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NRHEG

Star Eagle

SERVING THE NEW RICHLAND-HARTLAND-ELLENDALE-GENEVA AREA

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Office in New Richland, Minnesota 56072

Thursday, January 16, 2025

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Pearl Harbor Parade



From left, council members Charlie Berg, Charles Swenson, Mayor Scott Groth and Joel Meyer are sworn in during the first meeting of the year for the Ellendale city Council January 9, 2025.

Star Eagle photos by Eli Lutgens

Council presented with lawsuit; new members sworn in, Berg appointed open seat

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

Members of the Ellendale City Council were sworn in during their first meeting of the year, January 9, 2025.

New members include recently elected Scott Swanson, and newly appointed Charlie Berg. Joel Meyer and mayor Scott Groth were also

sworn in.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, the council was presented with a lawsuit from Keith Haskell alleging open meeting law violations, civil rights violations, human rights violations and constitutional violations.

Rural Ellendale resident Daniel Petsinger presented city clerk Steve

Engel with the paperwork, telling him, "You've been served."

Before that, however, Petsinger addressed the council stating proposed changes to the codification manual have not been thoroughly researched, nor has there been sufficient public comment. Petsinger would like the city not to terminate contracts with his company, Radio

ELLENDALE CITY COUNCIL

Link Internet for use of the water tower. He said he feels the action is retaliatory and states this will lead to a loss of income from the contract.

In the fire department report, chief Logan Busho said drawings

for the plumbing on the new fire hall have been received and are under review. It will be about three weeks before the project is rebid.

The council approved purchase of a new commercial fridge at a cost of \$2,500 for the department, along with \$2,500 for new fitting and flanges for a new valve on a tanker.

The council approved a \$50 fine be sent to a property owner for a violation on Radel Court.

A fire department CD reached maturity and the council approved to re-invest \$10,000 at a 4.35% interest rate in a 7-month CD.

All three new council members

Council continued on 4

Geneva Cancer Auction set for Jan. 10-11, Jan. 17-18

The 40th annual Geneva Cancer Auction is scheduled for Jan. 10-11 and Jan. 17-18 at the Geneva Bar and Grill. Fridays begin at 7 p.m. and Saturdays at 2 p.m. Raffle tickets are \$5 and the prizes are as follows: Grand prize \$1,000, then \$500, \$300, and \$200. The drawing is Jan. 18 at 8 p.m. and you need not be present to win.

"Established in 1985, the Geneva Cancer Auction raises funds for cancer research for the sole purpose of eradicating cancer."

Boundary Waters exhibit at the New Richland Library in January

Learn about the Boundary Waters Canoe Area at the New Richland Library, its wildlife, and how to visit in this pop-up Waseca-Le Sueur Regional Library System exhibit. This will be available during the month of January.

Ice fishing class at New Richland Public Library, Jan. 23

Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame winner Terry Tuma will teach ice fishing techniques at the New Richland Public Library at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 23. Bait to rod selection, slab crappies to monster gills.

Pinnacle Pro Wrestling's 'Winter War' at The Mill Saturday, Jan. 25

The Mill Event Center will have Pinnacle Pro Wrestling perform Winter War from 6-10 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 25. Tickets are available online.

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.

A word from The Word



Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8

Fundraiser founder is enthusiastic about giving back

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

"A year of hell."

Two-time cancer survivor Gail Anderson, a 1995 NRHEG graduate who now lives near Blooming Prairie, remembers her doctor told her that was what she could expect beginning from the time she was diagnosed with breast cancer seven years ago at the age of 39.

She says the warning sticks with her and she persistently shares it with others because it was so completely accurate.

Her treatments for breast cancer spanned just over a year and included five months of chemotherapy and three surgeries. Though she continued working as much as possible, she remembers her life and her family's routines were in nearly constant upheaval as she took four or so days to recover from each round of chemotherapy only to receive the next treatment on day seven. After about a year, she was declared cancer free. She mentions she knows it was truly a blessing, since, had she been diagnosed about eight years earlier with the same strain of cancer, it would have been regarded as "unsurvivable."

"But it doesn't end there," she cautions. "Really, being a cancer survivor means you may be encountering complications caused by the treatments for the rest of your life."

That was especially true in Anderson's case. About four years ago it was discovered she had lost a dreadful game of chance. Of those who received the "cocktail" of chemotherapy used against her type of cancer, she says, about one in every 500,000 will develop leukemia, a cancer of



Craig and Gail Anderson, founders of "Coyotes 'fur' Cancer" with their sons Leo, 15, and Wyatt, 19.

the blood.

Since blood is manufactured by bone marrow, the fluid which fills the hollow spaces in the body's larger bones, she needed a bone marrow transplant. In yet another terrible coincidence, it meant her body's immune system, which is trained to fight against "foreign" elements and would therefore jeopardize the transplant process, had to be completely shut down, right in the middle of the Covid pandemic.

Frightful as many elements of her experiences were though, Anderson chooses to focus on another side of the story.

"When you're going through something that awful, when every day is a struggle, even small things can make a giant difference."

Anderson is speaking of the "community support" program offered by the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group (BPCG), a fundraising entity based in Blooming Prairie which raises money to support cancer research, but also has a special fund set aside to help people whose family life and finances are affected by a cancer diagnosis.

An article in the Jan. 2 edition of the NRHEG Star Eagle shared information provided by Cheri Krecji, one of the group's leaders. According to Krecji, BPCG gave \$170,000 to support cancer research in 2024, and used more than \$64,000 for direct personal aid.

Anderson remembers, "After a day of treatments and feeling so sick, it's a tremendous relief not to worry about paying for parking." One of the most common elements of the direct aid, according to Krecji, is a parking pass for the Mayo Clinic parking garage. Another common supplement are "gas cards," intended to help with the ongoing expenses of driving to Rochester so frequently.

Anderson says her recollection of those thoughtful and compassionate gifts helps balance and even outweigh the darker sides of the journey.

Anderson says it is for the sake of that compassion that she and her husband Craig, who operates Water Be Gone Seamless Gutters in Blooming

Fundraiser continued on 6



The Pizza Cellar in Blooming Prairie will be a busy place beginning at 6 p.m. on Feb. 8 during the "Coyotes 'fur' Cancer" fundraiser. A free-will soup dinner, silent auction and live auction will take place that evening, with all money raised going to the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group's individual support program.

Submitted photo

'Coyotes 'fur' Cancer' Fundraiser Feb. 8

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

"Coyotes 'fur' Cancer," an annual fundraiser which has brought in as much as \$30,000 for the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group (BPCG) will begin at 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8 at Blooming Prairie's Pizza Cellar.

All are invited to this family-friendly event. A free-will soup feed will include a wide variety of selections, which will keep on coming as the evening progresses. A silent auction will offer a wide variety of items.

That will be followed by a live auction known for its lively bidding.

"It's a community-centered event," comments founder Gail Anderson, who said she believes the friendly atmosphere is a perfect complement to the community-oriented practices of the BPCG. Another part of the event takes place at other locations much

earlier in the day: Anderson's husband Craig, a co-founder of the event, now in its seventh year, coordinates a coyote hunt much earlier in the day across a number of area counties. At least in the past, when hide values were higher, money raised from their sale was also contributed to the BPCG.

The Andersons have specified that funds from Coyotes fur Cancer be designated for BPCG's community support program, which provides funds and other forms of assistance directly to families whose lives are disrupted by a cancer diagnosis. More information about the organization is available in an article which appeared in the Jan. 2 edition of the Star Eagle; interested parties can access both the Coyotes fur Cancer and Blooming Prairie Cancer Group Facebook pages.

Petsinger wins two claims against Jaguar

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

Court documents show that Daniel Petsinger of rural Ellendale won two counterclaims against internet service provider Jaguar LLC/Metronet on Dec. 23, 2024.

In 2008 Jaguar LLC/Metronet obtained an easement to construct a building erected at 601 Lageson Court within Ellendale city limits. That easement has now been deemed invalid/illegal in a decision from Steele County's Third Judicial District court. Jaguar LLC/Metronet has been given 30 days from the ruling to remove personal property without damage to the building. From that point on, the building and its contents belong to Petsinger and his wife.

Petsinger estimates the value of the professional equipment, including fiber-optic equipment, in addition to other items, inside the building to be about \$2.2 million.

The battle, however, is not done as Petsinger seeks restitution and corrections to the ruling through Minnesota's appellate courts.

"I'm seeking all damages and restitution owed to me," Petsinger told the Star Eagle.

Petsinger said his filing fees and all costs associated from this year-long court process should be paid by Jaguar LLC/Metronet. He also feels he is owed for "unjust enrichment."

"Jaguar/Metronet did not have authority to be on my property or use it for financial gain," Petsinger explained. "I am entitled to unjust enrichment for the use and occupancy of my property—all of the revenues garnered from or through that building. I'm entitled to all of it."

To the best of Petsinger's knowledge, that amount is \$367 million.

"Only what I've calculated through eight years," Petsinger said. "Metronet is a billion dollar a year business. That's how much money they made through eight years in Ellendale."

Petsinger is also seeking cor-

Case continued on 10



FenceLines

by Mark Bernard

No complaints over lack of snow

The scurs and Weather Eye continue getting the cold shoulder, pun intended. Will Old Man Winter let up or is he in it now for the long haul? Starting Thursday, mostly sunny with highs in the upper 30's and lows in the upper 20's. Partly sunny on Friday with highs in the upper 30's and a low around 10. Partly sunny Saturday with highs in the mid-teens and lows around 5 below. Sunday, partly sunny with highs around 5 above and lows around 5 below. Partly sunny on Monday with highs around 5 above and lows around 10 below. Tuesday, mostly cloudy with highs in the low teens above zero and lows around 5 below. Cloudy on Wednesday with a chance of snow. Highs around 10 above with lows in the low single digits above zero. Some good news: On the 22nd our daylight stretches to 9 hours and 30 minutes with our daily increase in daylight reaching just over two minutes per day. The normal high for January 22nd is 21 and the normal low is 4 above. The scurs are licking their chops with all the Valentine's Day ads. More goodies on the horizon.

We've reached what is typically our coldest part of the year and Old Man Winter is delivering as if on cue. The period from Jan. 16th - 23rd brings us an average daily temperature of 12.7°F. We continue to dodge the snowflakes for the most part, although we did see our first measurable snowfall of the New Year recorded on the 10th. It still hasn't meant anything for those relying on snow for recreation or snow removal for income, yet. Will that change as we move into the upcoming months? It is a possibility as La Niña has finally arrived according to Pete Boulay, MN DNR climatologist. He also states that, while it isn't a slam dunk that the La Niña will bring more snow, the trend is that the wintry aspect from them is more apt to appear in the second half of the season. As he points out, if the storm track would shift more to the north coupled with storms coming from the southwest hitting a cold air mass, the picture could change suddenly. Stay tuned.

At the ranch, we certainly aren't complaining about the lack of snow and ice. Two winters ago, when February rolled around, we were battling snow almost daily. I recall blowing the yard out three times in one day just to get chores done. The resulting icy conditions were no picnic either, keeping emergency rooms busy with people who had fallen and broken bones. So far the worst thing at the ranch has been the ruts when temperatures went above freezing a few weeks back. It left the sheep lot uneven and a prime spot to turn an ankle when bumbling around in the dark feeding grain to the ewes. One needs to be careful where water buckets are dumped too, so icy spots don't appear where not welcome. On the extremely cold days, the ob-long fecal pellets excreted by the sheep can almost become like ball bearings on top of the manure pack when it's frozen. Luckily, those days have been short-lived.

After jockeying things around and getting the last of the wheel weights on the tractor thanks to neighbor Jon, was able to haul manure last Saturday while temps moderated. Had everything greased and ready late Friday.

Probably the biggest hassle was trying to get the PTO shaft hooked to the tractor. It was just cold enough, so it was stiff and wouldn't slide on the spline easily. It took 45 minutes to get that latched properly. The barn cleaning itself went better than anticipated. I wasn't sure what I'd find. I was concerned the pack would be too frozen to go through the spreader. Sheep manure pack is some of the densest there is. When frozen it's like slabs of concrete and can shear spreader pins. Fortunately, being inside a building it remained thawed. There were even some maggots seen wiggling exposed to the 20-degree air. They were in for a rude awakening once the beaters broke their home into pieces and scattered them to the wind, not to mention the below zero temps that it ushered in.

