

Dad's Belgian Waffles at Pentecost Lutheran Church of Ellendale Saturday, March 7

There will be a Dad's Belgian Waffle Breakfast at the Pentecost Lutheran Church from 9-noon on Saturday, March 7. Cost is \$10, 3 yrs and under free. There will be waffles, sausage, juice, coffee and milk, and it's all you can eat.

Food Shelf Benefit at Ellendale United Methodist Church Sunday, March 8

There will be a food shelf benefit at the Ellendale United Methodist Church from 4:30-6:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 8. Free will donations and a build your own team hot.affle prices are \$5 tickets sold at the door or from food shelf volunteers.

4-H Bingo at the Waldorf Community Center March 8

The Waldorf Peppers 4-H Club will be holding a Free Bingo event at the Waldorf Community Center starting at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 8. Exciting prizes and homemade snacks.

Soil Water Conservation District (SWCD) 2026 Board Meeting March 12

The SWCD will be holding its monthly board meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 12. The meetings will be held at the SWCD office located at 800 North State Street - Room 4.

Waseca County Farm & City Luncheon at March 19

The county farm and city luncheon at FarmAmerica will begin at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 19 to acknowledge the hardworking individuals who continue to move our ag industry forward. Tickets are \$20 per person and must be purchased in advance at the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism. The deadline to purchase tickets is March 9. Must have a ticket to attend.

Albert Lea Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Luncheon Tuesday, March 24

Albert Lea Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Luncheon will be at noon on Tuesday, March 24 at the Freshman County Fairgrounds in the Fairlane Building. As part of the luncheon, the Chamber will recognize the 47th Freshman County Farm Family of the Year.

Annual FarmAmerica Meeting March 27

FarmAmerica will hold their annual members meeting at 1 p.m. on Friday, March 27. The public is welcome to attend to reflect on the past year and share updates on what FarmAmerica has been up to. Voting members are encouraged to attend and participate in the election of new board members. Please RSVP by calling 505-335-2052 or email info@farmamerica.org.

A word from The Word

Anyone who withholds kindness from a friend forfeits the fear of the Almighty.

John 6:14

Sportsmen's Club fish fry draws more than 200

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

More than 220 people attended a New Richland Area Sportsmen's Club fish fry at the New Richland City Hall the evening of Friday, Feb. 27.

Volunteers numbering 20 or more worked at every phase of the event, from frying and serving the fish to delivering additional protein to diners at their tables. Those enjoying the meal were asked to contribute a free-will donation.

According to Sportsmen's Club leadership, the event's focus was calling attention to the need to replace trout dying in unimproved numbers at the city park located on the shore of St. Olaf Lake. So far, 23 trout have died and been removed. To date, there have been replaced using funds supplied by the Sportsmen's Club.

Money taken in at the fish fry will be used toward replacing additional trout. Along with that, information was shared with members of the public, inviting them to "sponsor" individual trout and the cost of planting them.

The cost per trout is dependent on what type of trout is chosen based on variables that include donor choice as well as factors contributing to trout survival, including soil type, amount of sun, moisture levels and perhaps others.

Patrons who sponsor a trout will have their names placed on a plaque, and will be able to include a brief statement, perhaps memorializing a loved one or sending a message about the park or its trout.

Anyone interested in helping with the trout replacement efforts can learn more by calling the Sportsmen's Club at 307-475-1444.



BATTER UP - The New Richland Area Sportsmen's Club fish fry at the New Richland City Hall featured over 220 people on the evening of Feb. 27.
Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently



New Richland area resident Randy Lower retired on Dec. 28, 2025, after more than 40 years with the U.S. Postal Service.
Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

Former postmaster reviewing options now that he's retired

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

After more than 40 years with the U.S. Postal Service, Midland New Richland area resident Randy Lower retired on Dec. 28, 2025, finishing 20 years of service as the zip code's postmaster.

The son of farmers Orlan and Ruth, Randy still operates the small farm northeast of New Richland that has been in his family for more than a century, alongside his son Daniel. Randy graduated from New Richland High School in 1979 and, in addition to his work on the farm, took on some part-time jobs.

In 1985, he saw an ad in the New Richland Star advertising an open position at the post office. When he responded to indicate his interest, the first step was to take a required test. "And then you waited," he recalls. After a wait that seemed endless long in the 28-year-old job seeker, he received a letter inviting him to an interview with the postmaster at the time, Tom Bryson.

"I still remember what he said when I was hired," recalls Randy with a laugh. "Congratulations. You've just accepted a job that means you'll work every Saturday for the rest of your life."

In 1985, the staff of the New Richland post office consisted of the postmaster, two part-time clerks, and three route drivers. "Though nearly every detail of the job changed over the next few decades, when Randy retired in 2025 the staff list was almost identical except that there are now only two main drivers. Significantly, though, there are no longer postmasters in Hartland, Geneva, Ellendale and Hope; the Postal Service has made the supervision of those facilities part of the New Richland postmaster's job. Always while continuing to farm, Randy remained a part-time clerk in New Richland until 2003, when he

Lower continued on 2



The 2026 parade grand marshal is T.J. Anderson, from the Eustice clan.

Irish American Club celebrates St. Patty's

The Irish American Club of Southern Minnesota will be celebrating their 76th Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration at the Mill in Waseca on Saturday, March 14.

The day starts with music at 10 a.m., followed by a 10:30 a.m. mass and a Parade of Clans over to the Mill at noon.

Lunch will be served from noon-2 p.m. and will include selections such as Mulligan Stew, Russian egg rolls, corned beef and cabbage, hot dogs or burgers. From 2:30-2:40 p.m. will be Irish Rally at the Mill with the Irish Auction starting at 2:40 p.m.

From 4-5:30 p.m. there will be Irish Bingo and at 6 p.m. the Battle of the Clans will take place with the 7 p.m. Mass St. Patrick and Miss Irish Rose pageant. The Mill bar will remain open throughout the event and the Irish Music and entertainment provided by Rocky Boerke and Mariah Miller. Irish activities, crafts, and treats will also be for sale. Music afterwards provided by Jim "DJ Kory" Kozan.

NRHEG Elementary Olympics focus on sportsmanship

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

The NRHEG Elementary Olympics have been a tradition since physical education teacher Bruce Woldgren began them in 1994. Current play off teachers Beth Schoenrock and Wendy Schuler say they are pleased with this year's version of the event, and feel a sense of pride for having completed the observation-held every four years just like the international olympics-for the ninth time.

"It's been part of our district's elementary school experience for all the students ever all that time," points out Schoenrock, "the past 32 years."

The events begin with an opening ceremony which does what it can to mirror the inter-



RINGS OF FUN - Since 1994, the NRHEG Elementary Olympics have been a tradition for physical education students.

national event. Schoenrock constructed a "torch" complete with a tissue-paper flame and a concealed flashlight. When it was touched to a busy "candle" at the front of the gym, a shower of glitter and confetti provided a "flame."

During the Feb. 2 ceremony, students read an explanation of the symbolism in the olyn-

pic flag, as well as the motto and oath of athletes taking part in the competition. Classes of students are linked with various countries and provinces in carrying flags representing themselves, both a larger flag and then smaller, handmade ones each student has created. Countries re-

Olympics continued on 7



FenceLines

by Mark Bernard

Time may change me, but you can't trace time

The scurs and Weather Eye gave us glimpses of spring, then dashed our hopes with more snow. Now that meteorological spring has arrived, does Old Man Winter throw in the towel or does he let it freeze solid first? Starting Thursday, mostly sunny with a fair chance of evening rain. Highs in the low 50's with lows in the mid-30's. Mostly cloudy Friday with a good chance of rain. Highs in the upper 50's with lows in the mid-30's. Sunday, sunny with highs in the upper 50's and lows in the upper 30's. Mostly sunny on Monday with a slight chance of rain. Highs in the upper 50's with lows in the mid-40's. Tuesday, mostly cloudy with a good chance of rain. Highs in the upper 40's with lows in the upper teens. Mostly cloudy on Wednesday with highs in the mid-30's and lows in the low 20's. On the 5th, our daylight increases at three minutes per day. On the 7th, we'll see 11 hours and 30 minutes of daylight, about the same as we saw on October 5th. Daylight Saving Time arrives on March 8th. The normal high for the 8th is 35 and the normal low is 19. The scurs ask that you please bear with them. They have 16 clocks to change.

