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Storyland Crafts at Waldorf Library on Tuesday, March 25

Be at the Waldorf Public Library at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 25 for Storyland Crafts. Enjoy books about crayons and colors, then bring the stories to life with custom crafts This free event is geared for ages 0-5.

Melissa Schulz playing at Papa Olie's in Waldorf March 29

Melissa Schulz will perform at Papa Olie's in Waldorf from 7-10 p.m. on Saturday, March 29. She is a local Waseca musician, plays keyboard with drum tracks and performs pop, rock, and country covers from the 50s to today's hits.

NRHEG Music Boosters Flower Fundraiser through April 4

Members of the NRHEG Music Boosters are selling \$20 gift cards to Souba Greenhouse of Owatonna and Albert Lea. The music program receives a portion of the sale. Gift cards can be used at either Souba Greenhouse location, never expire, and can be used to purchase any type of products sold by the business.

Hartland University Bar Poker Run Saturday, April 5

Side X Side and ATV Poker Run at Hartland University Bar starting at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 5. There will be a 50/50 drawing, silent auction and Bloody Mary bar, cost is \$15 per person. Proceeds go to the Wounded Warrior United Minnesota.

Waldorf 4-H Pancake Breakfast Sun., April 6

The Waldorf Peppy Peppers 4-H Club will be having a pancake breakfast from 7 a.m. till noon on Sunday, April 6. On the menu will be pancakes, eggs, sausage, juice and coffee. This is open to the public. Free will donations accepted in support of 4-H.

New Richland Red Hatters to meet April 8

The New Richland Red Hatters will not meet again until April 8th due to the cold weather. Stay warm, friends, and on your feet.

New Richland Blood Drive 1 to 6 p.m. April 9

Donors are encouraged to sign up for an appointment or to walk in during a blood drive from 1 to 6 p.m. at the New Richland City Hall community room on Wednesday, April 9.

Ellendale Fire Department fundraiser April 11

The Ellendale Fire Department fish fry will be at the Ellendale Community Center beginning at 5 p.m. April 11. Serving will continue until food is gone, about 7 p.m. Ellendale FD members will cook and serve fish, chicken strips, firehouse beans and cole slaw. Funds raised will go toward the cost of new grain bin extrication equipment.

Briefs continued on 2

A word from The Word



Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and be-friend faithfulness. Psalm 37:3

Ellendale Foundation continues AED initiative

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

The chief topic of conversation during the Community Foundation of Ellendale (CFE) meeting the evening of Monday, March 10 was the “Restart the Beat” campaign, an effort by the CFE to ensure automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) are readily available throughout the community, and that people are familiar with how to use them.

The initiative is to purchase four AED devices which will come with small storage cabinets suitable to be mounted on a wall.

Thanks to Restart the Beat, CFE members expect to see AEDs newly available at three churches located within the city and at the community center. Those four, to be purchased for \$5,260, join two others already located at the school and a main street store which are accessible in an emergency.

A session which will cover the use of the machines is scheduled for Monday, May 12 at the United Methodist Church. A light, free-will offering meal will be served at 5:30, the training session will begin at 6:30.

Each of the facilities will be responsible for choosing the device's location, mounting it appropriately, and placing provided signs which notify the public there is an AED on site.

Significant funding for the purchase of the AEDs and the training is being provided by the Mankato-based Taylor Family Farms Foundation, the City of Ellendale, the city fire and ambulance departments, as well as numerous other donors and supporters.



Among the board members for the Community Foundation of Ellendale are (seated) Coleen and Arlen Brekke and (standing, from left) Michelle Sletten, Jack Harpel and Allie Larson. Not pictured are Tiffany Krueger, Jo Lerberg and Sherry Scott.

Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

Also on the agenda was a 2025 Annual Plan which summarized action to be taken in four priority areas. The Restart the Beat campaign and fundraising were listed as the two main topics under priority number one for the year. Board member Coleen Brekke pointed out the group has a goal to raise \$10,000 each year and should consider augmenting donations with grants and other types of funds.

A second priority was to increase the number of advisory board members. Five individuals were present at the March 10 meeting: Arlen Brekke, Coleen Brekke, Jack Harpel, Allie Larson and Michelle Sletten. Also on the board are three additional members, Tiffany Krueger, Jo Lerberg and Sherry Schott. To build their numbers, board members are looking for people with a variety of skills who live in the Ellendale area.

Marketing and communication were listed as another priority; listed steps included speaking with community members and businesses about CFE initiatives and accomplishments.

Group members will also be looking to stream-

Initiative continued on 5



First-time blood donor Chloe Riewer felt no fear as she prepared for the procedure.

NRHEG blood drive brings first-time donors

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

The fifth annual spring blood drive sponsored by the NRHEG branch of the National Honor Society (NHS) drew 42 donors both from the community and from among the student body of the school, and collected 32 pints of blood, according to NHS advisor Liz Stier-nagle. The drive, held from 8:30 to 1:30 Friday, March 14, took place in the high school gym.

NHS members signed up for shifts to supervise the check-in table throughout the drive; many also signed up to donate.

Red Cross phlebotomist and team lead for the day Mikayla Demaris said having a drive in a high school presents an opportunity to encourage young people to become lifetime donors. “Once they’ve been introduced to the process, it’s more likely they’ll follow up and continue elsewhere,” Demaris said.

First-timers who are nervous, she observed, are almost always most concerned about “the needle poke.”

“But then they learn it wasn’t as bad as they thought,” she continued. “They realize it was short-lived discomfort that can help someone else who is having a much harder time.”



Bo McCamish checked in with greeters Chloe Riewer and Kyera Eustice prior to his first-ever blood donation.

Star Eagle photos by Deb Bently



National Honor Society members Jozie Klimmek and Alex Dobberstein helped check people in as they arrived for Friday's blood drive.

First-time donor Alexis Barnes, 16, described almost exactly that experience. Under Red Cross policies, donors must be at least 16 years old; at that age, they must have a consent form signed by their parents. Those 17 and older do not require permission.

Barnes described the blood drive having appeared on her radar only two days before, on Wednesday. When she asked her parents whether they would give permission, she said their response was, “Are you sure?”

Though nervous about the needle poke, Barnes signed up and found herself on a donation table late Friday morning. As she looked away from the phlebotomist preparing her supplies, Barnes said, “I’m getting over my fear right now.”

Part of the reason she decided to ignore her anxiety and donate, Barnes said, is her job as a personal care assistant (PCA) at a Waseca fa-

Donors continued on 2

FREEBORN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Trail from Albert Lea to Manchester discussed

By ETHAN BECKER
Contributing writer

The Freeborn County Commissioners focused on improvements to local recreational infrastructure at their March 4 meeting. The commissioners heard a number of resolutions from county engineer Philip Wacholz.

The first request Wacholz presented was for commissioner support for a grant to help develop a trail from Albert Lea to Manchester. At the meeting, Wacholz explained an unusual element of this specific grant: the large amount of matching funds needed.

“We’d need a 33 percent match, so \$833,000,” Wacholz said. “Currently, we have \$650,000 of committed funds, and we plan to continue to allot \$150,000 into that portion on an annual basis.”

According to the proposal, a portion of that extra \$150,000 would be used for paying the local match. And, as Wacholz explained at the meeting, the county has some time to build up needed funds.

“The grant is for the fiscal year 2027, which means the earliest we’d have to pay in is July of 2026; we wouldn’t need to start committing until the end of the 2027 fiscal year, so June of 2028,” Wacholz explained.

Commissioners voted to approve the resolution, supporting an application for a grant that, should the public works department get it, would be used for construction of the portion of trail running from Fountain Street to Manchester.

The next proposal Wacholz presented was for commissioner support for a trail grant from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

“If awarded, we’d use this grant for the modification of railroad bridges to make them safer for pedestrians,” Wacholz said. “The total cost of the project is \$400,000, and the grant would be for \$300,000.”

Following the introduction of this proposal, it was passed unanimously without much questioning from the commissioners.

The final trail project resolution Wacholz presented was one asking for county support and partnership with the City of Albert Lea on a trail grant application it is planning to submit to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

“If awarded, we’d use the grant to replace bridges near Shoff Park,” Wacholz said. “This is a sibling grant to the one previously, so they’re structured very similarly.”

Matching requirements for this grant are the same as the other DNR grant Wacholz presented, and with a similar cost, the total local matching funds would need to be around \$100,000. Commissioners questioned who exactly would provide those funds: the city or the county?

“That’s a question we plan to address at our next meeting in Albert Lea, which is March 25,” Wacholz said. “But the cost would be shared between the city and the county.”

