active-duty military personnel and their families.

Locally, members of the New Richland Legion Auxiliary will place containers where they can donate and receive a poppy in area business places. Wear your poppy to the Memorial Day program on Monday, May 27th - 11 a.m. at the Secondary school gymnasium, followed by a lunch prepared and served by the NRHEG culinary students.

NR Legion May meeting set for May 23 at library

The New Richland American Legion Auxiliary Members will have their May meeting on Thursday, May 23 at 5:30 pm. The meeting will be held at the New Richland Public Library.

Legion Memorial Day program May 27 at 11 a.m.

The annual New Richland American Legion Memorial Day program will be held on Monday, May 27th at 11:00 am. The program will be held in the NRHEG High School gym. Lunch will be available (until gone) after the program for \$10. The American Legion members will be leaving town on May 27th at 8:30 to go to the area cemeteries. Their first stop will be at the Calvary Catholic Cemetery.



FenceLines

by Mark Bernard

The ranch has been busy so far

The scurs had the Weather Eye clicking with another drier forecast. Do we maintain our status quo or are our fortunes about to change? Starting Thursday, sunny with a modest chance of evening rain. Highs in the mid-70's with lows in the mid-50's. Partly sunny on Friday with a good chance of rain. Highs in the mid-70's with lows in the low 50's. Mostly sunny on Saturday with a slight chance of rain. Highs in the upper 60's with lows in the low 50's. Sunday, mostly sunny with a good chance of evening rain. Highs in the mid-70's with lows in the mid-50's. Mostly sunny on Memorial Day Monday with a fair chance of rain. Highs in the low 70's and lows in the low 50's. Tuesday, sunny with highs in the mid-70's and lows in the mid-50's. Mostly sunny on Wednesday with highs in the low 70's and lows in the upper 40's. Our Full Moon will be on the 23rd. Memorial Day is the 27th. On May 29th our daily increase in daylight slows to under a minute and a half per day. The normal high for May 27th is 72 and the normal low is 53. The scurs will be celebrating Memorial Day by honoring those who served. All gave some. Some gave all.

The Full Moon as mentioned above occurs on the 23rd and generally goes by the Full Flower Moon, fitting for Mother Nature this time of year. Many of the wildflowers in wooded areas are in bloom as well as the early summer plants around the yard, including iris, lilacs and lilies of the valley. Many blooming chokecherries were noted in my travels this past week as well. Other Full Moon names for the month include the Frog Moon and the Milk Moon as farmers turned their cows out on pasture back in the days before everything was fed dry feed. Butter and milk were a characteristic yellower color as a result of the carotenoids from the green grass. Farmers avoided standing behind the cows when milking for a few days as the cows adjusted to their new diet. The Ojibwe called this the Blossom Moon, and the Sioux called it The Moon when the Ponies Shed. At the ranch, it's definitely the Moon when Corgi's Shed, but that's every Full Moon.

Progress could be measured in the crop already planted and in the completion of soybean planting this past week for many. Corn really started to take off with the warmer days over the past week. Some early planted corn in sheltered fields was already V4 with four full collars showing and reaching 5" - 6" in height. Some replanting was being done in places after the areas in question dried sufficiently. It's been surprising when out and about in the morning to see how many dark spots there still are on the side-hills. Venturing out in those same fields, it's a good idea to pay attention or getting stuck is a distinct possibility. Soybeans are emerging right along, being able to row some of the earlier planted fields already. Weed control will be at the forefront soon, once we get this most recent rainmaker through the tile systems. Some have already made a preemptive strike around some of the field boundaries where weed pressure is generally the heaviest. A wise move given the weather uncertainty.

One thing is certain, with all the moisture, the mosquitoes have seized upon the opportunity and

are making up for lost ground after last year. Sure, we had some mosquitoes after the heavy rains last May, but once we made it through June, mosquitoes became more of a novelty than a nuisance. Not so this year. Head out into the long grass or outside after dark if there's no breeze and you're taking your life in your own hands. Not only are they numerous, they're very aggressive, particularly towards dark. Along with them during daylight hours are their little buddies the blackflies or buffalo gnats. They've been especially annoying along the rivers, streams and drainage ditches. They're generally not a problem after dark, so at least there is that.

The backyard at the ranch has been busy so far with lots of grape jelly being consumed by our feathered friends. The orioles, both the Baltimore and orchard types, are the primary consumers. There are also red-bellied woodpeckers, catbirds, house finches and the occasional downy. The female Baltimore orioles must be in next building mode. When filling the jelly feeder, I found some long horsehair in one of the dishes. No horses here, so it must've come from the Dubya's. It also looked like there was some dog hair, very possibly of Corgi origin, perhaps to line the bottom of the nest. Better there than in windrows along the baseboards in the house.

The Silver Hawk has been on a couple outings now to stretch its wings. A couple weekends ago we ventured forth to Faribault for Mother's Day. The weather forecast was calling for only a slight chance of afternoon showers, so we decided to risk it. Sure enough, a thundershower moved through about the time we sat down to eat. It didn't hail, so that was a plus. It did, however, make a mess with all the black gunk from the road speckling the white car. This after I'd painstakingly cleaned it all up just prior to our excursion. Then another expedition on Friday afternoon to Thompson, IA, this time with Vista's noted Swedish astronomer riding shotgun. It was a similar length trip, only no rain this time, just bugs. Easier to just wipe down the front of the car rather than the whole thing. A warm-ish drive down, although the combination of the fender vents and rear window vents helped keep it bearable. The ice cold beer at Mr. K's hit the spot before crossing the street for supper at The Branding Iron. Good company and a comfortable cruise home. Works for me.

Poppy has kept her busy schedule intact. Lawnmowing needs to be part of the equation, however, for her to complete her appointed rounds. With those short little legs, it's nice to keep the grass cut short enough, so it doesn't tickle her tummy. Not that she has much of a tummy anyway. We've been careful to limit her number of treats and their size. One thing we were warned about was not allowing Poppy to get too heavy as it can lead to back problems down the road. Her activity level has a lot to do with that as well. Most say she is the most active Corgi they have ever seen. We try to give her lots of outdoor time whenever possible. Herding cats apparently is a good way to stay in shape. Oddly enough, when back in the house, she'll often run laps around the couch for good measure. If one could only bottle that energy.

See you next week...real good then.

A trifecta of stories that honor



Whatever Flips Your Waffle

by Mark Domeier
Contributing Writer

Allies a better shot at invading Japan and taking out the Japanese soldiers that were so unwilling to surrender.

This past year, Spielberg and Hanks released the latest look at the war fought by the Greatest Generation. Found on Apple TV+, Masters of the Air is a revealing look at the Air Force and the many bombing runs they took to loosen up the ability of the Axis to produce and use war machinery.

The show focuses mainly on the 100th Bomb Group, but also highlights the Tuskegee Airmen, an all-Black group of pilots, and their heroic exploits in the war. The show is new enough that it hasn't been recognized (yet) for awards, but the response has been largely positive.

Here was my biggest takeaway from watching these shows: War is hell. There is no lack of graphic violence, watching soldiers get shot, blown up, started on fire, etc. The producers and directors did not shy away from showing someone losing an arm or leg, and the blood loss is copious. These scenes are meant to shock, but they're also meant to show the reality of what happened on those battlefields.

Sometimes, it was hard to watch. Not just because of the gore, but because the realization seeps in that these things really happened. While you would term these shows historical fiction, they are based on real

people and real events. There is some literary license, as is to be expected, but overall, this is what it looked like to be on the front lines and in the air during the war.

Watching a soldier kill an opponent for the first time is a great example of a scene that humanizes what was happening. Remember, so many of these soldiers, on both sides, were people who were not military folks to start. They volunteered to fight for their country. They stepped up to defend freedom. They came off their farms and out of the factories and schools to become soldiers and risk their lives for others.

It was also hard to watch the racism that was involved, both among Americans and also the hatred aimed at German and Japanese people. This is horrifically shown in the battles of the Pacific when civilians were sometimes killed and sometimes even targeted. If you were Japanese, you were an enemy. We saw that in our own country with the internment camps on the West Coast.

I get it, I think. I remember the anger after 9/11 and how anyone from a Middle Eastern country was looked at with suspicion. But it's unfortunate that people who have nothing to do with terrorism and war are still lumped in with the people who are actually evil.

And then I look at all the war still happening in our world. War be-

tween Ukraine and Russia. The conflict with Israel and Gaza and everything going on there. And why? For power? For land? For religion?

Won't the human race ever learn? Or are we destined to always have someone who seeks more power or more land or to show why their religion is the best one? Because that's what wars have been about for millennia. All that's changed is the efficiency with which we can kill people.

I'm not anti-war. If there is evil in the world that truly threatens the good of many, that evil must be stopped. But I watched these shows and thought, "Some of these scenes are being replayed somewhere in real life right now." Sure, it might be drones dropping bombs instead of human-piloted planes, but there is still death and dismemberment. Civilians are still casualties.

As we approach Memorial Day, I pray for peace, though that prayer seems forlorn. After watching all those shows, I have an even greater appreciation for the men and women who served in World War II and all the subsequent conflicts in the decades afterward. Take a moment during this long weekend to think about all the sacrifices. As it says on many veteran memorials, "All gave some, some gave all."

And maybe say a prayer for peace. Perhaps if we all do, it will happen.

Word of the Week: This week's word is sartorial, which means related to tailored clothes, as in, "The military personnel were not as worried about having sartorial uniforms, just pants that wouldn't fall down or be too tight." Impress your friends and confuse your enemies!

Freeborn Auxiliary

The Freeborn American Legion Auxiliary met on May 18, 2024 at 9 a.m. at the Freeborn Legion Hall. President Sandy Anderson called the meeting to order. The American Flag and the Auxiliary Pledge were recited.

The Secretary and Treasurer reports were given. Both reports were approved as read.

Bills were presented and motioned to be paid.

Our membership is now at 52 and our goal is 59. A discussion was held concerning how to get people to join our unit.

Sandy gave the current Poppy report. The Poppy will be available at the Memorial Day Program. The updated Poppy report will be given at the September meeting.

The Memorial Day Program will be held at 11 a.m. in the Freeborn Fire Hall. The Freeborn Cemetery Association will hold a luncheon at the Fire Hall following the Memorial Day Program.

It was discussed and decided to do our "No Bake" fundraiser again this year. Sandy will include this in the August membership letter.

Our next Auxiliary meeting will be September 18, 2024 at 9 a.m. at the Freeborn Legion Hall. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Announcements were made that the "Tee It Up for Campers Golf Tournament" for True Friends will be held on July 12 at Oak View Golf Course by Freeborn. For more information contact Jim Beach 507-391-3773.

Also announced was that the Freeborn Area Heritage Museum, which is located at 608 Park St in Freeborn, is open on Sundays 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. and all are welcome to come and look

around. Everyone is also, welcome to attend the Heritage monthly meetings which are held the 3rd Monday at 7 p.m. at the museum. The Museum will be open on Memorial Day.

Also announced there will be a Freeborn American Legion Fish Fry on Saturday, May 25th. Serving is from 5 p.m. to 7p.m. They serve in addition to the fish, coleslaw, and baked potatoes.

Respectfully Submitted by
Sandy Anderson, President

The lifeblood of small towns

It was Mother's Day on Sunday last week. My family celebrated by going to lunch in Waseca. At the same time, unplanned, my aunt and her kids decided to go to the same restaurant, arriving only moments after we arrived.

It was a lovely afternoon filled with tears from my mother as she read everyone's cards.

My card was simple and attached to the flowers. "Mom, I didn't forget this year. Love, Eli."

Oh, how my mother loves fancy pots and plants. I stopped by Waseca Floral and picked out something that accomplished both of these feats. It's very nice to have a local florist whom I know to stop and shop from. It's simply not the same to buy plants from a big box store.

On Thursday of last week, I interviewed Dean and Theresa Grubstad, owners of New Richland's Red Leaf Cafe. I have not completed the story yet—it's been a busy week. I'm grateful my job creates opportunities like that one on Thursday which allow me time to have excellent conversations. I have been a patron of the cafe in New Richland since I could walk. Dad used to let me go up for lunch there starting at the age of 10 or so.

I would sit at the same counter seat every day and order the same thing nearly every time. Chicken strips with fries or chips, depending on whether my dad had given me \$7.25 or \$10. That same detail would also determine whether I was able to get a Mountain Dew or not. Ahh, simpler times.

Back then the cafe was called the Dew Drop. I remember going there with my sister for lunch one afternoon. She meticulously applied ketchup and mustard to a hamburger in a "grid style" pattern, before placing the pickles on top. That was the first burger I ever called, "my favorite," and proceeded to apply ketchup and mustard in the same fashion for



Just a Thought...

by Eli Lutgens

many years. I must say, though, those large style chicken strips and the crinkle cut fries will forever hold a fond place in my heart.

Eating there as a youngster, I learned what a "tip" was for the first time. I remember my dad telling me to leave a dollar or two for a 'tip' next time I was there. When I did, the waitress ran out the door after me to let me know I had forgotten my change. I said no, no, no, my dad said I was supposed to leave you a tip.

When my friends would stay over at our house while I was growing up, Dad would pay for us to go to lunch together; that was a special treat. He always said though, that if \$20 wasn't enough for the two of us to get lunch, then it wasn't worth it. We made do.

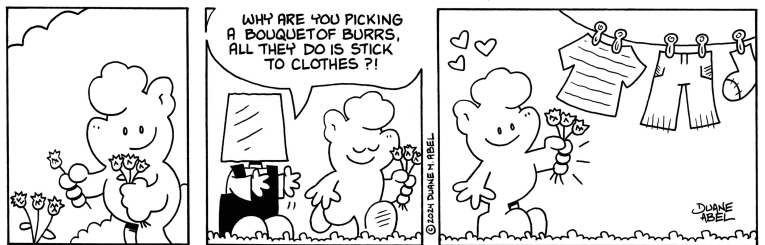
I remember another time at the cafe when it was raining so hard, all the patrons stayed and chatted for more than an hour after closing time. It was at this cafe I tried my first "malt." Oh, in the years that followed I wished over and over again that the machine hadn't broken, removing malts from the menu forever.

