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■ Inside



Winter Sports

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 will take place at Hartland University Bar 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 host 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 meet April 8 at 11 a.m. Important news, gifts for all who attend.

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 3

A word from
The Word

And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"

Revelation 14:13

'We couldn't have done it without you'

LaVonne Meyer, Star publisher from 2003-'05, dies at age 84

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

Publisher of the *New Richland Star* from 2003 to 2005, LaVonne Meyer died this past week on Friday, March 21. She was 84 years old.

A brief "caretaker" of the *Star*, lifelong New Richland resident LaVonne's journalism career spanned nearly five decades. In 2003 when former longtime publisher Margaret Engesser officially retired, Meyer was the choice to take the reins.

In a 2022 interview with the *Waseca County Pioneer*, Meyer said she felt pressure to move forward with the paper's 120-some-year legacy and do everything she could to help that legacy continue.

Meyer graduated from New Richland High School in 1959 and was hired by the *Star* in 1962. Referring to then-publisher Margaret Engesser, Meyer described being uncertain about a job with a newspaper. "When Margaret asked me to work at the *Star*, I said 'No. No. No.' But she said 'Yes. Yes. Yes. Yes.'"

Meyer remained on staff for decades, despite what most would consider a very rocky start. "My first assignment was reporting on a dead body," she claimed. "There was a car accident out on Highway 13 and I had to go take a picture. Talk about getting 'real' real fast!"

Given the small staff and the many different tasks called for at a newspaper, Meyer became thoroughly acquainted with the day-to-day operation of the business—from the mundane to the sensational, working side by



LaVonne Meyer

side with Engesser.

All this while she and her husband, Richard, raised their family, which included sons Brad and Bruce and daughter Brenda (now Dobberstein). She continued despite the sudden loss of her husband after 25 years of marriage—news of which she received while on the job at the paper.

During the late 1990s as Engesser gradually withdrew, Meyer stepped into her shoes bit by bit, observing that, "When you

work for a newspaper, every day is the same, but different. You have to take the bad with the good."

In 2003 when Engesser officially retired, Meyer was perhaps the only choice to continue forward, eventually buying the business for a token price. At that time, the paper was located in what is now the power and light building along New Richland's main

Meyer continued on 8

Petsinger, Ellendale council, still at odds

By KAY FATE
Steele County Times

The fireworks continue at Ellendale City Council meetings.

The latest dust-up included flared tempers during the public comment portion of the meeting, and another formal complaint filed against a council member.

After disputing an ordinance change at a public hearing on March 13, Daniel Petsinger had additional grievances at the regular city council meeting that followed.

Ellendale currently allows radio and television antennae to be placed on its water tower for a fee; Pet-

singer, of rural Ellendale, has equipment on the tower for his business as an internet provider.

The proposed ordinance change would allow them only in a zoning district designated for their use, which excludes the water tower area.

"I find it interesting ... that the city said we would have a conversation," about the ordinance change, "however I'm not on the agenda for this meeting," Petsinger said. "One would assume that when you mention you want to continue a conversation, that it would be an open meeting ... not behind closed doors."

"I would ask the city council to

reapprove my addition to the agenda, so that I can properly be heard as far as [my internet business] and the use of the water tower," he said.

After some back-and-forth about what could be discussed because of pending lawsuits, city officials said they could not discuss it.

"Then I'm going to have to file a motion for a restraining order against the city if you're unwilling to have a conversation concerning my continual use," Petsinger said. "I have no

ELLENDALE CITY COUNCIL

other choice... The thing is, I don't want this. I'm not trying to do anything negative as far as the business on the water tower."

His comments drew scoffs from the public in attendance.

It should be a non-issue, said Mayor Scott Groth, who reminded Petsinger that in December, the city council voted not to renew his water tower rental agreement with the city.

"The problem with that is, I was not ever able to talk about any of it, and you have a conflict of interest

Petsinger continued on 2

NEW RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL

Ongoing flooding concerns shared

By JESSICA LUTGENS
Staff Writer

Plans and specifications for the 2025 street project as well as an order for advertisements for bids for said project were approved via Resolution 25-07 by the New Richland City Council during its meeting on Monday, March 10. One local resident served as a spokesperson for a group of residents who had presented a petition regarding the work.

The main concerns cited in the petition were ongoing concerns about water flow in Boot Creek throughout New Richland. Cory Bienfang, an engineer with Bolton & Menk then addressed the council to explain detailed plans and specifications for the project, which are on file at city hall.

Work to be done on Ash Avenue includes widening the roadway from 37 to 40 feet with two 12-foot drive lanes and two eight-foot shoulder parking lanes; additional four-foot widening on parent dropoff and pickup zone south of where the school buses park; sidewalk consistent with existing condition; new water main and sanitary sewer system; full storm sewer replacement; nine-ton pavement design.

Plans for Broadway include matching the street's current width, with curbs staying in "relatively the same location"; drive and parking lane plans were described as similar to Ash Avenue, with sidewalks to match the existing conditions; utility improvements as well as a new water main, sewer system replacement, and nine-ton pavement design.

Plans for Fourth Street include no change to roadway width or curb placement, a sidewalk on the south side, nine-ton pavement design, and a new sanitary sewer system that will "hopefully improve drainage."

Third Street will be narrowed from 40 to 36 feet and a cul-de-sac to match the existing roadway is planned, along with new sewer and water, and a storm sewer system that is expected to

Council continued on 5



The University of Minnesota Extension office selected Tony and Cassie Schlaak, and their children Ashton (not pictured), Owen, Evelyn and Hadley as the Waseca County Farm Family of the Year. The award was announced during the Farm and City Luncheon on March 20.

Photo by Deb Bently

Area ag leaders honored during annual program

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

The Farm and City luncheon organized by the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce drew about 230 people to The Mill event center at lunchtime on Thursday, March 20.

Speakers Stacy Schroeder, a member of the Waseca city council, and De Malterer, a member of the county board of commissioners, highlighted the interdependence and richly interwoven experiences of area businesses and residents, regardless of whether they are located inside or outside a set of city limits.

Schroeder commented the area's history and future are both "deeply rooted in the rich soil," creating a "hub for innovation and collaboration."

Malterer described her career as both a teacher and a partner with her husband in operating a farm. "I have been caught behind a piece of farm equipment making me late because it was traveling 20 miles an hour," said Malterer lightheartedly. "And I have been the one driving that combine or other

equipment while some of you were caught behind it." Malterer said she is pleased to claim Waseca County's 277,000 acres as her "little corner of the world," and went on to say "Our fates and our futures are balanced on the ability to work together."

Area legend Gyles Randall was selected to introduce Tom Trahms, the 2025 recipient of the "Waseca County Distinguished Agriculture Leadership" award. Trahms and his brothers operate Trams Farm Inc., in Alton Township near Janesville and manage an operation which produces 30,000 hogs each year. Trahms has served and continues to serve in numerous leadership roles with many regional and state organizations including Crystal Valley Cooperatives, the University of Minnesota Southern Research and Outreach Center (SROC), and the city of Janesville, where he has been both a council member and mayor.

Todd Stencil introduced Waseca County's Outstanding Young Farmer for 2025, Todd Selvik. Sel-

Ag continued on 5



FenceLines

by Mark Bernard

They can keep their dirt next time

The scurs and Weather Eye were glad to see last week's blizzard come apart. Will Old Man Winter leave us in peace now or does he have more fun and games up his sleeve? Starting Thursday, partly sunny with a slight chance of p.m. rain. Highs in the low 60's with lows in the mid-40's. Partly sunny on Friday with a good chance of evening rain. Highs in the low 70's with lows in the mid-40's. Mostly cloudy Saturday, with a good chance of rain. Highs in the mid-50's with lows in the low 30's. Sunday, mostly cloudy with a modest chance of rain/snow mix. Highs in the low 40's with lows in the mid-20's. Mostly cloudy on Monday with a slight chance of snow. Highs in the low 40's with lows in the upper 20's. Tuesday, April Fool's Day, cloudy with highs in the mid-40's and lows in the low 30's. Cloudy on Wednesday with a slight chance of rain. Highs in the upper 40's with lows in the mid-30's. On the 29th we'll see the sunrise back to 7 a.m. CDT and our daylight expand to over 12 hours and 30 minutes. On the 31st, our increase in daylight slows to three minutes per day. The normal high for April Fool's Day is 48 and the normal low is 29. The scurs are thinking we're due for some beautiful spring weather soon. Would they lie to you?

We escaped relatively unscathed from the latest "blizzard" with the heaviest snow falling well to our south. The forecast had me convinced as I scrambled to get extra hay, unloading and stacking it. I also moved feeders and another round bale strategically, so it was accessible to the ewes yet to lamb. I filled the water tanks. In case the power went out, we'd still have water for all the critters. Lastly, I hooked the tractor up to the snowblower. After tearing up the yard following the March 5th storm, I really didn't want a repeat performance. Granted, wet spring snow generally doesn't go through a blower all that swift. However, getting enough through it to maneuver around the yard is preferable to resodding chunks of it. This time of year, it'll melt fast enough, so paths are all you really need. I was a little nervous when visibility dropped down to under a quarter mile on Wednesday. Fortunately, it didn't last long. Was I sorry I'd gone to all that extra work? Absolutely not. Would do it in a heartbeat if it meant avoiding another blizzard. TX and NM can keep their dirt next time however.

