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■ Inside



Bound for State

Celebrate Reading in New Richland for February and March
Kids ages 3-18 can Celebrate Reading at the New Richland Public Library for February and March. Read books to win raffle tickets for prize drawings.

Ellendale Heritage Society to meet on March 1, 2025
The next meeting of the new year for the Ellendale Heritage society will be March 1 in the community building at their regular time.

NR Town and Country Garden Club to meet March 3 at 6:30 p.m.
The New Richland Town and Country Garden Club will meet March 3 at the Trinity Lutheran Church basement at 6:30 p.m. Anyone interested in gardening is welcome to join the group.

DIY Photo Projects at the New Richland Public Library Wednesday, March 5
There will be a Do-It-Yourself Photo Project at the New Richland Public Library at 10:15 a.m. Wednesday, March 5. Create rock and wire photo holders to bring unique height and color to a photo display, then highlight snapshots with a unique wood frame magnet. This free event is exclusively for ages 13-18.

Magna-Tile Villages building at Waldorf Public Library Friday, March 7
There will be a Magna-Tile Villages set at the Waldorf Public Library at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, March 7. The mayor needs a village up and running as soon as possible! Create design plans and speed build. Geared for ages 7-12.

Ellendale Area Food Shelf benefit 4:30 p.m. March 9
A fundraiser for the Ellendale Area Food Shelf will be from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Sunday, March 9 at the United Methodist Church at 200 Sixth Street North in Ellendale. A free-will donation "build your own taco" meal will be available; raffle tickets are \$5 with prizes including 50 pounds of beef or pork and a small freezer.

NRHEG music program "Showcase Concert" 6 p.m. March 11
The NRHEG music program will showcase the solo, ensemble and large group performances presented during the annual MSHSL "honor band" and "honor choir" workshops. The concert will be March 11 in the NRHEG High School Gym beginning at 6 p.m.

NRHEG High School Blood Drive 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. March 14
NRHEG student groups are sponsoring at blood drive from 8:30 a.m. To 1:30 p.m. in the high school gym. Donors can schedule online, or come to the school during the open times. More information is available from the school at 507-465-3205.

Waldorf Fire Department St. Patrick's Day fundraiser, March 16

A word from

The Word

Trust in the Lord with all your heart.

Proverbs 3:5

Snowmobilers remember the 'good old days'

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

Long-time snowmobile riders Dale Waage, Ed Nelson and Brian Wayne remember a time when someone looking to buy a new snowmobile in the region of Steele, Freeborn and Waseca counties had quite an array of choices. The three list off dealerships handling Chapparal, Arctic Cat, Sno-Jet, John Deere, Yamaha, Herter's, Polaris, Scorpion and MotoSki in the area, stating the high point was probably during the late '60s and early '70s.

Waage, 82, Nelson, 70, and Wayne, 71, are life-long Ellendale area residents who remember a time when the Herter's company had manufacturing buildings in both Waseca and New Richland to build snowmobiles. Waage remembers buying his first machine—a 10-horse Herter's—for \$550. The older snowmobiles, the three riders recall, would top out at 40 or 45 miles an hour, but that was perhaps fast enough back then for a number of reasons. "There weren't any trails yet," mentions Nelson, who, in 1980, went with area resident Hank Lensey to lobby with the state legislature about providing funding so that snowmobile clubs like the Steele County Sno-Blazers could afford to groom the trails which began in this area around 1972, as well as to arrange for additional trails.

Prior to that time, though, "You just went wherever you wanted."

Wayne mentions an adage the group shared: "You weren't lost until you ran out of gas." He then goes on to tell of a time when he was "lost."

Snow continued on 3



Long-time snowmobile riders (from left) Brian Wayne, Dale Waage and Ed Nelson with a 1970s era trail groomer which is owned—but no longer used—by the Steele County Snowmobile Trails Association. Star Eagle photos by Deb Bently



Above left, a vintage snowmobile on display at the Steele County Sno-Blazers clubhouse. Right, a ten-foot-wide trail groomer used to maintain smooth riding surfaces when there is sufficient snow. According to Steele County Trail Association president Ed Nelson, 2018 was the last "good" year for snowmobile riding in southern Minnesota.



The Waldorf Veterans Memorial Park has completed the first stage of completion. The park should be finished in August of 2026.



Waldorf Veterans Memorial Park expected in 2026

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Veterans Memorial Garden, the first portion of the Waldorf Veterans Memorial Park (WVMP) has been completed. Development for this project began in early June 2024, intended completion is set for August of 2026.

Actual cost to complete the garden reached nearly \$15,000, exceeding the original estimate by almost \$3,000. A \$5,000 grant from the Waseca Area Foundation along with private donations made it possible to complete the project last November. An estimated \$2,500 worth of labor was donated by volunteers.

The Veterans Memorial Garden is located at the front right entry area of the WVMP on Waldorf's Main Street. It occupies an oval area approximately 24 feet wide and 15 feet deep. Central to the garden are three flag poles: the center pole is 30 feet tall, the two on either side are 5 feet shorter. Flag poles were purchased from Harold Flags and Flagpoles out of Rochester. Lighting provided by Minnesota LED illuminates the flags at night. Each pole features a gold anodized aluminum ball ornament and beaded retainer rings. The flag foundations were installed by Craig Joecks of C.J. Masonry. Installing the flag poles were Charlie Barnes, Ron Fischer and Todd Levine. Charlie Meyer donated his time and his boom truck; he also trimmed a nearby tree to accommodate the poles.

The center flagpole features an American flag donated by Harold Flags and Flagpoles. On the other two are the POW flag and the traditional Minnesota State flag. Because they will be lit during hours of darkness, it is acceptable under the flag code to keep them on display 24 hours a day. Electrical work supplying 120 volts of power was donated by Roger Witts of Witts Electrical and Charlie Barnes. Ditch Creek Landscaping leveled the soil and placed the rocks. Locally sourced black dirt was donated by Tom Phillips and Perry Mortensen.

Granite edging is provided around the garden perimeter. The landscaping of the garden is a base of landscape fabric covered with rock; galvanized containers for plants provide accents. Four circular ground-level planting areas are edged with galvanized steel. The 'Waldorf Petal Pushers' garden club has offered to help manage planting, watering and weeding of these gardens during summer months with funding from the WVMP. Other rocks or boulders may be added from local farm piles in the future as needed.

The dedication boulder, a gift from Ditch Creek Landscaping, is a large, distinguished stone with a flat-topped surface that will display an 18-inch by 24-inch aluminum plaque featuring a statement to veterans, visible to patrons to appreciate their veterans' sacrifice. The plaque is a gift from Thomas L. Madden, American Legion Post #587.

Eight more projects are planned for the WVMP: the park gazebo (to be built spring 2025); park benches; park lighting; a brick 'Walk of Honor' path; an honor statue for first responders; park landscaping; park signage; and additional small projects such as a bike rack or other features.

"Our park is very important to us here in Waldorf," stated Barnes. "With funding provided by wonderful donors and grantors, we hope to complete the Waldorf Veterans Memorial Park by August of 2026 for Waldorf Days." Barnes states additional donations are absolutely needed to complete all intended components of the park. 'Those Who Helped' are to be recognized for their participation, effort, and valuable donations. "Simply put, we cannot do this without you," said Barnes of donors and volunteers. He notes that all donations are tax-exempt, and can be submitted to Donations to WVMP at P.O. Box 55, Waldorf, MN 56091.

School Board

NRHEG district looking to add online component

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

During their regular monthly meeting the evening of Feb. 18, NRHEG school board members received preliminary information regarding district superintendent Michael Meihak's intent to pursue establishing a district-managed set of online courses.

"Open enrollment" is a statewide practice which allows the families of students to register their children at schools other than in the district where they reside. For example, at this time, 61 of NRHEG's elementary students do not live within district boundaries; correspondingly, 53 elementary-age learners who do live in the district are attending school elsewhere.

"We're doing something right," stated elementary principal Craig Kopetzki. "We have more students coming in than we have going out."

During the school board meeting, it was reported there is a statewide trend toward online schooling. A significant portion of the NRHEG secondary-level learners who have enrolled outside of the district apparently did so for the sake of following a "virtual" curriculum.

Principals Kopetzki and Grant Berg explained the first step of Meihak's intended plan is to gather information; surveys will be sent to area families, and especially to those whose children are now online learners.

Because the amount of state funding a school district receives is based on its "annual daily membership" — in essence, the number of students who attend — every student who enrolls elsewhere represents a decrease in funding, somewhere around \$6,000 a year. Administrators estimate that creating programming which would convince students to remain with the district could preserve well over \$100,000 in income a year.

Meihak could not be present at the Feb. 18 meeting, but information he provided promised ongoing updates as the possibility continues to be explored.

Elementary principal Kopetzki reported that the annual "Green Eggs and Ham" breakfast, with an anticipated attendance of 600 or more, is scheduled for March 7. He also shared that, after most of the elementary student body created handmade Valentine cards, a small group of fifth-graders was sent to the Whispering Oaks senior housing facility to deliver the cards in person. He further shared that participation in recent parent-teacher sessions was "100 percent."

Secondary principal Berg reported that, during the quarter which ended in mid-January, 68 percent of students at his site achieved inclusion on the A or B honor roll. He mentioned that winter parent-teacher conferences are approaching, and that a number of DECA members will be competing at state competition in the early part of March.

Community Education director Macy Whiteside shared that

School continued on 2



FenceLines

by Mark Bernard

Kennedy is rolling over in his grave

The scurs and Weather Eye overachieved once again, silencing their critics. Has Old Man Winter thrown in the towel or is he just towelng off? Starting Thursday, mostly sunny with highs in the mid-40's and lows in the upper 20's. Mostly sunny on Friday with highs in the low 50's and lows in the mid-20's. Mostly sunny Saturday, with highs in the upper 30's and lows in the low 20's. Sunday, sunny with highs in the mid-40's and lows in the low 30's. Mostly cloudy on Monday with a slight chance of rain. Highs in the mid-50's with lows around freezing. Tuesday, mostly sunny with highs in the mid-40's with lows in the upper 20's. Partly sunny on Wednesday with highs in the mid-30's and lows in the low 20's. On the 27th we'll see the sun set at 6 p.m. CST. On March 4th, our daylight gets longer by three minutes per day. The normal high for March 4th is 33 and the normal low is 17. The scurs are starting to get their patio furniture out of storage.