Wacholz clarified that, as of now, Freeborn County and the City of Albert Lea have a joint power sharing agreement saying that the city is responsible for all grants and associated costs on projects they begin. But Wa-

County continued on 2



FenceLines

by Mark Bernard

Spring is right around the corner

The scurs and Weather Eye had the rain part for Wednesday right; they just missed the changing over to snow part. Was this last blizzard Old Man Winter’s parting shot, or was he just getting his scope dialed in? Starting Thursday, the astronomical 1st day of spring, sunny with highs in the low 40’s and lows in the upper 20’s. Partly sunny on Friday with a slight chance of evening showers. Highs in the mid-40’s with lows in the low 20’s. Mostly sunny Saturday, with highs in the upper 30’s and lows in the mid-20’s. Sunday, partly sunny with a good chance of a rain/snow mix. Highs in the mid-40’s with lows in the mid-20’s. Cloudy on Monday with highs in the low 40’s and lows in the upper 20’s. Tuesday, sunny with highs in the upper 40’s and lows in the upper 40’s and lows in the upper 20’s. On the 23rd we’ll see the sun set at 7:30 p.m. CDT. The normal high for March 23rd is 43 and the normal low is 26. The scurs are eyeing their woodpile and hoping it’ll make it. It should if they burn all their candy wrappers first.

With spring seemingly just around the corner much of the winter, we started to think the weatherman was crying wolf. Many were under the impression that we’d see it break early especially after the warmth towards the end of January. Since then we’ve seen glimpses, but Old Man Winter has also shown us the back of his hand. We saw a bone-chilling stretch in February followed by a March that’s regained its status as the snowiest month, at least for this winter. We still have to get through April yet and don’t count May out. I remember several occasions as a kid when we’d be playing ball outside in March or going to basketball tournaments in our shirtsleeves, only to have a blizzard close school. Not only that, be battling snow afterwards into mid-April then be seeding oats well into May. The good news so far anyway is the frost depth has changed in a hurry. It’s not out entirely all over as I found when probing around the yard. The walk-in barn door closes now at the ranch now, however, so it’s a start.

Still watching a few ewes that haven’t lambed yet very closely. They’ve put the brakes on between the last several and aren’t telegraphing it like they do sometimes. One natural-colored ewe lambed Monday, so cross one more off the list. She’s a doting mother and her ewe lamb is an absolute little doll. Another ewe has shown signs for several weeks, but hasn’t got the job done yet. It would seem that soon we’d find her having completed the process. It’s been a waiting game too to see when we’ll be able to finally let the ewes with lambs outside. Then they can start chewing on round bales rather than burning through a half dozen small square bales a day. Snowstorms are a big pause button. The snow just got off the electric fence from the last blizzard. The March 14th wind-

storm caused some branches and limbs to fall and partially ground out the fence, so that was dealt with Sunday. Not long afterwards the forecast changed from mostly rain to mostly snow. Tired of waiting for ewe.

Friday night meant piecing the yard back together before the next weather event. As mentioned last week, it was ripped up pretty good with the heavy wet snow on top of thawed sod. Like golfing, you have to replace your divots. It looked decent from 30’ anyway. I did a minimal amount of raking and shoveling, however. I knew better than getting too carried away. Odds were I’d just be doing it again anyway. Frost in the soil continues to disappear and the nearby lakes, namely Beaver and St. Olaf, opened up as of last Saturday. There is still frost in areas, however, especially where there is a lot of reflective residue and on north sides of groves, buildings, etc. I’d thought about putting some radishes and lettuce in, but was thinking I’d need to purchase seed first. When I checked my stash, I discovered there were all kinds of radishes and greens that never got planted due to the wet spring. Lucky me! The garden had other ideas. The soil surface was still tacky on Friday, so I punted. I was just happy knowing I had seed.

Watching the waterfowl pass through the area has always been a treat. There was a flock of snow geese that passed over the ranch on Monday night. Many Canada geese have started to set up shop as small wetlands begin to open up. When out checking the fence and pussy willow progress, I noted there was water in the pond again after the snow melt. There have been local reports of wood ducks around, so hopefully they’ll use the two houses around the wetland area. Past years we’ve had pairs of wood ducks check out the trees in the backyard for nesting sites. This winter, the woodpeckers enlarged a hole in the elm tree to roughly 4” in diameter. It’s right where it can be easily monitored from the window when seated in the oval office. Beats playing on your phone or reading a toilet book.

As noted in previous columns, Poppy does avoid mud, as long as it’s in puddles. When it’s the muddy backyard lawn and she’s in hot pursuit of fox squirrels, she throws caution to the wind. Upon her return, she has mud caked in the hair between her toes. In an attempt to keep the floor clean, we try to get it out of her paws with a towel. This often becomes an exercise in futility. First off, it’s a long way down on a Corgi to get at their feet. Secondly, she thinks it’s a game The wiggling and playful biting at your hand when attempting to get her feet clean makes you laugh. Lastly, when you start to laugh it just makes Poppy even more animated. Easier sometimes just to sweep the mud up once it dries rather than prolonging the agony.

See you next week...real good then.

cholz said the partnership has “morphed” since the signing, and “it might be the will of the county or city to adjust [the partnership].” After some discussion this proposal also passed with a unanimous vote.

■ County

from Page 1

A great way to save money!



Whatever Flips Your Waffle

by Mark Domeier
Contributing Writer

It’s no secret that I’m not a big fan of the current occupant of the White House. However, amidst his deluge of cut and burn tactics early in this term of office, I hold out some hope for a very positive result.

What might that be? Well, if you’ve looked at your calendar and have read my column for a long time, you know that March is the advent of standardized testing every year in Minnesota. Yippee. You also know how much I despise this annual ritual of testing kids and making huge judgments based on a snapshot in time for a test that does nothing to hold students accountable for their effort.

So I’ve noted with great interest Mr. Trump’s desire to eliminate the Department of Education at the federal level. This is perilous in many ways, such as the billions of dollars in funding that go to things like special education, Title IX oversight (giving equal opportunities to boys and girls, especially in sports), and student loan assistance. I’m sure those would be farmed out elsewhere, but it’s kind of nice to have them in one central location, and I’m worried that by eliminating the Department of Education, some of the dollars that come out of there will disappear.

Standardized testing is mandated at the federal level. If states were to say no to these tests, they would lose money from the federal government. For one thing, this goes against our nation’s idea of states having the right to run their own schools without inter-

ference. Nobody is going to turn down money, but it is a form of interference.

Both the federal government and our own state government in Minnesota are looking to trim the fat, so to speak. Here’s your chance, politicians: Trim standardized testing and save money. How much? Here are the numbers found by the Brown Center on Education Policy.

In an average year, \$1.7 billion dollars is spent on standardized tests. Yes, billion with a b. In addition, schools around the country spend an additional \$669 million on other assessments to get kids ready for the big tests.

But wait, there’s more! The average student spends 20-25 hours a year taking standardized tests, including all those other assessments schools use to monitor progress. Again, those can be misleading depending on what kind of day each kid is having. I’ve heard stories (and seen it myself) where a student does poorly on one of those and is labeled as needing help, even if they show, every day in the classroom, that they are more than capable.

That’s 3+ class days worth of tests. When we hear about how valuable seat time is, this goes against that idea. School boards

and administrators across the country should be joining with teachers to decry this continued abuse of our class time. And that doesn’t count all the time teachers take to teach to the test.

If you don’t think that happens, stop by my classroom in the couple of weeks leading up to the MCA tests. We review ideas we’ve been working on all year but with a look to the standardized testing format, which means multiple choice questions. I would rather that my students can tell me what the main idea is in their own words than pick a vaguely worded phrase from a list of choices that are sometimes similar.

We spend the day before the tests talking about poetry and similes and metaphors. It’s important to know and recognize figurative language, but how many of you are tested on interpreting poems in your life?

All this wasted time could be better served to make our students better at reading and writing and math and everything else. The cost benefit of that is immeasurable. Instead, we continue to hammer on tests and what people think the scores mean. The cost of the tests could be money better spent on updating instruc-

tional programs and giving kids more opportunities in the world at large.

Or we could look at budgets and say that we need to cut things in education. That can be valid. But we should always start with the things that matter least, and tests fit that bill. They are actually insulting to teachers who know their students best. I can tell you who needs help the most in my classes, based on the work we do every day. Schools need more people and curriculum to work on interventions while classroom teachers keep working with the standards in our rooms. The money could go that direction too!