The weather finally backed off long enough after the wannabe blizzard, so we could move the few pens of ewes with lambs down to the main barn. It makes everyone a lot happier, including the shepherds. No ewes hopping over panels and fewer small square bales being fed. The self-serve round bales are much easier to contend with every 10 days to two weeks. It's a better environment for the animals too. They're much happier to be in the fresh air outdoors rather than cooped up in a smaller area in the barn. Best of all, the lambs can really unwind and get some quality exercise in. When they were let outside it was as if they'd been shot out of a cannon. The lambs ran figure eights around the round bale feeders as fast as they could go. The stiff legged hops and leaps they toss in were part of their repertoire. Shortly after dusk though, their mothers seem to put a damper on their fun. It's over until the next

day when it'll start all over again. I've been itching to get a start gardening after finding the cache of leftover seed from last spring. So far, the soil surface has remained too tacky, making me think I'd only be wasting my time. Until it improves, I have to make do with seeing progress coming from the perennials. The daffodils have been coming along, and, while they're nowhere compared to last year (we had daffodil bouquets in the house at this time), the number of bunches has increased dramatically. It was gratifying to see the white daffodil planted last year emerging as well. There is a wide assortment of hyacinths, tulips, miniature daffodils and other bulbs coming to life. Perhaps the most anticipated perennial was the rhubarb. It's a little pokey, but it's coming. The little clenched fist buds of the first leaves were evident last week. I didn't uncover them as forecast lows in the teens tempered my decision. Maybe if we get a warm rain this weekend, I'll think about it. A piece of warm rhubarb pie for Easter would be divine.

We're all looking for signs of spring and I'm no exception. It wasn't the worst winter, but the cold snaps during lambing season tested our mettle. We've seen glimpses, but spring has been stubborn about asserting itself. Seeing the tinge of green pasture from the oval office and watching the ewes in hot pursuit of sprigs of new grass was a start. The silver maple buds are red and swollen with sap icicles forming in the trees on cold mornings. They serve notice that the sappers should be in full swing. The willows yellowing up in my travels reminded me it was time to get at the pussy willows. I did just that Monday night, hoping the warm days hadn't blown the catkins over the dam. When I got to my favorite bushes, it was somewhat of a letdown. A few of the catkins were already past their prime and starting to yellow due to a few days of warm temps. What was more disappointing though was the gappy appearance of the prized longer stems in the upper part of the canopy. I was puzzled, but it didn't take long to figure it out. The high winds since an earlier visit had beaten the stems up and the catkins littering the ground were proof.

Poppy continues to relish her "dog days," those days when one or both of us are around the entire day, so we spend time with her. After 25 years of Border Collies and heading into year three on a Corgi, it's still a steep learning curve sometimes. Of all the dogs we've owned, Poppy demonstrates her affection for people the most openly. The Borders were fine with some people, but they tended to be selective. Ditto with Murphy the Sheltie we had. She either liked you or she didn't, although she could be bought. If she discovered you had a pocket full of treats, you were in. So what does Poppy do when we're not home? Most days, she spends a large part of it sleeping on the couch in the dog hole created by Border Collie Ruby. She can spend time watching her little buddies the squirrels south of the house, but she has to get up to do it. After we turned the ewes with lambs out in the lot, she can watch them from the arm on the couch. Closer to the dog hole and another nap, something Corgis are all about.

See you next week...real good then.

This hits right in the heart

My best friend from high school texted me last fall - He had suffered a heart attack in August.

Wait. He what? When it happened, we were both still 50. I've moved up a number and he's closing in.

But still, what? It turns out he was having stents put in for some clogged arteries and suffered a heart attack on the operating table. I guess that's the best place to be when a heart attack happens.

I called him, and we visited for quite a while. We don't do that often enough. Life has occurred, and while we might text occasionally, the last time I saw him was for my parents' 50th wedding anniversary two and a half years ago.

We talked again recently. He had to go through plenty after his heart attack as far as rehab goes. But the problem of the clogged arteries remained, so he had to have bypass surgery. He was in the operating room for ten hours as they did a triple bypass with valve replacement. That's also scary.

The scariest part could have been much worse. After his heart attack, he was told that he almost didn't make it. In fact, if he hadn't spent the previous months losing a significant amount of weight, he would have died.

Thank goodness he realized he



Whatever Flips Your Waffle

by Mark Domeier
Contributing Writer

needed to make changes before all that happened. He has continued exercising, walking at least three miles a day once he was allowed to do so following his heart attack. When we talked, less than a week after his surgery, he was just happy he could walk fifty feet.

I'm guessing most of us have good intentions about improving our health. But studies by the CDC show that at least 40% of American adults are overweight or obese. I know I could trim some fat, and I need to do a better job of going for a walk or getting on the treadmill. I should eat better. I should not wait for something like what happened to my friend to happen to me before I do those things.

I should also take the time to stay in contact with friends like him. He still lives in New Ulm, so it's not like we're a great distance apart. The old excuses of chasing our kids around are pretty much over, or at least not

quite as consistent. When we spoke, he said we really need to get together and just hang out, like the old days.

I spent a lot of time at his place in high school. Part of it was we worked together at the grocery store, and part was his access to ESPN, something we didn't have at my house. We did enjoy watching sports! And his parents were the most likable people you'll ever meet; his mom kept us well fed, too!

We also were known to party once we were out of high school. In fact, he'd travel over to Winona to hang out with me and my roommates and sometimes imbibe too much. He attributes some of his health problems to doing that more than he should have, even farther into adulthood. Now, he said, the thought of beer doesn't really appeal to him. I can understand why.

I wrote about evolving last month. Sometimes it happens naturally, such as our tastes in television, books, and

music as we get older. Other times, it's forced. My friend changed, in large part, because he had to. He lost all that weight because he knew something was off. I'm sure a lot of people follow this path. It's a lot easier to eat chips and drink soda than it is to get off the couch and get fit.

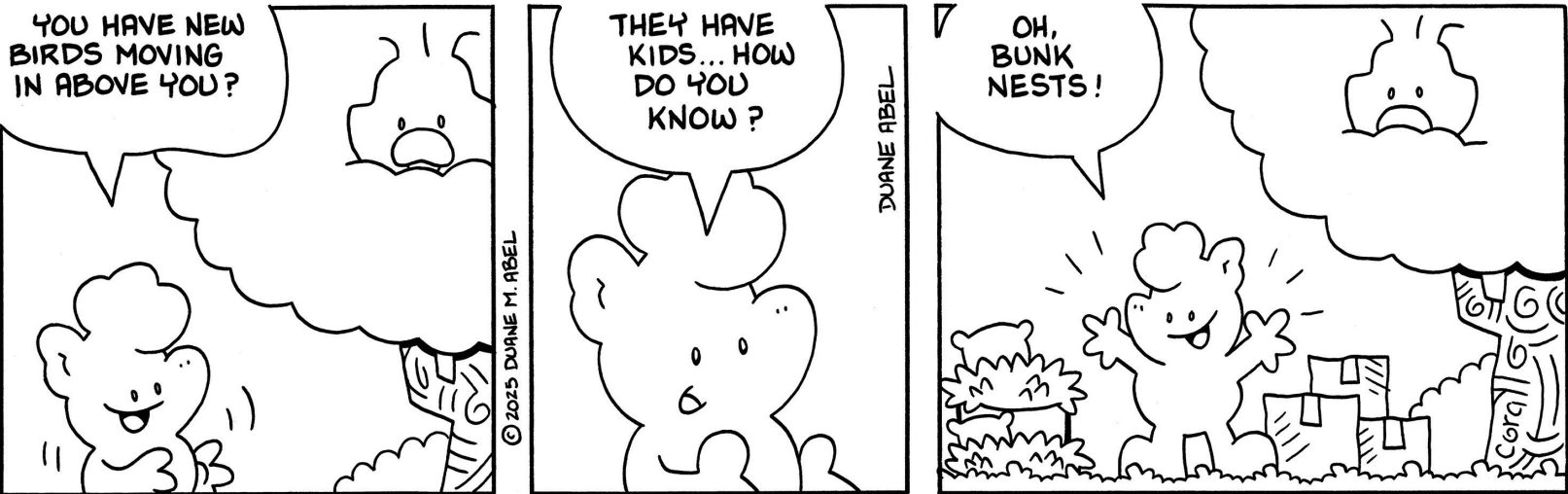
As we progress through Lent, many people give something up as a sacrifice. Our priest commented that we should do things to make ourselves better people. I'm not eating ice cream or drinking soda, which will make me healthier. But will I just go back to those things when Easter arrives?

Our body is a temple. We should clean it up, both physically and spiritually. We should not wait for the temple to start to crumble.

I need to physically get in better shape and spiritually keep in touch with my friends. I may still have heart issues some day; it does run in my family. But I'd like to put that off as long as possible. My family and friends would like that as well.

