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Waseca County partners with Radio Link Internet

Waseca, Minnesota – Tuesday September 31, 2024 – “Waseca County is pleased to announce that it has partnered with local company Radio Link Internet and owner Daniel Petsinger to provide rural broadband to the people of Waseca County. Waseca County is proud to serve the information needs of its citizens and to support locally owned businesses.”

Halloween Decorating Contest Oct. 28 at New Richland City Hall

Enter the Halloween front yard decorating contest! We need phone number, name and address. Leave your name and address up at City Hall. Judging will begin the week of Halloween, Oct 28 and end on Halloween. Winners will be announced that night and winner will receive \$50 New Richland Bucks!!

Star Eagle to publish photos of veterans

In observance of Veterans Day November 11, the NRHEG Star Eagle will publish a section dedicated to our defenders of freedom. Area veterans or family members are encouraged to bring in photos of veterans in uniform from all branches of service for inclusion and the recognition they so justly deserve. If you have already submitted a photo, you simply need to call or e-mail the Star Eagle to have the photo included.

The deadline for photo submission is noon, Thursday, October 31. For questions or more information, please call the Star Eagle office at (507) 463-8112 or e-mail steagle@hickorytech.net.

Waseca Farmers Market Saturdays from 8 a.m. until noon

Every Saturday until the fall season, the Waseca County Fairgrounds will be hosting a farmers market from 8 a.m. until noon.

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.

Shepherd’s Robe Free store Tuesdays from 1-3 and 5-7 p.m.

The Shepherd’s Robe free store offers clothing, supplies, and much more for free to all interested parties. The store is located at Vista Covenant Church, 14679 275th Avenue, New Richland.

Farmamerica Open Corn Maze every Sat. night in Oct.

Every Saturday night in October from 6-9 p.m., Farmamerica will host a maze under the stars. The cost is \$5 per person and there will be food trucks, yard games and entertainment. Farmamerica is partnering with local FFA chapters for these nights.

A word from

The Word



Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.

Ephesians 5:1



More than 250 people took part in the Ellendale 5K color run/walk fundraiser held Saturday to raise money for new playground equipment. Star Eagle photos by Ben Revermann

Colorful run

Ellendale elementary hosts 5k fundraiser

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The big Ellendale Elementary School parking lot was very busy from 2-4 p.m. on Saturday, October 5 for the Color Run/Walk fundraiser. This was done to raise money for new playground equipment which will give children with special needs easier access. A color run is a race run by people in white shirts or shorts. When they pass certain checkpoints, they get colored powder thrown on them to mark their progress and give their clothes a messy rainbow splattered look. The temperature was 85 degrees, but a strong east wind kept the heat at bay for the racers. A white line had been painted across the road earlier to keep everyone even.

There were over 250 people pre-registered for the race before the event. That’s not counting day-of numbers. Wendy Schultz, who helped organize the race said, of the \$200,000 needed for the new equipment, “So far we have \$51,000.” Schultz said it wasn’t just about the playground; “This is also for families to get out and get exercise together and to get to do something fun, and to



Jacob Karl won the Ellendale Color Run Playground Fundraiser on Saturday, Oct. 5, 2024

“This is also for families to get out and get exercise together and to get to do something fun, and to look silly doing it.”

— Kate Kruger

look silly doing it.” Kate Kruger and Bethany Tennis were the starters. They had exploding smoke launchers that got the racers moving. In the crowd were kids running as young as five with a few youngsters in strollers pushed by mothers walking at their own pace. There were plenty of high school kids in the crowd and a few grown men. Besides runners, there were many volunteers helping with the day’s events, around 35 people, mostly teachers or staff from Ellendale Elementary or from the NRHEG high school. Schultz was very happy with the day’s turnout.

There were firetrucks from the New Richland Fire Department, Hartland Fire Department, Geneva Fire and Ambulance, Ellendale Fire and Ambulance and Hollandale Fire and Ambulance. Food vendors Moe Geo’s and Carpenter Coffee Co. were also present.

Onlookers or people in the race were able to get a close look at the firetrucks from 2-3 p.m. The race itself started at 3 p.m. Schultz said, “Yeah, we started right on time and should be done and out of here by 4.” Anyone who wanted to be in the



The NRHEG Music department is sponsoring a dress clothing drive to ensure band members have access to the types of clothing expected for concerts and performances.

Music department

holding clothing drive

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

The NRHEG Music department is sponsoring a dress clothing drive, the idea being to give band members increased access to the dark-colored attire expected for concerts—and to have backup clothing handy should something happen just prior to a concert.

“We would welcome any help the community can give us with this,” comments band director Seth Schaefer. New or gently used items in all sizes can be delivered to the secondary school office during open hours.

All items—shirts, blouses, slacks, belts, shoes, accessories such as ties or scarves, and unopened packages of socks—should be black and chosen for their appealing appearance.

Schaefer explains the clothing will be kept by the music department and offered to band students prior to dress concerts; there is no need to loan them to choir members since their attire is covered by robes.

Schaefer mentions that all-black attire for musical performances is a long-standing tradition for musical ensembles large and small. The in-

Drive continued on 2

Final

decision on Hartland Post Office

HARTLAND, MN— In accordance with 39 C.F.R. § 241.4, this is the United States Postal Service’s final decision with respect to the Postal Service’s proposal to relocate retail services from the Hartland Post Office located at 507 Broadway St., Hartland, MN 56042 to a new location within Hartland city limits. The Postal Service has initially identified the current emergency location of 407 Broadway St. as the permanent location. If this location is not adequate or an agreement cannot be reached with its owner, the Postal Service will consider other sites.

The Postal Service mailed a postcard to local residents and businesses on February 2, 2024, asking for community input. The Postal Service has carefully considered all concerns expressed in those discussions, as well as in comments received from the public. For the reasons set forth below, the Postal Service has decided to proceed with the relocation.

Due to structural and safety concerns of the previous Post Office, the Postal Service was required to find a new facility. The Postal Service anticipates providing the same services at the new location as are currently provided to our customers at the existing location. Additionally, the Postal Service plans to continue services at the current emergency location while converting this location into the long-term Post Office.

While the Postal Service is sensitive to the impact of this decision on its customers and the Hartland community, the Postal Service properly considered community input and this decision is consistent with Postal Service objectives. The Postal Service is a self-funded entity, generally receiving no tax dollars and must make decisions to control its cost and cover them through the sale of products and services.

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The United States Postal Service is an independent federal establishment, mandated to be self-financing and to serve every American community through the affordable, reliable and secure delivery of mail and packages to nearly 165 million addresses six and often seven days a week. Overseen by a bipartisan Board of Governors, the Postal Service is implementing a 10-year transformation plan, Delivering for America, to modernize the postal network, restore long-term financial sustainability, dramatically improve service across all mail and shipping categories, and maintain the organization as one of America’s most valued and trusted brands.

For USPS media resources, including broadcast quality video and audio and photo stills, visit the USPS Newsroom. Follow us on Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest and LinkedIn. Subscribe to the USPS YouTube Channel and like us on Facebook. For more information about the Postal Service, visit usps.com and facts.usps.com.



FenceLines

by Mark Bernard

A rapid pace harvest continues

The scurs and Weather Eye conveyed more warm sun and dry interspersed with reminders that fall is truly here, sometimes. Does summer finally relent and let Jack Frost in the door or are we looking at another week of July? Starting on Thursday, sunny with highs in the low 80's and lows in the upper 50's. Partly sunny on Friday with highs in the upper 70's and lows in the mid-40's. Mostly sunny on Saturday with highs in the upper 60's with lows in the mid-40's. Sunday, mostly sunny with highs in the low 60's and lows in the mid-30's. Sunny on Columbus Day with highs in the low 60's and lows in the upper 30's. Tuesday sunny with highs in the upper 60's and lows in the low 40's. Partly sunny on Wednesday with highs in the upper 60's and lows in the mid-50's. The sun will set on Columbus Day at 6:30 p.m. On the 16th, sunrise won't occur until 7:30 a.m. and daylight slips below 11 hours. We won't see that much again until February 26th. The normal high for October 16th is 59 and the normal low is 37. The scurs are content to avoid building snowmen for a few months. Then it can warm up again.

A steady, rapid harvest pace continued this past week. The dry, generally warmer than normal conditions continue to allow farmers to harvest almost at will. When they run into a field that's too wet, they move to another one, harvest that and return within a few days to finish the field that was wet. There are still some patches of replant soybeans scattered around, but even some of those disappeared recently. There was some evidence of frost in places last week when temps dipped to 38 in some of those replant areas. Soybean leaves were noticed dying by Betsy's dad and I had noted the same thing that afternoon. There was more widespread frost Monday morning, but certainly not what would qualify as a killing frost. Soybeans have been running about as anticipated with a few fields yielding impressively, but most not so much. Ditto with corn. Moisture in corn has been reported as low as the lower teens. Yields have been all over the board with most disappointed, but not surprised. Rain only makes grain when it stays above water most of the growing season.

