



State Bound



Welcoming the long line of hungry Ellendale area fish fry attendees were: Hudson McMann, Rick Johnson, Ellana Modder (seated), Hunter McMann and David Modder (far right).

Star Eagle photos by Taya Rosacker



Record setting Ellendale fish fry serves 475

By TAYA ROSACKER
Contributing writer

The annual Ellendale Fire Department Fish Fry was quite the catch with the community and surrounding neighbors. Festivities began at 5 p.m. with an amazing meal made by the fire department. Everyone was served crispy fish, baked firehouse beans, coleslaw, refreshments including water, milk, and lemonade, along with their homemade tartar sauce, which garnered compliments from many. In the first hour alone, there were a total of 266 people served. Many were there before the 5 p.m. start time.

“Thank you to everyone for making this year’s first fish fry our biggest and best yet,” Rick Johnson of the Ellendale Fire Department said. “We hope you all really enjoyed it and look forward to seeing you again in March.”

This year’s total number of meals served was the largest ever at 475 meals.

The annual fish fry happens twice a year, once in February and again in March.

The town of Ellendale has been throwing this fundraiser for more than a decade and making it a favorite time of year for everyone.

“We do this to help our community and to get to know our neighbors” says David Modder, a member of the Ellendale Fire Department. The money raised helps purchase tools and equipment, supports those within the community as well as the Ellendale food shelf.

The next fish fry will be March 22 at the Ellendale community center from 5 p.m. until gone. This is a free will donation and the fish is all you can eat. Come enjoy a wonderful meal and leave with a smile.



Ellendale Fire Department volunteers Travis Ladwig and Brian Flatland. Below attendees, Caleb and Alicia.

“Thank you to everyone for making this year’s first fish fry our biggest and best yet.”

— Ellendale Fire Department



Adam Finseth

From the Finseth family

The family of Adam Finseth, a paramedic who lost his life while trying to provide aid to wounded officers, has roots in the Hartland/New Richland Area. His obituary can be found on Page 4. A story about what happened is on Page 3 and a statement from Adam’s wife Tara is on Page 2.

Below is a letter from the family:

“Thank you to all in our community who have reached out to our family during this tragic event of losing our Adam. We are so grateful for your concern and prayers for us.

Because we are receiving so many inquiries about how and where to send condolences &/or memorials to Adam’s family, this is to inform you of how we’d like to handle it locally and help Adam’s family with the overwhelming amount of attention they are dealing with at this time.

You can send cards to Barb’s address of PO Box 305, New Richland, Mn 56072 with the addressee as “The Family of Adam Finseth.” Memorial checks can be made out to “Tara Finseth” (Adam’s wife). They have not had time to decide on designated memorials yet.

All correspondence will be given to the family at a later date when they are able to give their attention to your heartfelt shared sorrow.

In Love, Faith, and Gratitude,
Barb, Jim & Brad Finseth”

A word from The Word

And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.” Luke 23:43

Section Wrestling



Three NRHEG wrestlers qualified for the Minnesota State High School League State tournament this month. Pictured above are all those who medaled during their section qualifying meets. Ryan Schlaak, George Roesler and Annabelle Petsinger will represent NRHEG in St. Paul beginning February 29. Roesler won his section at 172lbs, Schlaak was a runner-up at 160 lbs and Petsinger was also a runnerup in the girls division. Other place winners included: 3rd place: Deven Parpart (139); 4th place: Parker Bunn (133), Reese Routh (145), Harbor Cromwell (152), and Cole Hutchens (215); 5th place: Dakota Schlaak (114), and Wyatt Larson (189); 6th place: Charlie Tufte (107), and Jace Ihrke (285).

Vision, through and through

Ginger Thompson reflects on career, life and four decades working for Lerberg’s

By TRISTAN GEHRING
Staff Writer

Ginger Thompson of rural Ellendale retired from Lerberg’s Fitness Center and Gift Shop after 38 years on December 29, 2023. A reception was held at the Fitness Center with gifts, balloons and cake.

“It sure went fast,” Ginger recalled. “I can’t believe it’s been 38 years.”

Ginger enjoyed getting to know many kind people and Panther athletes over her two decades with the Fitness Center. She first got her start working at Lerberg’s Gift Shop in 1985. “It was more like a department store,” Ginger described. “We had clothing for men and women, children too—Red Wing boots and Minnetonka Moccasins, hallmark cards, jewelry, perfumes, material and sewing needs, sheets and towels, and high school mascot clothing.”

The store had that, and much more, even offering free gift wrapping. “It was a great place to work and get to know everyone in town,” Ginger added.

Mary Lerberg was Ginger’s first employer there. “She was great to work for and taught me



RETIREMENT PARTY - From left, Christine Krause, Pat Motl, Ginger Thompson, Carrie Thompson, John Schultz, Wendy Schultz, Barb Dobberstein and Andy Lerberg.

“I can’t believe it’s been 38 years.”

— Ginger Thompson

many things about business, and how to make attractive displays,” Ginger said.

Asked if she enjoyed the work, Ginger responded with an emphatic “YES.”

She went on to explain that the customers were always gracious and enjoyed the personal help that, “We just don’t get in stores today.”

In four decades working for the Lerberg family, Ginger can’t recall a single conflict with anyone. “People care about each other in our town,” she stated.

In 2003 the gift shop was converted into the Fit-

Ginger continued on 3

School Board NRHEG

School sponsored events on Sundays considered

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

In observance of February as Minnesota’s school board appreciation month, NRHEG School board members were presented with certificates of service and with churro flavored cookies prepared by members of the Pro-Start food preparation and serving class as their monthly meeting began.

School board members were also presented with two difficult questions during their regular monthly meeting the evening of Tuesday, Feb. 20.

One item discussed was the possibility of allowing school-sponsored activities, “anything with the name ‘panthers’ attached to it,” to be scheduled on Sundays.

Controversy is based in the fact that other groups, including sports associations, frequently rent school facilities for weekend events, filling the school with children and their families often from a very wide area.

Yet, thanks to a longstanding policy, Panther teams are not even allowed to hold practices on Sunday.

Board chair Rick Schultz pointed out that the question of Sunday events has been brought to the school board for consideration in the past; at that time, he said, board members held firm to the idea that “there should be at least one day a week that is strictly for families to spend time together.”

Community Education director Macy Whiteside let the board know that competition for gym space makes it “harder and harder to avoid scheduling events on Sundays.”

Board members discussed the possibility of allowing Sunday activities with the specific proviso that any students who did not attend would not suffer negative consequences. When asked for his input, secondary principal

School continued on 5



FenceLines

by Mark Bernard

Above average temps, wheat prices

No snow last week so the scurs tweaked the dials on the Weather Eye once more. Is spring on the horizon is it only a mirage? Starting Thursday, sunny with highs in the upper 40's and lows in the low 30's. Sunny Friday with highs in the upper 50's and lows in the low 40's. Mostly sunny on Saturday with highs in the low 60's and lows in the upper 40's. Sunday, mostly sunny with a slight chance of rain. Highs in the low 70's with lows in the mid-30's. Mostly sunny on Monday with highs in the low 40's and lows in the mid-20's. Tuesday, sunny with highs in the mid-30's and lows in the low 20's. Mostly cloudy on Wednesday with highs in the low 40's and lows in the low 30's. We'll start seeing our daylight increase at three minute per day starting on March 4th. This also represents the first day when our normal high stays above freezing for the season. The normal high for March 4th is 33 and the normal low is 17. The scurs have strapped their patio furniture down with bungee cords. No need to go on rescue missions that way.

Recent weather conditions allowed a demonstration plot of corn, soybeans and wheat to be planted at the SROC in Waseca. Warm temps have raised some justifiable concerns about alfalfa. Some rumblings that it may have broken dormancy, at least in places. With the AC running in the car, 70-degree highs on Monday didn't help. If the dormancy has been broken, the cold temperatures forecast for this past Tuesday night could have a negative impact on it if. Back in the early 1990's we had a somewhat similar scenario. Temperatures dipped to about 10 above and the NW wind howled overnight. It was devastating particularly in fields where late cuttings were taken. When that occurred, the only alfalfa still alive was in the middle of the field where small strips of alfalfa escaped the haybine on that last cutting. The one difference was the calendar date. The cold spell that took the alfalfa out that year was in the 2nd week of April and the alfalfa had a lot more top growth on it. We're about 6 weeks away from that and it gives us a wider window of opportunity for stand injury to occur.

Distinct possibility some will put in small grains. For many, it's been a while. One thing keeping people from being excited about it is the wheat price in the \$6 - \$6.50 range. Growing it isn't so bad but marketing can be a headache with all the quality criteria that must be met. Harvesting is another potential headache especially if you're not equipped. Barley? Can count on one hand the barley fields I've seen the past 40 years, most of it chopped or baled for forage. I recall a rare instance of it being harvested when someone was short on corn. Oats are probably the easiest small grain to justify and with the straw, it can be profitable. There's always a demand for oats at feed plants in their rations along with some demand for cover crops. Oat straw is usually considered the gold standard. Why? A lot of livestock folks believe it to be more absorptive than wheat straw and lacks awns or beards of barley or

wheat straw. Awns can irritate eyes and cause wounds that become infected turning into abscesses. When wool used to be worth something, beards embedded in the wool were difficult to remove and made it itchy.

Speaking of wool and my earlier glee over having the ewes shorn, we had one ewe lamb outside in the 18-degree cold last Friday night. One of the reasons we shear in early to mid-February is so the ewes will go inside to lamb. This ewe must not have got the memo as she was standing out by the manger with a little one at her side. When I went over to check it out, I stumbled across another one that was down in the hay. It was chilled so I scooped it up and hauled it into the house. I went back out and coaxed the ewe into the barn then penned her up. She immediately laid down and started pushing again. Didn't take long and I could see legs coming, hind legs! Quickly grabbed them and pulled the lamb out, then cleared its airway. Being born backwards, without prompt attention the lamb's lungs can fill with fluids and it can suffocate. Being born breech is even worse than being born in the basement and never brought up.

It may be only February but there are more definite indications at the ranch from the bird world that spring is on the way. We had some swans flying over back on Valentine's Day and were treated to Canada geese overhead about treetop level this past weekend. Robins have been heard but still not seen. A killdeer was heard Sunday morning. Not surprising as some of the shallower wetlands that have water in them have opened up. With the wetlands opening up, once the brief cold snap moves through, it'll probably be time to see if any pussy willows have catkins on them. Buds are swelling on the silver maples, and they're leaking sap all over the backyard. Since they like eating the buds this time of year, the squirrels must have a sweet tooth.

Poppy had a big weekend complete with lots of people time. We ran some errands but were able to be home for most of it, vaccinating, docking, tagging, moving animals around and of course chores. Sunday was a day to exhale a little, make some repairs, unload some feed and get things in place for the upcoming week. By afternoon it had clouded up but was still pleasant. Neighbor Jon called wondering if he could bring the family over to see the lambs. Last count there were 25 on the ground so plenty to look at. At first, Poppy was inside and Mrs. Cheviot brought her out on the leash. Once Poppy saw the kids it was game on. The lambs were a fascination but as frequently happens Poppy stole the show. Corgi's usually love people and this one is no exception. By the time they left, along with numerous zoomies, there had been lots of hugs and kisses exchanged between kids and dog. Poppy was tired that night and probably wound up dreaming about her next human encounter. Always something to look forward to.

See you next week...real good then.

Statement from Tara Finseth

Tara Finseth, Adam Finseth's widow, wrote in her first public statement released on Sunday, "To say that our family is devastated at the loss of our Adam is an understatement. We are broken. Our children will grow up without their "papa." My soul mate is no longer here to wrap me in his arms and live out the life we had so intimately planned. His parents are without their son and his sister is without her big brother and best friend. So many friends and family are left with a void in their hearts. Adam was one of the most selfless and humble individuals

you would ever meet. His dedication to his family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, community, and country was unwavering. His worm smile, contagious laugh and genuine personality will be deeply missed by so many. Although our forever hero is no longer with us, his soul will live on through me, his children, family, friends, and community. We know he is by our side everyday until we meet again In heaven. On behalf of our family, thank you for the overwhelming and heartwarming support during this very difficult time."

Leaping around, behind, ahead

I was watching an episode of the new iteration of Quantum Leap last week. The show is based on the premise that the main character, Ben Song, leaps from one person's consciousness to another, helping solve problems in that person's life, and all this takes place back and forth across history.

(It really is an excellent show, and if you were a fan of the original version of the show with Scott Bakula, you will likely enjoy this one. The first two seasons have been very good.)

As I watched this show, which airs on NBC, I noticed they had the Olympic logo under the peacock symbol that represents the network.

Then I looked at a calendar and serendipity slapped me right in the face.

This very column will be published on Leap Day, February 29, 2024! What are the chances of that?

Of course, I looked that up. It won't happen again for another 28 years when Leap Day will fall on a Thursday, the day this newspaper is distributed. The chances that I'll still be in this space in 28 years is somewhere between slim and none... and slim already left town.

Leap Year happens every four years. Seeing the Olympic symbol, another event that happens every four years, is what put me on this path. Okay, so there are technically Olympics every other year, but the summer and winter versions each happen once in four years.



Whatever Flips Your Waffle

by Mark Domeier
Contributing Writer

The Olympics are fun. There are always some events I want to watch. Swimming, volleyball, and gymnastics are cool to watch in the summertime. Downhill skiing, the luge, and curling can be enjoyable in the winter.