Got about one-third of the barn cleaning done. Hard to say what the rest will be like after the cold snap. If it's too frozen, it'll just have to be stockpiled. Luckily, the biological reactions occurring in the pack tend to create heat, especially where it's thickest. Where it's shallower, that reaction can come to a halt more quickly, increasing the odds it may be too frozen to go through a spreader. Again, since this is a newer model spreader than what I grew up with, one tempts fate sometimes and dumps a big frozen hunk or two in it. The shear pins in the old Schultz spreader wouldn't have handled anything that hard or that large. So far, the New Holland 520 always tolerated it, but there comes a point where discretion is the better part of valor, lest one ends up grunting a load off the spreader with a pitchfork. Better to let the 656 grunt it off as intended.

Our feathered friends continue visiting the backyard daily, although their schedules are sometimes interrupted by a Cooper's hawk that frequents the area. Its stay is usually not long-lived and within a matter of an hour or so it finds other places to go. The blue jays and crows make it difficult to get by with much. I've saved the ear corn gathered from the yield checks performed over the years to be fed to the birds including pheasants when in need. Some years the collection is impressive with many large, showy ears staring back at me when I open the lid on the storage can. This year, not so much. There are some, but noticeably fewer than there were the past two seasons. Fortunately the birds and squirrels really don't care. So long as it's available when the temperatures plunge, that's all that matters.

Speaking of squirrels, chasing them is part of Poppy's daily ritual. It takes some forward planning to get the sliding glass door thawed out, but after an hour or so, it happens. Lately there has been a fair amount of change in the yard with a wagon or two parked here and a tractor and spreader parked there. Poppy brings it to our attention that things are out of place. Her favorite job when we're home, indoors and back out of the cold is to wedge her body against your leg and fall asleep. She becomes your very own large hot potato, capable of warming up the chilliest person on a frigid night.

See you next week...real good then.

Why we live where we live



Whatever Flips Your Waffle

by Mark Domeier
Contributing Writer

be lifted, some were allowed to go to different parts of the country to find jobs. And when the internment camps were closed, many unfortunately found they couldn't go back to their original homes because of the distrust that continued from non-Japanese people.

There were many places they found welcoming; Minnesota was one of the top destinations, a place where they could find a new life without much judgment.

Circumstances are often what lead us to live where we do. I was born and raised in New Ulm, a place my ancestors had come to back in the 1800s. Many of my relatives still live in and around New Ulm. In fact, my youngest sister moved back a little over a year ago after years of living up in the Twin Cities.

When I was in high school, I couldn't wait to leave. I vowed I would even leave Minnesota; I just needed to get away.

And then I started looking at colleges. All my top choices were in Minnesota. So much for leaving.

After four years at Winona State

University, I really enjoyed that part of the state. I considered a part-time job offer in Houston, where I student taught. But then I interviewed in a town I had never heard of: New Richland.

I often comment that I ended up halfway between where I grew up and where I went to college. Never have I seriously considered leaving here. I've really grown to love the small-town life. My high school self would never have thought this would be a good idea. But the reality is I can drive from Ellendale to Owatonna or Albert Lea for just about anything I need. It's about 80 minutes to get to any event in Minneapolis.

Plus, our small towns have so much that I can get just by walking a few blocks. I could even walk around the perimeter of my town in an afternoon. (Something I've never thought of doing until now! I'll have to try that!)

Small town living is not for everyone. Neither of our kids has indicated that they would ever want to live around here, but then again, at their

age, I wouldn't have thought that either. I actually sent a resume to my old high school as I was coming out of college. They didn't have an opening, but imagine if they had: I might have ended back right where I said I wanted to get away from.

Some people stay right where they grew up, perhaps leaving for a time for schooling or adventuring. Some people live in the same area, or at least the same state. Some people go far away, rarely returning to their roots.

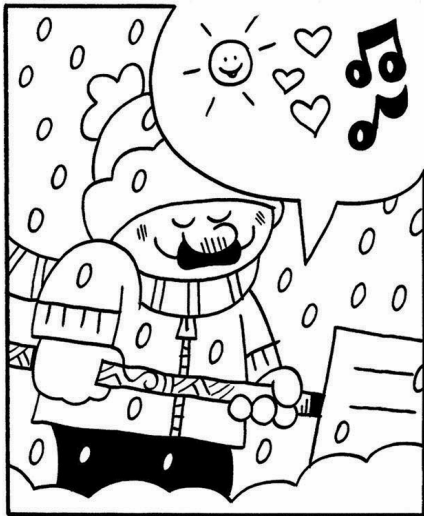
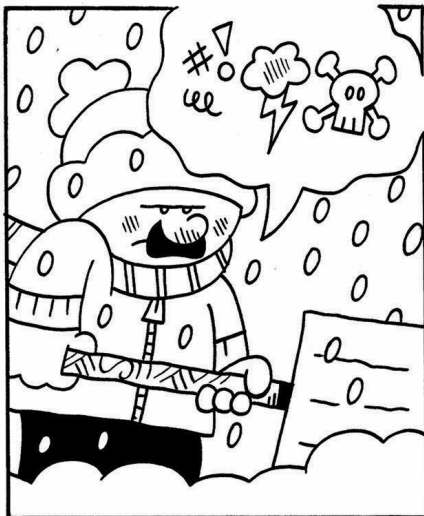
In the novel "Tex," by S.E. Hinton, a theme deals with people who go and people who stay. The characters have to face that they are one or the other. You might be in love with someone, but can you change who you are to be with them?

Ultimately, I suppose I'm one who stays. I'm not far from my family, even if I live as far from New Ulm as I am from Minneapolis. But I've lived in the NRHEG area for much longer now than I did in New Ulm. The only moves I have left will involve moving my children to new locations.

Of course, it is getting colder. I hear Arizona and Florida are nice this time of year!

Word of the Week: This week's word is forswunk, which means exhausted, as in, "He was forswunk after another round of shoveling snow and vowed to head south next winter." Impress your friends and confuse your enemies!

ZED by Duane M. Abel



www.corkeycomics.com

Last week's story has a happy ending

I have a happy update from last week!

An upset patron who left the unhappy review at my game store in Austin returned. He apologized not only to me, but my employee. All is right in the world.

I was grateful for the opportunity to talk about the consequences of one's actions and to talk about how the situation could have been handled differently from each party's perspective.

This weekend I was not in a particularly good mood when my father asked me something simple. My father and I have a very comfortable relationship, and can be very frank with each other. So sometimes, often, if we're upset about something else, our emotions are reflected in our interactions.

A few months ago I lost my temper with my dad for the first time in a long time. Instead of getting upset, he told me I was upset about something else and that I should call him to talk about it later. It was a really surprising interaction. I had previously done the same exact thing with my father months earlier when the roles were reversed. It's just a neat thing to see each other grow as people. Tonight I found myself upset when he asked me about how to download a picture from an email. I explained verbally how to do it before getting up to help when he couldn't understand. Oh, technology!

As I got up, I realized I wasn't mad at him at all; my harsh tone resulted from a personal matter. I apologized for sounding grouchy and explained I was in no way upset with him, to which my dad smiled and said I had nothing to worry about. I do love my dad.

After this interaction my frustration dissipated rather quickly. My dad always told me, growing up, that the key to not being in a bad mood is figuring out what caused the distress and addressing it.

The point I'm making is twofold.



Just a Thought...

by Eli Lutgens

1. You never know what someone is going through, so treat people with kindness.

2. Sometimes, oftentimes, when someone is upset or expressing frustration or anger, they are mad about something completely unrelated to that situation.

On another note, it was recommended to me that I write about why we choose to capitalize only the first word of headlines in the paper. We follow Associated Press (AP) styling/formatting rules.

Reed Waller, the former production manager at the Star Eagle who taught me a great deal, told me my dad knows that rule book backward and forward. Between the two of them, I learned a few things.

To this day, if my dad spots a formatting mistake, he will point it out to me. Growing up, the number of times he repeated himself, I felt relentless. I started as the editor of the Star Eagle when I was 19 after four years of working for my dad as "editorial assistant."

So when I say "grew up," I mean it in the literal sense.

There are numerous design rules I've altered or created over the years, but nearly all of what we do follows the AP guidebook. My mother insists the rules are there to be broken. I believe they are there for a reason.

One example is that my dad and the AP believe headlines must be entirely connected to the body of a story. A headline, for instance, cannot sit directly over a photo with no printed text beneath. After repeatedly seeing how the Mankato Free Press designs its front page, I decided we

could follow suit. My dad immediately pointed it out to me. I told him,

"If it's good enough for the Mankato Free Press, it's good enough for our paper."

He didn't argue with me after that. "It is always important to know when something has reached its end. Closing circles, shutting doors, finishing chapters, it doesn't matter what we call it; what matters is to leave in the past those moments in life that are over."

— Paulo Coelho



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And At The Star Eagle Office

NRHEG
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GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

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Jody Reed and Lori Routh were sworn in as City Council members for Harland, MN at the city council meeting on Monday, Jan. 6 2025.

Hartland city council organizes for 2025

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Hartland city council held its first meeting of the year the evening of Monday, Jan. 6. During a very brief session, legally required organizational matters were taken care of. One of the first orders of business was to swear in three council members and the mayor.

To run for city council, a person must be 21 years old and have lived in the city for at least 30 days. Four-year terms of office begin the first Monday in January. On Jan. 6, Lori Routh and Jody Reed were sworn in as council members. Mayor Kelly Routh was sworn in for a two-year term in the leadership role.

During the public forum, city resident and council member Jackie Schlaak expressed her thanks to the

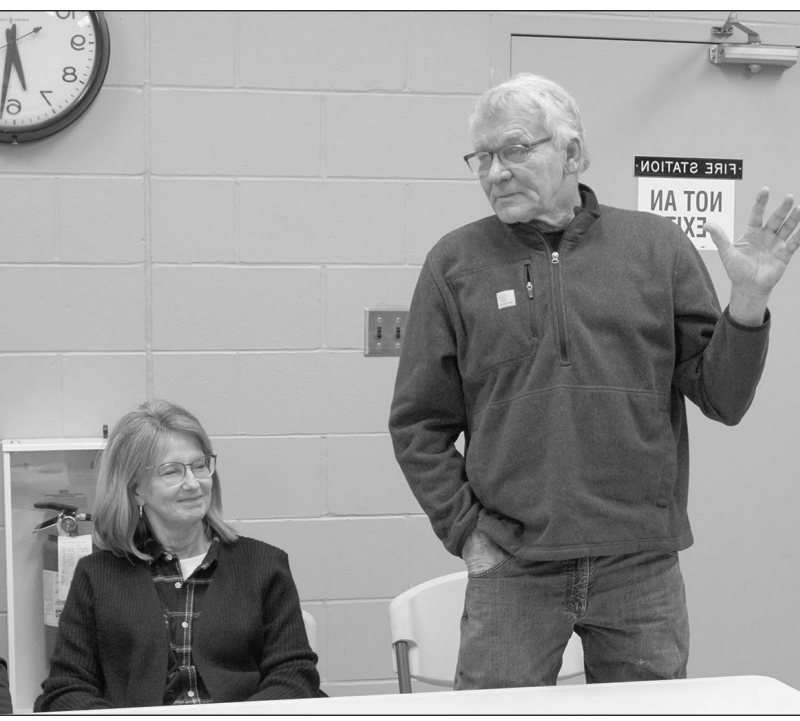
HARTLAND CITY COUNCIL

members of the volunteer fire department for their quick response time two weeks ago. "They were very good and very professional; it was very appreciated."

City maintenance official Andy Flatness told council members it will be possible to sustain an ice skating rink if the cold weather keeps up.

Xcel Energy requested to raise rates this year. A portion of Hartland's power comes from a solar garden and there is a positive return and an earned \$1,600 credit this past year.

Hartland continued on 5



Kelly Routh was sworn in as Hartland, MN Mayor at the city council meeting on Monday, Jan. 6, 2025.

NRHEG Cheerleader takes part in Pearl Harbor parade

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

NRHEG Junior Madison Bogue took part in the Dec. 7 parade memorializing the 1941 surprise attack on the U.S. Naval base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, a day which will famously "live in infamy."

The opportunity was part of a six-day trip made available to individuals who had earned the title of "All-American" from the Universal Cheer Association (UCA), a national group which sponsors many competitions and events.

