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Coyote Contest

New Richland Library reading program and scavenger hunt month of February

The New Richland Public Library will host a Children's Winter Reading Program. There are three age groups, 3-5, 6-10 and 12 and up. Come in weekly for new books; every time you come into the library you can sign up for the prize drawing. There will also be a scavenger hunt.

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.

NRHEG Middle School Music Concert 7:30 p.m. Tues., Feb. 25

NRHEG middle-schoolers will present a concert at the district's secondary site in New Richland beginning at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 25.

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.

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.

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

The Waldorf Fire Department will host a pancake breakfast fundraiser on St. Patrick's Day from 8 a.m. till noon on Sunday, Mar. 16 at the Waldorf Community Center.

New Richland Red Hatters to meet April 8

The New Richland Red Hatters will not meet again until April 8th due to the cold weather. Stay warm, friends, and on your feet.

New Richland Blood Drive 1 to 6 p.m. April 9

Donors are encouraged to sign up for an appointment or to walk in during a blood drive from 1 to 6 p.m. at the New Richland City Hall community room on Wednesday, April 9.

Waldorf Community Pickleball every Thursday at old Waldorf School

Waldorf Community Pickleball plays every Thursday from 5:00 till 9 p.m. or so. They meet at the old Waldorf School in the gym, 144 North Street in Waldorf.

A word from

The Word

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen..

2 Peter 3:18



Musical group Joy Trio performed at the Ellendale United Methodist Church Love Works Event on Saturday, Feb. 15, 2025. From left: Diana Foster, Katie Fuller and Mandra Peterson.

A Beautiful Love Works event at Ellendale United Methodist Church

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

A "Love Works" fundraiser at the Ellendale United Methodist Church the evening of Feb. 15 included a full roster of happenings in support of two charitable organizations, Finly's Wings at Work (FWAW) "was founded to give back to children in honor of Finly [Budach, 7] in keeping her precious memory and spirit alive. It is our mission to spread joy, gratitude and purpose through Finly!"

Proceeds also went to Rachel's Light of Owatonna; the organization's website explains it provides temporary housing for otherwise homeless women and their children.

The three-girl group, JOY Trio, consisting of Diana Foster, Katie Fuller and Mandra Peterson sang 10 songs. Guest speaker Al Batt shared a series of humorous anecdotes.

Karol Foster, one of the heads of the Methodist church's Nurture Outreach and Witness (NOW) Committee, shared that the Love Works Event is in its fifth year. She summarized, "Through nurture, outreach and witness, we endeavor to give a beautiful dining experience." Also working were the rest of the NOW Committee members, Nancy Kepka, Kathy



Working behind the scenes at the Ellendale United Methodist Church's Love Works on Saturday, Feb. 15, 2025 were from left: Nancy Kepka, Gary Gordon, Becky Larson, Kathy Wayne, Diane Lee, Allie Larson, Karol Foster and the two boys are Carson Spinler, 10, and Caden Spinler, 11.

Wayne, Allie Larson, Joyce Richards, Becky Larson, Garry Gordnier, Dianne Lee, Kari Bice and Allie Larson.

Delbert Kepka and Jeff Wayne were in charge of the raffle, offering items including a luggage set, a Minnesota basket, assorted religious candle holders, a basket with 11 different jellies, plates of chocolate covered cherries, a winter warmth basket and more.

The table decorations were an eye-catching feature of the gathering. Among the themes were

NRHEG One-Act Play "In the Forests of the Night" well attended by public

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

About 75 people attended the Feb. 14 public performance of the NRHEG 2025 contest one-act play, "In the Forests of the Night," by Del Martin. The evening performance completed the cast's season, which began last November with the try-out process and included presenting the play at two events—a "festival" at which area schools received input from judges, and at the subsection contest, both during January.

In keeping with MSHSL rules, "In the Forests of the Night" runs about 35 minutes—the maximum permitted length. The audience is introduced to



Cast and crew members for the Feb. 14 performance of "In the Forests of the Night" were Caden Christopher, Rylie Cromwell, Emily Delacruz, Kenna Dolton, Shayna Kress, Caralee Koopal, Sophia Koopal, Madi Langfitt, Winter Pederson, Mady Schlaak, Grace Starman, Olivia Wencil, and Sophia Williams. Cast member Jacob Karl could not be present. Sound technician was Scarlett Chance, lights technician was Rielly Weitzel, set managers were Emily Delacruz and Com Porter.

ELLENDALE CITY COUNCIL

Council schedules public hearing regarding tower

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

During their regular monthly meeting the evening of Feb. 13, members of the Ellendale city council set a public hearing for changes to the city zoning ordinance regarding telecommunications towers and antennae. Proposed changes listed on documents shared during the meeting are a reduction in the number of zoning districts where a telecommunications tower is an allowed or conditional use. If the changes are adopted, towers would be allowed only in areas zoned "industrial," and not on land zoned agricultural or residential.

The public hearing was set for 6:30 p.m. March 13, 30 minutes prior to the next regularly scheduled business meeting at the Ellendale city hall. Also receiving public input at that time will be a proposed city ordinance which delegates decisions regarding licenses for cannabis retail or production facilities to county, rather than city, approval. Under current guidelines, Steele County is likely to issue fewer than five licenses anywhere within its borders. State and local laws prohibit any such businesses from being within 1,000 feet of a school, a daycare facility, a park, or other designated sites.

A resident who lives within sight of a controversial tower—actually a pole-top camera mounted on a trailer—located at 601 Lageson Court in Ellendale, stated she believes in a property owner's right to monitor activity on his or her property, but went on to say the "part country, part city" feel of the property where she has lived for the past 10 years has been damaged by the presence of the tower, and especially by the circumstance that images which include her property have been posted online at least three times.

Daniel Petsinger, owner of the Lageson Court property and of Radio Link Internet, appeared at the meeting regarding his company's contract leasing a small amount of space in and on the city water tower for transmission equipment. Petsinger noted the current five-year contract ends in May, saying his intent for presenting it in February was to be proactive. In answer to council member questions, Petsinger said his equipment currently housed on the water tower

Council continued on 4



FenceLines

by Mark Bernard

Cold spell triggers bird activity

The volume of hate mail the scurs and Weather Eye received has reached near record levels. Is Old Man Winter overstaying his welcome or is he hitting the road soon? Starting Thursday, mostly sunny with highs in the mid-single digits and lows in the low teens zero. Mostly cloudy on Friday with highs in the low teens above zero and lows around zero. Mostly cloudy Saturday, the real Washington's Birthday, with highs in the low 20's and lows in the mid-teens. Sunday, partly sunny with highs in the mid-30's and lows in the upper 20's. Mostly sunny on Monday with highs in the mid-to-upper 40's and lows around freezing. Tuesday, mostly cloudy with a slight chance of rain and snow showers. Highs in the mid-40's with lows in the upper 20's. Mostly sunny on Wednesday with a fair chance of rain and snow showers. Highs in the mid-40's with lows in the upper 20's. On the 23rd we'll see the sun rise at 7 a.m. CST. On the 25th we'll have achieved 11 hours of daylight, having gained two hours and six minutes since the winter solstice back on December 21st. The normal high for February 25th is 30 and the normal low is 13. The scurs have their Valentine's Day stash safely hidden for those sudden sugar highs.

Unreal how the weather can turn on a dime in these parts. Two weekends ago it was so nice that a person felt compelled to do yard work of some kind. I recall peeling my hooded sweatshirt off as I got too warm raking up sticks on the south side of the house. It's largely been downhill since then. It was a feather in our cap however to get the brood ewes shorn this past weekend. Saturday warmed into the mid-20's so it was relatively comfortable. The ewes went outside and stayed there most of the afternoon. We decided not to shear the group in the main barn where it's colder due to the forecast. Sheep can get frostbite if temperatures dip too low after shearing. Shearing in mid-February, we've never had a problem but don't recall a forecast with as much cold in it as this one. In December of 1983, temps got dangerously low so that it caused frostbite to occur. This can mean loss of wool growing capability resulting in bare patches on their backs and elsewhere.

Shearing prior to lambing is advantageous in many respects. It allows lambs easier access to the udders and the ewes give off a lot of body heat for lambs to utilize. Having the ewes shorn helps ensure the ewes will move inside to lamb. Without their heavy fleeces, it stays drier in the barn as well. This helps decrease the incidence of respiratory issues when sufficient bedding is used. Some sheep operations have a nursery heated area making it easier on all parties concerned. We lamb in an old chicken coop that while seeing its better days, allows body heat to keep the building warm. Unless it's very windy, the water buckets don't freeze if temps remain above zero. Keeping the building bedded is critical. Once a lamb gets a tummy full of colostrum, the first mother's milk that's loaded with

nutrients and antibodies, they're usually good to go. A lamb snuggled up to its mother, in deep, dry bedding is a good sign. When they get up, stretch and the ewe gets up so the lamb can nurse, it's even better.

Something else that's critical is keeping the ewes in good rig. Too thin and they suffer during cold spells post-shearing and may not keep up with lamb's needs, especially with multiple births. Get them too fat and they go down with lambing paralysis prior to lambing. They go off feed, risking the loss of the ewe and lambs. Having them shorn gives a pretty good report card on how you've done nutrition-wise. Feed, especially corn may be cheap, but it can easily get them overly fat especially if fed too heavily early in gestation. That's why feeding lower energy feed early on and easing them into a higher energy feed such as corn isn't a bad idea. This winter has been ideal as it's been mild and dry. Lack of deep snow has allowed the ewes to meander about the pasture, making some wonder if they were on the loose. Most winters they're confined to their lot as it gets socked in with snowdrifts, leaving them holed up with their round bales.

After we finished shearing Saturday, guests were admiring the bird population gracing the backyard as we ate. The incoming cold snap must've triggered bird activity as they fed heavily on Saturday. As the cold snap has worn on there has been steady consumption of sunflower, thistle seed, suet and ear corn. The squirrels share that with the blue jays and red-bellied woodpeckers. When the squirrels go to bed late afternoon to early evening, the cardinals frequently clean up the bits and pieces left by the squirrels. The only thing left are the cobs, reminding me I need to restock the feeder again. This pattern follows with previous cold weather events this winter so it's no surprise. Some subtle hints that spring may eventually arrive: A flicker has returned to the suet feeders recently. I've been noticing small groups of horned larks along the road since late January. They've hung on through the cold snap. Hopefully they know something that we don't know.