Word of the Week: This week's word is peregrinate, which means to wander from place to place, as in, "He would often peregrinate around town, with no clear path, as he walked to get in better shape." Impress your friends and confuse your enemies!

ZED by Duane M. Abel



www.corkeycomics.com

Thanks for everything, LaVonne

We lost a giant this week, LaVonne Meyer. If not for her actions, her life choices, there might not be a Star Eagle today. Thank you for everything.



Just a Thought...

by Eli Lutgens

■ Petsinger

from Page 1

here with Joel Meyer," Petsinger said, referring to one of the council members.

Meyer joined the city council in November to fill an empty seat.

Former council member Derek Bartness left the council after Petsinger accused him in a formal complaint of abuse of power, violation of ethical standards and consumer protections laws, and defamation; he claimed Bartness left a one-star review of his internet business.

Petsinger asked that Bartness be censured, and demanded a written online statement "fully admitting to, confessing to, acknowledging the wrongness, and apologizing to [Petsinger], as well as a 60-day posting of such at Ellendale City Hall."

Instead, Bartness resigned from the council two weeks later, with three months left in his term. His resignation was accepted in October.

Meyer, his successor, lives next to property owned by Petsinger, which has a camera mounted on a pole.

Many neighbors, including Meyer, have voiced concern about what is being recorded.

"All I wanted to do was deal with the business, separate from my personal stuff," Petsinger said of the water tower issue.

Sue Asplund, wife of council member Jon Asplund, spoke next.

"Since you voted on this in December, as a citizen, I think I should be able to assume that since you voted on it, you meant it and it's a done deal," she said. "You are under no obligation to provide a private business with access to public property."

Keith Haskell, a self-described investigative journalist, also addressed the council after arguing with City Clerk Steve Engel about distributing documents.

As he started his comments, he turned to the residents present and said, "No, ma'am, I did hear that and I will not sit my ass down."

Haskell then laid out what he believed to be the city's "egregious examples of bias, harassment, conflict of interest or discrimination" against Petsinger, but not other property owners and residents.

"How dare he not fall into immediate compliance and bow down to the holy city council," Haskell said, "even if he's trying to demonstrate to you that what you're doing is illegal and immoral."

Following the meeting, Haskell served Meyer with Petsinger's formal complaint, alleging conflict of interest, misconduct and conduct unbecoming a public official.

Petsinger claims to have police reports, trespass warnings, trespass citations, still photos, video footage, media accounts, court transcripts, city council meeting minutes and more to substantiate his complaint.

He is seeking an "open public hearing on the matter," the complaint says.

Star Eagle

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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.

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.

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County looks at new justice center plan

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

Members of the Waseca County Board of Commissioners got a first look at some design concepts for a scaled-down justice center meant to be part of a multi-phase construction plan.

The county was warned about two years ago its jail does not meet state Department of Corrections (DOC) standards and is in danger of being either downgraded to a short-term holding facility or closed. One significant shortfall noted on DOC reports is that prisoners being brought from the jail to court proceedings on the third floor of the historic courthouse are escorted through the same hallways and spaces as are being used by members of the general public.

Since becoming aware of the possible reduction, commissioners have struggled to find a balance between the philosophical question of whether the county needs to maintain a jail, given its average daily occupancy of about nine inmates; the scale and costs of financing and construction, since the district court also has numerous space-related difficulties; and the desire to avoid significant property tax increases.

After seeing plans for a \$42 million structure last summer meant to fix all problems at once, commissioners asked county administrator Michael Johnson to move toward a scaled-down project which would address the largest concerns. Based on funds already set aside toward the anticipated construction and on low-interest financing meant to have de-

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

creased impact on the tax levy, commissioners set a target price of \$12 million for the scaled-down construction and remodeling.

The county has worked with Widseth, a planning and construction firm with 15 offices, including one in Mankato, in planning the possible construction project. On Tuesday, Dana Hlebichuk, architect and vice president with the firm, presented a plan for a 100 x 126 foot, two-storey structure to be located behind the historic courthouse to the west.

Hlebichuk told commissioners the plan was highly preliminary and that the design he shared is in the "pre-

planning" phase. As conceived at this point, the structure would have a secure entry for the public, an enclosed walkway leading from the current jail to a designated entry, elevator and secure hallway for escorting inmates, and would allow court-related departments such as the county attorney, probation, and court services to be consolidated near the courtrooms.

In discussion which took place after seeing the preliminary plan, commissioners indicated they would like to see a somewhat smaller structure with numerous spaces reduced in size and some eliminated from the plan altogether.

During commissioner reports, board member Brad Krause shared information about survey work being

County continued on 6



School Board
NRHEG

Fourth grade class size moves to one, sixth to three

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

During their regular monthly meeting the evening of March 17, NRHEG school board members accepted the resignation of Teaching and Learning Coordinator Jason Toupence. Toupence will finish out the school year through June; 2024-25 is his second year on the school staff. Toupence told board members his family will be moving to a new location which is more than an hour away from the NRHEG district, and that he finds a commute of that length unmanageable.

Board members supported reducing the number of fourth-grade classrooms for 2025-'26 down to one, based on the number of students. District superintendent Michael Meihak informed board members, however, that the reduction is "staff neutral," since the sixth-grade level which had been reduced to two teachers for the current year will now again need three.

Teachers Darren Guildner, Kate Krueger, Katelyn McGowan and Zack Nelson were granted tenure, having completed their third year of teaching. Though both have fulfilled their duty to the satisfaction of the district, the positions of Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) teacher Calle Chartand and woods teacher Brad Root must both be advertised as available, since the two do not have teaching licenses which cover the subject matter they teach.

During their administrative reports, elementary principal Craig Kopetzki and secondary principal Grant Berg both commented they feel the year is going well, but quickly. Said Kopetzki, "We still have about two and a half months of this year left, and we're working to finish strong, but we're also already looking forward into next year and making some plans." As an example, he mentioned his hope to get funding for some new furniture, since some of the older furniture is beginning to come apart.

Berg told school board members he is working to strengthen the culture at the secondary school, and feels he is making progress since far fewer students are being referred to the office for behavioral issues. He mentioned it is his priority to help staff members feel supported, allowing them, in turn, to extend better support for students. "It's all about building relationships," he commented. Berg mentioned three upcoming extended field trips: Spanish students traveling to Costa Rica, band and choir students traveling to California, and DECA team member Chloe Stork who is advancing to national-level competition in April.

The district's contract with Interquest Detection Canines was approved. Under its terms, the

School continued on 5

Winter Sports

NRHEG winter sport athletes celebrated

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

NRHEG Activities Director Dan Stork extended many statements of gratitude as he opened the 2024-25 Winter Sports Banquet ceremony at 6:30 p.m. the evening of Tuesday, March 18 in the high school gym in New Richland.

NRHEG winter sports were recognized. Coaches from boys' basketball, wrestling, and cheerleading all spoke. Girls' basketball opted to celebrate at a later date this year.

Stork recognized co-op sports, including hockey with Waseca, in which senior Carter Martens had a terrific career playing goalie, earning a letter for a third straight year.

In total, nine senior athletes were recognized: Sierra Misgen, Carter Martens, Harbor Cromwell, Cole Hutchens, Logan Schiell, Aidan Schlaak, Aden Hanna, Jase Knudson, and Greyson Schaefer.

Many well-deserved awards were handed out during the evening. A sense of gratitude encompassed the room as speakers,

coaches and players reflected on their memorable seasons, and for some, entire careers.

The banquet concluded with photos and good conversation among the hundreds of students, parents, family members and coaches in attendance.

Awards

Cheerleading

Sweetheart Award - Ariel Star Anhalt - "This goes to a cheerleader who has always brought a caring and kind attitude to the table. She has one of the biggest hearts I know and always puts her teammates first even when she's having a bad day," coach Bailie Thom said.

Most Valuable Cheerleader - Madison Bogue - "Our MVC or Most Valuable Cheerleader is someone who has shown up for this team and always brings their best to the table. [She has] done a great job at being a leader for this team and is always willing to push herself to accomplish any task put in front of her. From stunting to leading the crowd in cheers, our MVC is Madison Bogue," coach Bailie Thom said.



CHEER - 2024-'25 NRHEG cheer squad.

Most Improved - Alexia Schmidt - "Our most improved cheerleader is someone who worked hard to not only learn a whole set of basketball, but wrestling cheers as well. She took corrections and asked questions, so she could be her best," coach

Thom said.

Life Saver Award - Ella Jenö - "A new award this year is the life saver award. The life saver was described as someone who makes

Banquet continued on 8

Ellendale delays vote on ordinance change

By KAY FATE
Steele County Times

In a bit of déjà vu from last summer, the Ellendale City Council was unable to move ahead on an issue it believed was close to being resolved.

Instead of amending the city's ordinance to restrict the location of radio or television broadcasting stations or towers, council members will seek the advice of the city attorney at a workshop on March 20.