Shortly after this reaches print, February will be in the books. It looked like we would see another one of the patented years when February average daily temperatures were lower than in January. Recent years when that was the case include 2020, 2021 and 2023. After the brutal cold last week, one might've thought it would be a slam dunk. January was about dead on for average daily temperatures, although it had its fair share of below zero lows at 14. They were broken up into bite-sized pieces, however. The longest stretch of below zero lows went from January 19th through the 24th. Up until recently, February was lagging behind temperature-wise. However, if one takes the forecast highs and lows for the final four days of the month, adds them to the temps already recorded and divides by the 28 days in the month, average daily temps for February should be slightly warmer than January. I don't think anyone will complain about that.

With below zero lows on 12 out of 13 days from the 9th of February through the 21st, the cold spell tested our mettle. It made for more than its fair share of bad hair days. Most don't enjoy getting their ears frozen, so stocking hats are the order of the day. The primary goal is staying warm, not making a fashion statement. I don't recall a stretch where I hauled more buckets of warm water across the yard to the barn. It didn't help that the ewes kept lambing the entire time. Miraculously, no lambs died as a result of the cold. They got up quickly, and the ewes did a stellar job of mothering them. We caught most of those that developed respiratory ailments and treated them. That brings up a problem we ran across. We can no longer purchase even basic antibiotics such as penicillin from our favorite local feed store. By rights, we probably should have a veterinarian come out and prescribe the drugs the way the laws were re-written. Most vets don't make house calls, let

alone have time to do them. The main idea is to keep animals healthy. Doc Kennedy from Pipestone would be rolling over in his grave.

With the recent cold, it's been critical our ewes are in good rig. Too thin and they suffer after shearing, making it more difficult to keep up with lambs' needs, especially with multiple births. Get the ewes too fat and they go down with lambing paralysis prior to lambing, risking loss of ewes and lambs both. Having them shorn provides a good report card on how you did with proper nutrition. Feed, especially corn, may be cheap, but it can easily get the flock overly fat, especially when fed too heavily early in gestation. That's why feeding something like corn screenings early in gestation and easing them into higher energy feed such as corn works. This winter has been ideal for sheep as it's been dry up to this point and snow hasn't hindered their movement. It allowed them to meander around and get exercise for the duration, making some wonder if they were on the loose. Most winters they're confined to their lot, hemmed in by snow, content to grind away on their round bales.

I looked longingly at the garden catalogs when I first got them, but couldn't get fired up as easily as last year. With some scattered patches of snow and the frost depth at 27" at the SROC, it's easy to understand why. Last year on February 27th, the daffodils were already 4" tall on the south side of the house. I'd planted some radishes in late January just to see what they'd do. They'd also emerged by that point. Worm castings were seen on March 3rd and the pussy willow catkins had started to emerge. The robins were back as well. This year? It could be a while before robins will be pulling any earthworms from the soil. They'll have to make do with crabapples and American cranberry at the ranch for now.

Poppy has been enjoying the warmer temps too. It means she can go back out to the barn and keep her kitties herded on the way. Sure there's some mud presently, but she manages to traverse it despite her low undercarriage. Once back inside, the sliding glass door has stayed thawed now, so it's open season on the fox squirrel population. I have to admit, the squirrels aren't nearly as fat as they have been thanks in large part to Poppy chasing them. There will likely be some newcomers to her backyard too as we move into March. Have seen signs of the rooster pheasants skirting the garden below the hill. Corgis are cattle dogs not bird dogs fortunately. There were lots of pheasant tracks when we had snow and saw a few on Sunday making their way across the pasture to the CRP. During spring courting season, the roosters usually set up shop in our plum & sumac thicket. Hopefully they can hide in their little love nest undetected.

See you next week...real good then.

Evolution is inevitable

When I started announcing sporting events, I had a microphone and a roster. I soon realized that having a pen with which to write notes and pronunciations of names was imperative. Adding a clipboard for football games, where I need to go down to the field pregame, was the next step. And now I've reached a stage where, if you see me in the gym or in the pressbox or near a ball diamond, I will have all that and more. My laptop is with for music, I have a sheet to keep track of plays on a football drive, my roster sheet might include columns for stats, and in the gym I have a tablet to control the different volumes of things. You'll see me wearing a headset to call the game on Hudl.

Everything evolves. If you would have told me even ten years ago that I would be surrounded by all these devices, I never would have believed it. I had a job to do, which didn't require much fuss. But as the sound systems changed and we added streaming, my job evolved. And I love it!

If you have been at your job for some time, you've likely seen evolution too. It's not always overt, but subtle changes over the years can cause you to look back and think about how different your job is now compared to ten, twenty, thirty years ago.

When I student taught, one of my students showed me how to use a web browser. I knew about this new email concept that was catching on, but checking out Ask Jeeves and finding information easily was brand new.

We used to fill out bubble sheets for our grades at the end of the



Whatever Flips Your Waffle

by Mark Domeier
Contributing Writer

quarter. I remember a mimeograph machine to make copies at my first teaching experience during college. We'd wheel in a TV with a VCR player to show a movie and have to rewind it between classes to show it again.

Now technology has made all that easier. I hit a single button in JMC, our online grading program, and my grades are at the office. We have a copy machine that can receive instructions from my computer and what to print and how. I only use a DVD player for one thing I show; everything else is on a streaming service or YouTube.

Teaching has evolved. Your job has evolved. Our homes have evolved. And most of the time, this is good.

Homes evolve, much like other things, without us really noticing. You might change out the old thermostat for one that is on a timer for turning on and off the air conditioner or furnace. When your children aren't young and fraught with peril, you might take out the carpet and have hardwood floors. When it's time to paint the outside, you might decide to go with siding instead. These are all evolutions of your house, making your home something you feel more and more comfortable calling yours.

Sometimes my students will ask me my opinion on the greatest basketball player of all time. My answer is always Michael Jordan. Many of them favor LeBron James. However, comparing the two is difficult if you reach beyond the statistics. The game of basketball has evolved since Jordan last put on his shoes. Defense is played differently, and officials call the game differently. Good or bad is up to you on this evolution.

I was officiating a basketball game not long ago and heard cries of "Traveling!" frequently from the stands. I sighed and kept calling the game. Sports evolve, and so do the interpretations of the rules. The traveling violation is not called the same as we did even ten years ago. The rulebook definition of traveling is moving one or both feet illegally while in possession of the ball. Pretty clear, right?

Nope. Back during the state tournament runs at NRHEG, some of our players were taking large steps to the basket, something that was on the outer fringes of what is now known as the Euro Step. They'd get called for traveling because it looked wrong and hadn't been seen at a high school level. Today, if you come to a game, you'll see that move, along with the step through, all the time. It's not traveling.

Area college students honored

MADISON, Wis. (February 21, 2025) - Just over 2,000 students received degrees during the University of Wisconsin-Madison Winter 2024 Commencement at the Kohl Center on Dec. 15, 2024.

Here are the degree recipients from the area:

New Richland, MN
Marissa Mortenson, College of Letters and Science, Bachelor of Science-Journalism, Journalism

DULUTH, Minn. (February 18, 2025) - The University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) has announced its Dean's List for Fall Semester 2024. Students on the Dean's List have achieved a grade point average of 3.50 or higher while earning a minimum of 12 letter-graded credits.

The four colleges within UMD are:
College of Arts, Humanities, and

Social Sciences (CAHSS)
College of Education and Human Service Professions (CEHSP)
Labovitz School of Business and Economics (LSBE)

Swenson College of Science and Engineering (SCSE)

Here are the degree recipients from the area:
HOMETOWN, STATE; NAME, CLASS YEAR, COLLEGE, PLAN(S)

Ellendale, MN
Casey Johnson, JR, Col of Arts, Hum & Soc Sci, Graphic Design B F A

McKenzie Mueller, SO, Education & Human Service Pro, Exercise Rehab Sci B A Sc
Susan Smith, JR, Education & Human Service Pro, Psychology B A Sc

Mankato, Minn. (February 14,

2025) - The Academic High Honor and Honor lists (Dean's lists) for the past fall semester at Minnesota State University, Mankato have been announced by Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs David Hood.

Among 4,404 students, a total of 1,354 students qualified for the High Honor List by achieving a 4.0 straight "A" average, while 3,050 students earned a 3.5 to 3.99 average to qualify for the Honor List.

To qualify for academic honors, undergraduate students must be enrolled for at least 12 credit hours for the semester.

Here are the degree recipients



Sommer

from the area:
HOMETOWN, STATE; NAME, HONOR

Ellendale, MN
Anton Domeier, Honor List
Levin Kitzer, Honor List
Brenna Sommer, High Honors List
Geneva, MN
Shelby Johnston, Honor List
Hartland, MN
Faith Nielsen, Honor List
New Richland, MN
Elizabeth Bushlack, High Honors

List
Severin Eads, Honor List
Molly Johnson, Honor List
Addison Loken, Honor List
Tayler Schmidt, High Honors List
Waldorf, MN
Hannah Brunson, Honor List
Vince Russel Herrera, Honor List
Faith Miller, High Honors List

School

from Page 1

the preschool will be holding an open house in mid-March. She also shared that the "School Age Care" and other programs are implementing new software which makes it easier to record whether and when students are taking part in certain sessions; the same software, she said, increases opportunities for parents to provide or review information regarding their children.

During a comment period near the

end of the meeting, school board member Terri Engel stated she is "very impressed" with the organization of "I Love to Read Month" activities at the elementary site, and with the opportunities provided to students in the "Smart" room—a designated space which allows students to incorporate physical movement with various learning experiences.

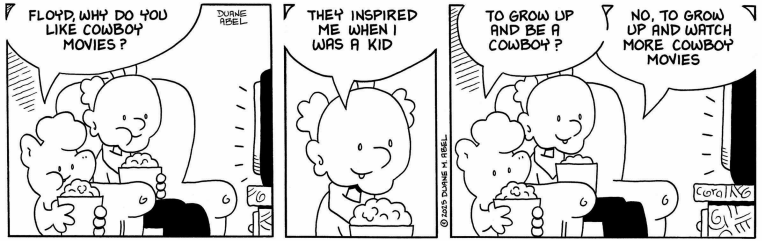
Board member Kelly Delacruz described having attended the recent public performance of the secondary site's contest one-act play. She mentioned not only being impressed with the on-stage production, but also with the "small-town helpfulness" of audience members who

helped fold up their chairs and put them on storage racks.