The garden is moving towards the end of the season. Mrs. Cheviot picked and grouped the pumpkins, squash and gourds into piles, so they can be retrieved for decorating purposes. While not on a par with last year, one still has to be impressed that we got anything given the late planting date. The wet soil didn't do any favors for establishment of any of the vine crops. Like the field crops, additional plantings had to be made. There are some winter radishes that made it and they'll be ready to harvest anytime. Since they were thinned by the August downpours, they are huge. There are also a couple rows of snap peas that made it. Sampling a few recently, will have to water them some to see if we can coax a few more on the vines. Fall snap peas are a special treat. Given the cool temps, they seem to be even sweeter than their spring planted counterparts. If the weather holds and time allows, it would be nice to work the garden up this fall, so it will be in better shape for next spring than this year's edition was.

Afraid it's time to throw in the towel on the hummingbirds at the ranch and take down their feeders. There's been no visual evidence of them since September 27th and no sign that anything has consumed any of the last batch of sugar water. With the warm fall, there are still ample amounts of flowers around our yard yet, so not to worry. Once the nectar feeders come down, the suet feeders will replace them

until next April or May. In the meantime, there are starting to be a few more goldfinches frequenting the thistle feeders. The usual suspects are busy at the sunflower feeders, namely blue jays, chickadees, nuthatches and red-bellied woodpeckers. The cardinals have been more secretive as of late, but they'll emerge soon enough when the time is right. There are still lots of migrating robins coming through. The nannyberry crop was exceptional, and they've wasted little time capitalizing on it, judging by the number of pits emptied daily from the birdbath.

We were able to get a fall cruise in with the car club this past weekend to Red Wing. Pretty drive and the contrast in crops vs. what we've seen locally was painfully obvious. Corn was even, still green and in some cases still being chopped for silage. A little early for leaf watching, but in another 10 days, they should be at their peak. My copilot and I take turns driving on an every-other-year basis, so this year it was my turn again. The Studebaker was up to the challenge after the gas tank was replaced. The old one was leaking around the outlet. Inside, the bottom was extremely rusty, likely the original now 65-year-old gas tank. When one buys a reman part, you have to hope it's an adequate replacement. This one was and held the same 18 gallons of gas as the original. We weren't sure how much was in it, so we needed to get some gas before venturing forth. We put 16.6 gallons in. My crack Studebaker mechanic told me there's about a half-gallon of gas still left in the tank when the gauge reads empty. That's cutting it pretty close. The good news is the gas gauge still works almost perfectly.

The Silver Hawk draws a lot of attention anytime we take it out for a cruise and this one was no exception. When we came out of the hotel, the shuttle driver asked where we wanted to go in the parking lot. We told him the handicapped area behind the fence. "By the Studebaker?" he asked. Why sure! The young lad liked all the old cars our group was driving and was keeping an eye on them. When fueling up to come home, there was an older gentleman who once had a Golden Hawk and, like most Studebaker owners, rued the day he'd sold it. When he got it up over 100 mph, he claimed it started becoming light in the front end and felt like it was going to fly just like a hawk! Even when I got back to Bugtussle and dropped my copilot off, I was approached by a lady who was fascinated by the car. Had never seen a Silver Hawk before. She took several pictures as I was filling it with gas for the next run. Hopefully the photos doesn't wreak havoc with my enrollment in the witness protection program.

As I wrote last week, Poppy has been a ranch resident for two years now as of October 8th. Her tenure here has been mostly enjoyable even though the bar was set pretty high. It's taken us a while to realize she's a Corgi and not a Border Collie and that it's fine that she isn't. Someday we'll get used to her dawdling and we're still waiting for her to outgrow some of her puppy habits. Recently, Mrs. Cheviot had tossed a small, older blanket that had some of Poppy's trademark chewing on it. That happened quite some time ago, so we were confident that perhaps we were past that stage. The blanket was replaced with a new model, and everyone was happy for a few days. When I came home from work one night, Poppy had been up to her old tricks and initiated the new blanket by chewing a hunk off the bottom. And this is why we can't have nice things.

See you next week...real good then.

Your handwriting is atrocious!

I did well in school. I enjoyed learning and tried hard on all my assignments and tests. However, in elementary school, there was always one grade that was not very high. That was the handwriting grade.

Remember when we used to get graded on our penmanship? Everything we did in school was paper and pencil, so the teachers wanted to be able to read what we wrote. This was an area in which I did not excel. I think we got checkmarks on our report card in elementary school if it was an area of concern. I'm pretty sure there were two checkmarks by handwriting for me at times.

And now penmanship is becoming almost extinct. Many people in the past would always be able to take pride in the beauty of what they wrote. Once we all learned cursive in second grade, there was a desire to really loop some of the letters and make them stand out. But when you had to use that special lined paper - you remember, the one with three lines, one of them in the middle - you'd better stick to how the letter was supposed to look.

Many of us would practice signing our autographs for when we became famous athletes. You might have done that too, whole pages of a notebook with autographs galore, trying to find the coolest looking way to sign your name. Harmon Killebrew of the Minnesota Twins famously would tell budding stars to always sign your autograph so people can read it. I have a baseball signed by



Whatever Flips Your Waffle

by Mark Domeier
Contributing Writer

many players, not all of whom took Killebrew's advice.

I'm bad at writing things by hand. I've gotten to the grocery store and not been able to read something I have on my list. I tend to be in a hurry when I jot something down. I tell my students that if I write something on the board, it must be pretty important. I just don't do it if I don't have to.

I have notes by my computer with ideas for future columns. You might find me squinting at them sometimes, trying to figure out what my chicken scratch says. I'll write on a post-it note at school so I can remember to do something. That can be hit and miss. I do try to make sure the first letter of something I write is distinguishable so I can maybe figure it out later. I do that in my gradebook too - if I'm writing in a vocab unit, you can recognize the V. Michelle often has questions about numbers I write in the checkbook register; I'm especially bad with my 3's.

Handwriting really is a lost art. Students are barely taught the basics of cursive in schools these days, and there is some loss in this. If schools

were replacing that time with typing skills, an important ability in today's world, it might be okay. But there are those times when technology fails us and we need to write on paper.

I used to joke that kids might not need to learn cursive as much. Does anyone really look at your signature on a document anymore? Half the time, you're signing on a screen, and it's impossible to make it look nice anyway. But I do worry about those times when our Chromebooks in school don't work or the power goes out. We need a back-up plan, and that involves writing by hand.

There is some scientific research about handwriting using parts of our brain that are important to develop. That seems like reason enough to continue to try our hand (ha ha) at handwriting. But many schools across the country shunt that aside since they have to teach to the almighty standardized tests.

There is concern that students who can't write in cursive also can't read cursive. Looking at some of our founding documents in this country, such as the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, might

look like a foreign language. Of course, kids would just use Google Lens or some other high-tech gadget or app to translate it for them.

There is something amazing about good penmanship. My mom has tremendous handwriting. She also knows shorthand from her days as a secretary. We used to see alien-looking squiggles on the pad by the telephone, but that was just Mom making notes while taking a message. Even those had an elegance to them.

My own writing has devolved to some combination between printing and cursive. I connect some letters while leaving others alone. My signature might show an M and a D with some lines in-between. If I autograph a yearbook or one of my novels, it's a printed version of my name with a much larger M and D. My handwriting is not something I'm proud of.

I know I can do better. At times, I write things on my board at school that are entirely legible. But I've fallen in with the ever-growing crowd of people who don't write much or neatly.

Ah, who am I kidding? I've never been part of the neat group.

Word of the Week: This week's word is lenitude, which means slowness or sluggishness, as in, "What seemed like lenitude out of the student was simply his trying to write neatly." Impress your friends and confuse your enemies!

I was the Best Man at my own wedding!

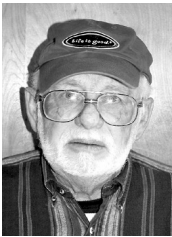
We are now in those BRR months - you know September, October, November, December.

I have seen snow in September, no snow until after Christmas, 70+ degrees in November with bugs flying around, a blizzard on Thanksgiving Day, hummingbirds in October, water skiing in December, an outdoor picnic December 7th, all of the above in Southern Minnesota. I wonder how the four BRR months will be out of the ordinary this year??

Will the Twins survive the BRR October month into the World Series?

Genie and were married at the Lion Lutheran Church in Clear Lake, Iowa on September 28, 1963.

At that time a blood test was required by the state of Iowa - we passed the test. The Pastor performing the ceremony filled out a marriage certificate with the Bride and Groom signing the form along with the best man to be proof of the marriage. The form was signed immediately after the wedding. Genie signed, I signed, the best man signed and the Pastor signed and



FACT OR FICTION

...you decide

by Bob Hanson, Emeritus

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

then we were officially married.

We were outside taking pictures when the pastor grabbed the best man and me by the arm and led us back inside the church.

The best man was Robert Tollefson and I was Robert Hanson - somehow the pastor got us mixed up, so the best man signed as the Groom and I signed as the best man. Thus, Genie was married to the best man and I was the best man at my own wedding!!