Again, if the President wants to cut funding, do it in cooperation with the people who work in the industry. Our state can also join in that, and I’ll be heading to St. Paul soon to visit with some of those powerbrokers. It never hurts to hear from all the constituents. If you feel as I do, I’m sure Gene Dornink and Peggy Bennett (our senator and representative) would love to hear from you!

Save big money! Eliminate standardized testing!

Word of the Week: This week’s word is onolatry, which is a devotion to foolishness, as in, “The onolatry shown by the government in insisting on standardized testing for most students was opposed vociferously by teachers.” Impress your friends and confuse your enemies!

■ Donors

from Page 1

cility for the elderly. The more she learns about the needs of people with failing health, she said, the more she understands the importance of giving blood. As the process was completed, Barnes said yes, she had experienced some discomfort, but “This wasn’t as bad as I thought it might be,” and “I’m happy I did it.”

As she arrived for the check-in procedure, first-timer Hazel Bolton, 16, said she was excited about finally having reached the age where she is eligible to give and that she had signed up for a dona-

tion time slot as soon as she learned about the drive.

Giving blood is an important thing to do, she said, “because it saves lives.” Bolton mentioned her mother, Sara Vulcan, had been very happy to sign the permission form. “She’s an EMT,” said Bolton. “She donates blood often.”

Bo McCamish, 18, admitted he was quite nervous about giving blood for the first time. The idea of the needle, he said, made it hard to carry through on the commitment he made when he signed up. He said a number of factors had led to his presence in the gym on Friday. One was that he and classmate Talon Smith Vulcan had discussed the idea; their conversation convinced him to sign up.

He said he also remembers that his grandmother, Donna Mae McCamish, was a persistent blood donor and realized that continuing the process with another generation would be a way to honor her.

Chloe Riewer, 16, used some of her time on the donation table to study a list of vocabulary words for one of her classes. She said the distraction was both useful and helpful. The idea of the needle was not a deterrent for her as she considered whether or not to be a blood donor, she said, smiling, because she had experienced blood draws during medical procedures and they had never bothered her.

“It’s a good way to help people,” she said.

She commented that some of

the questions donors must respond to prior to the procedure are “interesting,” since some of them address very intimate topics, but all in all, being on the donation table was preferable to being in English class, the subject she was missing at the time.

NHS member Molly Johnson, 17, was enthusiastic during her time donating. “I’m proud I can do something that’s helping people,” she said. Johnson was donating for her second time. Pointing out that, as an NHS member she was on the team which helped plan and schedule the event, she said she knew she would be signing up for a donation time as soon as it was an option.

■ Briefs

from Page 1

Naeve Alumni and Nurses’ Club to Offer Scholarships

The Naeve Alumni and Nurses’ Club has nursing scholarships available to area graduating seniors, or persons who have successfully completed one year of education in an RN program. Each scholarship is in the amount of \$1,000.00.

Applications are available from school counselors, principals or by contacting Rosie Rasmussen at (507)-377-3683 or cell phone 507-391-0404) and also by e-mail: jrassen@charter.net

Factors to be considered by the scholarship committee are academics, community involvement and demonstrated leadership.

All completed applications must be received by April 1, 2025 to be considered and processed.

Wingstock 2025 at the Geneva Bar and Grill Saturday, May 3

Backyard Wing Cook-Off and Wing Eating Contest, Wingstock 2025 is happening again at the Geneva Bar and Grill starting at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 3. Tickets \$15 presale, \$20 at the door, limited availability. Purchase tickets at Geneva Bar and Grill or Thru Smokin Barrel Barbecue.

NRHEG Spring Band Concert 7 p.m. May 13

NRHEG Fifth-grade, sixth-grade, junior high and high school bands will all perform during the spring band concert set for 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 13 in the high school gym.

NRHEG presents “The Wizard of Oz” May 17 and 18

The NRHEG all-school musical “The Wizard of Oz” will feature students in grades 5 to 12. Performances will be in the high school gym. Shows will begin at 3 and 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 17, and at 1 p.m. on Sunday, May 18.

New Richland Garden Club Plant Sale 9 to 11:30 May 17

The New Richland Garden Club will hold its spring plant sale across Hwy 30 from the high school from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, May 17. A wide variety of annuals and perennials will be offered.

Waldorf Veterans Memorial Fund Drive

Donations are requested to support the construction of the Waldorf Veterans Memorial. Checks written to WVMP Fund Drive can be mailed to WVMP Fund Drive; Judy Joecks, treasurer: P.O. Box 55; Waldorf, MN 56091. Questions can be directed to Charlie Barnes at (763) 286-2246.

Waldorf Community

Pickleball every Thursday at old Waldorf School

Waldorf Community Pickleball

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

NRHEG

StarEagle

SEVING THE NEW RICHLAND-HARTLAND-ELLENDALE-GENEVA AREA

and the communities of Waseca, Otisco, Hope, Clarks Grove, Matawan, Freeborn and Waldorf

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GENEVA CITY COUNCIL

Geneva council hears from St. Johns

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

During their March 11 meeting, members of the Geneva city council heard from Cory Bienfang, principal engineer for Bolten & Menk, regarding the city's downtown sidewalk project, including the final specifications for the 12 streetlights to be installed. The plans will be presented to Freeborn County and to the Minnesota Department of Transportation District State Aid Engineer for approval before being let out for bids in April, with the final contract to be awarded on May 13; construction is expected to begin this summer.

Council members heard about damage which occurred at a vacant rental residence. Pipes inside the home froze and the toilet was broken after the tenants who moved out failed to transfer responsibility for the power bill back to the building's owner. Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative (FMEC) turned the power off for nonpayment, leading to the damage. Fortunately, repairs were carried out with no water damage to the home. FMEC has since been contacted and will now alert Geneva city maintenance when power is turned off to area residences. There was also a temporary power outage from a power surge the morning of the March 5 snowstorm; staff reported it was quickly resolved.

Two visitors to the city council meeting were Shanna Eckberg, CEO/Administrator at St. John's Lutheran Community and April Schuur, Executive Director and Senior Resources to St. John's. The two were speaking on behalf of "Age Friendly Freeborn County," a local version of a statewide program to help senior citizens "age in place" at their homes. Age Friendly offers a long list of activities for the elderly, including memory café's, chorus, daily call in reassurance. The agency also helps participants connect with resources including SMART Bus transportation, the YMCA, people to help with chores, and advocacy when handling medical services and bills. The two speakers spoke of efforts to inform seniors regarding the services, and expressed a hope Geneva residents might consider volunteering. Age Friendly Freeborn County meets the third Thursday of every month from 9 to 10 a.m. at the Albert Lea Freeborn County Chamber of Commerce office. All interested parties were invited to attend.



Doug Christopherson, chair of the Waseca County Board of Commissioners, signed a proclamation March 6 declaring March as "Waseca County FoodShare Month." The action calls attention to rising numbers of county residents facing food insecurity and supports fundraising efforts by local individuals and organizations. Pictured with him are Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Robin Dulas, Waseca Exchange Club president Mikhail Rostislavovich, and Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center director Cindy Kollander.
Photo by Deb Bently

Local initiatives highlighted during county meeting

By DEB BENTLY
Staff writer

The regular business of the March 6 meeting of the Waseca County Board of Commissioners began with some niceties.

County 4-H member Alexis Myers, 16, provided a brief report of her attendance at the National 4-H Congress, a five-day event which took place in Georgia this past November. Myers was one of only nine 4-H participants from Minnesota, and to the best of local leaders' knowledge, is the first representative from Waseca County to be selected for the honor. She mentioned the application was "lengthy," and that her

time in Georgia was a whirlwind of experiences and activities which lasted from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. some days. She told commissioners she met people from all over the country, learned how to run a "speed meeting," and got considerable practice at team building.

Commissioners congratulated Myers on her accomplishment and suggested she might consider running for the county board someday.

After a brief presentation from Cindy Kollander, executive director of the Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center and food shelf, commissioners enacted a proclamation naming March as Feed Waseca Minnesota FoodShare Month within the county. Kollander told board members the "FoodShare" initiative is statewide; local food shelves devise their own programs to call attention to food insecurity and encourage charitable giving.

In the Waseca area, Kollander described, area organizations including the Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club, the Lions Club and the Exchange Club are entering a "friendly competition" to bring attention to the problem and see which one can bring in the highest amount in donations. She named the cooperative venture as "a powerful example of what makes our community special."

Robin Dulas, executive director for the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce, invited board members to attend the Farm and City Luncheon scheduled to take place at The Mill on March 11. Commissioner De Malterer is a guest speaker at the event, which will include announcing the "farmer of the year," the "farm family of the year," and more.