But do I want to watch those events every single year? Negative, mi amigo. Watching athletes compete at the highest level is enjoyable for many things, but not being a major fan of any of that means that the Olympics are spaced just far enough apart to keep me interested as they occur.

I could do without the nonsense of a presidential election every four years, but here we are again. Wait, didn't this just happen? It looks like we're in for a rerun this year.

Having an election for the highest office in the land every four years does make sense. It gives a person an opportunity to accomplish something while also limiting the time in which that person could do too much damage.

But more and more, it seems like the election cycle starts soon after the last one ends. Don't these people ever want to get some work done?

Instead, they're campaigning right away. I've often said that if I were elected President, one of my first actions would be trying to make it so you can't do anything for the November election until January of that calendar year, at the earliest.

I remember the first election I voted in, when I chose Bill Clinton for President in 1992. It was so exciting to go and cast my vote, but it seemed like an eternity until we had another election! Now, I wish we could go longer before hearing about the power-hungry circus acts who get chosen to run.

We count on Leap Year every four years to even out the 365 and a quarter days it takes us to go around the sun. However, in my research, I discovered that there actually isn't a Leap Day every four years. Due to some math beyond my ability to explain, the year 2100 will not have a February 29! I won't be around for that, but there's a chance some of my students might be! (Look it up for why this happens. I read it a couple of times and still don't quite get it. But I don't really have to worry, do I?)

Events that happen every four

years are known as quadrennial. The Olympics, presidential elections, and Leap Year are the three things that we all know about. Perhaps there are other things that happen every four years. I couldn't find anything in nature, but those things tend to be cyclical, relating to a trip around the sun. Class reunions tend to go in five-year cycles. I'm sure there are other happenings, but they are probably localized and not well known to the general masses.

Having a birthday on February 29 is the rarest of occasions. When I looked it up, it was thought there are about five million people alive with that birthday. There are plenty of jokes about when they actually are old enough to get your driver's license or buy an alcoholic drink. I looked up famous people with that birthday, but most of them were unknown to me. Except for Superman! He's not from Earth anyway, so February 29 seems apropos.

Take a leap of faith on February 29! Or go outside and leap across the streams of melting snow. You could play leapfrog with someone. Or you could just get ready to turn the calendar to March and leap ahead to the next month.

Word of the Week: This week's word is nutant, which means drooping or nodding, as in, "His nutant head struck his chest as he fell asleep early after all the leaping around that day." Impress your friends and confuse your enemies!

A running of the words, from last week

Editorial note: Bob's column arrived a week late due to some postal problems. (None of which were the fault of Bob Hanson)

Another Running of the Words column:

Genie and I had bean soup followed by a chocolate or butterscotch sundae during the Super Bowl game on February 11th. We think the sundae off-set the bean soup toot!!

The game was a nail biter!! First you were sad your team lost, then happy 'cause they won. In conclusion win or not you were happy and sad more than once. (Genie was San Francisco, I was K.C.)

"2024, the year of two springs" is what the local weather man is calling this year. His reasoning is, "We just got over spring the first part of February followed by winter weather and then spring weather after that."

The first spring was very unusual. I saw pocket gopher mounds of fresh black soil. Night crawlers were common. Many ducks, geese, and tundra swans stayed local. Ponds and lakes froze over only to re-open and then re-freeze. I saw robins and morning



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

doves hanging around til mid-February.

Temperatures were record highs the first spring (late January til about February 10) and back to normal winter temperature after that. Central Freeborn Lutheran Church has red-headed wood-peckers nesting every spring in a huge oak tree. I saw the male checking the nesting site on Saturday, February 3rd, 2024. I wonder if he will leave and return after the second spring. We had green grass 'til about Feb. 10th.

Golf courses opened up the first part of January with tee times for about three weeks and then back to being closed.

It was so warm that Ole took off his long johns. Lena washed the only

pair and replaced them on Valentine's Day with a new pair. Thus, Ole will be wearing two pair in the same winter for the first time!!

Being as to how Ole is so cheap, the following ad appeared in the Freeborn-Mower Magazine:

For sale cheap: Your choice of used once or used one short winter: Men's full length long johns. Call Ole.

Junior and senior high school students: "The colleges and vocational schools in the state of Minnesota want you!! The schools are interested in your attending their school - just let them know you're interested. (Even the possibility of free enrollment with a stipend.)

I believe in buying USA

made/manufactured products. To my surprise, in buying sunflower seeds, I spotted a bag at Albert Lea Seed House labeled "Made in the U.S.A." In looking at the label it was manufactured in Meriden, Minnesota!!

Maple sap is about three weeks early this year.

"Growing old doesn't mean fading away," is one of my favorite expressions.

F.R.O.G. of Central Freeborn Lutheran Church plans on taking a bus to Lutheran Night at the Twins on August 13, 2024. Details later.

How does it feel to know you're reading a newspaper that received awards at the annual Minnesota Newspaper Awards Banquet?

Thanks to the Whirlwind Kids crew for putting a Happy Valentine's in each mailbox at Central Freeborn Lutheran Church.

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.

'True to the best that is in you'

Genie and I enjoyed a Sunday Valentine's brunch at Cross of Glory Lutheran Church in Hartland on Sunday, February 11, 2024. They served 'til noon per the flyer. Once again you can't believe all you read as Genie and I got there just after 12 noon. (I wonder how many more would have filled their tummy if the advertisements would have said 'til one p.m.) Once again the food and service were truly a "Sunday" special.

Genie is in a group of ladies who like to go out for breakfast-lunch. One of the ladies is Lois Arnold. The last name of the new owners of "The Willows" in New Richland is Arnold. Yes, Lois is the mom/mother-in-law of the new owners. Do you suppose Lois has found a new place for the breakfast-lunch ladies to go to??

We all know the government can giveth and taketh. On Sunday March tenth they will do the fall taketh. (In case your wondering, it is called Daylight Savings Time!!)

Three important things happen on February 29, 2024. One: Your fishing license expires. The good news is you can buy a new one. Two: Squirrel hunting season ends. The good news is you may be allowed to catch and release a destructive squirrel. Three: My 1st cousin, Karen, has a birthday. The bad news is she has to wait 4 years for another birthday.

At this time at Central Freeborn Lutheran Church rural Albert Lea, we have a guess when all the snow will be gone from the west side of the



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

parking lot. There is a problem this year. "There is no snow" to guess when it will be gone. On Sunday morning prior to church, Wendy the church organist played that old popular song sang by Doris Day "Whatever Will Be, Will Be." Thus, the problem of a snow gone contest was solved!!!

When you're having a bad day-read this!!!

"Promise Yourself
To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.
To talk health, happiness, and prosperity to every person you meet.
To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.
To look at the sunny side of every thing
and make your optimism come true.

To think only the best, to work only for the best,
and to expect only the best.
To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others
as you are about your own.
To forget the mistakes of the past
and press on to greater achieve-

ments of the future.
To wear a cheerful countenance at all times
and give every living creature you meet a smile.
To give so much time to the im-

FACT OR FICTION

...you decide

by Bob Hanson, Emeritus
copyright © 2023 by Bob Hanson

FACT OR FICTION

...you decide

by Bob Hanson, Emeritus
copyright © 2023 by Bob Hanson

Star Eagle

SERVING THE NEW RICHLAND-HARTLAND-ELLENDALE-GENEVA AREA
and the communities of Waseca, Otisco, Hope, Clarks Grove, Matawan, Freeborn and Waldorf

PHONE: 507-463-8112

FAX: 507-463-0604, email: steagle@hickorytech.net, USPS No. 382-040,
Address: 128 North Broadway, PO Box 248, New Richland, MN 56072

DEADLINES: STAR EAGLE: Noon Monday, LINK: Friday

Publisher Eli Lutgens, Staff: Al Batt, Bob Hanson, Mark Bernard, Mark Domeier, Dick Herfindahl, Barb Mrotz, Brandon Schlaak, Brenda Dokken, Deb Bently, Jessica Lutgens, Chris Schlaak, Michael Roy, Barb Finseth, Melanie Piltingsrud, Reed Waller, Amelia Roessler, Tristan Jensen

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$57 local counties, \$67, MN • \$77 Outside MN

Published every Thursday by EJI Publications, Inc., and Periodical Postage paid at the Post Office at New Richland, Minnesota 56072. Entire contents copyright © 2024 EJI Publications, Inc. and respective authors. Opinions expressed in editorials or letters to the editor are those of the individual authors, and do not necessarily represent those of the Star Eagle or EJI Publications, Inc. Letters may be edited for content or length. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to P.O. Box 248, New Richland, MN 56072-0248



Compostings

by Al Batt

A sound investment

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
I had a colonoscopy last week. Did they discover anything? They found one of my high school football coach's shoes.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE
I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. The weather was so nice for this time of the year that I felt as if we were swiping it from somewhere else. I stopped at a convenience store because it was convenient. I headed to the convenient section offering convenience foods. Bread or wrap? It sounds like money or clothing. I grew up eating with wonder—Wonder Bread. Because of that, it's difficult for me to wrap my head around a wrap. I'm working on it. When I was eating Wonder Bread, it took a brave or foolish man to eat gas station food. That's changed. Should I get a sandwich or a wrap? I was trying to keep it all together. Is a hot dog a sandwich? Of course, it is. Merriam-Webster came down decisively on the side that a hot dog is a sandwich because its definition of a sandwich is "two or more slices of bread or a split roll having a filling in between." Joey Chestnut ate 76 hot dogs in 10 minutes. He's no one-trick pony. He devoured 121 Twinkies in 6 minutes. The bread-enclosed convenience food known as the sandwich is attributed to John Montagu, the fourth Earl of Sandwich. The wrap is attributed to John Montagu, the fourth Earl of Wrap. I purchased a wrap and drove to a nearby park. I sat at a picnic table and ate a wrap on a sunny February day, as I watched the squirrels scamper and frolic. It was a good day.

I've listened to the scarecrow sing, "If I only had a brain" in "The Wizard of Oz." When I was a boy, I wondered how anyone could talk if they didn't have a brain. Thanks to social media, I no longer wonder that.

We all make mistakes when we speak. I heard a basketball announcer describe a pass as being like a needle through a thread.

The last couple of growing seasons haven't been wetter than the underside of a duck. I'm thinking of telling myself that we need an extra moist rain.

I gave my wife candy and coffee for Valentine's Day. It was impossible to match what I got her for Groundhog Day—a woodchuck.

I'VE LEARNED
Wind chimes are a sound investment.

Three killed in Burnsville shooting

BURNSVILLE, Minn. — Two police officers and a paramedic were shot and killed in a Twin Cities suburb Sunday morning, authorities said, and the man who shot them is also dead.

Superintendent Drew Evans with the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension said Burnsville police officers were called to a home at about 1:50 a.m. on 33rd Avenue South and East 126th Street, just west of the Interstate 35E - Highway 77 interchange.

The suspect, whom the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension identified Monday as 38-year-old Shannon Gooden, was inside and reported to be armed. Several others were also barricaded inside, including seven young children ranging in age from 2 to 15.

Evans said law enforcement "spent quite a bit of time negotiating with this individual," and paramedics came in for backup at about 5 a.m. Minutes later, dispatch ordered everyone to stay back after Gooden opened fire.

Burnsville city officials identified the victims as officers Paul Elmstrand and Matthew Ruge and firefighter/paramedic Adam Finseth. Sgt. Adam Medicott, 38, was also shot but is expected to survive.

Gooden was reported dead at about 8 a.m., and the family members in the home made it out safely a short time later. A medical examiner said Gooden died by suicide.

Evans said details surrounding the timing and exchange of gunfire are not clear at this point in the investigation.

"Several officers did return fire," Evans said. "I will note this individual had several guns and large amounts of ammunition."

The fallen first responders
City officials said 27-year-old Elmstrand, from Chaska, joined the Burnsville Police Department in 2017 and was promoted in 2019. His wife spoke to CBS News and said they've been married for five years and have two young children.

"I think he just had to be the hero. He had to do what he thought was right to protect those little lives even if it meant putting his at risk and it breaks my heart because now he's gone. But I know that he thought what he did was right," she said.

The Hennepin County Medical Examiner's office announced Monday that Elmstrand died from a gunshot wound to the chest.

Ruge, also 27, joined the force in 2020. The Northfield resident was a physical evidence officer as well as a member of BPD's crisis negotiations team. He died from multiple gunshot wounds, according to the HCME.

Finseth, 40, has been a firefighter and SWAT paramedic in the city since 2019. Fire Chief B.J. Jungmann says Finseth, a Savage resident, previously worked with the fire departments in Savage and Hastings. He died from gunshot wounds to his right arm and torso as he was trying to aid the wounded officers.

Finseth was also a volunteer youth baseball coach for Prior Lake/Savage, according to the Prior Lake Athletics for Youth Facebook page. He served in the Army's Bravo Company 1st Battalion 327th Infantry during Operation Iraqi Freedom, according to his LinkedIn page.

Police Chief Tanya Schwartz says her department is "hurting."

"Today, three members of our team made the ultimate sacrifice for this community. They are heroes," Schwartz said. "Every day we pray

that they go home to their families. And today that's not happening. We're heartbroken. We are going to need time to be together. Our families need time to grieve."

Jungmann says Sunday was the toughest day the city has ever experienced.

"It's a tragic day, we're all grieving, and we're all trying to understand what happened and why," Jungmann said.

Hundreds line metro streets to honor victims
At Hennepin Healthcare in downtown Minneapolis, police and first responders from multiple cities gathered to show support Sunday afternoon. Injured officers are often taken to the hospital due to its status as a level-one trauma center.