With the sheep project taking center stage, Poppy has had to play second fiddle for a while. She likes checking on the bottle lamb in the entryway and garage. It's been so cold that we've opted to leave her inside during chores. They take well over an hour per session especially when there are new arrivals, meaning less people time for Poppy. We try to make it up to her when we're back inside by playing ball, once we can find the ball that is. Not unusual to find several other toys in the process. It takes some time but we try to get the sliding glass door thawed out so she can keep her squirrel exercising regimen intact. Not that they'd probably miss it, but as the Westminster dog show announcer pointed out, Corgi's need to be kept occupied or they find things to do. The chewed-up blankets, gloves, etc., are evidence of that.

See you next week...real good then.

The wheels on the bus go round

School bus drivers are saints. Of all the jobs in a school, this one might be the most underappreciated. It's also increasingly difficult to find people who have life schedules that allow them to drive, not only for morning pick-up and afternoon drop-off, but also at the spur of the moment if weather shuts down a school or keeps it from opening on time.

Now picture someone driving a large vehicle with a bunch of kids who are likely somewhat wound up, either from excitement at being with their friends or turmoil from having to go to that big school building yet again. Focusing on the road while making sure the kids behave is darn near impossible, I would imagine. Throw in any treacherous weather and good luck.

If you rode a bus growing up, you probably remember your bus driver very clearly. They tend to have personalities! Maynard was my first bus driver; stoic is the best word I can think of to describe him. He would face front and keep us between the lines, but there was plenty of ignored chaos behind him. He was still stoic the one time he hit a fire engine on his way through town. Yeah, that wasn't a good thing.

When Maynard hung it up, Greg was our new driver. He somehow always kept one eye on the road and the other on the rearview mirror above him. He would shout if someone was out of line. He also was known to pull the bus over to deal with a situation. Then he'd have to speed up to stay on his appointed



Whatever Flips Your Waffle

by Mark Domeier
Contributing Writer

schedule. We both loved and feared him, probably a good thing for a bus driver.

If you never got a chance to ride a bus as a student, I feel sorry for you. Different towns had different rules for when you had to walk and when you could get picked up, depending on how far away from the school you lived. Things have changed even more. We have some kids who are within walking distance in Ellendale, but a bus makes sure they get over the train tracks safely, which is a good idea since kids are known to dilly and dally around railroad tracks.

But riding a bus was a whole new type of education. I learned new vocabulary words from the older kids, ones my parents didn't always appreciate me knowing. I learned that girls like to whisper when boys are around, followed by copious giggling. I learned what it felt like to sit on the front steps of the bus if you were in trouble.

I also learned that bus seats could be torn from their moorings. I was in middle school when two girls on our bus got into a catfight. One was a big strong farm girl, and after tearing out

some hair from her opponent, she proceeded to rip the seat right out and throw it at the other girl. That was one of the times Greg had to pull the bus over.

Sometimes parents worry too much about protecting their children from all possible harm. Keeping them off the bus is one way to do that, I guess, but it doesn't help them learn some of the facts of life. I learned how not to get in trouble because those steps weren't fun to sit upon. I learned that girls were a lot of work to understand. I learned that a period was not just a punctuation mark at the end of a sentence.

I also learned how to stand up for myself. When the older boys picked on me and Maynard wasn't going to help, I had to learn to ignore them or stand my ground. I also learned that humorous retorts worked. If they said something to get under my skin and I had a funny comeback, they figured out that I was not going to be an easy target anymore. That took some doing, but it ultimately served a purpose.

I also learned to solve problems without violence. Sure, when someone swipes your winter hat, you want

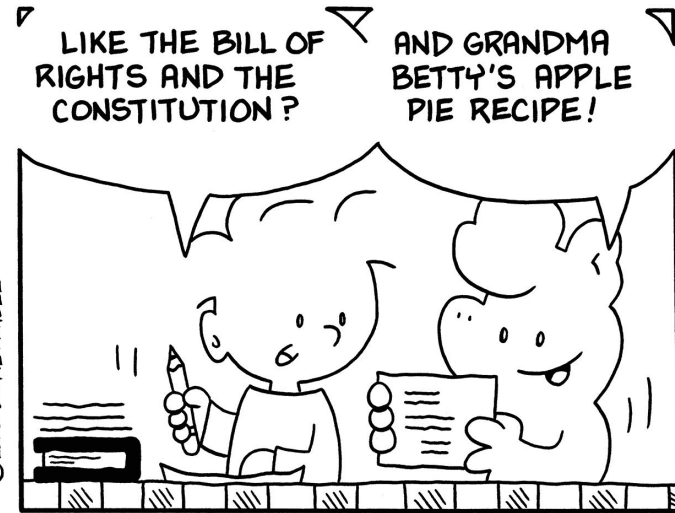
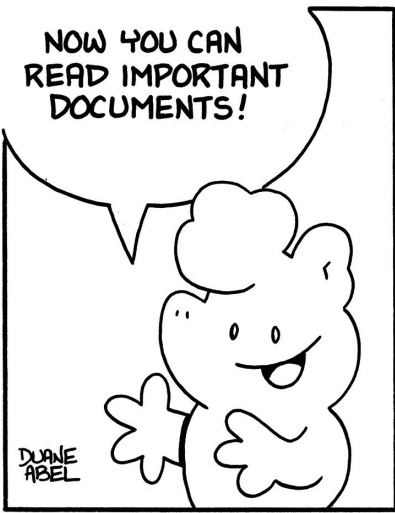
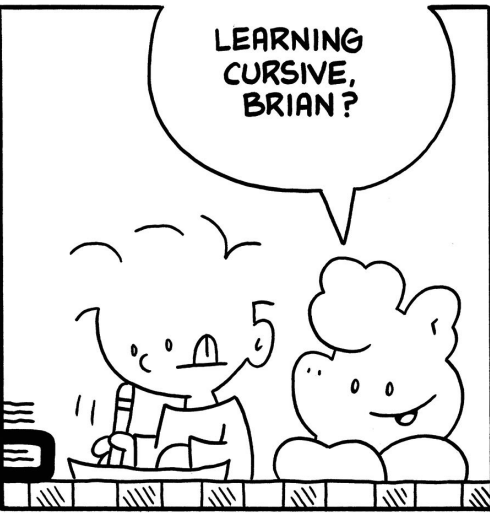
to go after them and get it back. But I was not the strongest of youths. I would just get pummelled if I tried, and that's what the bullies wanted. That might mean my hat ended up on the dirty floor or flung out the window when we got to school, but it also was a way to get those kids off my back. They didn't get the response they wanted so they moved on.

Riding a bus as an adult also provided lessons. In my years of coaching, there were plenty of long trips to away games with a group of teenagers. I learned why my coaches always wanted us to be quiet on the bus; the older you get, the more the noise affects you. When I was in school, if we lost the game, silence was expected on the trip home. I tried that early in my coaching career but quickly changed course. Teenage girls aren't going to dwell on losing an 8th grade basketball game.

So here's to our bus drivers - I salute you and thank you! It's the toughest of jobs, ensuring the safety of our young people. If it sounds like fun, I'm sure the school district near you would welcome your smiling face. Or frowning, it doesn't really matter.

Word of the Week: This week's word is abulia, which means an inability to make decisions, as in, "The superintendent had a case of abulia about calling off school until the bus drivers told him they would not drive in the storm." Impress your friends and confuse your enemies!

ZED by Duane M. Abel



www.corkeycomics.com

The groundhog stays six more weeks of winter

I've been noticing my memory is not as fast as it used to be when I'm trying to remember things. The slowness in recalling made me wonder about Alzheimer's.

The local chamber of commerce hosted an age friendly dementia event at the Albert Lea Fire Department building in Albert Lea with Dr. Gaugler, a professor in long term care and aging at the University of Minnesota.

There were two programs the same day of one and a half hours, each with identical programs. Yes, the place was packed.

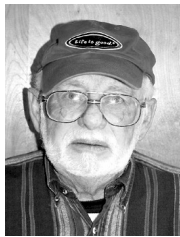
The programs were very, very interesting with most of the info being in terms which this old Norwegian understood.

I left with this conclusion, "The longer you live, the more likely you will be diagnosed with Alzheimer's." Do you suppose the social security crowd because of age is why they call this "The old timers' Disease"?

The groundhog stayed outside just long enough to see his shadow the morning of February 2. As you well know, that means six more weeks of winter. I did see a Harley Rider when it was a record 57 degrees on January 30, 2025. (I think the bike is now parked in his garage.)

My birthday was January 23. On that day I talked by phone to relatives in California, New York, Florida, North Carolina, Arkansas and Minnesota. Guess which state did not have snow on the ground as I celebrated my birthday with Genie at Applebee's in Albert Lea.

While at Applebee's we talked to three young ladies in the next booth. They were celebrating the birthday



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

FACT OR FICTION

...you decide

by Bob Hanson, Emeritus

of one of them on that day also (January 23). They were very friendly and said goodbye as they left.

Genie and I asked for our bill as we prepared to leave. "Surprise" the young ladies treated us. Yes, Genie and I will pay it forward!!

We usually have a "Guess when all the snow will be gone from the parking lot at Central Freeborn Lutheran Church in the spring" event. "Sad to say," the contest was canceled due to "No Snow." A number of snow related events in this area of Minnesota were still held due to "Man Made snow."

This year's Valentine party, sponsored annually at Central Freeborn Lutheran Church by F.R.O.G., was very different than previous years.

The last minute decision was to cancel the party and suggest, if you usually attended, send the cost of attending to an organization helping the California Fire Victims. (If you are a Thriver member, funds may be sent with matching funds or through choice dollars.)

The decision was made to mail a Valentine card to (what we call) shut-ins of both Central and East Freeborn Lutheran Church, signed by members of Central and East.

Each adult lady present at East or Central Freeborn Lutheran Church on Sunday, February 9 received a

carnation.

Many, many thanks to Applebee's, Arby's, Hardee's, Kentucky

Fried Chicken, Main Street and Taco John's for their food coupons.

I guess you might say, "The giver of Valentines became a receiver at Valentines!!"

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.



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Geneva Bar & Grill

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

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WALDORF CITY COUNCIL

Daycare, sewer, updates provided

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

During their Feb. 10 regular meeting, members of the Waldorf city council gave preliminary approval to a city zoning ordinance which allows a “zero lot line” for twin homes that share a wall; the law exempts such structures from the “five foot setback” required of other types of property. The approval came after a brief public hearing, and is dependent on final review by the city attorney.

A work session to address the topic of pay rates to be provided to council members when they perform tasks for the city was set for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25.

Council members learned the city website has been updated and now includes a QR link intended to streamline the process of paying water and sewer bills.