After my confirmation graduation in eighth grade, the Red Leaf was where we went for lunch.

I've had numerous business lunches there, social gatherings, and oh, so many memories. I'm incredibly grateful small town, family-oriented businesses exist. So much so, I can't help wondering whether people who grow up in a big city are able to collect worthwhile memories and relationships to match the ones I formed in the communities I've

grown up in.
"A poet could write volumes about

ZED by Duane M. Abel



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DEADLINES: STAR EAGLE: Noon Monday
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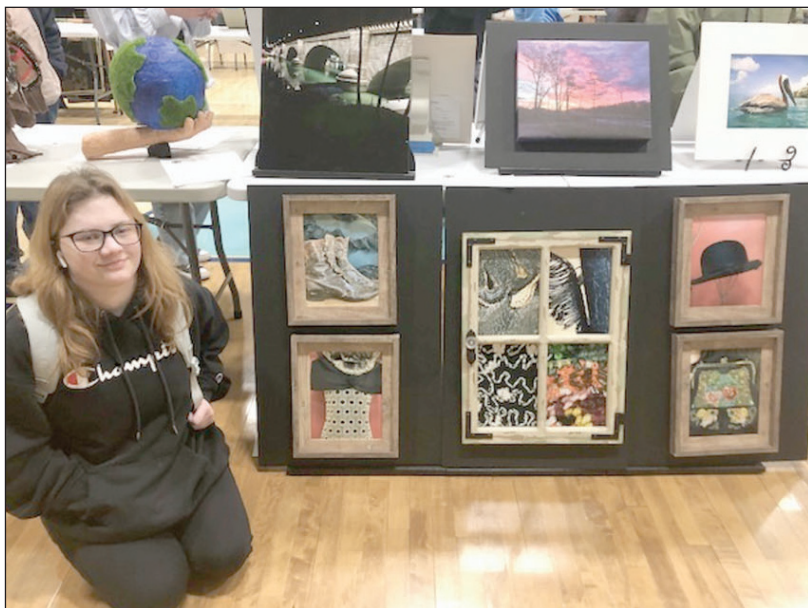
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Excellent, Superior, Art showing for NRHEG students



Junior Brady Koopal received a “Superior” for his painting titled “Native American Scene.”



Junior Madisyn Ferguson recieved a “Superior” rating for her piece titled, “Vintage.”



Senior Annabelle Petinger received a “Superior” for her piece, “Native Winter.”



Fresman Khaiden Madson received an “Excellent” rating for his self portrait.



Senior Peyton Curtis recieved a "Superior" rating for his ceramics piece, "Cupcake."



Sophomore Ava Schember recieved an “Excellent” rating for her photograph, “Glow.”



Senior Hope Nielsen represented NRHEG at the State art show. She is shown with her pieces, titled, "Rambunctious Reflections," which recieved Best of Show, on the bottom right; two other pieces shown are "A Glimpse into Native Heritage" and a sculpture called "Shattered Serenity.



Junior Madisyn Ferguson recieved a “Superior” rating for her piece titled, “Vintage.”

Eight compete at art competition

Nielsen, Ferguson qualified for state art showing

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

Eight art students from NRHEG took their artworks to a section art competition at Mountain Meadow in Morgan, MN on April 17, 2024. Among the students, five pieces garnered a "superior" rating and four the rating of "excellent." Of the group, two were chosen to go on to represent NRHEG at the state show which took place May 11: Madisyn Ferguson in photography and Hope Nielsen in drawing.

The students who attended section competition were freshman Khaiden Madson, whose drawing using pastels received a rating of "excellent"; sophomore Ava Schember, whose entry in photography was rated "excellent"; Junior Madisyn Ferguson, whose entry in photography was

given a “superior” rating; junior Brady Koopal, whose entry in photography also garnered a “superior” rating. Seniors who participated were Annabelle Petsinger, with a “superior” rating in painting; Hope Nielsen with a rating of “excellent” in both photography and sculpture, and “superior” in both painting and drawing; and Peyton Curtis, who received a “superior” rating in the category of ceramics.

The Visual Arts State Festival, held at the Perpich Center, was a one-day show with artwork delivery, set-up, and take-down all on May 11. After a viewing of the works, an awards ceremony was held.

Ferguson's photography project and Nielsen's pastel portrait were displayed. Both artists were recognized for their achievements in art

and both received the spotlight award during their section showing.

"All of the students worked hard," said Cynthia Gail, NRHEG art teacher. "These students are truly amazing and should be congratulated on their work ethic. It takes a lot of hard work to get an excellent or superior rating."

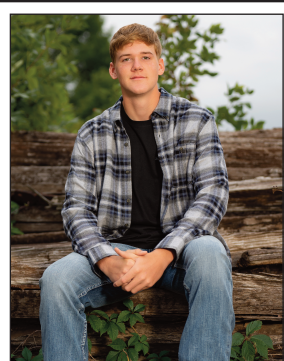
Gail gave a glowing review of the work created by these NRHEG students, saying that, in her time as an art teacher, this was the first time any of her students were recognized at the state level.



A Graduation Open House
in honor of
Faith, Preslie & Hope Nielsen
daughters of Bruce & Jennie
Nielsen
will be held at their home
601 North Star lane, Hartland
Saturday June 1, from 4-7 p.m.



A Graduation Open House
in honor of
Brenna Marjorie Sommer
daughter of Tony and Amanda
Sommer will be held at their
home **32138 785th Ave. Ellendale**
Saturday June 15
from 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.



A Graduation Open House
in honor of
Zander Flatness
son of Brandon & Karen Flatness
will be held at
607 Broadway St. Hartland
Saturday June 1
from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.



A Graduation Open House
in honor of
Annabelle Petsinger
daughter of Lynette Petsinger will
be held at Izaak Walton Building
1548 SW 58th St, Owatonna
Friday June 8
from noon - 3 p.m.



A Graduation Open House
in honor of
Reese Routh
son of Travis and Lisa Routh will
be held at their home
501 Creamery St. Hartland
Saturday June 1
from 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.



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Baccalaureate Sermon

Below is the text of Pastor Pamela Jensen's Baccalaureate Sermon delivered Sunday, May 19, 2024.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by that same Spirit we may be truly wise, and ever enjoy your consolations, through Christ our Lord. Amen. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are gathered together tonight to celebrate an ending. For most of your lives, you have lived in the sure and certain love of your families and friends, as well as the security of your teachers, churches and communities. The years of your young lives stretch out behind you now, and you may be feeling a bit wistful about leaving childhood. But the rest of us can't believe how quickly this day has come – this day of sending. For that is what we are doing. We are preparing to send you out into the world as young adults – to share your gifts with those whose lives you will touch.

So, really, we are celebrating a beginning. Soon, you will start something new. Some of you will enter college or vocational school. Others will become an apprentice or intern. Many of you will move out of your family homes and begin your first adult jobs. And some of you will get married and start your own families. But whatever you choose – wherever your path may lead you, we want you to know that our love and blessings go with you. And so, I say to you, just as Jesus said to the Apostles, "I have appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last." Soon, it will be your turn to go out and bear the fruit that will last. But remember, we can bear abundant fruit only when we're in the vine, because apart from Him we can do nothing. A full and productive life can only be achieved with God's grace.

That's why it seems appropriate to send you out with the benediction of God. They are words that you have heard many times, but this evening I would like to share something of what Christ has for you in this benediction – Christ's message to you. "The Lord bless you." May the Lord bless you with an abundant life. May you have everything you need and may you want everything you have. May you seek after and sustain the life in grace that you might obtain the kingdom of heaven. May you find comfort when you grieve and a calm spirit when you are afraid. May you be free from anxiety and doubt, but when doubts arise, may you rest in the knowledge that you are a child of God – and God is in the habit of loving you. May you hunger after the knowledge of God and thirst after the righteousness of God – and may your hunger and thirst be satisfied.

But not only that – may you be blessed in order that you might be a blessing to others. May you be gentle and kind, so that little children will want to crawl into your lap and play at your feet. May you be merciful and forgiving as Christ has first forgiven you. May you be the listening ear and the warm grasp of the hand to comfort the grieving. May you be an encourager to your brothers and sisters in Christ. May you be a reconciler and a peacemaker (or one who helps to make others whole), for then you will be called children of God. And may you live a pure and holy life – for, then, you shall see God.

"The Lord bless you and keep you." May the Lord keep you from all harm and deliver you from evil. Every day, may you put on the full armor of God. Gird your loins with truth; put on the breastplate of righteousness; and, having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace, take up the shield of faith that will protect you from the flaming arrows of the evil one.

On your head, wear the helmet of salvation. And, finally, take up the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

May the Lord build a hedge of protection around you and your family. You are invited to live within the keep – the stronghold of the kingdom of God. But you have been kept for a purpose. Ephesians, chapter one, says that we have been sealed in Christ with the Holy Spirit of promise. You have been set apart for good works by the power of the Holy Spirit.

"The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face to shine upon you." Psalm 80 pleads, "O God of hosts, restore us, and cause Thy face to shine upon us and we will be saved." The shining face of the Lord is a sign of His protection. The Lord is our rock. The rock is our refuge and our fortress. And, when we are weak and lacking perspective, may we cry out, "Lead me to the rock that is higher than I." The shining face of the Lord is also a sign of His salvation. The Lord is our redeemer, our deliverer. "The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you." God is a grace-giver. May He make you holy by His grace that you might also be crowned with His salvation.

"The Lord lift up His countenance upon you." In the world of ungrace, this was seen as a sign of favor. When one came into the presence of the King with a request or concern, there was no opportunity to speak unless the King chose to look up. If the King looked up, it was a signal that the supplicant would be heard. May you always remember that your King has looked up – He has lifted up His countenance, His face. You will be heard. As the psalmists proclaim, "O Thou who hears prayer, to Thee all men come." "In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried to my God for help; He heard my voice out of His temple, and my cry for help before Him came into His ears." The Lord has looked upon you with His favor. He hears your prayer because you are His favorite child.

"The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace." Christ is not promising us calm seas. He is promising us Shalom. Christ will make us whole. He will give us a supernatural sense of well-being in the midst of the stormy seas of life. The man who wrote the hymn, "It Is Well with My Soul," experienced this Shalom, this peace, first hand.

"Horatio G. Spafford, a forty-three-year-old Chicago businessman, suffered financial disaster in the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. He and his wife were still grieving over the death of their son shortly before the fire, and he realized they needed to get away for a vacation. Knowing that their friend Dwight L. Moody was going to be preaching in evangelistic campaigns in England that fall, Spafford decided to take the entire family to England. His wife and four daughters went ahead on the SS Ville du Havre, and he planned to follow in a few days.

But on the Atlantic Ocean the ship was struck by an iron sailing vessel and sank within twelve minutes. Two hundred and twenty-six lives were lost – including the Spaffords' four daughters. When the survivors were brought to shore at Cardiff, Wales, Mrs. Spafford cabled her husband, "Saved alone."

Spafford booked passage on the next ship. As they were crossing the Atlantic, the captain pointed out the place where he thought the Ville du Havre had gone down. That night, Spafford penned the words, "When sorrows like sea billows roll . . . it is well, it is well with my soul."

May you experience the Shalom of God as you go forward from this place. "The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace."

OBITUARIES

Neoma Johansen

NEOMA JEAN JOHANSEN, age 88, of New Richland passed away surrounded by family on Thursday, May 16, 2024 at New Richland Care Center.

Born on February 20, 1936 in New Richland Township, Neoma was the daughter of Orland and Carol (Weed) Hagen. She graduated from New Richland High School with the class of 1953. After graduating, she began working for Roundbank as a bank teller. On August 29, 1954, Neoma was united in marriage to Kenneth Johansen at Trinity Lutheran Church in New Richland. She stayed at home to raise her five kids while doing the bookwork for the family business, Johansen Lockers. She returned back to work by working part time with Cahill Pharmacy in 1976 until returning to the bank.

Neoma worked for several other banks throughout Southern Minne-

sota before moving to Green Valley, Arizona where she and Ken lived for 17 years before retiring and moving back to Minnesota. She retired from working as the Green Valley Fire District Administrator. Together they spent their retirement years in New Richland and later in Janesville. Neoma had a knack for art. She was an award-winning knitter who won ribbons through the Waseca County Fair and would also make clothes. She also enjoyed tatting, painting, drawing, and baking, especially wedding cake decorating. She would be known to have a craft day with her friends and family once a month to share her talents. She loved to entertain and make everyone feel welcome. Neoma was also a founding member of Faith Lutheran Church in Janesville.

Neoma is survived by children, Jodelle Hess of Seattle, WA, Kris (Shannon) Johansen of Moore, OK, Janalee (Greg) Jacobson of Waseca,

and Jeralyn (Steve) Price of Littleton, CO; 10 grandchildren, Brady Hess, Kypp (Tami) Hess, Joshua (Katrina) Jacobson, Zachary (Ashley) Jacobson, Kaleb (Brandy) Jacobson, Krisha Johansen, Jacob (Tiffany) Johansen, Keenan (Bekah) Johansen, Mackenzie Price, and Liam Price; 10 great grandchildren, Wyatt, Addilyn, Graham, Riffen, Secret, Aura, Archie, Siryn, Krewden, Willow, Bearren; many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Kenneth Johansen; parents, Orland and Carol Hagen; son, Kevin Johansen; daughters-in-law, Nancy Johansen and Karen Johansen; son-in-law, Steve Hess, siblings, Harlan Hagen, Darlene Dinse, Ordwin "Buzz" Hagen, Ordean "Bob" Hagen.