Their caskets, draped in American flags, were carried into vans outside the hospital as a crowd of law enforcement stood to salute them.

Doctors, nurses and other hospital staff lined up in the skyway to see them off. Police, fire and paramedic vehicles stayed close as the vans departed downtown.

When they reached the medical examiner's office, the escort didn't end at the entrance. The group walked in alongside the fallen first responders so they were never alone.

Gov. Tim Walz reacts
Support and condolences from Minnesota state leaders and other law enforcement agencies are pouring in on social media.

"We must never take for granted the bravery and sacrifices our first responders make each and every day," Walz said in a statement. "Today, the families of these public servants received the call they knew was possible but hoped would never come. My heart is with those grieving families — the State of Minnesota stands

ready to support in any way we can. This is a tragic loss for our state."

Walz ordered flags be flown at half-staff starting Monday at sunrise and issued a proclamation for each victim.

"It is with deepest gratitude that our state recognizes their service to, and sacrifice for, their fellow Minnesotans," Walz wrote on Twitter/X Monday. "Minnesota stands with Burnsville."

Vigil held for victims outside Burnsville City Hall
Dozens gathered outside Burnsville City Hall Sunday evening to remember and pay respects to the fallen first responders.

Burnsville City Manager Gregg Lindberg thanked the community for its support and grace.

"It's been an emotional day. It's been a hard day," Lindberg said. "I have the distinct privilege of working alongside the men and women of our police department and our fire department who choose to come to work every day and risk their lives to the benefit of all of us."

Sen. Amy Klobuchar and Rep. Angie Craig were also on hand to pay their respects.

"I can't imagine the pain that you're all going through. I just can't imagine," Craig said. "But what I want to say is to all of our officers out there, to all of our paramedics, our fire department, thank you for what you do."

Police from cities across the metro showed solidarity, a part of a grieving community that reaches far beyond Burnsville.

The Officer Down Memorial Page says a total of 18 officers nationwide have been killed in the line of duty so far this year. Six officers died by gunfire.

■ Ginger from Page 1

ness Center where Ginger stayed on to work for the Lerberg family, and fourteen years later in 2017, John and Wendy Schultz.

Wendy is the daughter of Andy and Mary Lerberg.

Ginger's job included instructing people on the proper use of gym equipment, enrolling new members and also cleaning.

Over the years Ginger also helped at Lerberg's Grocery store, working for Andy Lerberg and Ross Sletten.

In her career, Ginger never missed a day of work. "Except for the time

Jerry and I took the girls to Europe for a ten day vacation," Ginger remembered.

Her career also includes 26 years at the Lady Bug Thrift store in New Richland.

Ginger is a great sports fan. "Especially the Minnesota Twins, Vikings, and Panther sport, plus Waseca Blue Jays where my grand-daughter is a junior."

Ginger and Jerry are active members of First Lutheran Church in Ellendale and also members of the Memories Car Club of Ellendale and New Richland. They enjoy activities and summer cruises in their restored 1944 Pontiac.

The Memories Car Club awards a \$500 scholarship each year to an NRHEG graduate pursuing a career in an automotive related field, some-

thing Ginger is very proud of.

Ginger grew up on the West Side of Saint Paul, a small community in St. Paul.

"Just like our little town," Ginger said. "It wasn't like I grew up in a big city, it was more like Ellendale."

Ginger's parents were Catherine and Karl Kinderman. She had one older brother, John.

She attended Humboldt High School, was active for three years in cheerleading and was a Page 1 Editor for the school newspaper.

At age 12 Ginger babysat the children of Hall of Fame Vikings Coach Bud Grant.

During her youth, Ginger and family traveled all around the United States. Her dad, Karl, worked for Northwest Airlines where he received free travel passes. She and her

brother saw many cities.

Ginger and her husband Jerry celebrated 55 years of marriage in September.

"We met through friends," Ginger said. "It was a double blind date."

Together they raised four girls, Cathy, Christine, Carrie and Carlie. They were all baptized, confirmed and were married at First Lutheran Church in Ellendale.

When the girls were small, Ginger stayed home and did child care. "We had a regular little pre-school," she joked. "It was fun."

What are Ginger's plans for retirement? She and Jerry hope to visit daughter Carrie in Arizona and do some traveling.

"It was a good career working 38 years in Ellendale," Ginger said. "A great town and great people."

www.mainstreetdentalclinics.com



Main Street Dental Clinics

comfortable dentistry

Less than excited about your visit to the dentist?
Relax. It's Main Street Dental.

Rochester (507) 536-7700 3110 Wellner Dr NE, Rochester, MN 55906	Mankato (507) 720-0250 287 St Andrews Dr #100, Mankato, MN 56001	Blooming Prairie (507) 583-2141 405 Main St E, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917	Owatonna (507) 455-1000 1170 E Frontage Rd, Owatonna, MN 56060	New Richland (507) 463-0502 132 Broadway Ave N, New Richland, MN 56072
---	---	--	---	---

LERBERG'S

CAR WASH & COIN LAUNDRY

Full line of cardio, free weights, power racks, dumbbells, barbells, & circuit training machines!

Touchless Wash and Self Serve

FITNESS CENTER & TANNING

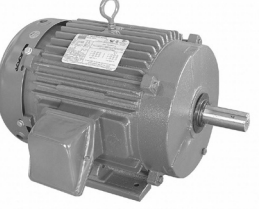
24 HOURS

507-684-2471

118 5th Avenue West
Ellendale, MN 56026

RUSS NELSON MOTOR SHOP

Electric Motor Repair and Replacement



601 Dutton Drive
Ellendale, MN
507-473-0513
russnelson1941@gmail.com

WHEN IT COMES TO CROP INSURANCE, THERE IS ONE THING AMERICANA INSURANCE WON'T DO...

We won't shovel manure, but then again you probably know someone that will.

MPCI
Hail | Fire | Wind | Replant



Call us Today!
507-377-2000
Albert Lea
507-801-1100
Wells
507-684-2314
Ellendale
www.americanainsurance.com



Be careful!

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM FRAUD!



Phone scams tend to make promises and threats, and they even can pretend to be grandchildren. Don't answer calls that you are not familiar with, even if they appear to be local.

- Beware of "send money to get money" request
- Don't give personal information to unfamiliar callers
- When in doubt, hang up and call the business yourself

ARCADIAN BANK

COMMUNITY OWNED. COMMUNITY FOCUSED.

ALBERT LEA 507-373-1945 HARTLAND 507-845-2233
FREEBORN 507-863-2371 www.arcadian.bank
Member FDIC NMLS 554275

OBITUARIES

Brook Spurgeon

Brooke Elsa Spurgeon, age 42, died Thursday, Feb. 22, 2024 at her home in Ellendale, MN. A Funeral Service will be held Saturday, March 2, 2024 at 11 a.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Meriden (2782 SW 92nd Ave., Meriden, MN 56093) with Pastor Billi Jo Wicks officiating. Burial will be in LeSueur River Lutheran Cemetery in rural New Richland, MN. Visitation will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Meriden on Friday, March 1, 2024 from 4-7 p.m., and will continue one hour prior to the service at the church on Saturday. Please see www.nasinecft.com to leave online condolences.

****In Lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials to Rilyn Spurgeon's Education Fund****

Brooke was born June 3, 1981, the eldest daughter of John W. and Linda A. (Cornelius) Olson in Albert Lea, MN. She grew up on the family farm in rural Ellendale, with her brother Bud and sister Bobbi-Jo; and after her high school graduation from NRHEG, the class of 1999, she moved into Ellendale. Her infectious smile and fierce independence (and the occasional cuss word or five), were such a part of her that you can't have one without the other. After high school, she worked several years in Owatonna at Jostens. She was united in marriage to Matt Spurgeon in 2008 and to this union came Rilyn, and Brooke became the proudest momma around. She enjoyed giving her brother Bud a "bush-wacker" and anyone else in her vicinity. She loved her wild adventures on the water with her sister Bobbi Jo. (Hey, if you know, you know).



Brook Spurgeon

Brooke is survived by her daughter Rilyn Spurgeon of Ellendale, Rilyn's father Matt Spurgeon of Owatonna; her parents: John (Jenelle) Olson of Ellendale, Linda (Jerry) Seeger of Morristown, MN; brother: Christopher "Bud" Olson (Emily Colonna) of Ellendale, sister Bobbi-Jo (Brandon) Nesseth of Owatonna; nieces and nephews: John, Katie, Josie and Nora Olson; Evan Karsten and Lilly Nesseth; step-siblings: Mindy (Wes) Jimenez, Stacy Johnson and Samantha Johnson; Shane (Amanda) Miller and their son James, Alex Seeger, Kalley (Caleb) Gresetth, Kadey Seeger; maternal grandparents: Eugene and Berniece Cornelius of Ellendale; uncles and aunts: Raymond Olson of Ellendale, Jeanette Schwartz of Waterville; Jeff (Julie) Cornelius, Pam (Brian) Muri, all of Geneva, Sue (Dennis) Wehr of Waterville; along with cousins and their families.

Brooke was preceded in death by her paternal grandparents Bill and Hazel Olson, aunt Elsa Olson, and nephew Alex Karsten.

Adam L. Finseth

Adam Loren Finseth, aged 40, of Savage, tragically passed away in the line of duty on February 18, 2024.

Adam was born in Faribault, MN, on March 12, 1983 to parents Brad and Brenda, the oldest of two children. Shortly after Adam's sister Amber was born, they moved to Rochester, MN. Even from the start of Adam's life, he was a daredevil! He was extremely strong willed and would never take "no" for an answer. He could truly do it all. He would go deer tracking with his dad through the woods, snowboard, play soccer, baseball, hockey and was even a life-guard. While playing baseball one day with his friends, he got struck in the nose, breaking it. But, of course, that didn't stop him for a second. All he cared about was being a pitcher for the next game!

Adam found his calling in high school when his friend got into an accident while snowboarding together. Adam didn't hesitate for a second to be there and care for his friend. He made sure to be there every step of the way and continued to check on his friend during his recovery. Once Adam had graduated from high school, he decided to go to technical school. He found that it wasn't for him at the time and promptly joined the Army.

Adam joined the Army during a difficult time, shortly after 9/11 had taken place. He completed two tours in Iraq, spending 12 months during his first tour and 15 months on his second tour. He achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant and became a squad leader. He was incredibly brave and courageous during both tours. He was a true leader that always made sure to protect his soldiers and made everyone feel strong too.

Right before Adam left for his first deployment, he met the love of his life, Tara. They met at Adam's going-

away party, but that didn't stop their love from growing. While Adam was in Iraq, he made sure to email Tara as often as he could. And when Adam came home from his deployment, they officially started dating. They spent much of their time traveling between Minnesota and Kentucky to be together as much as possible, but it wasn't long before Adam left to complete his second tour in Iraq. They weren't able to see each other for 10 months, but continued to stay in contact through email and mailing a journal back and forth to each other. And the second Adam returned home, he proposed!

Adam and Tara got married on July 24, 2009, just eight months after Adam came home from his second tour in Iraq. They started to build their lives together in Savage, purchasing a home and adding their beloved pets, Harley and Dwight, to their family. Four years later, they were blessed with their two beautiful children, Liam and Nora, truly the light of both of their lives. Adam was the best father and husband anyone could ask for. There are no words to express the love and dedication Adam had for Tara. His beautiful brown eyes and warm embraces melted her heart every day and his constant reminders of his love will be deeply missed. He was her soul mate.

When Adam wasn't working, he could be found spending time with Tara, Liam and Nora, attending school and sports activities, doing house and yard work, helping the neighbors, keeping in touch with all of his lifelong friends, working out, enjoying a soak in the hot tub with a cigar and good glass of bourbon and spending time outdoors and on the water. He always looked forward to the family vacations, as it allowed them time away to decompress and explore new places together. Recently, Adam and Tara took a cruise

with their children and good friends to Aruba, where they spent their honeymoon in 2009 to share this beautiful place with them. He especially loved visiting the BWCA since he was a child and recently started sharing this special place with his own children. He enjoyed taking the family and their dog Rosie out to the Minnesota Horse and Hunt Club to share his love of hunting with them. Just this winter, he introduced his son and daughter to snowboarding! The dedication to his family extended into his work as well.

Shortly after getting married, Adam earned his Fire Science and Paramedic degrees. He served time with Allina and North Memorial as a street medic and earned his first firefighter-paramedic job with the Lacrosse Fire Department in 2014. He then continued his career with the Hastings Fire Department in August 2014 through May 2015. He joined the Hastings Fire Department in August of 2015. Adam also dedicated six years of his time to the Savage Fire Department while working on the Hastings and Burnsville Fire Departments. Adam earned his dream job with the Burnsville Fire Department in February 2019, where he planned to finish his fire fighter-paramedic career. He was so incredibly proud to be a part of the team and continue his love for helping others in his work there. Adam always had the first in, last out mentality. He made sure to check in on all of his teammates at the department and was very active in the Health and Wellness committee. He was truly selfless, always making sure everyone else was healthy and strong while constantly also working on himself. He was quite proud of his ability to "keep up with the young guys" as he would say. Adam was also very involved in the ice and water rescue training programs with the department. It didn't take long for



Adam L. Finseth

Adam to join the SWAT team in Burnsville as one of their two SWAT medics. This is where he truly excelled, as it filled his military void. He loved his work and, although he was very humble about all his accomplishments, he was truly so proud. He is a hero to his entire community.

Adam truly brought a light to everyone's lives. His immense caring and loving attitude left an impact on this world, although he would never admit to it!