Board chair congratulated secondary office administrative assis-

tant Sue Kulseth, who recently submitted her intent to retire at the end of the school year.

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Sierra Misgen

Sierra Misgen grateful for cheerleading opportunities

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

Sierra Misgen, a senior at NRHEG High School, has been a cheerleader and member of the competition cheer team for more than a decade. This past summer, she was named an All-American Cheerleader for the second consecutive year, an honor awarded by the Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) during an annual training camp at the University of Minnesota. To earn the title, Sierra took part in a tryout process that tested her skills, leadership, and enthusiasm.

In addition to being named an All-American, Sierra has been selected for the Minnesota Cheerleading Coaches Association (MCCA) All-State Sideline and Competition teams. She performed alongside other talented cheerleaders from across the state at the Minnesota Cheer event on Feb. 1.

As an All-American, Sierra has cheered alongside some talented athletes from across the United States. Last year, she represented her school and community by participating in the Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade in Hawaii. This year, she is taking her talents overseas to cheer in the iconic London New Year's Day Parade, a globally celebrated event that features performers from around the world.

Sierra is a captain of NRHEG's competition cheer team. Together, she and her teammates have grown stronger, and built a shared commitment to excellence. She also serves as a captain for the sideline cheer team, where she cheers for winter sports, including basketball

and wrestling. She says it is one of her goals to bring leadership and enthusiasm to both teams, helping bring energy and spirit to every performance, game, and match, making her an invaluable part of her school's athletic community.

Her role as captain has also afforded her the opportunity to participate in the Varsity Spirit Spectacular at Disney World, a UCA-hosted event where she performed on Main Street in the Magic Kingdom. She thinks of the experience as unforgettable, as well as one of the highlights of her cheerleading journey.

Each UCA parade brings unique challenges and opportunities. Participants are required to learn a specific cheer or dance routine ahead of time, with the choreography sent out in advance.

Performers practice individually and then join large group rehearsals at the event destination. From the Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade to Disney World and now London, Sierra says each has provided her with unforgettable memories and new challenges.

Having been part of the competition cheer team since second grade, Sierra is now in her tenth and final season. Reflecting on the past decade, she says she recognizes how much cheerleading has taught her—not only about athleticism and performance, but also about teamwork, perseverance, and leadership. As she prepares to conclude her cheerleading career, Sierra expresses her gratitude for the experiences, friendships, and memories that will remain with her for a lifetime.

■ Snow from Page 1

"We were out in the middle of nowhere with no gas stations in sight," he remembers. "People were siphoning gas out of their tanks and giving it to me so I would have enough to make it." Machines at the time typically held between 5 and 6 gallons; how far a tankful would last "depended on how hard you drove," comments Wayne.

Waage, Nelson and Wayne all three say early snowmobile rides were "an adventure."

"Those old machines were always breaking down," comments Waage.

"People would ride around with spark plugs and machine parts in their pockets," remembers Nelson. Getting replacement parts, at least, could be simple and cheap. "If you knew someone who worked at the Herter's factory," jokes Waage, "it might only cost you a bottle of whiskey."

Between the need for repairs and the fact that the earlier machines required oil to be mixed in with the gas, Waage remembers, "We would get to a bar or a restaurant and people would tell us 'Get away from me. You smell like gas.'"

Nelson remembers a time when he was part of a group of riders who pulled in at a gas station and pub located near St. Olaf Lake. The owner of the establishment would display and sell homemade negligees. One member of his group purchased one and pushed it into his pocket, apparently with the intent of giving it as a gift.

"I can't help wondering how that went," speculates Nelson. "That flimsy thing in that pocket with all those spark plugs and small tools."

"Who knows what it looked like, or what it smelled like, when he decided to give it to his lady?"

The three recall those early rides were commonly a combination of riding in road ditches and across lakes. "You had to know the area pretty well," remembers Waage.

According to Wayne, Interstate 35 north of Albert Lea opened in 1968. For two to three years prior to its opening, the roadway was graded but was "essentially an unused gravel road." Nelson and Waage remember being with groups of snowmobilers who used the roadway as a trail, riding all the way to Albert Lea and back a number of times. Waage says he still thinks of some of the delicious steaks he was served at an establishment called Club 16.

Some members of the group would detour up alongside the route where entrance and exit ramps and overpass bridges were under construction. "Some of the bridges had decks on them," Waage remembers, "and some didn't."

Something else the three remember about snowmobiling prior to the mid-1980s is that it was very much a community activity. They recall being on rides where the line of headlights would extend over hill-tops for long distances behind them.

"Husbands and wives would ride together," remembers Wayne, smiling. "Until they didn't."

The three share the story of fellow rider Afton Langlie who discovered

a hundred feet down the trail that his wife Trudi had fallen off. Not long after that, they remember, Trudi got her own machine.

Another aspect of group rides was "being with good friends." The three share endless stories of helping and being helped. Wayne tells of one time when a group of riders had taken their snowmobiles to northern Minnesota. He remembers an invisible soft spot in deep snow which pulled his sled into a snow "shadow" under a large evergreen. "I thought to myself, 'I've got to get back up there so they find me, or I'll be here by myself.'"

All three remember it was a significant task to get the sled up out of the hole.

Nelson mentions the Steele County Sno-Blazers once had 110 member families; now there are 30.

"It seems like people are always on social media watching what other people are doing," jokes Nelson. "We went out and lived it."

Something else that's changed since those early days is the amount of snow the area gets over the winter. The three share the story of March, 1965, when there was such a deep snowdrift in downtown Geneva that the city created a one-lane tunnel for traffic, giving up entirely on the idea of removing the drift.

Waage remembers stories his father, a lineman for the telephone company, would tell. During the 1950s, he shares, there were sometimes snow drifts so tall that they came within about 18 inches of reaching the phone lines. Since this was a time before large-scale snowplows, he remembers men going out with shovels to dig out roadways so school buses could get through.

In the 45 years snowmobile trails have been being groomed, Nelson summarizes, there have been "maybe 15 good snow years," which meant that groomers would go out more than once a month. In his assessment, the last "good" year was 2018.

In the not-so-good snow years, groups of local riders would travel elsewhere for fun. A fair number of times they headed to destinations in northern Minnesota; 20 or more snowmobiles would be loaded on a flatbed trailer while the riders traveled together in a motor home.

Wayne describes how the large vehicles would stay parked in one place while the group took their snowmobiles in a gigantic circle from town to town, staying in hotels overnight and continuing their ride the next day.

A factor which supported that type of ride, he recalls, is that smaller towns back then had the bars, restaurants and hotels to handle their groups, and there were usually at least a few places to stop in between towns for gas and a rest. These days businesses are distributed differently, he observes, with the majority of resources all centered in larger communities.

He remembers groups would include riders from a number of area towns, and there would frequently be pranks and shenanigans along the way.

The three tell the story of convincing one group member that, at a certain bar, it was a common prank to throw people's headwear into a large fireplace. Having convinced him to keep his helmet on, they then taped a picture of a pinup girl to the back.



A photo from the Steele County Trail Association archives shows a 1976 trail groomer.



Ed Nelson at the wheel of a vintage trail groomer still owned, although no longer used, by the Trail Association.

Waage, Nelson and Wayne acknowledge the master prankster was Gary Hanson, a banker in Hartland. "He was always full of tricks," they observe.

During one trip up north, "the Hartland group" wore business suits under their cold weather gear, and managed to keep the other members from realizing it until the last leg of the day's ride, when they all removed their snowmobile suits and rode into town looking like a team of business executives.

Another time Hanson told the group he was going to order a deli tray from a nearby business. He then proceeded to dial the phone and begin placing an order; the conversation quickly "went south," with Hanson insulting the business owner and using abusive language.

"We tried to stop him," remembers Nelson. "We were all worried what the local folks would think of us, and whether we'd ever be welcome in town again."

It was only after he finished the heated conversation that Hanson let them know his finger had been holding the receiver button down the entire time—no one had ever been on the other end of the line.

Nelson remembers a time he got a bit of a come-uppance. "It was Gary Hanson's birthday," he explains. A group of friends acquired a wooden crate—the type in which a brand new snowmobile would be delivered. Then they went into someone's "back woods" and unearthed a battered, filthy, unsalvageable vintage sled.

"He came home and found that crate in his driveway," remembers Nelson, laughing. "Probably thought his wife had bought him a brand new ride. Then he opened it up and found that piece of junk inside."

"We enjoyed each other's company. We helped each other when there was a problem," summarizes Wayne. "We had some adventures, and we played a few pranks."

"It was a good, honest, easy time to be active."

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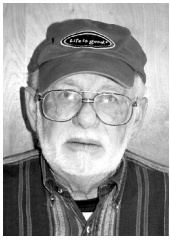
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by Bob Hanson, Emeritus

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

'Florence, your smile'

Genie and I attended the funeral of Florence Glister at Trinity Lutheran Church in Albert Lea on Friday, February 14, 2025.

The following said our thoughts a lot better than Genie and I can after knowing the Glister family during our many years of being their neighbors in Chapeau Heights rural Albert Lea.

"Florence, Your Smile"

Though your smile is gone forever and your hand we cannot touch, still we have so many memories of the one we loved so much.

Your memory is our keepsake with which we will never part, God has you in his keeping, we have you in our hearts.

It is sad to walk alone, instead of side by side.

But to all, there comes a moment when the ways of life divide.

You gave us years of happiness, then came sorrow and tears, but you left us beautiful memories we will treasure through the years.

"Thank You Florence"

And now for a running of the words

A. Regarding the Super Bowl. "The Eagles Soared"

B. An interesting event: F.R.O.G. "Fully rely on God" bought forty carnations to be given to the adult ladies at Central and East Freeborn Lutheran Church on Sunday, February 9, 2025. Guess how many adult ladies were at church. If you said "Forty," you are right. Maybe I should purchase a Lottery ticket for me!!

C. Congrats to the NRHEG Cheerleading team as they placed third in the State of Minnesota.

D. A few vehicles have been used for trolling on Fountain Lake this winter. To the best of my knowledge, no fish have been caught while trolling in this manner.

E. February's full moon was on the 12. I thought maybe it would warm up after Valentine's week activities, but I was wrong - It turned a lot colder, like 20 to 30 below windchill.

F. During this cold weather of negative temps, Genie and I have been spending a lot of time watching TV - with our eyes closed!