Funeral Service will be 2:00 PM on Friday, June 28, 2024 at Faith Lutheran Church in Janesville. Visitation will be for one hour prior to the

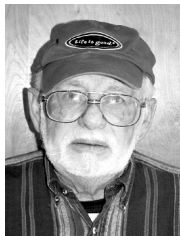


Neoma Johansen

service at the church on Friday. Interment will follow at Woodville Cemetery.

dsfuneral.com

A wonderful skit that kept all the gals laughing



FACT OR FICTION

...you decide

by Bob Hanson, Emeritus

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

Canyon of Arkansas Tree Mountains. I also looked for the elk along the Buffalo River, but didn't see any.

It rained a lot every day with tornado warnings and watches, so that wasn't the best for outside activities.

The following is Genie's three-day retreat in the Tree Mountains of Arkansas. (As near as I can tell, it was a 3-day over-nighter of ladies reliving their youth!!)

Genie went to the 13th annual Harmony in the Ozarks in the beautiful tree mountains of Arkansas up from Jasper, AR. (April 26-28, 2024).

The theme this year was "Feathering our Nests with Joy, Peace and Love."

We stay in a beautiful retreat house called Harmony. 14 gals stayed overnight all weekend. 22 gals participated.

Lots of fun, food, snacks, laughter, and not a lot of sleep.

It rained a lot, so we stayed inside and dry.

No swatter ball, fly that balloon. Bummer! (Due to rain) We had a wonderful skit that kept all the gals laughing. "Yeeshaw the sheriff's in town with a bubble gun."

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MAY 27, 2024



Norbert Schultz



Merlyn Bohlen



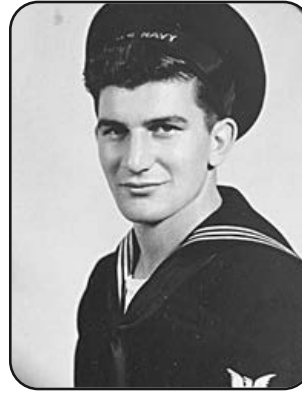
John Wilkenson



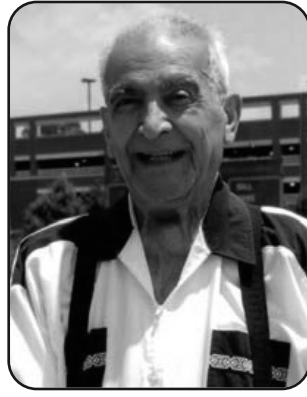
Robert Wilson



Howard Christensen



Clarence Abraham



Floyd Abraham



Harry A. Anderson



Robert Arnfelt



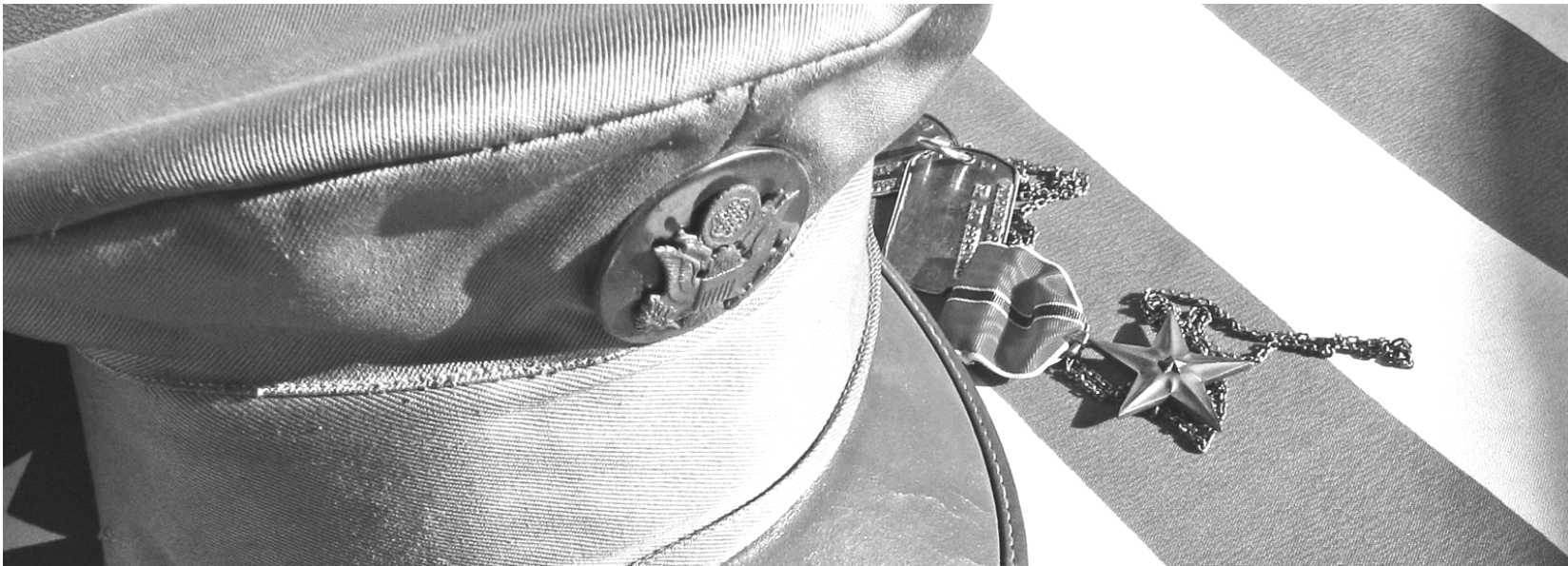
Terence Babcock



Donald Bartsch



Gary Berg



Area Memorial Day ceremonies

Memorial Day Events
Veterans organizations will celebrate Memorial Day, Monday, May 27, 2024 in accordance with the following schedule. Please set aside time to attend one of these featured events in commemoration of those who have and are currently serving our country in the military. As citizens of the United States of America, we especially pay tribute to those who have given the ultimate sacrifice of life, so we may experience freedom in the United States of America.

New Richland
The annual New Richland American Legion Memorial Day program will be held on Monday, May 29 at 11 a.m. The program this year will be in the NRHEG high school gym. Members of the NRHEG band will play patriotic songs, two high school seniors will participate and local veteran and NRHEG teacher, Gordy Loverink will be the speaker. Lunch will be available (until gone) after the program at a cost of \$10 per person. The American Legion members will meet at the Legion Post at 8 a.m. and will be leaving town at 8:25

a.m. to arrive at Calvary cemetery at 8:30 and then go on to the other area cemeteries. The Church of All Saints will be celebrating a Mass at Calvary Cemetery at 10:30 a.m. with Rev. Frerichs officiating. In case of rain, Mass will be held at the church.

Waldorf
The Waldorf American Legion Post # 587 Memorial Day Program will be held at the Waldorf Community Center located on Main Street at 10:15 a.m. The program will be followed by graveside services at Zoar's Cemetery, St. Joseph Community Cemetery and First Lutheran Church Cemetery. A potluck dinner will be held at noon in the Community Center. Everyone welcome.

Ellendale and Geneva
The Ellendale and Geneva Legion and VFW will meet at the Ellendadle Community Building between 7 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. on May 27th, Memorial Day. Please join us if you can.

The five cemeteries we will be going to are:
8:15 Litomysl
9:15 St. Aidens
10:15 Geneva

11:15 Ellendale
The speaker at the Geneva and Ellendale cemetery will be Jeff Dolan.

All willing military, veterans and those currently serving are asked to join the ranks, whether you have participated in the past or not. Meet at the Ellendale Community Building at 7:15 a.m. and then proceed to the sites.

A memorial day mass will be held at St. Aidan's Cemetery with Father Loomis officiating at 9:30 a.m.

Hartland
Hartland American Legion Post 266 will hold a Memorial Day service at Cross of Glory Church social hall beginning at 9 a.m. on Memorial Day. The guest speaker will be Ole Olson, a member of the Albert Lea American Legion. The NRHEG music department will also participate and the Cross of Glory Altar Guild will offer a lunch following the program.

Clarks Grove
A Memorial Day service will be at 9 a.m. at the Clarks Grove Baptist Cemetery. If it rains, the service will be canceled.



Gerald Johnson



Adrian Prescher



Adam Finseth



Kenny Finseth



Armand 'Fuchs' Fox

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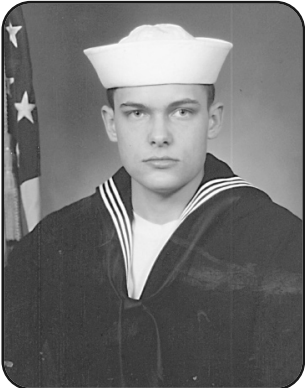
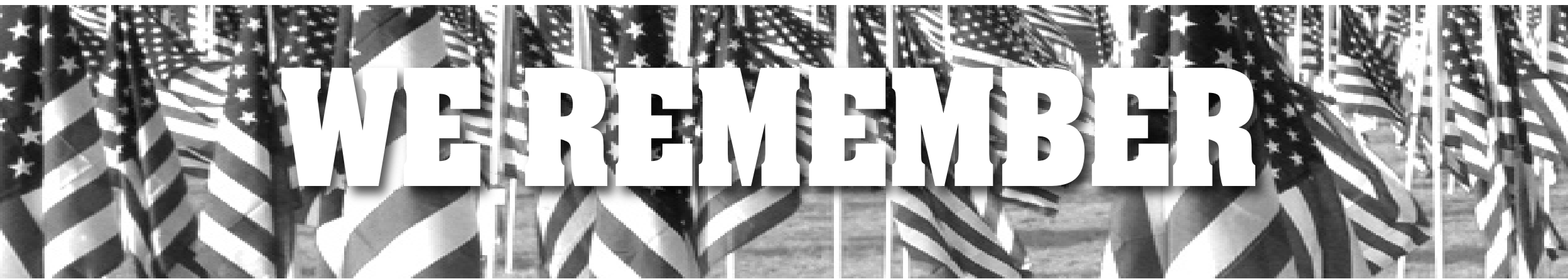
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We salute our
fallen heroes
and give thanks
to all on this
Memorial Day

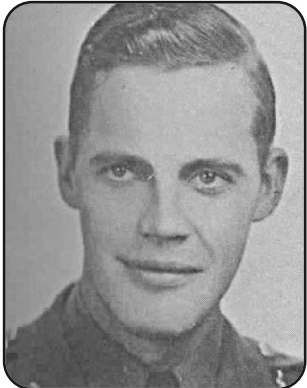
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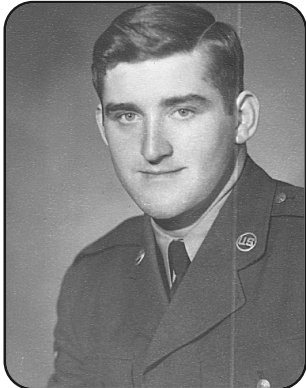
Mitchel Berg



Sylvan Berg



Art Byrne



Lyle Byrne



George Clunis



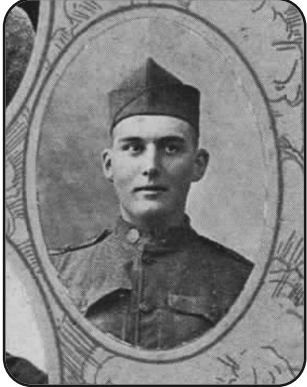
Thornton Crumb



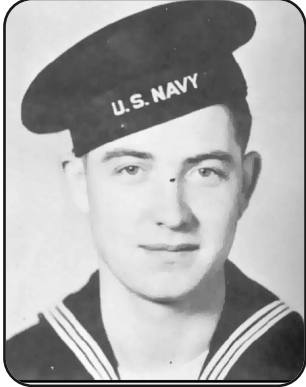
Lyle Dodge



Noah Berg



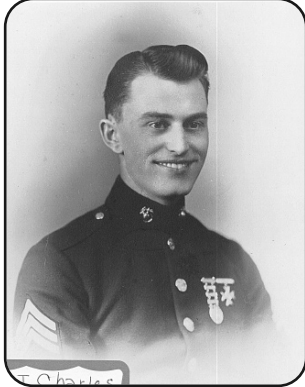
George Billing



Dennis Byrne



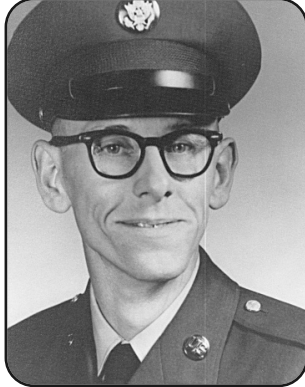
Richard Byrne



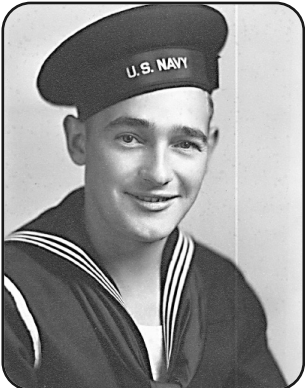
Charles Crumb



Melvin Demmer



Aldean Drager



Oscar "Buddy" Berg



Robert Billing



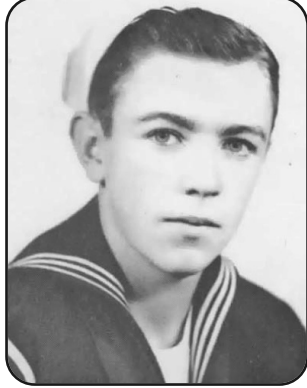
Earl Byrne



Howard R. Christensen



Maxon Crumb



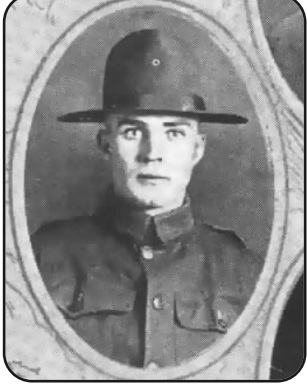
Richard Dinneen



Emmet H. Engesser



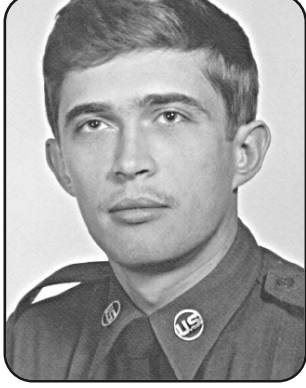
Ryan Berg



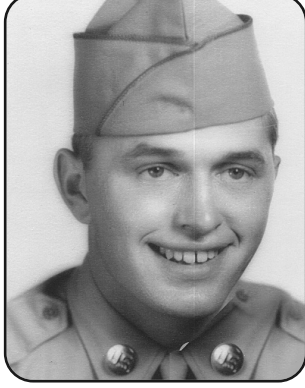
Andrew Borgen



Harold Byrne



Gary Churchill



Robert Crumb



Gene Dodge



Don Eustice

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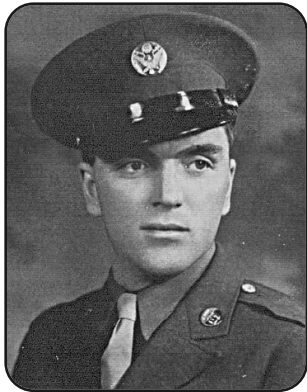
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Ken Finseth