Yes indeed, it's our least favorite weekend of the year at the ranch. Daylight Saving (Losing) Time is back in full force on March 8th. Not only do we lose an hour of sleep, we're forced to get up and bumble around in the dark doing morning chores. It will take until April 10th for the sunrise to get back to 6:40 a.m., approximately where it was on March 7th. Fortunately, the daylight is increasing at a 3 minute per day clip. Still, the overall toll this time changing foolishness places on society is something we're well aware of yet have failed to change. Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it.

As we moved out of February, some are nervous about the direction our precip has been taking. It was well below what would be considered normal in New Richland and at the ranch. .27" of liquid equivalent precip in town with 3" of snow. At the ranch only .28" of liquid equivalent precipitation and 2.5" of snow. Normal for February, based on the last 30 year average, would be 1.2" of liquid equivalent precip and 10.8" of snow. The frost depth measured 13" at the SROC on February 23rd and was same on March 2nd. The promise of warmer temperatures and some rain should make short work of that.

The recent snow was representative of much of the snow we've received this winter. Typically when we get into late February and early March, our snow becomes wetter. The snow that fell on Saturday was anything but. It averaged about 5" around the area and when melted out, it only yielded about.04" of liquid equivalent precip per inch of snow. To put that in perspective, the

snow we receive in January usually melts out to around .07". By the next morning this recent snow had settled tremendously. By Sunday afternoon, the snow that looked like snowblower material had shrunk by about half. By Monday due to warmer temps and sublimation, 5" of snow had largely disappeared. This last snow didn't hit their tails, but the robins were back at the ranch on March 3rd. It's coming.

I decided a week ago last Saturday, given the forecast, that it would be wise to cover the daffodils and crocuses that had bravely emerged back on February 11th. Even though the low on the 14th was 8 above, the ground was only semi-frozen, so I wondered if it was really necessary. Several flower pots and a hanging sheep feeder later, the plants were safely covered. It was likely a good decision. The overnight low that Saturday night was 6 and the low Monday morning was 0. The plants can remain covered until this week's warm-up is in place. Even then, it's not a bad idea to keep the covers handy just in case. It wouldn't be the 1st time they've needed to be recovered. Might not be the last.

We got through shearing part 1 at the ranch on Saturday during the snowstorm. Luckily we'd heeded the forecast and had all the sheep locked inside to keep them dry. Wet sheep make everyone crabby, including the sheep. The shearer got through the brood ewes yet to lamb and they were a handful. They also sheared hard thanks to a sticky layer in the wool next to the skin on many of them. The blades won't glide easily and have to be more forcibly pushed through the wool. This while you're trying to hang onto an uncooperative 4-legged participant. We've got an encore performance scheduled for next weekend, God willing and the river don't rise.

This most recent snow was one a Corgi could definitely agree with. Belly deep, fluffy and evenly distributed, it was perfect to wander aimlessly without getting hung up. Poppy looked like a little train with that long body. Snow makes her coat softer. Even as dry as it was, this snowfall was no exception. Once the snow melts, however, it always reveals several "things" of interest for her to dawdle with, sniff at or roll in. Monday night I was working on this column while eating a few potato chips. Drawn to anyone who has food, Poppy sat down beside me. Within seconds my olfactory senses caught a whiff of what smelled like eau de cat poop. Sure enough Poppy must've rolled in something while we'd been filling the birdfeeders. I immediately took her out to the garage. With a brush and warm water. I cleaned the offending area, dried it with a towel, then took a whiff. It still smells!

See you next week...real good then.

Appreciate the meaning of home

Every snowfall spawns its own stories, and what they're like depends entirely on who you happen to talk to.

I had an obligation in Morton on Saturday morning. If "Morton" doesn't mean much to you, I was headed to a teacher gathering being held in the conference rooms at the hotel associated with Jackpot Junction Casino. Almost two hours away.

I had signed up to be a presenter at the event months ago—probably November or so—before I realized it was the same weekend as the Sleigh and Cutter parade. I regretted I would be missing the excitement back home, but a commitment is a commitment—even when the weather forecast begins to prophesy doom—well, okay—up to 6 inches of snow.

I left home by 5 a.m., arriving about 7. It was dark, but I had my good friend Google Maps, and we made it there without concern. As I walked inside the conference center, I hoped aloud that the forecasters were mistaken about what was coming.

My training session was located in a room without windows, which allowed everything to con-



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

tinue as usual. It was only after a break when we all got a look outside that we realized doom had arrived. Though it hadn't even been snowing when I came inside about 2 hours before, now the parking lot looked like a level mogul course: Rather than vehicles, the space seemed filled with mounds of snow.

So now that we all had seen the snow, the side comments changed from "when will the snow start" to "when will it stop." The 20 or so of us in our session set our hopes on predictions it would stop by about 1 p.m.—roughly the same time we were scheduled to be done for the day.

That hope was realized. After our session, I packed together my presentation materials and looked outside. There were no daisies or butterflies, but at least I could see beyond the boundaries of the

parking lot.

I made my way outside, shuffled through the snow between the rows of vehicles, and succeeded in identifying my car. As the four inches (It seemed like eight.) of snow waere brushed off my windows, it fell on top of the snow on the ground. For some reason, the snow clung to the hem of my slacks, putting a decorative little ring around my ankles.

After I had brushed all the windows clear, I climbed gratefully into the driver seat.

The first part of the drive, I have to say, was enough to inspire high blood pressure. The first few two-lane local roads had not been plowed. The only indicators of the driving lanes were ruts in the snow left by other drivers. I was uncertain where the side of the road ended and the ditch began, and when I met drivers coming

from the opposite direction, snow would be thrown up—white airborne snow above an all-white roadway.

Fortunately, only a few people were foolish or desperate enough to be out, so although nerve-wracking, it was bearable. Also fortunately, things improved vastly as I continued eastward. Not that there was any less snow, but the plows had been on the road and I was no longer uncertain whether I was driving in my own lane.

When I got to New Ulm, I got onto Highway 14 and began to feel mostly comfortable, though salty road spray on my windshield was definitely an irritation. I realized just how much road spray I had experienced when I arrived home and pushed at my door. It took a bit of pushing to open it, because my car was now an icy zebra. All along its sides were strips of grey road ice. My wheel wells were also so full of snow, I could hear a rubbing sound when I turned the front wheels.

It felt good to get inside the house, good to sit on the couch, good to close my eyes and appreciate the meaning of "home."

Living for wrestling matches like these

I had the pleasure of attending the Minnesota State High School League State Tournament last week in Minneapolis. It was a pleasure, as always. Special thank you to Matthew Petsinger for allowing me the courtesy to share his suite with him during the long in-between periods of the matches.

This year I only attended the first day in-person. I photographed all of the 10 wrestlers from Waseca County that day. I intended to come back Saturday, but the weather and the long driving, and the fact that I had another photographer to take photos for me, meant I could watch the matches from my couch at home.

The first day was very exciting as



Just a Thought...

by Eli Lutgens

a fan of NRHEG and Waseca wrestling. Every wrestler won.

I was disappointed that Brady Murphy of WEM-JWP was injured. Watching him wrestle at the past two state tournaments was really fun and I was looking forward to seeing if he could make a push for a state title this year.

For NRHEG, I look forward to

seeing if Ryan Schlaak can make that same jump next year after finishing 4th this year. And just as excited to see Grahm Jacobson's and Owen Schlaaks' growth.