G. Have faith - more daylight is coming on Sunday, March 9 when you change your clocks the right way. (I still think this is goofy thinking.)

H. During the cold spell in February, Genie and I played Scrabble. The 1st game Genie stomped me. The second game she beat me worse than the 1st game. During many years of playing Scrabble, Genie has never won two consecutive games against me. The question is: "Is Genie sharper or am I dumber?"

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.

Freeborn officials approve contract with Aeschliman

Joni Hubred
Steele County Times

Just days after saying she would likely stay put in Blooming Prairie, city administrator Melanie Aeschliman seems headed for a new job.

The Albert Lea Tribune on Tuesday morning reported that Freeborn County officials have approved a contract with Aeschliman to serve as their county administrator.

She had previously declined an offer after BP city council members in an emergency meeting approved a "merit retention offer" that would have increased her salary to \$150,000—a bump of nearly \$35,000—effective March 2. Her pay would have remained at that level until the city's pay scale is re-



Aeschliman

told the Times last week that she would consider it.

"I will entertain it, but I know we have good things here, and good people. My heart's here; I don't know if I can ... my heart's here."

Details of the new contract and information about the Freeborn County meeting were not posted on the county's website.

structured.

After Aeschliman turned down the county offer on Feb. 3, Freeborn commissioners asked their interim administrator to reach out with a counter offer. She

MAISRC seeking AIS proposals

The Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) at the University of Minnesota is seeking proposals for research studies to advance control and management, prevention of establishment and spread, risk assessment, and early detection of aquatic invasive species (AIS) in Minnesota.

Through this competitive proposal process, MAISRC will administer an estimated \$2,500,000 to fund high-

priority research needs focused on new lines of research and continuation of existing projects. Anticipated funding availability is January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2027. There is no budget limit for each proposal or a set number of proposals that will be funded.

Proposals are invited from investigators at any Minnesota-based academic, governmental (federal, tribal, state, local), or non-profit research

institution or organization with demonstrated capacity to conduct rigorous, scientific research. Proposed work should build capacity in and benefit the state of Minnesota. Research collaborations with diverse skill sets and specialties and multi-investigator projects are strongly encouraged. Research teams may include expertise outside of Minnesota, but please note that some restrictions apply for use of grant funds

out of state.

Pre-proposals are due Monday, March 3, 2025 at 11:59 p.m.. Submit all documents to maisrc@umn.edu. Please contact MAISRC with questions about research priorities, opportunities for collaboration or coordination, MAISRC lab and outreach resources, the proposal process, or to discuss research ideas.

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Compostings

by Al Batt

Congratulations on your 12th hall of fame

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
I had a rough morning. What happened?
I got up.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE
I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I'd put some blueberries on my oatmeal because I wanted the blueberry of happiness to visit me for breakfast. I needed it to recover from a Minnesota goodbye in Iowa. That's where you say "goodbye," but you never leave. You spend a long time at the exit door. It's called "door-knob" therapy.

Out the door, I went for a long walk before climbing into my car. Life encourages us to walk as little as possible. We have drive-thru everything. Bank, food and pharmacy. Growing up, we had drive-ins—the root beer stand and the Passion Pit. Now we can shop without leaving the couch.

THE CLINIC CHRONICLES
I looked at my watch. There were no clocks on the wall because they don't want you to know how long you've waited. I miss having a watch that I needed to wind. Those watches from my past have all gone with the wind. I was in the clinic, filling out a form. One of the questions asked who my closest relative was. I couldn't answer it. I wasn't sure if they meant from the clinic or my house.

The guy seated next to me was procrastinating on his form-filling duties. He told me he had some concerns with his liver and had asked his doctor if he had anything for his liver. The physician recommended fried onions.

I'VE LEARNED
Time flies when you're procrastinating.

I've known a lot of men named "Lefty," but I don't know a single one named "Righty."

I was in the breakfast food aisle of a grocery store, checking cereal numbers, when a friend told me about a recent oil change to his chariot. He worried because there was no next-oil-change-due reminder sticker placed on the inside of his windshield. "Are they going out of business?" he wondered. "Don't they want my business?" "Didn't they change the oil?" That's how rumors start.

Stopping the production of pennies makes no cents.

At least 37.8% of people who use statistics make them up.

One for the road means a visit to the bathroom.

HeadBox analyzed noise levels across the country using 10 key factors, from packed streets and heavy traffic to buzzing bars and constant flight activity. These factors highlighted daily noise expo-

sure and gave a clear picture of the states with the highest sound levels. The noisiest state was New Jersey, followed by Florida. Alaska was the quietest, followed by Minnesota. Iowa was the 45th loudest.

I had a Shetland pony when I was a boy. Little horse on the prairie.

Dizie is a bad dizzy spell.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT
If you placed a blue whale on a regulation-sized basketball court, you'd have to postpone the game.

Wolverines paint their claws red so they can hide in cherry trees. Have you ever seen a wolverine in a cherry tree? That's because its disguise works.

I have a cousin named Grandpa. It's a family name. He's from Iowa and says Minnesota is a lovely state, but it's full of Minnesotans.

How do lumberjacks work from home? They log in.

IN THE NEWS
Congratulations to Tink Larson of Waseca, who has played long enough to be nearly everyone's teammate. Tink overcame the painful setback of being my former teammate long enough to be named to the National High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. It's his 12th HOF induction. Wow!

NATURE NOTES
It wasn't "Love Train," a 1982 hit by the O'Jays. What I heard were blue jays, handsome birds with substantial vocabularies. The vocal birds like to hear themselves squawk. What I heard were pump handle calls or queedle. "Queedle, queedle." The musical call has been likened to the sound of a squeaky clothesline, whistles or a complaining pump handle. Jays learn the call of a hawk species that inhabits an area, and then mimic it when they near a feeding station. That often causes the birds at the feeders to scatter in panic, allowing the jays to have their pick of the food. An aggressive blue jay uses its loud calls ("jay," "jeeah," "queedle, queedle") to alert others to danger. It's unknown whether jays develop this ability to warn others that a hawk is close or as a manipulative device. Many blue jays might be named Jay or Jake. The purpose of pump handle calls is to communicate distress or alarm. Blue jays emit these calls when they sense danger and when they want to alert other members of their flock to a potential threat. The nature of the call catches the attention of other birds and prompts them to be alert.

MEETING ADJOURNED
"Life is mostly froth and bubble, / Two things stand like stone, / Kindness in another's trouble, / Courage in your own."—Adam Lindsay Gordon.

Paving the way

Engraved bricks help fund Ellendale mural project

Kay Fate, Steele County Times
The grassroots efforts to replace a fading mural on the side of a building in Ellendale – which morphed into a much larger project – has reached another milestone.

The hand-painted mural is now a free-standing sign in what was formerly the community garden in downtown Ellendale; the south end of the lot is now known as the Gathering Place Plaza.

Phase two is about the area that surrounds the 12-by-20-foot depiction of Ellendale in the early 1900s, and it's where the public can leave its mark.

The Ellendale Area Heritage Society is offering engraved bricks for sale to raise the money needed to complete the historical recognition of the city's roots.

There will be landscaping rock and grasses in front of the mural, along with an interpretive sign with photographs and explanations of the people featured in the artwork. The sign will also have the history of the depot, the history of Beaver Lake, and descriptions of four of the earliest businesses.

Between the sign and the community garden will be a 10-by-10-foot area of personalized pavers, surrounded by a concrete border.

Phase two of the project is estimated to cost between \$8,000 and \$9,000; it includes the landscaping, grading and cement work, which will be done by local contractors.

To raise the necessary funds, individuals, families, groups, businesses and organizations are invited to purchase bricks, and leave a lasting impression in the legacy of Ellendale.

Two sizes of bricks are available: 4-by-8 inch and 8-by-8 inch. The smaller bricks are \$50, with up to three lines of lettering. The larger bricks are \$100 for up to six lines of lettering.

At least 100 symbols are available to add to the bricks, including the former Ellendale High School Raider logo and the NRHEG High School Panther logo, "so we should cover everybody that's ever been in school," said Jo Lerberg, a member of the Community Gathering Place Mural Project Committee.

"We even have the cardinal, in case there's somebody from (the former) New Richland High



Jo Lerberg, of the Community Gathering Place Mural Project Committee, left, and Dan Nelson, president of the Ellendale Area Heritage Society, stand in front of a display of historical photos of Ellendale. Nelson is holding a sample of the pavers that are being sold to help fund Phase 2 of the mural project. The small bricks are \$50 each, or \$65 with a symbol; 8-inch-by-8-inch bricks are \$100 each, or \$115 with a symbol.

School," she said.

Adding a symbol to any brick will add \$15 to the purchase price; there is no limit to the number that may be purchased.

"I decided to buy one for my parents, one for my grandparents and one for myself, because it's reasonable," said Lerberg, whose grandfather opened one of the town's first businesses in 1901. Her parents "were both in the class of 1931, so that's on (their paver), too," she said.

Dan Nelson, president of the EAHS, also has a significant history with the town: "Ellendale is built on my great-great-grandparents' farm," he said.

Nelson said the heritage society is grateful for all of the financial and in-kind donations so far, as well as the support at fundraising events.

The path from a grand vision to execution was fairly smooth, according to Lerberg.

"We were so fortunate to have the people that really got behind us," she said.

The mural committee received a \$10,000 grant from Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation, "and when people saw that we had something to work with, then saw the artist and his work... It really is a piece of artwork in that garden."

The engraving will be done by Bricks R Us in Meridian, Idaho, the largest brick-engraving company in the U.S. The work is guaranteed for life, Nelson said.

In addition to the local school logos, the company has about 100 symbols from which to choose.

To order, visit www.brickrsrus.com/donorsite/eahs. There, you can select the size of brick, add the words and/or symbol to be engraved, then confirm it with the photo that will be created with your information.

Payments may be made online at the time of the order.

For a paper order form, contact Nelson at 507-390-5213.



A recent meeting included members of both the city and county "economic development authority" groups. One purpose of the gathering was to begin finding ways all area communities can work together to encourage businesses to locate their new development within the county.

City, county discuss economic progress

By DEB BENTLY
Staff writer

About 25 community leaders and advocates met the morning of Feb. 12 to collaborate regarding the ways the city and county of Waseca can work together toward shared economic progress. Present for the discussion was a combination of people from the fields of business, government, and civic organizations; nearly all are also members of the economic development authority (EDA) for either the city or county of Waseca.