I submitted the facts to "Ripley's Believe It or Not" as the shortest marriage on record.

Ripley's sent a nice letter back stating my facts were very interesting, but it did not qualify as a wedding because it was not a legal

wedding.

Genie and I attended the Annual AAL (Now Thrivent) retired agents get together held yearly in September at Bob and Joyce Goetz home in Austin, Minnesota.

"Old" agents from Austin, Albert Lea, Kiester, Waseca, Owatonna, Janesville and Rochester were in attendance. Much of the conversation was about injuries, Doctoring, Medications and our personal health, both past and present. (All those present were over 75 years young!!)

We are very fortunate at Central-East Freeborn Lutheran Church to have a great "Whirlwind" group of youngsters led by Emily Virus and Kris Wolff as adult co-ordinations.

On Sunday afternoon September

15 they held a Whirlwind Event at the Cabin In the Woods owned by Diane and Gene Wangen.

A meal of hotdogs and s'mores was enjoyed by all. The meal was followed by a Wagen Ride pulled by two different horses with Gene Wangen at the Helm and Barry Mosler helping the riders on and off.

Those attending were also entertained by live music (thanks to Mark Sorenson and Cyndi Christianson). A real surprise was when a Western dressed singer of old, well-known songs stepped up and belched out a few tunes. I didn't catch his full name, but he answered to the first name of Matt and he wasn't as tall as most country western singers.

An unusual thing happened when the Manchester Volunteer Fireman phone alarm went off. "Report to the Black Top at Highway 13 in Manchester. Car accident - Lady trapped in vehicle." Richard Ackland took off as a volunteer. He later came back, stating, "Lady got out of car and was picked up by Albert Lea Ambulance.

■ Drive

from Page 1

ternet site Classic FM claims there are many reasons for the practice, including that limiting visual variety among the performers allows the audience to concentrate on the music; having them all dressed in a similar way sends an impression of unity; and black has a way of hiding spots or stains.

Anyone with questions about the drive can email choir instructor Krista Reeder at

kreeder@nrheg.k12.mn.us.

Secondary site concerts this year will include the Oct. 28 Indoor Marching Band concert, a performance during the Veterans Day program on Nov. 11, holiday concerts the evening of Monday, Dec. 9, the grades 6 to 8 midwinter concert on Feb. 25, Panther Band Night on May 13, and a performance at Graduation on June 1. There will also be four small or large group music contests and festivals after the beginning of the new year. The band has a trip to California scheduled at the end of March; that will include students who have signed up and paid in advance.



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DEADLINES: STAR EAGLE: Noon Monday
GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

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Compostings

by Al Batt

A memorable bag of peanut M&M's

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
It's a cold, dreary, miserable day.
No, it's not. It's a beautiful day.
Why do you always have to take the weather's side?
DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE
I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. Election signs bloom. They are the closed captioning of the elections. Do they change anyone's minds? Kind of, sort of. We might have thought the neighbor was an imbecile until he put up a sign of a candidate we favor. It gives each of us a way to tell where our fellow geniuses live. I expect to see lawn signs reading, "No signs allowed" or "Space for rent."
Did you hear about the man whose birthday lasted only one minute? It was his sixty-second birthday.

I walked a trail when I met a man I knew a little but not a lot, who was walking his beautiful dog. He told me the canine was blind. I enjoyed a visit with a seeing-eye man.
Curt Krause was a farmer, an agriculturalist for Birds Eye and a devotee of Peanut M&M's. The line was lengthy (possibly crossing several states) at his visitation. Those waiting in line were offered a bag of Peanut M&M's for sustenance and in memory of a good man.
I spoke at a remarkable reunion of a class of 1969. Prizes were given to the ones who stayed awake throughout the entire meal. They had graduated without the help of Google and grew up when Spam, Wonder Bread and a Twinkie was a wholesome meal in the time before roundabouts were built around potholes. They had played flutophones, bad breath captured in musical instruments. Gas was 35 cents a gallon. Few people knew what mileage their car was getting. In 1969, Sager and Evans sang "In the Year 2525," a song predicting that technological advances would negatively impact man's thoughts, relationships and body. We have 500 years to deal with that because we don't want to wait until the last minute.
I'VE LEARNED
I'm thankful squirrels can't drive.
The rules for the 100-meter dash are pretty straightforward.
My archenemy is plantar fasciitis.
I can recall the numbers 33 1/3, 45 and 78 at a record speed.
The mascot for Eastern Michigan University is an eagle. It should be an emu.

The Flat Earth Society has members all around the globe.
Half a hole is a whole hole.
BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT
Did you hear the statistics joke? Probably.
Was Chuck Berry ever arrested for tossing small fruits?
What can we use to sit on, stand on and brush our teeth? A chair, a ladder and a toothbrush.
What does James Bond's doorbell sound like? Dong. Ding dong.
What do you call a typo on a gravestone? A grave mistake.
Only one thing makes me throw up. A dartboard on the ceiling.
Why did the baker fire his apprentice? Because he was a whisk taker.
If you walk like an Egyptian long enough, you'll need to see a Cairopractor.

NATURE NOTES
The latest recorded measurable snow in Minnesota was 1.5 inches at Mizpah in Koochiching County on June 4, 1935, and the earliest documented snow in Minnesota was a trace that fell at the Duluth Airport on Aug. 31, 1949, with the earliest measurable being .3 inches at International Falls on Sept. 14, 1964.
I watched a long, twisting line of blackbirds flying on my way home from a church where I'd done readings and led prayers at a funeral. The deceased's wife hugged me and said she and her husband had been arguing over the identification of a woodpecker and a finch—red-headed or red-bellied, house or purple. "We each said, if Al were here, he'd know." She paused before adding, "Thank you for being here today."
Ruby-throated hummingbirds don't travel in flocks during migration. Each bird follows its instincts as to departure dates and routes.
Multi-colored Asian lady beetles and minute pirate bugs sampled me. They are biting beetles and bugs. I've not been stung by a wasp this year. Yellowjackets are hangry at this time of the year. They were well-behaved pollinators and beneficial predators until they lost their jobs and encountered food insecurity.
University of Minnesota research published in The Natural Areas Journal found that 2% of buckthorn seeds passed through goat guts intact, and of the seeds that appeared in the goats' feces, 11% were viable. For comparison, 63% of seeds not eaten by goats were capable of germination.
MEETING ADJOURNED
"A knife wound heals but a tongue wound festers."—Turkish proverb. Keep a kind word at the ready.



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Students of the Month

25

GRACE

25



3 FCCLA

4 BAND

4 ONE ACT

3 KNOWLEDGE BOWL

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH



Activity: FCCLA, Band, One Act Play, Knowledge Bowl

Grade: Senior

What do you like most about participating in the activities that you are involved in? What I like most about my activities is the sense of family you get from working together in them. I know I have peers and teachers I can trust from these activities.

What motivates you to do your best? What motivates me is actually a who. My mom has been one of my biggest supporters and I want to do my best to make her proud.

Who is your role model and why? My role model is my grandpa because he has always been there for me.

What advice would you give to other students especially students in elementary and middle school? "Don't be dumb" - Mr. Domeier. You will have very little problems if you just listen to those around you. It will be hard sometimes, but there are rewards for powering through it. It is okay to need help sometimes, and it does not make you weaker for asking for it.

What makes you a good teammate? I feel like I am a team player. I want to make sure everyone feels included and heard.



Sport/Activities: Football, Wrestling, Track, Student Council, FCA, DECA

Grade: Senior

What do you list most about participating in the activities that you are involved in? My favorite part is that I get to achieve my goals that I have been working toward. Over time, it shows how much you want to get better at something. Also, being able to compete with my buddies and build friendships along the way is awesome.

What motivates you to do your best? What motivates me to do my best and get better is when I have struggled in the past. I remember going 1-8 during football and losing almost every wrestling match my Junior year. I want to achieve my goals and the only way to do that is to do the extra reps and go to early morning lifts and so on.

Who is your role model and why? My role model is my dad because he is always encouraging me to put in the extra work. He is always pushing me to try something new and always be the best person that I can be.

What advice would you give to other students especially students in elementary and middle school? You gotta stay involved because by the time your a senior, you won't get to experience high school ever again. Even if you don't enjoy the first practice or meeting, you gotta stick with it because it will get better. Also, tagging along with a friend will make it easier.

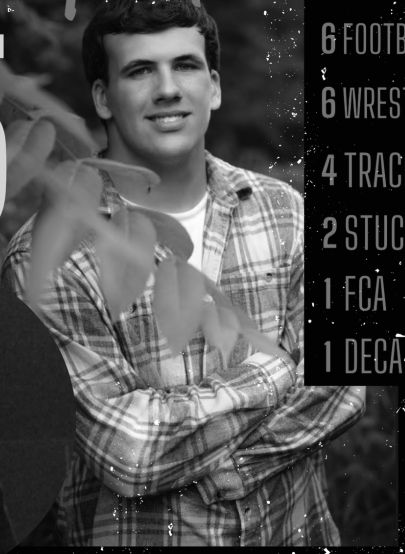
What makes you a good teammate for the sport/activity that you are involved in? I'm always about having fun and goofing off but when it comes to practice, gameday, or a meeting, I want to stay focused. If anyone on the team or group need help with something, then I'd be glad to help.