For Waseca, I was blown away this year. I expected improvement from last year, but I was incredibly proud and happily surprised to see Matthew Veroeven capture the state

title at the heavyweight class in AA. His turnaround in the semifinals, down 7-1 in the final period, to win 15-12 in overtime was described to me via a phone call from the Steele County Times Sports Editor Johnnie Phillips. "It was the best wrestling match I have ever seen," Phillips told me. "I live for matches like this."

It was incredible.

Congratulations, young man. I was yelling and cheering for you during that final match Saturday.

And congratulations to every wrestler who competed in this year's state tournament. As Blain Nelson informs me, it's incredibly hard to even make the state tournament.

Child's History of Waseca County

CHAPTER VII, 1855. More settlers in March – Robbins brothers come with Chris Scott – "Bill" Robbins lost on the prairie, out two days and nights without food – A shooting affray

The latter part of March, after enduring all sorts of hardships, Chris Scott returned from his trip to La Crosse for provisions. With him came two brothers, George Robbins and Wm. Robbins, young and single men from Canada. They made claims on the east side of the river, opposite what was afterwards the village of Wilton, and where once was located a paper town called Waterlynn. Wm. Robbins, about this time, had a little experience in being lost on the prairie. He was employed to drive a team and take S.P. Child to Mankato for surgical treatment. That was in April. When they ar-

rived at the Mansfield and Callens' cabin, they learned that the water was so high in the Le Sueur river that they could not cross it to go on to Mankato. So it was arranged that Child and the team should remain with Mansfield and Callens until the waters should subside, and then go to Mankato, and Robbins should at once return to the Sutlief settlement on foot and report the condition of affairs. He left there early in the morning, having with him a rifle and a small supply of ammunition. It seems that he went carelessly along, shooting at birds, until well along in the afternoon, when it occurred to him that he ought to be near home. He looked in every direction, but could see no object that looked like anything he had ever seen before. But he was on a wagon trail and thought that that would lead him home. He

had thoughtlessly expended all his ammunition, and night found him upon the open prairie without food, fuel, or even a blanket. He dared not move about much after dark for fear he would lose the wagon track. The next morning he was totally at a loss as to which direction, and again he spent the night upon the prairie, without food or fire. Fortunately on the third day he met some government land surveyors on their way to Mankato who, like good Samaritans, took pity on him, fed and warmed him, and carried him back

to the Mansfield and Callens' place. It seems that when he left that place he took an old wagon trail leading south, instead of taking the Sutlief track leading east. Three days afterwards, he returned to our settlement somewhat wiser than when he left.

As soon as the waters subsided so that the Le Sueur could be forded, S.P. Child proceeded to Mankato, where his feet received the long-needed treatment. He then returned to the settlement about two weeks after Robbins' return.

■ Lewer

from Page 1

applied and was selected to be postmaster in Hollandale. In 2005 he moved to the role in Mapleton. In 2006, when the postmaster position opened up in New Richland, he came back to where he started.

Across his 40 years with the postal service, Randy says he learned a wide variety of lessons, many of which might be surprising to people outside the industry.

For one, "It is not easy to deliver mail in the dark."

He explains that, although his job description did not include being a delivery route driver, he was the postmaster. "And the postmaster is responsible for everything. So if someone else can't get it done, then you might end up doing it in their place."

He recalls a wide variety of "emergencies" which were also the post-

master's problem. Back when sending money could not be accomplished using electronic means, he recalls people would often ask him repeatedly when he thought a piece of mail would arrive, and would sometimes vent their frustration on him when they perceived a check was arriving "late."

He mentions one time when an upset patron declared that he and his entire staff deserved to be fired.

"You want to do your job well," he says of the many "emergencies" that occurred over time. "So I would do what I could." He remembers the box of newly hatched chicks a local resident purchased in the spring that, due to an oversight in a sorting office in the Twin Cities, was delivered to New Richmond, Wisconsin—two years in a row.

Both years, Randy drove up to the Twin Cities to retrieve them.

"Unexpected things sometimes happen when it comes to the mail," he recalls. "The vast majority of the letters and the boxes are delivered without a hitch. But sometimes things get caught in a loop or go mis-

sing altogether."

Over time, he says doing his job well included tasks most people would assume never happen, including delivering mail on Sunday or holidays.

Something else that might surprise a typical post office user is that, for the postmaster, being certain the mail is delivered is only one part of a much more complex set of tasks.

Bookkeeping, ordering stamps, ensuring items are scanned correctly, adapting operations when a member of the team is absent, all demand the postmaster's attention. Since the position is paid on a salaried basis, extra time is not financially compensated for. Though his expected work hours were all during the week, Randy remembers being in the post office many, many Saturdays—and occasionally spent 14 hours there, regardless of what day of the week it was.

Despite the challenges, though, Randy says his recollections of his years as New Richland's postmaster are almost entirely positive. He says he recognized the important role the

post office fills: He was glad to be part of the services it provides and happy that he found ways to be helpful and supportive.

Now that he's retired, he seems to be weighing his options.

"First, I'm catching up on some of that work I didn't get done around the farm," he says.

After that, he's considering some hobbies he's always found appealing but never had time for, including woodworking, metalworking, and a few he chooses not to name until he's had a chance to try them out. "We'll see if I have the resources and the talent to do them," he explains.

One hobby he plans to continue and perhaps expand on is his love of singing. A member of the all-male "Just Friends" Christian singers for decades, he says being part of the group enriches his life while also bringing pleasure to others.

He also thinks he'd like to travel a bit, although almost entirely in Minnesota and Wisconsin. "There's a lot to see not so far from home," he comments.



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Compostings

by Al Batt

Grawlix is the symbol for swearing

ECCHOS FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

My Uncle Luther could hold his breath for 30 minutes.

That's incredible. Not really. He could do it only once.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. The weather was doing well given the circumstances—it was winter. We didn't need more snow—the Winter Olympics were over. A couple of mountains each week. I find myself at a clinic doing rehab therapy by spending time with an official rehabilitationist and visiting with others who have become their own concerned caregivers. I enjoy it. Maybe I'm not doing it right? I must people as I walk the halls on my way to my destination. "How are you doing?" I ask. If they reply, "Not too bad," I know they're doing well. If they say "Not too good," I know they're not doing well.

I WAS HAPPY, BUT I DIDN'T HAVE SHOW IT

I needed to renew my driver's license. There was no line. If there was, I was the only one in it. I passed the eye test and the checkbook test, so the next step was to have my photo taken, so they could put my image on the license. I was told not to smile and that eye exams weren't allowed on a driver's license photo. I, a sane person and anything resembling a grin or smile, looked up against a wall and had my photo taken. I tried to convey the appearance of someone who had just been stopped by a police officer. One of my eye exams (I have two) failed on its own accord. It failed like Dr. Evil in the Austin Powers films. Any peace officer seeing me would naturally assume I'm a case of severely dazed.

A ROOM FOR EACH CARD IN THE DECK

A house on Lake Minnetonka had in sale price reduced from \$64 million to only \$51 million. Once upon a time, I was a young fellow working along Summit Avenue in St. Paul. It was lined with big houses. Nay, it was lined with mansions. People with good jobs or no need to have jobs lived there. I figured such houses had 52 rooms—one for each week. I calculated each one had 566 windows. That way, the residents could look out a different window every day of the year, including a leap year. I wasn't serious. I grew up in an old farmhouse that had a room in every room—if every room was

the living room. And when the outdoor roof was looking, the outdoors came with a shower. I'll say good.

THOSE THRILLING DAYS OF YESTERYEAR

How was school? Good.

How about more than a one-word answer? Pretty good.

I'VE LEARNED

Grawlix (symbol swearing) refers to the use of typographical symbols in place of an obscenity (e.g., #*%&)(/!\@&*) used in comic strips.

Doing nothing is not a hobby. Old cuckoo clocks don't belong in bed's nest zone.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

Wanted: Someone to break their tooth with me because I've out of 10 dentures say brushing alone won't prevent tooth decay.

What's the difference between a lawyer and a herd of buffalo? A lawyer charges more.

What do you call an apology written in dots and dashes? Remorse code.