Waseca Exchange Club president Mikhail Rostislavovich invited commissioners to an event honoring local firefighters scheduled at the Waseca Public Safety Building the evening of March 18.

Art exhibit features area students

By MELANIE PILTINGSRUD
Copy Editor

The Waseca Art Center (WAC) held a reception for Mankato artist Michael Bolan and our talented area high school students on Thursday, March 13 from 5 – 7 p.m. Guests could sample the art of a chocolatier and other goodies in the Tea Room, as well as representational art on the walls and pedestals of the Harguth and Beckmann Galleries.

WAC president Mikhail Rostislavovich introduced the artists, expressing his gratitude in the knowledge that the high school students would carry the torch of community art into the next generation, and then introduced artist Bolan.

According to Bolan, he began his career drawing illustrations for newspaper advertisements in the 1970s. But Bolan ultimately decided he wanted more freedom in his craft. As a fine artist, Bolan had the creative license to make just the kinds of art that he was inspired to make: the abstract illusions for which he is known.

Bolan said his main sources of inspiration were the works of M. C. Escher and Victor Vasarely, both of whom represented "mind puzzles" that defied the laws of physics and could never exist in real life. "Without Escher, this work would never have been," Bolan emphasized.

Bolan said one of the main questions he is asked



Above: area high school students pictured with artist Michael Bolan and Waseca Art Center president Mikhail Rostislavovich. Below: Brady Koopal's acrylic piece "Reverence," NRHEG high school, grade 12.
Star Eagle photos by Melanie Piltingsrud

is how he creates such perfect, precise lines. He explained that he uses some of the same tools that architects use, such as a T-square. "This is all designed very carefully, very precise, and you have to have good eye and hand dexterity," said Bolan.

One of the last steps in Bolan's artistic process is choosing colors, which he selects to accommodate different tastes. "Cause I know a lot of people like different types of color schemes," he said. Bolan's choices range from monochromatic to multicolored. "People like diversity," he explained. "So do I, so I like to experiment with a lot of different colors."

Those colors include anything from Liquitex, Bolan's favorite brand of acrylics, which he paints onto hardboard.

Bolan said that he measures success neither financially nor in popularity. He asks himself instead whether the finished painting meets the

Art continued on 5



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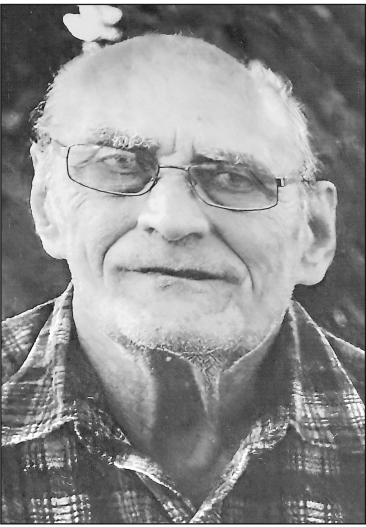
Jerome Nelson

Jerome “Romie” Thomas Nelson, age 77, passed away Saturday, March 15, 2025 at St. Mary’s Hospital in Rochester, MN. Private family interment has taken place. No services are scheduled at this time.

Romie was born to parents Einer and Bessie (Moser) Nelson in Geneva, MN, on June 7, 1947. He worked as a janitor at George’s of Geneva until retirement. He enjoyed fishing in his spare time.

Romie is survived by nephews Lonnie (Sharlene) Nelson, Ellendale, MN, and Mike (Mary) Nelson, Howard Lake, MN; niece Lori (Scott) Obernolte, Sheldahl, IA; and sister-in-law Anna Nelson, Owatonna, MN.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and brothers Richard and



Jerome Nelson

Harvey Nelson.

For more information or to leave an online condolence message, go to www.megercare.com.

Care Center



There were four New Richland Garden Club members including Chris Possin, Joan Proehl, Barb Finseth and Brenda Berg at the NR Care Center for early seed planting on Wednesday, March 12, 2025.



NR Care Center residents from left: Barb Berg, Robin Larson and Cindy Meads were helping the Garden Club plant seeds for early spring sprouts on Wednesday, March 12, 2025.



NR Care Center residents Barb Berg, Robin Larson, Cindy Meads were planting seeds with the Garden Club on Wednesday, March 12, 2025.

Why soup during Lent?

By PASTOR KYLE SMITH
Ellendale

One question that often comes up during the season of Lent is, “Why do we have soup on Wednesdays before the Lenten Service? The answer to the question is both simple and complex at the same time. The simple answer is, “It’s tradition.” But the long answer is both more meaningful and reasonable.

Lent is considered a penitential season, which means it is a time to show sorrow and regret for our sins. Another way to think about Lent is as a season of repentance. During this special season, we are encouraged to get out of our daily and weekly routines and allow the Holy Spirit, through the Word, to prepare our hearts for Easter Sunday. How is this done?

One way to help our hearts be more prepared for Easter Sunday is to attend additional church services, such as Ash Wednesday, the following five midweek Lenten services, Maundy (Holy) Thursday, and Good Friday.



The
Pastor’s Column

Another way to help prepare our hearts for Easter is to remember the poor by volunteering at a food shelf or some other organization that helps those in need. Other ways to help prepare our hearts for Easter are to spend extra time in prayer, read a devotional relating to Lent, and/or give something up for Lent.

During the season of Lent, it is customary to fast, whether that be skipping one meal each week, eating less food in general, or simply giving up certain foods, such as “heavy” foods like meat. Fasting is meant to be a spiritual discipline in which, as we give something up, we become ever more aware of what Jesus gave up to be our Savior. How wonderful it is to have that regular reminder! This is where soup

comes in.

As we gather as the body of Christ for Lenten services, we are not only gathering for worship. We also gather beforehand for fellowship and the joy of experiencing the season of Lent together by sharing a meal. But this isn’t just any meal. The meal we share together is a reflection of the season.

Think of it this way. Consider for a moment what you eat for your Thanksgiving Day meal. Next, consider what you eat for your Christmas meal. Do you eat certain foods you eat on Easter? How about Independence Day? Just as we as a culture have grown accustomed to certain foods during certain times and certain seasons for certain reasons, the church season of Lent is

no different. Since the church encourages fasting and other spiritual disciplines during the season of Lent, it naturally follows that churches eat soup during Lent to help facilitate fasting from “heavy” foods.

Here’s my challenge to you. If you don’t typically participate in Lent, perhaps this is a good year to start. If you normally do participate in attending Lenten services, maybe this is a good year to consider adding something to your Lenten observance, such as prayer, Bible reading, some form of fasting, or giving something up such as coffee or social media. Most of all, my challenge to you is not to look at observing Lent as an obligation to fulfill, but as an opportunity to have your heart more fully prepared for the joyous occasion of Easter, when we observe the anniversary of the rising from the dead of the One who died to pay our sin and gave us His righteousness, our Savior Jesus Christ.

HERITAGE BITS



Compiled by BRENDA DOKKEN (3/20/25)

This photo shows three stores on the south side of main street in Ellendale.

1. The one on the corner (on the right) was always known as the Narby Building and the ground floor was the home of many businesses and the upstairs for all entertainment and of all sorts until it was razed in 1972 to make for the Municipal Legion store. In the photo it was the Oliver Imp. Al Larson was the owner, so we know it was taken sometime during the 1950’s or 60’s.

2. At the time of the photo, the building in the middle was known as Lageson and Dahl Inc. agency. Milford Lageson and Franklin Dahl were owners. It too, had been the home of many businesses, Lena D. Nelson Millinery Shop, CW. Nelson Grocery, Bert and Herman Helland Barber Shop, Thorson Barber and Beauty Shop, Fern Christensen Restaurant, Ollie Reese Restaurant and probably more.

3. The building farthest left was a restaurant. The first proprietor being Blasdel, followed by Lew Barnes, A.P. Hanson, Lous Peterson, Johanna Jensen, Jack and Frank Lonnergan, George and Nellie Jorgenson, Harry Enstrom, Sanderson and Barnes, Eliason, and Henry Jensen. Jan (Jirousek) Waage had a beauty shop here followed by a teen counter.

The unseen building was originally a shoe and harness shop and the initial operator was Frank Kycek. Frank sold the business to Elling and Erick Ellingson who continued in the same line of business. Later Erick Ellingson purchased his brother’s interest and he added groceries to the inventory.

