



Inside:

3 - Prom

4 - Obituaries

5 - Art Exhibit

6 - Looking Back

8 - Sports

11 - Classifieds

12 - Prom

NRHEG



Star Eagle

SERVING THE NEW RICHLAND-HARTLAND-ELLENDALE-GENEVA AREA

No. 19 Vol. CXXXIX \$2 Office in New Richland, Minnesota 56072 Thursday, May 8, 2025

Inside



Prom

Party like Gatsby

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER - A total of 58 couples and individuals walked the magic carpet during NRHEG Prom Saturday, May 3, 2025 in the high school gymnasium. The night's theme was "Party like Gatsby." Shown top left are NRHEG Seniors attending their 'final' prom Top right are juniors. Couples pictures on Pages 3, 11 and 12.

Memorial Day photos request

Every year the Star Eagle runs a special section honoring those who served in our annual Memorial Day edition of the paper. We are kindly requesting people call, email or write the Star Eagle to request who they would like to see pictured in this year's edition.

Photos from last year WILL NOT be used unless requested.
Email:steagle@hickorytech.net
Phone: 507-463-8112
Mail: Star Eagle, P.O. Box 248, New Richland, MN, 56072

Graduation Open house ads available

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

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

NRHEG Greenhouse Plant Sale May 9&10

The NRHEG agricultural education program will have its spring plant sale the afternoon of Friday, May 9 and the morning of Saturday, May 10. Available to purchase will be flowers in hanging pots, flowers for repotting, and a small assortment of vegetables. The greenhouse is located to the west of the NRHEG Secondary school in New Richland.

Waldorf Petal Pushers plant sale Waldorf Community Center Sat., May 10

The Waldorf Petal Pushers plant sale will be held from 8-11 a.m. Saturday, May 10 at the Waldorf Community Center.

Available will be bedding plants, house plants, succulents, perennials and much more.

Restart the Beat AED medical class at United Methodist Church in Ellendale Mon., May 12

There will be a Restart the Beat Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) class at the United Methodist Church in Ellendale from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Monday, May 12. Free donations accepted, light meal provided.

A word from The Word

For nothing will be impossible with God. Luke 1:37

NRHEG students selected to play major roles in the May 17 and 18 production of the "Wizard of Oz" are excited about upcoming performances.

"Wizard of Oz" to take the NRHEG stage

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

The Tin Woodman, the Cowardly Lion and the Scarecrow express excitement at the way things are developing on the NRHEG stage.

Choir director Krista Reeder has brought together a cast of actors with varying levels of experience in vocal performance to present "The Wizard of Oz" three times: at 3 and 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 17, and at 1 p.m. on Sunday, May 18. Students in grades 5 through 12 will be performing.

The production has a tight schedule, with only a little over a month from auditions to performance—made tighter by a few days' delay in the delivery of the scripts due to a shipping error.

"I knew I was Dorothy," comments Sophia Williams. "But I couldn't start learning my lines or practicing until the scripts arrived."

Damazion Porter, cast as the Tin Woodman, says the short time frame is not a cause for concern. "We have a good cast," he comments. "Everyone is taking it seriously and doing what they need to."

"It's going to be a great play." As for his own role, Porter says he's enjoying some of the personality traits he gets to portray. "I don't have a heart," he comments. "So I get to defend other characters."

As the Scarecrow, Olivia Johnson says she is comfortable with her character's song, "If I Only Had a Brain" because she has been in choir "basically since kindergarten." The touches of clumsiness expected of her character make for some good moments of humor, she adds.

Maddie Schlaak, who plays the Wicked Witch, jokes that she was "typecast" for the role. She says she is having fun finding costume pieces which provide the right look for her character, and has been working on the "cackle" and "scratchy voice" she will need on stage.

In the meantime, "During prac-

Show continued on 9

High-speed chase leads to felony charge

Dylan James Fleming, 19, of New Richland, led law enforcement officers from New Richland and the county sheriff's department on a chase which spanned across back roads between the towns of New Richland and Waseca reaching speeds as high as 135 mph; the chase began at about 9 p.m. the evening of Monday, April 28.

According to official court documents, Fleming faces the felony level charge of fleeing a peace officer in a motor vehicle; two gross misdemeanors including operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol, and having a blood alcohol level of .08 percent within 2 hours of driving; and four misdemeanors, including consumption of alcohol by a person under 21, and reckless driving.

Fleming has a previous DWI conviction in Steele County from October of 2023.

According to a summary produced by New Richland police chief Tanyce Bruegger, the incident began shortly before 9 p.m. on Monday, April 28, when a New Richland police officer began to follow a white GMC Sierra pickup that was driving with "darkened" rear license plates. The pickup, which later proved to have Fleming at the wheel, drove to Highway 30 and began traveling westward, accelerating to more than 80 mph. When the police officer turned on his vehicle's overhead lights, the pickup accelerated to speeds as high as 135 mph, even while meeting a number of eastbound vehicles. During the chase, the New Richland officer requested assistance from other law enforcement agencies.

Roughly 5 miles east of New Richland, the pickup headed north on Eightieth Street, a gravel road. It maintained high speeds despite the road being soft from recent rains and failed to stop at any of the stop signs.

Based on the court summary, Fleming was able to elude the police car by turning off his vehicle's lights, causing the New Richland officer to withdraw from pursuit.

Shortly thereafter, two officers from the Waseca Sheriff's Department who had responded to the request for assistance spotted a white GMC Sierra pickup northbound toward

Journey for service makes annual stop in New Richland

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

On Wednesday April 30, 2025 Journey for Service made a stop in New Richland to collect a donation from the New Richland Lions. Dale Bayerkohler presented District President Lisa Kaufmann with the check during one of the brief stops, which included more than five dozen locations over two and half days.

The Journey for Service program was originally called Journey for Sight, a program originated by Lions International.

The first year that District 5M-2 conducted a Journey for Sight was in 1986, when District Governor Bob Vogel named Lion John Beneke (Glencoe Lions), to be his Journey for Sight Chairman. Lion Beneke acted in this capacity for five years, conducting the 'Journey' in his huge motor home nicknamed, "The Titanic."

In 1990, District Governor Harold Marquardt appointed Lion Jack Webster (Waterville Lions) to act as his chairman for Journey for Sight. Lion Webster has served as chairman of this annual fundraiser from that time up to the present.

In the year 2002, Lions International dropped their association with the Journey for Sight program. District Governor Elvera Trettin felt that the 'Journey' was such a success in District 5M-2 that she urged the 5M-2 Cabinet to continue with the project. During the 'Journey' conducted that spring, Governor Elvera and Chairman Webster decided the title Journey for Service would be more appropriate, since Lions International no longer recognized a Journey for Sight project. At the annual summer cabinet meeting in 2002, motion was made and seconded to change the name of the project to Journey for Service and continue with the project. The Cabinet approved the idea. Since then, it has been known as Journey for Service.

Monies collected from Lions, Lioness and Leo Clubs during the 'Journey' have always been donated to Cabinet-approved health related projects. The largest share of the funds collected has been used for sight and hearing programs.

Through last year, Our Lions, Lioness, and Leo Clubs have contributed a total of just over \$250,000 to the 'Journey' during the last 18 years. This is an average of almost \$15,000 per year. Also, since 1991 there has

LIONS - Dale Bayerkohler donates a check on behalf of NR Lions to District President Lisa Kaufmann.

been 100% participation by clubs in 5M-2, with all Lions, Lioness and Leo Clubs contributing to the 'Journey.'

The Journey for Service operates on a minimum of expenses, with only about 3% of the income being used for expenses.

Chase continued on 2



Fence Lines

by Mark Bernard

Full Flower Moon set for May 12

After the scurs banged the hammer on the Weather Eye enough times, the mention of rain left the forecast. Does Mother Nature’s incontinence continue or suddenly come to a halt? Starting Thursday, sunny with highs in the low 70’s and lows in the upper 40’s. Sunny on Friday with a slight chance of late day showers. Highs in the upper 70’s with lows in the mid-50’s. Sunny on Saturday, with highs in the upper 70’s and lows in the low 50’s. Sunday, sunny with highs in the upper 70’s and lows in the upper 50’s. Sunny on Monday with highs in the low 80’s and lows in the upper 50’s. Tuesday, partly sunny with highs in the low 80’s and lows in the upper 50’s. Partly sunny on Wednesday with highs in the mid-80’s and lows in the mid-50’s. On May 9th, we go over 14 hours and 30 minutes of daylight. Our Full Moon is on the 12th with the sunset occurring at 8:30 p.m. CDT. The normal high for May 12th is 67 and the normal low is 46. The scurs are destined for an afternoon nap or several in their hammock.

The Full Moon for May is on the 12th and is generally known as the Full Flower Moon. Aptly named, all one needs do is look around to see all the plants in bloom. At one time it was commonly called The Milk Moon as cows would be moved from their lot out into the pastures where they could enjoy the lush new spring grass. Between wild plum, crabapples, apples, pears, and the list goes on, adding not only their color but their fragrance across the landscape. The Ojibwe knew this as the Blossom Moon while the Sioux were more into transportation, calling The Moon when Ponies Shed. It is always a moon when Corgi’s shed, so it becomes the Full Lawnmowing Moon or Gardening Moon. Occasionally the Rhubarb Pie Moon.

There was not much planting progress this past week as we rounded out a stretch where we had measurable precipitation on 10 out of 14 days. Along with that many rainy days, there are of course clouds and not a lot of warm temperatures. From April 12th when some of the first corn was planted locally until the 30th, only 106 GDU’s were accumulated. So? It takes from 90 – 120 GDU’s for corn to merge and it will lean towards the higher side when the days are more season and keeping soil temperatures on the cool side. In other words, there’s a reason that it’s taking the corn as long as it has to come out of the ground. Soybeans that were planted early as well. When planted in late May with warm soil and air temperatures, sometimes crops will emerge in under a week or less, given good moisture conditions. It ain’t late May yet and we have

a blocking high in place so many are letting soil conditions get fit before pulling the trigger.