Madison has been an NRHEG cheerleader for eight years; her most recent leadership roles have been as captain of the "sideline" cheer teams for both fall and winter sports. She has also been with the competition cheer team through its exciting accomplishments over the past few years. She explains cheer team members routinely take part in a UCA training camp in the Twin Cities sometime early each summer. New techniques and trends are covered, teams have a chance to present their routines and receive feedback, and cheerleaders can try out for the title of All-American by demonstrating their skill at jumps and pre-released dance and cheer routines.

Madison earned the distinction this past summer; along with it came the opportunity to take part in a national-level event. Offered a couple of choices, she selected the Pearl Harbor parade.

Madison says she and her parents Sara and Aaron flew to Hawaii early in December and stayed through Dec. 9. Some enjoyable family activities included spending time on the beach, visiting surf shops, snorkeling with sea turtles, visiting Pearl Harbor, and touring the USS Arizona memorial.

She explains ACU participants had received instructions for the planned dance and cheer already in October and all group members were expected to have it thoroughly memorized as they arrived. The roughly 700 All-American cheerleaders who took part came from all across the



NRHEG Cheerleader Madison Bogue recently traveled to Hawaii to take part in the annual parade memorializing the bombing of Pearl Harbor; she earned the opportunity to participate by being named an All-American Cheerleader. Her parents joined her on the trip.

country. They were divided into four teams of about 120. According to online sources, the parade lasts well over an hour and spans a route over a mile long. In addition to that, Madison remembers, she and her group walked well over a mile from the site of their practice to the starting point. Once in the parade, they performed cheers, danced, and occasionally greeted the crowd. During the parade, she says, she and her group performed their nearly three-minute dance routine 14 times.

Even with such a capable group of cheerleaders and even with the expectation of preparing in advance, Madison explains a practice held beforehand was nearly four hours long. "Each group added its own special touches," she comments. "And the finished presentation needed to be really sharp."

One effect that could only be practiced in company with the entire group, she said, is known as a "ripple." For this, participants had to synchronize their movements, so the colors of their lifted pom poms made it seem as if a wave was flowing across the top of the group from one side to the other.

Madison says it was an honor to be part of the Pearl Harbor parade, adding she made many friends whose interests are similar to hers. She also observed it was a rare opportunity to share her skills as part of such a large group. Finally, the trip to Hawaii with family was a delightful opportunity.

"I'm really glad I had the chance to do it," she says.

Even though she was chosen as an All American for 2024, she notes she does not automatically continue as one in 2025; if she is interested in acquiring the title again, she will have to try out again this coming June.

In the meantime, she and the competition cheer team expect to be very busy over the next few weeks. They are centering their energies on continuing a winning record during a competition on Jan. 11, another on Jan. 18 and the state contest set for Feb. 8.



2023 NRHEG graduate and Minnesota State Mankato student/band member Anton Domeier celebrates with the MSU Athletics Band after the girls team won this year's national championship.

A look back at 2024 part three

In the past year, the Star Eagle has covered many exciting stories worth remembering. Here is a look back at the best highlights from the year that was 2024.

April

- The Ellendale Fire Department hosted their 13th annual "All-You-Can-Eat" Fish Fry on Friday night, March 22, 2024 at the Ellendale Fire Barn and Community Center.
- Joey Batt - granddaughter of Al Batt of rural Hartland - helped the Mavericks to the women's crown in an 89-73 victory over Texas Woman's University 89-73 at St. Joseph, Mo.
- Mark Domeier, a longtime teacher at NRHEG, was recognized with a Distinguished Service Award from the Minnesota Interscholastic Activities Administrators Association (MNIAA). He was presented the award during a recent annual conference of Activities directors from across the state. Above, Domeier is pictured with Stork, and also with his wife of 26 years (in October) Michelle.
- The New Richland Caring Friends Relay for Life Team sponsored a project, "Take a Step To Help Fight Cancer" in the NRHEG Elementary School to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. The students were given the opportunity to donate one dollar for a footprint with a name of someone touched by cancer. The footprints are displayed on the hallway wall.
- The New Richland City Council approved the hiring of Heather Christensen as the city's new Assistant City Clerk during its second meeting of the month on Monday, March 25.
- Area Emergency Medical Service (EMS) leaders met with staff from the office of U.S. Senator Tina Smith on April 9 at New Richland's City Hall, to provide information about the status of emergency health care in south central Minnesota.

May

- This month, Dusty Olson, owner of Jensen Plumbing, Heating and Cooling in Geneva, will be celebrating a year in business.
- The Albert Lea Municipal Airport was a hub of activity on Saturday, May 4 as several members of the local chap-



Mrs. Schoenrock's Bridges class stands in front of the "Take a Step to Help Fight Cancer" wall.

ter of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) greeted guests who arrived on a rainy 8:30 a.m. to participate in the annual Eagle Flights program.

- A NIGHT TO REMEMBER - A total of 56 couples walked the magic carpet during NRHEG Prom Saturday, May 4, 2024 in the high school gymnasium. The night's theme was "Light Up the Night."

2024 continued on 8

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OBITUARIES

Margaret Stewart

Margaret Ann (McColley) Stewart, aged 83, passed away Friday, January 10, 2025 at the Augustana Care Center, Hastings, MN.

Margaret was born February 27, 1941 in Albert Lea, Minnesota to Kenny and Agnes (Wakefield) McColley of New Richland, Minnesota. Margaret grew up on the family farm in New Richland, graduating from New Richland High School in 1959. Margaret worked at Marquette Bank in Minneapolis for a short while and then returned to New Richland, working at Truth Tool in Mankato. Margaret moved to Owatonna in 1960, working at Truth Tool, where she met Carl Stewart. Carl and Margaret were married on June 30, 1962, and moved to Phoenix, Arizona, transferring to Grundy Center, Iowa with the Curtiss Company. Carl and Margaret returned to Owatonna in 1963, starting a family.

Margaret, in addition to raising a family, worked at Ev's Kitchen and Happy Chef, returning to Truth Incorporated in 1980. Margaret and Carl and the family spent a great deal of time at the McColley farm in New Richland and their cabin on Baby Lake near Hackensack, Minnesota, with relatives and lifelong friends in the area. The family took many road trip vacations in the western United States. One of Margaret's favorite times was waking up early in the morning at the cabin and sitting by a roaring bonfire, drinking coffee, and watching the birds.

Carl and Margaret retired from Truth in June 1996 and then spent the summer driving across Alaska for three months. The next summer, they rebuilt the cabin and spent most of their summers and falls on Baby Lake. Mom was an avid knitter and crocheter, and is



Margaret Stewart

known for knitting helmet warmers and donating them to troops of the Global War on Terrorism. Mom was a proud supporter of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Margaret is preceded in death by her parents, Kenny and Agnes McColley, her sister Ruth (McColley) Jensen, brother-in-law David Jensen, and brother-in-law Jack Anderson, nephew, Craig Jensen and her husband Carl. Margaret is survived by a sister, Nancy (McColley) Honstad of Florida, daughter Carla Johnson (Jack) of Little Falls, son Ken (Kari) of Farmington, grandson Dallas Nelson (Tammy) of Long Prairie, granddaughters Elizabeth Stewart (Chris) of Lakeville, and Katie Stewart (Jack) of Eden Prairie.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, January 18, 2025 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Michaelson Funeral Home, 1930 Austin Road, Owatonna, 55060. Private burial will take place at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Margaret's honor to the VFW Ladies Auxiliary, 135 Oakdale Street, Owatonna, 55060.

Chip is always the voice of a good day

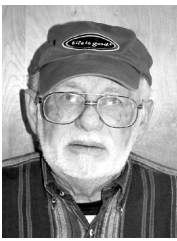
Murphy's Law is an observation that anything that can go wrong will go wrong. I don't know what you would call the opposite, maybe "a good day." In English here are just a few of what I call "a good day":

The viewing of the "Heritage Cabinet" at Central Freeborn Lutheran Church Rural Albert Lea when the strip of lights are turned on. (Notice the Burned Communion Bread.)

When you stop at McDonald's in Garrison, Minnesota for a break and place your order with an employee named Chip. Chip is always a voice of a good day personality.

When the wife of one of the six Freeborn Mower Electrical Lineworkers sent to Florida to help in clean-up after the storm described her thoughts by saying, "It was a timely opportunity to talk to our boys about their BP going to serve those communities who needed Pop's skills more than they were needed at home."

When the happy Valentine's day youth give me a Valentine card stating "So faith, hope, love remain,



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

FACT OR FICTION

...you decide

by Bob Hanson, Emeritus

these three; But the greatest of these is love." (They left it in my mailbox at Central Freeborn Lutheran Church Rural Albert Lea.)

The feeling of those in Attendance at the Annual Albert Lea all Service Clubs Christmas Luncheon at First Lutheran Church in Albert Lea was most certainly a "Good day." The printed summary of the event was "Thank you for your service to our community and the world, in a Christmas cookie life, you're the icing."

When I read the farmers Almanac for 2025 stating: "Eating any ring-shaped treat - such as the donut you're having with your morning

coffee is a day leading to good fortune."

When I see a proud youngster helping mom grocery shop with a sign on a small grocery cart stating "Customer in training."

When I attend a Veterans day service on November 11th and a person in a wheelchair wearing a Veterans Cap hands me a small card stating: For everything there is a season.

A time for War and a time for Peace.

A time for every activity under heaven.

For a season of life you gave up freedom to become a servant.

For a season of life you put the

lives of others before your own.

For a season of life you sacrificed for the sake of others.

Your season of Military service has been complete,

Yet your life in Christ knows No End.

What is Genie's ideal good day? When I'm up and done with breakfast by 9 a.m. A meal out plus volunteer work and home mid-afternoon. Do some house work with the evening meal completed by 6:30 p.m. Visit with Bob. Watch the TV evening News till 11 p.m., read a good book with lights out at 11:30 p.m.

P.S. In case you're wondering: A bad day is when the Minnesota Vikings Football Team gets stomped by a score of 31-9!!!!

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

HCFC to hold annual meeting Jan. 23

January 8, 2025 – The History Center of Freeborn County (HCFC) Annual Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 23, 4:30 p.m. The meeting will begin with a social time, and the formal meeting will begin at 5:00 p.m. Light appetizers will be served. An RSVP is requested.

Members are invited to join us for our annual meeting and get the inside scoop on the History Center of Freeborn County. Attendees will learn of the triumphs and struggles faced in 2024; hear what is on the horizon for 2025; meet the staff and board members of HCFC; and have an opportunity to ask questions.

HCFC has been collecting, preserving and sharing its county's history with the public for 77 years. Did you know that less than 10 percent of the collection items are on exhibit at any one time? The remaining collection items still need proper storage and care in order to protect and share them with future generations. We will highlight some of the issues we are finding in our collections, showcase proper storage, and offer attendees an opportunity to adopt an artifact in our collection.

When you adopt an artifact, you are helping FCHM preserve its collection. Your tax-deductible donation to the Adopt an Artifact program will

support the restoration and storage of an artifact of your choosing and preserve its historical significance, or will go into general support for the collection items.

Adopting an artifact is a unique way to get involved with the museum's collection and help provide the support needed to continue to collect and preserve the history of Freeborn County. Surprise a friend or loved one by adopting an artifact in his or her honor or show your pride in our county history by adopting one for yourself.

Only through the support of the community can we continue to care for and exhibit artifacts that connect

us with the past. Thank you for helping to preserve our history!

The Freeborn County Historical Society is a non-profit educational and cultural institution established in 1948, committed to building the future by preserving the past. HCFC collects, preserves and tells the story of Freeborn County's past through museum exhibits, research, collections, tours, and educational programs. The History Center is located at 1031 Bridge Avenue, Albert Lea, MN. For more information, visit us online at lovehistory.org.

Free admission to HCFC in January

Thanks to Three Oak Vineyards and Winery, we're excited to announce that for the entire month of January, admission to the History Center of Freeborn County is FREE for ALL!

Stop in and explore our captivating more than thirty exhibits, check out the hands-on stations too, visit the Research Library and gift shop! Please note that programming is not included in this offer.

Make the most of this opportunity and discover the rich history

of our community. We can't wait to welcome you!

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■ Council

from Page 1

agreed to attend new council member training sessions at a cost of \$350 per person offered by the League of Minnesota Cities.

The city tabled the Bolton and Menk Engineering estimate cost for upcoming road construction. The projected cost was more than \$100,000, but the city only budgeted \$75,000.