STUDENT ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

25

COLE

25



6 FOOTBALL

6 WRESTLING

4 TRACK

2 STUCO

1 FCA

1 DECA

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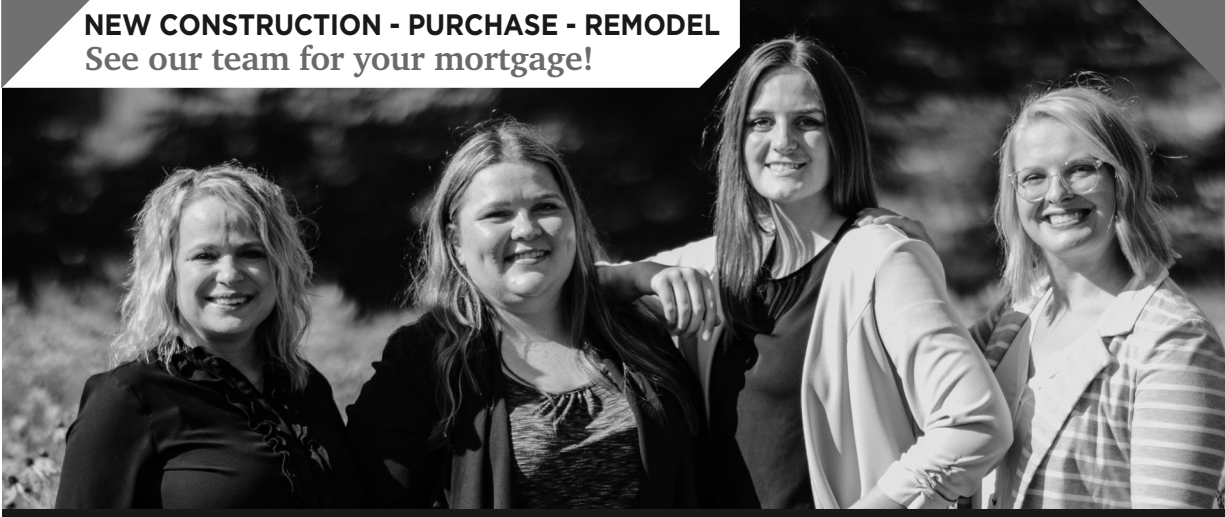
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OBITUARIES

David Millang

David Allen Millang, 71, of Hartland passed away on September 30, 2024 in Mankato, MN.

Born on June 21, 1953 in Morrison, IL, David was the son of Irone and Eunice Millang. He was baptized on September 27, 1953 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Morrison, IL, and was confirmed on April 20, 1969 at the First Congregational Church in Freeborn, MN. He graduated with the class of 1972 at Freeborn High School.

David worked various jobs, and took care of his ailing parents until their passing at their country home near Hartland. He began working at the New Richland Care Center and worked there for twenty years in the laundry department and in assisting with maintenance projects. He took care of the Center's flower gardens and did the outside decorations for holidays. He loved working with the people there. He also had many clients in the Albert Lea area for whom he did landscaping, yard work and whatever was asked of him. Sometimes, they just wanted him to sit and talk. One even asked him to marry her! He would sometimes drive to Albert Lea just for chocolate chip cookies they made for him!

When he wasn't caring for people, which was a daily thing, you would find him at the farm moving and tending his flowers, or at his home in New Richland, also working with his plants and flowers. He loved the smell of fresh-cut grass. He "adopted" any plant that people threw out and made them thrive. He was a caring, loyal brother and friend who will be missed deeply.

A memorial service will be held



David Millang

at 11 a.m. on Monday, October 7, 2024 at Bonnerup Funeral & Cremation Services in Albert Lea, with a visitation beginning at 10 a.m. Burial will be in Hillcrest Cemetery.

He is survived by his sister, Carole Zierke of Blue Earth; brother, Arlowe Haugen of Apple Valley; brother, Orv (Sue) Millang of Bismarck, ND; brother, Jerold Millang of Nashville, TN; sister, Janet, (Gary) Korogi of New Richland; sister, Deb (Ken) Boley of Byron; sister-in-law, Nancy Millang of Freeborn; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends; and his foster cat, Zoe.

David was preceded in death by his parents, brothers, Gene and Jerry Millang; sisters, Ellie Schutrop and Joanne Hamre; brothers-in-law, Larry Schutrop, Merle Zierke and Melford Hamre; sister-in-law, Ruth Haugen; and nephew Ethan Millang.

In lieu of flowers, you are encouraged to plant a tree in David's honor. Blessed be his memory!

Alice Johnson

Alice Mary Johnson, 76, passed away on Thursday, October 3, 2024 in New Richland, MN. A funeral service was held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, October 8, 2024 at the Bayview/Freeborn Funeral Home in Albert Lea, MN, with a visitation held an hour prior to the service. Following the service, there was a time for fellowship and a meal, followed by burial at Hillcrest Cemetery. Pastor Mike Wolfe officiated.

Alice was born on May 29th, 1948 in Albert Lea to Carlyle and Grace Johnson. She grew up on the Family Farm in Ellendale. After graduating she moved to Waseca and worked at Lakeshow Nursing home as a Nursing Assistant until

she retired. Alice enjoyed doing puzzles and playing cards. She had a special talent for baking and looked forward to every year making her lefse along with all her Christmas goodies.

Alice also looked forward to the Freeborn County Fair, waiting hours in line for her "fourth row center stage seat." She also enjoyed watching the kids show their 4-H animals. During this time, she created countless cherished memories. Alice found happiness in helping others. She had unwavering devotion to her family. She was a devoted sister and loving Aunt, stepping up to help raise her nephew and nieces, but nothing made her happier than helping

family.

Alice is survived by her brother Martin (Karen) Johnson; nephews Brian (Lynette) Johnson, Matthew (Liz) Stitzmeyer, Dean (Lonna) Broitzman, and Todd (Jody) Broitzman; nieces Megan (Kari) Berg, Amy (Mathias) Gregor, and Angie (Collin) Johnson; and her brother-in-law Leroy Stitz. She was preceded in death by her parents and her sisters Julie, Judy, Nancy, and Louise; sister-in-law Susie Johnson; niece Ann Broitzman; great-niece Mckenzie and great-nephew Anthony.

Special thanks to Brian for your dedication to your aunt; you truly made a difference. Alice was deeply grateful for your love and support.



Alice Johnson

Steele County Public Health Drive-Thru Flu and COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics

STEELE COUNTY, MN] – [9/25/24] – With flu season approaching, Steele County Public Health (SCPH) is excited to announce upcoming Drive-Thru Flu & COVID-19 Clinics open to the public at five convenient locations throughout the county. Please sign up in advance on the SCPH website, under the 'Disease Prevention and Immunizations' tab.

The drive-thru clinics will be held at the following locations:

- Tuesday, October 1, 12:30 - 3:30 PM at Medford Funeral

Home, 310 Central Ave E.

- Wednesday, October 23, 3:30 - 6:30 PM at South Country Health Alliance, 6380 Frontage Rd W.

Ellendale
• Wednesday, October 2, 12:30 - 3:30 PM at the Ellendale Fire Department, 507 2nd St S. Owatonna

- Thursday, October 3, 12:00 - 6:00 PM at SCPH, 635 Florence Ave

- Wednesday, October 16,

12:00 - 5:00 PM at SCPH, 635 Florence Ave Blooming Prairie
• Friday, October 4, 12:30 - 3:30 PM at Blooming Prairie City Hall, 138 Highway Ave S. (Please note: This location is not a drive-thru clinic.)

SCPH accepts the following payment methods Medicare, South Country Health Alliance, Blue Plus, Medical Assistance, BCBS, Health Partners, Humana, Medica, UCare, or cash/check. Steele County Public Health is

dedicated to preventing disease, promoting wellness, and protecting the health of Steele County residents through a variety of services such as family health programs, immunization clinics, and home health care. SCPH also provides resources for radon and water testing, health education, and emergency preparedness to realize its vision of Healthy People in Healthy Communities. Learn more: https://steele-countymn.gov/public_health.

Judy Peterson

Judy (Judith) Ann Peterson passed away on Tuesday, October 1, 2024 at her home in rural Clarks Grove, MN at the age of 83.

Judy was born on April 23, 1941 to Alvers and Dorothy Olson, Owatonna, MN. She graduated from Kasson-Mantorville High School in 1959. In 1960, she married Michael Kubiatowicz and they were the parents of Mike, Mark, Mitch, Michele and Matt. They were later divorced.