The delay came after Daniel Petsinger disputed terminology in the proposed ordinance change during a public hearing about the issue on March 13. The public hearing is a requirement before the council ap-

proves or denies the change, which was on the agenda for the regular meeting that followed.

Petsinger and the city have been sparring since May over a variety of alleged city code and ordinance violations. In that time, he often noted typos and oversights in the city's paperwork, forcing delays in public hearings and council decisions.

In October, he and his wife Carrie filed a lawsuit against the city; the city filed a counterclaim in January.

Petsinger lives in rural Ellendale, but has a vested interest in the tower regulations: He has equipment on the city's water tower for his business as an internet provider. The ordinance change would mean his

ELLENDALE CITY COUNCIL

equipment would have to be removed.

Petsinger told council members in January that the move "feels retaliatory toward me and my business."

He has presented multiple documents that he believes protect his right to have his equipment remain where it is - and had more at the March 13 meeting.

"The council has made their desire to amend the ordinance without a definition of what things are," namely, what a radio or television

broadcast is, Petsinger said.

"Your ordinance is too broad the way it sits, because there's not a definition of what (radio) is," he said. "There's a lot of things that are considered radio," including cellular phones and their wifi capabilities.

Petsinger also pointed out a discrepancy between what the proposed ordinance reads and what the relevant zoning district use states.

The ordinance is referring to "radio or television broadcasting stations or towers," while the zoning district use refers to "telecom-

Ellendale continued on 6

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Remi, bride-to-be of Nolan Hohenstein
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OBITUARIES

LaVonne Meyer

LaVonne (Hagen) Meyer, 84, passed away at her home in New Richland, Minnesota on March 21, 2025, after a short battle of cancer.

LaVonne was born to Jasper and Lola (Miskoff) Hagen on February 20th, 1941. She graduated from New Richland-Hartland High School in 1959, and continued to live in the New Richland area her entire life. LaVonne married Richard (Dick) Meyer in New Richland on March 22nd, 1965. They had three children: Brad, Bruce and Brenda.

LaVonne began her career at the New Richland Star in 1959 as office manager as well as copy editor, receptionist, photographer and jack-of-all trades. LaVonne purchased the paper in 2002 from Margaret Engesser and continued to run the paper until 2005 when she sold the paper to Jim Lutgens.

LaVonne enjoyed country music, shopping, eating out, gardening, mowing her lawn, tilling her garden, cooking, dancing, going to Diamond Jo's Casino, and visiting with her Kwik Trip friends in Waseca. She also enjoyed following the MN Twins and Vikings. Her children and grandchildren were her pride and joy, sharing stories of them whenever she could.

LaVonne was preceded in death by her parents, Lola and Jasper, her husband Dick in 1990, two sisters and her best friend Mary Supalla.



LaVonne Meyer

She is survived by her sons, Brad and his wife Karen Meyer, Bruce and his wife Anne Meyer, and daughter, Brenda and her husband Luke Dobberstein; six grandchildren, Allison McNally and her husband Blake, Ryan Meyer, Skylar Meyer, Evan Dobberstein, Alex Dobberstein and Alden Dobberstein. She is also survived by her special "little sisters", Cheryl Engesser Kortuem and Sandi Engesser Jessen. Left to cherish memories are her good friends Doug Lund and Vivvika Niehaus, along with numerous other relatives and friends.

Services will be held on Sunday, March 30, 2025, at 1:00PM at Friedrich's Funeral Home in New Richland. Burial will follow at St. Olaf Cemetery.

LaVonne was in the newspaper business for 47 Years! This is her last story.

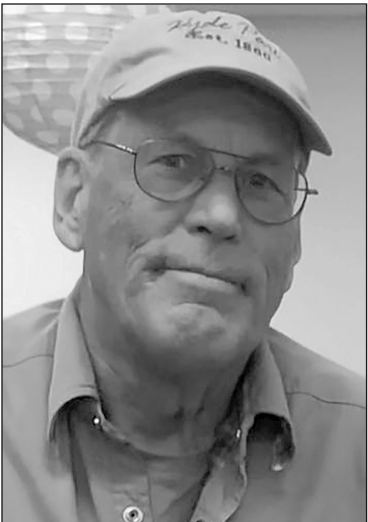
30

Mark Lynne

Mark E. Lynne, 74, died March 11 at his home in Hyde Park. He was born November 6, 1950 in Albert Lea, MN to Gertrude and John Evans Lynne. He was the second of three sons who grew up on a farm just outside of Hartland, MN. He helped raise corn, soybeans, and hogs. He helped his mother with the chickens. He attended elementary school in Hartland and High school in New Richland, graduating in 1968. After High school he worked at the Herter snowmobile factory in New Richland, MN, where he developed his welding skills.

He enlisted in the Air Force in 1970 and worked as an intelligence officer in the security service. He spent time in TX, Japan, Turkey and Shemya in the Aleutian islands. After being discharged he went on a road trip, passing through Cache Valley, Utah, and he became hooked on the area.

He worked building construction and other remodeling. In Logan he met his wife Lois of Idaho Falls. They were married in September 1975. Setting up roots in Hyde Park, they raised three boys; Andrew, Bret and Corey. They learned how to work with their hands like their dad.



Mark Lynne

He got interested in developing property, which led him to be on City Planning and Zoning for many years. Mark was a Hyde Park Lions member and participated in many service projects. He was an avid reader and listened to public radio.

Mark is survived by his wife Lois; sons Andrew (Kim), Bret (Cami), and Corey.

Grandchildren; Harvey, Max, Taylor and Zachary. Survived by his brothers Paul (Linda) and Earl (Ann) Lynne of Hartland MN.

No formal services are planned at this time.

Waldorf Fire Department's St. Patrick's Day fundraiser

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Despite a biting wind and temperatures around 20 degrees, seating at the city community center stayed full during the Waldorf Fire Department's St. Patrick's Day fundraiser the morning of Sunday, March 16. By the end of the event, about 380 people had been served at the pancake feed. The menu included pancakes, sausage, ham, eggs, and milk or juice.

In her position taking money and giving out tickets, volunteer and city council member Carrie Ferch observed, "It's been going pretty well so far; I think once more people start waking up, we'll get the big crowds yet." Sparky the fire fighting dog was also on hand. Inside the costume was fire department member Travis Beckstrand, who has now played the role twice: at Sunday's event and last August's burger feed.

Inside the kitchen, Caleb Amundson, Tyler Traynor and Cody Schnepf were busy flipping pancakes on a hot griddle. "As of 9:30," Traynor said, "we've cooked about 300 pancakes. By the time noon rolls

around, we will have cooked probably a thousand." He assured his estimate is reliable, since he, Amundson and Schnepf have experience making pancakes.

Mike Sutlief was present with his wife Leann. "We live over in Otisco. I heard about it from my friend Patton. We also like to support the local community. The food was really good today. This was well worth the trip."

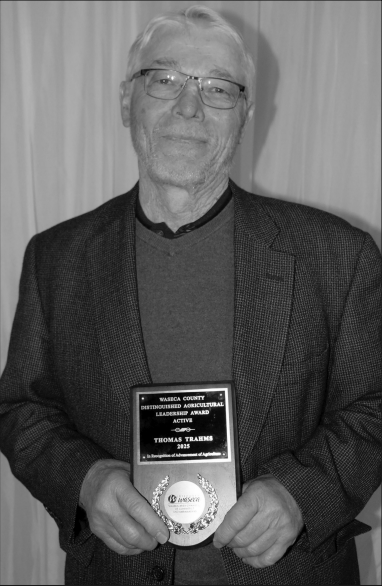
Missy and Lilly Sorbo were busy selling Girl Scout Cookies near the entrance. Although things were a bit slow early in the day, Missy was quick to assure, "Once church starts letting people go, usually that crowd brings us a rush. We'll see." Lilly has been in the Girl Scouts going on eight years. Her sash reflected her achievements. Missy said, "The Girl Scouts rank their girls differently than the Boy Scouts, so Lilly currently ranks as a Senior in Scouts." Both of them were satisfied with their breakfast and were happy they were present.

The next event to take place at the Waldorf Community Center will be the Waldorf Peppy Peppers 4-H Pan-



Sparky the firefighting dog was among the attractions during the firefighters' pancake breakfast at the Waldorf Community Center the morning of Sunday, March 16, 2025.

cake Breakfast from 7 a.m. to noon Department will have its annual burger feed August 22.



Alton Township farmer, Crystal Valley board member, and former Janesville city council member and mayor Tom Trams was acknowledged with the Waseca County Distinguished Agriculture Leadership award during the Farm and City Luncheon on March 20.

■ Ag

from Page 1

vik and his wife Meghan have three children, Sydney, Ethan and Olivia. Selvik farms nearly 1,900 acres in Blooming Grove township, and also shares in a hog operation which produces about 35,000 pigs a year. Selvik has served in leadership roles, including president and vice president for two statewide organizations of pork producers and has served as a delegate to the National Pork Industry Forum.