Did you know about the new suspension doll? It operates on batteries.

NATURE NOTES

The founding fathers wrote the U.S. Constitution with founding fathers, the quilts from green. Some founding fathers preferred to use swan feathers for their quilting. Quilt pins date to the Dark Ages, when feathers replaced the hollow reeds used by the Romans. People sometimes used turkey or crow feathers. Thomas Jefferson loved special goose to keep himself in writing implements. Wing feathers were boiled in fat, dry and to harden the joints. A portable was used to cut the silk into a V-shape and to trim the sides of wren quilts. Boston imported 27 million quilts a year from Russia. By the middle of the 19th century, steel ribs were on the way to overwriting quilts. In the 20th century, the fountain pen, ballpoint and ballpoint arrived.

I saw a porch back in a faraway tree. The light allowed us color to be seen. How did I know it was a hawk and not a crow? In general, porching requires an up-right, whereas perched non-porches, such as crows, lean forward over their feet.

I saw goose that weren't flying high in a single file instead of a typical V-formation. What was going on? It was a Star flight.

MEETING ABANDONED

"You can always give something, even if it's only kindness."—Anne Frank.



WINTER WONDERLAND - The 78th Waseca Sleight and Cutter parade featured many horse-drawn units on the snowy streets of Waseca on Saturday, Feb. 28.

Star Eagle photo by Ben Roemer

Waseca Sleight and Cutter parade

By DEB BENTLY

Staff Writer

For the seventy-eighth time, the Waseca Sleight and Cutter parade brought horse-drawn units of many different kinds to the streets of Waseca on Saturday, Feb. 28.

Sleight and Cutter committee president Scott Roemhild reports there were 32 units in this year's parade. Based on pre-registration numbers, up to 41 groups may have taken part had it not been for a weather forecast predicting up to 5 inches of snow throughout the morning.

As it was, 4 inches of snow fell, blanketing the fairgrounds as parade participants made their preparations. Snow continued to fall throughout the parade.

Roemhild comments, "The quiet snowflakes and lack of wind seemed to energize our riders and teamsters getting prepared at the fairgrounds. 'Hailback TV snow' and 'snow globe snow' were among the descriptions."

"The parade itself was picturesque, with many spectators and participants commenting on the beauty of the snow with the horses. The good energy continued into lunch, with lots of laughter and conversation. During a short program, we thanked volunteers, introduced participating royalty and discussed a common weekend for the event going forward. The parade participants decided the fourth weekend in February would best fit their schedules."

While it was a shame to lose so many participants, Roemhild speaks with apparent pride when he says, "The parade has never been cancelled in its history." The possibility had been discussed late in the week as the winter weather advisory was announced, but members of the Sleight and Cutter committee, some of the parade participants and Waseca County Sheriff Jay Dallas made a group decision to move forward.



BIG REVEAL - This year's Frosty was identified as Brad McBrath. To his right stands Scott Roemhild, president of the Sleight and Cutter Committee.

Star Eagle photo by Deb Bentley

"Chamber Dollars," money which can be spent at area businesses. Planning for the next year's event begins even before the current year's are complete. Roemhild invites area residents to contribute their ideas and energy to the longstanding tradition.

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OBITUARIES

David Arndt

David "Orie" Arndt, age 84, formerly of Waldorf, died on Tuesday, February 24, 2020 at Laurel's Park in Mandan.

Born on September 22, 1941 in Wadena, Minnesota, he was the son of Elmer and Hazel (Tait) Arndt. He graduated from Waldorf-Fremont High School in 1961. Orie was united in marriage to Judy Trench on July 5, 1963 and together they were blessed with six children. Over the years Orie worked at several companies, including Hutter's, E.F. Johnson Co., in addition to Birds Eye and Green Giant. He also worked for several area farmers and delivered papers for the Mandan Free Press. In his younger years, he enjoyed snowmobiling and tractor pulls. He especially loved relating in his garage overlooking his lucky items and spending time with his family and attending various activities. He was a longtime member of First Lutheran Church in Waldorf.

He is survived by five children, Richard "Duke" (Jodie) Arndt of St. Clair, Steve (Cindy) Arndt of Maple Lake, John (Cindy) Arndt of Maple Lake, Paul Arndt of Janesville, and Susan (Mike Walter) Cook of LeFlore, IA; grandchildren, Bailey Arndt, Chelsea (Noah) Gorman, Marissa (Evan) Mattson, Lanielle (Joan) Arndt, Blake (Loren) Arndt, Dylan (Kiera) Arndt, Taylor (Kylie) Cook, Mason (Maggie) Cook, Tanner (Joni) Cook, and Liberty Lacey; great-grandchildren, Zory, Keno-



David Arndt

ry, Grayson, Lane, Quinn, Iela, Casey, Owen, Shadon, Myah, Olivia, Kai, Jevoni, Col and three on the way. He is also survived by his sister, Delores Dierking of Medford; sisters-in-law, Irene Arndt of Gilbert, AZ, Karen Lang of Glenview and Roxanne Trench of Oronotau; and brother-in-law, Jerry Trench of Le Sueur. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Judy; son, Brian; grandson, Carter; brother, David Arndt; brother-in-law, Don Dierking; Wayne Trench, and Mark Trench.

Visitation was held on Monday, March 2, 2020 from 4-7 p.m. at the Janesville Chapel of Divine Staffed-Omnivest Funeral and Cremation Service. Visitation continued on Tuesday, one hour before services at the church.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 11 a.m. at First Lutheran Church in Waldorf. Burial followed at First Lutheran Cemetery.

Dwayne "Whitey" Hagen

Dwayne "Whitey" Hagen was welcomed into the arms of the Lord on Saturday, February 14, 2020 at Good Samaritan Society in Albert Lea, surrounded by his loving family. Whitey lived his life to the fullest, always chasing a smile on a song wherever he went.

Born on June 15, 1952 in Wadena, he was a son to the late Arnold and Vivian (Peterson) Hagen. Whitey grew up on the family farm alongside his brother, Dick, where the values of hard work, faith, and family were instilled early in life. A proud graduate of Freedom School, Dwayne and the love of his life, La-Jane Howard, through mutual friends and they were united in marriage on December 28, 1976 in New Richmond. Together they built a beautiful life that spanned decades.

Whitey proudly served his country in the United States Army during the Korean War, achieving the rank of Sergeant 1st Class. He was deeply honored to be a Vietnam and often shared stories of his time in service and the lifelong friendships he formed with his fellow soldiers.

Whitey and La-Jane were blessed with six children. They made their home on a small farm outside of

Genova, where life was busy and full. Together they tended a large garden and built a home filled with laughter, music, and love. Whitey cherished time spent outdoors and visiting with family and friends who were always welcome at the kitchen table.

After the passing of his brother, Dick, to cancer, Whitey developed a deep passion for raising funds for cancer research. In 1985, with the help of Hank Thompson, the Genova Cancer Auction was founded. Through Whitey's tireless dedication and the generosity of the community, the auction has raised nearly three million dollars for cancer research to date. Whitey spent countless hours walking the streets, collecting donations, gathering items for auction, serving as emcee, wearing his famous key-on-the-lead to collect money, and doing whatever it took to support the cause. His determination and heart for others made a lasting impact on so many lives. Whitey was proudly recognized as a finalist for the Jefferson Award for his philanthropic efforts.

Whitey had an infectious smile and joyful spirit that could light up any room. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather—always ready to lend a helping hand in times of need. He

especially loved singing songs to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, creating memories they will carry with them forever.

Whitey leaves behind a legacy of faith, service, generosity, and love that will continue to inspire all who knew him.