City EDA president Ann Staloch opened the meeting stating the local region has many strengths, and suggesting those assets could be better leveraged if area agencies work together and share resources.

The joint meeting was requested by the city EDA, whose spokesman was city planner Jon Froke. Joining him as co-facilitator was county community development coordinator Tina Wilson.

Wilson reported on two projects already underway. One is a workforce development center, to be constructed using mostly federal grant money in the lower floor of the county public services building at 1100 W. Elm Avenue in Waseca. Another, a program dubbed "Forward," provides resources for area students as they consider their future career paths, making sure the information includes local options which might encourage them to stay in their home communities.

After preliminary introductions, an open discussion addressed ways shared resources could help advance common goals. Among topics touched on are the reasons some businesses have chosen not to locate in the region and what area agencies can do to overcome those reasons.

Among strengths named during the conversation were the quality of life in area communities and strong access to available land, transportation, and, along the Highway 14 corridor at least, power. A shortage of available housing and the city's limited infrastructure for delivering water and sewage disposal for any large facilities were mentioned as barriers.

City manager Carl Sonnenberg summarized some main themes from the discussion when he said, "The

community needs to determine how it's going to invest in itself, so that we can send a clear message to developers."

Staloch suggested the combined groups might form what she called a "development response team" whose members could provide expertise and perspective across a wide range of topics. She stated the idea would be to have such people ready to meet with potential developers on short notice. They could help potential developers connect with helpful people and resources, and provide guidance to make various applications and processes easier to complete. Among her suggestions was that the city and county should have shared application forms when feasible, for example for zoning permits, so that applicants would need to fill out only one document.

Group member John Fossum suggested the response team members should represent "expertise across

the board," and that responding members would be selected based on the nature of each individual developer's needs.

The far-ranging discussion occupied nearly two hours. By the end of the meeting, an agreement was reached to work toward a second joint meeting sometime in June. Wilson said she would arrange the session, offering to invite additional representatives from the Janesville, New Richland and Waldorf EDA groups.

As the conversation wound down, Staloch proposed matters to be focused on at future sessions. She suggested group members should give thought to a shared narrative for city and county development priorities; the composition and procedures for a development response team; hearing a county-wide perspective regarding focus areas for development; and overcoming what she called a "blight" on area communities, namely buildings which are standing empty and unused, with owners who show no apparent interest in improving them or selling them to others who will.



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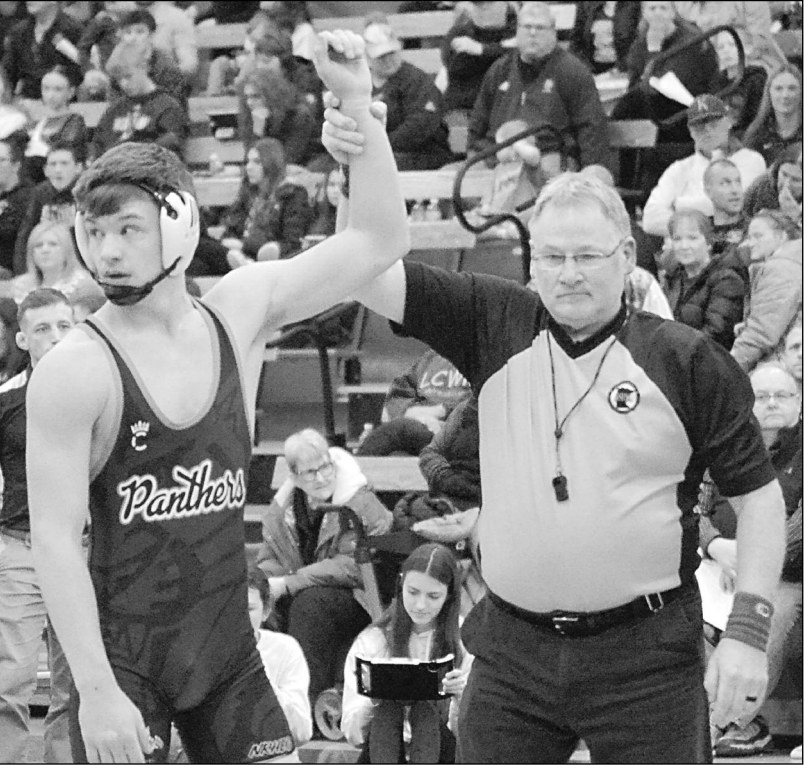
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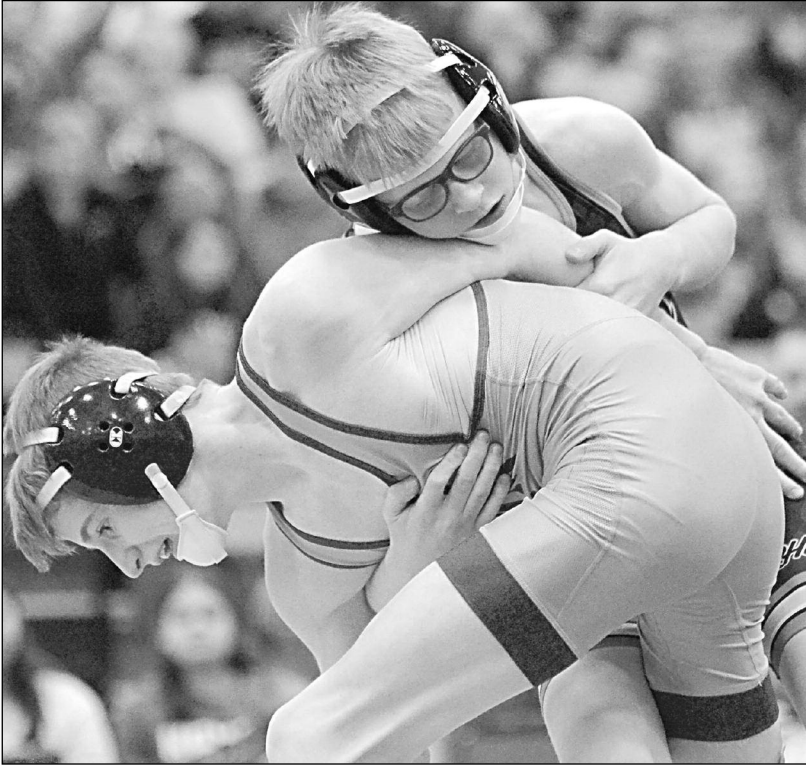
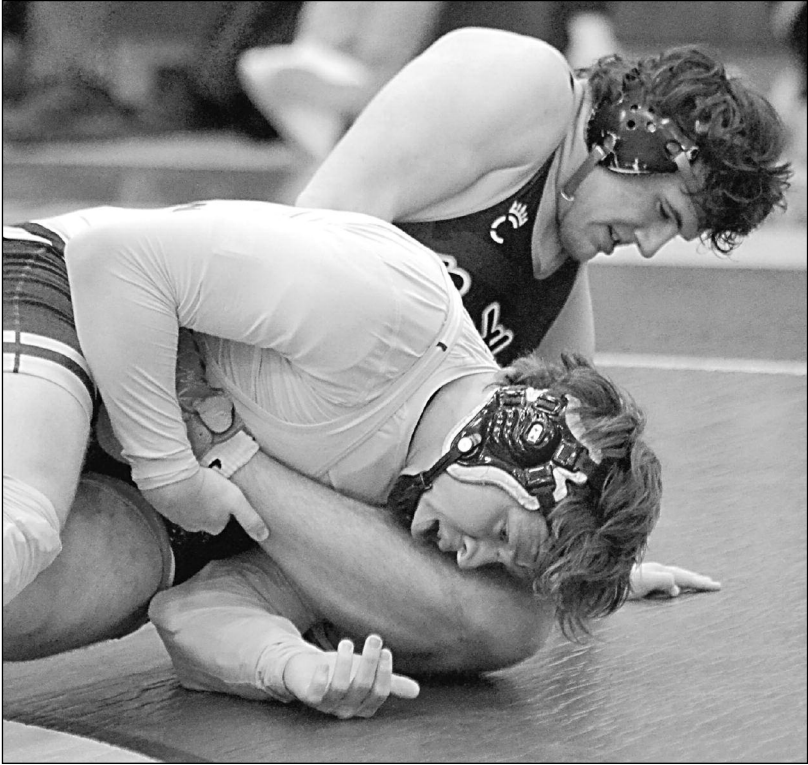
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ON TO STATE – From left, NRHEG High School wrestlers Ryan Schlaak, Cole Hutchens and Gram Jacobson in action during Saturday’s Section 2A tournament at Blue Earth. Jacobson became the youngest NRHEG wrestler in school history to reach state.



Panthers advance four to state

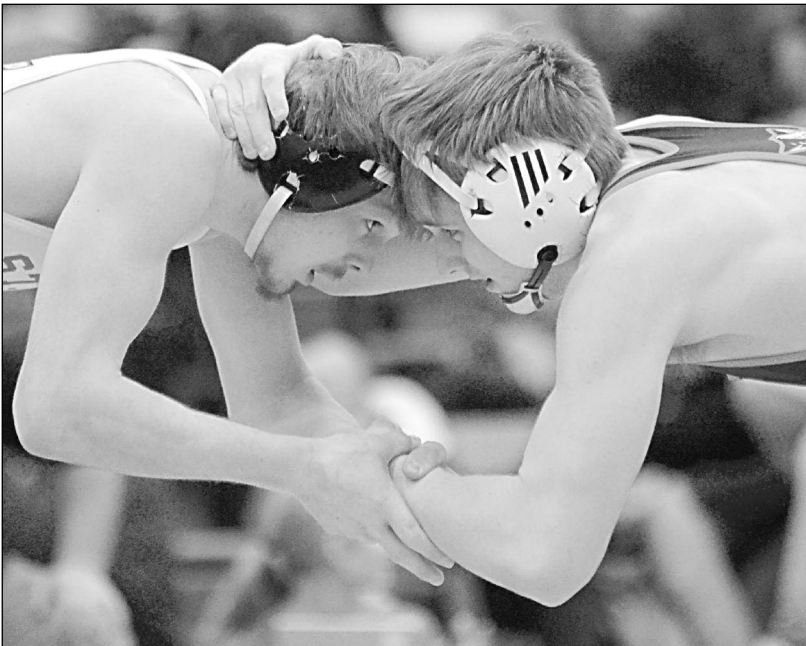
Saturday was a great day for the NRHEG High School wrestling program. No less than four Panthers qualified for state out of the Section 2A tournament at Blue Earth. In all, NRHEG claimed nine placewinners. Advancing to state were Gram Jacobson, 107 pounds; Harbor Cromwell, 160; Ryan Schlaak, 172; and Cole Hutchens, 215. Schlaak came home with first place. The others finished second. Just missing state was the Panthers’ Wyatt Larson, who took third at 189. Charlie Tufte was fourth at 114, Kkaiden Madson fifth at 139; Chase Johannsen sixth at 133. “We had a fantastic day all the way up and down our lineup,” said NRHEG head coach Shawn Larson.