Slow lawn mowing progress continues. Even though there are places that needed mowing, the lawn continues to come on-line in patchwork quilt fashion. Sheltered areas and those with brome grass need it and the rest of the lawn not so much until this week. Near normal April temperatures were nothing to brag about out in the open and very typical for what we normally expect. We had two days with highs in the 30’s, five in the 40’s, eleven in the 50’s, nine in the 60’s and only three in the 70’s. The number of cloudy days didn’t help make it feel any warmer. There were no 50-degree lows or above in April. As mentioned many times, when it takes much of the day to reach a daily high even when it is over 50 degrees, then begins to go back down within a matter of a few minutes, it really doesn’t do much for GDU’s no matter what the base temperature is. With this moisture and forecast, things will take off like tossing a match in a puddle of gas.

All the proper phenology is certainly in place. The oak trees were already past the size of a squirrel’s ear at the ranch as of Tuesday morning. The wild plums have been in bloom this past week and many of the migrating birds are making their way through at the ranch. There was a rose-breasted grosbeak at the backdoor begging for me to fill the sunflower feeder on the 2nd. The first oriole appeared on the 4th as did a white-crowned sparrow. The crowning touch was the male hummingbird that was after the flowering plants Mrs. Cheviot had bought to put in the planters around the house. Bluebirds could be heard calling in the pasture that evening and a pair of wood ducks made a circle overhead that evening. House wrens were present Monday morning the 5th and a red-headed woodpecker was in the tree south of the house upon my arrival home. They’re all saying the same thing: It’s time to plant.

Poppy is becoming more stubborn as time goes on. She’s become bucky about taking her heartworm and flea and tick meds. Up until the last few months, she’d take the chewables and gobble them down just like her treats. The one of them didn’t seem to pass muster so she’d spit it out, forcing me to chop it up in small pieces and put it in a leftover wiener. Starting to think that she’s figured out this is a good way to get extra treats out of the deal. That’s OK. We can figure out a plan B. In the meantime, the companionship is worth it in the evening when watching the world go by.

See you next week...real good then.

Fleming was taken into custody and his vehicle was searched. Numerous open containers holding alcoholic beverages were found, as were a number of still sealed containers.

When arrested and taken to the county law enforcement center, Fleming was discovered to have a blood alcohol content of .11. A preliminary hearing took place the morning of April 29; another hearing was set for May 13. Fleming faces up to \$6,000 bail, or a release on his own recognizance with numerous conditions including agreeing not to consume alcohol or enter establishments where alcohol is sold and to be subjected to random testing.

■ Chase

from Page 1

Waseca on 128th Street and began to follow it. When it accelerated, they turned on their overhead lights and pursued it; once it entered the city of Waseca, the vehicle’s lights were turned on and off a number of times, but officers were able to find its trail because of black clouds of smoke the vehicle was emitting. As the chase drew to a close, the pickup had slowed its speed and was driving down the center line of 150th Street with its hazard lights on before pulling into a park.

Being one in solidarity



Whatever Flips Your Waffle

by Mark Domeier
Contributing Writer

will soon.

I’m embarking on, I think, my eighth contract negotiation. (It becomes fuzzy after a while.) You have to have some thick skin since you might have people upset at you, either from across the table or on your own side. Not everybody gets everything they want, and that can cause some hard feelings.

I mentioned understanding communication. It’s essential in a union to communicate and keep people in the loop. Many years back, we had a contract voted down by our membership. We had not communicated well, and they voted no, as is their right. The communication aspect has stuck, and we try to meet face-to-face with all our members before starting the process. We are all one union!

And there is the concept of agreeing while disagreeing. I thought we had a great contract agreement that year. But our membership had some problems with it. Even though I disagreed with their sentiment, when the vote came in, I had to “agree” with it, and we had to start over in the process. In retrospect, we’ve ended up in a better place as a result.

Last year, I was elected to our state union governing board. I’m already

involved in lobbying and insurance, so I thought it might be time to take it to the next level. After all, I have opinions! (Shocking, I know.)

What I’ve discovered most of all is that “disagree but agree” concept. My push on the governing board is to make sure outstate voices are heard instead of a focus on the metro area. Right from my first meeting, I wasn’t afraid to raise my hand and show a different side to an issue based on how life is out here in the less-densely populated areas.

At the end of the day, I don’t always win those discussions. Quite often, my point of view has been voted down. And once that happens, I have to put on a happy face and, publicly, agree with the board’s decision. It might be a tough pill to swallow, but I am only one voice.

I don’t agree with everything my union does or supports. I think there are some mandates the group is in favor of that could be dropped and have the money put elsewhere. I’m trying to be vigilant on how some of our union dues are spent and asking questions about where some of that money goes.

But again, I’m just one voice. And if or when the governing board does not agree with me, all I can do is

shrug. I have tried to persuade and not always succeeded. That’s how a democratic system works.

The communication continues to be key. I started emailing all my constituents, which involves teachers and paras from New Ulm to Byron. I’m pleased when I hear from some of them. They have elected me, and I want to hear from them.

I attended our state representative conference for Education Minnesota at the end of April. Over 600 educators were there to elect new officers and make some decisions to steer our union over the next year. I did not vote along with everything that passed, but I have learned to understand the rationale others have for believing something different than I do.

Wouldn’t that be nice if that worked in all areas of life? We don’t always “win,” but we can be okay with that.

My union is stronger when we stand in solidarity. Sometimes that’s hard, but the ultimate goal of treating educators well, both in compensation and respect, works better if we don’t fight amongst ourselves. I will continue to fight the good fight and stand with my union brothers and sisters.

And I’m always willing to listen! Word of the Week: This week’s word is siberianize, which means to send someone to a remote location as punishment, as in, “Once he realized the union would not siberianize him for disagreeing, he felt better about voicing his opinion.” Impress your friends and confuse your enemies!

A perfect day begins the night before

Recently I found myself pondering the question, “What is my perfect day?”

My lady friend and I were out on a date and I posed the question to her. Her response took about five minutes after which she insisted I answer the question myself. Before answering, I asked numerous follow-up questions which gave her the opportunity to expand on the answer. It was a fun activity. Here is my answer.

My perfect day begins the night before. I enjoy an evening cup of tea, a good book and a peaceful night’s sleep in a comfy bed at an ideal temperature, somewhere in the low 60-degree range.

On this “perfect day,” I would awaken on my own schedule, well rested, with the sun shining through the window. My waking hours begin with a cup of coffee on the porch—the coffee would be flavored with an ideal amount of



Just a Thought...

by Eli Lutgens

vanilla cream, not too much, but not too little. There on the porch, I’m accompanied by a newspaper and maybe some pleasant music—but no smart phone. I should add this perfect day is far in the future. My children are grown, and perhaps my grandchildren have spent the night, and will soon be running around enjoying themselves. Out in front of me, waiting for their rambunctious arrival, is a beautiful view. What the view consists of is flexible, but mountains would be an option. So would a lake, a river, or some thriving trees.

My spouse sits down and joins

me for a light breakfast. We share some fruit and cooked eggs—perhaps either scrambled or “Benedict” style.

Between breakfast and lunch, I would enjoy a walk, reading, work, writing or activities with family and friends. Each day of the week would likely have some sort of schedule, with one or two days left open for “whatever we feel like.”

Lunch would also be light, because I like to save room for a larger meal at dinner. In this world, I picture lunch as almost only a snack—maybe salad, lunch meats, cheese. Luckily, since it’s

a perfect day, it will be just the right amount to satisfy.

The rest of the day is filled with more of the same. Dinner might even be chicken alfredo, which is what I was enjoying on this particular date night. The evening ends the same way the perfect morning begins, with a good book, tea and a restful night’s sleep.

I went into such detail with my lady friend on our date that the conversation went on for almost two hours. The number of questions I was able to ask her as we went through this thought experiment led to an enriching conversation.

That said, what does your perfect day consist of?

“And we find at the end of a perfect day, the soul of a friend we’ve made.”

- Carrie Jacobs-Bond

Why legally define homeschooling?

By DR. MELANIE PILTINGSRUD

On Thursday, April 24, the Minnesota Senate passed Amendment 29 to Omnibus Education Bill SF 1740 that has homeschooling families up in arms, as these laws would make Minnesota’s homeschool laws among the most onerous in the nation.

The new amendment, which was introduced late, giving the public no opportunity to testify, would limit who is allowed to educate in a homeschool setting, where they are allowed to educate, and drastically alter the logistics currently utilized by most of Minnesota’s 31,216 homeschool students and their families.

Much confusion regarding the amendment has phones at the Minnesota Association of Christian Home Educators (MACHE) and the Homeschool Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) ringing off the hooks. “I’ve basically been answering questions about it all day,” said HSLDA attorney Amy Buchmeyer.

Much of the confusion comes from the definition in Article 1, Sec. 1, Subd. 4a and 4b of a homeschool as education directed by the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) with the primary address being a residence in Minnesota. People unfamiliar with homeschooling practices might see nothing wrong with this definition, but the amendment exhibits an outdated idea that homeschoolers are socially isolated individuals with little

or no opportunity to interact with other adults or play with other children.

“I don’t think the intention of the authors when they wrote this was necessarily to make it as restrictive as it is,” said Buchmeyer, who sites a hypothetical instance where, currently, parents may teach not only their own children, but the children’s cousins and even the neighbor kid. This law, however, is stating that a homeschool is among students who are related to each other by their parents or who have the same legal guardian(s). “Which immediately kind of limits the universe of what a homeschool is,” said Buchmeyer.

SF 1740 – A 29 further states that, with a parent’s or guardian’s written permission, someone else can direct, but the amendment still presumes the limited number of students for whom the parents or guardians are legally responsible.