City resident Luke Cordes informed the council that, after a month of slow drainage in his residence, he contacted a commercial company to clean his drain lines. The company fed a camera down the pipes and reported the source of his problem is most likely a collapsed section which is located just where his lines connect to the city system located under the street. Cordes observed the city had recently done work on those lines and suggested that might be the source of the damage; he asked what the city is willing to do about the broken line. City mayor Ron Wilkening said that since it is on Cordes' property, it is officially his responsibility, not Waldorf's. However, Wilkening went on to suggest the council should review the footage before making a decision. Cordes said he would have to request the footage from the company; further discussion was suspended until it can be attained.

City maintenance worker Ron Fischer reported that, after numerous water meters throughout the city were replaced, the removed meters, a major portion of which was made of brass, were taken to a salvage company for recycling. The city received nearly \$680 for the metal.

Fischer also reported a local company has removed all requested trees in the city except for one which the company says requires special equipment. Two additional estimates have been attained for that removal, Gordy's Total Tree of New Richland gave a price range of \$1,200 to \$1,500. Suemnick's Final Cut Tree Service of Elysian bid \$1,000 to remove the tree, \$200 to grind the stump, \$200 to clean grindings and \$200 for replacing black dirt.

City council members decided to keep Minnwest Bank as the official bank of Waldorf. The city requires two signatures on all checks; authorized signers include the city clerk,

Waldorf continued on 5

Jamie Beckstrand, new Waldorf city council member

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Newly elected and installed Waldorf city council member Jamie Beckstrand, 28, is a lifelong area resident and 2015 graduate of NRHEG High School. She says she decided to enter politics because she would rather “do something” than waste time complaining.

“Some of the things in Waldorf I wasn't happy with,” she observed, going on to say she hopes she can help steer city decisions according to residents' wishes. She feels she has strong community support, since, with 200 people voting, she defeated her opponent by 40 votes. “In a town this small, that is a big number,” she observed.

Beckstrand says she recognizes her first step is to acquire more understanding of her new role. “I want to learn about government office

from other people holding office,” she explained.

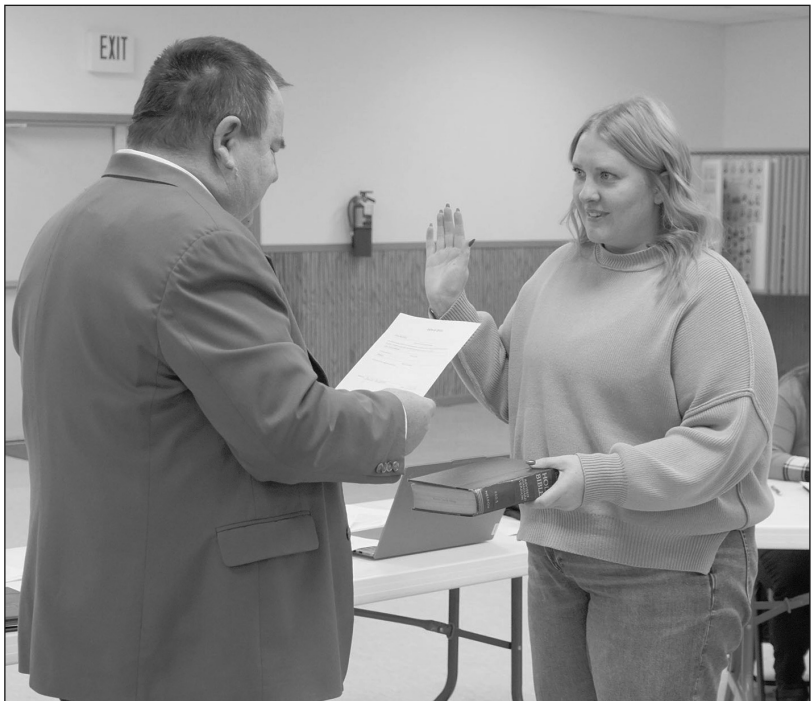
“I am just getting started. I would like people to be open to me learning.”

In the meantime, though, “I want residents to feel comfortable coming to me with concerns. If I can't make a change, I certainly want to give it my best effort. If this works out well, then I will decide if I should try to run for something else.”

She suggested she is open to a long-term role in leadership, perhaps even someday becoming mayor.

Beckstrand received her Bachelor of Science degree in Agribusiness with minors in economics and animal science at South Dakota State University in 2019.

She started working for United Prairie Bank after college graduation, the past three and a half have been at the branch in Waseca as a Re-



NRHEG 2015 graduate Jamie Beckstrand is sworn in as the newest member of Waldorf's city council. Photo by Ben Revermann

lationship Manager.

Of her childhood, she said, “I grew up on a small cow/calf farm and we raised show cattle. My family travels exhibiting our livestock all over the country.”

In her free time, Beckstrand men-

tions she is on a bowling league at Trapper's Lanes in New Richland and plays sand volleyball at Papa Ollie's Bar in Waldorf. She also enjoys spending time with her dogs, Croix and Eddy, and her family and friends.

Geneva looking for a pool manager, lifeguards

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

During their regular monthly meeting the evening of Tuesday, Feb. 11, members of the Geneva city council selected Contemporary Lumen lighting out of the Twin Cities for its project to replace eight light poles in the city. The price of \$7,040 per pole includes an installed concrete footing and base and a five-inch diameter, 25-foot tall pole. Each pole would have an “arm” for hanging banners, a flag mount, and an electric outlet near the top.

When concerns were expressed that reaching the outlet 18 feet in the air would require hiring a boom truck, Eric Hauser, who presented this engineering update, said he

didn't know whether it is possible to have a plugin any lower, but he would check.

Regarding the city's planned sidewalk update, it was reported 60 percent of the plans were submitted to Steele County agencies on Feb. 10. The next step in this process will be to approve plans and specs and order advertisements for bids, including reviewing the engineer's estimate and project financing by March 11. Specifications are to be submitted to the state department of transportation “district state aid” office in March, with a department of transportation review in April. The hope is that the bid and grant agreement will be finalized by mid-May, with construction beginning this summer.

GENEVA CITY COUNCIL

Matt Web reported the Geneva Fire Department has received four approved radios from the Medford Fire Department. They must be given a brief inspection before they are authorized for use, but Web said the radios are inspection ready.

Winnebago Communications is going to lay cable through town, this was already approved. The city council is required to locate and is going through the engineering firm Bolton & Menk.

Council members learned that, although there have been some applications for positions at the Geneva

Community Pool, a number of roles remain unfilled. They were warned that a lack of employees might mean the pool will not be open this summer. Individuals interested in the jobs can begin the application process by calling 507-568-5108.

The city-wide sanitary sewer televising project has led to a pipe rating map for the first two years, 2023 and 2024. There are two years remaining on the contract with a possible sanitary sewer rehabilitation project after information for the whole town is available, summer 2027 being the soonest and only if necessary.

The Geneva liquor license is up for renewal in April, this is in regard to George's and the Geneva Bar & Grill.

SWCE examines strengths, demands of renewable energy

By DEB BENTLY
Staff writer

“We are very open to renewable energy,” observes Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric (SWCE) systems technician Steve Nordahl. “It has an important place in our future.”

As evidence of the cooperative's commitment, Nordahl mentions its “community solar garden,” a set of solar collector panels located near the cooperative's headquarters in Owatonna. Working with Great River Energy, the organization built the one-third acre structure in 2015, and has been incorporating its output into its power grid ever since.

Nordahl and SWCE safety coordinator Jack Schwab have been part of the energy generation and distribution industry since before the large-scale use of solar and wind-powered generators, and have numerous observations to share.

What energy grid managers must compensate for, the two explain, is inconsistency. Nordahl mentions the “PV Watts calculator,” an online resource offered by the National Renewable

Energy Laboratory (NREL). Using it, someone planning a solar array can get a reliable prediction regarding the amount of energy the sun is likely to transmit to any given location on the planet over the course of one year.

“So we can see how much power a solar collector is going to be able to generate,” he points out. “But we don't know when it will do it.”

He notes there are predictable elements: the increasing number of daylight hours in the summer ensures the vast majority of output will occur in the summer. Sunny days will provide more energy than cloudy ones. No energy, obviously, will be produced at night, or even in the earliest and latest hours of daylight when the sun is very low in the sky.

Wind generators, he points out, can continue to produce energy after sunset as long as the wind continues to blow, but air movement, too, has large elements of unpredictability.

Something which is very predictable, on the other hand, is how much energy power com-



A "community garden" solar facility is located near the Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric facility in Owatonna. The field of solar panels is about one-third acre in size, and provides electricity for SWCE members.

pany customers are likely to need.

“And we know they'll need it after dark, on cloudy days, and when the wind's not blowing,” comments Nordahl. At times like that, he says, the energy has to come from traditional, more consistent sources.

He offers a comparison with open channels of water. Various “streams” pour into the power grid: power suppliers persistently watch to see how much capacity is being supplied by renewable energy, but when the level falls too low, they must increase inputs from coal, nuclear, or natural gas

sources.

He and Schwab estimate that, at this time, SWCE members are getting 25 percent of their power from renewable sources; in keeping with the “we don't know when” nature of the power, the number is higher on sunny or windy days and lower at other times.

He points out that Minnesota legislators have issued requirements that power companies incorporate increasing amounts of renewable energy into their grids,

SWCE continued on 5



Identify Frosty for share of \$1,500

It's time again for the annual Waseca Sleigh and Cutter Identify Frosty event. This year's event is the 27th installment of the annual contest.

Who is Frosty?

Identify FROSTY and win some cash! Prize money totaling \$1,500.00 is waiting to be won. FROSTY is a Waseca County resident chosen to be an ambassador for the Waseca Sleigh & Cutter Festival. Follow the clues and guess FROSTY'S name.

Grand prize is \$300.00. If you are at the official unmasking at the Star Fire Event Center at 8:30 p.m., on Friday, February 21, 2025, you will win an additional \$50.00. First correct guess from Janesville, New Richland and Waseca wins \$150.00; and if you are at the unmasking, you will win an additional \$50.00. Only five names will be drawn for \$100 – must be present. Five names win \$50.00 – attendance is not necessary.