Christy Kallevig of the Waseca County Extension office introduced Tony and Cassie Schlaak, who, with their four children Ashton, Owen, Evelyn and Hadley, comprise the Waseca County Extension Farm Family of the Year. With his brother Colton, Tony continues to work the farm first owned by his grandfather Harlan and father Neil; he does custom field work and sells Channel Seed. Cassie teaches for Waseca Public Schools and was named the 2025 Teacher of the Year. The chil-



Todd Selvik was named Waseca County's outstanding young farmer during the Farm and City Luncheon on March 20. He and his wife Meghan live on their farm in Blooming Grove township with their three children, Sydney, Ethan, and Olivia.

Photos by Deb Bently



FFA members from Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton, New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva, and Waseca schools worked together to deliver meals to everyone dining at the Farm and City Luncheon on March 20.

dren are active in 4-H, having shown swine, goats and horses. Hadley and Evelyn grow a pumpkin patch.

Said Tony, "This is a great honor. We have been chosen from among many deserving families."

In his closing remarks, Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce president Mikhail Rostislavovich thanked event emcee Jamie Beck-

strand, who is head of the Chamber's agriculture committee, and all her fellow committee members for the work in planning and preparing the day's events.

He closed, saying, the work done by area agriculture professionals "strengthens our community and inspires us all."

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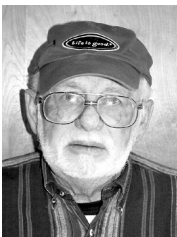
Compostings

by Al Batt

He said, ‘Burrrrrrrrr, gerrrrrrrr, Kiiiiing’

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS’ CLUB MEETING
Do you have any pets?
I have a goldfish named Richard.
Any hobbies?
He likes to swim.
DRIVING BY BRUCE’S DRIVE
I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. On March 19, we were blessed with thundersnow. That’s when a thunderstorm produces snow instead of rain. Actually, we had a thunder blizzard, complete with the trifecta of snow, wind and thunder. I feel sorry for those people who live where they never get to experience such a thing. What do they have to look forward to? Someone said thundersnow was a rare weather phenomenon, but I’ve encountered no locals who were shocked to see or hear it.
The closest to being shocked was an 84-year-old guy who claimed to have the body of an 83-year-old. He said, and I quote, “Well, that’s something you don’t see every day.”
I’VE LEARNED
I love walking to the mailbox. It’s a pleasant break. Breaks are important. We used to take a break each year to watch “The Wizard of Oz” on an ancient black-and-white TV, with the snowy part of the picture providing much of the white part. We endeavored to pause each day to listen to Paul Harvey on the radio.
The edges of cities, once they grow to a specific size (I’m not sure what that population is) become a carbon copy of one another.
It’s my friendly wave when someone allows me to merge that matters, not another driver’s wave.
I taught a community ed class on building bat houses. I started with the basics. I held a hammer and said, “This is not a drill.”
I watched a loved one play basketball. I stood and applauded in appreciation at the game’s conclusion. It was a claps in judgment.
In conclusion, there are 10 letters.
BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT
I have a dog to give away to a good home. It’s a cute, little terrier that doesn’t eat much, but barks a lot. If you’re interested, let me know and I’ll jump over the neighbor’s fence and get it for you.
Two tourists were driving through Louisiana. As they approached Natchitoches, they argued over the pronunciation of the town’s name. When they stopped for lunch in Louisiana’s oldest city, they asked a restaurant employee, “Before we order, could you settle an argument for us? How do you pronounce where we are?”
The employee leaned over the counter and said, “Burrrrrrrr, gerrrrrrr, Kiiiiing.”
NATURE NOTES
The black around a raccoon’s eyes is an occupational hazard. It comes from working nights. The black mask helps reduce glare from lights, making it easier for the little bandits to see during their nighttime escapades. It’s much like the black stripes athletes put under their eyes during sporting events, which absorb light and reduce glare. The raccoon gets its English name from the Powhatan word “aroughcun,” which means “one that scratches with its hands.” It gets the name trash panda or masked bandit from people who deal with them. Raccoons cover their eyes when they’re scared or trying to hide. Small children exhibit this same behavior. Scientists discovered that young children with their eyes covered acknowledged their bodies, arms, hair, feet and legs could be seen, but insisted they couldn’t be seen.
Pheasants roost in trees, dense shrubs, forested wetlands, farm fields, cattail wetlands, weed-grown fence lines, weedy areas like stands of giant ragweed and small farmland woodlots. Dense vegetation near foraging sites is necessary as escape cover. The pheasants that winter in my yard roost in evergreen trees. During extreme winter weather, pheasants can go up to two weeks without feeding by reducing their metabolism and energy. Yet, there is no “Diet Like a Pheasant” book on the New York Times Best Sellers list.
Birds have to hear well because they can’t read lips and their ears don’t accommodate hearing aids. Our range extends from a low of 20 cycles per second to a high of 20,000 cycles per second. The range of frequencies heard varies among birds according to species. Starlings hear nearly as well as we do at high to mid-range, but their hearing fails on the low end. While they may not hear as wide a range as we can, birds are about 10 times as sensitive to rapid changes in pitch and intensity. Birds hear shorter notes than we do. Where we hear one sound only, a bird may hear 10 separate notes. Generally, nocturnal birds, like owls, have more sensitive hearing than diurnal birds.
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FACT OR FICTION

...you decide

by Bob Hanson, Emeritus

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

■ Council

from Page 1

improve drainage.
The next step in the 2025 street project is to advertise for bids, with bid results to be presented at the April 14 meeting of the city council. An assessment hearing will follow, after which time the council will consider the adoption of an assessment rule prepared and presented based on the lowest bid.
An additional open house will be held prior to the project’s construction start date, slated for June 3. The goal is to have “drivable roads by the start of school” and “substantial completion” before winter.
It was also noted that transparency and feedback from the community will continue to be a priority throughout the remaining steps of the project. Information about details from a recent open house held to provide local residents more information on the project can be found in a recent Star Eagle article, and the council meeting can be viewed on the City of New Richland’s YouTube page for those wishing to hear Bienfang’s presentation to the council and answers to questions from local citizens in attendance in their entirety. Further information can also be found on the city website, with various maps and a schedule of the project’s milestones available in the March 10 council meeting packet under the drop-menu on the “government” tab on the site.
After no objections were raised during a brief public hearing held during the meeting, the council approved rezoning a piece of property at 110 North Ash Avenue to allow its use as an event center.
Tanyce Bruegger, police chief, presented the police report, stating that the NRPD responded to 102 calls for service in February. A request to begin the background check process for a part-time applicant who was interviewed earlier this month was approved by the council, followed by a discussion regarding diagonal parking by bus drivers at the school, which is a violation of state statute and has resulted in difficulties for parents picking up students and complaints to the department.
“It’s an ongoing thing we’ve been dealing with,” Bruegger said. “We’ve been getting several complaints over concern for people having to do u-turns and unnecessary traffic driving through the parking lot to get to the preschool dropoff.”
Bruegger reported she has been in contact with the school’s principal and superintendent as well as the city attorney, who approved an email to bus drivers notifying them that, if traffic continues to be impeded, they risk being cited for violating state statute. It is expected that the matter will be handled internally among school administration and staff.
Police department purchase requests were approved for \$935 for uniforms and two evidence equipment bags; \$3,750 to the South Central Drug Investigation Unit; \$3,379 to Lexipol for policy/procedure software.
Eric Hendrickson presented the maintenance and utilities report, stating that 11 blue cards were issued in February resulting in zero shutoffs. Maintenance purchase requests were approved for \$64,682 for control and alarm upgrades at the water plant; up to \$2,500 for crow’s nest improvements; up to three truckloads of gravel at a cost of \$468 each; \$1,035 for a one-year ESRI extension.
The ambulance, fire department, and care center reports were all submitted in writing, with the ambulance report approved as presented. The fire department report, which stated that five total calls - two fire and three medical - were responded to in February, was also approved.
The care center report noted a financial loss for January due to low census and high level of agency staff, and openings remain for CNA and RN or LPN positions. The report was approved.
Shell Johnson presented the PeopleService report, which included a reminder to local residents and businesses to be mindful of what goes into the sewer - specifically wipes, blue shop towels, socks, cigarette butts, fats, oils, grease, fish tank water with rocks, plastic baggies, food leftovers, and more, which Johnson has had to remove by hand in some circumstances. Other repairs that will be necessary in the coming months were discussed, and the report was approved.
A consolidated waste contract with Thompson Sanitation was approved. New business included the approval of February’s check register and financials as well as a discussion regarding a municipal cannabis dispensary due to a recent deadline for license application that would be required if the city and its residents desire in the future. City administrator Tony Martens noted that he reached out to Byron’s city manager, who has experience in the matter, and explained that the League of Minnesota Cities will not insure cannabis dispensaries at this time, the State Bank of New Richland - along with all but a handful of banks in the state - is not willing to handle funds from a cannabis dispensary.
“I caution the council about the actual benefit versus cost,” Martens said.
The council approved placing the city-owned 2016 Chevy Impala up for bid, and discussed a joint flood committee meeting with the county board. Following review of the administrator’s report, the meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

■ School

from Page 3

company will perform unannounced half-day sweeps of the secondary site nine times during the 2025-’26 school year at a cost of \$350 each time plus mileage.
It was reported the school district has benefited from more than \$58,000 in donations during this school year. Among gifts received this past month were \$1,000 from Finly’s Wings at Work to purchase xylophones for use in the elementary music program; \$2,500 toward the purchase of new choir robes from the New Richland Firemen’s Relief Fund; and \$1,127 from the NRHEG Parent/Teacher Organization toward the cost of the elementary rollerskating unit.