“That’s ridiculous, ancient, archaic, horribly out-of-touch law making,” said Dr. Seann Dikkers, Chief Product Officer for Portals Academy, who selects curriculum for the Minnesota based company that creates daily lesson plans for homeschool families. Dikkers pointed out that people often instruct grandchildren, nieces or nephews. “So even within the family network, they’re not recognizing that you may have families beyond a traditional parent and child home.”

Furthermore, since homeschooling

EDITORIAL

was legalized in all 50 states by 1993, homeschool families across the nation have discovered how valuable it is for students to learn in co-ops in which parents take turns teaching classes according to individual expertise. “Minnesota has a very robust co-op community and it has a large network of families homeschooling together,” said Buchmeyer.

“It’s a face-style education, and it’s

really good, and it’s working,” said Dikkers. “And that’s the odd part; they’re passing laws like this with no regard for what’s actually working in the state.”

Since homeschoolers regularly score higher in academic achievement than the national average, Dikkers asks why limit an educational model that is thriving and produces such great outcomes? Per Dikkers, “They don’t have any basis on which

Editorial continued on 4

Star Eagle

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NRHEG Prom • Party Like Gatsby • Saturday May 3, 2025



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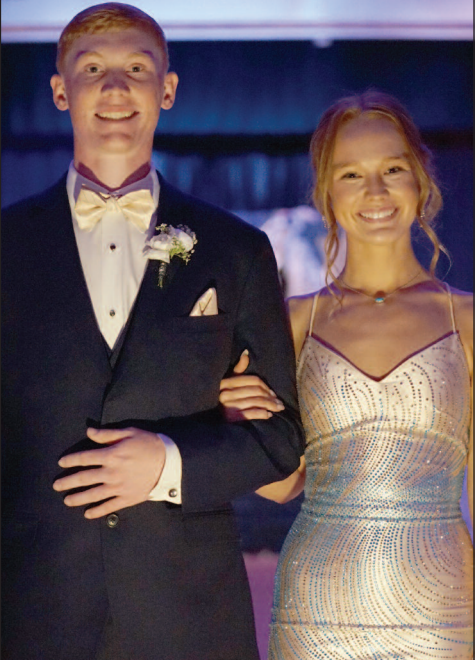
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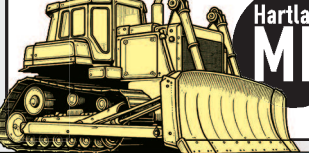
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Compostings

by Al Batt

Songbird Trail to run from Hartland to Albert Lea

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS’ CLUB MEETING
I want to travel to Iceland. But I’m not sure which way to go. Whatever means necessary. No, it doesn’t.

DRIVING BY BRUCE’S DRIVE
I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. It’s easy to see the road signs of spring. Various red or orange markings indicating roadwork will occur.

I love seeing the big leaves of the pieplant. Laura Ingalls Wilder wrote about being newly married and making dinner for a threshing crew, where she referred to pieplant, and that she needed to bake a pie from it. She didn’t add any sugar to it, so the rhubarb pie wasn’t a resounding success. Marco Polo brought rhubarb from China to Europe. Benjamin Franklin is credited with introducing rhubarb seed to North America in 1770, but John Bartram had been growing the edible rhubarb in Philadelphia 40 years before that. In the 17th century, the English became the first to eat rhubarb, but ingested the leaves because they resembled chard. The leaves contain an oxalic acid that causes cramps, nausea and worse. By the 18th century, Europeans had discovered that the tart stalks were the part to eat and were perfect for tarts. A neighbor boy, who enjoyed rhubarb sauce and crisp, called rhubarb the “good celery.”

I’VE LEARNED
In 1948, Music Digest estimated that Bing Crosby’s recordings filled more than half of the 80,000 weekly hours allocated to recorded radio music in America.

As a boy, I never asked if the chicken house needed cleaning. It always needed cleaning.

If they’re not otherwise identified, celebrities who appear in TV commercials should wear name tags.

I’m grateful those lilac bushes were allowed to grow and blossom after the house’s demolition. Their intoxicating smell brings a rush of memories. It was a part of the dreams of those who had planted them. Lilac comes from the Persian “nilak,” which means bluish. Lilacs were used to test fidelity. Five common lilac petals were eaten in succession; if that was done without a petal getting stuck in the throat, then one’s lover was true. People planted lilacs in memory of the deceased or to mark graves. Their pleasant smell caused lilacs to be planted near outhouses. They persist as living markers, reminding us of the past. A farm may be gone, but the lilacs remember.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT
"I'm sorry" and "I apologize" usually mean the same thing, but not at a funeral.

Scuba is an acronym for self-

contained underwater breathing apparatus. Tuba is an acronym for terrible underwater breathing apparatus.

Why was it called the Dark Ages? It was because of all the knights.

Why do the numbers 1 through 12 work the hardest? It’s because they’re always on the clock.

They put jokes on the back of bacon packages. My favorite one is: Serving size: 2 slices.

NEWS FROM HARTLAND HAROLD
I’ll miss Harvey Berg, a former Hartlander who settled in faraway Waseca. He was a good guy and a good friend. I miss his kind ways.

The multi-use trail that will run from Hartland to Albert Lea on abandoned railroad tracks has an official name—the Songbird Trail.

NATURE NOTES
“How can I tell if a ladybug is a multicolored lady beetle?” This beetle is originally from Asia and was first released for biological control of other insects in this country in 1916. It’s not known for certain whether the establishment of lady beetles in the US resulted from accidental entries, planned releases or both. The beetle’s color ranges from yellow to orange to red, with zero to 19 black spots. The wings could even be black with red spots. That’s why its name includes “multicolored.” A consistent pattern is the black “M” on a white plate behind its head, just above the wings. It could be an “M” or a “W,” depending upon whether the beetle is viewed from the front or rear.

Starling, starling. First starling I see today. I wish I might, I wish I may, have this wish I wish today. That’s right, I wished upon a starling. May never leaves me dismayed. Everyone should go outdoors if for no other reason than it’s safer than going out windows. It was a gee-whiz morning for me. The suet feeders had a rush of business made up of rose-breasted grosbeaks, brown thrashers, woodpeckers (downy, hairy & red-bellied), starlings, nuthatches, chickadees and blue jays. It was the time of the whistling sparrows, and I loved the company of white-throated, Harris’s and white-crowned. It was a time when I remembered how much I enjoy wren and thrasher music. It was like hearing a nearly forgotten Etta James song again.

Life is made of little moments. I was thrilled to see meadowlarks flapping with short, stiff, grouse-like wingbeats and gliding as I listened to the snoring sounds of leopard frogs. A western meadowlark sings, “Have-you-planted your wheat yet?” and an eastern meadowlark sings “Spring of the year!”

MEETING ADJOURNED
“In a world where you can be anything, be kind.”—Clare Pooley.

Solberg and Hoppe Exhibit

By MELANIE PILTINGSRUD
Copy Editor

The Waseca Art Center hosted a reception on Thurs. evening, May 1 for an exhibition of artwork by Olivia Hoppe and Mary Catherine Solberg, two artists from far afield.

Considering the pouring rain on Thurs. evening, the reception was surprisingly well attended.

Mikhail Rostislavovich, current president of the Waseca Art Center (WAC), kicked the evening off by introducing WAC board members: Brad Donner; Katie Youngberg; Missy Donner, past president; Jeanne Sexton; Caitlin Roberts; Ann Staloch; Commissioner Brad Milbrath; and Christy Easton, director of education and programming; and Penny Vought, vice president; and Diane Beckmann.

Rostislavovich then introduced the two featured artists: Hoppe and Solberg.

Solberg spoke about her work over the years, explaining that the paintings fall into various categories. What Solberg calls “swim girls,” are paintings that are “less about swimming than about transformation.” The religious iconography of her Catholic upbringing resulted in a series on icons, in which she depicts people or animals, such as a squirrel or a groundhog, and elevate them to the sacred level using gold leaf. A collection of animal paintings is deeply personal for Solberg, because her inspiration are photographs taken by her late brother, Jim Solberg. In these paintings, Solberg always adds a personal touch, such as the piece of candy corn in the painting “Groundhog Devouring Candy Corn.”

Solberg enjoyed creating art all her life, but initially took the 'sensible' approach and avoided making a career of it. “I always was good at drawing faces,” said Solberg, who remembers drawing a caricature of one of her teachers. “But you can't make money doing art, right?” Solberg became a land surveyor, but always found herself wanting to squeeze art into her schedule.

Solberg opened a gallery in La Cross, Wis. and supported other artists. Finally, her husband, Patrick, an architect, told her she should make art her full-time work, and he would support her.

Each of Solberg's paintings has a story behind it. “The Pacifier” portrays the daughter of a friend, who sent her the photo. “I saw that picture, and I got up that morning, and I thought, ‘She’s so badass.’ I just started painting, and I painted her straight through. I was so inspired,” said Solberg. “I’m all about women and [...] women grabbing their power and having their moment, especially young girls. It just sort of said a lot of things that I feel inside.”

Many of Solberg's paintings start with a thin layer of plaster to create texture on the canvas. Solberg said she's sure others in the art world must be doing the same thing, but she came upon the technique through happenstance.

“Part of my goal is to make it feel ancient and modern at the same time,” Solberg said. “I’m really inspired by the Renaissance. So I want to have that sort of vibe that this is old and yet new.”

She wanted to use oil paints, but found she was allergic to some of the colors. When she discovered Senne-lie oil pastels, she fell in love.



From left: Olivia Hoppe, Mikhail Rostislavovich, Mary Catherine Solberg, and Penny Vought.

Photo by Melanie Piltingsrud

“They’re so fabulous, and I’ve got millions of them,” said the artist. Oil pastels are another tool Solberg uses to create the aged effect she’s looking for. “They skip over the crevices just that little bit, so the [background] comes through, whereas, if I used thick oil paint, that would be saturated in.”