Contest rules

1. Clues are published by the Waseca County News and Face-book; Waseca County Pioneer; NRHEG Star Eagle; Waseca Chamber of Commerce; and KOWZ/KRUE radio.
 2. One guess allowed each week.
 3. Each entry must have a name and complete address. Entries without complete information will not be entered.
 4. Entrants must live in Waseca County and be over 18 years of age.
 5. If there are multiple correct guesses, a drawing will be made to determine the winner.
 6. If there are no correct guesses, a drawing will be made from all entries received.
 7. Entries must be received before 3:00 p.m. on Friday, February 21, 2025.
 8. Submit entries to:
 - A. WASECA: Submit entry at Waseca Music; 111 South State, Waseca, MN 56093; or via mail.
 - B. JANESVILLE: Mail or drop off at Waseca Music; mark your entry as Janesville.
 - C. NEW RICHLAND: Drop off at NRHEG STAR EAGLE NEWS; or mail to Waseca Music - mark your entry as New Richland.
- Frosty sponsors: CULLIGAN, iWEALTH – Brad Connors, DOMINO'S, MEDIACOM, SUBURBAN FURNITURE, and XCEL ENERGY. Please thank these sponsors for supporting the 28th Annual
- Frosty: Week 1 Clue**
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The 2025 Sleigh and Cutter Frosty is anew.*

Frosty continued on 7

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OBITUARIES

Dean Otterson

Dean died on Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at the Mayo Clinic Health systems in Albert Lea, Minnesota.

Dean Otterson was born on November 11, 1960 in Albert Lea, Minnesota, the only son of Lloyd and Charlene (Lester) Otterson. He graduated from Austin High School in 1979. He married Jolene Beckmann on March 20, 1982, and to this union two children were born, Katie Jo and Nicholas. They started their journey in Clarks Grove, Minnesota; however they moved several times through the years. They made their primary home on a dairy farm in Hartland, Minnesota before recently moving to Albert Lea.

Dean had many different jobs, some of which included farm-steader, dairy farmer, dairy breeder, insurance representative, and Auto Zone parts manager. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and going antique shopping with his wife and dear friend, Sandy Peterson. He enjoyed watching the Minnesota Vikings football games and classic western shows. He also loved his daily drives with his beloved dog, Roscoe. Most of all he enjoyed spending time with his family and friends; especially his granddaughter, Aubrey Elmer.

Dean is survived by his loving wife of 42 years, Jolene; daughter, Katie Jo (Chad) Elmer; son, Nicholas (Arely-Montserrat-Vilchis-Hildago) Otterson; granddaughter,



Dean Otterson

Aubrey Elmer; five sisters, Sharon (Gary) Fisher, Renae (Ron) Thomas, LeAnn (Ralph) Miller, Linda (Mark) Crom, and Lori (Matt) Jordison; mother-in-law, Doris Beckmann; sisters-in-law, Charlene (David) Chevalier, Valerie (Randy) Giles, Kayla (Buddy) Root, and Ilene (Clifford) Borchert; many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins, best friend Roscoe and grand-dog, Maggie.

Dean is preceded in death by his parents; father-in-law, Herbert Beckmann; brother-in-law, Randy Brackey; and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

A visitation was held 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. Monday, February 17, 2025 at St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church. A service was held 11 a.m. Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

Farm and City Days

Hello everyone in our New Richland Community!

I wanted to write a “Community Update” on behalf of our Farm & City Days Committee. In the last couple of years we’ve had some committee members retire, and a couple new volunteers join our small team. We did a survey after our 2023 celebration and we had a wonderful response! We took from that and made some changes in 2024 that were well received and are adding more this year.

We had our first planning meeting of the year and had much to discuss for this 2025 celebration. We moved the celebration to July 18-20 due to Fair week and the fourth of July being on a Saturday and we are excited to see how this change helps our weekend celebration grow!

As I have been reflecting on these changes I thought back to last year and all the questions our new volunteers had about the weekend and the events. Why we do some things, and why we don’t do others. The answers to these questions seem to come down to two answers: We don’t have enough help and we don’t have enough funds to be able to add much more to the weekend.

I have had a few conversations with other small towns that have stopped having summer celebrations for the same reasons, and a few that have grown because they let the community know the situation and people stepped up to help keep it going.

We have 6 committee members who plan our Farm & City Days weekend. All but one of us has a family with multiple children

which keep us all busy. The discussion about our 2025 Farm & City Days weekend had a lot of excitement for new ideas and expanding our Kid Zone and other events.

In this discussion it came down to: 1. How much are we going to be able to do with the volunteers that we have? 2. How many more years are we going to be able to have Farm & City Days if we continue this way?

New Richland, we need help! We need volunteers and donations/fundraising help to be able to continue to have Farm & City Days. Whether you want to join our planning meetings or help plan and execute a fundraiser or you can volunteer time on the weekend to help with the prep needed or help with an activity. We could use a couple more committee members to help with the planning and organizing. This commitment is typically a once a month meeting from Feb. to June, then biweekly until the celebration weekend. If you have an event that you would like to organize and run during the weekend... great! We are also looking for small commitments of 1-2 hours to help during the weekend, anywhere from 8 a.m. to when the dance ends Saturday night. We know the community loves this weekend each year and in order for it to grow, we need our volunteer committee to grow!

Please email us at: newrichlandfarmandcitydays@gmail.com, send a message to our FB page or contact a committee member with questions! **THANK YOU!!**

Try to find stability amid change

By PASTOR KYLE SMITH
Ellendale

January typically seems to be a dull time of year; at least, it seems that way to me. In the church year, the beginning of January is the end of the Christmas Season, leading to Epiphany’s beginning. Understand me, Epiphany, the time we celebrate the divinity of Jesus and the manifestation of His identity as the Son of God is important, but it just doesn’t receive as much hype as the Christmas Season. The Christmas Season brings a whole host of unique things - children having a long break from school, Christmas celebrations with friends and family, traveling to see people you may not normally see, the hustle and bustle of shopping for Christmas presents, and so on. No wonder there seems to be a lull in January; it’s because December is full of excitement and activities.

And yet, this past January in particular has been full of changes. As you know, we had a new president sworn in on January 20th. Naturally, this is a busy time for those in the business of reporting the news. Everything from Senate hearings to confirming cabinet picks, executive orders, and new policies both domestic and abroad makes keeping up with the news challenging. Some



The
Pastor’s Column

people welcome these changes, some people don’t, and some people, perhaps most, welcome some of these changes but not all of them. One thing is certain: there are going to be a lot of changes.

Something I have noticed when a new president comes into office is that he does what he can not only to work on his policies going forward, but also reverse policies from the previous administration. I’m not saying that is either right or wrong, but I’m pointing out the vast number of changes a president can make. True, changing policies from the previous administration may be helpful for the new administration in moving their policies forward, but I believe it is fair to say that making back-and-forth changes every eight years, or even four, can cause not only uncertainty, but perhaps even anxiety on behalf of constituents.

That being said, we Christians are not to allow changes in our presidential administration to be a cause for anxiety. After all, while we are cit-

izens of the USA, we are also citizens of a much greater kingdom, the kingdom of heaven. When we think of the greatness of heaven, we sometimes think of the pearly gates or the streets of gold, and while those things will most certainly be a sight to behold, the greatness of heaven doesn’t come from what is there, but rather Who is there.

There is only one King in heaven, and it’s the Lord God Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. While we can sometimes struggle with uncertainty and anxiety about who will be the head of our nation and what kind of changes he may bring, we have no reason to fear who is the true King of the world, the King of heaven, for we already know who He is, and He never changes. As the author of the book of Hebrews states in Hebrews 13:8, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

We can take great comfort in this promise. While we struggle to keep up with the daily news amid the changes that come with a new pres-

ident, whichever president that happens to be, we don’t need to keep up with any changes from the true King, King Jesus, for He never changes. And because Jesus never changes, we do not need to be uncertain or anxious about who He is, what He has done for us, or what He continues to do for us.

Jesus, who is the Word who put on flesh and dwelt among us, was in the beginning with God because He is God (John 1:1-2, 14). Jesus humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross (Philippians 2:8), that whoever believes in Him may not perish but have eternal life (John 3:15). Even still today, when we sin by what we have done and by what we have left undone, we remember the words of I John 1:9, which says, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Even when the world around us changes, even when we lose our certainty, we can rest assured that God doesn’t change, for He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

May we, as Christians, continue to rest in the promised salvation of our souls by the God who made us, the Son who saves us, and the Holy Spirit who delivers it to us.

■ Council

from Page 1

provides service to about 700 residences, fewer than 20 of which are located in the city. He further noted some of the customers use their internet connection for vital health alert services.

Council member Joel Berg mentioned that city maintenance personnel had suggested it would be better if only city-operated safety equipment were kept on the tower in the future.

“I am asking you to reconsider,” said Petsinger, stating his equipment has caused no damage in the 10 years or so it’s already been in place, and pointing out the terms of his contract make his company financially responsible for any damage that might occur.

“I would like to see [the contract] continue for another five years under the same terms,” stated Petsinger. “Why would you want to disadvantage a business that’s already here?” Under the terms of the current agreement, Petsinger pays \$150 a month to have his equipment in place. When a question of power consumption was raised, he expressed a willingness to “look at” some changes to the terms if that would encourage the city to continue.

“I don’t want to fight about this,” Petsinger said. “I want to continue providing a service to my customers.”

If the city chooses not to renew the contract, Petsinger mentioned he

would be requesting an extension, since he estimates it might take about 6 months to plan and build a structure which would meet his company’s needs.

In other business, council members requested that city clerk Steve Engel make arrangements for future work sessions covering a number of topics including 2025 street repairs and creating an inventory of city-owned equipment which summarizes expected usable “lifespans” and a possible replacement calendar.

City maintenance lead Josh Otto presented a map of the city with color coding indicating the condition of city streets. He also shared estimates from an Albert Lea paving company indicating possible projects would cost a combined total of about \$428,000. When asked which streets should be prioritized, Otto named those in the Crown Ridge subdivision and Commercial Street, a much-used unpaved street near the school grounds. After learning Otto was awaiting additional information from the paving company, council members decided a future work session would be valuable.

The council voted to donate \$1,500 to the Community Foundation of Ellendale (CFE) to support its efforts to ensure automated external defibrillators (AEDs) can be installed in the city community center and three city churches. CFE secretary Allie Larson informed council members the group has been awarded a \$2,500 grant from the Mankato-based Taylor Family Farms Foundation; CFE is expected to match those funds and meet the total cost of acquiring and installing the

AEDs, then training area residents in their use.

Upon hearing mayor Scott Groth’s motion to donate \$1,500, Larson stated a heartfelt “God bless you.” CFE members speculated the donation, in combination with other anticipated contributions, will likely allow the group to expand its plans, especially in the areas of notifying the public and providing training.