Left to cherish his memory is his wife, Tara; children Liam and Nora; parents, Brad and Brenda; sister, Amber (Austin) Smith; nephews, Jude and Leon and many other loving relatives, in-laws, nieces, nephew and friends.

Adam is greeted in Heaven by his grandparents and great-grandparents, and Army friend, Sgt. Adam Kohlhaas.

In lieu of flowers, please visit www.lsls.org/benevolent-fund for memorial information.

Ballard-Sunder Funeral & Cremation proudly serves the Finseth family.

Matz Roofing

"We've Got You Covered"

Troy Matz, Owner

Shingles Flat Roofs All Roof Repairs

Serving the Southern Minnesota area for over 30 Years!

Waseca, Owatonna, Faribault and Austin Surrounding Areas
Over 30 year of experience! No payment until completely satisfied!

License
#BC747490

507-838-2254



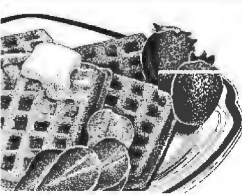
FARMERS INSURANCE

Thad Tuttle

420 N Cedar Ave
Owatonna, MN 56060

office 507-451-1168
ttuttle1@farmersagent.com

MN Producer LIC 40835753



DADS All You Care to Eat!
BELGIAN WAFFLES

serving waffles, sausages, flavored syrups and beverage

Saturday, March 2 9 A.M. to NOON

Members will be pre-selling tickets or they will also be available at the door for \$10.00. Children 5 and under eat free.

Pontoppidan Lutheran Church
96571 SW 75th St. • Ellendale, MN

Carry-Outs Available!

OIL CHANGE SPECIAL
OIL CHANGE SPECIAL
OIL CHANGE SPECIAL

Marthaler Honda
of Albert Lea



Cheapest
oil change
special in
town!

\$59.99
for full synthetic
with a tire rotation

507-373-2341
2114 E Main St
Albert Lea, MN
marthalerhonda.com

Home of the \$59.99 full synthetic oil change - up to 5 quarts

Lindell R. Motley

Lindell Ray Motley, 77 of New Richland, MN passed away on February 21, 2024. Ray was born in Carrollton, IL on May 14, 1946 to Leo Motley and Ruth (Garner) McBride.

After completing his education in Roadhouse, IL, Ray was drafted into the US Army and served his country with dedication, continuing his connection with his Army buddies throughout the years. Upon returning home in 1969, he met the love of his life, Lorna Besser, and together they built a life filled with love and companionship. Their marriage on July 28, 1970, one day before Lorna's birthday, was a testament to his thoughtful nature and his commitment to their shared journey, and Lorna's wish not to share her birthday with their anniversary and forcing

Ray to purchase two gifts to celebrate instead of a shared gift to celebrate both occasions. In 1975 they decided to return and settle down in New Richland, MN. Ray and Lorna spent countless summers on Leech Lake in Walker, MN, where he indulged in his passion for fishing, and together they enjoyed spending time on their houseboat with family and friends.

Ray had a remarkable devotion to his family, finding great joy in spending time with his nieces and nephews. He had a sweet tooth and a love for card games, particularly enjoying a round of Crazy 8s at their kitchen table, though victory often eluded him. Throughout his 42 years as a truck driver, Ray found joy in the open road, relishing the camaraderie of his fellow drivers and the simple moments of coffee and

conversation that marked the beginning of his day. He and Lorna shared a special bond both on and off the road, with Lorna joining him on his travels following her retirement, making each mile a little sweeter with her culinary creations.

Ray will be lovingly remembered by his wife, Lorna of 53 years; siblings, Jacqueline, Carlyn, and Barbara; several generations of nieces and nephews; and his loving pups, Molly and Buddy.

Ray was preceded in death by his step-son, Larry Smith Jr. and parents Leo Motley and Ruth (Garner) McBride.

A funeral service was held on Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at St. Peter Lutheran Church in New Richland, MN; Pastor Scott Williams officiated. Interment is at St. Peter Cemetery in New Richland, MN.

In honoring Ray's memory, let us reflect on the legacy of a man who lived with kindness, loyalty, and unwavering love for those who were



Lindell Motley

fortunate enough to know him. His presence will be deeply missed, but his kind and gentle spirit will live on in the hearts of all who had the privilege of calling him friend and family.

LOGIX INSULATED CONCRETE FORMS
Your Local Distributor
EAGLE CONCRETE
DIVISION OF WASECA SAND & GRAVEL, INC.
13113-315th Ave. • Waseca, MN 56093
507-835-5150
Also Available: Concrete pumping, rebar, ready mix concrete, landscape rock.

Bayview Freeborn FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES
"We can cross this bridge together"
bayviewfuneral@gmail.com
507-373-4330 • 1415 Hwy. 13 N. • Albert Lea
Locally Organized, Owned & Operated since 1939

TGWET GREG WILMES EXTERIORS
COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL
NEW CONSTRUCTION • REMODELING
SHINGLES, STEEL, RUBBER ROOFING
VINYL, STEEL, & CEMENT BOARD SIDING
WINDOWS & DOORS: INSULATION, SHEETROCK
ALL FLOORING: CONCRETE, PATIOS, DECKS
SEAMLESS GUTTERS & GUTTER PROTECTION SYSTEMS
CERTAINTED® CLAIMS SPECIALIST
GREG WILMES EXTERIORS LLC
BUILDING CONTRACTOR #BC793885
GREGWILMESROOFING.NET
GREGWILMESROOFING@GMAIL.COM
(507) 202-7070

Get your news in the Star Eagle
e-mail steagle@hickorytech.net

OLSON EXCAVATING
GPS Controlled
Drain Tile Installation
Open Ditch Clean Cut
Backhoe/Dozer/Skidloader
Concrete And Tree Removal
Rock, Gravel, & Dirt Hauling
Chainsawing & Stump Grinding
Snow Removal & Sanding
Brandon Flatness, Owner » shop 507-845-2440 cell 507-383-2008

Advanced Funeral Planning
Andrew Schwarz
Licensed Preplanning Consultant
It is a sincere act of love.
It relieves the burden of making arrangements at a most difficult time, enabling family & friends to better support each other's sorrows.
It provides comfort to the family that final wishes are respected.
It allows the funeral to focus on the living who are left to deal with their grief and loss.
It is capable of relieving the financial burden for family members.
It can make it easier for those we love.
BONNERUP FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES
Albert Lea • New Richland • Ellendale
217 West Division Street • New Richland, MN 56072
Phone: (507) 465-8015 • www.BonnerupFuneralService.com

Sesquicentennial, Century farm apps due March 4

Minnesota Farm Bureau's Sesquicentennial Farm program will honor Minnesota families who have owned their farms for at least 150 years. The Sesquicentennial Recognition Program began in 2008. The program recognizes family farms according to the following qualifications:

1) The farm must be at least 150 years old this year (2024) according to the abstract of title, land patent, original deed, county land records, court file in registration proceedings or other authentic land records. Please do not send originals or copies of records.

2) Your family must have owned the farm for 150 years or more. "Family" is defined as parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, first cousins and direct in-laws (father, mother, brother, sister, daughter, son-in-law).

3) Continuous residence on

farm is not required, but ownership must be continuous.

4) The farm should consist of 50 or more acres, and currently be involved in agricultural production.

The Century Farm program recognizes family farms according to the same qualifications as the Sesquicentennial, except that the farm must be at least 100 years (2024) old and must have been owned by the family for 100 years.

A commemorative certificate signed by the Governor of Minnesota, the Commissioner of Agriculture of Minnesota and the Minnesota Farm Bureau President will be awarded to qualifying families, along with an outdoor sign signifying Sesquicentennial Farm recognition. The Century Farm families will receive a commemorative certificate that will be signed by the Governor of Minnesota, the Pres-

ident of the board of the Minnesota State Fair, and the President of Minnesota Farm Bureau, along with an outdoor sign signifying Century Farm recognition.

Applications are available for either the Sesquicentennial or Century Farm recognition by contacting the Regional Farm Bureau Office at: 634 West Bridge Street, Owatonna, 55060, maryjo.schoenfeld@fbmn.org or calling the Regional Farm Bureau office at 507-455-0745. Applications are also available on the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation website, www.fbmn.org. Click on "In Action" across the top of the website. Deadline for application is March 4. Previously recognized families should not reapply.

Century Farms are not automatically recognized as Sesquicentennial Farms. Families must apply to receive Sesquicentennial Farm recognition. County Farm

Bureaus are encouraged to work with county agriculture societies and county fair boards on local recognition of recipients. Recipients will be announced at the beginning of June.

Minnesota Farm Bureau - Farmers - Families - Food is comprised of 78 local Farm Bureau associations across Minnesota. Members make their views known to political leaders, state government officials, special interest groups and the general public. Programs for young farmers and ranchers develop leadership skills and improve farm management. Promotion and Education Committee members work with programs such as Ag in the Classroom and safety education for children. Join Farm Bureau today and support efforts to serve as an advocate for rural Minnesota. www.fbmn.org

Geneva City Council

The City of Geneva met in a regular session on Tuesday, January 9, 2024. The meeting was called to order by Deputy Mayor Taff Worrell at 7 p.m. at the Geneva Community Center. Present were Council members Phillips, Bartsch, and Wayne along with Clerk Tufte, Treasurer Mattson, Fire Chief Boswell and Maintenance Jim Beenken. Mayor Bailey was absent. There were no guests.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Phillips/Wayne moved to approve the Minutes and Agenda from previous meeting. Motion carried.

Beenken reported on the results from the Minnesota Department of Health on the quarterly water monitoring. He shared that the results were satisfactory.

Chief Boswell indicated that the

pumper truck was slated for repairs. He further mentioned that the department is soon going to need new turnout gear with air packs and the cost could exceed \$100,000. Tufte to reach out to our grant writer to determine if we could look into a grant through FEMA for this gear. Boswell also shared that the fire department doors are not working properly and may need to be replaced or repaired. He will work with Geneva Lumber on materials and will line up the labor to have this project taken care of.

The Audit is in process and hoping for completion early 2024.

Motion by Phillips/Wayne to approve the renewal of the Ordinance Enforcement Contract with the Albert Lea Police Department. Motion carried.

Motion by Bartsch/Phillips to ap-

prove the Resolution for the Active Transportation Grant. Motion carried.

Motion by Phillips/Wayne to approve the Resolution for the League of Minnesota City Navigation Grant. Motion carried.

Motion by Phillips/Wayne to authorize the change from the original four-year contract with Empire Pipe pursuant to Engineer Bienfang's recommendations. Motion carried.

Tufte updated the Council on the upcoming Elections in 2024, with the first one set for March 5th. She indicated that she has had a number of residents reach out indicating they would like to be an Election Judge. Tufte has scheduled a training meeting with the potential election judges to go over details of required training and details of elections. Motion by Wayne/Bartsch to approve the slate

of names for Election Judges. Motion carried. Further motion by Bartsch/Wayne to approve a pay of \$20.00 per hour for Election Judge and Head Judge pay for the 2024 Election. Motion carried. It was noted by Tufte that the PNP Election in March is reimbursed by the State for expenses pertaining to the PNP Election, including costs for Judges and materials.

No Financial Report given at this time due to final expenses coming in for year end. Mattson will give a report at the January meeting.

Motion by Phillips/Bartsch to approve the Bills Payable. Motion carried. Motion by Wayne/Bartsch to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Valentine's Day Cards



Rick Christenson of God's Blessings in Wells visited the 2nd grade class at the NRHEG elementary school in Ellendale on February 13. The students signed hundreds of Valentine's Day cards that were donated by God's Blessings, so each resident at Whispering Oak Place and the New Richland Care Center would receive several cards. The kids also made cards of their own to share with the residents.



Members of the NRHEG School Board were thanked for their service in observance of February as Minnesota's school board appreciation month. Board members are: Loren Schoenrock, Pat Theuer, Rick Schultz, Aaron Phillips, Terri Engel, Amy Ihrke, Rich Mueller.

School from Page 1

Grant Berg described the idea as a "slippery slope," suggesting that, even if there were no direct repercussions for missed events, team members would be likely to experience indirect consequences—for example, less developed skills because of missed practices leading to less play time during games.

After discussing the question a bit longer, board members decided not to take any action, but for each to do his or her own research on the question and give deep consideration toward a possible future vote.

Whiteside also took about half an hour of the meeting to summarize what she sees as a quandary for the Panther Preschool program. Whiteside pointed out that the community education program's two preschool teachers—one located at each site—supervise more than 80 students ages 3 and 4 who attend between 4 and 12 hours of schooling each week.

Parents of preschoolers pay to have their children take part in the program with a certain number of "scholarships" offered to families for whom the cost would be a hardship. Whiteside explained that the pay for the preschool teachers has been "pretty much a break-even prospect," with the income from tuition and grant-based

scholarships.

This has led, however, to a disparity of nearly \$10 an hour between the wages of the preschool instructors and the average wage paid to staff teaching students in kindergarten through senior high under their master agreement.

Whiteside praised preschool teachers Elizabeth and Grace Nelson, commenting that it would be a tremendous loss to the district if the two—who happen to be sisters—should be drawn away by the prospect of higher wages.

After summarizing her points, Whiteside requested that the board consider finding a way to pay the preschool instructors at the same level as other teachers.

This question, too, was taken under advisement; no action occurred during the Feb. 20 meeting.

The prospect of a third difficult question was raised by a resolution recommended to the board by district superintendent Michael Meihak. Meihak was unable to attend the meeting, but asked board members to vote on a resolution meant to open the possibility of future reductions in school staff.