Bertha Ellingson was also associated with her brother Erick. This building later housed the following businesses: CW Nelson Hardware, Darwood Fitch, barber shop and pool hall, Norris Thompson Implement, Glen Nelson Implement. Any corrections, please reach out to Barb Mrotz at 507-688-2257 or Brenda Dokken at 507-402-0336. (Please forgive the spelling mistakes.) (3/20/25)

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Compostings

by Al Batt

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ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS’ CLUB MEETING
Happy birthday. I didn’t get you anything.
That’s the same thing you got me last year.
And you haven’t used it up yet.

DRIVING BY BRUCE’S DRIVE
I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I was navigating a new day. I had rings on my fingers and bells on my toes—or vice versa, and I could still fog a mirror.
I picked up a bunch of light bulbs at the hardware store. Many bulbs make light work.
The cashier said, “Lots of bulbs,” because she thought she should say something.
“I’m a light eater,” I responded, because I thought I should say something in return.

THE TABLE OF INFINITE KNOWLEDGE
I stopped at the Eat Around It Café because food tastes best with a home or a café surrounding it.
I’m not a coffee drinker, but a knight at The Table of Infinite Knowledge told me the coffee was so strong it mugged people. He described it as too thick to stir and too wet to plow.
I enjoy spending time in places where my visit doubles the town’s population. I’ve stayed in the dead guy’s cabin when the dead guy wasn’t there. The cabin had a shower, a bulletin board, a bed and a broken coffee maker that strong coffee had mugged.

I’VE LEARNED
I had a security blankie when I was a tot. I retired it on my 18th birthday. It was an emotional support blankie. Family and friends do that blankie’s job today.
The memory of a deceased loved one’s voice fades much too quickly.
There are never lines to the bathroom at a waterpark.
What I used to do without thinking, I now think without doing.
Thanks to leaky brains, life is made of moments we don’t remember.
ASK AL
“Who are Snap, Crackle and Pop?” They’re the sounds made during a football game.
“What does winter provide the most of in Minnesota—snow, cold, wind, ice or what?” Drama.
“How did your grandparents survive the Great Depression?” They saved string.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT
The fellow told me he was in a McDonald’s drive-thru when the

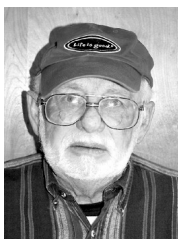
young woman behind him leaned on her horn and started shouting because he was taking too long to place his order. What did she expect? There were over 100 menu items. When he got to the first window, he paid for her order and his own. The cashier must have told her what he’d done, because she leaned out her window and waved to him and mouthed the words, “Thank you.” Arriving at the second window, he showed the guy manning the drive-thru window both receipts and took his food and the young woman’s food. She had to go back to the end of the line and start over again. He said her order was better than his.
What’s the difference between a camera and a sock? A camera takes photos, while a sock takes five toes.

NATURE NOTES
It’s impossible not to be impressed by birds. One day, I watched a chickadee excavate a nest cavity. Its tiny bill had become a Swiss Army knife. Here’s an interesting fact: everything on Earth is either a chickadee or not.
Blue jays appear to be having a party. They were likely celebrating a happy belated hatchday of one.
I saw seven crows perched, one each on seven fenceposts. I suspect it was a board meeting, and I hope good things came from it.
I enjoyed seeing a northern harrier, a slim, long-tailed hawk gliding low over a grassland while holding its wings in a V-shape and showing a white patch at the base of its tail. If I’d been closer, I’d have seen its owl face, which helps it hear mice and voles. When I was a lad, it was called a marsh hawk as it hunted over agricultural land, marshes and shrubby wetlands. Its floating flight gave rise to the male’s nickname, “gray ghost.”

Steve Weston passed along the statewide 125th Annual Christmas Bird Count results from 90 counts done in Minnesota from Dec. 14 to Jan. 5. Frozen lakes kept Canada geese numbers 57% below the 10-year average. Wild turkeys, bald eagles, barred owls, Cooper’s hawks, red-shouldered hawks, red-headed woodpeckers, tufted titmice, eastern bluebirds, white-crowned sparrows and white-winged crossbills set records for high numbers. Ruffed grouse set a record, and sharp-tailed grouse nearly did. Pheasant numbers were down.

MEETING ADJOURNED
A kind word can improve the world. Anne Frank wrote, “How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.”

Three questionable truth tellers



FACT OR FICTION

...you decide

by Bob Hanson, Emeritus

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

the three as questionable truth tellers!!
The three told of the area snowmobile trails beginning around 1972. Thus, Waage was about 30, Wayne about 19 and Nelson about 18. They told of Interstate 35 to Albert Lea opening in 1968. Thus Wayne was about 28, Wayne about 14 and Nelson about 13 when the freeway opened, and they had ridden two to three years before on the graded bed of the freeway to be.
Thus, I submit to you readers the ability of three snowmobilers to pull

a snowstorm over on your believing snowmobilers like the before mentioned threesome!!
I was told the three before mentioned snowmobilers made a pact with the weatherman as follows: If the weatherman would cause it to snow at least 10 inches of snow the eve of Lent, they would pay tribute to three wise men from afar. Yes, the three snowmobilers kept their part of the bargain.
Things all people in the know, like you are, should know about:
1. The MN DNR has scheduled an

update for Beaver lake in 2025.
2. 2. Plymouth Shoe Store in Albert Lea is recycling sandals. Just bring in your old sandals regardless of wearability.
3. If you don't know when April fools is, you are the fool.
4. There is an adult male Eagle with white feathers plus a juvenile hanging around on the east side of the road going south past Jerry and Linda Heideman's on the Bath Road.
5. The word of the day in Southern Minnesota on Wednesday, March 5, 2025 was, “Hunker Down.”
6. Good Earth Village rural Spring Valley is planning on more hammocks for their campers in 2025. It is the sleeping-in rage!!

Bob is a retired AAL (Aid Association for Lutherans) agent, currently working on his master's degree in Volunteering. His wife, Genie, is a retired RN, currently working on her doctor's degree in Volunteering. They have two children, Deb in North Carolina, and Dan in New York. Bob says if you enjoy his column, let him know. If you don't enjoy it, keep on reading, it can get worse. Words of wisdom: There is always room for God.

■ Art

from Page 3

quality and standards that he set for himself. “Out of a hundred, I’d say 97% of them did,” said Bolan, “so that’s success.”
Bolan originally started creating his illusionist abstractions in the 1980s, but now that he’s fully retired from creating art at the age of 79, he says his main job is finding good homes for his art, which is why he has lowered the prices on his artwork to as low as he can make them. He doesn’t want the cost to be an obstacle for anyone who really wants one of his pieces. Some of his pieces were already sold before the reception came to a close for the evening.

Bolan’s art is currently exhibited in the Harguth Gallery of the WAC from March 4 – April 18.
In the Beckman Gallery, high school students stood beside their artwork as parents and guests came to cheer them on and vote for their favorite entries.
Caitlin Roberts, a Waseca resident who studies online and also teaches art classes at WAC, entered a blue and white acrylic landscape of a waterfall that she entitled “Escapism.” “I like to test the waters a little bit,” Roberts said with a smile. Like most artists, Roberts is critical of her own work: “Every time I look at it, I want to fix it up a little more.”
Although Roberts’ plans are not yet set in stone, she’s thinking of becoming a Disney animator. “I’m building a portfolio,” she said. Starting with community college in Owatonna, Roberts plans to study both

animation and computer programming after high school, so that she is prepared for the digital domain where animation now resides. Following community college, Roberts is considering continuing her education at Gustavus Adolphus College.
“They have a program where, if I want to intern at Disney, they can help me intern,” she explained.
It’s difficult to imagine how one more piece of artwork could be squeezed into the Beckmann Gallery; it is filled with the artwork of area high school students, and it is impressive. Those students include:
Bloomington High School: Layla Coleman, Isabel Dickel, Mairead Holmes, Tessa Smith, Natalie Winzengurg
JWP High School: McKennah Ganiere, Jayden Jones, Addison Miller, Shane Witts
Le Sueur-Henderson High School:

Mason Franta, Ashley Grapentine, Pheonix Machtemes, Madeline Skelley, Porter Simonette
Mankato East High School: Ella Barker, Mariah Betz, Makaio Bloom, RJ Chiet, Nora Sipe
NRHEG: Brady Koopal
Waseca High School: Melanie Kruger Eineke, Sophia Hillman, Jaya Kunkel, Esme Pearce, Arianna Theobald
Tri-City United: Madelyn Hollom, Megan Marek, Malayna Marinez, Yasmin Ruiz-Ruiz, Eva Tikalsky
Art by the high school students is also on display until April 18. Admission to see the exhibits is, as always, free. WAC is open Tues. - Sat. from 12 – 5 p.m.
The art center offers numerous art classes throughout the year. Class listings and other events can be found online at www.wasecaart-center.org

■ Initiative

from Page 1

line elements of their grant making

and scholarship applications. One priority is reviewing the guidelines for each and possibly updating the application forms. Along with these steps, the group hopes to extend its ability to give by applying for matching grants from suitable organizations.