NOTICE

Summit Township Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 1

7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall

Andy Jewison

Summit Township Clerk

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Spring is teasing us again, as usual

As spring continues on in its usual attempt to keep us guessing, the birds are continuing to entertain me. I am not very impressed with the starlings and blackbirds that now appear at my feeders, but I guess that they have to eat too. Early Sunday morning I had a visit from a red breasted woodpecker that graced my suet feeder. Those are big birds with beautiful red feathers adorning their head. Now, as in other birds I have yet to determine who was allowed to name these birds. Red Breasted woodpeckers have no red on their breast, just as purple finches are not purple but red. Either the person bestowing the names on these birds was color blind or was a jokester. No matter what the name, I enjoy watching the birds at my feeder, either at home or at my cabin. I have to say the cabin has a larger variety and does not have any blackbirds or starlings. There may be a pair of red winged blackbirds that visit from the lake, but they do not annoy me in the least. When I was a kid growing up north of town and hanging out at the slough on Bridge



Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl
Outdoors Writer

Avenue, I longed for the sound of the redwing blackbird's arrival, because I knew that it meant spring was officially here.

Until next time: It looks like the lakes are open for business, unless there is some ice hiding in a bay somewhere. I believe that the winter has allowed the area lakes to escape freeze-out again this year. I see that they are still getting snow up and around where my cabin is, so I would guess that it will be awhile before I venture north. The first visit of the season to the cabin is always the busiest. Raking leaves, picking up fallen branches and, hopefully, there will be no fallen trees to deal with.

The ground is sandy, rocky with clay underneath, so the tree roots do not go that deep. This means that a heavy snow with strong winds can cause a tree or two to topple over.

I can't believe how quickly our last snowfall disappeared. This time of year, we usually have to keep an eye on the weather because you never can tell when old "Mother Nature" could spring a surprise snow-storm on us. I still have to get my outboard motor in the shop before we get too far into spring.

I can't wait to wet a line and get on the water. I may have to do a little shore fishing, which is something that I also enjoy. Buy some bait, find

a quiet place, and watch a bobber do its thing for a couple of hours, I don't think it gets any better than that. I've often said that there is nothing more relaxing than watching a bobber moving ever so slightly in a breeze. Fishing piers and shore fishing sites

The DNR cooperates with local government units to install and maintain accessible fishing piers and shore fishing sites across the state. Parking is generally located within 300 feet, with a hard surface path from the parking area to the pier. Public water access and fishing pier maps are available for most counties, or by request from the DNR Information Center.

Your feedback is important to us. Please send an email to report a problem or make a comment.

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.

County

from Page 3

done by Owatonna engineering firm Jones, Haugh and Smith toward "remonumenting" Wilton Township. Under a \$300,000 "Public Land Survey System Preservation" grant from

the state of Minnesota, the firm has been locating, registering and marking about 133 previously unverified section and quarter corners in the township. Krause shared with fellow commissioners that the firm has determined it needs to locate about 41 section or quarter corners which are in roadways, meaning they will likely need to dig into the roadways to confirm their locations. This is good news, though, since the firm

previously anticipated more than 90 corners would need to be verified in roadways. The entire remonumentation project, Krause reported, is likely to be completed by the end of the summer.

Based on recommendations from the planning and zoning commission, board members granted a conditional use permit (CUP) to Centerpoint Energy to construct a new compressor building on company property lo-

cated in Blooming Grove Township. Crystal Valley received a CUP to install equipment to allow the sale of gasoline, diesel and diesel exhaust fluid from an unstaffed station on its compound along Old Highway 14 between Waseca and Janesville. Commissioners added the stipulation that Crystal Valley should take steps to prevent semi drivers from parking on the grounds overnight.

Ellendale

from Page 3

munication towers or antennae."

The ordinance, if changed, he said, would remove conditional use

for everything — including cell phone towers.

"I just want to verify what we're having this hearing for," he said. "Is it towers, or towers and antennas, because they're two different pieces. When you're removing them completely, it poses some problems."

Mark Rahrlick, city attorney for

Ellendale, was not present, so Pet-singer offered his own advice to council members.

"I recommend you read these," he said of additional documents he distributed, "and I would highly suggest to consult a communications attorney, because there is far more that affects all of this. I would caution the city on making a deci-

sion tonight, and I would recommend the city do an open workshop and have some discussion."

The councilors did just that, tabling their vote on the proposed ordinance change during the regular meeting that followed, and setting a workshop to discuss the issue.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

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

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

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

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

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

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

CROSS OF GLORY LUTHERAN
Hartland, Minnesota
Rev. Marcia Pedersen
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

Tuesday - Council meeting (First Tuesday)

WEST FREEBORN LUTHERAN
Hartland, Minnesota
Rev. Marcia Pedersen
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship
Tuesday - Council meeting (First Tuesday of the month)
Quilting meets 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, see newsletter for dates.

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

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

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

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

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

VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH
Ellendale, Minnesota
Pastor David Modder
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 10 a.m. Kids church

Check the website for additional updates
www.vibrantlifefg.com

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

ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST
Ellendale, Minnesota
Randy Cirksema, Pastor
Sunday - Summer Service time is 9:30 a.m. Worship; 9:15 a.m. Sunday school. (No summer Sunday school)
Worship is at 10:30 a.m. beginning after Sept. 3. Sunday School from Oct through May from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.
Food shelf is open every Thursday from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

CENTRAL FREEBORN LUTHERAN CHURCH
Pastor Matt Griggs
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship
FM Transmitter is used for those wanting to listen through their car radios at FM 90.7

EAST FREEBORN LUTHERAN
Pastor Matt Griggs
Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship
FM Transmitter is used for those wanting to listen through their car radios at FM 89.3

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH/LCMC
Hollendale, Minnesota
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

HOLLANDALE REFORMED
Rev. Neal Ooms
101 East Park Avenue

Hollendale, Minnesota
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Worship; 10:45 a.m. Sunday School

ZION LUTHERAN, ELCA
Rural Ellendale
Deacon Billie Jo Wicks
Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN, ELCA
Meriden, Minnesota
Deacon Billie Jo Wicks
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship

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

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

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

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

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

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
Minnesota Lake, Minnesota
Rev. Larry Sipe, pastor

Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

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

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

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

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

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN
Wilton Township
Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor
Sunday - 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School
Wednesday - 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages 12-18

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

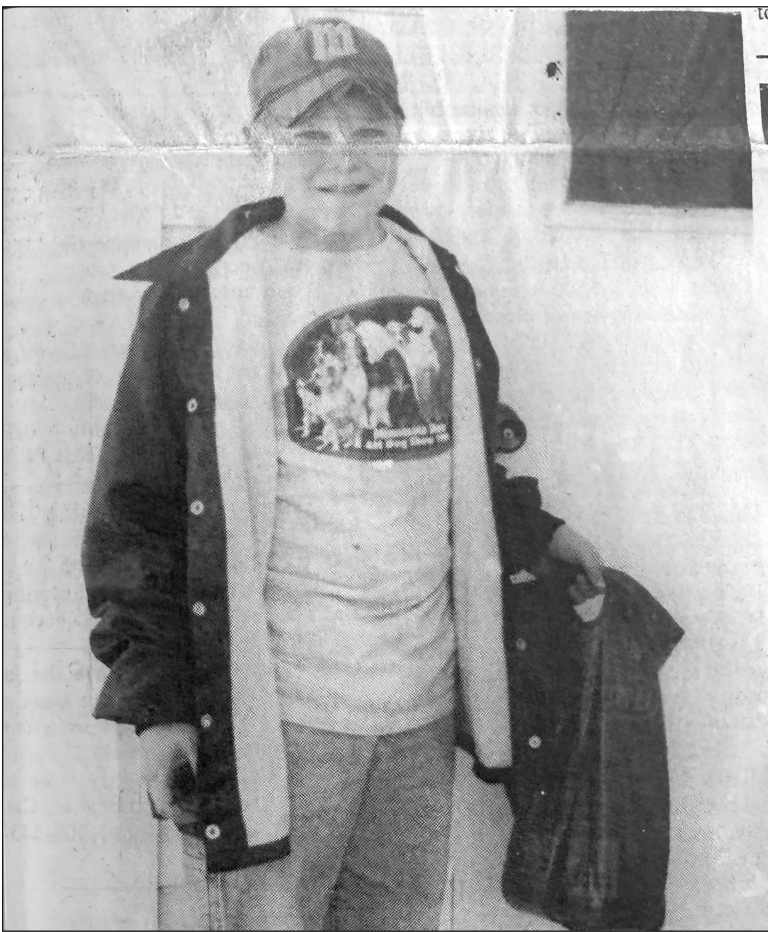
NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE STAR EAGLE.