The city also approved an extension of its tax abatement program for three months to allow a new home owner the potential to qualify.

Regular commissions and city

appointments were approved.

The council approved resolutions accepting donations of money from the Ellendale Ambulance Department in the amount of \$74,238.75 and \$2,500 from the Ellendale Fire Relief Association.

In the maintenance department, the council approved \$1,035 for ESRI GIS Application software which will help to map where water services boxes and storm sewer lines are located.

The city council tabled a discussion on approving policy procedure rules for council members in order for members to read the proposed policy. Previously, no such policy existed.

A draft of a new codification draft revision for Telecommunica-

tion Towers and Antenna was approved. At a future meeting the council will vote to approve or disapprove the change.

Near the conclusion of the meeting, Mayor Groth said he intends to draft a letter to the railroad asking them to fix the tracks on Main Street. He reminded everyone that this year will be the 125th birthday of Ellendale. The celebration is set for the last weekend in June. Finally, he asked council members to come up with one goal, before the next meeting, they'd like the city to work on in 2025.

The new members were welcomed to the council.

"It's kind of an honor to be a part of this," councilman Swanson said. "I take it very seriously, our actions and what we do. First thing I think about is the safety and well being of the public. Staying in tune with the people of Ellendale and what they want. Those are my top priorities."

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m. The next meeting of the council will be Thursday, February 13, at 7 p.m.

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Compostings

by Al Batt

There’s no small act of kindness

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS’ CLUB MEETING
I had lunch with the county’s chess champion.
How did that go?
It was good, but it took him 20 minutes to pass the ketchup.
DRIVING BY BRUCE’S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I’ve encountered the occasional fellow wearing shorts while I was in stores or attending basketball games this winter. The guy dressed for the weather he wanted, not the weather he had.

I wasn’t quite in the same pond with the other ducks, so I watched mallards float on open water on an otherwise iced-covered lake. Ducks have dense layers of insulating, waterproof feathers, counter-current heat exchange where arterial blood is cooled by venous blood (reducing heat loss through feet and legs), and carry fat reserves. My mind traveled to Mallard, Iowa, which is south of Curlew and north of Plover. The town has 265 residents and used to have a high school with a memorable school cheer: “Black and Gold, Gold and Black, Mallard Ducks go quack, quack, quack.” In Minnesota, I grew up playing “Duck, duck, gray duck.” In Iowa, they played “Duck, duck, goose.” I wonder if they played “Duck, duck, bear” in Alaska? They probably didn’t.

A CONVERSATION WITH MY NEIGHBOR CRANDALL
My Uncle Clarence died. He left my Aunt Clara \$100,000 from his life insurance, but she sure misses him.

I don’t doubt that. They were married for a long time.
They were hitched forever, Al. She misses seeing his attempted smiling and finishing all his sentences for him. Why, she misses him so much, she’d give \$1,000 of that \$100,000 just to have him back.

I WAS THINKING—IN THE BATHROOM
I opened the box and slid a new tube of toothpaste from it. It was a bittersweet occasion. I was happy to have made it through another tube of toothpaste, but—Wow! I went through another tube of toothpaste. I wonder what my toothpaste tube lifetime total is? A tube of toothpaste is magical. The first 90% of the toothpaste lasts one week. The last 10% lasts three months.

I’VE LEARNED
Matt Dillon of “Gunsmoke” was shot 56 times, knocked unconscious 29 times and stabbed 3 times in 20 years. Doc Adams was a miracle worker.
The worst part of parallel parking is a witness.

It’s easier to write in cursive than it is to read cursive.
The birthplace of Kool-Aid is Hastings, Nebraska.
“Absolutely nothing” spelled backwards is “gnihton yletulosbA,” which means absolutely nothing.
The word “short” is shorter than “shorter.”
Just because something is edible doesn’t mean it should be eaten.

ASK AL
“Why is it called a funny bone?” Because everyone laughs when you hit it.
“What do they put on the roads in Minnesota and Iowa during the winter?” Artificial snow.
“Where do squirrels go during a tornado?” Everywhere.
“I have mice in my house. How do I get rid of the pests?” Stop calling them pests. Call them pets instead.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT
The inventor of the knock-knock joke won the No-bell Prize.
I crossed a boomerang with a piranha and got something that will come back and bite me.
What is made of leather and sounds like a sneeze? A shoe.
Why did the crab cross the road? It didn’t. It used the sidewalk.
How many people with no sense of humor does it take to screw in a lightbulb? One.

NATURE NOTES
Some starlings show yellow on their bills in January, changing from black as the breeding season gets closer.
“How can one blue jay tell if another is a male or a female?” In ways that we haven’t a clue. They likely see differences in each other’s feathers in the ultraviolet spectrum.

“When did opossums show up in Minnesota?” They arrived in the southeastern part of the state around 1900. They aren’t well-equipped to survive cold winters.
“How does a blue jay swallow so many sunflower seeds on a visit to a feeder?” They have a throat sac called a gular pouch, which they can fill and cough up the seeds later to eat or cache.

“What do boxelder bugs eat while in my house?” They suck the juices from the leaves and developing seeds of boxelder and maple trees, but not enough to hurt the trees. While they’re happy to spend the winter in the cozy confines of your house, they eat nothing during that time. They’re generally inactive but might become mobile on sunny days, moving toward windows.

MEETING ADJOURNED
“There is no small act of kindness. Every compassionate act makes large the world.”—Mary Anne Radmacher.



Moments captured during the first weekend of the 2025 Geneva Cancer Auction held January 10 and 11.
Photos by Kathy Paulsen

First weekend raises more than \$35,000

By KATHY PAULSEN
Contributing writer
January 10 and 11 brought the first weekend of the 2025 Geneva Cancer Auction, held at the Geneva Bar and Grill. Hundreds of people crowded the venue as a great group of supporters turned out. The event will resume at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 17, and again at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 18. There is still time to donate auction items.
The annual fundraiser began in 1985, when it raised \$5,500. Now in its forty-first year, it and other Geneva events have contributed a combined \$2,488,000. The four days of the 2024 cancer auction brought in \$186,000.
The Geneva Bar and Grill was filled with energy and a sense of fun;

hundreds of people came and went, always keeping the venue full to capacity. Numerous area auctioneers gave of their time as sellers; others volunteered as clerks and “models,” holding up items for the crowd to see and watching for bids.
The very first sale item was a package deal including a pound of potatoes, a pound of onions and a pound of Hope butter: the package sold for \$35. That was followed by a quart of dill pickles canned by area resident Sue Hill; the jar sold for \$75. Phyllis “Snookie” Hagen donated a pan of her cinnamon rolls which, coupled with a pound of Hope butter, brought in more than \$300.
A wide array of homebaked, homemade and handcrafted items flowed across the auction block,

nearly always bringing in more than they would have sold for in other settings. Gift certificates and quality commercially-made items were also sold. Saturday was designated for the sale of farm-related items and collectibles, a category which always draws strong interest.
Special memorials, including quilts in honor of 7-year-old Finley Budach and for Steve Quam, plucked at people’s heartstrings and their pocketbooks.
Peppered throughout the evenings were presentations of checks for the amounts raised during area fundraisers held during the past year.
The annual “Wild Game Feed,” held each year in the Geneva Bar and Grill parking lot on the first Saturday of December, presented a check for

\$27,000. Alex Beenken, David Thompson, Steve Bailey, Brian Muri and Troy Hagen represented the group.
Karen Quam presented a check in the amount of \$8,054.
The Yaunt-2 Ranch, based in Ellendale, presented a check for money raised during its annual summer “ride for cancer” and other events.
A representative from the Geneva Cancer Auction will appear in order to donate proceeds from the four days of sales during the annual Eagles Cancer Telethon, which will be broadcast on KTTC television out of Rochester beginning at 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18. The Geneva donation will occur Sunday.

Hartland

from Page 3

The bank for Hartland will be Arcadia Bank. The city newspaper will be the NRHEG Star Eagle. City attorney will be Peterson and

Holker. Insurance company will be Security Insurance. Treasurer Company is Arrow Accounting. Auditor is Hill, Benda, Skov & Bernau, P.A.
For Liaisons: Acting Mayor will be Matt Eustice. Water/Sewer/Street will be Kyle Reed. Parks Kelly Routh and Fire Department Jackie Schlaak.

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TWO MORE – The NRHEG High School girls’ basketball team won twice last week, defeating WEM Tuesday and Hayfield Friday. At left, the Panthers’ Quinn VanMaldeghem passes as McKenna Schuster defends. In the middle, the Panthers’ Gabby Schlaak goes in for a lay-up. At right, NRHEG’s Camryn VanMeldeghem defends against Hayfield’s against Betsy Gillette.

Star Eagle photos by Jim Lutgens

NRHEG girls hold off Hayfield, 68-60

It’s usually a close game whenever the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva girls’ basketball team squares off with Hayfield.

It was more of the same last Friday. The Panthers grabbed a 24-17 lead and held off the Vikings 68-60 in New Richland.

“Tonight was a game of runs,” explained NRHEG coach Onika Peterson. “At one point we were up by 15. Hayfield hit a couple of big 3-pointers and a couple of their kids got hot and that lead started to dwindle.”

But the Panthers, according to Peterson, stepped up and held their composure.

“It was a great team win,” she stated.

The VanMeldeghem twins, junior guards Camryn and Quinn, continued to lead the Panthers, with Camryn registering 27 points, 5 rebounds, 4 steals, 3 assists and one blocked shot. Quinn had 17 points, 16 rebounds, 4 assists and 4 steals.

Others: Gabby Schlaak 1P, 3R, 1S; Ezra Boerher 2P, 2R; Izley Boerner 3P, 2R, 1A, 1S; Clara Buendorf 6P, 5R; Chloe Stork 6R, 2A, 1S; Kylie Olson 12P, 6R, 2A, 2B.

Three nights earlier, the Panthers defeated visiting WEM 62-30 in New Richland. It was 32-21 at halftime.

“We started out cold, but were able to

“We had some great moments tonight and saw some things that we will need to adjust.”

— NRHEG coach Onika Peterson

push the lead to over 10 going into the half,” said Peterson.

The second half saw the Panthers start strong and extend their lead.

“We continued to rebound well, which gave us second and third-chance shot opportunities,” said Peterson. “We had some great

moments tonight and saw some things that we will need to adjust.”

Camryn VanMaldeghem totaled 21 points, 8 rebounds, 5 steals and 1 blocked shot while Quinn recorded 12 points, 13 rebounds, 5 assists, 3 steals and 2 blocks.

Others: Schlaak 5P, 6R, 1A, 1S;

E.Boerner 7P, 1R, 1B; I.Boerner 5P, 5R, 1A, 1B; Buendorf 2P, 4R, 1A, 1S, 1B; Stork 3R, 2A, 1S, 1B; Olson 10P, 10R, 1S, 3B.

After a Tuesday boy-girl doubleheader at JWP, the Panthers play tonight at home against Blooming Prairie and Friday at Waseca.

Gopher Conference West		
	W-L	Overall
NRHEG	3-0	9-4
JWP	2-0	11-2
WEM	1-1	9-6
United South Central	0-2	8-6
Medford	0-3	0-12



LIGHTING UP THE SCOREBOARD – At left, Brayden Hesch-Priem (33) is congratulated by Jayden Gehring after a first-period goal. At right, Henry Huttemier (5) puts the puck past Worthington goaltender Anders LeDell. Waseca won, 15-0.

Star Eagle photos by Jim Lutgens



WHS icemen shut out Worthington

Bluejays improve to 13-0-1, await Saturday showdown with Luverne

It may very well be worth the price of admission for Waseca High School boys’ hockey this season.

The Bluejays are unbeaten and ranked No. 15 in the state in Class A, the most recent conquest a 15-0 shellacking of visiting Worthington on Saturday. Waseca led 5-0 after one period and 11-0 at the end of two, outshooting Worthington 52-10.

Josiah Schmidtke registered the shutout in goal for the Bluejays.

Cash Lynch, a sophomore, found the net four times for Waseca. Brayden Hesch-Priem recorded a hat trick while Griffin Storey and Otto Schoenrock scored two goals apiece, with one each by Hunter Anderson, Jayden Gehring, Jackson Dahl and Avery Selvik.

Gehring assisted on four goals, with three assists apiece going to

Anderson, Easton Dahks, Lucas Groll and Schoenrock. Storey, Tesch and Beckett Srp each notched an assist.