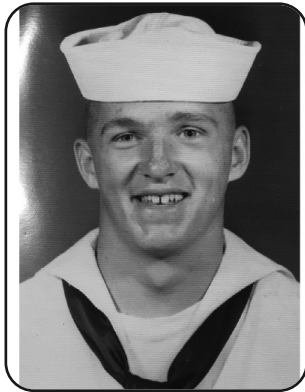
Glen Herbst



Floyd Johnson



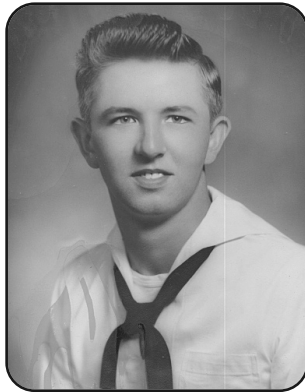
Russell M. Krueger



David Lienke



Robert J. Meyer



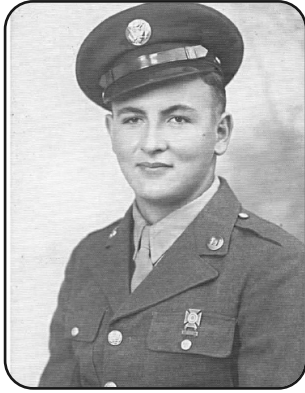
O'Dean Miller



Albert G. Flor



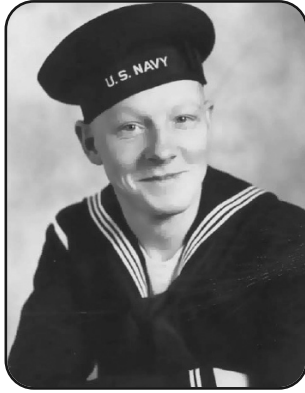
Anthony Holmes



Philip Klocek



Eugene Langlie



Arnold Loken



Emery Gene Millang



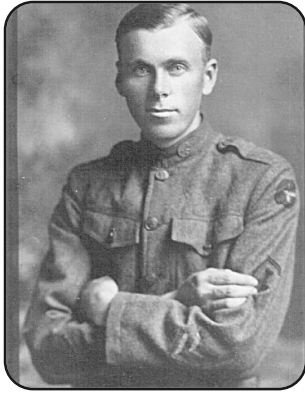
Robert Miller



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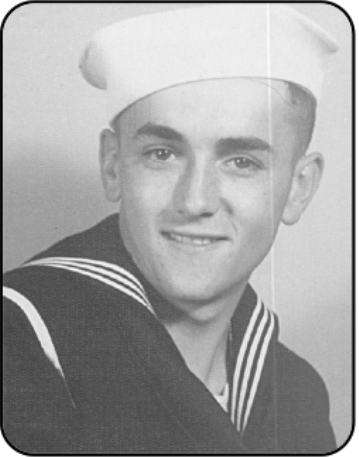
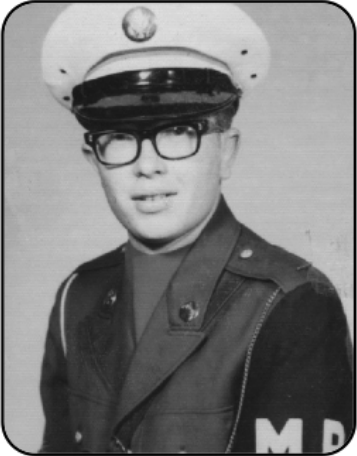
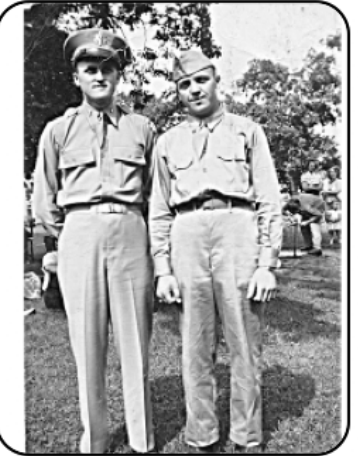
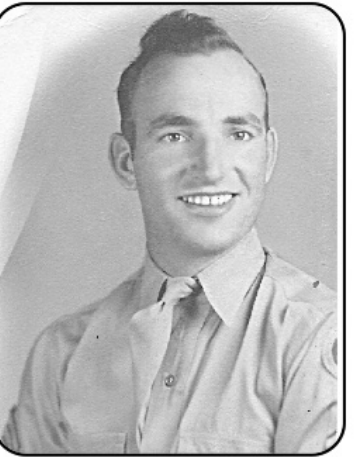
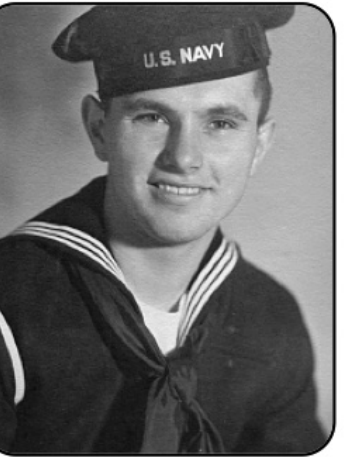
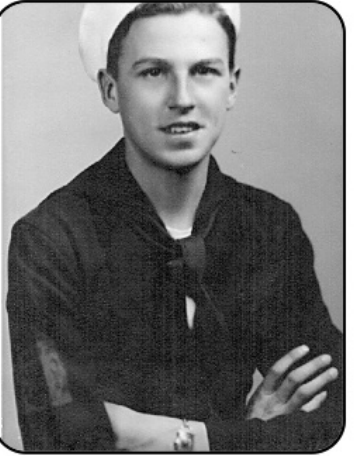
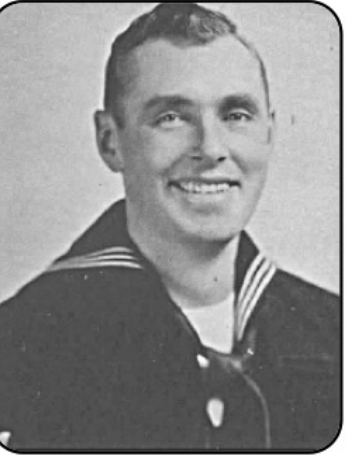
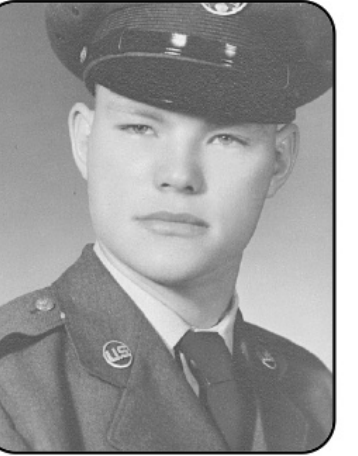
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MEMORIAL DAY • MAY 27, 2024

					
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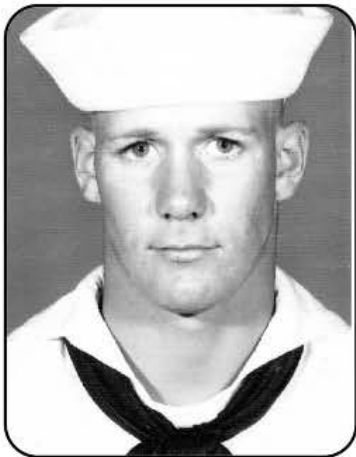
MEMORIAL DAY • MAY 27, 2024



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Gerhardt Proehl



Dean Routh



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Russell Olson



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Larry Schutrop



Don Smith



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David Wenzel



Oscar "Buddy" Berg



Lyle Bergner



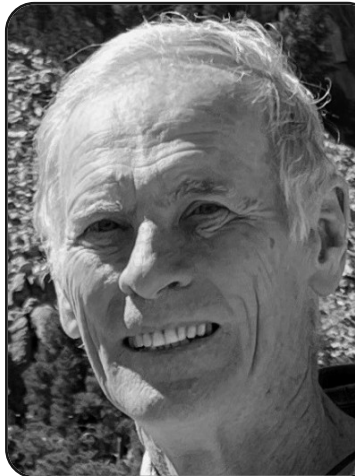
Robert Busho



Arthur Byrne



Dennis Byrne



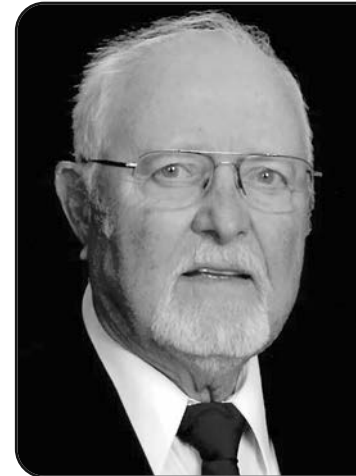
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Robert "Bob" Meyer



Edwin Jensen



Larry Otto



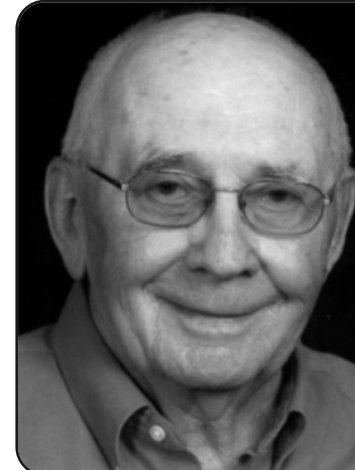
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Fishing is great therapy if you don't get a backlash

When my wife and I were first married, she fished with me quite a bit. She grew up with a sister and two brothers. Each spring her parents would buy the kids a new Zebco 202 rod & reel combo. Her dad told me that it was easier to just replace them each year than to try putting new line on them. I owned one or two of these when the boys were young and they worked great until you needed to re-place the line. If you did get it re-placed, they did not seem to work all that great, so I understood his logic.

If you are itching to do a little tenting with little cost, the Chippewa National Forest has many opportunities for you.

If you enjoy getting back to basics... The Chippewa National Forest offers a range of camping opportunities! The Forest has several developed campgrounds, but for a more rustic experience, there are over 60 maintained dispersed campsites on the Forest. In addition, most of the Chippewa National Forest is open for primitive camping, which can occur anywhere except in developed sites or where otherwise posted. Dispersed camping is open year-



Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl
Outdoors Writer

round!

There are no fees for dispersed camping; however, there are some rules intended to protect the resources. Access is typically by foot, boat or canoe. Dispersed campsites are located along most lakes and rivers, offering the perfect opportunity to explore the many canoe routes in the forest.

Each year I visit Spider Lake, and when I do, I and whoever I am with look for an open campsite. We will pull up to one of these designated campsites and have lunch. There are times when all of the campsites are occupied. That's when you have to improvise. After a few hours of fishing, it is nice to be able to get out of the boat, stretch your legs and eat a little lunch.

I haven't caught a smallmouth in a couple of years, but the lake has them. Years ago when we camped there, I would hit the lake early in hopes of catching a walleye or two. Smallies would bite just like a walleye, but after you hooked one you knew instantly because the line would tighten, and your lure would be heading straight to the surface. That was always a thrill because they are fighters, and they seem to like to break the surface.

There is one spot that I like to visit each time that I am there. One year I hit that spot in early morning and trolled a Shad Rap across the hump, and when I went off the east end, I would catch a walleye, and when I went off of the west end, I caught smallmouth. Sometimes, when you

fish alone and catch fish, you don't have a witness unless you keep some fish. Keeping legal walleyes is not only proof, but pretty darned tasty to boot. Spider Lake has no slot limit for walleyes, but it does for northern. That slot is 3 keepers 24" and under. Luckily, there are plenty of pike in the 23-inch range which makes them prime for the pan.

There is an abundance of sunfish, but they don't run all that big. I have found slabs in the fall fishing deep-water humps. Crappies seem to run larger, and I have had pretty good luck with them in late evening during the early summer, and in the fall.

Until next time: If you are looking for a little adventure without going all the way to the Boundary Waters, tenting at one of the many National Forest dispersed camping sites just may be what you are looking for. Go to the DNR website to check out an area that might interest you.

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

Field of Heroes flag display May 24-27

The Moonlighters Exchange Club, Exchange Club of Steele County, and Exchange Club of Owatonna are honoring local area heroes who have made a difference in lives with the presentation of the Field of Heroes, a temporary memorial display featuring 250 American flags Memorial Day Weekend, May 24-27 in Owatonna.

Organizers at the national headquarters for the Colonial Flag Foundation, Healing Field of Honor programs were pleased when Field of Heroes Project Chair Annette Duncan requested approval for the flag display at Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric, 2411 W. Bridge St., Owatonna.