No names or programs were provided; the resolution simply met certain requirements to pave the way for possible future reductions. Board members commented that supplemental funds offered by state and federal agencies in response to the Covid pandemic are no longer available, possibly leading to a need to reduce spending. They passed the requested resolution, mentioning that further dis-

cussion on the topic will occur during an upcoming work session.

During his report to the board, elementary principal Craig Kopetzki observed that absences have been on the rise, with 64 students gone from his site on Feb. 20. He also described a recent successful "Kindness Campaign" which included a visit from the Austin Bruins hockey team. A "kindness tree" is now on display at the elementary site where everyone has been encouraged to post positive statements. Finally, he told school board members that the annual "Green Eggs and Ham" breakfast held during the first week in March is already sold out.

Secondary principal Berg reported that Snow Week had been successful at his site. He mentioned that students have completed registration for the classes they plan to take during the 2024-25 school year and that a master schedule of classes is being constructed based on that information. He told board members the National Honor Society is sponsoring a blood drive on Friday, March 15. Berg also mentioned that the secondary site is looking at developing a peer tutoring program centered around helping students with their math skills.

District Teaching and Learning coordinator Jason Toupen told board members that ACCESS testing for students whose first language is something other than English will take place in March, as will certain statewide Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs) at various levels.



NASINEC

Funeral Home & Crematory

- New in 2022, one-level facility
- On-site crematory
- Pre-need insurance agent
- Dedicated staff including two full-time morticians
- everything you need!

789 Business Park Drive Wells, MN 56097
507-553-3124 • info@nasinecfn.com

Professions In Pork

Experience It For Yourself

EST. 1991

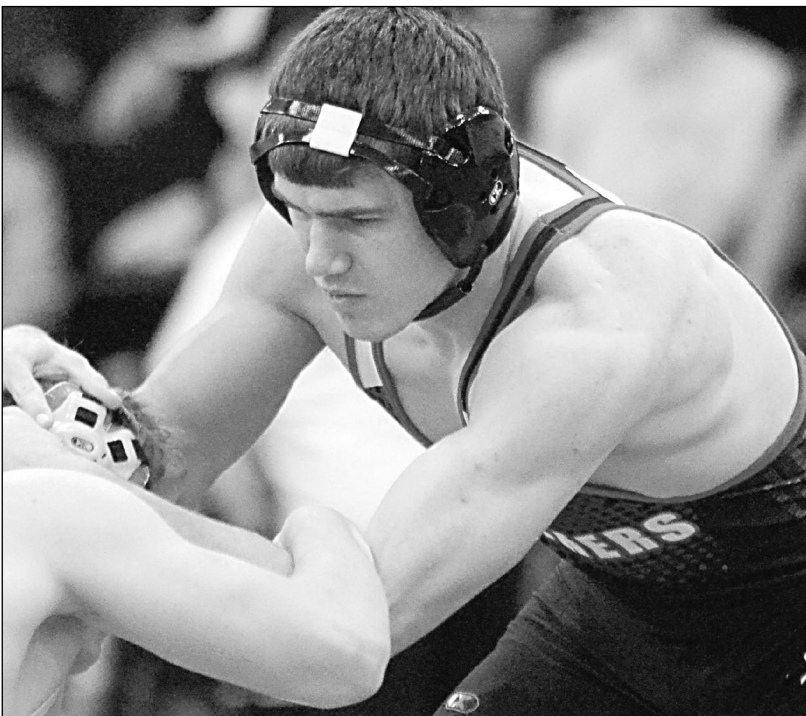
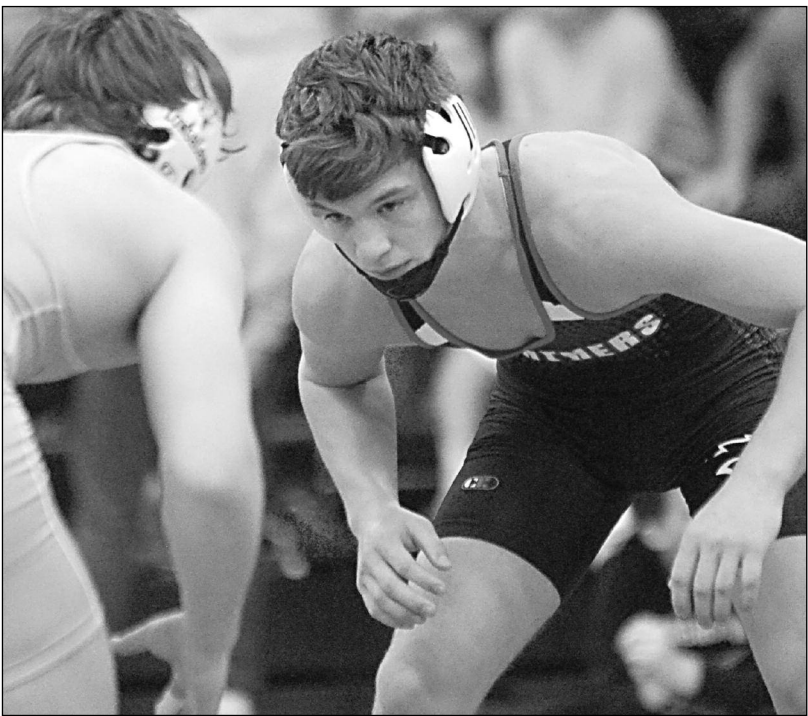
Wakefield Pork

INCORPORATED

Check Out Wakefield Pork

On Indeed, Facebook

or call 507-237-5581



ON TO STATE — NRHEG’S representatives in the 2024 state high school wrestling tournament are, from left, Annabelle Petsinger, Ryan Schlaak and George Roesler. Star Eagle file photos

Roesler, Schlaak to join Petsinger at state

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The Minnesota high school wrestling season wraps up this week with the state tournament at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul.

The NRHEG Panthers are again represented.

Senior George Roesler and freshman Ryan Schlaak advanced out of the Section 2A individual tournament Saturday at Blue Earth, earning a trip to state. They'll be joined by senior Annabelle Petsinger, who earlier qualified for state.

The Panthers had a fine day in the

section meet, with a total of 11 placewinners.

The biggest highlights, though, belonged to Roesler and Schlaak.

"We are so happy for Ryan Schlaak and George Roesler," said NRHEG coach Shawn Larson.

Roesler, the Panthers' most consistent wrestler this season, captured the section championship at 172 pounds.

"George has been solid all season, and his dominant performance today was impressive," said Larson.

"George looks like he is ready to try to make a run at the state tournament. It is nice to see George get the reward for all of the work he has put in."

Schlaak was the runner-up at 160.

"Ryan had a great day, earning his way to the finals with two pins," said Larson. "In the finals, he lost by major decision to Tommy Elwood of Medford. Losing to Tommy in the way that Ryan did was actually respectable, and Ryan definitely deserved his berth into the state tournament, the way he was aggressive and attacking today."

Deven Parpart missed the state tournament by one place, finishing

"We are hoping that we can represent the area well."
— NRHEG wrestling coach Shawn Larson

third at 139. Placing fourth were Parker Bunn, 133; Reese Routh, 145; Harbor Cromwell, 152; and Cole Hutchens, 215.

Dakota Schlaak was fifth at 114, Wyatt Larson fifth at 189. Charlie Tuft, 107, finished sixth, as did Jace Ihrke at 285.

Roesler will take a 25-7 record to state. His opening round opponent is freshman Lucas Fuhr of Redwood Valley, the Section 3A runner-up who owns a season record of 14-1.

Ryan Schlaak, 22-14, meets Section 5A champion Jett Olson of Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunberg in the

first round at state. Olson, a junior, has a record of 38-6.

Petsinger, a returning state champion, finished second in section competition at 142 and will take a 16-1 record to state, where her opening-round opponent will be Brianna Berg, a senior from Thief River Falls who sports a record of 31-11.

Roesler and Schlaak will wrestle in the opening round Friday, with Petsinger competing Saturday.

"It makes for an exciting week ahead for us," said Larson. "We are hoping that we can represent the area well."



RACE TO THE BALL — Waseca’s Callie Dufault (1) and NRHEG’s Faith Nielsen (2) compete for a loose ball in Monday’s sub-section opener in New Richland. Star Eagle photo by Jim Lutgens

Lady Panthers top Waseca in sub-section tourney opener

Second-seeded NRHEG advances to face St. Clair

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

NRHEG girls' basketball coach Onika Peterson's favorite part of the season is here.

"You have to love playoff time," said Peterson. "Survive and advance."

That's what Peterson's Panthers did Monday night.

NRHEG, seeded second in the south sub-section of Section 2AA, pulled away in the second half and defeated seventh-seeded Waseca 55-39.

The Panthers improved to 19-7 and advanced to face sixth-seeded St. Clair Thursday, Feb. 29 at 7:45 p.m. at Mankato East High School. Waseca finished 7-20 under first-year head coach Anthony Jackson.

"It is nice to get the first win in the playoffs under our belt," said Peterson. "Waseca is a tough defensive team and they caused us some issues throughout the night. We are excited to get back to Mankato East on Thursday for the second round against St. Clair. It should hopefully be a fun and competitive game."

Monday's game was competitive. The Panthers threatened to pull away more than once in the first half, but the Bluejays wouldn't let it happen. NRHEG led 24-20 at halftime.

"New Richland played a nice game," said Jackson. "The three-point shooting of New Richland in the second half allowed them to pull away. The girls fought

"You have to love playoff time. Survive and advance."
— NRHEG coach Onika Peterson

hard and put some game pressure on New Richland."

Camryn VanMaldeghem topped the scoring charts for NRHEG with 13 points to go along with eight rebounds, two assists and a steal. Presley Nielsen reached double digits with 10 points, adding three rebounds and three steals while taking a charge.

Others: Faith Nielsen 7P, 4R, 2A, 2S; Quinn VanMaldeghem 8P, 10R, 2A, 2S; Izley Boerner 4P, 3R, 1A; Clara Buendorf 1R: Hallie Schultz 8P, 5R, 4A, 1 blocked shot; Kyrie OLSON 5P, 2R.

Addie Wieseler led Waseca with 11 points. Grace Guritz scored nine, Mia Kanewischer seven.

The winner of Thursday's game with St. Clair plays Monday, March 4 against No. 1 seed Maple River or No. 4 WEM at 7:45 p.m. at Mankato East. The winner of that game plays for the section championship and state tournament berth Friday, March 8 at 7:45 p.m. at Minnesota State-Mankato.

NRHEG boys continue to battle despite two losses

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The NRHEG boys' basketball team has not stopped battling.

But it gets tough sometimes with so many players missing from the lineup.

The depleted Panthers lost twice last week, 79-57 at LeSueur-Henderson Thursday, two days after a 78-53 setback at St. Clair.

The Panthers kept it close early against a solid LSH team, but the Giants went on a 12-0 run to go up 28-13. Led by the hot shooting of starter Greyson Schaefer and Levin Kitzer off the bench, NRHEG went on a 20-10 run of its own to pull within 38-33 at halftime.

"After the break, we slipped a little bit early, but kept it to within 10 or 12 points until around 5 minutes left in the game," said NRHEG coach Dan Schmidt.

Then the Giants went on another run to put it away.

Schaefer led the Panthers in scoring with 16 points, including an outstanding 5-for-8 from the three-point line. Will Tuttle added 15 points on 6-for-7 shooting from the

"It was easily our best effort since the end of January, even if the score didn't show it."
— NRHEG coach Dan Schmidt

field and 3-for-5 from the free-throw line; he added five rebounds. Jared Lee and Jase Knudson had seven points apiece, Kitzer six. Jackson Chrz and Sam Olson each had three.

Grant Adams of LSH led all scorers with 21 points, followed by Logan Freeney with 20.

After struggling the last month putting the ball in the basket, the Panthers were looking to get some sort of offensive rhythm in a non-conference game at St. Clair. They found it, but lost 78-53.

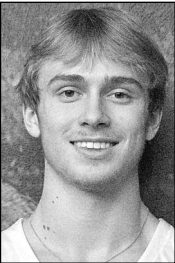
"It was easily our best effort since the end of January, even if the score didn't show it," said Coach Schmidt. "We really battled for three-fourths of the game, trailing by 10-15 points until about 5 minutes to go. St Clair went on a little run at that point, and

put it away."

Schmidt said the Panthers received another great effort from Tuttle, who totaled 22 points and eight rebounds, and a great effort from Lee, who scored 13 points and hit a couple three-pointers.

Jackson Chrz added eight points and five rebounds. Hudson Chrz added four points, Aaden Hanna and Brooks Gilliland two each each. Olson and Jordan Brouwers added a free throw each.

The Panthers, 3-23, are off while awaiting seeding for the sub-section playoffs starting Tuesday, March 5.



Tuttle



STEPPING UP — Grayson Schaefer (13) is one of several players to step up after injuries have plagued the NRHEG boys' basketball team. Photo by Jody Wayne

In Brief

Blood Drive at Farmamerica 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 1

Visit Farmamerica.org to book an appointment to donate blood during the March 1 donation event at Farmamerica's main building, 7367 360th Ave, rural Waseca. For more information, contact Farmamerica at (507) 835-2052.

Beginners' Sourdough Workshop 5 pm March 7 at New Richland Library

The New Richland Friends of the Library are hosting a Sourdough Workshop for beginners at the New Richland Library, March 7 at 5 p.m. The workshop will cover everything one needs to know to get started making sourdough bread, from starter maintenance to recipes.