Under the CFE plan, AEDs will be installed at the city community hall, First Lutheran Church, the United Methodist Church, and Vibrant Life Church.

Council members reviewed a list of “codification” matters at four city locations including two at 109 Sixth Ave East and 408 Seventh Avenue West, which they decided to submit to the courts for possible condemna-

tion proceedings because no progress toward improvement has taken place despite “several years” of communication.

The city council adopted a seven-page “Rules of Procedure” policy which outlines accepted courses of action for council proceedings and also includes more than a page of expectations for “public comment” portions of meetings. Among the clauses is the expectation that all communication will be kept civil, and will not be directed to any single council member, but rather to the group as a whole.

The council also voted to purchase two curved tables which will create a “half-moon” physical layout in the council chambers. Anticipated cost is \$1,400.

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Compostings

by Al Batt

Make a small corner of the world better

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

I'm thinking of taking some night classes.

Red Cross is teaching a class. Do you know CPR?

Of course. I know the entire alphabet.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. Harry Lillesve was my driver's training instructor, and he told me that all his students had turned into good drivers. I thought, "Look out, good drivers, we're turning."

I thought of Mr. Lillesve when I was driving through town and saw a driver's training car tipped over onto its roof. A friend, the instructor, was wearing a neck brace and being helped to an ambulance. "Look out, good drivers. We're turning."

A PEREGRINATION

I went for a hot air balloon ride in Arizona. The captain complained about his overhead expenses. I hoped he'd paid them.

I visited a thrift store. I enjoy looking at the books in used goods stores. As I did that, part of the ceiling fell on me. It was just bits, so I had no concussion-like symptoms. For some reason, I felt the need to buy something, but I couldn't find anything I wanted. I ended up paying \$1 for a cassette recording of Aunt Nellie's funeral service. I didn't know Nellie, but it sounded as if she would have been worth knowing.

I saw a small slice of an Iowa-Penn State basketball game on the Big Ten Network. The game was played at the Bryce Jordan Center in State College, Pennsylvania, the home court of the Penn State Nittany Lions. One commentator said that the arena had been taken over by the Ohio yellow of the Ohio Hawkeye fans. Oops. It's difficult for a human to go more than a few minutes without making a mistake, but I could hear Hawkeye fans winning. Iowa won the game.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

Someone broke into a house, stole the eggs and left a pan of water behind. Police believe it's the work of poachers.

What did Attila the Hun and Winnie the Pooh have in common? They had the same middle name.

Three conspiracy theorists walked into a bar. You can't tell me that's a coincidence.

A man heard a knock on his door and when he answered, he didn't see anyone. Then he looked down and saw a snail looking up at him. The guy became angry at being bothered by a snail. He picked it up and threw it across the street and into the woods. Seven months later, the same guy heard another knock at his door. He opened the door and saw the same snail again. The snail said, "What was that all about?"

NATURE NOTES

Why is a flock of turkeys called a rafter? Perhaps it's derived from the word "raft" in its meaning of a large or motley collection of people and other things. Maybe it's because when early European settlers in America built houses and barns, turkeys perched in the rafters of the unfinished buildings. Or because when turkeys roost in trees, the trees resemble the rafters of a building. Another theory is that the word "rafter" came to imply "stitch together" in Medieval English and was used for groups of turkeys. I visited with a fellow who thought a flock of turkeys should be called a gobble. Male turkeys are called "gobblers" because of their famed call. It fits the mold—a group of geese is called a gaggle, but a gobble brings to mind scenes of gluttony from a Thanksgiving table.

February is the breeding season for cottontail rabbits, skunks, raccoons, squirrels, great horned owls, bald eagles, coyotes and foxes.

Where I live, which is inside a house, we get little snow there other than what I track in. The yard gets more snow. On average, we receive more snow from October to January than we do from February to April.

We all know the sound of a bird. It might be the quack of a female mallard duck, the honk of a Canada goose, the haunting calls of a loon or the voice of a robin. Robins sing "cheerily, cheer up, cheer up, cheerily, cheer up."

MEETING ADJOURNED

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I'VE LEARNED

The Powerball jackpot is up to two dozen eggs.

There is so much divisiveness in the world. We need togetherness. That's why we need to eat more hotdish. There's togetherness found there.

There are days when news-canceling headphones sound like an excellent idea.

This country has won every Super Bowl ever played.

Gloves are a handy invention.

City brings in streets specialist

By JESSICA LUTGENS
Staff Writer

Much of the discussion during the New Richland City Council's most recent meeting on Monday, Feb. 10 revolved around the 2025 street project - specifically, the topic of assessments that the project will require. Present to explain further details and help the council decide whether to certify assessments prior to or following construction for the project was Shannon Sweeney from David Drown and Associates.

"We're leaning towards [certifying assessments] prior to construction," explained City Administrator Tony Martens. Sweeney said that the benefit to certifying the assessments prior to construction would allow the council to gauge potential appeals to the assessments that would impact the financial plan for the project, which was budgeted for last year.

Before the final assessments are adopted, two public hearings during which time the public will have the opportunity to express concerns and ask questions are required. The council approved Resolution 25-06 Modifying the City of New Richland's Assessment Policy for the 2025 Street

Improvement Project, which reduces the percentage from 30% to 20% for street, water, and sanitary sewer improvements. The council also approved an open house at city hall on Feb. 27 from 5-7 p.m. to provide information and answer questions on the 2025 street improvement project.

The ambulance report, presented by Ambulance Director Sarah Sundve, included a purchase request for reimbursement for refreshers at costs of \$168 and \$325, which the council approved. It was also noted that the ambulance is currently seeking EMTs to cover daytime hours, and anyone 18 years of age or older is encouraged to apply. The report was approved.

In the fire department report, which stated that the NRRFD responded to one fire call in January, a \$224,600 bid for a new truck was approved by the council. The report was approved.

The police report was presented by Police Chief Tanyce Bruegger, who stated that Officer Kade Madden submitted his resignation from the department effective Jan. 31. A purchase request for \$1,000 for uniforms was approved along with the report.

NEW RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL

Bob Johannsen presented the care center report, which included a warning to potential visitors that at the time of the meeting, Covid and Influenza A were present in the building.

"If you're going to visit the nursing home, use good judgment," Johannsen said.

The center is still looking for CNAs, both full and part-time for evenings and every other weekend, an RN and LPN for evenings and every other weekend, along with a laundry worker and housekeeper.

Plans for the center's 50th anniversary celebration are still in the works, and it was noted that efforts to encourage residents to get out of their rooms for meals and to participate in activities continue to show positive results. The report was approved.

The PeopleService report, which was submitted in writing, was approved before Eric Hendrickson presented the Maintenance & Utility report. In January, 11 blue cards were issued resulting in zero shutoffs due to nonpayment. Purchase

requests for a cabinet at a cost of \$1,160.88, a new computer at a cost of \$675, and a new window for the crow's nest at Legion Field at a cost of \$750 were approved.

Hendrickson noted that a recent meeting at the school regarding the 2025 street improvement project, which involved the transportation director, superintendent, buildings and grounds director, and engineers of the project, among others, went well. The addition of three crosswalks, along with no parking and pickup/drop-off-only zones during school hours were among the topics discussed, and another meeting to discuss details of the project is planned for the near future. The report was approved.

In unfinished business, the council approved changing the current three-year garbage/recycling contract with Thompson Sanitation to a five-year contract. In new business, an upgraded server rack for the lock and video system at city hall was approved at a cost of up to \$800. Resolution 25-05 cancelling the second regular city council meeting of each month was approved along with the administrator's report, and the meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

SWCE advises research before adding private solar

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

"We want members to make an informed decision," says Steve Nordahl, systems technician with Steele/Waseca Cooperative Electric (SWCE), based in Owatonna. "Some who install private solar arrays have good results; some are less pleased."

Nordahl shares that, among the

SWCE members who have been less pleased are some who have installed solar panels based on the possibility they will not only do away with their electric bills, but will have a consistent source of income as solar energy is delivered into the distribution grid.

He mentions some are unpleasantly surprised when that is not necessarily the case.

"Some have been very disappointed," he recalls, speculating that sales staff from some of the solar companies may not be supplying complete and accurate SWCE information while trying to make a sale.

"We want to see renewable energy as a significant part of our production," says Nordahl. "But we don't want to see our

members disappointed if they don't get what they expected."

He encourages any SWCE members who are interested in installing solar panels to be sure they know the full picture before making a significant investment; he invites them to find an unbiased advisor, including, if they wish, the staff at SWCE.



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THREE-WIN WEEK — At left, the Panthers’ Chloe Stork (15) and Quinn VanMeldeghe (4) disrupt the Alden-Conger/Glenville-Emmons offense during Thursday’s victory in New Richland. At right, NRHEG’s Clara Buendorf (10) draws the foul while driving to the basket. It was part of a three-win week for the Panthers, who defeated St. Clair on Monday and Randolph Friday.



A three-win week for NRHEG basketball girls

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School girls’ basketball team went 3-for-3 last week, with victories at Randolph Friday, at home against Alden-Conger/Glenville-Emmons. The Panthers started strong at Randolph, taking an early lead and never giving it up. They led 40-27 at halftime.

“Three games in a week at the end of the season is always tough,” said NRHEG head coach Onika Peterson. “To pick up three wins in a week showcases the team’s resiliency.”

Camryn VanMaldeghe was red hot, finishing with 39 points, 12 rebounds, an assist, 2 steals and a blocked shot.

Her twin sister, Quinn, finished with 16 points, 12 rebounds, 4

Regular season concludes this week; section tournament starts Feb. 24

“Three games in a week at the end of the season is always tough.”
— NRHEG coach Onika Peterson

assists, five steals and 1 block.

Others: Ezra Boerner 5P, 2R, 1S; Clara Buendorf 6P, 2R, 1; Savannah Farr 5P, 1R; Chloe Stork 5R, 2A; Julieann Wobbrock 2R; Kylie Olson 6P, 6R.

The Panthers were without the services of starting guard Gabby Schlaak, who missed the game with illness.

The Panthers never trailed against AC/GE and won handily.

Individually: C.VanMaldeghe 32P, 10R, 2S; Olson 12P, 9R; Q.VanMaldeghe 9P, 12R, 1A, 3S, 1B; Schlaak 5P, 7R; Boerner 2P, 2R, 1A; Buendorf 3P, 1A, 1B; Farr 1S; Stork 3P, 2R, 3B; Rossing 3P.