LOOKING BACK

25 Years Back



- **New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Future Farmers of America Chapters Meat judging team was Region VII champion for the fifth consecutive year when they scored 1,670 points. Members are from the left: Dave Kuglin, who placed first individually with 661 points; Jeff Hanna, fifth individual with 528 and Chad Schoenrock, who placed 10th when he earned 481 points. The boys will advance to the state championship held during the state FFA convention early in May at the University of Minnesota in St Paul.**



- **The New Richland Cub Scout Pack 90 gathered 680 pounds of food in New Richland for the Neighborhood Food Shelf in Waseca Saturday in the Scouts' annual drive for food. The Scouts picked up food from homes in Hartland, which was delivered to the Salvation Army in Albert Lea. Here, Scout Aaron Payne carries a bag of food from the Raymond Hendrickson home of New Richland.**

- **Mike and Sue Pfenning of Rural New Richland Announce the birth of a son born at Rice County Hospital at 9:26 pm on Sunday, February 13, 2000. Samuel John, as he has been named, weighed 8 lbs, 6.6 oz. Samuel has two brothers: Billy, 10, and Sterling, 8. He also has four sisters, Crystal, 12, Hannah, 7, Bethany, 5, and Rachel, 3.**

50 Years Back

- **This New Richland FFA chapter Horticulture team took first in the District 14 contest at the University of Minnesota, Waseca, Tuesday, March 18. Members are Laurie Battey, Denise Korman, Patty Querna and LaRae Baser. This team will go on to state competition in May in St Paul. Being a new contest, only two teams from District 14 participated. The results were New Richland in first with 1,495 points and Mankato in second with 1,184 points.**

- **Seven New Richland-Hartland seniors left Friday for Albert Lea where they joined Albert Lea and Wells high school students for the annual YMCA Know Your Government Seminar trip to Washington, D.C. and New York. They are from the left: Nancy Williams, Arlene Thompson, Janet Roehrs, Mrs. Mary Sack (advisor), Mona Hinkel of Fulda, Carmen Johnson, Carol Winegar and Sandy Nelson. They will return on Easter Monday.**

- **Engagement Announcement. Mrs. Dawn Barich and George J. Barich of Ely announce the engagement of their daughter, Margaret Ann to Wendell D. Wallace, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dale Wallace of New Richland. Wendell attends the University of Minnesota, St. Paul and Margaret is a student at St. Paul Vocational Technical Institute. The wedding is planned for June 28 in Ely. A wedding dance will be held at the Monterey Ballroom, July 5.**

- **A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Glen Felsheim, March 12 at Waseca Area Memorial Hospital. Steven Eric, he has been named, and weighed 4 lbs. and 12 oz. at birth. He has five brothers, Fred is 13, Rod is 12, Joe is 11, John is 9 and Carl four years old. His sisters are, Maria, 7, and Ann, 3. Mrs. Angela Felsheim of La-Crosse, Wis. and Mrs. Ardice Mathews of Marshalltown, Iowa are Steven's grandparents.**

75 Years Back

- **The local high school music groups attended the district contest at Waseca Saturday and returned with the following ratings: Girls Glee Club, B; Mixed Chorus, B; Girls Sextette, A; Boys Octette, A; Band, C; Solos, James Breilein, B; Lois Smith, B. Because of their fine ratings, the Girls Sextette and the Boys Octette will enter the stage regional contest to be conducted also at Waseca, Friday, April 28.**

- **After 16 years of separation the ten children of the late Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Keen and their children enjoyed a reunion at the Oscar Werke Home near Hartland Sunday. There were nearly 45 present to enjoy a bountiful picnic dinner and supper. Those present were: Mrs. Harry Johnson, Mrs. Karl Krahn, Mrs. William Plinke, Mrs. Olaf Rotegard and Clarence Keen. Mrs. Julius Johnson, George Keen, Mrs. Andrew Larson, Mrs. Oscar Warke and Mrs. Carl Brecke, together with their respective families.**

- **Mr. and Mrs. Russell Krueger of South Wilton became the proud parents of a son, James Russell, weighing seven pounds and eight ounces, born at the Waseca Memorial Hospital, Wednesday, April 12. The Kruegers have a daughter, Marie, along with another son, Ralph.**

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Important Information Regarding Property Assessments

This may affect your 2026 taxes.

Notice is hereby given an 'Open Book Meeting' to replace the Board of Appeal and Equalization of CITY OF ELLENDALE shall meet:

Date/Time: Wednesday, April 9, 2025 at 1:00-3:00 PM
Location: Blooming Prairie City Council Chambers
Address: 138 Hwy Ave S
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you disagree with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local Board of Appeal and Equalization. The board will review your assessments and make corrections as needed. Generally, you must appeal to the local board before appealing to the county Board of Appeal and Equalization.

Given under my hand this 18 day of March, 2025

Steve Engel
City of Ellendale Clerk

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Board of Directors in Chokio, Minnesota is searching for a new General Manager to run this profitable, growing energy co-operative with four store locations. We are looking for someone that will work to grow the business and provide excellent customer service to patrons and employees. Candidates with fuel, propane, and/or convenience store experience preferred. Salary range of \$80-\$130,000 depending on experience, benefits available, Health Insurance and 401K plan. A full job description and application can be requested by calling 320/324-7151. More information, call Rodd Beyer at 218/770-9334. Applications will be reviewed beginning March 31.

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

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NEW RICHLAND, MN

RECEIPT AND OPENING OF PROPOSALS: Proposals for the work described below will be received online through QuestCDN.com until **11:00 am on Thursday, April 10, 2025**, at which time the bids will be opened and publicly read at the office of the City Administrator, City of New Richland, 203 North Broadway, New Richland, MN 56072-0057.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK: The work includes the construction of approximately:

Remove Bituminous Pavement	10,009	SQ YD	12"-21" RC Pipe Sewer	2,853	LIN FT
Clearing & Grubbing	20	TREE	8" PVC Pipe Sewer	2,285	LIN FT
Common Excavation	8,855	CU YD	4"-8" PVC Watermain	2,660	LIN FT
Aggregate Base, Class 5	2,857	CU YD	1" Curb Stop and Box	30	EACH
Type SP 9.5 Wearing Course (3,C)	1,723	TON	Concrete Curb & Gutter	4,918	LIN FT
Type SP 12.5 Non-Wearing (3,C)	1,196	TON	4"-6" Concrete Sidewalk	22,379	SQ FT
Traffic Control	1	LS	Seeding	2.3	ACRE

together with numerous related items of work, all in accordance with Plans and Specifications. This project is subject to Responsible Contractor Certification.

COMPLETION OF WORK: All work under the Contract must be complete by July 31, 2026.

PLAN HOLDERS LIST, ADDENDUMS AND BID TABULATION: The plan holders list, addendums and bid tabulations will be available for download on-line at www.questcdn.com or www.bolton-menk.com.

TO OBTAIN BID DOCUMENTS: Complete digital project bidding documents are available at www.questcdn.com or www.bolton-menk.com. You may view the digital plan documents for free by entering Quest project #9578919 on the website's Project Search page. Documents may be downloaded for \$50.00. Please contact QuestCDN.com at 952-233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in free membership registration, viewing, downloading, and working with this digital project information.

BID SUBMITTAL: A bid shall be submitted online no later than the date and time prescribed. For this project, the Owner will only be accepting online electronic bids through QuestCDN. To access the electronic bid form, download the project document and click the online bidding button at the top of the advertisement. Prospective bidders must be on the plan holders list through QuestCDN for bids to be accepted.

BID SECURITY: A Proposal Bond in the amount of not less than 5 percent of the total amount bid, drawn in favor of City of New Richland shall accompany each bid.

OWNER'S RIGHTS RESERVED: The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any irregularities and informalities therein and to award the Contract to other than the lowest bidder if, in their discretion, the interest of the Owner would be best served thereby.

DATED: March 14, 2025 /s/ Anthony Martens
City Administrator

Story Idea? • 463-8112

CITY OF ELLENDALE

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-7

A RESOLUTION APPROVING PUBLICATION OF ORDINANCE 2025-1 BY TITLE AND SUMMARY

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2025, the City Council of the City of Ellendale adopted an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 152 OF THE ELLENDALE CITY CODE RELATING TO RADIO OR TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS OR TOWERS"

and

WHEREAS, the Ordinance is two pages in length; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes Section 412.191, Subdivision 4 allows publication by title and summary in the case of lengthy ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the City Council believes that the following summary would clearly inform the public of the intent and effect of the Ordinance,

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELLENDALE:

- The City Council of the City of Ellendale has adopted an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 152 OF THE ELLENDALE CITY CODE RELATING TO RADIO OR TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS OR TOWERS."
- The following summary clearly informs the public of the intent and effect of the Ordinance:

"AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 152, RELATING TO CONDITIONAL USES OF RADIO OR TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS OR TOWERS.