Solberg's paintings aren't exclusively created with oil pastels though. “I break the rules,” said Solberg. Many of her paintings are a combination of traditional oil paints, acrylics, and oil pastels. But it's the fixative she uses between the layers that allows her to combine different mediums without compromising the integrity or longevity of the work. Because she has to let the layers dry, Solberg normally has two or three paintings in progress at once. She finishes the paintings with a lot of varnish, so that, even if they sit out in the rain, the works won't be harmed. Solberg said, “We had one outside on our pole barn for years.”

Solberg's studio in northeast Minneapolis is open by appointment, every second Saturday, and for events. A number of galleries are also representing Solberg. Information concerning Solberg's work, the galleries that showcase her work, and upcoming events can be found on her website: www.marycatherinesolberg.com.

Although Hoppe declined to speak publicly at the reception, she was happy to answer questions as people viewed her work in the Beckmann Gallery.

Hoppe, of Miltona, Minn., often creates her own canvases from items located on the farm where her husband, Frank, grew up, and which the couple are now purchasing. Gourds, cow bones, wood, and wasp nests, which she soaks and flattens, are all canvases to Hoppe.

Of the gourds, she said, “When I was a kid I went to the Riverboat Festival in Aitkin. There was a gal there that was doing gourd art and she gave me a couple of little gourds.” The young Hoppe thought, “Well, these are fun!” She cut the

Show continued on 9

‘Senior Assassination’ brings humorous excitement

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

According to one member of the NRHEG senior class, “about half” of NRHEG twelfth-graders signed up for a school specific, internet-guided contest referred to as “Senior Assassination.”

“The idea is to shoot each other with water,” explains Harbor Cromwell, who is among the participants. “At the end, the last one ‘still alive’ wins a prize.”

The five-day contest began at midnight the morning of Thursday, May 1. Participants paid a \$5 fee, and, as the melee started, were assigned a random classmate whom it was their job to “assassinate.”

“You can see your target’s location on a map,” points out Ava Cummins. “It updates every 10 minutes.”

A number of rules are meant to keep the contest from becoming a major disruption. School counselor Liz Stier-nagle, who says she acquainted herself with the rules so she could help monitor student behavior, explains that no “kills” are valid if performed inside the school building or inside the victim’s place of employment. They are also not valid if they “cause a disruption” at a place of employment.

“But the parking lots are fair game,” observes Cummins.

One of the requirements of the contest is that students provide a video of the “assassination.” The video is reviewed by contest managers and the “hit” is declared “valid” or “invalid” depending on whether all specifications are met.

Participants can protect themselves with some rather entertaining types of “armor,” including a life jacket, inflatable “floaties” armbands of the type young children wear while swimming, or goggles or a swim mask.

Because of “senior assassination,” students began arriving at school Thursday morning wearing various pieces of swim attire. Groups of friends chatted intently during free time regarding the habits and schedules of their respective “targets.”

Cummins described arriving at school around 8 a.m. and waiting in her car until her unknown target, Jayce Ihrke, arrived. As he got out of his car and started walking toward the school building, she exited her vehicle wearing her red-white-and-blue life jacket while also wearing her backpack and carrying a water pistol and



A defense for those participating in the "senior assassination" contest was to wear a form of water gear, almost as though it were a bullet-proof vest. Here, Aspyn Stenzel sports a pair of "floaties" to protect against being ambushed.

Photos by Deb Bently

her smartphone. The one was to open fire, the other to record the “kill.”

“I made a big mistake,” Cummins admits. “I started to laugh.”

Ihrke says he saw Cummins approaching, realized he was not wearing his goggles, and was therefore in danger. “I saw Ava pull out the water pistol,” he recalls. “So I shoved Jordan Brouwers in between us, and I ran.

“But I’m good now,” he comments, pulling a pair of swim goggles from his pocket.

In the meantime, he is willing to reveal his assigned “target” is classmate



NRHEG Seniors Ava Cummins and Jayce Ihrke are among roughly half the twelfth-graders at the school who participated in a "senior assassination" game. On the first morning of the contest, Ava set an ambush for Jayce, but was not successful in meeting all the steps needed to remove him from the contest.

Grace Starman, who because she has morning classes online, typically arrives at school during lunch. As he sees Starman approaching outside, he takes advantage of the lunchtime flexibility to step outside the door, accompanied by friend Jaydn Fleming carrying his smartphone as a video camera.

Starman recognized she was doomed when she saw the water pistol and realized she was not wearing any type of “armor.”

“Just don’t shoot my computer,” she said plaintively.



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The weather is starting to resemble summer

There are many ways to enjoy the summer and just getting outdoors is one of the best. Before too long we will see people running, jogging, rollerblading or walking around Fountain Lake. Now is also a time to enjoy one of our many parks. Fishing along the shores of Fountain Lake can be relaxing and sometimes very rewarding.

I don't do much walking these days, but up until a few years ago I was an avid walker. I always enjoyed getting up early and walking early in the morning. There was no better way to start my day than walking in the fresh morning air. I am now resigned to taking short walks and just enjoying the fresh air. Plus, I do enjoy sleeping in a little longer.

I plan to visit our local State Park and check out some of the many things that our local park has to offer. I have grown fond of watching birds and many other critters in their natural habitat, and the park offers an opportunity to enjoy that. I still want to tent on the shores of my favorite lake, Spider. It sits in the middle of the Chippewa National Forest and has some National Forest camping spots that are free of charge on a



Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl
Outdoors Writer

first-come basis. There are also some State Forest campgrounds in the area of our cabin that also have free campsites. These are rustic campsites with no running water and vault toilets. I have visited one such campground in the fall while fishing the lake where some sites are, but have never taken the initiative to camp there.

Lately, I have found myself browsing the camping areas of some stores, checking out their tents. You may ask, why at my age? I'd guess it is a bucket list thing that's stuck in my head. Most people's bucket lists are dreaming of visiting tropical areas or going on a cruise, but my wants are much simpler. I also have always wanted to visit the northeast in the fall, to make a fall visit to

states like Vermont and Maine. I believe the tent thing at Spider Lake will be much more doable.

I have owned a few tents over the years, some quite nice, and the first one; not so much. They all served the purpose, but the first one pushed me to purchase a pickup camper. Our family did a lot of camping in that, and we had it for quite a few years. For me, it was the best way to go. I could pull a boat behind and have my camper for sleeping or getting out of the rain and snow.

We took that pickup camper to the Black Hills with some friends. They had a pull-behind camper, and we had the pickup camper. When we went sight seeing, we took their Suburban, so we all could fit in it. We camped at Custer State Park. It was

a great vacation. I brought along our fishing poles, and we bought a 24-hour fishing licenses. We went to Stockade Lake and fished off of shore. None of us had fished for trout before, but I figured that they wouldn't be much different than fishing bullheads. I rigged everyone with Lindy Rigs, and we purchased some nightcrawlers at the bait shop. We caught a lot of trout that afternoon and I fixed them on the grill that evening. We definitely had our fill of trout, and it wasn't half bad. I put them in aluminum foil, separately, then I put butter, lemon, onion, salt & pepper on them and grilled them.

Until next time: Get out and enjoy the nice weather, whether it's hiking, walking, fishing, or having a picnic. The time is here! You can visit one of our many local parks or go to the State Park where you have the chance to see deer, ducks, geese, eagles and many other critters.

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



- Stacy Bartness of Hartland, a member of the American Quarter Horse Youth Association, has earned 37 Grand Championships and 16 Reserve Championships with her 1996 chestnut mare, "Im Oso sweet." Last August the mare earned the highest award a halter horse can receive. "Im Oso Sweet" was one of the top ten mares in the entire nation, claiming the National High Point plaque for the year 1999. Here, Stacy displays some of the trophies and plaques she has earned with her horses.



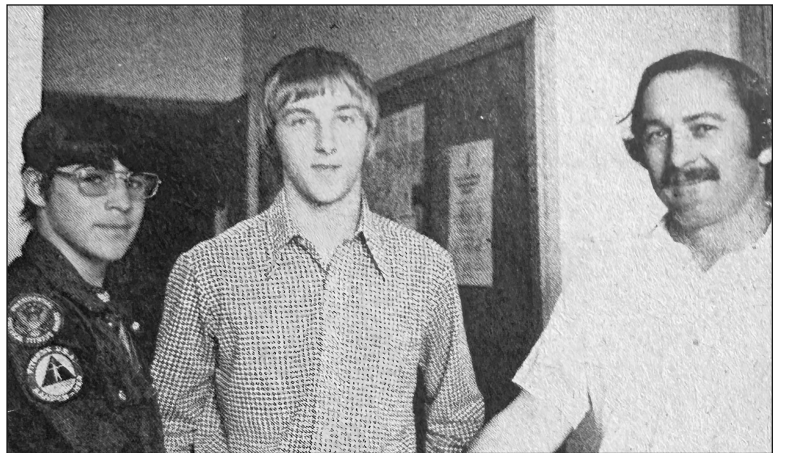
- The Color Guard posed before the performance to Ricky Martin's Cup of Life in competition at the World of Music Festival at St. Louis, Missouri April 14-16. They are from the left: kneeling; Allison Groth; standing, Missy Farr, Amanda Peterson, Michelle Maurer, Blaine Boverhuis, Mariah Routh, Breanna Johannsen, Kelli Schlaak, Megan Routh, Amy Kubista, Lacey Peterson and Megan Stephoni. - The Panther girls Golf team defeated Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton 220 to 241 in a golf triangular at Prairie Ridge Golf Course, Tuesday, May 18. Sheri Miller of the Panthers and Lindsay Hines of the Bulldogs tied for medalist honors when they each shot a 46. Amy Sack and Sally Johnson each carded 57's, followed by Kristin Jessen with a 60. Other Panthers were Missy Shaunce with a 65 and Mariah Routh with 69.