Flags may be sponsored for \$40

each and taken home at the end of the event to continue the tribute throughout the community and local area as they fly proudly at homes and businesses. Donations and flag sponsorships can be made on the event's website, <https://www.healingfield.org/event/owatonnamn24/>. Flag sponsorship may also be placed in person with Exchange club members or mailed to P.O. Box 763, Owatonna, MN 55060. Please include your name, contact information, and who the flag is in honor of with the donation.

Each flag will proudly bear the name of a hero chosen by a sponsor, allowing you to honor a loved one, a veteran, first responder, or any hero close to your heart. All proceeds will

support Phase 2 of the Owatonna Veterans Memorial, ensuring it remains a lasting tribute to our veterans.

The opening program for the Field of Heroes will be Friday, May 24, 6 p.m. at Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric. The program will include the Presentation of Colors by the VFW Color Guard, the singing of the national anthem by Rebecca Somers, a keynote speaker, and a proclamation from Owatonna Mayor Tom Kuntz.

The closing program for the Field of Heroes will be at 5 p.m., Monday, May 27. Flag distribution and sales will be conducted at the conclusion of the program.

####

The Colonial Flag Foundation is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit charity that oversees and administrates a network of patriotic and awareness programs and fundraisers. Our patented programs have earned a reputation of integrity and honor, and we commit to maintaining this legacy of giving and healing. We commit to providing resources, guidance, branding, and licensing to approved host organizations for a successful event and catalyst to fundraising, awareness and healing. Strict compliance with non-profit, non-political, non-protest principles is the legacy and guarantee of any approved and licensed Healing Field, Field of Honor, or other sanctioned events.

LOOKING BACK

25 Years Ago - Thursday, May 20, 1999

- The American Legion Post 296 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8941 will hold Memorial Day services at four area cemeteries on Monday morning the 31st day of May, 1999. At 8:30 a.m. services will be at the Holy Trinity Cemetery at Litomysl. At 9:15 a.m. services will be conducted at St. Aidan's Cemetery in Bath Township. At 10:00 a.m. services will be held at the Geneva Cemetery and at 11:00 a.m. services will be held at the First Lutheran Cemetery in Ellendale. Pastor Linda Gunderson of the North Freeborn Lutheran Church will be the speaker at Geneva and Ellendale cemeteries.

- Photos: The NRHEG Jazz Band performed at the NRHEG Pop Concert on May 10, 1999. // The Band Scholarship winners named at the NRHEG Pop Concert on May 10, 1999 include Breanna Schimek, Katie Recknor and Tim Coyer with Mr. Haugh. // Jason Johnson, son of Judy and Clifford Johnson Jr., received the Louis Armstrong Award given to a Jazz Band member. The award was presented by Band Director David Haugh.

37 Years Ago - Thursday, May 20, 1987

- Gary Hanson received the Star Chapter Farmer Award from Jennifer Zimprich. // The Ellendale-Geneva Chapter of Future Farmers of America held its annual FFA Banquet Monday night, May 11, in the Ellendale-Geneva High School cafeteria. Awards were presented to members for their outstanding accomplishments during the past year. Angela Kasper, FFA reporter, welcomed the guests and gave the invocation. Those receiving recognition were Gary Hanson, Chapter Star Farmer; Gary Hanson, Chapter Star Agribusiness; Randy Krohnberg, DeKalb Award; Brian Broulik, Star Greenhand Award; Dairy Judging Team: Sue Enzenauer, Randy Krohnberg and Brian Broulik received silvers from their State competition; Meat Judging Team: Craig Haberman, Brian Ingvaldson and Jodie Hohansee received silvers from their State competition.

102 Years Ago - May 18, 1922

- "Sure, we are going" is a common expression throughout the state whenever the Annual Summer Meeting of the State Holstein Breeders Association and the State Farmers' and Dairymen's Sale is mentioned; the same to be held at Mankato on May 23rd and 24th, respectively. Steele County is making plans to organize a boosting tour and one of the features is to be several dozen beautiful milkmaids in fresh, gingham aprons and with shiny new pails. That ought to help some to make the tour popular. Ernest Sloan, who is president of the county Holstein Breeders' Association, went to Owatonna last Friday to take part in making plans for the county's activities in the big event.

- The play put on last Friday evening for the benefit of the Woodmen and Royal Neighbor Lodges brought out a big crowd and everyone seemed to be well satisfied, both attendants and promoters. The amount taken in was \$173.00. The play made no pretension of being anything more than a humorous entertainment, although there were some bits of philosophy that would repay those who were looking for something serious.

■ Christensen

from Page 1

years, she hopes to excel in her career with the City of New Richland, and do good for the town. "There's a lot that can be taught and learned here," she explained.

Christensen's work history is varied. "I've gotten a lot of experience in the last ten years," she said. She spent some time studying business administration, did several years in the healthcare field, worked in office settings, processed loans for a finance company, and managed a bar.

Christensen says her transition to this new stage is going great. "We had a couple bumps in the road in the beginning, but we worked like a team and we got through it," she explains. "It's been wonderful; everyone's been super welcoming and great with helping with any questions that I may have, which I am very grateful for. We've got a good team here."

"People may know my dad and step-mom," Christensen says. Previously a Hines, Christensen is the daughter of Steve Hines and has two sisters and a step-brother. She met Kaleb Christensen in 2018. "It's a funny story," she said about their meeting, "In high school I was really good friends with his sister, but I never even knew he existed." Kaleb had already moved out by the time Heather was spending time at his family home, and the topic never came up. Christensen describes meeting her husband as "coming full circle."

Meeting Kaleb was also what brought Heather home to New Richland. When her daughter Brynna, now 10, was born she remembers hoping Brynna would someday attend NRHEG schools. "I had such a good experience there," Christensen recalls. Meeting Kaleb and returning to New Richland made that wish come true; her daughter started kindergarten at the Ellendale school. "I met him, we came back, and the rest is history," Christensen says with a smile. She also has a son, Fisher, 3, with Kaleb. The two

were married in a small, intimate ceremony on the lakeshore in 2022. "It was the best thing we ever did."

The Christensens are outdoorsy people. They own a place near Mille Lacs Lake and like to spend time there fishing and enjoying nature. "In the summertime, any open weekend we go up to our land up north," Christensen explained. She also enjoys attending rock concerts with her husband, and spending time together with family. Christensen describes herself as "very involved" with her family, which includes a plethora of nieces and nephews whom she loves to spend time with. While attending NRHEG High School, Christensen played volleyball, basketball, and softball. Sports are still an important part of her life - in the last few years she's begun coaching her daughter's basketball team; this summer she will coach her softball team alongside her husband. Cooking is another thing Christensen holds a passion for - at one time she wanted to attend culinary school to open a restaurant of her own, but life has taken her in a different direction. Even still, she loves experimenting in the kitchen and coming up with new recipes.

"I'm usually joking around," Christensen says about herself. She explains that she is rarely in a bad mood, something evident to those around her. She also describes herself as very understanding and social. "I don't want people to ever hesitate to reach out to me," she adds.

"Don't let yourself have regrets," Christensen says. "I've hated looking back and having regrets that I didn't take the chances I wanted to. But I got my kids out of it and I wouldn't change that for the world. Taking chances is something we really instill in our kids - 'Try it,' we say. 'See if you like it.'"

"I'm still learning, so hopefully people are patient with me," Christensen said of her position with the city. "I'm super excited to start on this journey and to get more involved with the community and everybody else around here. I'm really excited to see where this is going to take me in the future."

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Wednesday - 5:15 p.m. Supper; 6 p.m. Bible Study

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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)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Pamela Jensen
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship

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)
Wednesday - 7 p.m. Confirmation

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

HARTLAND EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
Hartland, Minnesota
Pastor Phillip K. Lepak
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship; Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.
Starting June 2, Manchester Evangelical Lutheran Church, 101 McKinley St., Manchester, MN, will hold its Divine Service at 9:00a. Hartland Evangelical Lutheran Church, 404 Broadway St, Hartland, MN, will hold its Divine Service at 10:30a. For more information contact the church office at (507) 845-2218.

MANCHESTER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
Manchester, Minnesota
Pastor Phillip K. Lepak
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship

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

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

SIMPLY CHURCH
105 Second Street North East

Geneva, Minnesota
Todd Lundgren, Pastor
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Bible Study; 10:30 a.m. Worship

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

FIRST LUTHERAN, AFLC
Ellendale, Minnesota
Pastor Kyle Smith
Saturday - 8 a.m. Men's Bible Study
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship
Monday - 7 p.m. Call to prayer
Wednesday - 9:30 a.m. Bible Study; 6 p.m. Confirmation; 7-9 p.m. Youth Group (No confirmation during summer)

ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST
Ellendale, Minnesota
Randy Cirksema, Pastor
Sunday - 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. 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
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* * *
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Hollandale, Minnesota
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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

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

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

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

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
Father Peter Schuster
Sunday - 8 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation; 8:30 a.m. Mass with Children's Church; Preschool Sunday School during Mass
Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. - Faith Formation classes for grades K-Confirmation
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FIRST LUTHERAN
Missouri Synod
Waldorf, Minnesota
Rev. Michael Mathews, pastor
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Study

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
Minnesota Lake, Minnesota
Rev. Michael Mathews, pastor
Sunday - 10:30 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
Sunday - 9 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
Father Brian Mulligan
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship

TRINITY LUTHERAN
Wilton Township
Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship (summer) and 10:30 a.m. (winter)

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Brad Donner, Branch President
Waseca, Minnesota
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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 NOTICES

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF WASECA
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

Estate of
Christine Anna Schultz a/k/a
Christine A. Schultz a/k/a Chris-
tine Schultz,
Decedent
Court File No. 81-PR-24-274
NOTICE OF INFORMAL PRO-
BATE OF WILL
AND APPOINTMENT OF PER-
SONAL
REPRESENTATIVE AND
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that an application for informal probate of the Dece-
dent's Will, dated February 23,
2004, ("Will"), has been filed
with the Registrar. The applica-
tion has been granted.
Notice is also given that the Reg-
istrar has informally appointed
SkiAnn M. Christiansen, whose
address is 1116 6th Street S.E.,
Waseca, Minnesota, 56093, as
personal representative of the Es-
tate of the Decedent. Any heir,
devisee or other interested person
may be entitled to appointment as
personal representative or may
object to the appointment of the
personal representative. Unless
objections are filed with the Court
(pursuant to Minnesota Statutes
section 524.3-607) and the Court
otherwise orders, the personal
representative has full power to
administer the Estate, including,
after 30 days from the date of is-

suance of letters, the power to
sell, encumber, lease or distribute
real estate.
Any objections to the probate of
the Will or appointment of the
Personal Representative must be
filed with this Court and will be
heard by the Court after the filing
of an appropriate petition and
proper notice of hearing.
Notice is also given that (subject
to Minnesota Statutes section
524.3-801) all creditors having
claims against the Estate are re-
quired to present the claims to the
personal representative or to the
Court Administrator within four
months after the date of this No-
tice or the claims will be barred.
A charitable beneficiary may
request notice of the probate pro-
ceedings be given to the Attorney
General pursuant to Minnesota
Statutes section 501B.41, subdivi-
sion 5.
Dated May 6, 2024
Cassie Norell,
Deputy Probate Registrar
Shannon Asselin
Court Administrator

Attorney for Personal Representa-
tive:
Sarah E. Berger
Sarah Berger Law, PLLC
2738 West River Parkway
Minneapolis, MN, 55406
Attorney License No: 0393548
Telephone: (612) 548-1544
Email:
sarah@sarahbergerlaw.com
Published in the Star Eagle May
16 and 23, 2024

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE SALE

**THE RIGHT TO
VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT
AND IDENTITY OF THE
ORIGINAL CREDITOR
WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED
BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY
THIS ACTION.**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:
That default has occurred in the
conditions of the following
described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: May 28,
2009

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL
AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE:
\$132,560.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Christopher W.
Nelson and Melissa Nelson,
husband and wife

MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank,
N.A.

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING:
Recorded on June 2, 2009 as
Document Number 280110 in the
Office of the County Recorder of
Waseca County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF
MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF
PROPERTY: East 55 feet of the S
1/2 of Lot 11, Block 9, First

Addition to the Village, now City of
Waseca, Minnesota, according to
the Plat thereof on file and of record
in the Office of the County
Recorder in and for said County and
State.

STREET ADDRESS OF
PROPERTY: 605 3RD AVENUE
SE, WASECA, MN 56093

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY
IS LOCATED: Waseca County,
Minnesota.

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE
DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON
THE DATE OF THE NOTICE:
\$116,897.43

TRANSACTION AGENT: None

NAME OF MORTGAGE
ORIGINATOR: Wells Fargo Bank,
N.A.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells
Fargo Bank, N.A.

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION
NUMBER: 17.276.1120

TRANSACTION AGENT'S
MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION
NUMBER: None

THAT no action or proceeding has
been instituted at law to recover the
debt then remaining secured by
such mortgage, or any part thereof,
or, if the action or proceeding has
been instituted, that the same has
been discontinued, or that an

execution upon the judgment
rendered therein has been returned
unsatisfied, in whole or in part.

PURSUANT, to the power of sale
contained in said mortgage, the
above described property will be
sold by the Sheriff of said county as
follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: July
11, 2024 at 10:00 AM.