In June, 2001 Judy and Forrest Peterson were married at First Baptist Church of Albert Lea. They have since lived in rural Clarks Grove. Judy and Forrie have spent the last several winters in Apache Junction, AZ, riding mules in the Superstition Mountain area. Judy loved the simple country living, sometimes frustrated when the critters would eat her plants in the area, she called the "wild patch" (She admitted she had no green thumb, but kept trying.), and then shrugged her shoulders, saying they were there before she was and it was worth it to see the many deer roam through the yard, acting like they owned the place. She enjoyed knitting and crocheting and just being a homemaker in her own little comfort zone. In her later years, Judy became addicted to quilting and building a stash. A season for everything, she loved Bible study, her church family and watching her family and extended family grow with all of the new babies. Such little blessings.

Judy is survived by her husband, Forrie Peterson; children, Mike (Anne) Kubiatowicz, Eau Claire, WI, Mark (Christina) Kubiatowicz, Valdeese, NC, Michele Lewis, Matthews, NC, and Matt (Stacy) Kubiatowicz Geneva, MN; grandchildren, Andy (Anna) Kubiatowicz, Jason (Kari) Kubiatowicz, Sarah (Sam) Emmons, Daniel (Sarah) Kubiatowicz, Rachel (Brandon Miller) Kubiatowicz, Mark (Taya) Kubiatowicz, Mat-



Judy Peterson

thew Lewis, Jacob Lewis, Anna Grace Lewis, Dillon (Elizabeth) Kubiatowicz, Brett (Ellie Bungum) Kubiatowicz; great grandchildren, Max Kubiatowicz, Teddy & Henry Kubiatowicz, Ali & Lauren Kubiatowicz, Zeke & Winston Emmons, Aurora Kubiatowicz, Lennyx Lewis McGill, Yalina Lewis, and Baby Girl Kubiatowicz due in December; stepsons, Dave (Tammy) Peterson and Mike (Michelle) Peterson, all of Clarks Grove; step-grandchildren, Blake (Brittany) Peterson, Megan (Eric) Thompson, Calvin (Jessica) Peterson, Rickon (Colleen) Peterson, Joseph Peterson, Levi (Erin) Peterson, Corey Peterson, Abe (Paige) Peterson; step-great grandchildren, Forrest Peterson, Austun Peterson, Lauren Peterson, Wyatt Peterson, Rylan Peterson, Brea Thompson, Marais Peterson, Ivy Peterson, Klay Peterson, Michal Peterson; brother, Dan Olson, Chandler, AZ; sisters-in-law, Emily (Gary) Ayers and Karen (Bert) Wiersma.

Judy was preceded in death by her father Alvers Olson in 1987; mother Dorothy Olson in 2012; brother Jim in 2019; son Mitch Kubiatowicz in 2000.

A private family memorial service and interment will be held at Bridge Community Church and Clarks Grove Baptist Cemetery.

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Spikers split with JWP, Hayfield

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School volleyball team was coming off a busy week that included Homecoming activities and a weekend tournament.

It did not hinder their play. The Panthers blanked visiting Hayfield last Tuesday, winning 25-17, 25-13 and 25-22 in New Richland.

“Overall, we played well tonight against Hayfield,” said NRHEG coach Bethany Tennis.

It included plenty of hustle on the part of the Panthers.

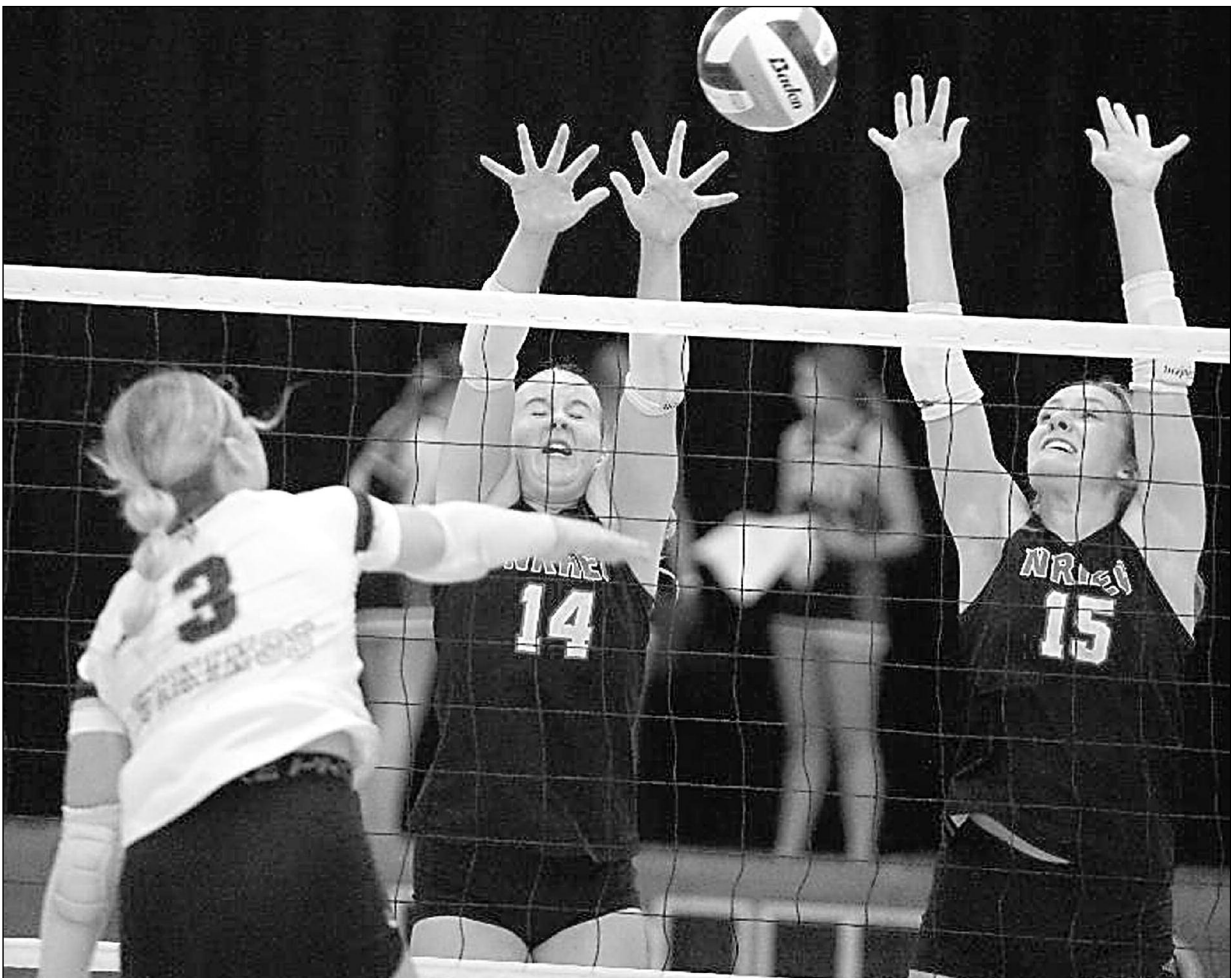
“Our defense was working on keeping plays alive by covering our hitters and playing each point with intensity,” explained Tennis. “Our players at the net also did their job well attacking with a swing consistently. Setter Addy Stadheim racked up 35 assists while Izley Boerner and Libero Chloe Riewer each had 10 digs. As a team, we had positive communication throughout each set which is key to our success. We take on JWP later this week and expect a good conference battle.”

Total individual statistics: Gabby Schlaak 13 kills, 8 digs, 1 set assist, 1 ace, 1 block; Camryn VanMaldeghem 9K, 8D, 1A, 4B; Anika Ladlie 3K, 1B; Mallory Schlinger 3D, 1A; Izley Boerner 10D, 1SA; Nora Flatness 2D, 2B; Addy Stadheim 1K, 7D, 35SA, 1B; Aspyr Stenzel 2D; Chloe Riewer 10D, 1SA; Chloe Stork 4K, 4B; Meela Budach 6K, 1D.

As predicted, Thursday’s Gopher Conference match at Janesville was close, but the Bulldogs prevailed 3-0 as JWP setter Audrey Weedman reached the 1,000-set assists milestone. Game scores were 26-24, 25-18, 26-24.

Schlaak and VanMaldeghem led the offense with 12 and 10 kills, respectively. Boerner led the defense with 11 digs.

“We took on JWP for their Homecoming tonight,” said Tennis.



BREAK-EVEN WEEK — The NRHEG volleyball team won one of two matches last week, defeating Hayfield and falling to JWP. Above against Hayfield, the Panthers’ Addy Stadheim (14) and Chloe Stork (15) set up a blocking wall as Breanna Subbert spikes. Below, Izley Boerner bumps with Gabby Schlaak in the background.