The CFE gives two \$500 scholarships each year to support the post-secondary education of selected NRHEG graduates. True to the group’s local focus, major criteria in selecting the winners are the impact they have already had through volunteerism and participation in local

events and the impact they expect to have on their home community in the future.
Anyone interested in more information about the Community Foundation of Ellendale is invited to speak with any of the board members.



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Panthers humbled in state tournament

NRHEG girls drop final two games of season in Twin Cities

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

NRHEG's best season in nearly a decade came to an end last week after two losses in the Minnesota State Girls Basketball Tournament in the Twin Cities.

The Panthers lost in the opening round 84-50 to top seed, eventual state champions, undefeated Providence Academy.

In their second round they lost 79-54 to fourth seed Sauk Centre.

The game with Lions started well for the Panthers, which jumped out to 4-2 and 5-4 leads. An early timeout from the Lions, however, reset momentum.

The Panthers kept the game within single digits until about 8 minutes left in the first half when they fell down by 12. At halftime the Lions led the Panthers 46-21. In the half the Panthers had 19 turnovers and were outshot 42 field goals (by the Lions) to the Panthers 20 attempts.

Individually for the Panthers: Kylie Olson 21 points, 11 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal; Camryn VanMaldeghe 16 points, 4 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals; Quinn VanMaldeghe 10 points, 10 rebounds, 3 assists, 2

steals, 2 blocks; Clara Buendorf 2 points, 1 rebound; Gabrielle Schlaak 1 point, 2 rebounds, 2 steals; Ezra Boerner 2 rebounds, 5 assists, 2 steals; Savannah Farr 1 rebound; Chloe Stork 1 assist;

Against Sauk Centre the Panthers came out firing and led at halftime 39-36, but did not play a competitive second half, getting outscored 43-15 in the period.

Individually for the Panthers: Camryn VanMaldeghe 29 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal; Olson 9 points, 10 rebounds, 2 assists; Quinn VanMaldeghe 6 points, 12 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal; Buendorf 4 points, 1 rebound, 1 assist, 1 steal; Schlaak 3 points, 1 rebound, 1 assist, 1 steal; Boerner 2 points, 3 rebounds; Alayna Groskreutz 1 point, 1 rebound; Farr 1 rebound; Stork 1 rebound, 2 assists, 1 steal.

"I'm very proud of this team," NRHEG head coach Onika Peterson said. "These kids have rallied and battled every single game."

The Panthers end the season with a 23-7 record and graduate no seniors and are likely to be the favorites to return to the state tournament next year.



NRHEG sophomore Kylie Olson led the Panthers in points, securing a double-double with 21 points and 11 rebounds Wednesday night at Williams Arena.

Star Eagle photo by Eli Lutgens



Freshman Ezra Boerner makes a pass between two Lions defenders during the 2025 state tournament.



Junior Camryn VanMaldeghe scores two of her 16 points in the Panthers' opening round at the state tournament.

Star Eagle



The Panthers take a timeout. From left, assistant coach Kayley Camerer, junior Chloe Stork, Quinn VanMaldeghe (4), coach Onika Peterson, and Camryn VanMaldeghe.



NRHEG players and coaches stand as they are introduced prior to their opening round game with Providence Academy in the 2025 State Tournament at Williams Arena.

Star Eagle photo by Eli Lutgens



Panthers' junior Gabrielle Schlaak drives to the hoop over Lions defender Shannon Healy.

Star Eagle photo by Eli Lutgens



Junior Quinn VanMaldeghe scores two of her ten points over Lions defender Hope Counts.

Star Eagle photo by Eli Lutgens



Eighth-grader Alayna Groskreutz battles for the ball.

Star Eagle photo by Eli Lutgens



NRHEG sophomore Clara Buendorf takes a shot against Lion defender Hope Counts.

Star Eagle photo by Eli Lutgens



NRHEG reserve players check into the game, from left, Kenley Gehrke, Julieann Wobbrock and Alayna Groskreutz.



Eighth-grader Emilia Stadheim takes a jumper in the Panthers' state quarterfinal game.

Star Eagle photo by Eli Lutgens

LOOKING BACK

50 Years Back



- R.W. Empey, (center) chairman of the board of Vinylex Corporation of Knoxville, Tenn., is pictured here looking over building plans with Eldor Schoenrock (left) member and Milton Nelson, president of the New Richland Development Corporation. Vinylex is planning to move a plant for the production of plastic corrugated drainage tile to New Richland from Georgia. Within the next week the plans will be definite. Mr. Empey said he found the people of New Richland helpful, felt that they were wanted here and like the community. If established, the plant will be built on land south of New Richland and will employ ten people, eventually expanding to employ more. Two employees, a technician and a manager, will be brought from Georgia. The corporation has plants in Florida, Tennessee, Texas and Georgia.

- Jana Lee Sponberg, a New Richland-Hartland high school graduate, is teaching health in the Seoul American High School, a Department of Defense school for children of American Servicemen in Korea. According to Ms. Sponberg, health is important because of the number of current issues related to health, such as our social, physical and mental attitudes towards one another. What's so unique about health? It affects our ability to evaluate our thoughts and what's happening around us everyday. Ms. Sponberg, who majored in Health and Physical Education at Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota, has taught health for four out of her six years of teaching experience.



- Dignitaries who took part in the American Legion's birthday dinner here at the Andrew Borgen Post 75 clubrooms Thursday. They are from left to right, front: Acil Coy County, Commander; Doris Bruno, first district first vice president; Doris Beckman, local auxiliary president; Harlan Buck, State department first vice commander; Everett, sell district commander; Dennis Dinneen, local first vice commander; Herb Beckman, local commander; Sylvester Priem, first district school patrol officer; and Al Waldhauser, local chaplain. Besides greetings from various district officers, Terry Hansen, local high school student, presented, "I Am The Flag" and Mary Jo Hanson and LaVonne Wallin presented a musical adaptation of "America The Beautiful," wishing the Legion a happy birthday. Mrs. Herb Hokanson accompanied them on the organ.

75 Years Back

- Husband and wife teams hold the four top-ranking offices in the Blue Earth chapter of the order of the Eastern Star, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Prescott worthy Patron and matron, Mr. and Mrs. Merrill Sparks associates. Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Olson and their three sons and three daughters constitute the entire and very busy staff of a thriving bakery at Wayzata with a branch at Navarre. Mrs. Victor Johnson of Gibbon and Mrs. Minnie Tinberg of Minneapolis were reunited with two sisters in Jamestown, NY for the first time in 49 years.