50 Years Back

- A new record album has just been released by Pastor Raymond H. Peterson of New Richland. "One Day at a Time" is the title of the album, which features the song by the title. There were also twelve other hymns and spiritual songs. Released on the "Sound 80" label, it was recorded at Hope Lutheran and the Sound 80 studios, both in Minneapolis. Doris Chase, a brilliant accompanist, is featured on the Reuter Pipe Organ and the Steinway piano. Pastor Peterson now has recorded five different albums. Those released previously were: "Hymns and Spiritual Songs," "Singing to the Lord," "Singing with Thanksgiving" and "Singing the Good News."

- Lac Lindeland, Route 1, Minnesota Lake, is pictured with the two Manieanjou embryo transplant calves born by cesarean section on the Lindeland farm, four and one-half miles west of Waldorf, the past week. These are, according to Dr. J.P. Hinton, Waldorf veterinarian, the first two embryo transplant calves born in the state of Minnesota.

- Aaron Lee Bartelt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Barry Bartelt, rural Waldorf, was baptized at First Lutheran Church, Waldorf, Sunday April 27 with the Rev. Gerald Pundt officiating. Sponsors were Julie Haakinson and Candi Bartelt, both of rural Waldorf.



- Wrestling coach Jerry Gallagher, at the right, of the Waldorf-Pemberton schools, congratulates Steve Sonnek, left, and Mark Meyer, middle, for their fine performance in wrestling this year. The two were honored at the athletic banquet at the school recently. Steve was an all area wrestler and had the most takedowns for the season. Mark was elected most valuable wrestler. Ron Rausch, not pictured, had the most falls.

75 Years Back

- St. Olaf college, Northfield will graduate the largest class of its history Monday, June 5 when 400 will receive diplomas, 382 will receive bachelor of arts degrees and 18 will be conferred bachelor of music degrees. Among the graduates will be Miss Dorothy Walledom, daughter of Rev. J.C. Walledom, of New Richland. Dr. L. Ralph Tabor, pastor of the Luther Place Memorial church, Washington, D.C., will be the speaker.

- Miss Inez Jacobson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Otto Jacobson, became the bride of Orrin Ribbe, son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Ribbe of Ellendale Saturday, May 27. The double ring ceremony was performed at the Pontoppidan Lutheran parsonage, Lemond, at 3:30 p.m., Rev. P.G. Sonnack, officiating. The bride wore a beige suit with pink accessories and a sweet-heart rose corsage.

- Mr. and Mrs. Orvin Hatle became the parents of their third son, born at the Naeve hospital, Albert Lea Thursday, May 29. Their two older sons are Gary and Jeffery. Mrs. Hatle is the former Alice Boettger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Boettger. Mrs. G.O. Hatle is the paternal grandmother.

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.

4-H Garage Sale at Waseca County Fairgrounds Sat., May 17

There will be a 4-H garage sale at the Waseca County Fairgrounds from 7 a.m. till 2 p.m. Saturday, May 17. Friday is 3:30-8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

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.

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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)

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

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

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

CROSS OF GLORY LUTHERAN
Hartland, Minnesota
Rev. Marcia Pedersen
Sunday - 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 ad-

ditional updates
www.vibrantlifeag.com

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

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

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

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

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS
Hollandale, Minnesota
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

FAMILY OF FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH
Rev. Neal Ooms
101 East Park Avenue
Hollandale, 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, LCMS
Hope, Minnesota
Pastor Sandy Miller
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 10:15 a.m. Youth/Adult Study

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

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

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

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IN-COUNTY RIVALRY – Above, the Panthers’ Wyatt Larson delivers a pitch during the NRHEG baseball team’s game at JWP last Wednesday. Above right, catcher Jace Ihrke dives too late to prevent JWP’s Blayne Wandrie from scoring. Lower right, Owen Wayne slides safely into second. The Panthers bounced back Thursday against Kenyon-Wanamingo. Star Eagle photos by Jim Lutgens

Baseball Panthers put it all together against KW

According to head coach Shawn Larson, the NRHEG High School baseball team finally showed what it is capable of doing. The Panthers never trailed against visiting Kenyon-Wanamingo last Thursday and claimed a 12-2 victory at Reese Field in New Richland. “Today we showed some of what we are capable of doing,” said Larson. It started with starting pitcher Owen Wayne, who pitched five innings while allowing one earned run on four hits, with six strikeouts and five walks. “Owen had a great start,” said Larson. “Owen had good command of his fastball

“Today we showed some of what we are capable of doing.”
— NRHEG coach Shawn Larson

tonight and was able to get through a tough situation early in the game.” Calvin Nissen came in relief of Wayne and threw two scoreless innings to close out the game. Offensively, the Panthers pounded out 13 hits, drawing six walks and striking out nine times. Aidan Schlaak was 3-for-4 with an RBI, Jace Ihrke 3-for-4 with five RBIs, Wayne 2-for-3 with an RBI, A.J. Deen 2-for-2 with two RBIs and one run scored. Adding one hit each were Alden Dobberstein, Carter Martens and Aaden Hanna. “Offensively, we had a big day from

Aidan Schlaak, Owen Wayne, A.J. Deen, and Jace Ihrke, all of whom had multiple-hit nights and made sure the Panthers were not going to slow down on their way to victory,” said Larson. The Panthers played a rescheduled game Wednesday at JWP and lost 9-6. The Panthers totaled eight hits, two by Staloch and one apiece by Aidan Schlaak, Dobberstein, Martens, Ihrke and Ryan Schlaak. Martens drove in two runs. Wyatt Larson started on the mound and took the loss, allowing one earned run on one hit through two innings. Martens and Calvin Nissen pitched in relief. Two JWP pitchers combined for three strikeouts and two walks. “We had a good showing at the plate again today,” said Coach Larson. “Any time our team can go out and generate six runs, I consider that a success. On the other side of the ball, we were not up to our standard today. We had a few too many walks and a few errors, and therefore we were not good enough to win today.” The Panthers play today at 4:30 at Maple River. They host LCWM Friday at 4:30 and face Medford Monday at 4:30 at Reese Field.



THE LEADERS – Helping lead the NRHEG track and field teams at the JWP Invitational last Thursday were Jacob Karl, left, and Quinn VanMaldeghem. The Panther girls finished third, the boys sixth among seven teams. Photos by Larry Nydegger



VanMaldeghem returns to lineup

The return of junior Quinn VanMaldeghem was the highlight for the NRHEG High School track and field teams at last Tuesday’s JWP Invitational. “It was nice to see Quinn on the track again after her appendix was removed a few weeks ago,” said Panthers co-head coach Larry Nydegger. “We had some very competitive times and personal records!” The NRHEG girls finished third out of seven teams with 99.5 points. JWP was first with 145, Hutchinson second with 125. Also competing were Mayer Lutheran, WEM, Randolph and Minnesota Academy for the Deaf.

The Panther girls took two first places, by Juliann Wobbrock who won the 1600 meters in 5:43.76 and Gabby Schlaak, who took the 300 hurdles in 53.37 seconds. Schlaak was second in the 100 meter hurdles, clocking 17.59, and Ellen Jenö was second in the 1600 in 6:08.04. Kylie Olson took second in the shot put at 32-8.5 and second in the discus at 98 feet. Anika Ladlie cleared 5 feet for second in the high jump. Other NRHEG places: 4x200 relay, third, 2:03.09 (Chloe Riewer, Sierra Misgen, Morgan Studier, Peyton Frye); 4x800, third, 12:01.38 (Holly Bartness, Sierra Fish, Jenö, Wobbrock); Riewer, third, long

jump, 15-4.5; VanMaldeghem, third, 100, 13.42 and third, 400, 1:04.37; 4x400, third, 4:48.52 (Misgen, Studier, Jenö, Frye). “Gabby, Julieann, Anika, and Kylie continue to be strong competitors,” said Nydegger. “The younger athletes are starting to show results of the hard work they are putting in. We are very proud of these athletes!” The NRHEG boys were sixth among seven squads. JWP won with 148 points. The Panthers totaled 52. “We had some personal records set today,” said Nydegger. Jacob Karl was the Panthers’ leading scorer, taking second in the 800

in 2:15.48 and second in the 1600 in 5:03.71. Both were personal-best times. Harbor Cromwell, Cole Hutchens, Logan Schiell and A.J. Deen teamed for third in the 4x400 with a time of 4:16.47. Hutchens was third in the shot put at 38-11 and Trevor Selover was fourth in the same event at 37-6. Last Thursday’s NRHEG Invitational was rained out. The Panthers compete in the True Team section meet Tuesday and travel to JWP Saturday, May 10 for the Gopher Conference meet starting at 10 a.m.

Softball Panthers fall short at Kenyon

The long trip to Kenyon-Wanamingo seemed a lot longer on the way home for the NRHEG High School softball team last Thursday. The Panthers had a difficult time mustering hits and keeping the home team off the scoreboard. “This was a tough night for us both offensively and defensively,” said NRHEG coach Wendy Schultz, whose team totaled nine fielding errors. Olivia Berg and Camryn VanMaldeghem had the lone NRHEG hits. Berg drove in two runs and stole two bases. Aspy Stenzel scored a run. Berg pitched for the Panthers and took the loss, giving up five earned runs on six hits, with five strikeouts and four walks. The Panthers struck out six times and did not draw a walk. The Panthers fell to 2-4 in the Gopher Conference and 2-9 over-

all. Things didn’t get much better Monday at New Richland’s Legion Field as the Panthers fell 14-0 to Randolph in five innings. The Panthers did not manage a hit or a walk while striking out 14 times. Berg took the pitching loss. “There’s a reason Randolph is ranked No. 1 in class 2AA,” said Schultz. “Carter Raymond is a phenomenal pitcher and they are very good hitters. Hats off to them. Even though we lost 14-0, our girls made some good plays on defense. After hosting JWP Wednesday in a rescheduled Gopher Conference game, the Panthers host Maple River today at 4:30. They play Monday at 4:30 at Medford, host Blue Earth Area Tuesday at 4:30, and conclude the regular season May 15 at WEM.