Whitey was preceded in death by his parents, Arnold and Vivian Hagen; his brother, Dick Hagen; his wife, La-Jane; and several-in-laws and extended family members and friends.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 43 years, La-Jane; his children, Rick (Joan), Greg (Janelle), Brad (Kristin), James (Tina), Keith (Beth), and Angie (Jeff) Ramussen; his grandchildren, Derrick Hagen, Treva Meyer (Rae), Mallory Aldrich (Tim), Spencer Carmon (Hannah), Katelyn Lundholm (Ryan), Erik Hagen (Cindy), Jason Hagen (Janelle), Britta Lerum (Adam), Breana Toquart (Josh), Carter Hagen, Lindsay Wagman (Colin), Alyson Schickel (Colton), Noah Ramussen (Philly) Imhoff, Beckett Ramussen, Kellen Ramussen; 17 great-grandchildren; and many extended family members and friends. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 7, 2020 at Community Lutheran Church in Genova, with Pastor Londa Anderson officiating. The family will receive friends at a visitation to be held from 11-1 p.m. prior to the service at church. Services will be livestreamed.



Dwayne Hagen

on officiating. The family will receive friends at a visitation to be held from 11-1 p.m. prior to the service at church. Services will be livestreamed.

The Hagen family wishes to extend a special "Thank You" to the nurses at Mayo Clinic Hospital and Good Samaritan for the compassionate care they provided to Whitey. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Whitey's honor can be made to the Genova Cancer Auction, P.O. Box 209, Genova, MN 56035.

NRHEG "Battle of the Books" Feb. 27



On Friday, February 27, 2020, fourth- and fifth-grade students of NRHEG competed in a "Battle of the Books." Eight teams began the contest by competing in three preliminary rounds. The three winning teams competed for the championship.

Battle of the Books is an incentive program to encourage all children to read. Each year, students are challenged to become experts on 12 selected titles. The list features a variety of books, ranging from timeless classics to current bestsellers.

Books for this year's competition were "Tuck Everlasting" by Natalie Babbitt; "Miss Rumphius" by Barbara Cooney; "City of Ember: The First Book of Ember" by Jeanne Duprau; "Dragons in a Bag" by Zetta Elliott; "The Million Dollar Short" by Dan Gutman; "Friend" by Margaret Hedrick; "Word" by A. LaFay; "Savvy" by Ingrid Law; "The False Prince" by Jennifer Nielsen; "Becoming Muhammad Ali" by J. Patterson and K. Alexander; "The Best School Year Ever" by Barbara Robinson; and "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" by J.K. Rowling. The winners of the NRHEG "Battle of the Books" on Feb. 27 were The Royals (from left) Sophie Johnson, Kaitlyn Gehlke, Makenna Migen, Cherry Johnson, and Addison Berg.

Arnell Olson

Arnell Janice Youngberg was born on August 12, 1942 in Wadena, the daughter of Melvin and Doris (Johnson) Youngberg. She attended New Richmond High School and was thankful to grow up in a rural community. She still referred to their family farm as "down home." She moved with her family from their New Richmond farm to Minneapolis in 1958. She graduated with honors from Marquette Academy in 1960. After several semesters at North Central and Evangelical Universities, she served in administrative positions with Assembly of God churches in California, Texas, Illinois and Brussels, Belgium. She retired from US Bank and Trust, where she worked in the Trust Department.

On August 29, 2020, she married Jim Olson and traveled with him as they volunteered their time with MAPS, an Assembly of God missions organization. They spent four winters traveling in their RV to Florida, doing mission work. They resided on Lake Willeby until their move to Cannon River Senior Living in Cannon Falls. She enjoyed traveling, fishing, playing games, collecting activity sets, and anything snowshy.

Arnell was home to be with her Leif and Service on February 12, 2020 at the age of 78 years. She was preceded in death by her parents and her sister, Donna Schen.

She is survived by her husband, Jim; sisters, Marjorie (Wes) Marks and Judy Mitchell; Jim's children, Tom (Dabbin) Olson



Arnell Olson

and Sue (Aaron) Topp; grandchildren, Dylan Olson, and Lucy (Timothy) Newby; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, in-laws and friends.

A celebration of Arnell's life will be held on Thursday, March 19 at 2:30 p.m. with visitation from 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. at Lundberg Funeral Home, 3829 Hwy 19 Blvd, Cannon Falls. This service will be live-streamed and available to watch at www.LundbergFuneral.com under her obituary. Spring interment will be held at Lakewood Cemetery, Randolph.

Memorials are preferred to Assembly of God Kingdom Builders - Mission Department (Convey of Hope).

Arnell was a friend to many and will be missed by everyone for her warm and welcoming smile.

Arrangements by Lundberg Funeral Home, Cannon Falls. Online condolences may be directed to www.LundbergFuneral.com.

NRHEG Senior High Ag Olympics Feb. 24



pages

The NRHEG FFA helped the NRHEG Senior High celebrate Ag Olympics on February 25.

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Joan Meyer and Roger Frederick on the dance floor during the sleigh and cutter dinner and dance. Roger was 16 years old when he rode on one of the units in the very first Sleigh and Cutter parade 76 years ago.

Sleigh and Cutter Dinner and Dance

By DEB BENTLEY
Staff Writer

The Wells VFW was near capacity the evening of Feb. 27 for the dinner and dance sponsored by the Sleigh and Cutter Association. Along with music from local band Lee X, the evening featured the announcement of this year's mystery individual, "Finny," who turned out to be county commissioner and former county sheriff Brad Milbrink.

Sleigh and Cutter Festival president Scott Rasmussen, who served as emcee for the presentation, informed the crowd there had been only 14 contact guesses regarding Finny's identity, all of which had been submitted within the last few days. Jansville area resident Anderson's name was drawn at random from among a handful of eligible individuals as the grand prize winner. He received \$400. \$150 he would have received automatically, another \$250 was added because he was present at the event.

Five names were drawn at random from among the sleighing groups. These folks would receive \$100, but only if they were present at the event. Jerry Harpeth and Roger Kishinski were the lucky two to collect the money. Jeremy

Parson, Jason Mullerleile and Andy Hager missed out.

Another drawing presented \$50 to eligible contact guess submitters, whether they were present or not. These five were Caitlin Roberts, David Low, Jason Sisk, Sandy Anderson and April Hargill.

Another prize was for being the first from one's own community to guess Finny's identity. Winners for this were Wadena area residents, Jansville area resident James Sisk, and New Richmond area resident Andy Hager.

Wadena resident Jimmy Co and her two daughters, both-Lopez and Caitlin Roberts, were presented with their \$1,750 prize for finding the Sleigh and Cutter Model. Cabell told of searching numerous locations, claiming lightly that she and her daughters had run their hands under every public bathroom sign in the city.

She described finally locating the model inside a supposed water bag strapped around the base of a young tree in Northeast Park. Also introduced during the evening's presentations were local guests.

Present for the evening were 2026 grand marshal Bill and Edna Hargill. In addition to being long time supporters of Sleigh and Cutter events, the couple loans their loaned equipment to announce information about parade units along State Street.

It was also revealed that Roger Frederick, who was present for the evening, had been a participant in the very first Sleigh and Cutter Parade 76 years ago, he was 10 years old at the time.

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Deer Hunters South Central Board Meeting Feb. 24



The Minnesota Deer Hunters Association South Central Chapter held its board meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 24 at Sweet-Summers VFW. Pictured from left: Treasurer Pam and her husband Pat Hammond, Vice President Chad Davis, and Region 12 director and Secretary Dr. Ruth Collins.

Star Eagle photo by Ben Neumann

New birth center, women's clinic open at Owatonna hospital

pages

By Karen Jorgensen
Steele County Times

The Birth Center and Women's Health Clinic at Allina Hospital in Owatonna took center stage Sunday afternoon in an open house held at the hospital to introduce both facilities to the public.

Changes to the birth center came about in late 2025 when Mayo Clinic Health System announced it would be ending labor and delivery services at the Owatonna Hospital. The hospital is operated by Allina, which also has a clinic on the hospital campus as does the Mayo Health System. Mayo had been providing the staff for labor and delivery services.

After Mayo Health's announcement, Allina stepped up to provide labor and delivery services at the Owatonna hospital and also accelerated plans to open a Women's Health Clinic. As part of the new plan, Allina officials said they would be stepping labor and delivery services at the Allina Hospital in Faribault.