“We had a fantastic day all the way up and down our lineup.”
— NRHEG coach Shawn Larson

“Whether or not our individuals qualified to compete next week or not, they competed with heart and determination. We are so grateful to have the opportunity to qualify four athletes for the state tournament. We are also proud of our other seven athletes who gave everything they had to try to qualify.” Schlaak was dominant in his two matches, winning the championship with a fall and tecnical fall. “Ryan has experience in the state tournament, and hopefully with this

showing he will have the confidence to make a deep run,” said Larson. “Regardless of his outcome, we could not be prouder.” Cromwell was dominant in his performance as well, terminating all of his matches early other than the match that he lost in the finals. “Harbor is a senior who has been working extremely hard to have this opportunity to compete at state,” said Larson. Hutchens demonstrated that the regular season is for learning and

the postseason is a place to showcase how much you have gained. He avenged a previous loss in the semifinals and wrestled extremely well in his finals loss. The win in the semifinals turned out to be the match Cole needed to qualify for state. Jacobson became the youngest NRHEG wrestler to qualify for the state tournament. Gram is in 7th grade and the previous youngest athlete to qualify for state was Daniel Petsinger, who first qualified as an eighth-grader. “We are excited to see what Gram can do next week,” said Larson. The four Panther qualifiers wrestle in the state tournament Friday at 9 a.m. at the ExCel Energy Center in St. Paul.



SECTION ACTION – The Panthers’ Harbor Cromwell, left, punched his ticket to state with a second-place finish at 160 pounds in Saturday’s Section 2A tournament. Star Eagle photo by Jim Lutgens

NRHEG boys register wins over Medford, TCU

The NRHEG High School boys’ basketball team took the court Friday night looking for its second victory in a row. The Panthers got it, defeating Medford 66-54 in New Richland. After the Tigers opened the game with a three-pointer, the Panthers responded and never looked back. “The boys put together a great first half, switching in and out of defenses, moving the ball on offense, and taking advantage of open looks,” said NRHEG head coach Dan Schmidt. The Panthers led 36-18 at halftime. The second half went the same way, although the Panthers hit a rough patch about halfway through. “We got a little complacent on defense and gave them some open looks and sent them to the foul line way too much, way too early,” said Coach Schmidt. Medford pulled within eight points, but the Panthers held their ground and hit some big free throws to win going away. Greyson Schaefer turned in a phenomenal game with 20 points, 16 rebounds, and 4 blocks. Owen Wayne had 18 points of his own,

including 6-for-6 from the line in the last minute or so. Calvin Nissen chipped in 10 points. Aaden Hanna and Jase Knudson came off the bench and played extremely well on both ends of the floor, and contributed 6 and 7 points each to go along with some key rebounds and blocks. Brendan Schmidt continued to quietly follow Greyson’s example on the boards, and snagged 11 rebounds of his own to go along with 7 assists. On Thursday, the Panthers defeated Tri-City United 75-56 in New Richland in a game postponed from Monday. “Due to the weather Tuesday, we had no school, and no practice,” said Coach Schmidt. “It definitely showed in practice on Wednesday. Admittedly, I was a little nervous about how we would come out because of that. But the Panthers came out with a lot of energy and built a 43-29 lead at halftime. “At the half, we talked about not letting up, and making a couple minor scheme changes to throw some wrinkles at them,” said Coach Schmidt. “We came out in the second half the same as the first, with a

lot of fire and energy. We ran like we’ve tried to do all year. We defended much better than we have previously, as well.” Wayne and Mack Gilliland paced the Panthers with 17 points each, and Schaefer kicked in 13 points. He and Brendan Schmidt pounded the glass, with Brendan grabbing 8 boards to go along with 7 points, and Schaefer added seven of his own. Knudson and Jordan Brouwers did a great job on the boards tonight, too, playing much more inspired ball. “I’m so proud of the boys with how they rebounded from practice yesterday and came out with so much energy,” said Coach Schmidt. Previously, the Panthers lost 77-34 at United South Central. Individually for NRHEG: A.Hanna 6P, 1B; Schaefer 2P, 6R; Deshawn Jones 2P; Nissen 5P, 1S; Wayne 3P, 4R, 3A, 2S, 2B; B.Schmidt 5P, 5R, 1S; Dom Olson 1R, 1A; Sean Lassahn 2R, 1A; Brock Holland 4P; Knudson 5P, 3R, 1S; Brouwers 2P, 2R; Zander Hanna 1R. The Panthers fell 77-53 to Alden-Conger. Individually: A.Hanna 3P, 4ER,



REJECTION – The Panthers’ Brendan Schmidt (10) blocks a shot by Medford’s Orion Heintz (25) during Friday’s 66-54 victory in New Richland. Star Eagle photo by Jim Lutgens

2A, 1B; Schaefer 7P, 10R, 2A, 1S; Nissen 22P, 1R, 1S; Wayne 5P, 3R, 1A; B.Schmidt 1P, 3R, 1S, 1B; Olson 2P; Gilliland 5P, 1R, 2A, 2S; Lassahn 3P, 6R, 3A; Holland 5P, 5R, 1A; Knudson 3R; Z.Hanna 5R. son finale. Tip-off is set for 7:15 p.m. The Panthers host unbeaten Waseca Friday in their regular-sea-



ACTION AT THE NET – Waseca’s Josiah Schmidke (30) turns away a shot during the Bluejays’ 8-0 Section 1A quarterfinal victory over Austin. Star Eagle photo by Jim Lutgens

Waseca boys’ hockey season ends in Section 1A semifinals

A record-setting season came to an end Saturday night for the Waseca High School boys’ hockey team, which lost 3-1 to Rochester Lourdes in a Section 1A semifinal game at the Rochester Recreation Center. The Bluejays became the first Waseca hockey team to reach the section semifinals, finishing with a record of 21-4-2. The third-seeded Eagles improved to 16-10-1 and advanced to the championship game against top-seeded Northfield. The Bluejays were the No. 2 seed. Penalties proved to be the difference Saturday as the Bluejays, trailing 3-1 after two periods, drew six final-period penalties. Rochester Lourdes outshot Waseca 39-37, including 17-9 in the third period. The lone Waseca goal was scored late in the second period by Brayden Hesch-Priem, assisted by Avery Selvik and Jayden Gehring, but Lourdes recaptured the momtum with a goal at 15:32 of the period.

Josiah Schmidke was in goal for the Bluejays, totaling 36 saves. The Bluejays opened the section tournament with an 8-0 triumph over Austin on Thursday at Waseca Community Arena. Scoring for Waseca were Jackson Tesch, Henry Huttemier, Jude Gehring, Cash Lynch and Hesch-Priem, with assists going to Griffin Storey, Otto Schoenrock, Lynch, Tesch, Beckett Srp, Huttemier and Hunter Anderson. Schmidke was in goal for the first two periods, totaling 11 saves. Senior Carter Martens registered five saves in the third. Graduating off this year’s squad are Martens, Easton Danks, Lucas Groll, Tesch and Hesch-Priem. The Bluejays were coached by Chris Story, assisted by Brad Dushaw and Dan Pumper.

Petsinger



2024 NRHEG Graduate Annabelle Petsinger is continuing her wrestling career at Iowa Central Community College. Some highlights of her team's 2024-25 season taking first place at the Women's Coaches Association Duals in Poteau, Okla., on January 25; these were the Junior College National Duals and ICCAC. Petsinger had three falls for the day. The following week she was named Athlete of the Week at ICCAC. The weekend of Feb. 15 to 16, she wrestled in the ICCAC Conference Tournament at Council Bluffs, Iowa, taking firstplace at 124 pounds; ICCAC took first place as a team. Petsinger will finish the season at the NJCAA National Tournament at Council Bluffs, Iowa, on March 7 and 8.

Youth Wrestling



NRHEG youth wrestlers took part in a 20-team, K-3rd grade Waseca tournament in mid February. The group went 4-2 for the day, winning the Pool C championship, but most importantly, the K-3 team was awarded the sportsmanship award. Below are the match results from the day:
vs TCU: 56-21 (W)
vs Owatonna Association: 56-20 (W)
vs Byron: 35-40 (L)
vs Waseca: 35-44 (L)
vs PEM: 50-21 (W)
vs New Prague: 40-35 (W)

Pictured above, bottom row from left: Keegan Root, Cole Joecks, Decker Thompson, Reid Leonardo, Rhylan Perkins, Knox Pederson, Miles Pederson, Easton Isder, Arlo Walcholz, River Wayne, Kaison Perkins.
Standing: Casey Hallman, Chevy McFarland, Xander Hill-Arson, Bentley Reese, Colson Bartsch, Nash Roeker, Eddie Simmons
Coaches: Danny Simmons, Krey Cory, Kent Joecks, Scott Kloczek, Nate Wayne, and Lance Perkins

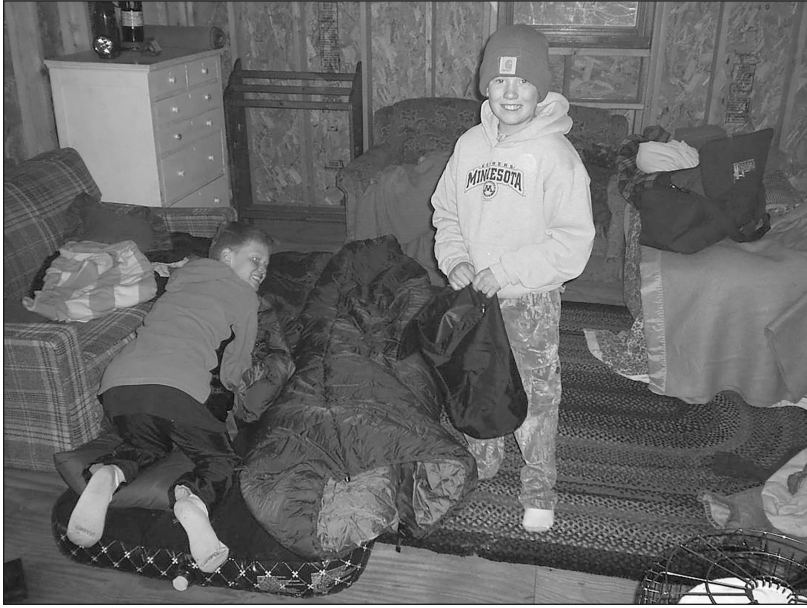


Letter of Intent



NRHEG Football player Owen Bartlett recently committed to playing football for St. Olaf College in Northfield. Family members, coaches and schoolmates celebrated with him during a ceremony at the high school the afternoon of Thursday, Feb. 20. Pictured left are his family members Niki Bartlett, Jason Bartlett, Owen, Amie Kestner Bartlett, Kim Kestner, and Jack Bartlett.