No penalties were called.

Earlier in the week, the Bluejays defeated Red Wing and Minnesota River.

The Bluejays improved to 8-0-1 in the Big South Conference and 13-0-1 overall while Worthington fell to 3-5-0 and 4-11-0.

After facing New Prague Tuesday, the Bluejays play tonight at Rochester Lourdes at 7 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 18 is a showdown at Waseca Community Arena when Luverne — which tied the Bluejays earlier this season at Luverne — comes to town for a 3 p.m. game. The Jays face Dodge County in Kasson Jan. 21 at 7 p.m.

In recent milestones, Hesch-

Priem scored his 100th career goal and backup goaltender Carter Martens registered his 1000th career save.

Big South Standings				
	WLT	PTS	Overall	
Waseca	8-0-1	17	13-0-1	
New Ulm	5-2-0	16	8-6-0	
Luverne	7-0-1	15	12-2-1	
Windom	4-4-0	8	4-9-1	
Minn. River	2-1-0	4	4-6-0	
Marshall	3-4-0	6	6-7-0	
Worthington	3-5-0	6	4-11-0	
Redwood V.	1-7-0	2	2-11-0	
Fairmont	0-8-0	0	0-10-0	

Class A Boys’ Hockey Rankings – 1/7/25				
Compiled by Let’s Play Hockey				
Team	Sect.	Rec.	L.	Week
1. Monticello	5A	11-0-1	1	

2. Hermantown	7A	7-4-2	2
3. Cloquet/E/C	7A	12-1-0	3
4. Hibbing/Chis.	7A	9-4-0	4
5. Warroad	8A	8-3-1	5
6. Northfield	1A	9-2-1	6
7. St. Cloud Cath.	5A	7-4-2	7
8. E. Grand Forks	8A	6-6-1	9
9. Delano	2A	5-7-0	8
10. Mahtomedi	4A	4-8-1	10
11. Orono	2A	7-6-2	11
12. Minneapolis	2A	8-3-3	12
13. No. Lakes	6A	6-3-0	14
14. Little Falls	5A	5-3-1	15
15. Waseca	1A	0-0-1	16
16. Detroit Lakes	8A	6-5-1	13
17. Luverne	3A	9-2-1	17
18. Proctor	7A	8-6-0	18
19. River Lakes	5A	8-2-2	19
20. Chisago Lakes	4A	6-4-1	20

NRHEG matmen fall to Westfield

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School wrestling team traveled to Blooming Prairie last Thursday and lost 43-26 to Westfield.

According to coach Shawn Larson, it was a good night for some of NRHEG’s younger wrestlers.

Freshmen Noah Weller, 160 pounds, and Dakota Schlaak, 127, each went out and pushed the pace and earned pins in their matches.

Another freshman, Charlie Tufte at 121, won a nice hard-fought match.

The other Panther points came from two seniors Harbor Cromwell, 172, won with a very dominant technical fall. Cole Hutchens worked with good technique and position to win.

“It has been a while since we have taken the mat,” said Larson. “We have made improvements in our time off, but there is still work to be done. When we stick to the techniques that we have been practicing, we do well, and when we go off script we learn why we should stick to the basics.”

The Panthers were in action Saturday for the Darrell Jaeger

Tournament in Stewartville.

The Panthers had four place winners: Grahm Jacobson, 4th, 107; Cromwell, 5th, 172; Charlie Tufte, 6th, 121; and Khaiden Madson, 6th, 145.

“This has become a tough tournament for our inexperienced team,” said Coach Larson. “As a team, we were a little off. Match preparation is going to be a point of emphasis for our team in the next couple of weeks.”

Again, the Panthers got strong performances from some of their younger wrestlers.

“Grahm Jacobson, Charlie Tufte, and Khaiden Madson all showed that they are making strides in the right direction,” said Larson. “Even though these wrestlers were taking losses, they showed that they can score points and compete differently than earlier in the season.”

Rochester Mayo won the tournament with 167.5 points. The Panthers placed 10th with 31.

The Panthers return to the mat Friday when they host Medford and St. Clair/Mankato Loyola at 5 p.m. in New Richland.

NRHEG boys still looking for first win

It was another tough week for the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School boys’ basketball team, which lost Tuesday 80-23 at WEM and Friday 70-46 in New Richland.

Against WEM: Aiden Hanna 2 points, 3 rebounds, 1 assist; Greyson Schaefer 3P, 4R, 1 block; Deshawn Jones 1R; Owen Wayne 2P, 1R, 2A; Brendan Schmidt 1A, 1S, 1B; Justin Beauvais 1S; Lavon Jewison 2P, 2R; Dom Olson 5P, 1R; Gavin Lewison 2P; Jordan Brouwers 5P, 3R.

NRHEG coach Dan Schmidt was expecting a closer game with Hayfield.

“On paper, this should’ve been a good game,” he said. “They boys never quit once again, but we just had some lapses on offense while trying to run the offense. We continue to be a work in progress,

while we scratch and claw for that first win. We need to take advantage of the matchups, though, so we can get there.”

Individually: Hanna 5P, 2R, 1A; Schaefer 9P, 8R, 1S 1B; Wayne 14P, 3R, 1A, 1S; Schmidt 4P, 6R, 1A, 1S; Beauvais 1S; Jewison 2P, 3R, 2A; Olson 1R; Hudson Chrz 9P, 2R, 1A; Jase Knudson 3P, 6R, 2A; Brouwers 1R.

The Panthers, 0-2 in the Gopher Conference West and 0-10 overall, play Friday at 7:15 p.m. at Blooming Prairie. They play Monday at LCWM at 7.

Gopher Conference West		
	W-L	Ov.
JWP	1-0	7-4
United South Central	1-0	3-9
WEM	1-0	7-4
Medford	0-1	0-8
NRHEG	0-2	0-10

Flyers post 1-0 victory at Worthington

The South Central Flyers girls’ hockey team shut out Worthington 1-0 Saturday at Worthington Hockey Arena.

The lone goal of the day was scored in the second period by Emma Huelsnitz, assisted by Madalyn Benson.

Ilamay Draheim got the shutout in goal, totaling 17 saves.

South Central was 0-for-3 on power plays, Worthington 0-for-1.

The Flyers held a 24-17 advantage in shots on goal.

The Flyers improved to 3-7-0 in the Big South Conference and 8-10-0 overall while Worthington dropped to 1-8-0 and 3-11-0.

After facing New Ulm Tuesday at Waseca Community Arena, the

Flyers play Thursday at 7 p.m. at Austin and Saturday at 11 a.m. against Luverne at Waseca Community Arena. The Flyers face Rochester Century/John Marshall Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Rochester Recreation Center.

Big South Standings			
	WLT	PTS	Ov.
Waseca	8-0-1	17	13-0-1
New Ulm	5-2-0	16	8-6-0
Luverne	7-0-1	15	12-2-1
Windom	4-4-0	8	4-9-1
Minn. River	2-1-0	4	4-6-0
Marshall	3-4-0	6	6-7-0
Worthington	3-5-0	6	4-11-0
Redwood V.	1-7-0	2	2-11-0
Fairmont	0-8-0	0	0-10-0

Marshall	8-0-1	17	17-1-1
MN River	8-0-1	17	14-2-1
Luverne	7-2-0	14	12-5-2
Fairmont	6-4-0	10	10-7-1
So. Central	3-7-0	6	8-10-0
New Ulm	1-4-0	2	8-10-1
Worthington	1-8-0	2	3-11-0
Windom	0-9-0	0	4-13-1

NR POLICE

- Calls received and/or action taken by the New Richland Police Department in November 2024:
- Thursday, November 14, 11:26 - Welfare Check, 3rd ST NE, Log Report
- Thursday, November 14, 18:44 - Traffic Stop, Highway 13/240th Ave, Warning-verbal
- Friday, November 15, 01:39 - Animal Complaint/Bite, Aspen Ave S, Cleared
- Friday, November 15, 13:09 - Civil, Cedar Ave N, Non-Traffic Citation
- Friday, November 15, 14:40 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared
- Friday, November 15, 14:40 - Lock Check(Building.park entrance) New Richland City OF, Cleared
- Friday, November 15, 19:50 - Animal Complaint/Bite, Broadway Ave S, Written Report
- Saturday, November 16, 10:13 - Property Lost/Found, Aspen Ave N, Cleared
- Saturday, November 16, 16:37 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared
- Saturday, November 16, 16:38 - Lock Check(building.park entrance), New Richland City OF, Cleared
- Saturday, November 16, 18:00 - Traffic Stop, Highway 13/210th Ave, warning-verbal
- Saturday, November 16, 21:03 - Traffic Stop, Highway 30/Birch Ave, Warning-verbal
- Sunday, November 17, 01:51 - Animal Complaint/Bite, 4th ST NW, Cleared
- Sunday, November 17, 02:05 - Suspicious Circumstances, 4th ST NW, Cleared
- Sunday, November 17, 03:08 - Sexual Assault, 4th ST NW, Active Investigation
- Sunday, November 17, 12:38 - Animal Complaint/Bite, Division ST W, Cleared
- Sunday, November 17, 17:31 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared
- Sunday, November 17, 17:32 - Lock Check(building, park entrance), New Richland City OF, Cleared
- Sunday, November 17, 21:46 - Warrant Service, 3rd Ave NW, Written Report
- Sunday, November 17, 21:59 - Traffic Stop, Highway 13/Highway 30, Cleared
- Monday, November 18, 11:59 - Truancy, Ash Ave S, Cleared
- Tuesday, November 19, 08:34 - Theft(includes attempt), Broadway Ave S, Cleared
- Tuesday, November 19, 09:13 - Suicide(Includes attempt), Broadway Ave S, Cleared
- Tuesday, November 19, 17:03 - Mental Disturbed Person, Broadway Ave N, Cleared
- Tuesday, November 19, 22:01 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared
- Wednesday, November 20, 17:34 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared
- Wednesday, November 20, 17:34 - Lock Check(building, park entrance), New Richland City OF, Cleared
- Wednesday, November 20, 18:14 - Assist, Cypress Ave S, Assist Rendered
- Wednesday, November 20, 18:24 - Disturb/Disorderly/Nuisar, Broadway Ave N, Written Report
- Thursday, November 21, 03:10 - Disturb/Disorderly/Nuisar, Broadway Ave N, Log Report
- Thursday, November 21, 16:59 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared
- Thursday, November 21, 16:59 - Lock Check(building, park entrance), New Richland City OF, Cleared
- Thursday, November 21, 19:46 - Traffic Stop, Highway 13/235th Ave, Warning-Verbal
- Friday, November 22, 09:40 - House Watch, 4th ST NW, Cleared
- Friday, November 22, 10:23 - Property Damage(not vel), Division ST W, Cleared
- Friday, November 22, 20:01 - Assist Other Agency(law), Highway 13, Cleared
- Saturday, November 23, 18:29 - Assist Other Agency(law), Highway 13/Highway 30, Not Able To Locate
- Sunday, November 24, 14:00 - Assist Ambulance(law), 6th ST NW, Cleared
- Sunday, November 24, 18:47 - Assist Other Agency(law), 275th Ave Highway 13, Cleared
- Monday, November 25, 14:56 - Assist Ambulance(law), 2nd ST SE, Assist Rendered
- Monday, November 25, 18:18 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared
- Monday, November 25, 18:19 - Lock Check(building, park entrance), New Richland City OF, Cleared
- Monday, November 25, 20:44 - Assist Ambulance(law), 1st ST NE, Assist Rendered
- Tuesday, November 26, 03:17 - Assist Ambulance(law), 2nd ST SE, Assist Rendered
- Tuesday, November 26, 08:31 - Assist Other Agency(law), Powers, Cleared
- Tuesday, November 26, 09:54 - Welfare Check, 1st ST NE, Cleared
- Tuesday, November 26, 13:18 - Disturb/Disorderly/Nuisar, Broadway Ave S, Cleared
- Tuesday, November 26, 16:23 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared
- Tuesday, November 26, 16:24 - Lock Check(building, park entrance), New Richland City OF, Cleared
- Wednesday, November 27, 09:02 - Assist Ambulance(law), 2nd ST SE, Cleared
- Wednesday, November 27, 09:17 - Theft(includes attempt), 2nd ST SW, Cleared
- Wednesday, November 27, 20:13 - Animal Complaint/Bite, 2nd ST SW, Cleared
- Wednesday, November 27, 22:22 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared
- Wednesday, November 27, 22:47 - Suspicious Circumstance, 240th Ave, Cleared
- Thursday, November 28, 21:19 - Traffic Stop, Highway 30/Broadway Ave, Warning-Verbal
- Thursday, November 28, 23:09 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared
- Thursday, November 28, 23:20 - Traffic Stop, Cedar Ave S/1st ST SW, Warning-Verbal
- Friday, November 29, 16:04 - Welfare Check, 2nd ST SE, Log Report
- Friday, November 29, 22:25 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared
- Friday, November 29, 22:26 - Lock Check(building, park entrance), New Richland City OF, Cleared
- Saturday, November 30, 15:42 - Directed Patrol, New Richland City OF, Cleared
- Saturday, November 30, 15:42 - Lock Check(building.Park entrance), New Richland City OF, Cleared

U of M offers array of agribusiness seminars

Do you have an agritourism business idea, but unsure if it'll be successful? Are you wanting to add value to your current farming operation, but not sure where to begin? Or perhaps you're new to farming, but have an awesome idea of how to connect the public with food production?