Both Allina and Mayo Health announced they would continue with pre- and post-natal care at their Owatonna and Faribault clinics.

Sunday's open house gave visitors a chance to talk with staff at both the Birth Center and Women's Health Clinic. Representatives from the Owatonna School District's Early Childhood and Family Education program and Steele County Public Health were also available with information about their programs as were Allina staff members to talk about breastfeeding and car seat safety.

The transition from Mayo Health to Allina



Labor/delivery nurse Kelly Schweichtenberg explained the layout of the actual delivery room, including the warming nest for the baby.

Photo by Karen Jorgensen

Health went smoothly, and Lori Wink, a labor/delivery nurse at the hospital.

The Birth Center has two physicians, said Susan Staff, Birth Center manager. There are also 16 doctors from other Allina facilities who are available to staff the Birth Center when the two Owatonna physicians are not on duty.

The center, she said, handles the actual deliveries for babies from both Allina and Mayo Health Clinics. Both clinics have their own pre- and post-natal physicians, she said.

Kelly Schweichtenberg, the RN on duty at the Birth Center on Sunday, showed visitors around the facility, explaining to visitors the initial exam room that is generally the first stop at the center, the actual delivery room and the post-partum room for after delivery care.

Generally, Schweichtenberg said, mothers and babies, stay in the delivery room for about two hours after birth and then move to a post-partum room where they will stay one or two days. The room is set up so there is also space for the father or other family member to stay.

There is also a nursery, she said, but the goal is to have the baby spend as much time with mom and dad as possible.

Dr. Ashley Thomson, one of the two Allina physicians assigned to the Owatonna Birth Center, said Allina has a network of physicians to fill in at Owatonna on weekends. The goal of Allina, she

said, was to keep the center open and to keep it local to serve Owatonna and surrounding areas. The decision to close the birth center at Faribault was made because there were more births at the Owatonna center and also because of Faribault's close proximity to the birth center at the Northfield Hospital, which is also an Allina facility.

The Women's Health Clinic is new, staff said, it will provide services such as obstetrics/gynecology, gynecology, family planning/birth control and menopause care.

The Birth Center also offers the Baby Cudd which is a fun, family-friendly drop-in breastfeeding group offered weekly on Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the hospital's Community Resource Center. Certified lactation consultants will be available, and it will offer an opportunity to meet with other breastfeeding moms as well as have a scale to weigh babies.

On Tuesday's, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., there is a free clinic for newborns and their parents at the Community Education Center, 122 E. McKinley St., Owatonna where a parent educator or nurse is on hand to answer questions and concerns.

Every baby born at the Owatonna Hospital is also sent home with a Wiggly in Love sleep sack, courtesy of the Owatonna Hospital Auxiliary. The sleep sack is a wearable blanket for use by the baby to sleep safely in the crib.

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This essay, written by NREIG fifth-grader Jack Van Hall, was composed in honor of the elementary school's two-week observation of the Olympics. All fifth-graders wrote an essay on the topic of sportsmanship. Jack's was read aloud during the school's opening ceremony on Feb. 8.

When you have good sportsmanship you play better and have more fun. Sportsmanship is when you help somebody up or give them a compliment like, "Hey, nice catch!" or "Wow, what a hit!" Sportsmanship is cheering on your team and telling compliments and cheers. Sportsmanship is to sit in

after a game, you actually say "Good game" to the other players and give the umpire or ref a fist bump and say "Thanks for being here," even if the game doesn't go your way. Because if the umpire or ref doesn't show up, you can't play the game. Sportsmanship is that you should never, ever take out your anger on your teammates or coach or the other players or their coach and especially not the umpire and refs.

When everybody shows good sportsmanship, the game is way more fun.

Jack Van Hall



The Elementary Olympics have been a tradition at NREIG since 1994. An opening ceremony included a "torch" and a parade of participants representing various countries. During the two weeks of the international olympic games, physical education classes incorporated activities meant to simulate competitive events. Fifth-graders visited a curling center and learned more about the sport.

Star Eagle photos by Don Berly

■ Olympics from Page 1

located include Austria, Canada, China, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the U.S.A.

During the two weeks of the international games, a large hallway display shows the medals won by athletes from each country.

"Sometimes the kids really identify with their country," Schonebeck mentions. "They'll pay attention to the games and keep track of the medals athletes are winning," occasionally even to a

point of questioning the correctness of the number of medals displayed in the hallway.

Individual classroom teachers may take instruction time to learn about the geography and culture of the countries or about elements of the olympic games. Fifth-graders were assigned to write an essay on the topic of sportsmanship; this year Jack Van Hall's piece was selected to be read during the opening ceremony.

For two weeks, activities in physical education center around olympic events.

Schultz, who teaches the upper elementary classes, takes some of her students to a curling course in Mapleton every year, and makes a point of scheduling the trip during

the elementary olympics. In the school's gym, modified versions of chosen sports have students "skating" using towels, or competing in "bobbled" races using hula hoops mounted on wheelchairs. Sometimes first-place finishes are acknowledged within class groups, but Schonebeck says the focus is mostly on the levels of fitness, effort and sportsmanship the physical challenges call for.

An element important to her, she says, is "Learning how to win."

Not figuring out how to finish first, she makes clear, but to recognize that everyone has used energy and dedication, so the difference between "winning" and "losing" can be a split second.

"Sportsmanship is fundamental," she says. "I want kids to realize 'competition' doesn't mean people have to dislike each other; winning doesn't mean you should brag or think you're better than someone else."

Schonebeck and Schultz say they know the elementary olympics are popular with students. This year's "closing ceremony" was a slide show with pictures and videos from the two weeks; rather than a school-wide assembly, each of the classes watched the video and heard the declaration that the olympics were closed. One young student left the gym with tears in his eyes: "I don't want the olympics to be over," he explained.

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NRHEG girls reach section championship

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The NRHEG High School girls' basketball team is headed for another section final.

The Panthers advanced Saturday with a 79-41 semifinal decision over Lewiston-Altura at the Rochester Mayo Civic Center.

The Panthers, 26-3 overall and seeded No. 1 in the tournament, were again led by the VanMaldeghem twins, who combined to score 57 of NRHEG's points, 40 by Camryn and 17 from Quinn.

The Panthers led at halftime 34-19 despite not playing their best basketball early.

Also scoring were Gabrielle Schlaak nine, Ezra Boerner six, Clara Buendorf two, Emelia Stadheim and Alayna Groskreutz two each, and Chole Stork one.

"The girls took control of the Lewiston-Altura game and never looked back," said NRHEG head coach Onika Peterson.

The Panthers had a sluggish start in terms of shooting, missing too many close-in shots.

"But we went into halftime up by 15 and went on a run in the second half," said Peterson. "It was great to see how many kids hit the boards for rebounding, which is something we pride ourselves on. Having five kids with six or more boards is huge, with Quinn VanMaldeghem leading us with 18 rebounds, followed up by Ezra with 9, Chloe with 8, Gabby and Clara both with 6, and Camryn

"Having five kids with six or more boards is huge."
— NRHEG coach Onika Peterson

with 4. Camryn VanMaldeghem finished the night with 40 pts and we had kids step up and hit great shots throughout the night."