Golfers complete first round of conference play

The NRHEG High School golf teams traveled to Wedgewood Cove Golf Course in Albert Lea last Tuesday for the first round of Gopher Conference play. Scores for nine holes for the NRHEG boys: Reid Sandry 91, Braydon Rollag 95, Shan Hanson 103, Matt Williams 119, Chase

Hanson 123, Braxton Arnold 134. For the NRHEG girls: Alexis Olson 121, Gabrielle Nelson 131. The Panthers are in action today at North Links Golf Course in Mankato at 10 a.m. They play Tuesday, May 13 at Austin Country Club at 1 p.m.

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Show

from Page 1

tices, I know I spend a lot of time laughing backstage,” she comments. “All of us are having fun with the roles and adding some special touches.”
Among those, cast members explain, are some of the interesting phrases that are part of “Gen Beta” slang, including , Harbor Cromwell mentions, the word “skibidee.”
Cromwell, who plays Uncle Henry in the “real world” portion of the story and a guard in the “dream” part, says he will be using the word as he tells the angry Almira Gulch to get off his property and leave Dorothy and Toto alone.

others, with no need for an extraordinary costume or makeup.
Cast members explain that, for the most part, “real world” characters change over to individuals with corresponding traits in the “dream” world after the tornado. In a typical production of the play, “Aunt Em” would become “Glinda,” the good witch who helps Dorothy on her journey in Oz.
Caralee Koopal, who plays the troublesome Almira Gulch, would then also be the Wicked Witch—except that, in this production, parts were divided up in some cases so more actors could be involved. So, while Koopal is enjoying the individualized touches she will be adding to Almira Gulch, she is not particularly disappointed she will not also be the witch.
“I like working behind the scenes,” she comments, sharing that she plans to help with makeup and preparing sets for the play.
Wyatt Larson has been cast as “Professor Marvel” and the Wizard. He comments he believes fellow students and community members will greatly enjoy the play. And while it’s fun to have the grandiose role of “The Wizard Himself,” the character comes with the challenge of memorizing “some long rants,” which, because they continue without any interaction with other characters, are a challenge to memorize.
Christian Huntington, cast as the Cowardly Lion, agrees the play itself is an excellent choice and the special touches actors are adding will make the production even more enjoyable. “Everyone should come,” says Huntington. “They’ll be glad they did.”

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Exhibit

from Page 5

gourds open to get the seeds and started planting them. “Now I have gourds everywhere,” Hoppe laughed. Hoppe grows many types of gourds in her garden, which she replants each spring. She said, “And they all cross pollinate.”
On the former wasp nests, Hoppe has depicted objects from the farm of human construction, such as barns and antique vehicles. “[The farm] has been in the same family for decades. Well, you know farmers; they don’t throw anything away,” she laughed. The barn wood frames around the wasp nest drawings were made by a friend of hers, of whom Hoppe said she hates working with barn wood, “but I will for you.”
Hoppe started using wasp nests when a friend asked her, “I have some wasp nests. Could you use

them?” Hoppe didn’t know, but she was willing to experiment. She discovered that the material of the nests was tough, “But without priming it, you can’t really draw on it without tearing it.” Hoppe takes the nests apart and reassembles them to create canvasses, after which she prepares them with layers of acrylic primer.
Now that she’s discovered how to work with them, Hoppe collects wasp nests herself.
Is it dangerous to harvest wasp nests? “They make a new nest every year,” said Hoppe. “But just in case, go out when it’s like 20 degrees. If there is [a wasp] in there, it’s very slow.”
Besides using acrylics and colored pencils, one of Hoppe’s mediums is found on the farm, too. Hoppe makes her own ink out of black walnuts; she allows the walnuts to dry with the hulls on, and then boils the hulls in water to create ink. “You’ve got to wear gloves; otherwise you end up with brown hands,” said Hoppe. The ink lasts a long time, and it can be used to create a pale wash for the background in a watercolor style, and then in a more concentrated form to create dark lines and silhouettes.
Hoppe often depicts items that either grow or are found on her farm, like mushrooms, flowers, butterflies, and cattle. One display of poisonous mushrooms on a group of gourds had tiny skulls hanging from it.
Of an American goldfinch she painted, Hoppe said, “They just love to visit!” Hoppe attributes the number of visiting goldfinches to the number of thistles on her farm; thistle seeds are a favorite with goldfinches.
Hoppe doesn’t have an art gallery. “I just work from home,” she said. “I go out and mess with the garden and take care of the critters,” by which she means cows, pigs, chickens, and geese. When she’s not busy gardening, tending animals, or canning the produce she grows, she creates art.
Visitors of the WAC greatly enjoyed the work of both artists on Thursday evening.
Solberg’s and Hoppe’s artwork will be on display throughout May at the WAC, which is open Tues. - Sat., 12 p.m.- 5 p.m.