Star Eagle photos by Eli Lutgens

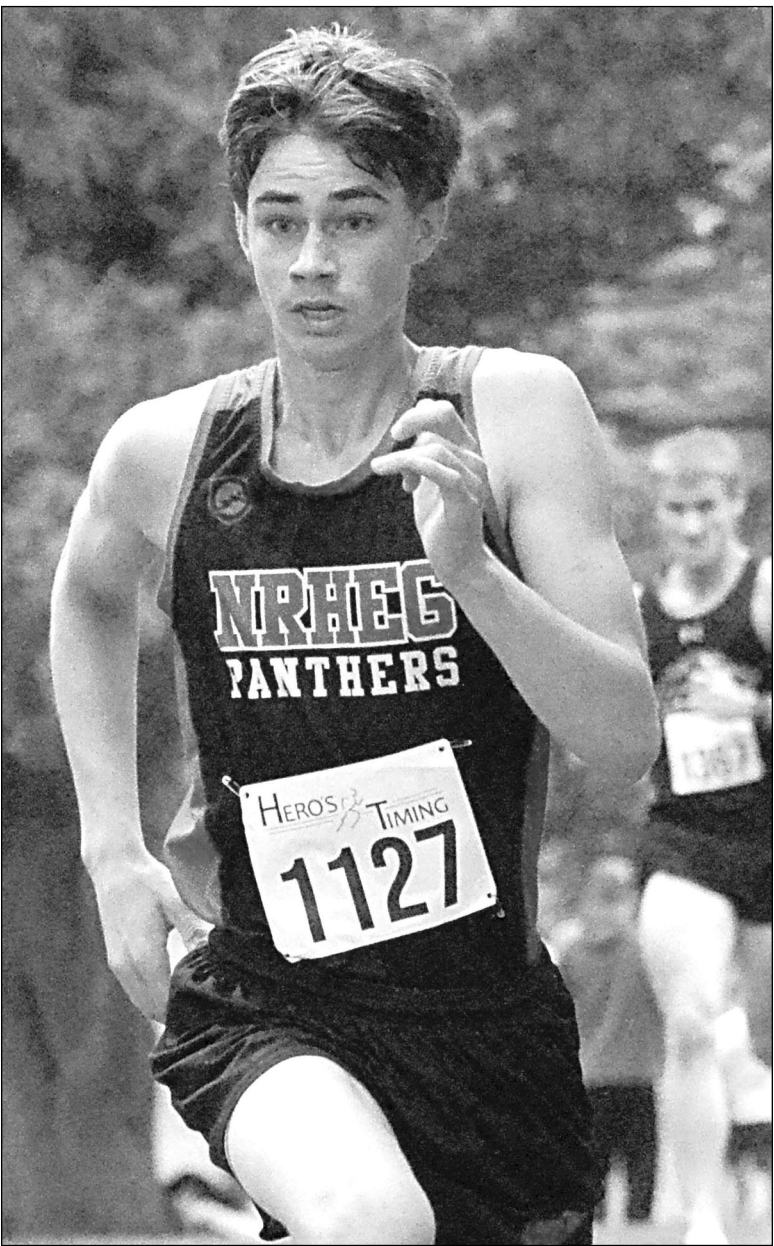
“JWP played well and played tough defense throughout the sets that led to their success in three.”

Full team stats for NRHEG: Schlaak 12K, 4D, 1SA, 2A; VanMaldeghem 10K, 4D, 1SA, 2A, 1B; Ladlie 2K, 2A; Schlinger 4D, 1SA; Boerner 1K, 11D; Flatness 1SA; Stadheim 2K, 2D, 27SA, 1A, 1B; Riewer 3K; Stork 4K, 4B; Budach 3K, 1D, 1A.

The Panthers’ record fell to 4-4 in the conference and 10-10-1 for the season. The Bulldogs improved to 3-3 and 10-8-1.

“Looking forward, Panther volleyball aims to regain consistency in our serve receive and defense so that our offense can go to work,” said Tennis. “The girls thrive on positive energy and momentum, so, as a team we plan to continue to push and create this energy when faced with challenging opponents.”

The Panthers host Maple River tonight at 7:15 and end the regular season Oct. 15 at Randolph. The section tournament starts Oct. 21.



STRONG SHOWING — Above, the Panthers’ Jacob Karl on his way to sixth place in last week’s Waseca Invitational. Below, NRHEG’s Julieann Wobbrock.

Star Eagle photos by Jim Lutgens



Karl 6th, Wobbrock 7th at Waseca Invitational

NRHEG cross country runners Jacob Karl and Julieann Wobbrock had a good outing in last Thursday’s Waseca Invitational.

Karl, a junior, finished sixth among the boys, clocking 18:10.10 for 5,000 meters.

Wobbrock, an eighth-grader, took seventh in the girls’ race in 20:40.8.

Karl was NRHEG’s lone entrant for the boys. Faribault won with 34 points, edging Waseca by one.

Also scoring were TCU and USC. Waseca senior Isaac Feldkamp won the boys’ trace in 17:18.50.

Also placing for the NRHEG girls: Sierra Misgen, 35th, 27:04.10; Amelia Durjee, 37th, 28:30.67; and Holly Bartness, 39th, 31:01.5.

Faribault’s girls won with 27 points, followed by Waseca with 40, TCU 83 and WEM/JWP 94.

The Gopher Conference meet is Oct. 15 and section is Oct. 24 at Norwood-Young America.



CHALLENGING GAME — At left, the Panthers’ Owen Bartlett takes off after catching a pass against WEM. At right, Bartlett and Aaden Hanna team up on a tackle.

Star Eagle photos by Eli Lutgens



Panthers fight hard, but fall to WEM

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The streak is over for the NRHEG High School football team.

The Panthers, riding high while winning three consecutive games after an 0-2 start, were upended 28-12 by a tough WEM crew at Waterville last Friday.

“It was a hard fought game,” said NRHEG head coach Marc Kruger.

The story of the game, according to Kruger, was how the Buccaneers were able to control the line of scrimmage and keep the NRHEG defense on the field.

All told, the Bucs ran for 316 yards on 55 carries while the Panthers were held to 50 yards rushing. For the game, WEM outgained the Panthers 358-167 in total yards, totaling 21 first downs to the Panthers’ 10.

After falling behind 14-0 in the second quarter, the Panthers cut into the deficit on a 5-yard run by Harbor Cromwell. WEM scored again in the second, making it 21-6 at halftime.

“We had a hard time getting off the field on defense.”

— NRHEG coach Marc Kruger

The Bucs added a third-quarter touchdown. The Panthers found the end zone again in the fourth on a 22-yard touchdown pass by Alden Dobberstein, who finished the night 6-for-13 for 177 yards. He did not throw an interception. Dobberstein was also the Panthers’ leading rusher with 25 yards on 12 tries.

Jordan Brouwers led the defense with nine tackles. Cromwell had eight tackles and two assists. Ryan Schlaak seven tackles and four assists.

“WEM’s offense was able to really control the ball and line of scrimmage,” said Kruger. “We had a hard time getting off the field on defense, with them creating some long drives. They really beat us on time of possession that way. We were able to throw the ball some, and saw two

scores. As a team, we are looking forward to learning from this.”

The Panthers fell to 3-3 for the season, all six games coming in the Mid Southeast West Conference. WEM improved to 5-1.

The Panthers play tonight at 7 p.m. at JWP and finish the regular season Oct. 16 at United South Central. The section tournament starts Oct. 22.

WEM 28, NRHEG 12				
NRHEG	0	6	0	6-12
WEM	7	14	7	0-28
First Quarter				
WEM	3	run (kick successful)		
Second Quarter				
WEM	3	run (kick successful)		
NRHEG	Harbor Cromwell	5 run (kick failed)		
WEM	4	pass (two-point conversion successful)		
Third Quarter				

WEM — 1 run (kick successful)		
Fourth Quarter		
NRHEG — 22 pass by Alden Dobberstein (two-point conversion unsuccessful)		
	NRHEG	WEM
Total plays	42	67
First downs	10	21
Rushing	50	316
Passing	6-13-0	5-8-0
Passing Yds.	117	42
Total Yds.	167	358
Third Down	1-8	8-11
Fourth Down	2-4	1-3
Fumbles lost	0	1
Turnovers	0	1
Penalties	6-40	4-30
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS		
Rushing — NRHEG: Dobberstein 12-25; Owen Bartlett 1-11; Cromwell 3-7; Ryan Schlaak 5-0; Rest of team 3-7; WEM: 55-316		
Passing — NRHEG: Dobberstein 6-13-0, 117; WEM: 55-316; WEM: 5-8-0, 42		
Receiving — NRHEG: Bartlett 2-58; Cromwell 1-21; Knudson 1-5; Rest of team 2-33; WEM: 5-42		
NRHEG Defense — Jordan Brouwers 9 tackles, 3 assists; Cromwell 8T, 2A; R.Schlaak 7T, 4A; Seth Staloch 5T, 1A; Jayden Fleming 3T, 1A; Jace Ihrke 2T; Wyatt Larson 4A; Cole Hutchens 1A		

STANDINGS			
Football		Volleyball	
Mid Southeast - West		Gopher Conference	
Norwood Young America	6-0		
Lester Prairie	5-1		
Randolph	5-1	Kenyon-Wan.	7-1 16-5-0
WEM	5-1	Bethlehem Ac.	6-1 10-9-0
Cleveland	3-3	WEM	5-2 14-7-0
NRHEG	3-3	NRHEG	4-4 10-10-10
United South Central	3-3	Triton	3-4 10-8-0
Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop	2-4	JWP	3-3 10-8-1
JWP	1-5	Medford	2-3 7-11-0
Mayer Lutheran	1-4	United So. Cent.	2-3 10-7-1
St. Clair/Loyola	1-5	Hayfield	2-6 2-12-0
Medford	0-6	Randolph	3-4 10-8-1
		Blooming Pr.	0-7 3-14-2

Nothing better than having good friends

This week I am in the process of planning my last visit of the season to the cabin. I have to fit it in between a few other prior commitments. I always look forward to visiting the cabin and this is no exception, even if it is just for a couple of days to bring home the mower and a couple of items that I had forgotten from the previous trip.