University of Minnesota Extension will present a roadshow of workshops, both online and in-person across the state January through February. Writing a business plan can dramatically increase the success of implementing your business ideas and goals.

In these workshops, participants will learn what an agritourism business is - the intersection of farming and tourism. Participants will learn the steps to writing a useful and effective business plan and will learn how using AgPlan, an online business planning software that can give tips and examples to make the writing process easier.

"Sustained business success doesn't come from chance, fate or good luck," says Susanne Hinrichs, Extension educator with the Agricultural Business Management team at University of Minnesota Extension. "To run a successful and profitable business, it is critical that a person understand, implement and value the process of effective business planning, and this workshop will get you

started or jump start your existing plan."

These workshops are free and will guide you in creating a business plan to bring your agritourism vision to life.

- Jan. 14: In-person at Cambridge, 9-11 a.m.
- Jan. 15: In-person at Virginia, 2:30-5:30 p.m.
- Jan. 22: In-person at Pelican Rapids, 4-6 p.m.
- Jan. 27: In-person at St. Joseph, 4-6 p.m.
- Jan. 28: Webinar, 6-7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 28: In-person watch party at Cologne, 6-8 p.m.

To register or find out more about these 2-hour workshops, go to z.umn.edu/agritourism.

Also, a five-part agritourism business planning series will happen in February and March to give participants a more in-depth cohort experience. Each week a different section of AgPlan will be featured. There is no cost to attend, but registration is required. To find out more information about any of these offerings, go to z.umn.edu/agritourism.

For more news from U of M Extension, visit www.extension.umn.edu/news or contact Extension Communications at extnews@umn.edu. University of Minnesota Extension is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

Community health assessment reports now available online

Le Sueur, Minn. – The Le Sueur County and Waseca County Public Health Departments announce that community health reports for the two counties are now available for review. The reports include the topics "Health Equity Data Analysis," "Community Health Assessment," and "Community Health Improvement Plan."

The reports address a range of important health issues and topics con-

cerning Le Sueur and Waseca counties, including mental health, access to healthy food, economic stability and more.

Waseca County Public Health Director Sarah Berry said, "We want to stress that everyone has a stake in community health and can contribute positively by working together toward the future they envision. This includes neighbors and friends reaching out to fill gaps or lift them up to

leaders if the gap is too wide." Le Sueur County Public Health Director Megan Kirby said, "These reports are very insightful and very important to our communities going forward. They help us understand where our communities desire change."

The community health assessment and subsequent reports are released every five years and help identify the top health concerns in both counties. The reports benefit county residents

as well as the state of Minnesota by incentivizing funding for essential programs and services. The community health assessment allows local public health departments to identify gaps and barriers in overall community health and develop plans to overcome them.

Residents are encouraged to review the recently released reports on the Le Sueur Waseca Community Health Board website at lvchbb.org.

Southeast Partnership now accepting proposals for community-led sustainability projects

Southeast Minnesota residents with an idea to strengthen sustainability in their community can now apply for partnership support from the University of Minnesota Extension Southeast Regional Sustainable Development Partnership (Southeast RSDP).

Southeast RSDP supports local innovation by connecting community ideas to University of Minnesota resources. Community members work on diverse project teams that research, design and plan local sustainability projects with University students, faculty and staff.

Southeast RSDP seeks ideas from diverse populations and those who have not previously partnered with the University. In 2025, priorities identified by the Southeast RSDP board and work groups include fos-

tering a resilient food system, addressing climate change and other ecological impacts, increasing opportunities around energy efficiency and renewable energy and encouraging local community action that welcomes all residents and celebrates the region's rich cultural traditions, natural assets and vibrant local economies.

"We are seeking ideas and expertise from Southeast Minnesota residents that help shape resilient communities where all people have the opportunity to thrive," said Southeast RSDP Executive Director Andi Sutton. "I encourage people to get in touch with me to talk about their ideas for making our communities more sustainable places."

Applications for all funds are being accepted through February 14.

Visit the link z.umn.edu/RSDPIdeaBrief to read more about the programs and download application forms. Community members are encouraged to contact Sutton at sutto364@umn.edu or 857-928-4196 or Danielle Piraino at pirai006@umn.edu or 630-797-8862 to discuss their ideas and ask questions. Successful projects are selected by the Southeast RSDP community-University governing board through a competitive process.

Examples of projects recently supported by the Southeast RSDP include working with local entrepreneurs in St. Peter, advancing clean energy solutions for affordable housing and researching the economic impact of farmers markets. For more examples of projects supported by the Southeast RSDP, visit

z.umn.edu/RSDPProjectExamples.

The Southeast RSDP serves Blue Earth, Faribault, Dodge, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, LeSueur, Mower, Nicollet, Olmsted, Fillmore, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, Waseca and Winona counties and the sovereign Native Nation of Prairie Island Indian Community.

Southeast RSDP is one of five regions of the University of Minnesota Extension Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships (RSDP). For more information on RSDP, visit RSDP.umn.edu.

For more news from U of M Extension, visit www.extension.umn.edu/news or contact Extension Communications at extdigest@umn.edu. University of Minnesota Extension is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

Is your septic failing? Rural Landowners Invited to Webinar

Join the Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Organization as they host the fourth session of the virtual learning series Land to Lake Lectures. Did you know the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency estimates that one in five septic systems are failing in Minnesota? Jon Hammel and Trigg Capistrant-Kinney from Le Sueur County Environmental Services will present how failing septic systems can affect our groundwater, lakes, and rivers, and share tips on how to keep your septic system in top shape. They will discuss existing and past efforts by the county in conjunction with the CRWJPO to assist with bringing systems within the watershed into compliance. The sessions will be broadcast in cooperation with the University of Minnesota-Extension

on Zoom.

The free webinar will be held on Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. over the lunch hour. Register for the webinar at <https://z.umn.edu/SepticSystem>. The webinar will be video recorded and posted on the CRWJPO's website at <https://www.cannonriverwatershedmn.gov> afterward for those who cannot attend.

The virtual learning sessions "Land to Lake Lectures" will continue throughout the winter and into the spring with a different topic each month over the lunch hour. Learn more about the different topics for each session at <https://www.cannonriverwatershedmn.gov/events-1>. For more information contact Emmie Scheffler at (507) 332-5408 or Emmie.scheffler@riceswcd.org.



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■ Fundraiser from Page 1

Prairie, decided they would like to find a way to give back to the BPCG. Like musician Todd Utpadel, who was featured in last week's Star Eagle, they decided to designate any money they could raise toward the community support element of the BPCG system.

Also like Utpadel, they decided to incorporate their personal interests into their fundraising efforts.

"Coyotes 'fur' Cancer" has been held over the past seven years. At least when the weather cooperates, it is a two-part event.

Craig, an avid outdoorsman who hunts and traps, encourages fellow hunters to go out early tracking and

hunting coyotes, a nuisance animal whose population in southern Minnesota is on the rise, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. At least during the early years of the fundraiser, the animals' thick winter coats had their hides selling for as much as \$30 each. With groups hunting in numerous places across several counties, income could be significant.

Since then, the value of hides has fallen. Also, because tracking the animals requires snow, the hunts have become less successful.

The other element of the fundraiser is a 6 p.m. community gathering at the Pizza Cellar in Blooming Prairie. The evening features a "soup feed" with a free-will offering accepted for a wide selection of soups, some of which come with side fixings.

As people enjoy their soup, they

are encouraged to peruse a variety of silent auction items. A bit later on, a live auction brings dynamic excitement.

Anderson says the lively community atmosphere is a perfect complement to the community spirit of BPCG's family support program.

She mentions she and Craig see the events as a way to continue building personal connections, which also aligns with BPCG's philosophy. "That's at least as important to us as the money we help raise," she observes.

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Bird watching can help in dealing with winter

Although we are now halfway through the month of January, there are still a lot of winter days ahead. Even if we don't have a lot of snow to deal with so far, the cold will be a reminder. As a true Minnesotan, I can usually start most conversations with "weather talk." If I am driving through the countryside on a cold, sunny day, I get a warm feeling inside. Whether it resonates from the heater in the vehicle or the heater inside of my body, it gives me that feeling of serenity and that life is good.

I have enjoyed watching the birds at the feeders for quite a few years. I have always been fascinated with watching wildlife, but it has only been in the last 20 or so years that I have been obsessed with bird feeders. I'd guess it was around the time that we first bought the land to build our cabin that I have re-acquainted myself with being up close to nature. I have always been fascinated with seeing a critter in the wild, but when I have seen such a variety of wildlife near and around our cabin, it made me appreciate even



Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl
Outdoors Writer

more the beauty of nature. I also appreciate the opportunity to observe many of God's creatures in their natural environment.

There was an incident that changed my way of thinking as a youth and also as an adult later on. I was roaming the slough south of our home on Bridge Street, with my trusty Red Ryder BB gun when I saw a bird perched in a tree slightly hidden from sight. I raised my trusty gun and fired; the bird dropped to the ground. As I approached, I realized that it was a Flicker, and instead of feeling good about my shot, I was overwhelmed with guilt. I realized that this bird in all its beauty would never fly again or be there for anyone

else to ever observe its beauty. I felt so guilty that I never aimed my BB gun at another bird again. I am reminded of this incident each time that I visit our cabin because there are many Northern Flickers in and around our wooded acreage. Each time that I see one take off, I am reminded of that time and feel a deep appreciation for being able to observe this beautiful bird in flight. All of the birds that frequent our feeders at the cabin or at our home are entertainment at its best.

My son Brian and daughter-in-law Kim have been going to Helmer-Big Island State Park a couple of times a week to walk. They have enjoyed the nearly snowless weather, maybe not

the cold so much, but they take advantage of this whenever they can. They enjoy the outdoors and spotting an occasional deer or eagle whenever they come upon one. In the summer they bike the trail to Hayward and back. Brian loves the outdoors, as does Kim, so they do this sort of thing quite often.

Until next time: I am not able to do as much outdoors adventuring as I once did, but I do what I can. I am aiming for more outdoors activity this coming year. No, I don't make any New Year's resolutions, so it is just a goal. I have observed quite a few fish houses scattered about on Fountain Lake this past week, but I haven't heard how the fishing has been. My grandson, Trevor, was out on the ice a couple of weeks ago and said he caught quite a few small perch, but that was about it.

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.

■ 2024 from Page 3

Richland to collect a donation from the New Richland Lions. Dale Bayerkohler presented District President Kristy Trutnau with the check during one of the brief stops which included more than five dozen locations over two and half days.

- The Ellendale City Council had a full house during its most recent regular meeting on Thursday, May 9, including an individual present with recording equipment to document what they described as "part two of a four-part investigation." The issue in question: lawn trimming ordinance violations at five properties owned by Daniel Petsinger, who was present to challenge a notice of violation he was given following an official complaint submitted to the city.

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

Leading this year's service were 21-year outgoing pastor of the 1st Congregation Church in New Richland, Pastor Pamela Jensen; accompanied by Pastor Scott Williams, leader of St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church of New Richland; and Pastor Dan Kordahl of Le Sueur River Lutheran Church and Vista Lutheran Church.

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

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

There's a lot of history within those walls.

Soon, however - very, very soon - it will all be history.