PLACE OF SALE: Waseca County
Sheriff's Office, 122 3rd Ave. NW,
Waseca, MN 56093.

to pay the debt then secured by said
mortgage and taxes, if any actually
paid by the mortgagee, on the
premises and the costs and
disbursements allowed by law. The
time allowed by law for redemption
by said mortgagor(s), their personal
representatives or assigns is six (6)
months from the date of sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE
PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage
is reinstated or the property
redeemed, or unless the time for
redemption is reduced by judicial
order, you must vacate the premises
by 11:59 p.m. on January 13, 2025.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW
FOR REDEMPTION BY THE
MORTGAGOR, THE
MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVES OR
ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED
TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL
ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER

MINNESOTA STATUTES,
SECTION 582.032,
DETERMINING, AMONG
OTHER THINGS, THAT THE
MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE
IMPROVED WITH A
RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF
LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE
NOT PROPERTY USED IN
AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTION, AND ARE
ABANDONED.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED
FROM FINANCIAL
OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE:
None

Dated: May 16, 2024

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.
Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.

By: _____/s/
*N. Kibongni Fondungallah,
Esq.*
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Sung Woo Hong, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(22-0755-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION
FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

Published in the Star Eagle May
23, 30, and June 6, 13, 20, and 27,
2024



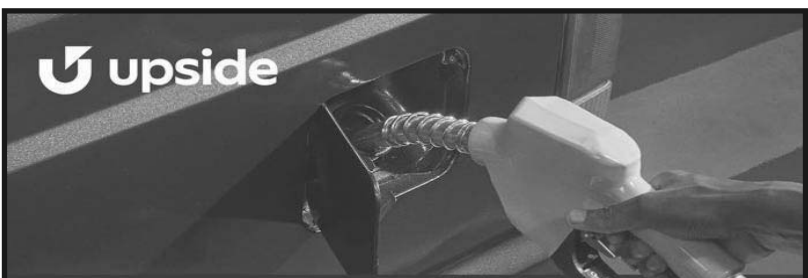
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Compostings

by Al Batt

I don't have the humidity to admit it

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFER'S CLUB MEETING

Husband: When I get mad at you, you never fight back. How do you control your anger?
Wife: I clean the toilet.
Husband: How does that help?
Wife: I use your toothbrush.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Deep thoughts occur as I drive past his drive. Most of the old farm buildings had disappeared long ago, but the lilacs and their lovely scent persisted. The lilacs told me this place had once been someone's dream. I walked by an old chicken coop, which laid in ruins. Had it had four doors, it would have been a chicken sedan.
I remember when a cute little weasel got into our henhouse. How did it get in? I suspect it weaseled its way in. My father and I heard the ruckus and rode in like the cavalry, but it had dispatched a young chicken. Dad didn't swear. He used substitute phrases like "Cheese and crackers" and "For Pete's sake." He used one on the weasel.
I just watched a movie. There were no substitute cusswords. It would have taken a lot of soap to wash those mouths out.

I MUST BE LEAVING

One of legendary comedian Groucho Marx's most famous numbers was featured in the Marx Brothers' second film, "Animal Crackers." In the movie, he played Captain Spaulding, an explorer for whom a grand gala was being thrown upon his return from Africa. He sang, "Hello, I must be going. I cannot stay, I came to say, I must be going. I'm glad I came but just the same, I must be going!"
I was going, but I'd forgotten something in my car that I needed to give to someone inside. I plucked it from my vehicle and walked back towards the restaurant when I heard a woman's voice say, "Don't move!" Had an undercover FBI agent finally tracked me down? No, a worker from the eatery was about to put a bag of trash into a dumpster, and she needed to swing it in order to get enough momentum to deposit it in that tall receptacle. She didn't want to hit me in the head. At least, that's what she said.

A MARRIED COUPLE TRIES TO LEAVE THE HOUSE

Could you give me the house keys? I forgot my camera.
You always forget something.
That's true. Do you want me to get your coffee mug, too?

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

What do you call a walleye in the desert? A walleye.
What do you call a device that allows you to see through walls? A window.
Ole's hobby was calling one hotel chain and when someone answered, "Best Western," Ole said, "True Grit."

The lumberjack knew how many trees he'd cut down because he kept a log.
Which came first, the chicken or the egg? Order one of each from Amazon and see.

I'VE LEARNED

It bothers me when people use the wrong words but don't have the humidity to admit it.
My new pen writes underwater and other words, too.
I tried to catch a little bunny in the yard, but I couldn't keep up with it. It must have been the one Elton John was singing about: "It's a little fit bunny."
I called Siri "Alexa." Now neither one is speaking to me.
If you haven't tried blindfolded archery, you don't know what you're missing.
Alligators can grow up to 12 feet, but I've never seen one with over four.

NATURE NOTES

The alarm sounded. A rooster pheasant had crowed "cow-cat." The Nyjer feeders were weighed down with a gazillion lemony goldfinches—maybe fewer. I listened to a brown thrasher sing about his experiences. His song was a clear and melodious set of repeated phrases sung with gusto, with one mnemonic spoofing a phone conversation, "Hello! Hello! Yes, yes. Who is this? Who is this? I should say! I should say! How's that? How's that?" Bald eagles and turkey vultures are both scavengers and soar on thermals. They could unknowingly help the other find food. An eagle might catch a fish or other prey item and not clean its plate, leaving tidbits for a vulture. Vulture talons aren't meant for transporting food, so they carry it in their crops to regurgitate for their ravenous chicks. The vulture may look ominous when standing in a spread-winged stance called the horaltic pose, but the stance likely serves multiple functions: drying the wings, warming the body and baking off bacteria.

MEETING ADJOURNED

The African philosophy of ubuntu is a concept in which relationships with other people shape the sense of self. I am only because we are. Be kind.

New Richland Area Foundation



The New Richland Area Foundation announced their spring grant award recipients during the New Richland City Council meeting on Monday May 13, 2024. The graphics below show the recipients, the amount, and the intended use of the funds awarded. Star Eagle photo by Eli Lutgens

Grant Recipient	Purpose of Grant	Amount
Presented @ NR City Council Mtg – May 13th		
NR Library	New Children's Books, Large Print, Mystery <i>Curtis Swenson Family Fund</i>	\$2400
Farmamerica	Metal Picnic Table <i>New Richland Area Foundation</i>	\$1200
Boy Scouts	Scout Handbooks <i>New Richland Area Foundation</i>	\$300
City of NR	New Place Settings for Community Room <i>New Richland Area Foundation</i>	\$2000
NR Police Dept.	New Computer for Squad Car <i>New Richland Area Foundation</i>	\$1000
NR Police Dept.	New Radar System for Squad Car <i>New Richland Area Foundation</i>	\$750
NR Sportsmen's Club	New Trees @ St. Olaf Park <i>New Richland Area Foundation</i>	\$500
NR Historical Society	Repair Base of Civil War Cannon in Park <i>New Richland Area Foundation</i>	\$3000
Royal Villa Housing	Landscape Project <i>New Richland Area Foundation</i>	\$2500
Waseca Cty Historical Scty.	Database Migration Fee <i>New Richland Area Foundation</i>	\$500
TOTAL (May 13th)		\$14,150

Grant Recipient	Purpose of Grant	Amount
Presented @ NRHEG School Board Mtg – May 20th		
NRHEG Secondary	Special Ed Literature <i>Curtis Swenson Family Fund</i>	\$1000
NRHEG Schools	Interactive Display Panels <i>Curtis Swenson Family Fund</i> <i>New Richland Area Foundation</i>	\$5000 \$2150
NRHEG Comm Ed	Preschool Fee Support to Families <i>Curtis Swenson Family Fund</i>	\$3000
NRHEG Comm Ed	Outdoor Playground Equipment <i>New Richland Area Foundation</i>	\$5000
Jr Achievement	JA Programming in 5 Classrooms <i>New Richland Area Foundation</i>	\$1500
TOTAL (May 20th)		\$17,650
TOTAL 2024 GRANTS		\$31,800

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Upper Midwest Integrated Resource Plan

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR XCEL ENERGY MINNESOTA CUSTOMERS

Xcel Energy submitted its 2024-2040 Upper Midwest Integrated Resource Plan (2024 IRP) to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) on February 1, 2024, and is requesting MPUC approval. The MPUC may either approve, deny, or modify the 2024 IRP as submitted based upon their review and public input. The MPUC has indicated they will hold hearings on the IRP by February 1, 2025. A video presentation providing an overview of our IRP can be found on our website: xcelenergy.com/UpperMidwestEnergyPlan

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Administrative Law Judge Jessica A. Palmer-Denig will hold six in-person public meetings and two virtual public meetings to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the 2024 IRP. Any Xcel Energy customer or other person may attend and provide comments at the meetings. You do not need to be represented by an attorney to do so. The meetings will begin at their scheduled time and adjourn after all attendees present have had an opportunity to comment or ask questions. MPUC and Xcel Energy staff will be on-site one hour prior to the in-person meetings, to answer questions and share information about the 2024 IRP. At the start of the meetings, MPUC Staff will present an overview of the regulatory process. Following the MPUC’s presentation, Xcel Energy will present an overview of the 2024 IRP.

PUBLIC MEETINGS SCHEDULE

Date	Open House	Public Meeting Begins, Sign up to comment	Location
Monday, June 10, 2024	6:00 p.m.	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Eden Prairie Community Center, Cambria Room 16700 Valley View Road Eden Prairie, MN 55346
Tuesday, June 11, 2024	5:30 p.m.	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Monticello Community Center, Mississippi Room 505 Walnut Street Monticello, MN 55362
Thursday, June 13, 2024	5:00 p.m.	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Wellstone Center, Ferber Room 179 Robie Street East St. Paul, MN 55107
Monday, June 17, 2024	No Open House	2:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Webinar topic: Public Meeting – Xcel Energy Electric IRP (E002/RP-24-67) Date and time: Monday, June 17, 2024 2:30 PM (UTC-05:00) Central Time (US & Canada) Join link: https://minnesota.webex.com/minnesota/j.php?MTID=md17baf19769876ade4ce67e2998a9595 Webinar number: 2498 320 8694 Webinar password: IRP2024# (47720240 from phones and video systems) Join by phone +1-415-655-0003 United States Toll 1-855-282-6330 United States Toll Free Access code: 249 832 08694
Monday, June 17, 2024	No Open House	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Webinar topic: Public Meeting – Xcel Energy Electric IRP (E002/RP-24-67) Monday, June 17, 2024 7:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Central Time (US & Canada) Join link: https://minnesota.webex.com/minnesota/j.php?MTID=mdfb91ce1e93668620ed594a2db0a58f4 Webinar number: 2493 703 5582 Webinar password: IRP2024# (47720240 from phones and video systems) Join by phone +1-415-655-0003 United States Toll 1-855-282-6330 United States Toll Free Access code: 249 370 35582
Tuesday, June 18, 2024	6:00 p.m.	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Treasure Island Casino, Barbados 5734 Sturgeon Lake Road Welch, MN 55089
Thursday, June 20, 2024	1:30 p.m.	2:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Sabathani Community Center Auditorium 310 East 38th Street Minneapolis, MN 55409
Thursday, June 20, 2024	6:00 p.m.	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Sabathani Community Center Auditorium 310 East 38th Street Minneapolis, MN 55409

Bad weather? Find out if a meeting is canceled – call (toll-free) 855-731-6208 or 651-201-2213 or visit <https://mn.gov/puc/about-us/calendar/>.

VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETINGS

Public meetings have been scheduled as follows to be held via video conference.
June 17, 2024, at 2:30 p.m. and June 17, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

ATTEND BY INTERNET CONNECTION (AUDIO AND VIDEO)

To join the virtual meeting using a computer, tablet or smart phone, where you will have audio and video capability, go to: **<https://minnesota.webex.com>**. In the gray box where it says, “Enter Meeting Information,” type the Event Number below for the public meeting date you are attending:

June 17, 2024, 2:30 p.m.	June 17, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
Event Number: 2498 320 8694 Event Password, if needed: IRP2024#	Event Number: 2493 703 5582 Event Password, if needed: IRP2024#

DIRECTIONS FOR APPEARING VIA WEBEX.

- Log on 5 to 15 minutes before the meeting begins. You will be asked to join the meeting through a WebEx application or through a plug-in for your web browser.
- Enter the Event Number shown in the box above.
- Next, you will be asked to enter your name, your email address, and an event password (if required). After entering this information, click “Join Now” and you will be granted access to the virtual meeting.

- When you enter the meeting, your microphone will be muted. If you would like to ask a question or make a comment during the meeting, use the chat function to send a message to the meeting moderator, who will place you in the queue to comment. When it is your turn to comment, your name will be called, and your line will be unmuted. You will then be able to ask questions or make a comment.

TO ATTEND BY TELEPHONE (AUDIO ONLY)

If you do not have access to a computer, tablet, or smart phone, or if you would prefer to attend the meeting via audio only, you may join using any type of telephone. You do not need internet access to call into the meeting; however, you will only be able to hear (not see) the speakers. You will still be able to comment and ask questions.

Use the information in the box below to dial into the meeting. You will be asked to enter the access code for the meeting, as set forth below:

June 17, 2024, 2:30 p.m.	June 17, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
Phone: 1-855-282-6330 Access Code: 2498 320 8694 Event Password: 47720240 from phones and video systems	Phone: 1-855-282-6330 Access Code: 2493 703 5582 Event Password: 47720240 from phones and video systems

If you would like to ask a question or make a comment during the meeting, press *3 on your telephone. You will then be placed into the queue to comment. When it is your turn to speak, the last few digits of your telephone number will be announced by the moderator and your line will be unmuted, allowing you to be heard.

PUBLIC MEETING AND PROCESS INFORMATION

Administrative Law Judge Jessica A. Palmer-Denig will preside over the public meetings and will provide the MPUC with a written summary of the public meetings within 60 days of the date of the last public meeting.

The purpose of the public meetings is to receive public input on Xcel Energy’s IRP. At the public meetings, interested persons will have the opportunity to: (1) ask questions of the utility and agency staff; and (2) offer verbal and written comments on the merits of the IRP. Members of the public may participate without needing to intervene as a party. Representation by legal counsel is permitted but not required.

Please note that the public meetings will end when all attendees present have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been concluded.