Closing the cabin for the winter is always a semi-sweet event, but looking forward to the first spring visit makes the winter go by a little quicker.

The leaves of fall are now turning in our area of the state. Taking a drive in the country is always a rewarding experience at this time of year. There is, to me, nothing more invigorating than driving on a country road while enjoying the fresh air and the beauty of the countryside.

This is the first time in a while that, while at the cabin, I didn't take a trip down this little road north of our cabin that is known for its fall beauty. I have driven this at least



Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl
Outdoors Writer

once each fall and will make a plan to do it again while I am up there. It is a narrow road that has trees aligned along both sides and a wonderful display of colors. In the last few years, I have only met one car on this road. There are no cabins or homes along the way, so it is indeed nature untouched. There is a spot where you can park and hike back to a small lake hidden amongst the trees, tall grass and cattails.

My son Brian and his family discovered this place a few years ago when they were at the cabin. They all like to hike and explore new places. I used to be that guy, but I am now

not as mobile as the younger me. As I have aged, I no longer try to push myself beyond my comfort zone, which is not always a good thing.

A few weeks ago, my friend Mike and I got together with another of our old Navy buddies, Larry, at his place in Andover. We had a great time catching up and reminiscing about our Navy days and also, our times after. We were all in each other's wedding, so there is a special bond that has kept us close friends even after all these years.

Hopefully, we will get together at our cabin for a few days next fall. We did that two years in a row and have

since visited Mike's home in Outing and now Larry's in Andover, so I guess it's time to rough it: at my cabin. We always have plenty of laughs and Mike always brings plenty of pictures; he is the organized one of us three.

There is nothing better than having good friends, and, although we led our lives apart for many years, when we connected again it seemed like only yesterday that we were last together.

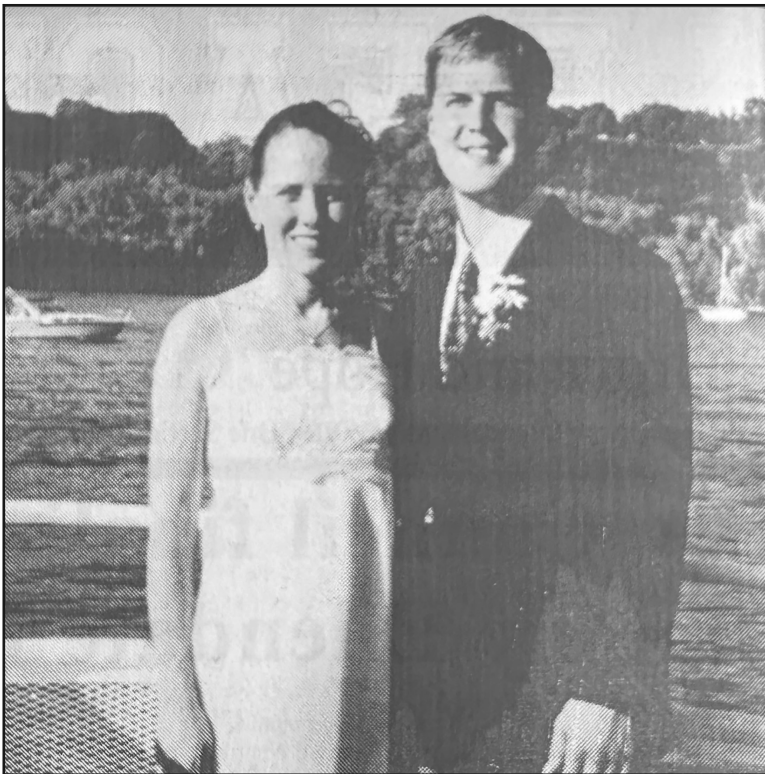
Until next time: Just a reminder that in our part of the state burning permits are required and there is a burning ban in a large part of northern Minnesota at this time. Dry conditions throughout the state make ideal conditions for wildfires. Please be aware of your surroundings and avoid outside burning.

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

● Ryan Hasting, a graduate of St. Cloud State, has joined the staff at New Richland. Ryan is the special education teacher for junior and senior students. He received his degree in the spring of 1999 as a special education instructor for K-12, licensed for learning disabilities and mild to moderate handicapped learning. Ryan is a graduate of La qui Parle Valley High School in Appleton, Mn. Ryan has an older brother and sister.



● Michelle and Nathan Jacobson. Michelle Leigh Raines and Nathan David Jacobson were married Friday, July 23, 1999 on the Stillwater Riverboat by Pastor Phillip Lewison. Parents of the bride are Gary and Dianne Raines of White Bear Lake. Parents of the Groom are David and Karen Jacobson of New Richland.



● Tiffany Wayne (w/Haley) showing the awards they won at the Regional Dog Show. On October 11th the southern Regional Dog Show was held in Fairmont. The Bath-Geneva 4-H Club had eight participants attending. Tiffany Wayne received a Grand Champion in *Beginner Agility, a 6th place in *Junior Open Showmanship, a white in Junior Novice Obedience (w/Haley), and a 2nd Alternate in Beginner B (w/Lassie). Ben Payne received a Reserve Champion in *Beginner Agility, a 4th place in *Junior Novice Showmanship, and a red in Junior Novice Obedience (w/Jaycee).

50 Years Back

● The girls varsity basketball team added another Conference win to their record Tuesday night by defeating Medford, 39-19. The Raiders jumped out to an early lead and a strong defense to be ahead at the end of the first quarter, 14-2. They slowed down the offensive pace in the second quarter and still led at half, 18-6. Again the girls came out and took charge in the third quarter and extended their lead to 34-16. Both teams were cold in the fourth quarter, but the Raiders managed to score two more than Medford and ended up with the 20 point victory.

● Mr. and Mrs. Richard King. The Naval Station Chapel on Thirty-second Street in San Diego, CA was the Nov. 29 setting for the wedding ceremony of Patricia Simon and Richard King. Chaplain Crossan officiated at the double ring ceremony. Kristine and Eric escorted their mother down the aisle. Nicole escorted her father to the altar. Attending the couple were friends, Bob and Mary Macko of Dublin, CA. The couple was honored with a six-Navy-man sword salute as they came out of the chapel.

Toys for Tots applications available

(Owatonna). It is not too early to start thinking about the holiday season and those in need in our County. In 2023 Steele County Toys for Tots provided toys to 554 families with 1,346 children in Steele County.

The 2024 Steele County Toys for Tots applications are now available for download on the Toys for Tots website and at various Steele County locations. New this year, Spanish and Somali applications have been added.

Applications for the Steele County Toys for Tots Program are available at the following locations:

Minnesota Prairie County Alliance, 630 Florence Ave., Owatonna
Community Pathways of Steele County, 155 Oakdale St., Owatonna
Owatonna Public Library - Chil-

dren's area, 105 N Elm Ave., Owatonna

Steele County Public Health, 635 Florence Ave., Owatonna
Blooming Prairie Public Library, 138 Hwy Ave S, Blooming Prairie
Lerberg's Foods, 120 5th Ave., Ellendale

Ellendale Food Shelf, 200 Sixth St., Ellendale
Krause Feed & Supplies - Hope, 9352 SW 37th Ave., Hope

State Bank of Red Wing - Medford, 115 1st St. NE., Medford
Applications are available for download on the Steele County Toys for Tots website <https://owatonna-mn.toysfortots.org>.

Applicants must print the application, fill it out and return no later than Nov. 27, 2024.

Completed applications may be returned to Owatonna Public Library Children's area, Minnesota Prairie County Alliance; or Community Pathways of Steele County or mailed to:

Steele County Toys for Tots/Family To Family
P.O. Box 199
Owatonna, MN 55060

Parents/Guardians and children must live in Steele County. Children must be 15 and younger as of Dec. 31, 2024, and school-aged must be attending school or home schooled. The application must be completed by the parents or guardians. If you have shared or joint custody, please indicate by including that person's name and their address. The application deadline is Nov. 27, 2024.

Toys for Tots of Steele County has been in existence for more than 40 years. It operates within the national U.S. Marine Corp Reserve Toys for Tots program, which began in 1947. Its objective is to collect and distribute NEW and UNWRAPPED toys to Steele County needy children at Christmas. Cash and gift cards received are used to purchase toys as per directives from our national organization.