Free Trees for Kids sign up due March 15

The Waseca County 4-H Ambassadors are acquiring free trees for children to plant on Earth Day, April 22. Parents are encouraged to sign up for trees at neighborhood-forest.org/parent-registration. Trees will be available for pickup on April 18.

Ellendale Pie and Bake Sale March 30th

A pie and bake sale will be held March 30 from 8:30 a.m. until gone at the Ellendale Community Building to raise money for the Ellendale Gather Place Mural Project.

Book Blizzard reading challenge January through February

The Annual "Book Blizzard" adult reading challenge at the New Richland library begins in January and continues through February. Every book read or audiobook listened to gives one entry into a drawing for three Grand Prizes, as well as weekly chances to pick from the "mystery box." Find more information and sign up at the New Richland Public Library.

Grand Marshal nominations sought for New Richland

The New Richland Farm and City Days committee has asked the Star Eagle to collect nominations for the 2024 Grand Marshal. Give us a call, e-mail, or mail your suggestions to the following places:

- Email**
steagle@hickorytech.net
Mail
Star Eagle, P.O. Box 248, New Richland, 56072
Phone
507-463-8112
Text
507-461-5283

Naeve Alumni and Nurses' Club to Offer Scholarships

The Naeve Alumni and Nurses' Club has nursing scholarships available to area graduating seniors, or persons who have successfully completed one year of education in an RN program. Each scholarship is in the amount of \$1,000.00.

Applications are available from school counselors, principals or by contacting Rosie Rasmussen at (507)-377-3683 or (Cell phone 507-391-0404) and also by e-mail: jrassen@charter.net

Factors to be considered by the scholarship committee are academics, community involvement and demonstrated leadership.

All completed applications must be received by April 1, 2024 to be considered and processed.

Waldorf Veterans Memorial Fund Drive

Donations are requested to support the construction of the Waldorf Veterans Memorial. Checks written to WVMP Fund Drive can be mailed to WVMP Fund Drive; Judy Joecks, treasurer; P.O. Box 55; Waldorf, MN 56091. Questions can be directed to Charlie Barnes at (763) 286-2246.

Waseca County Stagecoach History

Judy Joecks is compiling a history of stagecoach routes in Waseca County. She would appreciate hearing from anyone who has information regarding stagecoach trails or stops. (507) 317-1345.

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

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

NR city boards 2024 regular meeting schedule

- City Council, 2nd and 4th Monday, 6:30 p.m., City Hall HRA, 3rd Wednesday, 5 p.m., Royal Villa
- Planning Commission, 3rd Thursday, 6:30 p.m., City Hall
- EDA, 4th Monday, 4:30 p.m., City Hall
- Care Center Advisory Board, 4th Monday, 5 p.m., NRCC
- Historic Preservation, 4th Monday, 1 p.m., City Hall
- Fire Department Relief Association, 1st Thursday, 9 p.m., Fire Hall/Anex
- Tree Board, May 5 and Sept. 16, 6:30 p.m., City Hall

MVAC fix up loan program is available

There is a shortage of available housing in the United States, and many of those homes are old or middle aged.

The number of single-family homes available for sale has been declining for years, but especially since the 2007-09 housing crisis. In many areas, people who own their homes are not selling and there are not enough new homes to keep up with the demand.

The number of housing units in the United States increased between 1980 and 2022, but so did the population of the U.S. When accounting for population, the number of housing units was essentially stagnant over this period, according to a Congressional Research Service July 2023 summary.

One result of this stagnation is that the housing stock – the available housing units in the country – is aging. The median age of an owner-occupied house in Minnesota is 39 years. Many of these older homes require updates and rehab.

Minnesota Valley Action Council can help. MVAC has a Fix Up Loan program to help homeowners make updates and repairs to owner-occupied homes to keep them safe and energy efficient.

Projects may include (but are not limited to) porches and decks, bathroom or kitchen remodels, basement refinishing, furnace,

boilers, water heaters and central air conditioning, windows and siding, insulation, roofs, or property regrading, septic system repairs or replacement, radon mitigation, accessibility improvements, garages, home additions, internal/attached accessory dwelling unit construction.

A Fix Up Home Improvement Loan features fixed interest rates and longer repayment terms to make the loans more affordable than typical home-repair loans. Loan amounts can range from \$2,000 to \$75,000, and there is no prepayment penalty. Did you just complete a project? Some homeowners can finance projects that have already been started, or that were completed within 120 days of applying for the program.

The loan program has secured and unsecured loan options and requires little to no equity in the home. There are income limits for some projects, but there are no income limits for energy or accessibility loans. Homeowners must meet a minimum credit score, and the home must be owner-occupied.

MVAC is a private, nonprofit Community Action Agency serving Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca, and Watonwan Counties since 1965. For more information, contact MVAC at 1-507-345-6822 or www.mnvac.org.

NRHEG school board member Pat Theuer

By RACHAEL LOVERINK
Staff Writer

After 24 years of working for the NRHEG district, retired staff member Pat Theuer envisioned a smooth transition to the school board. And Theuer had good instincts, with one notable exception.

"I had no idea as to the learning curve it would present," Theuer said. "I appreciate those that I get to work with on the board as I learn from them also."

Now, well into her second year on the board, it is her main objective to help the NRHEG school systems remain vital and do so in a way that is fiscally responsible. And as her term continues, this former student data management coordinator and administrative assistant is ready for any twists and turns that come her way.

"The training and the learning opportunities provided for board members surprised me," she said. "There is always more to learn, but I did have responsibilities and opportunities while employed by the district that have helped me as a board member, especially when it comes to student achievement."

Evidently, this seasoned staffer has found a way to put her experience to good use. And the board isn't complaining either.

"I enjoyed my job with the district, especially the people I worked with and the students," she said. "I wanted to stay involved, and being a board member is one important way I can still be involved and contribute. I started thinking about serving on the school board my last year of employment with the district. I am honored to have been chosen to be a part of the experience."

With such a brief transitional period from her previous duties, all feels right with the world. She just couldn't envision not having some sort of connection to the NRHEG school district.

"We have an advantage in being a smaller district," she said. "I have always said that there is a family feel to the district."

In her opinion, what gives the district an edge is the smaller class sizes. This is especially pivotal from Pre-K through the second grade, and she will do her utmost to keep it that way.



NRHEG school board members Pat Theuer and Amy Ihrke.

"My four children graduated from NRHEG and now my grandchildren attend," she said. "I want to see this district keep moving forward and succeed the best that it can."

While artificial intelligence is a great asset, she feels it must be used in an appropriate manner. Technology as a whole invites a whole plethora of things to watch out for.

"We all will need to stay 'on top' of what is happening in this fast-paced world," she said. "Not only to be sure that our students and staff are safe, but that they are provided with the tools they need to manage what is out there."

She continued, "My main goal is to make sure that our students have the experiences and the education they need to be able to go out and function in today's world. Obtaining and retaining quality staff is also a top priority."

Aside from school board meetings, this retired lady enjoys helping out on the homestead as needed. Then, whenever she can, she squeezes in time with family.

"I grew up in Blooming Prairie and moved to a farm outside of Ellendale 44 years ago when I married my husband," she said. "My oldest son and his family live on the home farm a quarter

mile down the road. I like small town, rural living."

She also holds dear the lovely educational years of her youth. Human interaction meant everything to this very active and involved student, and apparently it still does.

"I have a group of eight friends that I still get together with every year to reminisce and do something special," she said. "We started doing this a few years out of high school and have carried on the tradition since."

Her grandkids also know what it's like to be treasured beyond measure. Whenever she can, she passes on words of wisdom to each one of them, no matter how simple.

"Listening and communication goes a long way," she said. "While we might not always agree with what people are saying, we need to respect other points of view and reasoning."

She concluded, "I do miss the students and the staff as well as the work I did. There was never a dull moment. There was always something new to learn or discover. You just never knew what a day would bring. I have always believed an element of fun is necessary to create a good working environment and we had plenty of that!"

Ihrke 'all in' with school board

By RACHAEL LOVERINK
Staff Writer

Amy Ihrke is all in. All in as an NRHEG School Board member, that is!

Nevertheless, Ihrke's newest endeavor is anything but ordinary.

"I just do what brings me joy and go with it," Ihrke said. "I've loved everything I've been a part of and try my best to put my all or at least all I have at that moment into whatever it is I'm a part of. I don't know how to do it any other way."

Fully understanding how the school system works -- that's more than a day's work; she knows this.

"There is so much more than paying taxes and voting for school board members and referendums," she said. "It's exciting to be a part of something bigger."

This newbie takes comfort in the fact that she can lean on her fellow board members. And to lighten the load a little more, she hasn't set any specific goals for herself. She's just taking things one meeting at a time.

"It's nice to come together and hear the different perspectives, then be able to meld them together to make the best choice for the district," she said. "I also thank all those who have taken the extra time and patience to explain things to me that didn't quite make sense."

It's been a rollercoaster ride of sorts, as she learns all the nuances that exist within a school district. The composition of the policies, the district budgets, state laws and regulations -- they are ever-changing. And as such, she has a newfound appreciation for all those who play a part in the school's logistics.

"Some of the members are long-time members and understand the school like the back of their hand," she said. "Others have worked in the districts and understand the rules and regulations better."

As you'd imagine, her school board binder is chock-full of notes. She's just that kind of lady; always wanting to do her best whenever possible.

Bottom line: She doesn't want to live in a ghost town.

"I just want good things in my community," she said. "I think we can be proud of what our community still has and it's important to keep these organizations going. I think deep down, I just love where I live. I love the people, the conversations and the waves hello. All of

it." It may be a bit basic for some, but the personal greetings she receives at the local grocery store and gas station truly warm her soul. End of story.

"This is where my roots are; this is what I know and love," she said. "I'm comfortable here and so are my children. I like that I know a majority of people in the community and they look out for their neighbors and vice versa. It's just a cozy place to belong."

It's really simple actually: her ancestors grew up here, she and her kids attended NRHEG and on it goes. So this kind of Panther passion for the New Richland area kind of comes with the territory.

"I think the roots of where we come from give us the energy and passions for continuing that for our future generations," she said. "I'm not the only member who is into their second, third or beyond generation that has attended school in one of the four communities. So, with all of us having different experiences and different qualities, hopefully we can all make good choices for our school, students and tax payers."

That being said, she feels really blessed. From here on out, Ihrke sees things going only one way: up.

"My overall goal is to just make sure we are creating a successful environment that gives all of our students the tools, knowledge and confidence they need to be successful after high school and make a successful life for themselves," she said. "I want kids to have experiences and meet people who will influence them and inspire them to be their best. And at this age, how does a student know what they like if they don't have the opportunity to experience it?"

She continued, "If we have an energetic well-oiled team to care for our students, we will in turn have a student body who is happy and energized. It's like a domino effect and in turn, creates an environment that is productive!"

And as stated by Ihrke, the board's actions impact more than just the students. Their families are also affected by even the smallest of decisions.

"I think our board's true focus is on equal opportunities to all of our students," she said. "To give them all the opportunities to be great! To create the best experience for them

"This is where my roots are; this is what I know and love."
— Amy Ihrke

and their families. To keep taxes at bay while still being sure our district is in the best shape it can be! We have some of the best staff who are also focused on providing a genuine educational experience and aim for better things each year."

However, as a rural district, the resources needed to keep up with the state's larger districts just aren't there. That doesn't seem to impede her though.

Quite the opposite: she makes even more strides to explore, redesign and think outside the box in the hopes of creating new programs and classes.

"I think the advantage of a smaller district is that it is a community," she said. "The support from all sides can be felt and hopefully a sense of community pride is something that is instilled in all of us. I think NRHEG has stepped up to the plate; multiple teachers and administration have taken on new roles as instructors to be sure that kids have these opportunities."

NRHEG as a whole has been lucky enough to be pretty financially stable. And for that, Ihrke is grateful.

"We haven't had to ask for an operating referendum from our tax payers," she said. "Thus, so far we have been financially responsible in making good choices for our school while still trying to stay current with the up-and-coming technological and skilled trade jobs."

With all that shared responsibility resting on her shoulders, she also successfully juggles being a mom, grandma and a full-time funeral director for Bonnerup in Albert Lea.

"I refuse to miss special events and try to make it to everything I possibly can," she said. "I just like to be involved. I like to know how things work. I think that, if I could afford to be a full-time volunteer, that is what my true joy would be!"

Those dreams aside, she counts her lucky stars that she is able to provide solace for those grieving at her workplace.

"I love being that someone who walks people through this journey, guides them through this next chapter and creates a service that will give space to bid farewell and honor their loved one," she said. "Those

are some big shoes, and what an honor to be chosen as the person and funeral home to be able to do that."

Prior to her funeral director days, she also served for 10 years on the New Richland City Council. Plus, she served on her church council and the NRHEG PTO.

"I've enjoyed volunteering my time with my children's events, PTO, Afterprom, Farm and City Days -- just because I want good things for them," she said. "If we have a great city, we have a great school. If we have a great school, we have great communities. And since we live here we should have a little fun...or a lot of fun!"

Things may get a bit hectic at times, but at the end of the day, she finds peace in the farmhouse she grew up in. Suzie and Champ are her two trusty canine sidekicks, and she just absolutely loves it when her grandson comes for a visit.

The fact that she's a school board member, well, that's just the cherry on top for an already lovely life.

"It's exciting to be a part of something bigger," she said. "Hopefully, we can all help to make decisions for generations to come and make strides to send the kids into the real world to become successful in their dreams."