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

- Friends and family gathered May 5, 2024 to celebrate the tenth anniversary of New Richland's Red Leaf Cafe.

The celebration was small, the company plentiful. Cupcakes were handed out to each of the nearly 100 patrons who stopped to extend their congratulations.

"I can't remember if our first day was busy or not," owner Theresa Grubstad recalled. "But every day we come in, we have the support of the community."

"The same guys have been coming in every morning for 10 years," owner Dean Grubstad said. "If I've noticed anything, it's the customers. They are so much more than that. They're like

family and extended family."

Dean listed a group of regulars too numerous to provide here.

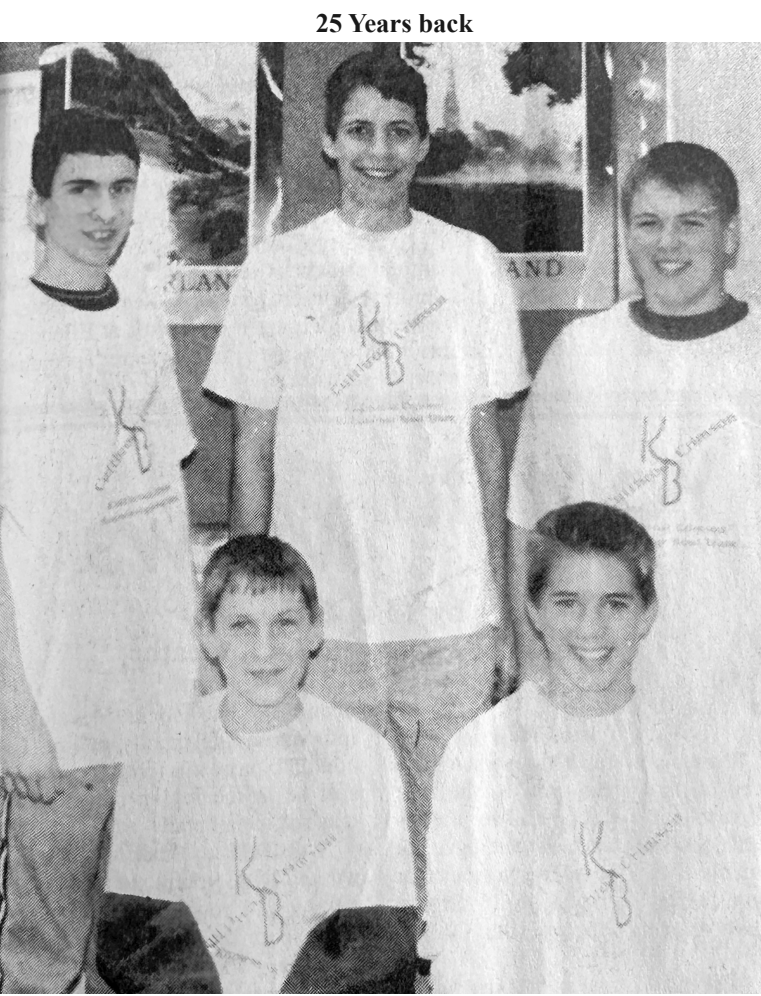
- It may come as a surprise to some, but the longest tenured coach in NRHEG school history, head track coach Duey Ferber, is hanging up his whistle at the end of this year, his 34th season.

"The thing I loved most about Duey coaching was it didn't matter how good you were, he always found something for every kid to do, something for every kid to be good at," Amy Ferber, Duey's wife, told the Star Eagle. "We heard this from athletes all night (during his final home meet): 'I didn't realize how much I missed this. I didn't realize how much I missed track.' He talked kids into it," Amy continued. "Just try it," he would tell them. Then they found out they were good at it. He's always encouraging and motivating. Everybody had a job, an event. And they knew where they were good."

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	Tuesday - Council meeting (First Tuesday) * * *	church Check the website for additional updates www.vibrantlifecg.com	101 East Park Avenue Hollandale, Minnesota Sunday—9:30 a.m. Worship; 10:45 a.m. Sunday School	Rev. Larry Sipe, pastor Sunday—9 a.m. Worship
ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Otisco, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship	WEST FREEBORN LUTHERAN Hartland, Minnesota Rev. Marcia Pedersen Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship Tuesday - Council meeting (First Tuesday of the month) Quilting meets 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, see newsletter for dates.	FIRST LUTHERAN, AFLC Ellendale, Minnesota Pastor Kyle Smith Saturday - 8 a.m. Men's Bible Study Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship Monday - 7 p.m. Call to prayer Wednesday - 9:30 a.m. Bible Study; 6 p.m. Confirmation; 7-9 p.m. Youth Group (No confirmation during summer)	ZION LUTHERAN, ELCA Rural Ellendale Deacon Billie Jo Wicks Sunday—8:30 a.m. Worship	ST. PAUL UNITED Minnesota Lake, Minnesota Interim Pastor Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. Worship
TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Mary Iverson Sunday—9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting (first Wednesday)	HARTLAND EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN Hartland, Minnesota Pastor Phillip K. Lepak Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship	ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST Ellendale, Minnesota Randy Cirkse, Pastor Sunday - Summer Service time is 9:30 a.m. Worship; 9:15 a.m. Sunday school. (No summer Sunday school) Worship is at 10:30 a.m. beginning after Sept. 3. Sunday School from Oct through May from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Food shelf is open every Thursday from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.	ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN, ELCA Meriden, Minnesota Deacon Billie Jo Wicks Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship	PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Minnesota Lake, Minnesota Interim Pastor Sunday—9 a.m. Worship
LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting	MANCHESTER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN Manchester, Minnesota Pastor Phillip K. Lepak Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship	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	PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN Lemond Township Pastor Dave Klawiter Sunday—10:15 a.m. Worship	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Rev. Larry Sipe Sunday—9:15 a.m. Worship
VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship	ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Father Glenn Friechies Friday - 10 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays p.m. Mass Sunday - Mass at 8 a.m.	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	FIRST LUTHERAN, LCMC Hope, Minnesota Pastor Sandy Miller Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 10:15 a.m. Youth/Adult Study	ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday—9 a.m. Worship
VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Brian Schanil Pastor Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School Tuesdays: The Shepherd's Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m.; 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark	COMMUNITY LUTHERAN Geneva, Minnesota Pastor Leandra Anderson Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship (times vary for holidays) Monday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting	ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS Hollandale, Minnesota Pastor Jesse Krusemark Sunday—9 a.m. Worship	HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL Father Peter Schuster Sunday—8 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation; 8:30 a.m. Mass with Children's Church; Preschool Sunday School during Mass Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. - Faith Formation classes for grades K-Confirmation www.litomysl.webs.com www.stsidoreschool.webs.com	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship
CROSS OF GLORY LUTHERAN Hartland, Minnesota Rev. Marcia Pedersen Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship	SIMPLY CHURCH 105 Second Street North East Geneva, Minnesota Todd Lundgren, Pastor Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Bible Study; 10:30 a.m. Worship	HOLLANDALE REFORMED Rev. Neal Ooms	ST. JOHN LUTHERAN Minnesota Lake, Minnesota	TRINITY LUTHERAN Wilton Township Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor Sunday—10:45 a.m. Worship

LOOKING BACK



25 Years back

- **THESE BOYS ARE THE MEMBERS of the new Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Knowledge Bowl Team which will be entering region competition at Mankato Loyola, Thursday, January 13. They won the right when they placed 13th out of 57 teams at a sub-region meet in December. They are from the left: seated, Jacey Reese and Zak Tracy; standing, Tyler Halgren, Don De-Jong and Zach Hacker. The shirts they are wearing were designed by Tyler Halgren.**

- The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton boys basketball team defeated Glenville-Emmons Friday night 68-48 at Glenville. The bulldogs led 20-12 at the end of the first period and had an 11 point lead at the half. After three they claimed a 53-37 advantage. JWP out-rebounded their opponents 42-30 and shot 59% (17-29) from the free throw line. The Wolverines turned the ball over 17 times and scored on 7 of 12 free throws for 58% success.

- Chris and Traci Prindle of Apple Valley are the parents of a son born Friday, December 10, 1999. Alex Robert, as he has been named, weighed 7 lbs. 13 oz. and was 20 3/4" in length.

- DARE Graduates From the fifth grade class taught by Duane Ferber at the elementary school in New Richland Participated in the graduation program here Tuesday, January 4. They were from the left: front, Karla Lewer, Nicolette Pilon, Andrew Warner, Joe Hetcher; Middle row, Krystal Landers, Laura Manthey, Kevin Lynne, Brandon Schlaak, Justin Kormann, John Brechen; Back row; Joseph Johnson, Taylor Holland Tyler Clayton, Mitch Brekke, Matt Crumb and dare Officer DeeAnn VonWold.

- D. Darwin Jacobs, son of Don Jacobs of rural Alden, is the author of the recently published 'Wisdom and Wealth' "7 Ancient secrets of King Solomon." The book was published by Solomon Press and has been endorsed by nationally known Motivational Speaker Zig Ziglar, as well as Coach Lou Holtz and Ruth Stafford Peale, wife of the late Dr. Norman Vincent Peafe.

50 Years Back

- Scenes Like this on Third Avenue Northwest resulted from the weekend blizzard and resultant plowing. The city plow crew were unable to get through the huge drifts blown into block long section of the avenue from the west. The County plow opened one lane for traffic, and residents of the street began to dig out their automobiles. More than 40 persons died in the severe blizzards and storms that raged through the Midwest last weekend. Eleven were dead in Minnesota in the aftermath of the storm which is being called the 'storm of the century.' According to meteorologists, the winds were higher and the weather more severe than in the infamous Armistice Day storm of 1940. Policeman Nissen rescued one woman from the mobile home court and took her to stay with Debbie Witt, who lives nearby.

- JODI BERGNER shoots a free throw for the Cards in New Richland-Hartland Girls basketball win over Janesville Tuesday night, 31-17. The New Richland-Hartland High School Girls Basketball team won 31-17 to remain in second place in the Gopher Conference. The Cards Led 10-4 at the end of the first quarter and kept building their lead with a half-time score of 20-6. At the end of the third quarter with the score 30-8, Coach Marcia Caneff began to substitute and the game ended 31-17. It was expected that Janesville might be tough competition, but the Cards handled them easily. According to Coach Caneff everyone played well considering that this was the first game the girls played since December 17.

75 Years Back

- Matawan Cooperative Creamery association held its annual meeting last Thursday, February 9, and, at the election of officers, re-named all the old board. The Matawan Creamery elects all its officers each year. Those re-elected were Orvin Miller, president; John Crumb, vice presidents; August Groskreutz, and Johri Olson, directors; Lester Reckmor was renamed secretary as well as operator-manager of the creamery. The creamery had a good year with a 10,000-pound increase in the amount of butterfat taken in over the previous year, a condition which is general in the creameries hereabouts.

- The first annual meeting of farmers cooperating with the Waseca County Soil Conservation District will be held on Thursday, February 23 at 10:30 a.m. in the New Richland High School. Sponsor of the first meeting of this kind in Waseca county is the New Richland Commercial Club. This meeting will start with an annual report followed by nominations for three board supervisors whose terms expire in March.

- Ramona I. Coy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Coy of New Richland, exchanged marriage vows with Lawrence Hanks, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hanks of Kilkenny, on Wednesday, January 25, at 9:30 a.m. Rev. James MacCormac performed the single ring ceremony at the Holy Trinity parish house at Waterville. Only the members of the immediate family were present.



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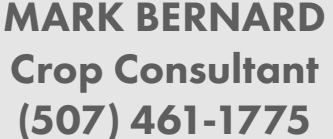
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The family of Glady Bauman wish to express their sincere thanks to those who sent cards, messages, and phone calls. Your acts of kindness are deeply appreciated.



LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

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

DATE OF MORTGAGE: October 9, 2007

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$62,000.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Dean Mertins and Julie A. Mertins, husband and wife

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for CitiMortgage, Inc.