“St. Clair is a solid team,” said Peterson. “They hit a couple big threes to get them going. We came out a half step slow and a tad cold on our shooting. Once we started going we really pulled away. The kids moved the ball well on offense, finding the open shooter, and our rebounding was solid, which gave us a lot of second and third-chance shot opportunities”

The Panthers concluded the regular season Tuesday at Tri-City United.

The section tournament starts Monday, Feb. 24.

Gopher Conference West		
	W-L	Ov.
JWP	7-1	22-3
NRHEG	7-1	19-5
WEM	4-4	13-12
United South Central	2-6	14-12
Medford	0-8	0-25
Gopher Conference East		
	W-L	Ov.
Triton	10-0	23-3
Bethlehem Academy	7-3	13-11
Hayfield/Schaeffer Ac.	7-3	15-10
Randolph	3-7	9-17
Blooming Prairie	2-8	7-18
Kenyon-Wan.	1-9	7-19

NRHEG boys fall short at Target Center

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva boys’ basketball team ventured to Target Center in Minneapolis last Monday to take on Blooming Prairie.

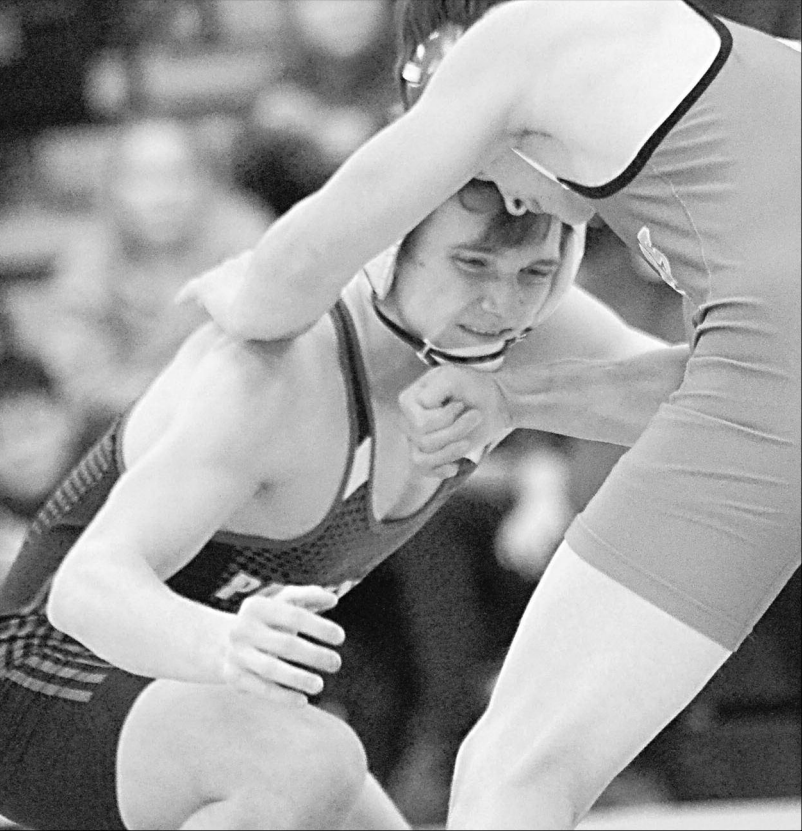
The Panthers lost to the Blossoms, 88-39.

Individually for NRHEG: Greyson Schaefer 7 points, 5 rebounds, 1 block; Calvin Nissen 9P, 1R, 3 assists, 1 steal; Owen Wayne 5P, 2R, 3S; Brendan Schmidt 4P, 3R, 1S; Justin Beauvais 3P; Mack Gilliland 2A, 1S; Sean Lassahn 3P, 2R, Brock Holland 2P, 1R; Jase Knudson 1A.

After a Monday home game against Tri-City United, the Panthers host unbeaten Waseca Thursday at 7:15 p.m. They face Medford at home Friday at 7:15 and conclude the regular season Feb. 28 at Martin County West.

The section tournament starts March 4, with the quarterfinals set for March 5, the semifinals March 10 at Mankato, and the championship game March 11 at 8 p.m. at Mankato

Gopher Conference West		
	W-L	Overall
JWP	7-0	19-4
WEM	5-2	11-11
United South Central	4-3	9-15
NRHEG	1-6	3-20
Medford	0-6	0-22
Gopher Conference East		
	W-L	Ov.
Triton	9-0	18-6
Blooming Prairie	6-3	16-6
Randolph	6-3	10-14
Kenyon-Wan.	5-4	13-12
Hayfield	1-8	7-17
Bethlehem Academy	0-9	2-20



ALMOST – The NRHEG High School wrestling team almost knocked off Westfield in the Section 2A tournament at Blooming Prairie Thursday. Post victories for the Panthers were Harbor Cromwell, left, and Grahm Jacobson, right.



NRHEG wrestlers end dual-meet season

Panthers fall to Westfield despite holding lead with two matches remaining

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School wrestling team – in its final dual meet of the 2024-25 season – saved its best for last.

It was almost good enough for a victory.

The Panthers saw their dual-meet season end Thursday at Blooming Prairie with a 41-30 loss to Westfield in a meet they led 30-29 with two matches remaining.

“This was a bittersweet night for us,” said Panthers head coach Shawn Larson. “We wrestled about as well as we could in this dual. It is bitter because this is the last time that our seniors will compete with the team, however those seniors can be proud of the fight the entire team brought.”

It was a big improvement from when the Panthers met the Razorbacks earlier this season.

“The last time that we competed with Westfield, the match was very one-sided in their favor,” said Larson. “It was a good feeling to be winning the dual with two weight classes left. Even though we were not able to get the win, that was pretty close to the best that we could be at that moment. We are proud of our team, and we are going to work making a better run next season.”

Winning for NRHEG were Grahm Jacobson, 107 pounds; Charlie Tufte, 121; Chase Johannsen, 133; Harbor Cromwell, 160; Ryan Schlaak, 172; and Wyatt

Larson, 189.

The Panthers forfeited at 139 and 285.

NRHEG’s next competition is the Section 2A individual tournament. This event takes place in Blue Earth on Saturday, Feb. 22, starting at 10 a.m.

Match-by-match results at Blooming Prairie:

- 107 Grahm Jacobson (NRHEG) over Bentley Miller (MD 11-2)
- 114 Derek Miner (Westfield) over Tucker Flatness (Fall 0:48)
- 121 Charles Tufte (NRHEG) over Peyton Lembke (Dec 8-5)
- 127 Isaac Fort (Westfield) over Dakota Schlaak (Fall 1:08)
- 133 Chase Johannsen (NRHEG) over Cayden Maly (Fall 1:33)
- 139 Bo Zwiener (Westfield) over Unknown (For.)
- 145 Cannon Wacek (Westfield) over Khaiden Madson (TF 17-0 4:30)
- 152 Gage Mullenbach (Westfield) over Noah Weller (TF 16-0 4:10)
- 160 Harbor Cromwell (NRHEG) over Jaxon Meier (Fall 3:00)
- 172 Ryan Schlaak (NRHEG) over Chase Kiser (Fall 2:38)
- 189 Wyatt Larson (NRHEG) over David Clennon (Fall 3:40)
- 215 Alex Lea (Westfield) over Cole Hutchens (Fall 2:31)
- 285 Wyatt Arndt (Westfield) over Unknown (For.)



The Bluejays’ Griffin Storey had a big week as the WHSW boys’ hockey team finished the regular season with three wins. Star Eagle photo by Jim Lutgens

WHS boys’ hockey team wins 3 more

Bluejays finish regular season with impressive 20-3-2 record

Three up, three down.

That was the story of the week for the Waseca High School boys’ hockey team, which completed a 3-0 week with a 5-2 triumph at Marshall Saturday.

The Bluejays jumped on top 3-0 after one period and led 4-1 after two. They outshot the Tigers 24-20. Waseca was penalized five times for 10 minutes, Marshall three times for six minutes.

Scoring goals for Waseca were Beckett Srph, Avery Selvik, Lucas Groll and Brayden Hesch-Priem, with assists going to Groll, Hesch-Priem, Henry Huttemier, Srp, Griffin Storey and Jayden Gehring.

In goal for the Bluejays was senior Carter Martens, who registered 18 saves.

Two nights earlier, the Bluejays ventured to New Ulm and came home with a 6-1 victory, outshooting the Eagles 33-27. Penalties for both teams were for eight minutes..

Storey, Hunter Anderson, Jude Gehring and Jackson Tesch put the puck in the net for the Bluejays, with assists by Anderson, Cash Lynch, Storey and Otto Schoenrock.

Winning goaltender Martens made 26 saves.

On Friday, the Bluejays won 4-1 over Dodge County at Kasson.

After a scoreless first period, the Bluejays tallied three goals in the second period to take a 3-0 lead into the third.

Waseca drew 14 penalty minutes on seven infractions, Dodge County eight on four. Shots on goal were 27-23 in favor of the Bluejays.

Scoring for Waseca: Storey, Anderson, Groll and Lynch. Assists were registered by Selvik, Dahl and Tesch.

The Bluejays scored two power play goals and one short-handed.

Josiah Schmidke was in goal for Waseca, totaling 18 saves.

The Bluejays finished the regular season 20-3-2 overall and 14-1-1 in the Big South Conference, second to Luverne by one point.

Big South Standings			
	WLT	PTS	Overall
Luverne	14-0-2	30	19-4-2
Waseca	14-1-1	29	20-3-2
New Ulm	7-5-0	22	10-12-2
Marshall	9-7-0	18	11-14-0
Minn. River	6-5-1	17	10-13-0
Worthington	6-10-0	12	7-18-0
Windom	6-11-0	12	6-18-1
Redwood V.	4-13-0	8	5-19-0
Fairmont	1-15-0	2	1-23-0

Frosty

from Page 3

Coming again this year,
In their white Frosty Hue

A Waseca transplant,
But ties they did bind,
Here the greater part of 40 years
A love match they did find

A local friend, and
A supporter of the arts,
Who will it be this year?
The answer, the clues will im-
part.

Frosty: Week 2 Clue
A northerner from the start,
Frosty moved South for school
The major of study initially un-
known
But a degree was the general
rule

Completing classes at Gustavus
And taking credits as MSU
A 1983 college graduate
History was a favored study too

Far out of school now
But to help pass the time
Frosty enjoys putting together
words
Possibly a limerick or a rhyme

Frosty: Week 3 Clue
Do you think you have Frosty
Narrowed down or found out?
Have you passed them around
town
While strolling out and about?