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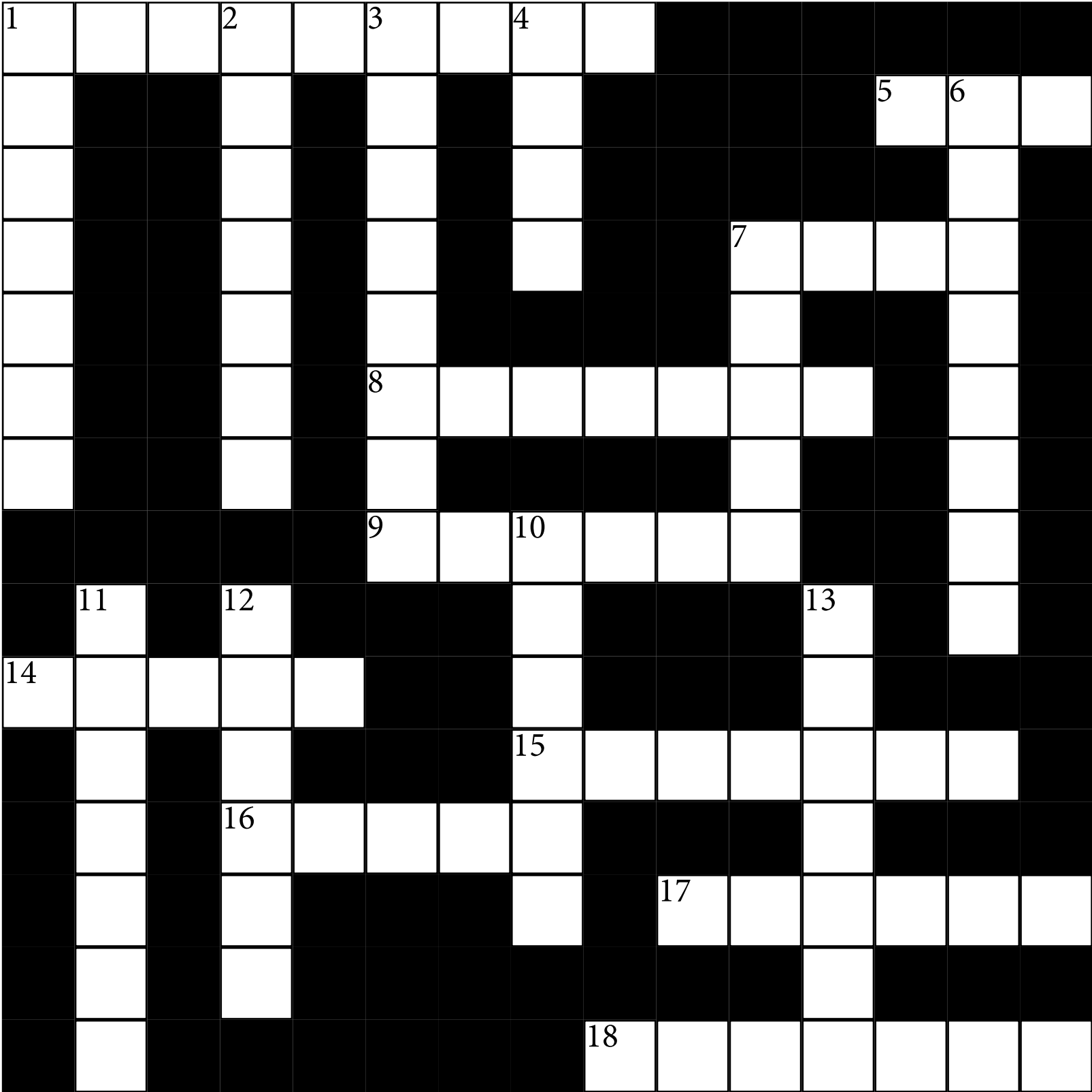
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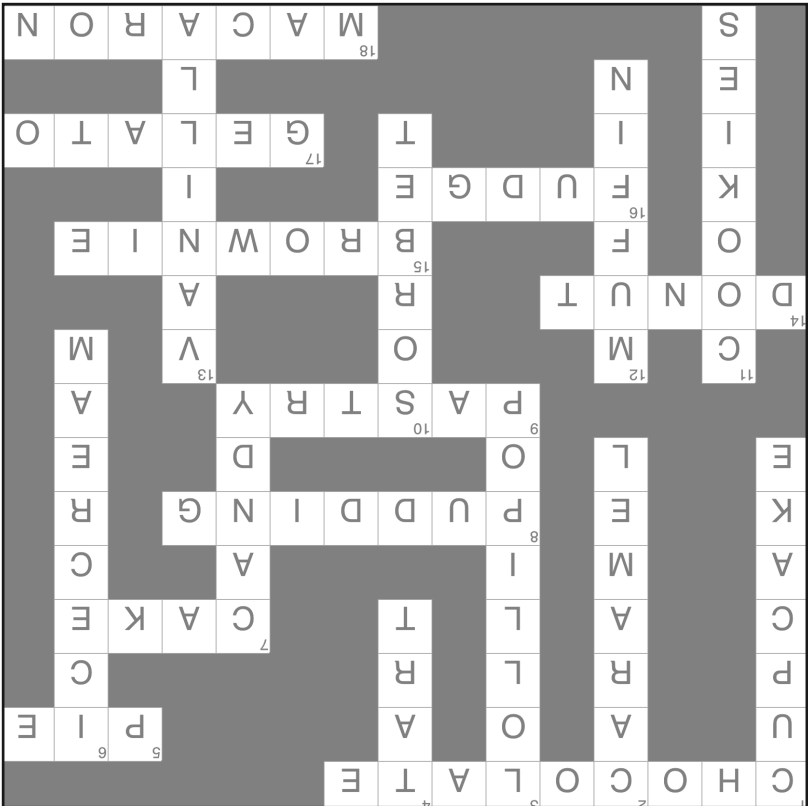


ACROSS

- 1 Common dessert flavor
- 5 Baked dessert with filling
- 7 Celebration dessert
- 8 Creamy dessert
- 9 Flaky baked good
- 14 Fried dough treat
- 15 Chewy chocolate square
- 16 Rich chocolate confection
- 17 Italian ice cream
- 18 Colorful meringue cookie

DOWN

- 1 Small frosted cake
- 2 Sweet, buttery flavor
- 3 Hard candy on a stick
- 4 Open pastry with filling
- 6 Frozen dessert
- 7 Sweet confection
- 10 Fruity frozen dessert
- 11 Baked sweet treat
- 12 Quick bread treat
- 13 Classic ice cream flavor



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Shown here is a picture of my great granddaughter Avery giving her Grandpa Brian's dog a big hug. Another is of Brian and Kim's new pup along with Arie, who she loves to play with.

Will the dredging ever be completed on Fountain Lake?

After reading the article in the Tribune I am very disheartened with the state of the DNR. For as long as I can remember, the DNR has been an advocate for clean water and the environment. This is why I cannot understand why they wouldn't approve the dredging permit for the final leg of the project. I am not a marine biologist, but it seems to me this is more politics at work. The bonding bill for the dredging was approved two years ago, if I am not mistaken. It is sad that they chose not to move forward with the permit, or just part of it. They seem to be more concerned about the perch count on Mille Lacs Lake than cleaning up a lake with a healthy fish count. It seems to me that the DNR dropped the ball on the walleye management on Mille Lacs a few years ago. They waited until it was too late before they acted, which caused a catch and release slot limit to go into effect for a few years. That will be all of my complaining for this column.

After driving past our two lakes the past few days, I now have the fishing fever. I still haven't pur-



Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl

Outdoors Writer

chased my fishing license for this year, but I will soon remedy that. Whenever I drive past open water, I get the urge to wet a line.

There have been some trumpeter swans that have wintered over in our area. I have driven East on South Shore Drive on more than a few different occasions. I noticed an area just a little west of the Jugland Bridge where there has been open water all winter. One time I saw geese and trumpeter swans and the last two times there were only swans. I can't remember this ever being the case in other winters. Evidently, they have also heard about climate change.

When I was a kid, I attended grade school at Hammer School north of town. I looked forward to spring when the water would be flowing in the ditches on the way to "the bridge" just south of our house. There were times when the water was almost going across the road. We would throw makeshift boats in the ditch and follow it all the way to the bridge. It really didn't take much to entertain us back then. The current was quite rapid, and my mother would warn me to stay away from the water. I don't believe that I ever came home with dry pants or shoes. Those five buckle overshoes could hold a lot of water if you got in too deep. I would stay outside until my mother called for me and then I would come into the house with my nose running and my pants and shoes

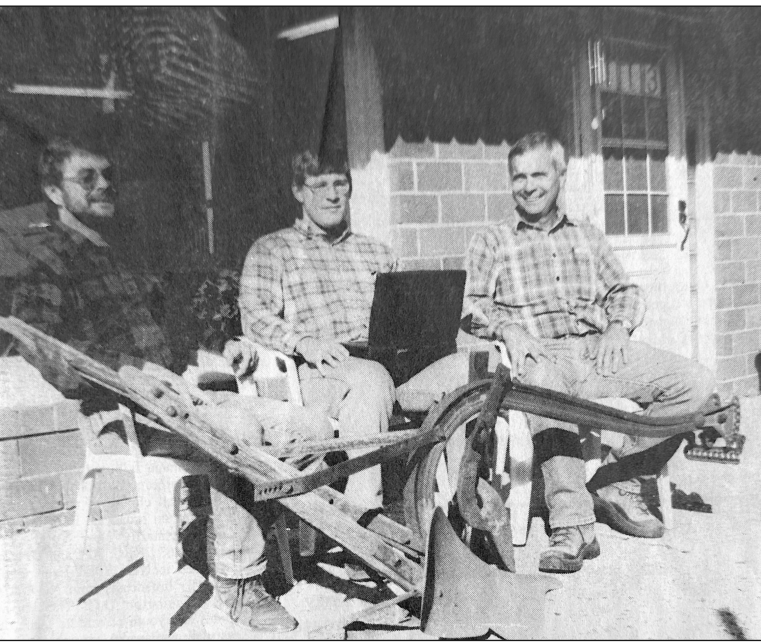
wet. I never got in too much trouble. I guess my parents were just happy to see me come home in one piece.