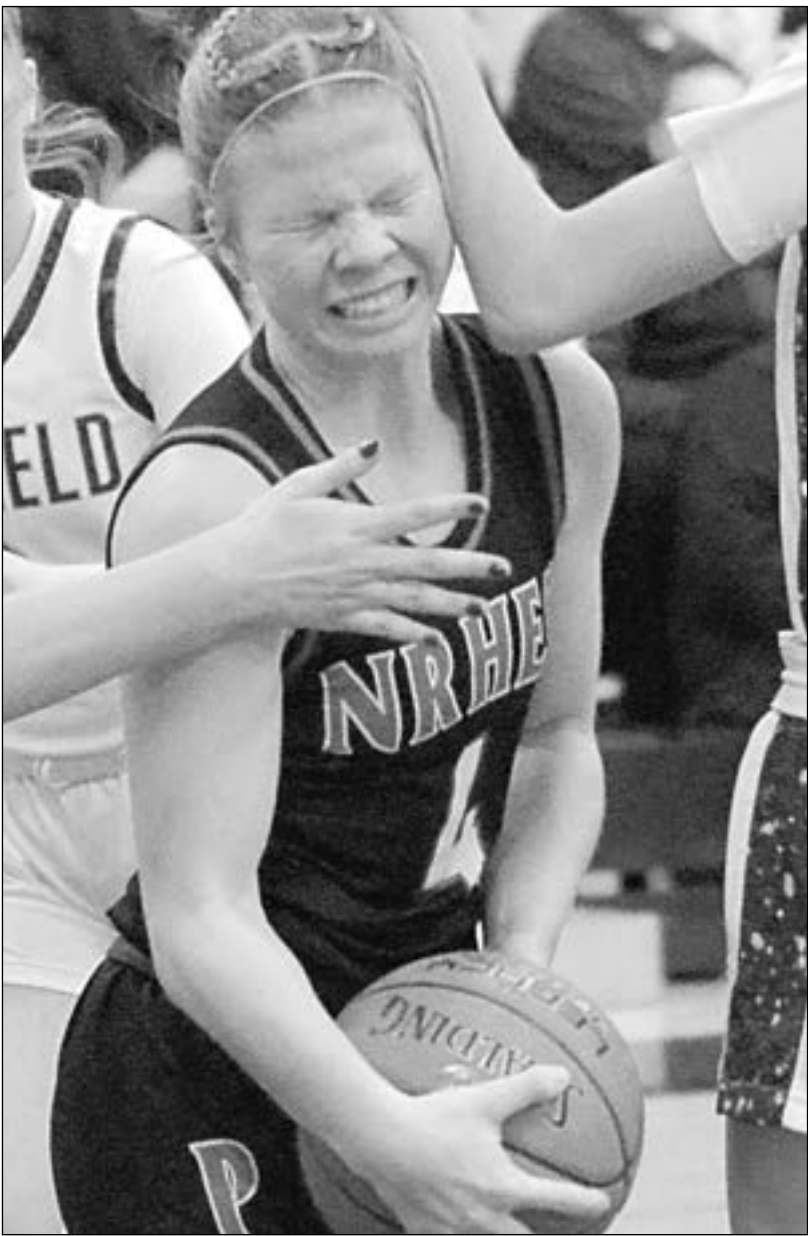
NRHEG individual totals: C.VanMaldeghem 40P, 4R, 7 seals; Q.VanMaldeghem 17P, 18R, 9S; Schlaak 9P, 6R, 4S; Boerner 6P, 9R, 4S; Buendorf 2P, 6R, 1S; Stadheim 2P, 2R; Savannah Farr 2R; Groskreutz 2P; Stork 1P, 8R; Groskreutz 2P.

Alyssa Hanson scored 12 to lead Lewiston-Altura.

The Panthers started their Section 1A tournament run with a 76-39 victory over eighth-seeded Houston Monday, Feb. 23 at Rochester. The NRHEG girls were on top 29-18 at halftime.

Camryn VanMaldeghem and Schlaak led the Panthers in scoring with 18 points, with Quinn VanMaldeghem and Buendorf right behind with 16 each.

NRHEG totals: Schlaak 18 points, 8 rebounds, 6 steals, 2 assists; Boerner 4P, 6R, 2S, 1A; Q.VanMaldeghem 16P, 8R, 4S, 6A; Buendorf 16P, 3S, 1A; C.VanMaldeghem 18P, 14R, 4S, 2A; 1 blocked shot; Farr 5R; Stork 2P,



WIN AND ADVANCE — NRHEG's Quinn VanMaldeghem, left, and Camryn VanMaldeghem scored 17 and 40 points, respectively, as the Panther girls' basketball team defeated Lewiston-Altura in the section semifinals Saturday. The win advanced the Panthers to tonight's section championship game at 5:30 at Rochester.

Photos by Jim Lutgens



Panthers' Ryan Schlaak finishes 4th in state tourney

Jacobson winds up one win away from podium

The Schlaak boys, Ryan and Owen, and Graham Jacobson ventured to last week's state wrestling tournament at St. Paul with hopes of bringing a medal or two.

They did not disappoint.

Ryan Schlaak claimed the Class A fourth-place medal at 189 pounds and Jacobson came within one win of a medal at 114 in the three-day event that concluded Saturday at Grand Casino Arena.

Ryan Schlaak, an NRHEG junior bringing a 33-2 record to state, outpointed Zachary Plank, a senior from Lewiston-Altura/Rushford Peterson, with a 21-13 major decision Thursday in the opening round at Class A 189. In the quarterfinals, Schlaak fell 5-0 to Minneota sophomore Randy Sorenson. The loss put him in the wrestlebacks against WEM/JWP's Trenton Huber, which saw Schlaak win a 19-3 technical fall. In his next wrestleback, Schlaak defeated Benson sophomore Adrian Young by fall in 3:40. It assured Schlaak of at least a fifth-place finish at state, and he reached the third-place bout with a 7-5 wrestleback decision of senior Ezekiel Sieckert of West Central Area-Ashby-Brando. It

earned Schlaak a rematch with Sorenson, in which Sorenson won by an 8-4 decision. Ryan ended the season with a 37-4 record.

Graham Jacobson, an eighth-grader won his first match by fall in 3:10 at Class A 114 over Henry Meyer, a sophomore from United South Central. Jacobson then lost a 17-1 technical fall to sophomore Liam Sommer of Kenyon-Wanamingo, dropping him to the wrestlebacks. There, Jacobson edged Rylan Moritz from Aitkin 4-3, pitting him against Nolan Ouranda of Redwood Valley, who ended Jacobson's season with a 5-2 decision. Jacobson finished the year with a record of 30-15.

Owen Schlaak, a freshman from NRHEG wrestling at Class A 107, won by 19-4 technical fall over junior Brody Hopp of Luverne, ending the bout at the 3:24 mark. In the next round, he was upended 10-1 by 8th-grader Kiptyn Meiners of Caledonia-Houston, putting him in the wrestlebacks against Benjamin Schmid of Mille Lacs Lake, where Owen dropped a 12-4 major decision. Owen finished the season 36-9.



THIRD-PLACE BATTLE— NRHEG junior Ryan Schlaak, right, squares off with Randy Sorenson of Minneota in the Class A189-pound third-place match Saturday at Grand Casino Area in St. Paul. Schlaak finished in fourth place.

Photo by Johnnie Phillips/Steele County Times



HUSTLE — NRHEG's Brendan Schmidt, right, hits to floor to battle for a loose ball against Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart's Wyatt Milbrandt last Friday in New Richland. The 12th-seeded Panthers prevailed, 83-41.

Photo by Jim Lutgens

NRHEG boys win, advance in Section 2A tournament

The NRHEG High School boys' basketball team, seeded 12th in the Section 2A tournament, eliminated 21st-seeded Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart 83-41 last Friday in an opening-round game at New Richland.

It was a big night for the Panthers, who hosted a play-off game for the first time in eight years, and they came in less than full strength with A.J. Deen limited all week by a toe injury.

Not to worry.

The Panthers took a 36-26 halftime lead and pulled away in the second half, ending the Mustangs' season at 1-25. NRHEG improved to 10-16.

"All week long we emphasized how big this was to get a home game, and to be able to play well and advance," said Panthers coach Dan Schmidt.

Both teams started slowly before the Panthers settled in with a double-digit lead.

"BLHS did a good job chipping away, getting it to a two-point deficit, before we extended the lead back to 36-26 going in at the half," said Schmidt. "We came out in the second half extremely strong on defense, despite some silly fouls early that saw BLHS get in the bonus in the first 5-6 minutes. But we settled down and took control, only giving up 15 points in the second half. While the defense was digging in, our offense was clicking on all cylinders as we scored 47 points in the second half."