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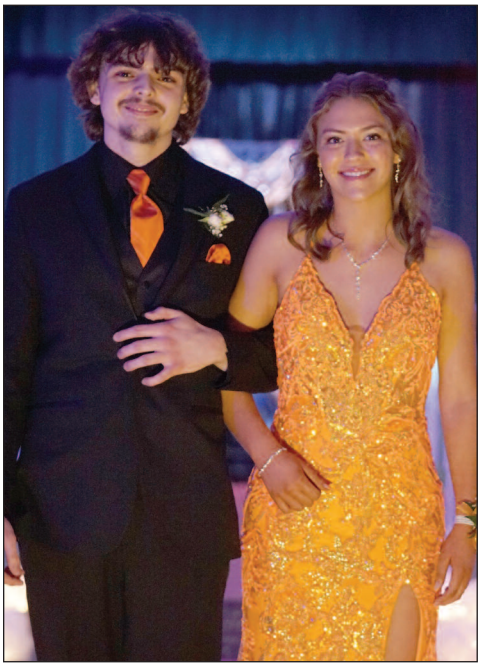
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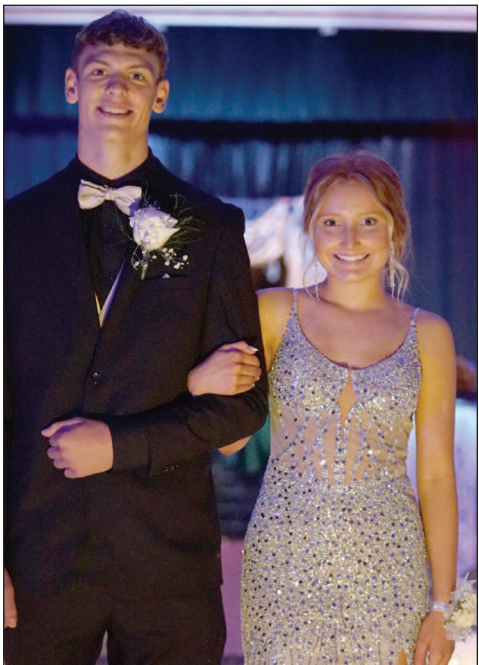
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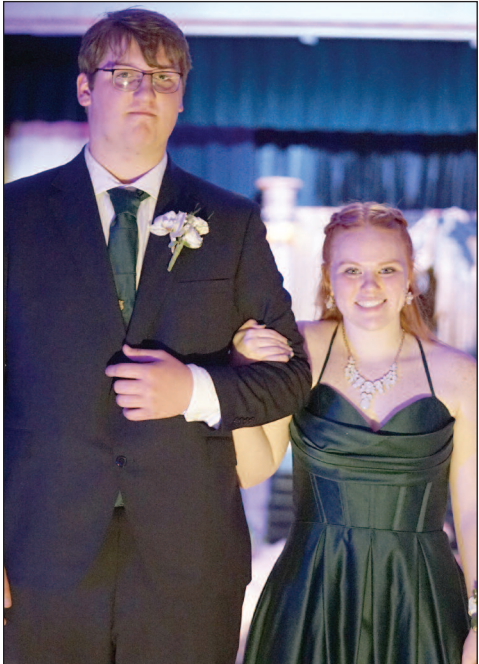
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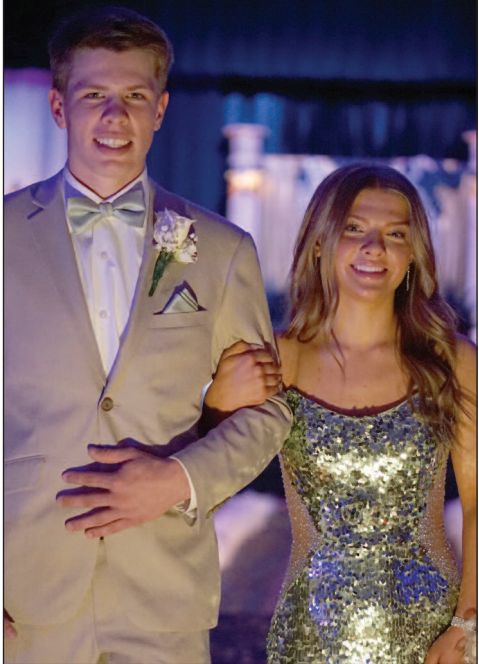
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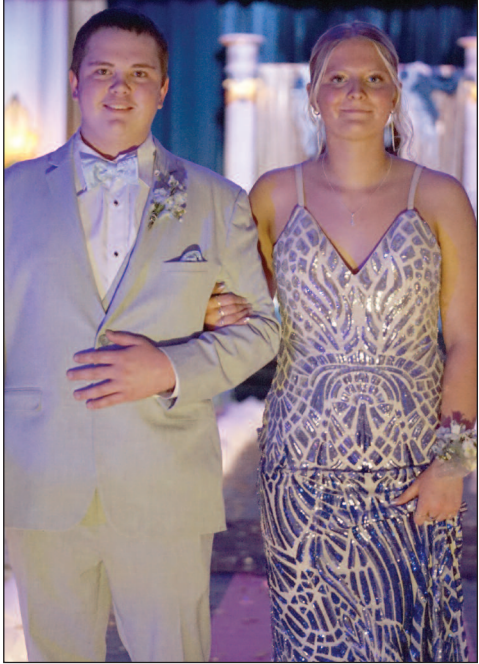
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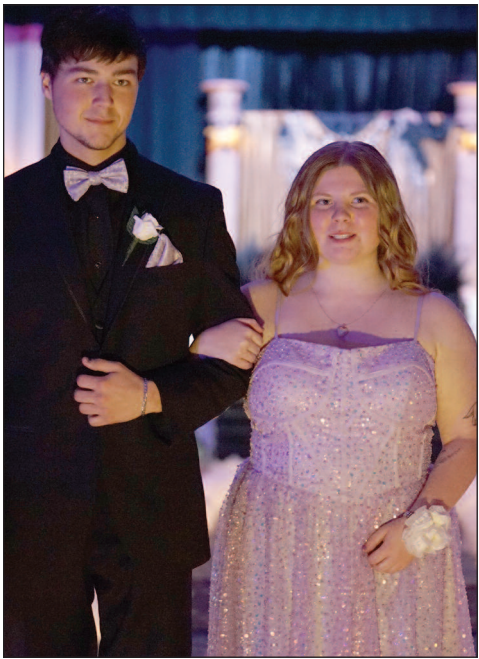
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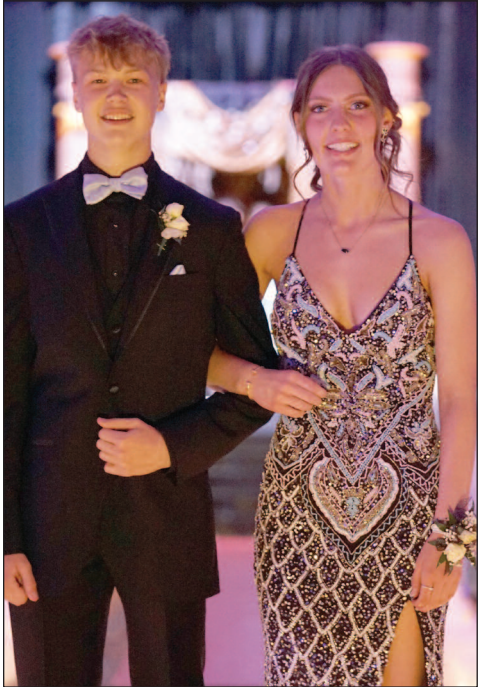
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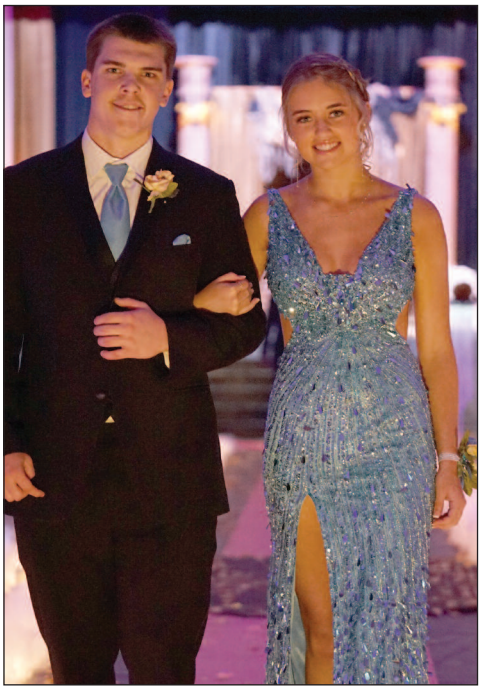
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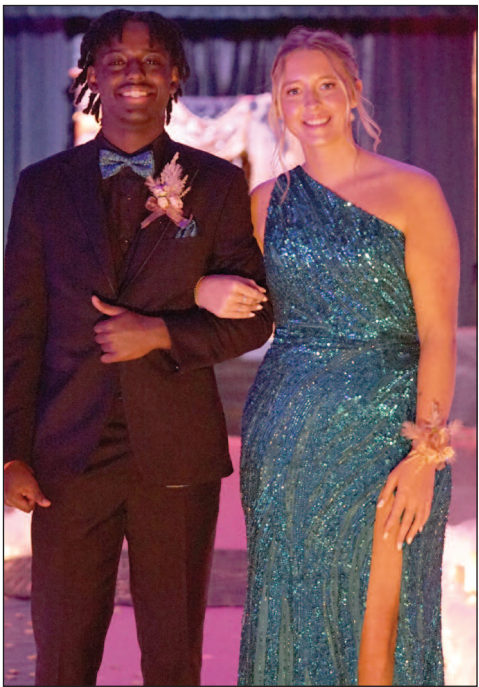
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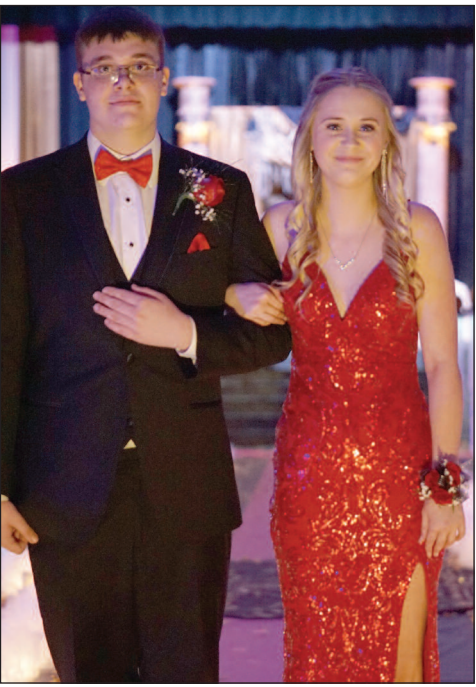
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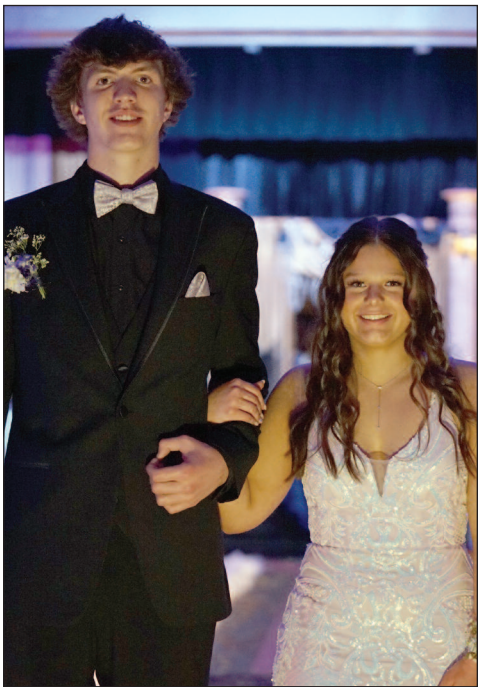
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HCFC announces matching fund campaign

ALBERT LEA, MN—The History Center of Freeborn County announced today that the nonprofit received a \$4,000 challenge grant from donors. The grant will match dollar-for-dollar all donations from supporter’s April 16 through May 30.

“Our first priority is the Winjum Home porch, as we are eager to get the home in the village cataloged and new interpretation installed,” said Executive Director Stephanie Kibler. “Whether it’s installing a remarkable exhibit, helping children experience history through tours and hands-on activities, or offering lectures and programming year round,” said Kibler, “everything that FCHM does is made possible by our loyal supporters. Their generosity of support in time and treasure makes it possible for us to continue to build the future by preserving the past. We are extremely grateful for our donors to invest in our organization in a way

that encourages others to offer their support.”

Donations can be made online at lovehistory.org, by calling the history center at 507/373-8003 with your credit card, on Venmo @FCHM1031, by USPS, or by stopping in the history center Wednesday and Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

ABOUT HCFC

The History Center of Freeborn County is a non-profit educational and cultural institution established in 1948, committed to building the future by preserving the past. FCHM collects, preserves and tells the story of Freeborn County’s past through museum exhibits, research, collections, tours, and educational programs. The Museum is located at 1031 Bridge Avenue, Albert Lea, MN. Museum can be reached at 507/373-8003. Visit us at fchmmn.org or find us on Facebook.

Wingstock 2025 at the Geneva Bar & Grill

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Geneva Bar and Grill “Wingstock 2025” on Saturday, May 3, featured a backyard and wing cookoff as well as a wing eating contest. The event enjoyed sunny skies to go along with the food and drinks. Cars filled parking spaces for blocks around, with more pulling up every minute. This event was sponsored by Smokin’ Barrel Barbeque LLC.

First Place and People’s Choice Award went to Brett Kubiawicz, who received \$150 and a trophy. Second Place went to Matt Kubiawicz. He received \$100 and a trophy. Third Place went to Todd Ide. He received \$50 and a trophy. There were 11 competitors.

John Lynn was a customer for the day, a self-professed wing lover. With his cane at his side, he couldn’t get around as fast as he might have liked, but he was determined to sample some wings. “You gotta eat at least two wings to get the feel for the taste, so that’s what I’m doing, getting two from everyone, but I might stop at six.” His tasting rotation started under the Wicked Wings tent with the flavor “Tropical Fire.” The flavor was his ultimate choice as the best; he described it as, “Very fruity and very spicy. I like spicy. The Tropical Fire was the best.” He took a moment to sit before moving on to

another sampler.

Parker Njos, Nick Knutson, Kyle Njos competed in the event last year, and were back with “a Thai Sweet Chili wet sauce wing, and for a dry spice we have a salt/pepper/garlic rub.”

Todd Ide from Geneva was next to them. He won the People’s Choice Award last year for Wingstock 2024. He was pleased to be located near the back door of the bar where all the action was.

Geneva Bar and Grill was serving drinks and adult beverages near the Smokin’ Barrel Barbeque counter. The Smokin’ Barrel was also selling a table of 11 dry rubs, spices and 6 BBQ sauces and other merchandise.