Star Eagle

is for sale at these locations:



- CLARKS GROVE - Gopher Stop
- ELLENDALE - Casey's Lerberg's
- GENEVA - Geneva Bar & Grill
- HARTLAND - Nielsen's Conoco
- NEW RICHLAND - Wagner Foods Casey's
- WASECA - Casey's Kwik Trip North
- HOPE - Krause Feeds & Supplies

And At The Star Eagle Office

Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Shown here is a picture of the snow and fallen trees that I woke up to one April morning. Another is a picture of my granddaughter, Emma holding a nice northern, she is not afraid of holding a fish.



Time is marching on, is winter really done?

I can't remember having a winter quite as mild as this. That statement alone may be the one that brings on a March blizzard. The old saying: in like a lamb, out like a lion or vice versa, may hold true in this case. I have been around long enough to know that, as a true Minnesotan, I am always waiting for the proverbial "other shoe to drop."

In past years I have headed to the cabin in early to mid-April, going to bed and waking up to eight inches of newly fallen snow. This tends to leave me with trust issues when it comes to spring. One year I awoke not only to snow, but to fallen trees and mayhem. The trusty old wood stove is our only source of heat and sometimes it is a little hard to get going because the wood can be damp. Birch bark is like kerosene, and the best fire starter that you can have. We have six acres of mostly birch and pine with a few maples thrown in for balance. With that being said, we never run out of firewood or fire starter, for that matter.

Having no running water or electricity that cannot support any kind of electric heater still makes going to the cabin a rustic adventure. Drilling a well and having an electrician running power to the cabin would be



Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl
Outdoors Writer

costly. All-in-all, I kind of like it that way. A little hardship makes me feel closer to the days when our ancestors had to cope with things. Our electricity runs off a 100 ft. drop cord which gives us the electricity that we need. Once we got access to electricity, we then had lights, radio and TV, which in all reality, made things pretty comfortable. Up until about ten years ago, we had propane lanterns and oil lamps to light up the cabin. TV ran off of a car battery until they took the access to free TV away.

I purchased an HDTV antenna, which I put on the roof. This now gets more stations than the three we once did. When I am at the cabin, I usually don't watch much TV. I have the radio on and for entertainment, I watch the wildlife. You never know when, on any given day, you will spot wildlife right out in front of the cabin. My wife has a knack for spot-

ting different critters. One day while standing at the sink, she asked what kind of animal was staring at her from a tree outside the window. I looked out to see a martin staring back at me. Another time while she was sitting on the deck, she called me to come out and tell her what kind of critter had come out from under the cabin and was walking down the trail into the woods. It was a badger; I knew that there was a den in the area, but I had never seen it before. One thing about badgers, they are not afraid to be seen by humans.

For years, we had the camper near the cabin. We still used it from time to time. My wife, Jean, would make breakfast in the camper and bring it to the cabin if there were a number of us. If my son Brad and his son Dylan were there, Dylan loved eating in the camper. I'd guess that he felt comfortable there, mainly because he

had spent time with us at the camper when we had it at Tetonka Lake near Waterville.

When Dylan was younger, he would always bring up things from the past. He remembered things that I can't believe he recalled. In that respect, he is a lot like his grandpa. It is good to remember the things that made you happy as a youth and I did what I could to make outdoors memories for my sons and grandsons. My granddaughters both enjoy fishing, but not to the extent of their brother and cousins do.

Emma really likes to go fishing, and Ava will fish, but loses interest pretty quickly, making her a typical kid. This isn't anything new; all youth are not interested in the same things.

Until next time: With the nice weather that we are now experiencing, getting outdoors has been a lot easier to do. If the weather holds, I plan on heading up north earlier than I have since we bought our little piece of heaven "up north."

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

Attend the Church of your Choice!

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

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

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

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Pamela Jensen
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship

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

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 - 9 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 - 10:30 a.m. Worship
Tuesday - Council meeting (First Tuesday)
Wednesday - 7 p.m. Confirmation

WEST FREEBORN LUTHERAN
Hartland, Minnesota
Rev. Marcia Pedersen
Sunday - 9 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 - 8 a.m. Worship; Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.

MANCHESTER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
Manchester, Minnesota
Pastor Phillip K. Lepak
Sunday - 10 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
Dr. Kristen Venne, Pastor
Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship
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.vibrantlifefg.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 - 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. Food shelf is open every Thursday from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

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

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

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

HOLLANDALE REFORMED
Rev. Neal Ooms

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
Minnesota Lake, Minnesota

Rev. Michael Matthews, pastor
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship

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

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

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Freedom Township
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

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

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN
Wilton Township
Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship (summer) and 10:30 a.m. (winter)

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

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

LOOKING BACK

100 Years Back - 1924

- The New Richland Independents swamped the Ellendale basketball team at Ellendale last Friday 43 to 6. Morrissey was the leading basket tosser for New Richland. He led the field with eleven field goals. Carl Jeddelloh was next with five baskets.
- There was a surprise party at the Frank Hansen home Monday evening in honor of their teacher, Miss Hazel McColley, it being her birthday. Forty-five were present and all had a merry time.
- A.W. Bethke has had a radio installed at his home. Now they will be able to hear a lot of interesting entertainment and music that they would otherwise miss.
- Marino Zarth went to Otisco Monday morning to drive back his car which he was compelled to leave there in a heavy snow storm several weeks ago.
- The Ellendale Eagle chronicles the sale of the Wm. Erdmann farm to Carl J. Anderson this week as a new record in shrinkage of land values. The place was sold for \$90 an acre with fair improvements.
- The following were entertained at supper at the home of Mr. and Mrs. G.S. Jacobson last Sunday: Mr. and Mrs. A.B. Babcock and family, Mr. and Mrs. C.O. Klingbell and son, Rolland, and Mrs. E.J. Paulsen.
- Miss Katie Kroeger of Waseca returned to her home Monday afternoon after visiting over Sunday at the Fred Proehl and John Kroeger home.
- Messrs R.C. Christensen and Leo Betchwars were over to Waldorf from New Richland Monday on telephone business.
- Mrs. Jellife taught Miss O'Brien's classes last Thursday, the latter having sprained her ankle.

76 Years Back - 1948

- Postal Inspector Austin, with the assistance of local postal employees, Saturday apprehended three youths who were charged with shooting up rural mail boxes in the area west of New Richland. In all 22 boxes were shot up. There is to be no prosecution in the case, authorities believing the youths have learned a lesson from the experience.
- Helmer Hendrickson has been named president; Merle Michaelson, vice president; Edgar Peterson, secretary; and Oscar J. Johnson, treasurer of the Hartland Creamery Association. Other directors are Ole Morstad, Art Horpedahl and Oscar Worke.
- Mr. and Mrs. I.C. Hinkley of Freeborn and Mr. and Mrs. Lester Young and children of Albert Lea were Sunday afternoon visitors at the Sam Jacobson home.
- Saturday afternoon Mrs. Lloyd Poplow, Mrs. Ike Bunting, Miss Florence Krueger, Mrs. Ray Wakefield, Mrs. Otto Neuman, Mrs. Helmen Grotsen and Mrs. Andrew Loken attended a valentine party at school Dist. No. 94.
- Miss Olga Hanson, Mrs. Mina Youngberg, Mrs. Alfred Youngberg and Merton visited Thursday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Glenn Youngberg, Charles and Carol Ann.
- Mrs. A.M. Pierce visited from Thursday evening until Friday with her daughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Bennett Johnson and family.
- Mr. and Mrs. M.H. Weydert and son, Clifford, Mr. and Mrs. Armin Becker and daughter, Vickie, and Fred Berg were visitors at the James Rohde home at Waseca Saturday evening.

50 Years Back - 1974

- Sunday dinner guests at the Jake Longnecker home to help Mark celebrate his eleventh birthday were Mr. and Mrs. Frank Schwab of Janesville, Joe Longnecker of Mankato, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Meagher and Jack Meagher of Madison Lake.
- Mr. and Mrs. George Tukua, Mrs. Tom Lenort, Ronda and Jason of Clarks Grove, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Supalla, Sharra and Raquel of New Richland were Sunday dinner and afternoon guest of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Buchholtz at Goodhue. Roger Buchholtz, George Tukua and Mike Supalla's birthdays were celebrated.
- Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Sigurdson, Mrs. Tom Baas of Albert Lea, Mr. and Mrs. Merle Bartness and family of Ellendale were afternoon luncheon guests of Mrs. Minnie Bartness. Also stopping in the morning was her daughter, Mrs. Elvern Holland.
- On Tuesday and Wednesday Mrs. Wallace Demmer and Mrs. Nora Brekke were among those who attended the Freeborn county Extension Retreat at the Curtiss Hotel in Minneapolis.
- Daryl and Diane Wenzel, students at Mankato State College, spent the weekend at the home of their parents, the Lester Wenzels.
- Mr. and Mrs. George Jacobson, Sharon, Janice and Sandi were Sunday dinner and supper guests at the Ivan Hanson-Erma Mohs home at Owatonna.
- Weekend guests at the Herb Prescher home were Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Kinlund of Mable, Dennis Prescher and Kathy Madson of Minneapolis, Bruce Prescher of Mankato State and Debbie Prescher of Rochester.

25 Years Back - 1999

Panther Wrestling Team To State Meet, First Time Ever



For the first time in the long history of high school wrestling, the NRHEG squad earned the right to enter the Minnesota State High School Wrestling competition when they captured the Section 2A title Saturday at Waterville. Members pictured celebrating their victory are from left, front: Robert Sanders, Shawn Ebnert, Mr. Weber, Mr. Cyr, Chris Werth, Anders Mattson, David Halbakken, Andrew Routh, Marlin Beckman, James Petsinger; middle: David Kuglin, Nathan Schlaak, Tony Schlaak, Dan Petsinger, Patrick Petsinger, Zach Jacobson; back: Kellen Utpadel, Rob Routh, Joe Moon, Eric Anderson, John Rathal, Justin Berg, Chris Olson, Krister Mattson and Jamie Harshman.

Compiled by Jessica Lutgens

**STATE BANK**
OF NEW RICHLAND
Since 1898 **507/465-3218**
P.O. Box 68
New Richland, MN 56072
Member FDIC

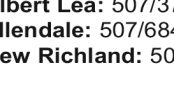
**WAGNER FOODS**
Phone 463-3717
Mon.-Sat., 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Bayview Freeborn**
FUNERAL HOME
"We can cross this bridge together."
373-4330 • 1415 Hwy. 13 N. • Albert Lea
Locally Organized, Owned & Operated since 1939

**BONNERUP**
FUNERAL SERVICE
Albert Lea: 507/373-2461
Ellendale: 507/684-2881
New Richland: 507/465-8015

**PIONEER**
Janike Seeds
Layne Janike
507-995-6627
layne.janike@plantpioneer.com

**New Richland Care Center**
Caring and Sharing Since 1975
312 1st St. N.E. (507) 465-3292 P.O. Box 477
New Richland, MN 56072-0477
www.newrichlandcarecenter.com

**BONNERUP**
FUNERAL SERVICE
www.bonnerupfuneralservice.com

**AGRO-ECONOMICS**
Mark Bernard
507-465-3707
121 3rd St. NE • New Richland, MN 56072
mbernardagro@gmail.com

**Thompson Sanitation**
Frank Thompson, Owner/Operator
Roll-off Dumpsters Available
108 W. Main Street • Clarks Grove, MN
(507)256-4370

Get your news in the Star Eagle
e-mail steagle@hickorytech.net



**It's not just a generator.
It's a power move.**

Receive a free 5-year warranty with qualifying purchase* - valued at \$535.

Call 855-984-8982 to schedule your free quote!

*Terms and Conditions apply.

GENERAC

Adorable F1 Golden Doodle Puppies looking for their forever home! Available at time of ad: 1 white female, 2 white males, 3 black males. Born 12/27/23, shots/de-worm on 02/09/24. Located in Hartland. Very well socialized. Call 507-383-5811.

Royal Villa has a subsidized one-bedroom apartment for rent to a qualified applicant. Call 507-463-8515 or stop by the office at 221 1st St NE, New Richland for an application. 50tfc

**WANTED TO BUY
WANTED:
ALL 1970S MOTORCYCLES**

Running or not. Titled or not. Will pick up. Cash in exchange. Sell now before prices fall. Call Dan at 612/720-2142

**Statewide
Advertising
ONLY
\$279
Call Today!
800/279-2979**

EXTENSION EDUCATORS, 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The University of Minnesota Extension is hiring Extension Educators, 4-H Youth Development. The positions are professional and academic appointments.

Full Time openings in the following Minnesota counties: Martin County (Fairmont), Murray/Nobles Counties (one position) (Slayton and Worthington), and Rock County (Luverne). Primary responsibilities are program development and delivery; volunteer systems support and management; program operations; and communications & reporting.

To access complete job descriptions and apply online, go to:
<https://z.umn.edu/EE4HYDPositions>
Application deadline is March 6, 2024. Projected start date is April 15, 2024- June 3, 2024
The U of M is an equal opportunity educator and employer.



Berlin Township Election

Chuck Crabtree
will be running for his 4th term as Supervisor for Berlin Township.
I would appreciate your vote.
Thank you for voting.
Election is March 12
5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Ellendale Community Building

LEGAL NOTICES

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

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of New Richland Township, County of Waseca, State of Minnesota, that the annual election of town officers and the Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024. In case of inclement weather, the meeting and election may be postponed until the third Tuesday in March, 2024.

POLLS WILL BE OPEN 5 P.M. TO 8 P.M.