WHEN SHOULD I SHOW UP?

Commenters will be called to speak based on the order that they sign up. We suggest putting your name on the list of speakers as soon as you know that you would like to make public comments in order to minimize your wait time.

Written comments may be submitted during the comment period before and after the public meetings. Follow the instructions below to provide written comment.

Please contact Sophie Nikitas at 651-539-1062 or Sophie.nikitas@state.mn.us if you have questions on how to participate or have trouble accessing the public meeting using telephone or internet.

WRITTEN COMMENTS TO THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

You can still submit comments even if you do not attend a public meeting.

COMMENT PERIOD

- Comments accepted through **June 28, 2024, at 4:30 p.m.**
- Comments must be received by 4:30 p.m. on the close date.
 - Comments received after the comment period closes may not be considered.

HOW TO SUBMIT A WRITTEN COMMENT

Written comments can be submitted via: (1) the MPUC’s website; (2) electronic mail; (3) U.S. Mail; or (4) fax. To learn how to submit a comment in any of these ways, please visit **mn.gov/puc**, select “Get Involved” from the dropdown menu on the top of the page, then select “Public Comments and How to Participate.” This will take you to the Public Comment page, where you will find a list of ways to comment. Be sure to reference MPUC Docket No. 24-67 in the subject line of your comment. Hand-written comments can also be submitted at any of the public meetings.

Important: Comments can be seen by the public on the MPUC’s website, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The MPUC does not edit or delete personal identifying information from comments received.

MPUC HEARING

Formal hearings on Xcel Energy’s proposal will be held by February 1, 2025, but are not yet scheduled. The hearing will be held at the Public Utilities Commission, Metro Square Building, 121 Seventh Place East #350, St. Paul, Minnesota. The purpose of the formal hearings is to allow Xcel Energy, the Minnesota Department of Commerce — Division of Energy Resources, the Minnesota Office of Attorney General — Residential Utilities Division, and other interested parties to the proceeding, to present their positions on Xcel Energy’s 2024 IRP. If you cannot attend in person you may attend via Microsoft Teams (Teams), a video conferencing platform. Members of the public who wish to attend the hearing through Teams may request an electronic invitation by contacting MPUC staff Sophie Nikitas at 651-539-1062 or Sophie.nikitas@state.mn.us

TO LEARN MORE

Xcel Energy’s IRP is available at:
Xcel Energy
Web: xcelenergy.com/UpperMidwestEnergyPlan

Minnesota Department of Commerce

85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101
Phone: 651-539-1534
Web: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> Select (24) in the year field, type (67) in the number field, select Search, and the list of documents will appear on the next page.

If you have questions about the MPUC’s review process or need help in submitting comments, contact the Commission’s Consumer Affairs Office at:

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

121 7th Place East, Suite 350 , St. Paul, MN 55101
Phone: 651-296-0406 or 800-657-3782 | Email: consumer.puc@state.mn.us

Anyone with hearing or speech disabilities may call through their preferred Telecommunications Relay. Please contact MPUC staff Sophie Nikitas at 651-539-1062 or Sophie.nikitas@state.mn.us as soon as possible if you need an interpreter or accommodation to attend a public meeting.





PANTHER INVITATIONAL — At left, NRHEG senior Evelyn Nydegger gets a hug from her dad, Panthers assistant coach Larry Nydegger, during last week's Panther Invitational in New Richland. In the middle, Malonna Wilson competes in the shut put. At right, Will Tuttle in the 300 hurdles. Star Eagle photos by Eli Lutgens

NRHEG girls dominate Panther Invitational

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Name the race or event, and it's a good bet it was won by a member of the NRHEG High School girls' track and field team.

The Panthers were dominant in their four-team invitational in New Richland last week, winning 12 events while running away with the team title, totaling 127.5 points in longtime head coach Duey Ferber's final home meet. Maple River was a distant second with 69. USC/AC had 57, Albert Lea 18.5.

"What a fantastic night for our girls!" said Coach Duey Ferber. "It was a great perfor-

mance on Senior Night."

Evelyn Nydegger, a senior, finished first in the 200 in 27.7, won the 300 intermediate hurdles in 49.2 and took gold in the triple jump at 31-1. She was second in the 100 high hurdles with a time of 16.7.

Sophomore Quinn VanMaldghem had a great night, winning the 400 meters in 1:02.5 and topping the 800 in 2:31.0. She anchored the first-place 4x400 relay, joined by Sierra Misgen, Clara Buendorf and her twin sister, Camryn VanMaleghem, to win in 4:25.6.

Chloe Riewer, Gabby Schlaak, Anika Ladlie and Camryn VanMaldeghem won the

4x100 in 53.8.

The Panthers' other individual firsts were by Riewer, 100, 13.6; Anika Ladlie, high jump, 4-10; Schlaak, long jump, 14-5; and Kylie Olson, shot put, 32-2.5. Riewer, Misgen, Buendorf and Ellie Clark won the 4x200 in 1:54.9.

Taking second were Julieann Wobbrock in the 3200, Schlaak in the high jump, Riewer in the long jump and Sierra Fish in the discus. Holly Bartness, Buendorf, Ella Jenó and Wobbrock were second in the 4x800.

Other NRHEG places: Misgen, third, long jump; Malonna Wilson, third, shot put and fourth, discus; Olson, third, discus; Paige

Johnson, fourth, 100 and fourth, long jump; Jenó, fourth, 1600; Annabelle Petsinger, fourth, 3200; Clark, fourth, 300 hurdles; Schlaak, fourth, 100 hurdles; Alaina Modder, fourth, triple jump; Makenzie Mueller, fourth, shot put; Quinn VanMaldeghem, fifth, pole vault.

The NRHEG boys finished third with 32 points, behind Maple River with 107 and Albert Lea 106. USC/AC totaled 26.5.

"It was a decent night for the boys against two very good teams," said Ferber. "All the seniors had a great meet on Senior Night."

Will Tuttle was on pace to set the school record in the 300 hurdles, but hit the seventh

hurdle and went down. He clipped another hurdle and fell again, but got up and still managed to take first in 40.78. He won the 110 high hurdles in 15.28.

Second-place finishers were Levin Kitzer in the 110 hurdles and Jaylin Raab in the long jump.

Other Panther places: Justin Beauvis, third, 800; 4x100 relay, third (Harbor Cromwell, Kitzer, Will Tuttle, Raab); 4x800, third (Devon Nelton, Gavin Sletten, Gavin Lewison, Jacob Karl); 4x400, third (Cromwell, Parker Bunn, Sletten, Raab); Wyatt Tuttle, fourth, triple jump; Kitzer, fifth, 300 hurdles; Lewison, fifth, high jump.



STILL HAVING FUN — Errors led to a 10-3 setback to WEM last week at New Richland's Legion Field. At left, pitcher Faith Nielsen and catcher Addy Stadheim. In the middle, Payton Bunn. At right, coach Kaylie Camerer talks to Erin Peterson and Tayler Schmidt. Photos by Judy Tweeten

Errors lead to Senior Night loss for NRHEG softball

Panthers shut out Medford, 3-0

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

You don't have to dig far in the scorebook to see what hurt the NRHEG High School softball team last Thursday.

It was errors.

The Panthers finished with five fielding miscues as visiting WEM rallied for a 10-3 victory at New Richland's Legion Field. It was Senior Night for the Panthers.

The Panthers started strong, putting three runs on the scoreboard in the bottom of the first inning, but they were scoreless the rest of the day. WEM tallied single runs in the third and fourth, taking a 4-3 lead with a two-run sixth. The Bucs plated six runs in the seventh.

"We came out strong to start the

game with good hitting and baserunning," said Panthers coach Kayley Camerer. "Defensively, we played a good first few innings, but made too many errors late in the game. Fortunately, the sun will come out tomorrow and we have the opportunity to regroup and bounce back in as we start our playoff run."

Olivia Berg was the lone Panther with more than one hit, going 2-for-4 and scoring a run. Preslie Nielsen, Izley Boerner, Addy Stadhiem and Erin Peterson had one hit each, with RBIs going to Preslie Nielsen, Boerner and Stadheim. Preslie Nielsen and Boerner doubled.

Faith Nielsen started in the circle and pitched 6 2/3 innings, allowing two earned runs on nine hits, with five strikeouts and five walks.



SENIOR NIGHT — Panthers pictured from left: Erin Peterson, Tayler Schmidt, Faith Nielsen, Izzy Stadheim, Payton Bunn and Preslie Nielsen. At right is manager Hope Nielsen. Star Eagle photo by Eli Lutgens

Boerner pitched in relief.

The Panthers struck out five times and did not draw a walk.

The Panthers posted a 3-0 shutout over Medford at Legion Field Monday, May 13.

"We played a great defensive game," said Camerer.

It was scoreless until the bottom of the fourth, when Addy Stadheim drove in two runs with a double. In

the fifth, Berg delivered a sacrifice bunt to score Izzy Stadheim from third base.

For the game, Addy Stadheim went 2-for-3 and Boerner was 2-for-3. Izzy Stadheim and Preslie Nielsen added one hit each.

Faith Nielsen started and pitched four innings. Boerner went three innings in relief.

"Overall, I'm proud of the girls

and their resiliency throughout the entire game," said Camerer.

The Panthers drew the No. 11 seed in the sub-section, starting tournament play Tuesday at sixth-seeded St. Clair/Mankato Loyola. The winner of that game plays Thursday at 5 p.m. against third-seeded Jordan or 14th-seeded Medford at the site of the higher seeded squad.

Lee pitches Panthers past Medford

Jared Lee was about all the NRHEG baseball team needed at Medford last week.

The freshman left-hander was masterful on the mound, tossing a seven-inning one-hitter as the Panthers prevailed 5-0.

"We hit real well in this game and played great defense, but the story of the game was in how Jared Lee pitched," said Panthers coach Shawn Larson.

Lee finished with 13 strikeouts against three walks.

"It was a very dominant performance from Jared today, who stayed around the strike zone all day," said Larson. "This aggressive style of ball is what I hope we carry into the postseason."

The Panthers totaled 12 hits, led by Alden Dobberstein going 2-for-4 with two runs, Carter Martens 2-for-4 with two RBIs, Seth Staloch 2-for-3 with a double and one RBI, and A.J. Deen 2-for-3. Ryan Schlaak was 1-for-3 with an RBI, Jordan Brouwers 1-for-2 with a walk. Deven Parpart and Wyatt Larson also hit safely.

The Panthers plated single runs in the second and third innings, putting it away with a three-run fourth. They played errorless defense.

The Panthers posted a 5-4 victory over WEM at Waterville last Thursday. They trailed most of the game but tied it with two runs in the fifth and won it with one in the sixth. They outth WEM 13-6.

"This was another nice day and a nice game," said Coach Larson. "The edge in hits may have been just enough to get us over the top."

Lee, Parpart, Martens, Brouwers and Wyatt Larson garnered two hits each, with Brouwers driving in two runs. Martens and Parpart doubled. O.wayne and Deen added one hit apiece.

Parpart pitched a complete game, striking out four and walking two while allowing three earned runs.

"Deven pitched a solid game," said Coach Larson. "He kept us in the game throwing a steady stream of strikes. It is nice to have better play this time of the year."

The Panthers played errorless defense while WEM had one error.

The Panthers won 2-1 at Kenyon-Wanamingo last Friday.

NRHEG golf teams 2nd, 3rd in Panther Invitational

The NRHEG High School golf teams played at Waseca's Lakeside Golf Club last Thursday, taking on Waseca and JWP.

The girls took second. Scores for nine holes: Hallie Schultz 52, Elsie Schultz 65, Alexis Olson 72, Gabby Nelton 74, Olivia Wilkenson, 74. The Panthers were without their best

golfer, Meela Budach, who has been the medalist in more than one match this spring.

The NRHEG boys finished third for nine holes.

Panther scores: Matt Williams 58, Hudson Chrz 58, Braydon Rollag 58, Jackson Chrz 62, Shan Hanson 81.

The Panthers played at Austin Country Club Monday, May 13, where the girls finished third.

Scores for 18 holes: Budach 98, Hallie Schultz 102, Elsie Schultz 122, Wilkeson 142 and Olson 160.

The NRHEG boys placed ninth.

Scores: Hanson 104, Rollag, Tyler Kress 126, Hudson Chrz 129.

The Panther Invitational was held at Lakeside Monday, May 20, with visiting teams Waseca, JWP, Blooming Prairie, Blue Earth Area, Hayfield, Kenyon, LCWM, Maple River, Randolph, St. Peter and USC.

The NRHEG girls took fifth.

Scores for 18 holes: Budach 95, Hallie Schultz 96, Elsie Schultz 125,

Wilkenson 127, Olson 141 and Nelton 163.

NRHEG's boys placed 11th.

Eighteen-hole scores: Chrz 110, Rollag 110, Hudson Chrz 110, Hansen 115, Jackson Chrz 118, Williams 121.



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently
Contributing Writer

The exciting life of a retired teacher

I went to the Orpheum Theater in the Cities this past week to see Shen Yun, a show which features dance and music styles from China. During the show, the emcees informed us the tumbling and acrobatic acts usually associated with the circus actually originated as part of Chinese music performances.

Certainly, the acrobatics we saw were dynamic and impressive. Not only were they physically demanding, they were being performed in costumes which must have seemed very warm under those stage lights.

I felt I was performing some acrobatics of my own climbing the extremely steep steps and then folding myself into the very compact seating. My knee caps formed themselves to the shape of the chair in front of me. My elbows sharpened themselves on the insides of the narrow armrests—actually putting my arms on top of them would have had me reaching halfway onto my neighbors’ laps.

Along with all that, the price for my ticket would have fed my father’s family of 15 (two adults and 13 children) for a month “back in the day,” but we all know “the day” is gone, so I probably shouldn’t dwell on that.