Star Eagle photos by Deb Bently



UP NORTH MEMORIES — Dick Herfindahl came across some old pictures the other day of the family's second year owning the land that their cabin was eventually built on. It was a time when his son, Brian, along with Trevor and Taylor, his two oldest sons, helped clear the land so the cabin could be built.



Nature has many pleasant sights to share with us

As I look ahead a couple of months in anticipation of spring and visiting our cabin once again, I feel that tingle of anticipation. I always look forward to my first visit of the season and anticipate what may lie ahead. I look at it as a rebirth of another season. Each season has its own distinct smell. Spring, for example, has a smell of flowers blooming, which signals the rebirth of another year and the arrival of summer.

As a kid, I anticipated the spring when the snow would melt and begin to run through the culverts at the end of the driveways on Bridge Street, down to "the Bridge" by the "crick" that ran under the bridge between Goose Lake and Fountain Lake. The smell of spring would be in the air and the air was heavy with the fresh smell that only spring can bring. Water would be running down to the ditch where it would eventually meet up with the crick which would be expanded by all of the runoff.

One spring my neighbor, Roger asked me to go with him and explore the slough in his duck boat. Now this was a good day for me because Roger was older and usually didn't hang out with me unless nobody his



Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl
Outdoors Writer

age was around. We launched the duck boat in the swollen ditch water and headed towards the Bridge. Once there, we went under the bridge and headed towards Goose Lake.

It didn't take long for me to figure out why Roger had wanted me to come along. The boat had a significant leak in it, so I got the honor of baling water while Roger paddled the boat. It was still fun, and we paddled quite a ways East of the Bridge before deciding enough was enough and turned back. We spotted red winged blackbird nests, and we even spotted some yellow winged blackbirds, which were more of a rarity, but not like today. The blackbirds would make nests on the cattails in the slough. I love it whenever I can see birds or critters up close in their natural environment; it makes me

feel like I am getting a little glimpse of their world.

One time when I was fishing on Spider Lake with my grandson, Dylan, we were going through the narrows fairly close to shore when we spotted a wood duck in the water and then spotted the wood duck house on shore. It was then that a baby duck jumped out of the house, bounced once on the ground, and jumped into the water. We counted nine more ducklings following the first one. Once they were all out of the nest, they followed their mother and started swimming, single file, along the shoreline.

I figured that this was a once in a lifetime opportunity to see that unfold. I didn't have a phone or camera with me, but the vision of this will always be fresh in my mind, which is

just as good as a photograph.

From spring to fall and all places in between, Mother Nature provides us with smells of the season. In summer it is the smell of freshly cut hay or grass in southern Minnesota. In the fall, it is the smell of fallen leaves after a fresh fall rain. Summer brings the scent of pine trees to northern Minnesota. I am not sure what the smell of winter is except for the smell of someone burning wood in a fireplace.

Until next time: When we were building the cabin and had it somewhat livable, my two eldest grandsons, Trevor and Taylor, would go with me in April to open up the cabin. It was pretty rustic at that time, but they wanted to go. I guess they were as excited as I was to get up there and spend some time. It took about two years before they figured out that it was a little too early to go up there. It was fun while it lasted.

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.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

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

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

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

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

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

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

CROSS OF GLORY LUTHERAN
Hartland, Minnesota
Rev. Marcia Pedersen

Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship
Tuesday - Council meeting (First Tuesday)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Check the website for additional updates
www.vibrantlifeag.com

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

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

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

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

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

HOLLANDA REFORMED
Rev. Neal Ooms

101 East Park Avenue
Hollanda, Minnesota
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Worship; 10:45 a.m. Sunday School

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN

Minnesota Lake, Minnesota
Rev. Larry Sipe, pastor
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

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

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

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

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

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN
Wilton Township
Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor
Sunday - 10:45 a.m. Worship

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

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

LOOKING BACK

25 Years Back



- At a special Valentine's Day dance and coronation ceremony, these four residents of the New Richland Care Center were crowned the royal court. From the left they are Selmer Langlie, runner up king; King of Hearts Howard Langlie, Queen of hearts Lillian Peterson and Vivian Johnson, runner up queen. Music was provided by the Czech Mates from Owatonna. When Selmer was being moved to the front of the room for the coronation, he asked where he was going. When he was told he was the runner up king, he remarked with a smile on his face, "But I'm nothing but an old man!"

- The New Richland - Hartland - Ellendale - Geneva Senior High Knowledge Bowl season is off to a good start. The first competition was held on Friday, January 21 in Blue Earth. Placing for NRHEG were 7th, 11th and 39th of 50 teams. At the second competition on Wednesday, February 9, three teams of five members represented NRHEG. A third place trophy was awarded to the top local team.

- Nathan and Michelle Jacobson of St. Paul are the parents of a daughter born Tuesday, February 1, 2000. The little miss has been named Emma Leigh Jacobson. Grandparents are David and Karen Jacobson of rural New Richland and Gary and Dianne Raines of White Bear Lake. Great-grandparents are Gene and Sylvia Dodge of New Richland, Harold and Martha Jacobson of Ellendale and Anna Deimer of Heron Lake, Minnesota.



- George and Helen Jacobson. These lovely two danced to the music of the Czech Mates during the Valentine's Day dance at the New Richland Care Center, Monday. The particular piece they danced to was played especially for them.

- Melissa Wayne was congratulated by Tim Stoez, guidance counselor, after she was selected Student of the month by the NRHEG High School guidance department. Melissa is the daughter of Brian and Jodi Wayne of rural Ellendale. Melissa carries a 4.0 grade point average. A member of the National Honor Society, she served her class as president when she was a junior. As a freshman she was a class SCHOC (Students helping others Choose) representative.

50 Years Back

- Marjorie and Murrell McGuire purchased the Village Inn Restaurant from Robert Eustice this week. They will serve smorgasbord dinners, breakfasts and lunches at the restaurant, being open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Mr. Eustice, Virginia and Todd will be moving from the building as soon as they find a house. They do not intend to leave the New Richland area. Mrs. Jeanne Schumacher will be employed by the McGuires.

- The Waldorf-Pemberton Band under the direction of James Kopetzki has been invited as one of the six high school bands in the state to play at the Minnesota Music Educators Association Convention in Minneapolis. The Waldorf-Pemberton Band is very fortunate to have one of the finest directors in the country work with them at the Convention. Dr. John. Payner, director of Bands at Northwestern University, will give the clinic.

- Bartness-Eustice Vows. Kristi Jane Bartness of Bethel exchanged nuptial vows with Gary Robert Eustice at All Saints Catholic Church, New Richland, Saturday, December 21. Rev. Sherlock P. Weir performed the double ring ceremony at 2 p.m. before an altar decorated with red poinsettias and Christmas greens. Parents of the couple are Mrs. and Mr. Eugene Bartness of Bethel and Robert Eustice of New Richland.

- A view of New Richland's main drag back in the horse and buggy days. Pictured from the left: Star Office (Now American Legion), Unknown, later the telephone office, now Fashion Beauty Lounge; National Hotel owned by Lynch, the old Boie Implement building; John Kruezer's harness shop, now Bohlen's Plumbing and Heating; Tyrholm's Drug Store, now New Richland Drug; Kingsley's, now Gambles; Laudert's Saloon owned by Bill Laudert's uncle, now New Richland Cafe; Carl Newgaard's Hardware, first owned by his father, (Bill Casper had a barbershop in the basement.), now Dodge's our Own Hardware; a buggy parked in the street; Jennings' Furniture, now the Municipal Liquor Store; way down at the end of the street, St. Peter's Lutheran Church can be seen on the corner where the house belonging to Mrs. Hulda Olson now stands.

75 Years Back

- The District 4 speech contest was held last Monday, March 20 at Northfield high school. New Richland High School was among the eight schools of those districts competing for the privilege of advancing to the regional competition. The local contestants came home with three superior, one excellent, and two very good ratings. The students who received these rating will now enter the regional contest to be held at Spring Valley March 28 were: Virginia Swenson in the dramatic division; Audrey Burtness in Manuscript Reading, and Genevieve Frisk in Original Oratory.

- Clifford Weydert, with his pen exhibit of three Chester White barrows, won the Reserve Champion, placing in the junior division at the Minnesota State Spring Barrow Show held at Albert Lea March 16-18. Clifford's winning pen of hogs was selected from his purebred Chester Whites and are a part of his FFA project work on the farm. The award was made on the basis of the hogs in the showing, rate of gain, cost of gain and story. The competition was very keen against the largest number of hogs in the history of the show.

- Valosie Ardell Young and Donald Walter Sackett of Kasson were united in marriage by Rev J. C. Walledom at the LeSaur River Lutheran Church, Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock. A reception in the church parlors immediately followed the ceremony. Mrs. Sackett is a granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Peterson of the Berlin community.

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LEGAL NOTICE

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: November 4, 2022

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$198,341.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Eric Chambers, a single person

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for United Wholesale Mortgage, LLC

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on November 18, 2022 as Document Number A332149; as modified of record by document

recorded on April 1, 2024 as Document Number A336478 in the Office of the County Recorder of Waseca County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC by assignment recorded on December 24, 2024 as Document Number A338873 in the Office of the County Recorder of Waseca County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 7, Block 1, First Addition to City of Waseca, Waseca County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 525 3RD AVE NE, WASECA, MN 56093

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

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$161,467.05

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: United Wholesale Mortgage, LLC

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Nationstar Mortgage LLC

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17.276.0060

TRANSACTION AGENT’S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 100032412225875530

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: March 20, 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 six (6) 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 September 22, 2025.