A lover of the arts
And items that are unique
Catch Frosty at the local stores
Browsing, and taking a peek

A supporter to all businesses
Big or small, or community
driven
Donating time, talent or special
items
With their contribution, a unique
display given

Frosty: Week 4 Clue
Frosty patiently awaits the 21st,
For that date is the identity re-
veal
Money is on the line for guessers
Sweetening the guessing appeal

Details have been given,
But has it been enough?
Putting all the clues together
The sleuthing can be tough.

More information to go off of
That frosty along with their
spouse
Have both been enjoying retire-
ment
Spending time both in and out of
the house

2025 Week 5 Frosty Clue
One last clue to put it together,
Giving you one last chance
Put in your final guesses
Answers accepted only in ad-
vance

A wealth of information has
been
Divulged and given to narrow it
down
Do your research and
Study the people of the town

I'll leave you with this, a career
40 years all together,
Frosty aided in serving the com-
munity,
No matter the situation or
weather



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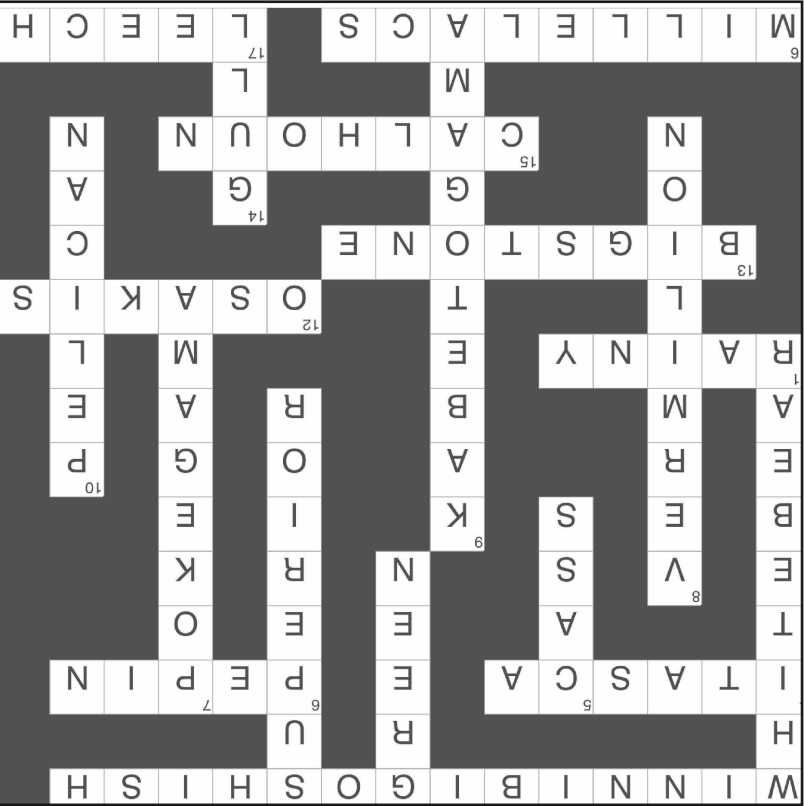
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ACROSS

- 1 Known as Lake Winnie
- 4 Mississippi River source
- 6 Shared with Wisconsin
- 11 Borders Canada
- 12 Located in Douglas County
- 13 Borders South Dakota
- 15 Renamed to Bde Maka Ska
- 16 Known for walleye fishing
- 17 Third largest in Minnesota

DOWN

- 1 Suburban lake near St. Paul
- 2 Located in Chisago County
- 3 Largest Great Lake
- 5 Named after a governor
- 7 Near Grand Rapids
- 8 Located in St. Louis County
- 9 In Voyageurs National Park
- 10 Located in Otter Tail County
- 14 Near Brainerd



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Shown here are pictures of grandsons Trevor with a nice walleye, Taylor with a nice northern and Dylan with a nice northern. These are some dandy fish that they have caught over the years while fishing with me on lakes near our cabin.

Our youth are the future of the outdoors

Whenever I look back at my days after the service, I think of how the many things that didn't seem important to me have now taken precedence. I have always appreciated wildlife, and when my boys were young, I tried to point out the smaller things in life, like seeing an eagle or an owl in flight and seeing a rabbit running across the backyard or a squirrel doing something silly. When we were up north, we would see chipmunks, deer, many other critters and even an occasional bear.

It was not uncommon to see deer drinking from the lake along the shoreline or even swimming from shore to an island. We once had the experience of watching a bear swim from a grassy point to some land across a channel. Up until that time, I never realized that bears were that good at swimming. It also made me glad that I had a good running motor on the boat, just in case.

Most of these experiences occurred on lakes in the same general area of where our cabin now sits. The deer swimming happened at Sand Lake on the Bowstring chain of lakes. Spider Lake offered many instances when we spotted wildlife and



Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl
Outdoors Writer

that's where we encountered the swimming bear. There was one time when just my grandson Trevor and I were buzzing down the lake when he started pointing to the narrows ahead of us where a moose calf was swimming across to where its mother stood waiting. This is one of many outdoors experiences that I will always remember.

Trevor spent a lot of time with me while he was growing up. I like to think that I had some influence on the sportsman that he is today. He has taken it to another level. He has common sense, respects the rules, and just enjoys the sport, whether it is fishing or hunting waterfowl.

My grandson, Dylan, is also one that loves the outdoors, especially fishing. I probably spoiled him, be-

cause he and I spent a lot of his childhood fishing for northern pike, which I now know is his favorite fish to seek out. He just recently became a father and has a son, Krew, to teach his love of fishing to. Luckily, Dylan's wife Kloe also likes to fish. Each time she fishes with him, she seems to catch the biggest fish, which Dylan attributes to his being a very good guide. Hopefully, those three will have a lot of fun outdoors adventures in the years to come.

It is important to get our youth involved in outdoors activities. Sports like fishing and hunting are important in preserving our outdoors heritage, and our youth are the future of these sports. My youngest grandson Grant also loves the outdoors. Although he likes to fish, he also loves

hiking, kayaking and rock climbing. He has visited the boundary waters a couple of times and really seems to like that.

Until next time: There has been a little action on the channel by Frank Hall Park. I have seen one or two permanent fish houses along with some portables, fishing there. I have a feeling that they are catching something or they wouldn't keep coming back. I don't believe that the fishing traffic will ever be heavy like it was a few years ago, but it looks promising. I know this fall I was on the channel trying to get my motor running when I made a couple of casts and caught a couple of "eater" perch. This is what keeps me coming back.

Fountain has houses scattered across the main lake as well as Edgewater Bay. I believe that the dredging has helped the fishing, and it would sure be nice if the last part of the dredging could be finished.

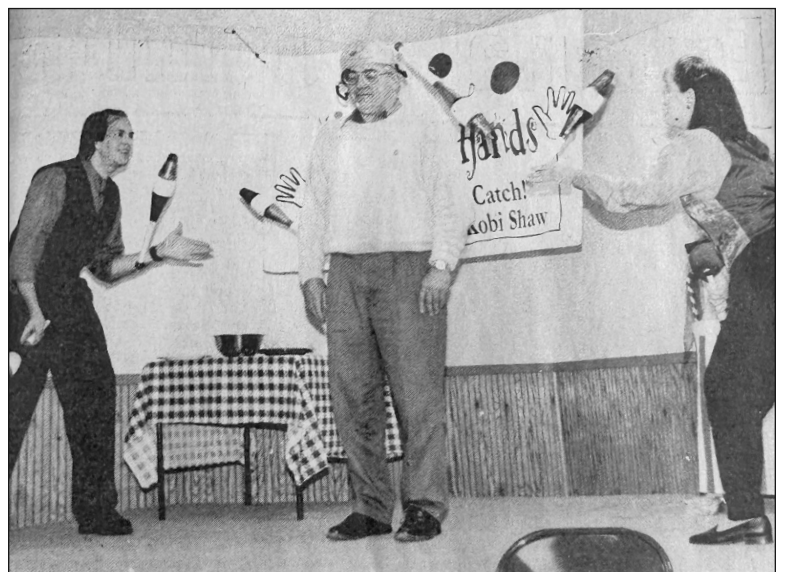
Please show your support for our troops who are now deployed. These service men and women are making that sacrifice, so that we may have the many freedoms that we enjoy today.

LOOKING BACK

25 Years back



- Local Future Farmers of America Wildlife Judging team will enter state Wildlife judging in St Paul in April for the 34th Consecutive after placing first in Region VII competition last Saturday. Members of the winning team are from left: seated, Tony Schlaak, Nick Misgen, standing is Nate Wayne and Brandon Johannsen. Another year, another FFA Wildlife Contest and another local FFA team has gained the right to enter the State Wildlife Judging competition in St Paul in April. The local team placed first in competition on Saturday with 1890 points. All of the members of the local team placed in the top ten individually. Leading the team was Nick Misgen who came in first with 665 points. Tony Schlaak got 615 with third place, Brandon Johannsen with 610 points for fourth and Nate Wayne was sixth with 590.



- Pins flew on the front and back sides of Neil Roesler at the Waseca County Pork Producers Banquet on Saturday evening. In capable hands, Steve Russel and Kobi Shaw professionally juggled the pins as Neil nervously stood in center stage. He had little to be nervous about, especially for any pin contact with his head. A safety helmet, slightly resembling a soup kettle, was provided for Neil by the jugglers.

- Martin Tesch of Waldorf recently received recognition from Accelerated Genetics for having the highest animal health product dollar volume among membership sales representatives in the region. He also was honored for distributing the most units of PACE young sire semen to new program participants.

- Britannia Panuska. Britannia, a new NRHEG eighth grade student has been selected to perform in the Minnesota Band Director Association middle level honor band. More than 500 students from 100 schools throughout Minnesota auditioned for a chair in the band. Only 75 were selected for the honor and Britannia was one of them. Britannia has excelled in every area in her school's instrumental music program, according to Frank Whitcomb.

50 years back

- A forty acre tract in northeastern Waseca county has been given to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for wildlife management purposes by its former owner, it was announced today. The land owner, Hugo John Pawek, is a former Minnesotan and a 1930 graduate of the College of Forestry University of Minnesota. Pawek, now the President of a lumber company in West Virginia, inherited the tract from his father. It is a part of 120 acre farm owned by his grandfather.

- The New Richland Jaycees organized last Wednesday evening at a meeting of 23 new members at the American Legion clubrooms. Pictured here left to right, seated, are: officers Dale Krueger, secretary treasurer; Jim Finseth, president; Bob Frisk, vice president; Bruce Davison, director; standing, Dennis Roesler state director and Jeff Jensen, director. Attending the TYOM (Ten Young Outstanding Men) convention at the Radisson South in Minneapolis this week are Jim Finseth, Kermit Scheonrock and Randy Vogt.