Still, just like the complicated and expensive drive to watch the solar eclipse, going to the Orpheum to see Shen Yun was “worth it.” It had its imperfections, but was also uplifting, stunningly beautiful, and intellectually fascinating. There are enough minutes of footage online, I think, to show you what I mean.

Speaking of footage, though, the theater managers were intensely serious about their “photography is strictly forbidden” policy. Human nature being what it is, the announcement that no photography should occur during the show was still echoing in my ears as the show began. Yet next to me—thanks to the compact seating arrangements, pretty much in front of my eyes—a woman used her smartphone to record a few moments of the action on the stage; I would estimate 30 to 45 seconds’ worth. The teacher in me couldn’t help thinking about how useless a rule is if it’s not enforced.

Not long afterward, an usher was standing to our left. She insisted that

my neighbor either hand over her phone, or delete the recording while she watched. Given the price of my ticket, I did not appreciate having the usher hovering in my line of sight while I was still trying to take everything in. The teacher in me, though, was glad to be biting her “inner” tongue.

I had a much different adventure this past Sunday. For the sake of entertaining my 12-year-old granddaughter, she and I traveled to the Wisconsin Dells. There we worked our way through “Wizard’s Quest,” an attraction that features a very large, very elaborately decorated venue. We were in a fantasy land with a dragon’s skull large enough to put a bed in, an undersea section that included a mermaid swimming above us and small sea creatures in bubbles around us, a “willow forest” with intertwining branches, and a wizard’s study filled with maps and spell books.

Our job was to move through the various settings where we would come across various characters—all immobile statues with electronic tablets in front of them. The tablets informed us of a difficulty the character was facing and asked whether we were willing to be of help.

We found ourselves bargaining for an ointment to drive stinging frogs off a tree sprite, looking for the footprints of a wayward baby salamander, and seeking shelter from an anticipated meteor shower. Each of our quests called for creative thought and walking—oh, so much walking—to get to the various locations we were advised to visit. We were either looking for clues or trying to locate and “speak” with various characters.

Still, it was an impressive venue with stunning attention to detail. It was impossible to walk through any section without being impressed. It certainly suited my granddaughter’s fascination with fantasy characters. Some of the scary monsters were so realistic, she refused to pose next to them for me. Others, on the other hand, were so beautiful or colorful or detailed, one wanted to look at them for hours. I can’t promise I will go again, but I will say I am glad to have been there at least once.

■ Church

from Page 1

Nowak - this past Sunday.

"I have spent many happy hours at church suppers and worshipping at the care center," said Jensen. "I have been wrapped up in the loving arms of this particular family of God, and they have blessed me beyond measure."

Jensen grew up in a large suburban church in the Chicago area and then joined a large suburban church in the Twin Cities when she moved permanently to Minnesota. Being part of the New Richland community was a pleasant surprise.

"I had never experienced the blessing of being part of a family church," she said. "Where everyone knows everyone, visitors are seen and welcomed, everyone participates in some way to the ministry of the

church, and everyone prays for their brothers and sisters and their families and friends. I have loved my time in New Richland and will always love my brothers and sisters in Christ here."

Moxon, active in all aspects of the church, spoke of many people helping over the years, praising the efforts of Loren and Kris Schlaak for maintaining the church's grounds. Kris' mom, Lorraine (Ducza) Meyer, was also always very active. So was Tom Smith, Moxon's uncle.

Tom Smith's widow, Marilyn, is 85 and could be the church's oldest active member. She did it all, serving as Sunday school teacher, superintendent and secretary.

"I have mixed feelings about it," said Marilyn. "It's very sad. My family has had a lot to do with that church, starting with Tom's parents."

At one point, according to Marilyn, the entire congregation was, "Like a close-knit family."

As for the future of the church

“Wherever we may go from here, we will carry with us the blessings of God that we have shared.”

— 1st Congregational Pastor Pamela Jensen

building, Berg said it will be put up for sale. Its closure leaves Minnesota with six Congregational churches, in Waseca, Burnsville, Bayport, Remer, Edina and Minneapolis.

"Finding a new church home is exciting, a little scary, but absolutely necessary for all of us to continue to use our gifts for the bringing of God's kingdom on earth and to be in fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ," said Jensen.

The main message Jensen has tried to convey to parishioners in New Richland?

"God knows you and loves you with an everlasting love," she said. "That is sheer grace - God's riches at Christ's expense. Grace is ours - un-

earned, unlooked for, and life-giving."

Moxon has no idea which church may be in her future, but she does have the necessary paperwork for transferring current members to a new church. You can ask her about it when you see her or write to her at 572 Broadway Ave. So. in New Richland.

Jensen shared a farewell message in the church's final ever annual report.

"Wherever we may go from here, we will carry with us the blessings of God that we have shared," she wrote. "And we will continue to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit as we seek God's grace."

■ Service

from Page 1

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”

The NRHEG chamber choir, accompanied by Mrs. Reader, performed “Thy Word.”

A graduation poem, “God’s Promise is to Bless” was read by Kia Buendorf:

“May God bless you as you move ahead
With the plan He had in mind
Before you were ever born

Uniquely for you designed.
May you feel His presence with you
As He guides you on your way
For He’s promised to never leave you
When storm clouds fill your day.
Though the road may not be easy
As you push to climb uphill
Remember God will give you strength
When you’re in His perfect will.
For as you place your faith in God,
Know He will never fail,
For you will soar on eagles wings
Lifted higher by the gale.
God said, “The plans I have for you
Are to prosper and to bless.”
A hope beyond what you can dream
For you His words express.
So move ahead with confidence
Holding firmly to God’s hand
Knowing He will be with you
To fulfill what He has planned.”
Pastor Jensen bestowed the annual blessing on the graduates.

“We are gathered together tonight to celebrate an ending,” Pastor Jensen began. “For most of your lives you have lived in the sure and certain love of your families and friends, as well as the security of

“They are words that you have heard many times, but this evening I would like to share something of what Christ has for you in this benediction – Christ’s message to you.”

— Pastor Pamela Jensen

your teachers, churches and communities. The years of your young lives stretch out behind you now, and you may be feeling a bit wistful about leaving childhood. But the rest of us can’t believe how quickly this day has come – this day of sending. For that is what we are doing. We are preparing to send you out into the world as young adults – to share your gifts with those whose lives you will touch.”

Pastor Jensen said she felt it was appropriate to send the graduates out with the “benediction of God.”

“They are words that you have heard many times, but this evening I would like to share something of what Christ has for you in this benediction – Christ’s message to you.”

Pastor Jensen talked about the meaning behind the words and an ex-

planation of the benediction found in the prayer: “The Lord bless you and keep you: the Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you: the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

A full reading of Pastor Jensen’s remarks can be found in this week’s edition of the Star Eagle.

Pastor Kordahl led the closing prayer.

The local Fellowship of Christian Athletes provided cake and fellowship in the lower commons area following the service. Guests were reminded graduation will be June 2 at 2 p.m. Students and parents are reminded to have their graduates arrive at the school by 1 p.m. and to report to Mrs. Hatton’s room on that day.

■ Briefs

from Page 1

classic rock!

A food truck will also be available at each concert for your eating pleasure!

Please bring a chair &/or blankets to sit.

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council, thanks to a Legislation appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage fund.

Thank you to the State Bank of New Richland, KEEN Bank, and Arcadia bank for their generous donations to the Summer Burst Concert Series, and a special thanks to the City of New Richland for the utilization of their park and services for our events!

Thirty-fourth annual FCA Sports Camp set for July 30

- Aug. 1

The thirty-fourth annual Waseca Fellowship of Christian Athletes Jr. Sports Camp is set for July 30 - Aug. 1 for athletes entering grades 3-8. Registration online at www.minnesotafca.org/waseca-jsc.

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 \$35 for two weeks.

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

Ashton Johnson of New Richland honored during UNL Teacher Education Convocation

Ashton Johnson of New Richland was among 234 University of Nebraska-Lincoln undergraduate students officially admitted to teacher education programs during the 2023-

24 academic year who were recognized at the inaugural Teacher Education Convocation April 5 at Carolyn Pope Edwards Hall. Johnson is a junior in the elementary education program.

The event featured two ceremonies - one for students admitted last fall and the other for those admitted this spring.

"We're seeking to elevate the stature of education and educators," said Nick Pace, acting dean of the College of Education and Human Sciences. "Teachers really are the gateway to the kind of world we want to live in, and we want to honor that. No matter one's position in life, everyone can point to a teacher who made a deep impact on their life."

Students were formally recognized during the convocation ceremonies and presented with a commemorative pin symbolizing that they are one step closer to entering the professional life of an educator. Marilyn Moore, a longtime educator who earned her bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees at CEHS, provided the keynote address for both cere-

monies.

Kendall Johnson among 168 students inducted into Phi Beta Kappa

On April 13, 168 University of Wisconsin-Madison Letters & Science undergraduates were inducted to the Phi Beta Kappa (ΦBK) academic society, including Kendall Johnson of Ellendale.

UW-Madison's ΦBK chapter, founded in 1899, seeks to honor students who rigorously explore the sciences, arts and humanities.

L&S Dean Eric M. Wilcots led the opening procession and welcome. Chapter President, David W. Johnson, Economics, hosted the 125th year celebration of the founding of the UW-Madison chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. Special guest and president of the national Phi Beta Kappa Society, Peter Quimby PhD '99 presented the history of ΦBK. ΦBK stands for philosophia biou kubernetes, which translates to "the love of wisdom is the helmsman of life."

Ways to contact the Star Eagle:

1. Call 507-463-8112
2. E-mail steagle@hickorytech.net
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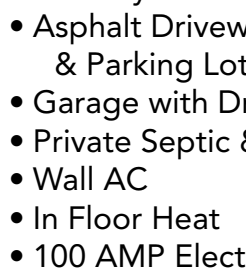
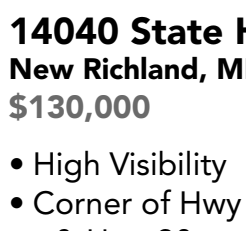
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Congratulations, coach Duey Ferber, on retirement and 34 years with the program



NRHEG Head Track coach of 34 years, Duey Ferber, was celebrated during the final home track meet of his career Thursday evening in New Richland. Unbeknownst to him, more than 100 alumni, friends and family streamed onto the track to honor his tenure with the district. Star Eagle photos by Eli Lutgens

Ferber honored; grateful for suprise sendoff

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

In 34 years, NRHEG track and field coach Duey Ferber, 58, has racked up nearly as many awards as he has memories.

One more memory, a big one, was tacked on the board last week.

It may come as a surprise to some, but the longest tenured coach in NRHEG school history is hanging up his whistle at the end of this season.

Nearing the end of the final home track meet of Ferber's career Thursday evening in New Richland, with the hurdle events completed, the voice of Jay Crabtree, a longtime former assistant coach, came over the loudspeaker.

As Crabtree recounted three decades of accomplishments, dozens of alumni, friends, family and students streamed onto the track to acknowledge, honor and celebrate Ferber's

tenured career.

"I literally didn't have a clue," Ferber said. "I thought Jay was being Jay and wanted to say some nice things about me. But when he asked those kids to come down... I kept asking them to help with hurdles, but they didn't and I thought that was weird. But then when he stopped the meet and they all came out, I was overwhelmed."

"That killed me," Ferber continued. "My whole family was there. That made it extremely special."

Ferber credits Jessica Bouwers and Kim Schlaak as the architects of the plan. Ferber reached out through Facebook to try and get former alumni to come and work the final meet. He garnered few responses. Little did he know, there was a separate Facebook group setting this all up.

Ferber was surprised with posters,

pictures, a gift, a card signed by the entire team, and many, many hugs and tears.

After the celebration and the conclusion of the evening's meet, it took more than two hours of conversations and the setting sun, before Ferber and company finally called it a night.

"I couldn't imagine it being any

more perfect," Ferber said. "That was a nice ending."

What's next for NRHEG track and field?

"I want it to continue to be a strong program," Ferber said. "Where everybody finds something to do. Everybody has an event. I just want it to continue on and be... Like I always tell the kids, I want us to be the

team when our bus pulls up, I want the other teams to say 'oh crap, NRHEG is here. We're all fighting for second place.'"

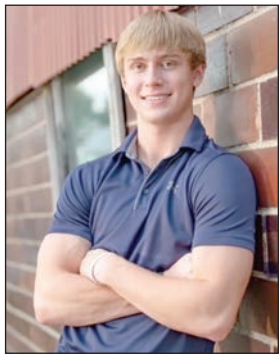
This season, however, isn't quite over.

Sub-sections are Thursday, May 23, followed by sections June 1 at Mankato East and finally the state meet at St. Michael-Albertville on

June 6 and 7.

"I hope to get 15 onto sections and I'd like to see three get to state," Ferber said. "I think that's realistic."

"I say it to my seniors, everybody leaves me," Ferber concluded. "It's me this time. That's the way I feel. It's time to hand the baton to someone else. Keep it rolling."



A Graduation Open House
in honor of
William Tuttle
son of Thad and Jessica Tuttle will
be held at their home
76833 340th St., Ellendale
Friday June 14
from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.



A Graduation Open House
in honor of
McKenzie Mueller
daughter of Rick and Penni
Mueller will be held at their
home **5280 SW 148th St. Ellendale,**
on Saturday May 25
from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.



A Graduation Open House
in honor of **Malonna Wilson**
daughter of Richard and Rebecca
Lassahn will be held at Ellendale
First Lutheran Church (basement)
503 Radel Ct.
Sunday, May 26
from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.



A Graduation Open House
in honor of
Kiyah Mikesell
will be held at
Geneva Community Center
405 1st Ave SE, Geneva
Saturday May 25
from noon - 3 p.m.



A Graduation Open House
in honor of
Isabel Stadheim
daughter of Darrin and Linda
(Schlaak) Stadheim will be held
at their home
11401 SW 72nd Ave, Ellendale
Saturday June 1 from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.