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, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF

LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: January 22, 2025

LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.

By: _____/s/ N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq. Samuel R. Coleman, Esq. *Alexa Marsh, Esq.* Attorneys for Mortgagee 25 Dale Street North St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 209-9760 (24-1479-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. Published in the Star Eagle January 30, February 6, 13, 20, 27 and March 6, 2025

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NOTICE

Berlin Township Board Meeting
Monday March 10, 2025
7:00 p.m. in the Ellendale Comm. Bldg.
(in the Board Room)
Helen Schmidt, Berlin Township Clerk

NOTICE

Summit Township Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 4, 2025
7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall
Andy Jewison
Summit Township Clerk

Royal Villa Apartments has a one bedroom apartment for rent. We are an income-based, clean, healthy, quiet place, with activities available for those looking for a place to call home. Secured building access and security system. Utilities included in rent. Satellite TV and Wifi available.
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Public Notice

The New Richland City Council will be holding a public hearing on a petition to change the zoning designation on parcel 151.002.160, or 110 Ash Ave N in the City of New Richland from R1 to C1. The public hearing will be held on Monday March 10th, 2025 at 6:35 pm during the New Richland City Council meeting at the New Richland City Hall located at 203 Broadway Ave N, New Richland, MN 56072. The New Richland City Council will hear all persons in support of such matter or any objections thereto. Comments may be submitted in writing and must be received before 4:00 pm on the date of the hearing and be addressed to the City Administrator by email at amartens@newrichlandmn.gov. Persons wishing to view a copy of the zoning petition may do so by contacting the City Hall at the above address or by telephone at (507) 465-3514. Published in the Star Eagle on February 27, 2025

SUMMIT TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Summit Township, County of Steele, State of Minnesota that the annual election of officers and annual town meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 11, 2025. In case of inclement weather, the meeting and election may be postponed until the third tuesday of March.** The election poll hours will be from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. The annual meeting will commence after the polls close to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law. The annual meeting and election will be held at town hall.

Andrew Jewison, Clerk
Summit Township

NEW RICHLAND TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD OF CANVAS MEETING

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of New Richland Township, County of Waseca, State of Minnesota that the annual election of officers and annual town meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 11, 2025. In case of inclement weather, the meeting and election may be postponed until the third tuesday of March.** The election poll hours will be from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m., at which time the voters will elect: **One Supervisor for a three year term - Eric Hendrickson - incumbent** **One Treasurer for a two year term - Neil Schlaak - incumbent** **The Board of Canvas will meet at 8:05 p.m. to certify the official results.**

The annual business meeting will begin at 8:15 p.m.

Rob Hutchens, Clerk
New Richland Township

BATH TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTION, AND BOARD OF CANVASS MEETING

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Bath Township, County of Freeborn, State of Minnesota, that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday March 11, 2025 at the Bath Town Hall at 29737 762nd Avenue, Clarks Grove. In case of inclement weather, the meeting and election may be postponed until March 18, 2025. If March 18 has inclement weather also, the meeting and election will be on Tuesday, March 25, 2025.

The Annual Meeting will commence at 4 P.M. to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law. There will be a discussion and vote on shortening the hours of the primary elections.

The Election Poll hours will be open from 5 P.M. to 8 P.M. at which time the voters will elect:

One (1) Supervisor for a (3) year term
One (1) Treasurer for a (2) year term

The Board of Canvass will meet at 8:05 P.M. to certify the official election results.

Lisa Dunn
Bath Township Clerk

BERLIN TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Berlin Township, County of Steele, State of Minnesota that the annual election of officers and annual town meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 11, 2025. In case of inclement weather, the meeting and election may be postpned until the third tuesday of March.** The election poll hours will be from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m., at which time the voters will elect: **One Supervisor for a three year term** **One Treasurer for a two year term** **The annual meeting will commence at 8:15 p.m. to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law.** **The annual meeting and election will be held at the Ellendale Community Building.** **The Board of Canvass will meet on March 11, 2025 to certify the offical election results.**

Helen Schmidt, Clerk
Berlin Township

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of Ellendale, Minnesota, will hold a public hearing on March 13, 2025 at 6:45 pm at the Ellendale City Clerk’s office, 106 6th Ave. West, Ellendale, Minnesota to accept public comment on consideration to add Ordinance Section 152.230, Regulation of Cannabis Businesses, to the City of Ellendale Codification Manual.

Such persons who desire to submit public comment regarding the proposed rezoning will be heard at the hearing.

Dated: February 14, 2025

Steve Engel
Steve Engel, City Clerk/Treasurer
City of Ellendale

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of Ellendale, Minnesota, will hold a public hearing on March 13, 2025, at 6:30 pm at the Ellendale City Clerk’s office, 106 6th Ave. West, Ellendale, Minnesota to accept public comment on consideration to amend Ordinance Title XV- Land Usage: Section 152, of the Ellendale City Code Relating to Radio or Television Broadcasting Stations or Towers. Whereas, the Ellendale City Council desires to amend the Ellendale City Code to remove the conditional uses in an Ag District, R-1 District, and R-2 District.

Such persons who desire to submit public comment regarding the proposed rezoning will be heard at the hearing.

Dated: February 14, 2025

Steve Engel
Steve Engel, City Clerk/Treasurer
City of Ellendale

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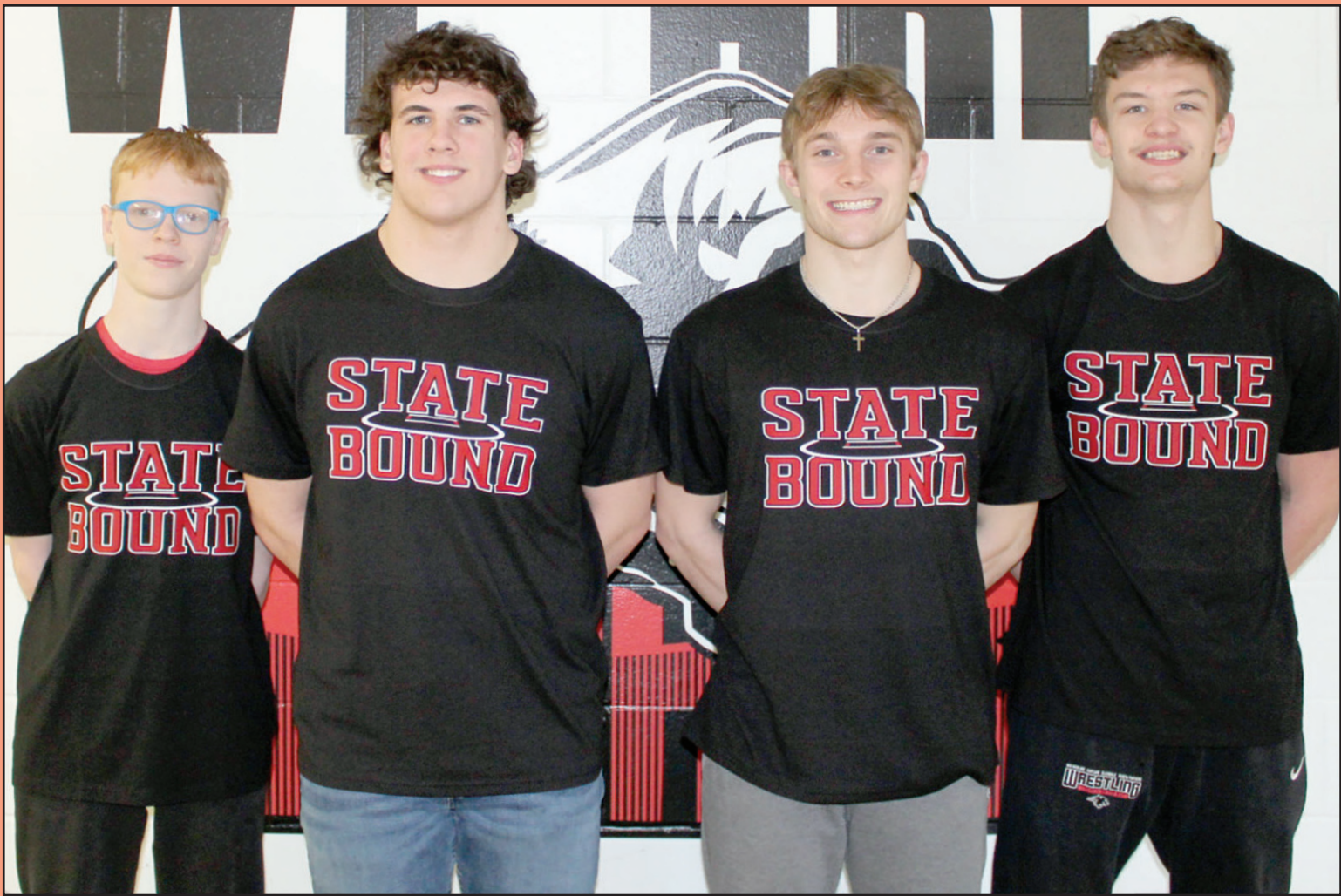
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PANTHER WRESTLERS

STATE BOUND!!



Four NRHEG wrestlers qualified for the Minnesota State High School League State Tournament. They are, from left: Graham Jacobson, Cole Hutchens, Harbor Cromwell and Ryan Schlaak.



Ryan Schlaak was dominant in his two matches at 172, winning the championship with a fall and tecnical fall.



Harbor Cromwell was dominant in his performance, terminating all of his matches early other than the match that he lost in the finals. As a runner-up he will head to state.



Graham Jacobson became the youngest NRHEG Wrestler to qualify for the state tournament on Saturday. Graham is in 7th grade and the previous youngest athlete to qualify for state was Daniel Petsinger, who first qualified as an eighth grader.



NRHEG head wrestling coach Shawn Larson had this to say about Cole Hutchens: "Cole demonstrated that the regular season is for learning and the postseason is a place to showcase how much you have gained. Cole avenged a previous loss in the semifinals and wrestled extremely well in his finals loss. The win in the semifinals turned out to be the match Cole needed to qualify for state."

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