Until next time: My great granddaughter, Avery, is turning into quite the outdoors girl. Every Wednesday she goes to my son Brian and his wife Kim's place for a day. Both of her grandparents are outdoors folks, so she is getting indoctrinated into the outdoors life. She helps them feed the chickens each morning and plays with the dogs. She is all business when she feeds those chickens. She will go into the chicken coop, get a handful of feed, go out into the other part and throw the feed to the other chickens. She then goes back for more feed, and each time she comes back, she throws it where the ones she hasn't fed are. She's pretty smart for 1-1/2 years old, although I might be a little biased.

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

LOOKING BACK

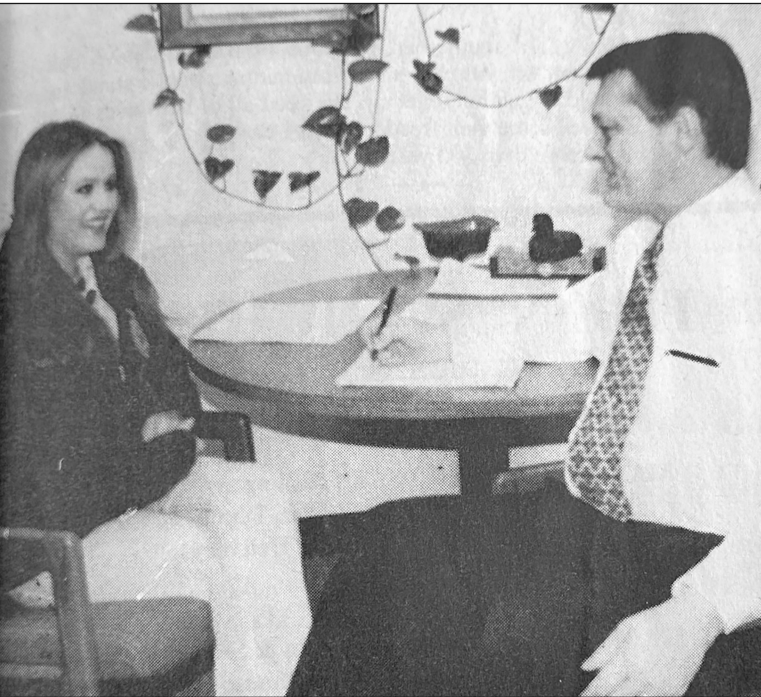
25 Years Back



- Taking advantage of some incredible weather for March in Minnesota last Thursday was the staff of Agro - Economics, 113 East Division Street, New Richland. Mark Bernard, owner of the business, is the fellow on the left. His assistants Greg Roesler with the laptop PC and Bob Frisk. Soil testing and fertilizer application advice is provided to area farmers by the three men. Temperatures over the 70's over the weekend and the first couple of days of the week have deceived everyone and everything into thinking it can't be March in Minnesota. It is predicted that it will change by the end of the week. The antique walking plow in front of the men is a symbol of how far agriculture has advanced over the years.



- A bunch of yellow crocuses was found by Lola Hagen on February 28 blossoming near her house in New Richland. She picked one of the little flowers and brought it into her house to enjoy. She left the rest to blossom outside in the sunshine. This is the only year Lola can recall in her nearly 85 years that flowers have bloomed so early in the season. High temperatures in the 70's have all of nature's creatures confused this year. Trees are budding, flowers are blooming and the birds are singing in the incredible weather.



- Lacey Fredrick, a member of the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva FFA chapter, placed fifth in the region VII job interview competition at Mankato Technical College, February 24. Her competition consisted of writing a letter application together with a resume, filling out an application for employment and being interviewed by a group of instructors on greenhouse assistant management. Here she is pictured in a practice interview with Principal Lee Obermiller.

- Byron Township residents contributed \$1,084.00 to their 1999 community fund. These solicitors: Sherry Pansuka, Mary Sack, Margret Dobberstein, Joan Lobberger, Earl and Kathryn Parriott, Ellen Chicos. Charles Cowell and Jeff Jensen completed the drive in late 1999. Area Chairwoman Margret Dobberstein, Kathryn Parriott, Mary Sack, Elaine Tesch, Mary Jane Byron met after the drive to send the donations to the charities as designated by the donors.

- Kristen and Ron Stennes of New Richland announce the birth of their son, Andrew Jack, on Thursday, February 17, 2000 at 3:32 a.m. Grandparents are Pete and Jane Stennes, Stan and Nancy Honstad, all of New Richland, and the late Jack Anderson. Great-grandparents are Paul and Blossom Stennes, Betty Olson, Angas McColey, Rose Honstad and George and Eunice Colmer.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship Wednesday - 5:15 p.m. Supper; 6 p.m. Bible Study	Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship Tuesday - Council meeting (First Tuesday)	Check the website for additional updates www.vibrantlifeag.com	101 East Park Avenue Hollandale, Minnesota Sunday—9:30 a.m. Worship; 10:45 a.m. Sunday School	Minnesota Lake, Minnesota Rev. Larry Sipe, pastor Sunday — 9 a.m. Worship
ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Otisco, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship	WEST FREEBORN LUTHERAN Hartland, Minnesota Rev. Marcia Pedersen Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship Tuesday - Council meeting (First Tuesday of the month) Quilting meets 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, see newsletter for dates.	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)	ZION LUTHERAN, ELCA Rural Ellendale Deacon Billie Jo Wicks Sunday—8:30 a.m. Worship	ST. PAUL UNITED Minnesota Lake, Minnesota Interim Pastor Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Sunday School; 10:30 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)	HARTLAND EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN Hartland, Minnesota Pastor Phillip K. Lepak Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship	ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST Ellendale, Minnesota Randy Cirkse, Pastor Sunday - Summer Service time is 9:30 a.m. Worship; 9:15 a.m. Sunday school. (No summer Sunday school) Worship is at 10:30 a.m. beginning after Sept. 3. Sunday School from Oct through May from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Food shelf is open every Thursday from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.	ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN, ELCA Meriden, Minnesota Deacon Billie Jo Wicks Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship	PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Minnesota Lake, Minnesota Interim Pastor Sunday — 9 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	MANCHESTER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN Manchester, Minnesota Pastor Phillip K. Lepak Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship	PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN Lemond Township Pastor Dave Klawiter Sunday—10:15 a.m. Worship	FIRST LUTHERAN, LCMC Hope, Minnesota Pastor Sandy Miller Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 10:15 a.m. Youth/Adult Study	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Rev. Larry Sipe Sunday — 9:15 a.m. Worship
VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 10:30 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.	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Clarks Grove, Minnesota Pastor James Cameron Sunday—9:15 a.m. Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. Worship	HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL Father Peter Schuster Sunday—8 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation; 8:30 a.m. Mass with Children's Church; Preschool Sunday School during Mass Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. - Faith Formation classes for grades K-Confirmation www.litomysl.webs.com www.stsidore.school.webs.com	ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday — 9 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	COMMUNITY LUTHERAN Geneva, Minnesota Pastor Leandra Anderson Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship (times very for holidays) Monday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting	ST. JOHN LUTHERAN		ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship
CROSS OF GLORY LUTHERAN Hartland, Minnesota Rev. Marcia Pedersen	SIMPLY CHURCH 105 Second Street North East Geneva, Minnesota Todd Lundgren, Pastor Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Bible Study; 10:30 a.m. Worship			TRINITY LUTHERAN Wilton Township Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor Sunday — 10:45 a.m. Worship



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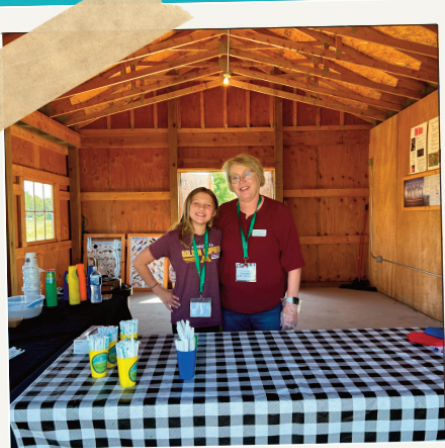
Band Concert



Members of the NRHEG band and choir presented a showcase concert the evening of Tuesday, March 11. The concert was an opportunity for community members to experience the "contest" pieces the performers had prepared for the yearly MSHSL fine arts competitions.

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CPR & AED TRAINING: 10:30 AM



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Though Time's passage, a gentle, yet unyielding hand, has softened the sharpness of absence,
like waves over sand. Yet, in the space between heartbeats, in the silence of the night,
His legacy endures, a beacon ever bright.

Love always,
Caron, Wendi, Kerry, & Julie