To elect:

One (1) Supervisor - 3-Year term
One (1) Clerk - 2-Year term

The Board of Canvass will meet at 8:05 P.M. to certify the official Election results.
The annual Business Meeting will begin at 8:15 P.M.

Evan Berg
New Richland Township Clerk

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

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Bath Township, County of Freeborn, State of Minnesota, that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday March 12, 2024 at the Bath Town Hall at 29737 762nd Avenue, Clarks Grove. In case of inclement weather, the meeting and election may be postponed until March 19, 2024. If March 19 has inclement weather also, the meeting and election will be on Tuesday, March 26, 2024.

The Annual Meeting will commence at 4 P.M. to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law.

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

**One (1) Supervisor for a (3) year term
One (1) Clerk for a (2) year term**

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

Lisa Dunn
Bath Township Clerk

**Johnson
APARTMENTS**
507-456-9514
Operating in
Waseca, Steele,
Freeborn
Counties
johnsonrents.com

**Quality Clothing
Household Items
& much more!**
Must see to appreciate.

**LADY BUG
CONSIGNMENT SHOP**
Downtown New Richland

Summit Township
Tuesday, March 12, 2024
5pm to 8pm

Clerk
2yr Term
Vote for
One

☐ Andy Jewison

☐ Write in if any

Supervisor
3yr Term
Vote for
One

☐ Kevin Noble

☐ Write in if any

**NOTICE
Berlin Township Board Meeting
Monday, March 11
7:00 p.m. - Regular Meeting
Ellendale Comm. Bldg. (in the Board Room)
Helen Schmidt, Berlin Township Clerk**

Summit board meeting will be 7:00 PM on March 6th at the hall, due to the presidential primary on the 5th. This board will be on a Wednesday Instead of the usual Tuesday.

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING
& ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND
BOARD OF CANVASS MEETING**

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Berlin Township, County of Steele, State of Minnesota, that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024. In case of inclement weather the meeting and election may be postponed until the third Tuesday in March.

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

**ONE (1) SUPERVISOR for a 3 year term
ONE (1) CLERK for a 2 year term**

The Annual Meeting will commence at 8:15 P.M. to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law.

The Annual Election and Meeting will be held at the following location:
Ellendale Community Building

The Board of Canvass will meet on March 12, 2024 to certify the official election results.

Helen Schmidt
Berlin Township Clerk
February 8, 2024

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

Jensen
Heating, A/C,
& Plumbing
Geneva, MN
Dusty Olson,
Owner 507-383-3995

HOLLAND AUCTION
507-684-2955
www.hollandauction.com
Auctioneer:
Tracy Holland
Ellendale, MN
*Specializing in Farm Land, Farm Equipment,
Estate, Antiques, and Business Liquidations*
www.hollandauction.com

Insurance from the Best!
TROY THOMPSON
AGENCY, INC.
1330 W. Main, Albert Lea, MN
507-377-2882 fax 507-377-3301
troythompsonagency@gmail.com

Bayview Freeborn
FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES
"We can cross this bridge together"
373-4330 • 1415 Hwy. 13 N. • Albert Lea
Locally Organized, Owned & Operated since 1939

Hope
CREAMERY
9043 SW 37th Ave. • Hope, MN
507-684-2019

**INSURE CAREFULLY,
DREAM FEARLESSLY.**
CALL (507) 835-2770 FOR A
NO-OBLIGATION FREE QUOTE.
**AMERICAN FAMILY
INSURANCE**
Matthew R. Peltzinger Agency, LLC
Matthew Peltzinger, Agent
109 S. State Street, Waseca
MNRAgencyLLC.com
American Family Mutual Insurance Company, LLC
0000 American Family, Madison, WI 53703
000441 - Rev 11/15 00215 - 10/25/2041

Under New Ownership
POOLEY'S
SCRAP IRON
& Recycling, Inc.
NEW RICHLAND, MN
PH. 507-465-3789 FAX 507-465-3258
www.pooleyscrapiron.com
Formerly Central Trading & Recycling
Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:00pm.

JK ROUTH
CONTRACTING, LLC
• Demolition Site Work
• Pit Run • Screened Pit Run
• Concrete Removal
Jesse Routh
507-383-7892 cell
ELLENDALE, MN
Building contractor license # 20396072

Bohlen
Plumbing & Heating
324 N Broadway • New Richland
507-465-8376
TRANE
"It's Hard To Stop A Trane"
Email: bshlenph@hickorytech.net
www.bohlenplumbing.com

PANTHER
POWERHOUSE
24-Hour Gym Access
New Member signup by appointment
114 Broadway Ave. N.
Call or text (507)330-2345
Facebook address :
<https://www.facebook.com/PantherPowerHouseFitness>

ARO ACCOUNTING
Allyson Olson
cell 507-391-3738
allyson@aroaccounting.com
217 East Elm Ave, Waseca 507-391-3738 32718 State Hwy 13, Hartland 507-845-2763

Red Leaf Cafe
MONDAY-SATURDAY
8am-2pm
CLOSED SUNDAYS
104 Broadway Ave. S. • Downtown New Richland
507-465-8000

ARO ACCOUNTING

Allyson Olson
cell 507-391-3738
allyson@aroaccounting.com

Two locations to serve you
217 East Elm Ave, Waseca
507-391-3738
32718 State Hwy 13, Hartland
507-845-2763

George's
of Geneva
Supper Club



Where family and friends meet to eat!
AWESOME FOOD – Great Prices
Downtown Geneva
507-256-4501
Locally Owned & Operated

Doerhoefer, Miner,
Andrist & Arndt, P.A.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Certified Public Accountants Who
Understand Small Businesses
...Because We Are One

BLOOMING PRAIRIE 314 E Main St Bloomington, MN 55917 (507) 583-7528	NEW RICHLAND 133 N Broadway New Richland, MN 56072 (507) 465-8100	OWATONNA 685 West Bridge St. Suite 6 Owatonna, MN 55060 (507) 451-9136
---	---	---

• Fresh Meat • Quality Produce

WAGNER FOODS
"Your Local Hometown Grocer"

New Richland
463-3717
Mon.-Sat., 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Sunday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Tesch Service Center
EXPERT CAR CARE

Tires
Batteries
Lockout Service
Major Repairs
Automatic Car Wash
Computerized Alignment
Certified Towing and Recovery
Firestone
Bridgestone
AutoCare Center
7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Sat.
(507)-835-4610
321 W. Elm Ave. • Waseca

PIONEER

Janike Seeds

Layne Janike
507-995-6627
layne.janike@plantpioneer.com

Less Than Excited About
A Trip To The Dentist?

Relax. It's Main Street Dental.

Main Street Dental Clinics

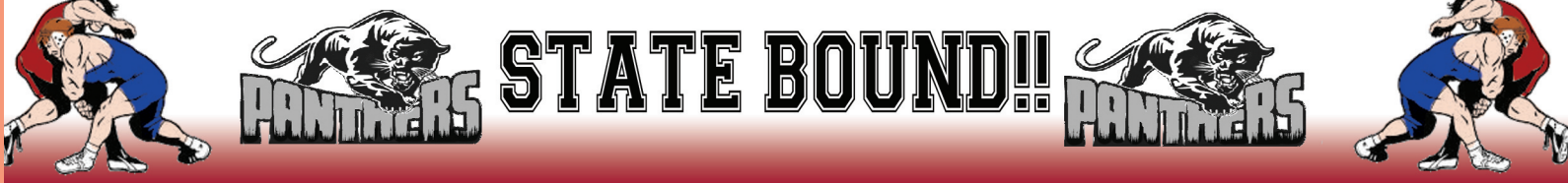
BLOOMING PRAIRIE • (507) 583-2141
405 East Main Street
MANKATO • (507) 720-0250
287 St. Andrews Drive, Suite 100
ROCHESTER • (507) 536-7700
3110 Wellner Drive NE
OWATONNA • (507) 455-1000
1170 East Frontage Road
NEW RICHLAND • (507) 463-0502
132 North Broadway
www.mainstreetdentalclinics.com

L&D

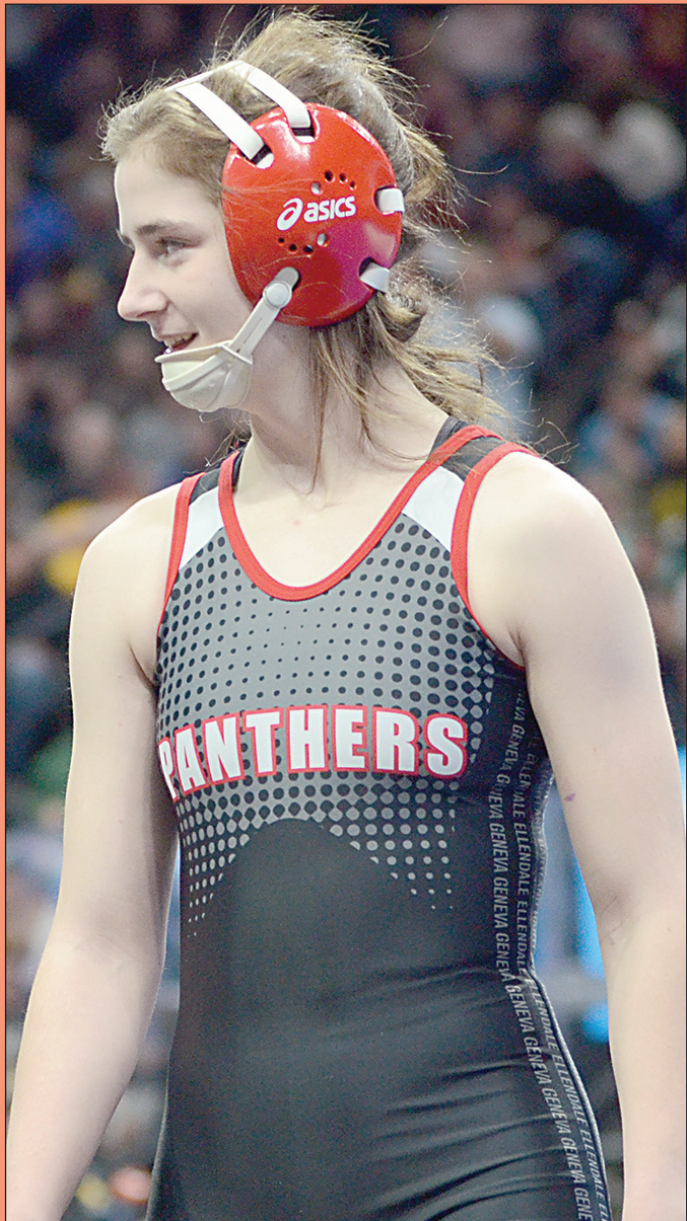
Ag Service

408 Broadway
Hartland, MN 56042
Call Us At:
1-507-845-2100
www.ld-ag.com

PANTHER WRESTLERS



Three NRHEG wrestlers qualified for the Minnesota State High School League State Tournament. They are, from left: Ryan Schlaak, George Roesler and Annabelle Petsinger.



Congratulations from these area businesses!!

AGRO-ECONOMICS

Mark Bernard
CERTIFIED
(507) 465-3707
121 3rd St. NE • New Richland, MN 56072

We PICK UP
cars and trucks.
We CLEAN UP
property.
We PAY
for metals...
and HAUL IT ALL.

misgen
800-358-4902 www.misgen.com
Used Car and Truck Parts • U-Pull and Full-Service
9-5 M-F, Closed Saturday & Sunday 12885 SW 72nd Ave., Ellendale, MN

Whispering Oak
Place

ASSISTED LIVING & MEMORY CARE

903 CALVERLY COURT
ELLENDALE, MN 56026
PHONE: 507-684-3026
WHISPERINGOAKPLACE.COM

New Richland Liquor Co.

New Richland Karl Proehl, Prop.
465-3552

Krause
Feeds &
Supplies

"We have it all!"
9352 SW 37th Ave • PO Box 86 • Hope, MN 56046
507-451-3043

MATTHEW R.
PETSINGER
AGENCY, LLC

Matthew Petsinger, Agent
Bus: (507) 835-2770
mpetsing@amfam.com
MRPAgencyLLC.com

AMERICAN FAMILY
INSURANCE

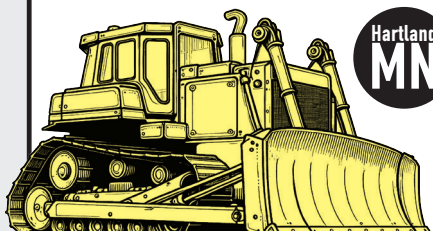
Radio Link Internet

www.RadioLinkInternet.com
507-417-4176
8162 SW 81st St., Ellendale, MN.

New Richland
Auto Repair, LLC

"For All Your Auto Repair Needs"
ISAAC KOESTAD
For All Your Auto Repair Needs ASE Call Us
246 3RD ST. NE • NEW RICHLAND • 463-3261

OLSON EXCAVATING



- * GPS Controlled
- * Drain Tile Installation
- * Open Ditch Clean Cut
- * Backhoe/Dozer/Skidloader
- * Concrete And Tree Removal
- * Rock, Gravel, & Dirt Hauling
- * Chainsawing & Stump Grinding
- * Snow Removal & Sanding

Brandon Flatness, Owner » shop 507-845-2440 cell 507-383-2008

Auto
Value

Parts Stores

- Tools
- Car Accessories
- and More!

707 South State St
Waseca, MN

507-835-3900

Bohlen
Plumbing & Heating



It's Hard To Stop A Trane.
324 N Broadway • New Richland 507-465-8376
Rick 507-402-6766 • James 507-475-2430