Other contestants were Isaac Sorenson and Tyler Doran, who took third place in 2024. This year they tried honey garlic and a honey spice, said Sorenson, “It’s a hobby for me; this is my second year and it’s already better than last year.” Walker Stadheim, was also competing for his second year; he prepared a hot honey ranch wing. James Sorenson and Gabe Beal had a garlic Parmesan, bourbon honey and an Asian zing. This is their first year. Matt Kubiawicz had an Asian zing, orange, honey BBQ and Buffalo with Alabama white sauce.

Brett Kubiawicz had a previously unheard of flavor called “strawberry barbecue.” He said, “I



From left: Teammates Parker Njos, Nick Knutson, Kyle Njos and Jordan make up the 4 Musketeers, competing at the Geneva Bar & Grill's Wingstock 2025 on Saturday, May, 3. (Jordan not pictured)



Wing aficionado Casey Colvin was acquiring a much-needed refreshment at the Geneva Bar and Grill's Wingstock 2025 on Saturday, May, 3.

am definitely doing this next year.”

Sara Engleby, who helped to organize the day’s event said, “Everything went great. Everyone had a good time. We want to give a shout-

out to our sponsors, Geneva Lumber, the Geneva Bar & Grill and 10,000 Custom Designs.”

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FRIDAY, MAY 9TH

9:00 A.M. TIL GONE

KEEN BANK

ELLENDALE, MN

SWCD fulfills 3,500 orders

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) distributed trees ordered during the organization’s spring tree sale on Friday, April 25, at the Waseca County fairgrounds. Customers who had placed the 140 orders began arriving by 7:30 even though distribution did not begin until 8:30.

Cheri Brummond, administrative assistant for the SWCD became so caught up in her work, she didn’t realize until she was asked about lunch that she never had it. The group of five adults were using the 4-H livestock building at the fairgrounds.

Brittany Pechacek pulled up in her SUV. Her order was for a hundred different saplings and first-year trees. In the back of her vehicle were many bags of red

mulch, “We’ve got a lot going on right now and I am getting started today.” She had just gotten off work and was making a quick errand run. Two able-bodied guys helped load her trees, Joe Edel, a fellow employee of the SWCD and Taylor Rasmussen of Pheasants Forever. Said Edel, “Today is Arbor Day. That’s why we’re doing it. People can order these all through the end of winter, we’re trying to conserve here; it’s important.”

Buyers had seven different shrubs to choose from in bundles of 25: American cranberry, red osier dogwood, common ninebark, lilac, black chokecherry, silky dogwood and arrowwood. Also options were 13 types of trees: Siberian crabapple, white-spire birch, American plum, serviceberry, Norway poplar, hackberry, red and sugar maples,



Brittany Pechacek was helped by Joe Edel of Soil and Water and Taylor Rasmussen of Pheasants Forever at the 4-H building of the Waseca fairgrounds on Friday, April 25, 2025.

American ‘Princeton’ elm, autumn blaze maple, red and swamp and bur oak maple. Conifer selections included red cedar, white pine, Black Hills, Norway and white spruce; and five potted conifers: Techny and America Arborvitae, Black Hills and Meyer and Norway Spruce, White Pine and Tamarack.

Potted conifers were \$10-30. Trees and shrubs were between \$40-70 for common. The most expensive were the specialty trees which were \$150 to \$170. Orders can be placed anytime by next February; information is available on the website www.wasecaswcd.org.

Waseca garage sale set for May 10, 12

Waseca County 4-H invites you to clean out your closets, garages, basements, and attics and donate your gently used items for a huge Garage Sale that will benefit the youth involved in Waseca County 4-H. If you have items to donate, 4-H will be accepting donations at the following dates and times:

- Saturday, May 10, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. – 4-H Building on the Fairgrounds in Waseca
- Monday, May 12, 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. – 4-H Building on the Fairgrounds in Waseca

Items must be clean and in good, working condition. No TV’s, mattresses, cribs, car seats, baby sleepers/seats/swings, or exercise equipment. All community members are encouraged to bring in their items. Because all profits from the sale benefit the Waseca County 4-H program, 4-H members and volunteers will price and organize the items, making it a simple way to give to your community! All leftover items from the sale will be donated to area families in need and the Epilepsy Foundation.

The public is invited to shop at the Garage Sale. This huge, in-

door sale will be held on Friday, May 16 from 3:30 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, May 17 from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the 4-H Building on the Waseca County Fairgrounds in Waseca. Again this year will be “Super Saver Sunday” that will take place on Sunday, May 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. where there will be huge deals on leftover items.

Beginning May 13, people can see photos of some items that will be for sale during the Garage Sale by visiting z.umn.edu/Garage-SalePhotos.

Call 507-835-0600 or email mnext-waseca@umn.edu with questions. Proceeds from the Garage Sale are used to fund project-related learning opportunities, community service projects, day camps and overnight summer camps, and scholarships for leadership trips for over 275 youth who are part of Waseca County 4-H.

Thank you to our 2025 event partners: Waseca County Fair Board, Waseca County Solid Waste, and Eaton Trucking

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NRHEG Prom • Party Like Gatsby • Saturday May 3, 2025



Janelle Carrido & Hailey Deniz-Clark



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Noah Kasper & Olivia Johnson



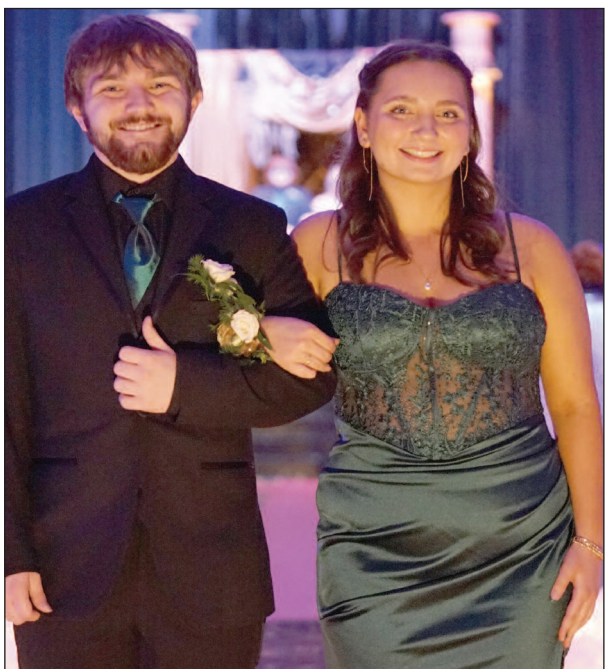
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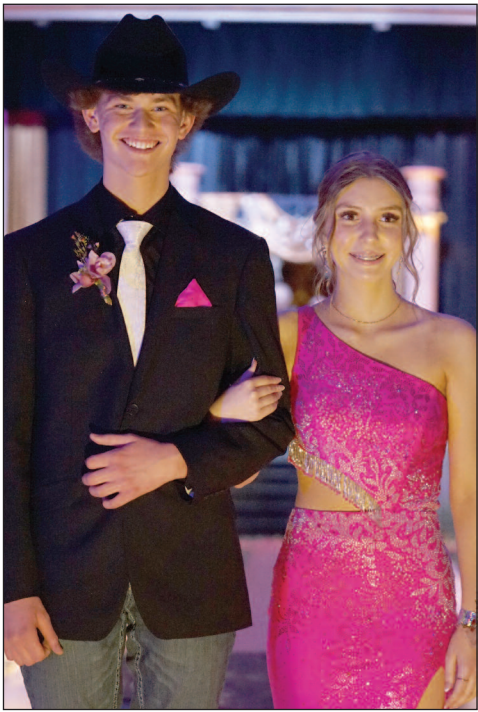
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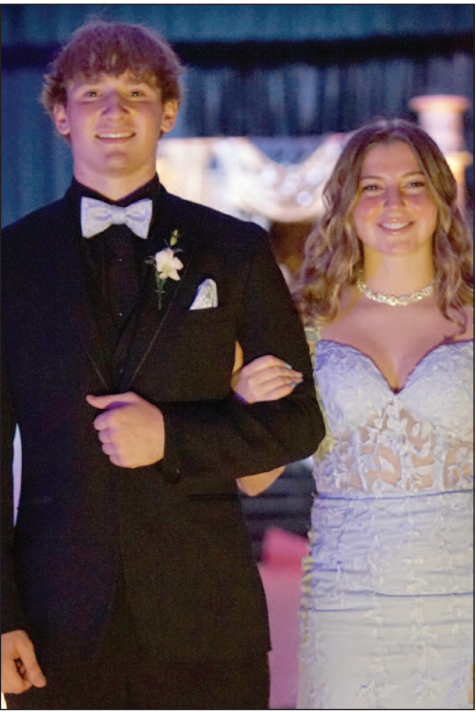
Cade Meyer & Abigayle Viktora



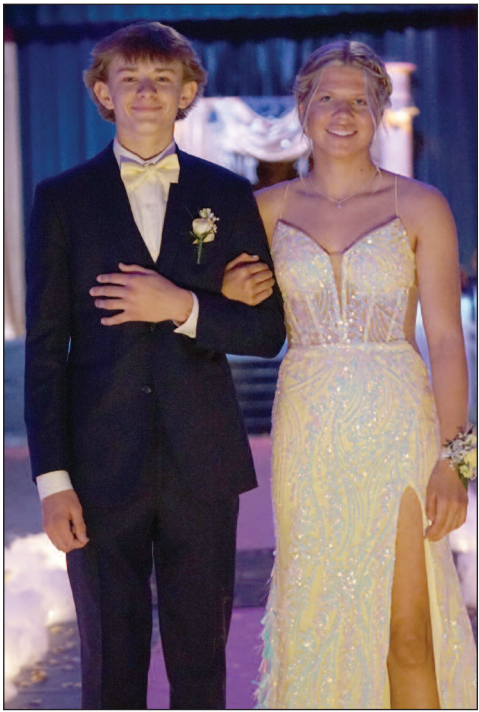
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Star Eagle photos
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