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on October 23, 2007 as Document Number 272715 in the Office of the County Recorder of Waseca County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: CitiMortgage, Inc. by assignment recorded on March 26, 2010 as Document Number A283488 in the Office of the County Recorder of Waseca County, Minnesota; thereafter assigned to Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, as trustee for the benefit of the Seasoned Credit Risk Transfer Trust, Series 2019-1 by assignment recorded on December 12, 2022 as Document Number A332327 in the Office of the County

Recorder of Waseca County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: All that part of the NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Sec. 4, Twp. 108 North, Range 23 west, Waseca Co., Minn., described as follows: beginning at a point on the north line of the NW 1/4 of said Sec. 4, said point bearing west 1946.66 feet from the north 1/4 corner of said Sec. 4, thence south 572.00 feet, thence North 81 degrees 10 minutes 00 seconds west 407.84 feet, thence north 509.37 feet to the north line of said NW 1/4, thence east on said north line 403.00 feet to place of beginning.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 8126 STATE HWY 60 S, WATERVILLE, MN 56096

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

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$39,728.53

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: CitiMortgage, Inc.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 05.004.0510

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 100011520046960896

THAT no action or proceeding has

been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.

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

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: February 13, 2025 at 10:00 AM.

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

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is twelve (12) months from the date of sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on February 13, 2026.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032,

None

Dated: December 11, 2024

FEDERAL HOME LOAN MORTGAGE CORPORATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE SEASONED CREDIT RISK TRANSFER TRUST, SERIES 2019-1 Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.

By: _____/s/ ***N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.***
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Sung Woo Hong, Esq.
Alexa Marsh, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(24-1007-FC02)
THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

**CITY OF CLARKS GROVE
FREEBORN COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-07

RESOLUTION APPROVING SUMMARY PUBLICATION OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CLARKS GROVE AMENDING SECTIONS 1000, 1010 AND 1030 OF THE CITY OF CLARKS GROVE ZONING ORDINANCES REGARDING THE REGULATION OF CANNABIS AND HEMP BUSINESSES

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Clarks Grove acted at its December 9, 2024 meeting to adopt Ordinance No. ~~2024-04~~ "An Ordinance Amending Sections 1000, 1010 and 1030 of the City of Clarks Grove Zoning Ordinances Regarding the Regulation of Cannabis and Hemp Businesses" ("Ordinance"); and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes, section 412.191, subdivision 4 allows publication of adopted ordinances by title and summary in the case of lengthy ordinances or those containing charts or maps; and

WHEREAS, the City Council determines publishing the entire text of the Ordinance is not in the best interests of the City as the Ordinance is lengthy and is readily available to the public by contacting City Hall or the City Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the City Council determines the following summary clearly informs the public of the intent of Ordinance and where to obtain a copy of the full text.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Clarks Grove hereby approves the following summary language as publication of the Ordinance:

**CITY OF CLARKS GROVE
SUMMARY PUBLICATION
Ordinance No. 2024-02**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 1000, 1010 AND 1030 OF THE CITY OF CLARKS GROVE ZONING ORDINANCES REGARDING THE REGULATION OF CANNABIS AND HEMP BUSINESSES

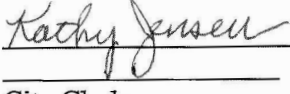
The Clarks Grove City Council adopted the above-referenced ordinance at its meeting on December 9, 2024. The ordinance amends Sections 1000, 1010 and 1030 of the City of Clarks' Grove Zoning Ordinances regarding the regulation of cannabis and hemp business in the City. The ordinance adopts definitions applicable to cannabis and hemp businesses, which includes retailers, wholesalers, manufacturers, cultivators, delivery services, transportation services, testing facilities and temporary cannabis events, zoning district use permissions, performance standards and regulations for the operation of cannabis and hemp businesses, including buffer zones, code compliance, hours of operation and temporary cannabis events. The full text of the ordinance is available by contacting City Hall or the City Clerk.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Clarks Grove City Council that the City Clerk keep a copy of the Ordinance at City Hall for public inspection, place a copy in a public location within the City, and place it in the City's ordinance book within 20 days from publication of the summary.

Passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Clarks Grove this 9 day of December, 2024.


Mayor

ATTEST:


City Clerk

Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State
Certificate of Assumed Name
Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

ASSUMED NAME: Gary West Motorsports
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 43958 45th St Elysian MN 56028 USA

APPLICANT(S):
Name: Gary West Music LLC Jr
Address: 43958 45TH ST ELYSIAN MN 56028 USA

If you submit an attachment, it will be incorporated into this document. If the attachment conflicts with the information specifically set forth in

this document, this document supercedes the data referenced in the attachment.

By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

SIGNED BY: Gerald Clifford

Boger Jr

MAILING ADDRESS: PO BOX 183 ELYSIAN MN 56028

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: gboger64@gmail.com

Work Item 1531106300021
Original File Number 1531106300021

STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FILED
01/06/2025 11:59 PM

Steve Simon Secretary of State

Published in the Star Eagle on January 16 and 23, 2025



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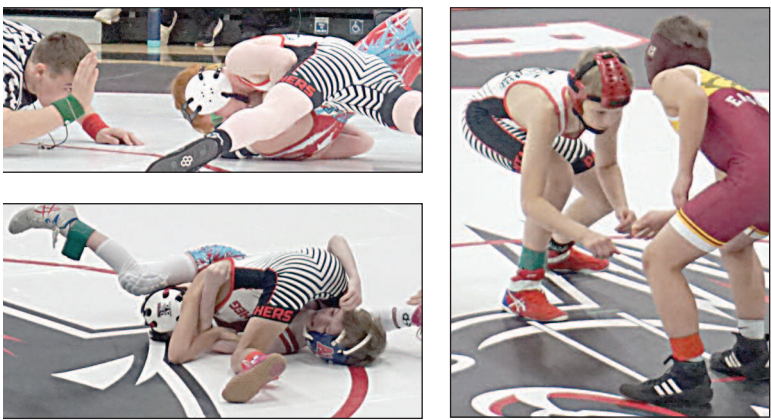
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YOUTH WRESTLING



The NRHEG Wrestling Club hosted another successful weekend of wrestling. On Saturday, the Harlan Schlaak Memorial Tournament brought in more than 250 wrestlers from all over the state and Northern Iowa. The 3rd Annual Team Tournament was held on Sunday, hosting six teams. The NRHEG youth wrestlers displayed grit and determination with wins over their first three opponents and a barn burner against Westfield.

Students of the Month

26

QUINN

VanMaldeghem

26

1 VOLLEYBALL

2 CROSS COUNTRY

5 BASKETBALL

5 TRACK

3 FCA

STUDENT ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

Jordan Brouwers

Activity: Football, Basketball, Baseball, Band, FCA, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, National Honor Society, 4-H, Boy Scouts

Grade: Junior

What do you like most about participating in the activities that you are involved in? The thing I like the most is meeting new people. Most of my friends have come from the activities and sports I am in. I've also met lots of new people from other schools and states that I still talk to just from being in the same activities.

What motivates you to do your best? The thing that motivates me to do my best is the satisfaction of doing my best. At the end of the day, I want to lay in bed and say I gave it my all today and there is nothing more I could have done. Having that feeling of accomplishment and doing my best after a long day is one of the best feeling.

Who is your role model and why? My role model is my Grandma Dorothy. She is always there when I need her and has given me lots of life skills and lessons. My Grandma loves helping other people when they need it, especially when it comes to training dogs. She also is never afraid to ask someone for help if she isn't familiar with the thing that she is doing, but main reason my Grandma is my role model though is how hard she works. She never stops working and always finds something to do. If she isn't at work, she's doing stuff around the farm. If she isn't doing that, she's fixing something. And if she isn't doing that, then she's probably helping someone figure out a problem. Some days I don't know how she does it, but I do know she's the best Grandma

What advice would you give to other students especially students in elementary and middle school? Be involved and work your hardest. Sports and activities are such a small part of our lives and we only get so long to do them. Go out for things you think you'll like and be the best at it.

What makes you a good teammate? I think what makes me a good teammate is my positive attitude. Staying positive is one of the most crucial parts about sports. When you're negative, it's gonna lead to bad things. I try and stay positive all the time on the field as for me it leads to having more fun in the game and it helps others stay positive too.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH

Quinn VanMaldeghem

Sport/Activities: Volleyball, Basketball, Track, Cross Country, FCA

Grade: Junior

What do you list most about participating in the activities that you are involved in? Spending time with friends. I also love being active and sports have always been one of my favorite things.

What motivates you to do your best? I love being active and I want to work as hard as I can for my teammates. I'm a competitive person and love winning and will always do my best to make that happen.

Who is your role model and why? Chloe Stork because she's helping me write this right now. She also makes me finish all of my reps in the weight room even though I don't always want to. Also Ms. P because she always keeps me in line.

What advice would you give to other students especially students in elementary and middle school? Be a three-sport athlete! You only have so many years to play sports with your friends and it's so worth it. You learn so many lessons playing sports and can make a lot of memories.

What makes you a good teammate for the sport/activity that you are involved in? I'm freakishly athletic and never fail to make my teammates laugh!

STUDENT ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

27

JORDAN

Brouwers

6 FOOTBALL

6 BASKETBALL

6 BASEBALL

7 BAND

1 FCA

1 NHS

12 4-H

12 BOY SCOUTS

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH

■ Case from Page 1

rections to the judgment ruling, stating that Jaguar LLC/Metronet forfeited all rights to the property when the company failed to register as an “interested party” with the county.

Timeline
The following information was all obtained through court documents filed in Steele County.

In 2007 DJ Gravel Inc failed to pay taxes on the lot located at 601 Lageson Court. A year later a tax judgment was entered and, with the taxes unpaid, the Steele County Auditor bid the contested property in for the state.

On Dec. 8, 2008, DJ Gravel conveyed to Jaguar an easement over the southerly 30 feet of the property which authorized construction of a building 21 feet long and 16 feet wide for “the purpose of housing communications equipment and perpetual, exclusive use of the building in Jaguar’s business operations.”

The conveyance was recorded in the Steele County recorder’s office the next day, Dec. 9, 2008.

Construction permits for Jaguar’s building were obtained even before the easement was created. Within 30 days of the easement’s creation, Jaguar began and completed construction of the building and has maintained and used it as part of its regular business operations ever since.

On June 12, 2015, the Steele County auditor served notice of expiration of the redemption period for the tax judgment lien against the contested property. In August of 2015, the county issued a certificate stating the property was forfeited for non-payment of taxes. The property was then purchased by Petsinger: the sale was recorded with the Steele County

Recorder’s office in 2017.

For more than six years after May 1, 2017, Petsinger did not interfere with Jaguar’s entry and use of the southerly 30 feet of the contested property to operate and maintain its communications equipment and building.

However, on Feb. 8, 2024, Petsinger delivered a trespassing notice/warning to Jaguar LLC/Metronet and posted “no trespassing” signs on the property. Petsinger screwed one such sign to the door of the building and also wrapped yellow tape around survey markers and “No Trespassing” signs that surrounded the building.

According to Petsinger, Jaguar LLC/Metronet erected a generator on the property without contacting him and without pursuing the required permits. He says those actions prompted him to respond. The Steele County Sheriff was called in after Petsinger barred the entrance to the location. Petsinger then allowed Jaguar LLC/Metronet access to the building. This led to Jaguar LLC/Metronet filing for, and getting, a temporary restraining order against Petsinger, ensuring they would still have access to their building. Petsinger said he has respected the restraining order and has maintained video surveillance of the property.

Ruling
Steele County court documents state Jaguar/Metronet did have a valid easement in 2008, but “the easement was extinguished by the tax forfeiture in 2015.

“Because (Jaguar) has no easement over the contested property, their Motion for Summary Judgment [and complaint] must be and is denied,” court documents read.

The court ruled against Petsinger’s claim to ‘mesne profits’ [financial compensation] from Jaguar’s use of the building, stating “With respect to the time after the tax forfeiture, both

parties are at fault for the current situation.”

Court records further read:

“Although Jaguar/Metronet could have discovered the tax judgment and lien in public records through proper diligence before acquiring its easement in 2008, they failed to do so. Similarly, Petsinger could have learned of this potential dispute had he discovered the recorded easement in public records through proper diligence before acquiring his interest from the state, but he failed to do so.

“Moreover, while the tax lien was not a tangible thing visible to Jaguar/Metronet when entering upon the contested property, their use of the

contested property was plainly visible to Petsinger and anyone else who passed by. Therefore, Petsinger knew or should have known of the alleged injury to his right of exclusive possession from the first day of his ownership.”

Following 30 days for Jaguar/Metronet to remove its possessions from the property, the temporary restraining order against Petsinger will be dissolved.

Petsinger represented himself in the case.

Representing Jaguar/Metronet was Attorney Taylor Sztainer.

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