- Fluid Power Demonstration by a Mankato AVTI student at a recent Hydraulics workshop at the vocational school for Waseca County Vocational classes. Boys present are: Brad Wallace, Wayne Hanna, Lee Christenson, Mark Williams and Randy Warke of New Richland-Hartland High School.

-Mr. And Mrs. Gerald Groskreutz of rural Wells announce the engagement of their daughter, Judith, to James S. Schwerin, son of Rev. and Mrs. Burton Schwerin of Wells. Judy graduated from Wells Easton High School in 1972. She attended Augustana College in Sioux Falls, S.D., where she is studying nursing and psychology.

75 Years Back

- C. S. Shurson of New Richland was elected Director of Land O'Lakes Creameries Inc. From district 8 at the twenty-ninth annual meeting of the cooperative marketing association held at the Land O'Lakes plant, Minneapolis March 8 - 10. Several thousand dairy and poultry farmers and plant operators attend the meeting to hear reports on operations for 1949 and plans for 1950.

- Lyn Allen, second son or Mr. and Mrs. Lester Recknor, was baptized at Sunday Morning services at the Lutheran Church at Waldorf. Reverend C. J. Gundermann officiated. Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Blumh, Howard Nelson of Waldorf and Delores Krueger of Waseca were sponsors.

- An enjoyable evening was spent at the Earl Schlaak home Sunday when a group of relatives gathered at the Schlaak home to assist him with observing his birthday anniversary. Following an evening of cards, a birthday lunch was served to the following guests: Mr. and Mrs. Jermit Iverson and Carol, Mr. and Mrs. George Kampen, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Kampen and sons, Mrs. A. A. Kampen of Waseca, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Kampen and son, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kampen of Otisco, Mr. and Mrs. Merlin Krueger, Roger and Dale, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Schlaak and Miss Leona and Leonard Schlaak.

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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 - 8:30 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
Hollandside, Minnesota
Pastor Jesse Krusemark

Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

HOLLANDS REFORMED
Rev. Neal Ooms

101 East Park Avenue
Hollandside, 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

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: 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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Public Notice

The New Richland City Council has cancelled the 2nd monthly meeting normally held on the 4th Monday of the month for the remainder of the year.

The following regular scheduled city council meetings of the New Richland City Council have been cancelled:

Monday February 24th, 2025, Monday March 24th, 2025, Monday April 21, 2025, Tuesday May 27th, 2025, Monday June 23rd, 2025, Monday July 28th, 2025, Monday August 25th, 2025, Monday September 22nd, 2025, Monday October 27th, 2025, Monday November 24th, 2025

Passed, adopted and approved by City Council of the City of New Richland the 10th Day of February 2025.

Published in the Star Eagle on February 20, 2025

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From left: Josh Otto of Ellendale and Jens Wyrum of Hartland won heaviest and lightest at the Hartland University Bar's two-person coyote contest Feb. 15, 2025.



From left: The father and son team of Ashton and Darrel Raimann came in third at Hartland University Bar's two-person coyote contest on Feb.15. Photos by Ben Revermann

Otto, Wyrum win first Hartland University coyote hunt

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Nine two-person teams competed in the first-ever "Hartland University" coyote hunting contest which took place overnight beginning the evening of Feb. 15.

Josh Otto, 43, of Ellendale and Jens Wyrum, 42, of Hartland harvested three coyotes, managing to place first, second and fourth. Their largest animal weighed 36.2 lbs. The second-place specimen weighed 30.2 lbs. Their fourth-place specimen weighed 26.4 lbs. The pair received cash prizes totaling \$216.

The third-place animal was harvested by the father and son team of Darrel and Ashton Raimann, who are from, respectively, Houston and Mankato. Their coyote weighed 29.6 lbs., earning them a cash prize of \$54. Darrel couldn't help observing the animal seemed particularly robust, presenting him and Ashton with some challenges in the field.

This is the first year the Hartland bar has held a coyote-hunting contest. Organizer Justin Arndt said it stemmed from a similar event, a pheasant-hunting contest, the bar holds in the fall. Hunters back then were observing among themselves how much of a "pest" coyotes were becoming, which started a conversation about creating the coyote hunt.

According to Arndt, nine participating two-person teams each paid a \$30 entry fee. All fees were paid out as prizes. The weigh-in presented a few logistical problems—mostly that the scale did not work properly at first—but all in all Arndt feels the event was a success. He mentioned Hartland University is considering making the February event a yearly feature, just like the pheasant hunt.

Blood Drive



Jon Meyer was among the donors who in total gave 33 pints of blood during the New Richland blood drive the afternoon of Feb. 12 in the New Richland City Hall community room. Organizers express gratitude for the community's responsiveness, and hope people will put the next drive, from 1 to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 9, on their calendars. Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

Story Idea?
463-8112



From left: Onika Peterson, Jackie Schultz, Brian Hanson, Mindy (Sparby) Chevalier, Alison (Anderson) Ricketts, Erin (Anderson) Holland, Emily (Hagen) Anderson, Kyree (Wobbrock) Worley, Lynsi (Espe) Romportl. Star Eagle photo by Jim Lutgens

First lady Panthers state team reunites

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

A reunion of the 2004 NRHEG High School girls' basketball team was held prior to the Panthers' game against St. Clair Monday, Feb. 10.

All three coaches of the team - Mindy (Sparby) Chevalier, Jackie Schultz and Brian Hanson - were there, along with players Erin (Anderson) Holland, Emily (Hagen) Anderson, Lynsi (Espe) Romportl and Alison (Anderson) Ricketts, and managers Kyree (Wobbrock) Worley and Onika Peterson, the Panthers' current head coach.

Unable to attend were former players Chelsy Quiram, Jessica (Grunzke) Haakensen, Jessica (Brouwers) Hanna, Lisa Demmer, Traci Nelson, Jasmine (Brouwers) Schumack and the late Stephanie Hanna.

The 2004 Panthers were:

- * The first team in school history to make it to the basketball state tournament.

- * The first team in school history to make it to any girls' state tournament.
- * Finished the season with a record of 26-3 prior to the state tournament, with a final record of 27-5.

The unranked Panthers defeated Belle Plaine, Triton, and Hayfield before upsetting LeSueur-Henderson at Gustavus Adolphus College to send the team to the first-ever basketball state tournament with their point guard on the bench with five fouls.

At state, the Panthers defeated Crosby-Ironton by two points before falling to eventual state champion Breck in the semifinals.

The Panthers lost to Albany in the third-place game to finish fourth in the 2004 state tournament.

The team, according to many, was a spark for the NRHEG youth basketball program. Ten years later, the Panthers made another state tournament run. Coincidence?

Once-in-a-lifetime opportunity

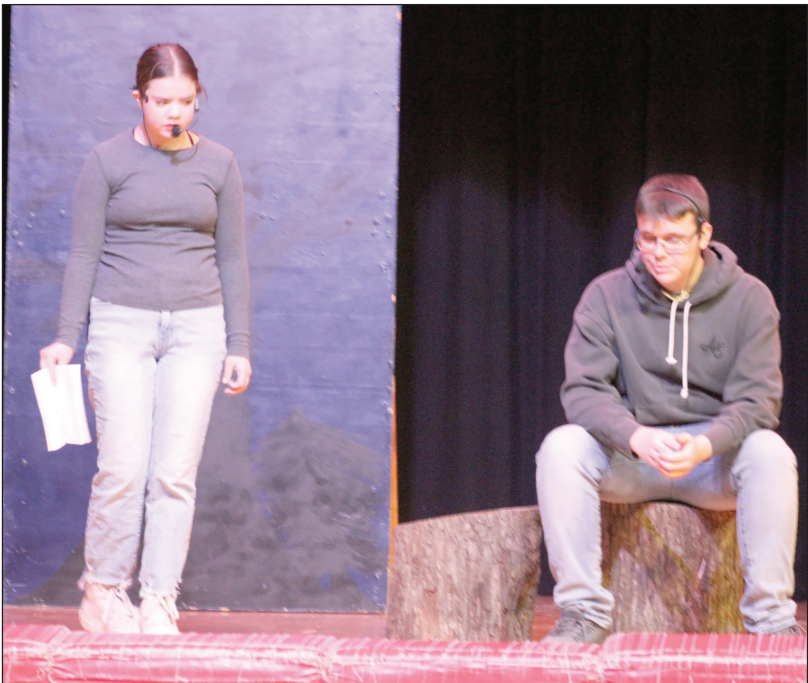


The NRHEG boys' basketball team traveled to Target Center in Minneapolis Monday evening, February 11 to take on Blooming Prairie. Although the boys lost 88-39, it was a memorable experience.

"It was a once in a lifetime experience for the kids," Head Coach Dan Schmidt said. "I'm glad we took the opportunity to play up there. I think the toughest adjustment for them was the extra 10' of court. It doesn't seem like it's much until you start running up and down 50+ times."

Registering stats in the game for the Panthers were: Greyson Schaefer - 7 points, 5 rebounds, 1 block; Calvin Nissen - 9 points, 1 rebound, 3 assists, 1 steal; Owen Wayne - 5 points, 2 rebounds, 3 steals; Brendan Schmidt - 4 points, 3 rebounds, 1 steal; Justin Beauvais - 3 points; Mack Gilliland - 2 assists, 1 steal; Sean Lassahn - 3 points, 2 rebounds; Brock Holland - 2 points, 1 rebound; Jase Knudson - 1 assist

Photo by Jodi Wayne



Characters played by Emily Delacruz and Caden Christopher debate between them whether they should refuse to play the dark "game", and what would happen if they did.



Mady Schlaak (left) and Grace Starman wonder what will happen if they break the "rules" of the game.

Star Eagle photos by Deb Bently

■ Play

from Page 1

NRHEG teachers Solveig Sundbland

and Holly Pederson; the two say student participants selected the play, and wanted a chance to practice portraying the tense, serious types of scenes it includes.

Cast members for the play were Sophia Williams, Winter Pederson, Kenna Dolton, Jacob Karl, Crissa

Koopal, Mady Schlaak, Grace Starman, Shayna Kress, Caden Christopher, Olivia Wencil, Rylie Cromwell, Madi Langfitt and Caralee Koopal. For the Feb. 14 production, Emily Delacruz joined the cast to fill in for someone who could not be present.

Sound technician was Scarlett Chance, lights technician was Rielly Weitzel, set managers were Emily Delacruz and Com Porter. The set was designed by August Botten and Danica Boyes.