The Ellendale City Council has passed an ordinance amending Sections 152.074 (L), 152.102 (B)(2), 152.116 (B)(2), 152.219 (C) of the Ellendale City Code. The amendment removes the conditional use of radio or television broadcasting stations or towers in an Ag District, R-1 District, and R-2 District.

This is a summary of the Ordinance. A full text of this ordinance is available for public inspection at the Ellendale City Hall during regular office hours."

- The City Clerk/Treasurer is directed to publish this summary in lieu of publication of the entire Ordinance and Code of Ordinances.
- The City Clerk/treasurer is directed to post a copy of the entire text of the Ordinance on the City bulletin board at Ellendale City Hall for a period of not less than thirty (30) days. In addition, a printed copy of the Ordinance and Code of Ordinances shall be made available for inspection by any person during regular office hours at the Ellendale City Hall.

Adopted by the Ellendale City Council on this 20th day of March 2025.

Number of Ayes: 5
Number of Nays: 0

Scott Groth
SCOTT GROTH
MAYOR

ATTEST:

Steve Engel
STEVE ENGEL
CITY CLERK/TREASURER

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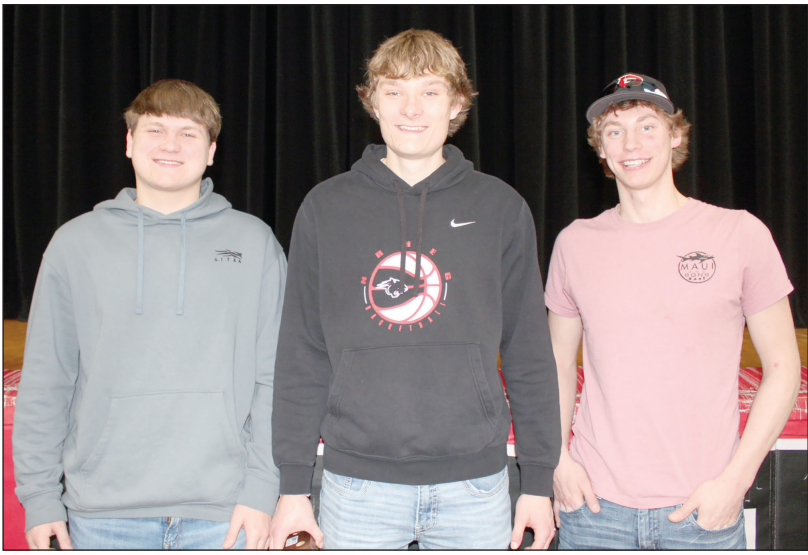
■ Banquet from Page 3

have never heard someone make so many people laugh. From trying to learn to salsa dance or playing hide and seek in the cheer mats, this cheerleader has never failed to lighten the mood. She has worked hard as a rookie this year and I have enjoyed watching her blossom into the wonderful cheerleader and teammate she has become,” coach Thom said.

Coaches Award- Tru Thao - “This goes to a cheerleader who did nothing but give her all this year. She took every correction given, was willing to try anything asked without hesitation. When it was time for the season to start, she came to practice ready every day and was always giving me a game day ready performance. I never once heard a complaint from her. Our coach award goes to Tru Thao,” coach Thom said.

- Girls’ Basketball**
- Captains’ Awards - Sierra Misgen and Madison Bogue,
 - Most Valuable Offense - Camryn VanMaldeghem
 - Most Valuable Defense - Quinn VanMaldeghem
 - Rebound Award - Quinn VanMaldeghem
 - Sparkplug Award - Chloe Stork
 - Most Improved Player - Kyllie Olson
 - Captain Awards - Camryn VanMaldeghem, Quinn VanMaldeghem, Chloe Stork
 - All Gopher Conference - Quinn VanMaldegehm
 - All Gopher Conference - Kylie Olson
 - Sportsmanship Award - Izley Boerner

- Boys’ Basketball**
- Panther Award - Jordan Brouwers
 - Most Valuable Player - Greyson Schaefer
 - Most Improved Player - Owen Wayne
 - Defensive Player of the Year - Brendan Schmidt
 - All Gopher Conference Second Team - Owen Wayne
 - Sportsmanship Award - Jordan Brouwers - “Jordan is a strong lead-by-example type of player that leaves it all on the court no matter the situation, and is quick to help up a teammate or opponent, even if he’s been scrapping for a loose ball,” coach Dan Schmidt said.
 - The boys finished the year with a 4-23 record. “We knew we were going to be inexperienced at the start of the season, and even though the scores may not have



SENIORS - 2024-'25 NRHEG boys basketball seniors. Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently



SENIORS - 2024-'25 NRHEG wrestling seniors. Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

shown it all the time, I feel that we had some big improvements from day one until the end of the season,” Schmidt said.

Highlights for the boys’ season included a sweep of Medford, beating TCU in an important matchup for seeding, and a last-second 3-pointer to beat Bethlehem Academy.

MSHSL Spotlight on Scholarship award, which goes to those with a 3.0 or above GPA: Jordan Brouwers, Hudson Chrz, AJ Deen, Brooks Gilliland, Mack Gilliland, Zander Hanna, Shan Hansen, Brock Holland, Lavon Jewison, Deshawn Jones, Jase Knudson, Sean Lassahn, Gavin Lewison, Calvin Nissen, Dom Olson, Brendan Schmidt, and Owen Wayne.

Academic All-Conference team, with a 3.5 GPA and above: Jordan Brouwers, Hudson Chrz, Brooks Gilliland, Mack Gilliland, Brock Holland, Gavin Lewison, Calvin Nissen, Dom Olson, Brendan Schmidt, and Owen Wayne.

All-Conference Honorable Mention - Owen Wayne - Owen finished with 10 ppg in the conference. He was in the top 10 in



Misgen Martens

the conference in steals with 1.7/game, ninth in 3-pointers with 2.1/game, and 16th in assists with 2.6/game.

- Wrestling**
- Most Valuable Wrestler - Ryan Schlaak
 - Most Improved Wrestler - Chase Johannsen
 - Most Team Points - Ryan Schlaak - 112
 - Most Take Downs - Harbor Cromwell
 - Most Falls - Ryan Schlaak
 - Most Wins - Ryan Schlaak - 23 and Harbor Cromwell -23
 - Captains - Aidan Schlaak, Cole Hutchens and Harbor Cromwell
 - All Gopher Conference - Ryan Schlaak and Harbor Cromwell
 - Sportsmanship Award - Cole Hutchens

■ Meyer from Page 1

street. It had only two staff members, Meyer and production manager Reed Waller—an artist and 1967 New Richland High School graduate with New Richland roots, whom Meyer had known since he was, she claims, “three-and-a-half feet tall.” Waller had returned to the New Richland area in 2000 and was hired as a graphic designer by Engesser.

In addition to everything else, Engesser’s death shortly after her retirement and the subsequent liquidation of family assets gave the paper no choice but to find a new home.

Still, perhaps out of determination to keep the publication’s legacy alive, Meyer persevered.

In her time with the paper, it had gone from using lead linotype equipment and literally “pressing” its images to designing ads and pages using computers. Photography had gone from bulky, box-like cameras that used black-and-white film to stream-lined “point and shoot” units that didn’t need film at all. Bookkeeping had evolved from pencil and paper logbooks to computer spreadsheets.

“And ‘Poof!’ went 40 years,” she recalled. During her tenure, many workers came; nearly as many moved on. “Some people just aren’t cut out for this job,” she observed.

Speaking of longevity, Meyer claimed the *Star* owes its survival to Reed Waller as much as to herself, saying he “deserves to be recognized by the community” for his dedication and commitment.

Meyer said she considered herself very fortunate to have found a career in journalism, and

“Follow your dreams. Follow your passion.” — LaVonne Meyer

took pride in all she was able to achieve and accomplish. But she revealed with a smile as wide as her ears that, when she sold the *Star* and retired at age 62, “It was a huge relief. A giant weight off my shoulders.”

In her words, the paper’s 2005 buyer, Jim Lutgens, “Wouldn’t take no for an answer.”

Meyer’s love for New Richland and its neighboring communities was strong, as were her roots.

When she and Waller got together to be interviewed (in 2022), they laughed over and over again about their experiences with the operation of a small-town newspaper, and perhaps especially about the Engessers themselves. Although Margaret ran the *Star* for decades on her own, she had originally shared its daily operations with her husband, Emmett, who died in the 1970s.

Meyer’s parents were Jasper and Lola Hagen. Her three children gave her an extensive family which, she believed, included the Engessers. The families remained close. Meyer and Cheryl Engesser enjoyed lunch together at least once a month for many years until Meyer’s passing.

Meyer’s message to young journalists out there, and really anyone was, “Follow your dreams. Follow your passion.”

During the 2022 interview, Meyer extended a thank you to *Star* readers for their many years of support, patronage and kind words. “We couldn’t have done it without you,” she said.

“LaVonne, we couldn’t have done it without you,” *Star Eagle* Publisher Eli Lutgens concludes.



LETTER WINNERS - 2024-'25 NRHEG wrestling letter winners. Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently



LETTER WINNERS - 2024-'25 NRHEG boys basketball letter winners. Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

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