For more information about Steele County Toys for Tots, visit their website <http://owatonna-mn.toysfortots.org> or go to the Steele County Toys for Tots Facebook page for updates.

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)

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 - 8:30 a.m. Worship (times vary for holidays)

SIMPLY CHURCH
105 Second Street North East
Geneva, Minnesota
Todd Lundgren, Pastor

Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Bible Study; 10:30 a.m. Worship

VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH
Ellendale, Minnesota
Pastor David Modder

Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 10 a.m. Kids church

Check the website for additional updates
www.vibrantlifeag.com

FIRST LUTHERAN, AFLC
Ellendale, Minnesota
Pastor Kyle Smith

Saturday - 8 a.m. Men's Bible Study
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship
Monday - 7 p.m. Call to prayer
Wednesday - 9:30 a.m. Bible Study; 6 p.m. Confirmation; 7-9 p.m. Youth Group (No confirmation during summer)

ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST
Ellendale, Minnesota
Randy 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

HOLLANDALE REFORMED
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 Klaviter

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.litomyisl.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

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Feed a Farmer
Sunday, October 13th 10:45 am - 12 Noon
LeSueur River Lutheran Church
16650 250th Ave, New Richland
Meal: Roast Beef, Mashed Potato & Gravy, Green Beans, Dinner Roll, & Bars
ADVANCED ONLY MEALS.
Order by Friday, October 11th.
Please Call Judy @ 507-383-8568 or LeeAnn @ 507-475-0125
Take out only, but meals may be eaten at the church if you wish. Free Will Donation, suggested price of \$15 per meal

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A Complicated Journey

Estate sale to benefit county historical society

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

"I dislike the process of selling things," comments Wasecan Lori Pommerenke. "But this is more like storytelling."

Pommerenke is speaking of an upcoming estate sale scheduled for 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 11 and 12, at which she will be clearing out her parents' possessions, so that their home can be placed on the market. A special feature of this sale is that all proceeds will benefit the Waseca County Historical Society (WCHS) where her mother had a life membership. The WCHS has also taken an interest in the range of locally-acquired vintage items that have come to light at the estate.

On day one, Oct. 11, shoppers will have the chance to buy items on a "no reasonable offer refused" basis. On day two, beginning at 9 a.m., they may take whatever items they wish, giving only the donation of their choice in payment.

"It's time for this to come to an end," Lori says of the seven years and more she has spent sorting through, assessing, cleaning and redistributing the massive collection of possessions her parents had acquired.

The sale will be at 600 Eighth Street Southeast at a house and alleyway outbuilding filled with items which belonged to her parents, Gloria and Ray Pommerenke, who lived in their Waseca home from just before their marriage in 1951 until Gloria's death in 2017. The couple raised two daughters who graduated high school in the 1970s: Brenda, who has lived in the Washington D.C. area for nearly four decades, and Lori, who, after earning advanced degrees and working for the Peace Corps for more than two decades, moved back to Waseca in 2004 to raise her then-infant daughter, Rose.

Asked to supply one word to describe each of her parents, Lori begins with her father: "He was brilliant. He could fix anything." She points to his basement work area, indicating the spaces where an array of power tools once allowed him to carry out his projects.

"My mother was...busy," says Pommerenke, choosing her word carefully. "She was an excellent, dedicated cook. I think partly because she loved the social aspect of sharing what she had made."

"For much of her life, the rest of the house might be in chaos, but the kitchen would be neatly organized."

The heartbreaking story of losing her father began with the onset of dementia in 1999, which eventually led to a stay in an assisted living facility until his death in 2013.

Her mother's passing at age 90 in 2019 was a shocking surprise: She experienced sudden cardiac failure while she was home alone packing for an out-of-state trip. Though she had been plagued by heart health problems, she was still a licensed driver and was preparing for a flight to Washington D.C. to attend a grandson's wedding. Lori found her collapsed and cold at the bottom of the basement stairs, still holding some of the clothing she apparently intended to pack.

The story has stretched itself across an additional seven years because...well...because things were left in a state of...disarray. "My mother threw out nothing," Lori declares, suggesting the foundation for that came from both her mother and father being born in the 1920s and raised in the 1930s. "That generation lived with the memory of struggle, and having to 'do without.' She probably didn't want to see it happen again." The results, however, were disastrous.

"You could barely move through the house," Lori recalls. She gestures into rooms where items once stood in bags, baskets and boxes nearly ceiling high. "There was no rhyme or reason to it," she continues, explaining that hairbrushes, office equipment, dishes, linens and even food items such as canned goods would be mixed together in the various locations.

Of course, Lori had known about the impassable nature of many rooms during her mother's lifetime, but Gloria had rejected all assistance, even complaining she "couldn't find things" if Lori did some cleaning while her mother was away.

While the easiest course for emptying out the household might have been "simply to haul it all to the dump," Lori says that course went against her "sense of responsibility as a citizen of the world."

As a trained conservation biologist, she can't help commenting, "Humanity does not benefit from piles of rubble. Useful items should keep being used, and re-used, then recycled, repurposed or composted when possible."

Her work proceeded with those principles in mind.

When items no longer had any

practical value, her objective was to see them recycled rather than buried in a landfill. When they were useful but not terribly valuable, she would find a person or organization in need of them. An example is several boxes of sewing notions, fabric, tape measures, pin cushions, sewing needles, and the like, which she boxed up and mailed to a charity. More than three tons of scrap metals were hauled to recycling from Ray's collections.

A fairly large collection of song sheets, music books and related papers was given to the Waseca Music Store—the place most of it was originally purchased from, Lori recalls. Many carloads of books were driven to the Twin Cities and given to a company called "Better World Books," which markets used publications online.

"My friends and I have done everything we can to disperse the items to places where they will be used," she says of the past seven years. "I could not have gotten this far without help. A small crew of friends volunteered many hours helping me. A handful of them will again be helping at the sale."

"Countless people offered referrals for disposing of specific items. Customers and repeat customers provided the motivational boost for continuing to use the slow clean-out process. It takes a village to slowly dismantle what two people collected."

When items were soiled, she cleaned them, taking "hundreds of loads" of fabrics home to be washed, since the dryer in her mother's house had not been functioning for some time. The good news? "I will still be using the cleaning supplies and laundry detergent I collected from among her things for some time to come," comments Lori with a laugh.

Ten times or more over the past few years, she has set out an "Estate Sale" sign and brought the public in to consider taking some of "Gloria's Vintage and Ray's Leftovers" home for their own use. The sales have been successful and helpful. Lori tells the story of one shopper who was interested in a vintage toy box. Lori offered it to her for free, but declined to let the box leave unless—also at no cost—the customer took the toys inside it.

"I can say without exaggeration that most of my customers got more than they bargained for," jokes Lori.

The process of sorting, cleaning, and then seeking "homes" for her



The Waseca County Historical Society will benefit from the final estate sale being held October 11 and 12 to find "good homes" for the belongings of Gloria and Ray Pommerenke. Their daughter Lori has spent more than seven years gradually sorting through their lifelong accumulations.

parents' belongings has been a genuine journey, Lori points out. One moment of heartwarming nostalgia came when she found a jacket she remembered wearing as a child. "It just washed over me how much I used to like that jacket, and how I felt when I would wear it," she recalls. In her parents' bedroom, she came across a small figurine of a bullfighter; she recognized it immediately because her father had shared the story often of how, at age 6, he had traveled with his parents to the western United States and even into Mexico—where his parents had bought him the bullfighter as a souvenir.

Also among the items were boxes and boxes of cards and letters, many of them with surprising return addresses. "My parents' generation came of age, and then they went off to war," she points out. "Mother must have written to her friends and classmates prolifically, because they wrote back to her." Though Lori says she is still making her way through the letters, she has found some to be profound for their observations about traveling halfway across the world to fight in a war.

There were moments of sheer surprise. In one attic storage space, Lori came across a bag which had clearly been given to visitors at the 1948 Minnesota State Fair. Inside were pamphlets, pencils, and all the other sorts of gifts frequently given away by vendors. "It had been there all that time, unused, undisturbed," comments Lori.



Gloria and Ray Pommerenke as they looked shortly after their marriage in 1951.

In her mothers' closet were "nylon stockings" from the 1950s—the sort which had a seam up the back, reached to the wearers' thighs, and had to be held in place with a garter.

The heartwarming moments and surprises have continued at the sales Lori has held so far. "I truly enjoy hearing people's reactions to the items," she comments. "They share their memories of similar items, explain why they want to buy things, and tell me how they're going to use them."

That last part—"use them"—is music to Lori's ears, since that's what

the journey has been about. "It's going to be a busy, hectic pair of days," Lori says of Oct. 11 and 12. "But there are three things that will make it worth it. First, the money will go to benefit the Historical Society. Second, the items will be going to people who will appreciate them and use them as they're intended."

"And third, this long journey—taken on out of my love and respect for my parents, and my desire to see their legacy handled in a responsible way—will be over."

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DOUG CHRISTOPHERSON

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONER

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