The Panthers had great balance offensively, with four guys in double figures. Brooks Gilliland led NRHEG with a double-double, knocking in 19 points to go along with 10 rebounds. Brock Holland had a great second half after starting slow, and had 13 points and 6 rebounds. Sean Lassahn added 11 points and 4 assists. Calvin Nissen had 10 points and 5 assists, and did a great job finding cutters going to the basket. Dom Olson had 8 points. Brendan Schmidt added 7 points along with 7 rebounds. Fynn Baumann played a dynamite second half on the defensive end against BLHS's top player, and tallied 7 points to go along with a couple steals. Levi Whiteside added 6 points, and Jackson McGannon rounded out the scoring with 2.

NRHEG individual totals: A.J. Deen 1R; Olson 8P, 1R, 1A; Nissen 10P, 3R, 5A, 2S; Gilliland 19P, 10R, 4A, 3S; Baumann 7P, 1R, 1A, 2S; B.Schmidt 7P, 7R, 2A, 1S; David Deen 1A; Holland 13P, 6R; McGannon 2P, 2R 1B; Lassahn 11P, 4R, 4A, 2S; Whiteside 6P, 1S.

The win advanced the Panthers to Tuesday's round at fifth-seeded Nicollet.

"It'll be a tough matchup, but if we play with positive energy and played poised and without fear, anything can happen," said Coach Schmidt.

The winner Tuesday plays tonight at Sibley East against fourth-seeded Mayer Lutheran or No. 13 BOLD.

Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl
Outdoors Writer

Looking forward to visiting the cabin

I am looking forward to visiting the cabin since again for some reason (reason) it seems like a long winter. Thanks to my new tools, I haven't had to shovel one scoop of snow. I have to say that they take very good care of Moss and Dad.

I can't wait until I am able to be sitting in the cabin watching the birds and the other critters that visit the feeders. When we first bought this parcel of land, it was nothing but trees and moss. It took a lot of time and work to get it to what it is today.

I like to think of it as a cozy place to spend time with nature. We built this cabin while I was still gainfully employed. It took a few years to get it where it is today. This cabin is still not where we want it to be, but it is getting there. We did most of the work with the help of my sons, grandchildren and a few friends. There is something satisfying about clearing the land and building a cabin steady with family.

This is not a perfect cabin, but to me, it is. It's not running water and no electricity comes from the electric pole 100 yards away. It is an old-fashioned cabin that owning a cabin is

an ongoing process.

According to the DNR map, there are still about 12-15 inches of snow on the ground where my cabin is located. It will be a little wait until I can venture north to the cabin. Even when the snow is almost gone, snowdrifts will be snow-packed for a while longer.

Although there is always something out about being in the woods surrounded by snow. The cabin days with snow advancing the peace always brings about a peaceful feeling. Sitting in the cabin with the wood stove blazing with its intense heat, warm the cabin and brings about that fuzzy feeling inside.

When I look at the pictures that I have taken of the inside of the cabin, it is the next best thing to being there. I keep telling myself that it is almost time to start gathering a few friends that I want to take with me when I make the first trip. I know it is premature to be thinking that far ahead, so maybe I can start organizing my tackle boxes instead. That is my only remedy for cabin fever. I do have some friends that have handed the "big one," but have never left the tackle box, most fishermen will



Here are pictures of Dick Herfindahl's cabin, both inside and out.

know what I mean.

Until next time. Make sure to check your roots to see if the line is still good. It is also a good idea to check your lures and hooks to make sure they don't have any severe wear or minnows from last season's adventures. That is the spirit

ing from past experiences.

Please take the time to remember our troops that are serving now and those that have served before them. They are the reason that we have all of the freedoms that we enjoy today.

LOOKING BACK

25 years ago



The New Richmond-Hartford-Ellendale-Grover FFA Chapter is observing and celebrating National FFA week, February 17-24. Here the officers pose for the Star camera. They are from the left: Andy VanDusen, treasurer; Tony Schneck, president; Justin Lowe, vice-president; Chad Schneck, secretary; David Chiles, secretary and David Kiglin, reporter.

Tyler and Kay Peterson of New Brighton are the parents of a son born Thursday, February 8, 2009. Samuel Tyler, at the baby table below has been named, weighing 10 lbs. and 7 oz. He has one sister, Mia, 20 months old.

50 years ago



Martin Basse, pictured here with his wife, Nina, at a party celebrating his 60 years of life at the New Richmond City Hall, Sunday, February 29, has actually celebrated only 12 birthdays. But as his birthday party, decorated with a family tree, stated 12 is 4 equals 48.

Stella-Wisconsin Cooperative Electric has been awarded a low-interest loan of \$1 million by the Rural Electrification Administration, it was announced. The purpose of the loan is to finance service for 250 additional customers, 20 miles of distribution line and other system improvements.

Over 200 farmers and businessmen enjoyed the open house at the American Legion Clubhouse in Waldorf-Ponderton FFA during FFA week. Winners of the Crops Judging contest was Neil Roesler of Minnesota Lake, Willard Gerdie of Waldorf won the Dairy Judging contest, Margaret Engstrom of New Richmond won the "Queen of the Weights of the Hog" contest, winning the closest to the correct weight of 232 pounds with an estimate of 237 pounds.

Gary Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Smith of Freeborn, has been accepted for admission to Minnesota State University. A senior at Freeborn High School, Gary is planning on a science major.

58 years ago

Mr. and Mrs. Oswald Grossmann, living west of New Richmond, are rejoicing over the arrival of a son, Dennis Reed, born at the Winona Memorial hospital Saturday, March 24 and weighing seven pounds, four ounces. Mr. and Mrs. Grossmann (Mary Bell) now have two children, the little sister is Cheryl.

Mr. and Mrs. L.A. Denson, Keith and Sheila, drove to Bemidji Saturday to be present at the wedding of their son and brother, Richard J. Denson and Miss Mary Lou Coffield, performed at high noon, Sunday.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

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New Richmond, Minnesota
Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
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Wednesday: 7 p.m. Church meeting (All Welcome)

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richmond, Minnesota
Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
Sunday: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. Church, 10:30 a.m. Worship

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richmond, Minnesota
Pastor Mary Jensen
Sunday: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. Church, 10:30 a.m. Worship
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Church meeting (All Welcome)

LEWIS RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richmond, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kerkhof
Sunday: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. Church, 10:30 a.m. Worship
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Church meeting (All Welcome)

VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richmond, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kerkhof
Sunday: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. Church, 10:30 a.m. Worship
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Church meeting (All Welcome)

WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richmond, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kerkhof
Sunday: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. Church, 10:30 a.m. Worship
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Church meeting (All Welcome)

CHURCH OF CHRIST LUTHERAN
Hartford, Minnesota
Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
Sunday: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. Church, 10:30 a.m. Worship
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Church meeting (All Welcome)

WEST FREEBORN LUTHERAN CHURCH
Hartford, Minnesota
Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
Sunday: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. Church, 10:30 a.m. Worship
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Church meeting (All Welcome)

HARTLAND EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Hartford, Minnesota
Pastor Philip K. Lepik
Sunday: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. Church, 10:30 a.m. Worship

MAINE REVEREND LUTHERAN CHURCH
Hartford, Minnesota
Pastor Philip K. Lepik
Sunday: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. Church, 10:30 a.m. Worship
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Church meeting (All Welcome)

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH
New Richmond, Minnesota
Pastor Philip K. Lepik
Sunday: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. Church, 10:30 a.m. Worship
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Church meeting (All Welcome)

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richmond, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kerkhof
Sunday: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. Church, 10:30 a.m. Worship
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Church meeting (All Welcome)

IMPERIAL CHURCH
Hartford, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kerkhof
Sunday: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. Church, 10:30 a.m. Worship
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Church meeting (All Welcome)

VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH
Hartford, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kerkhof
Sunday: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. Church, 10:30 a.m. Worship
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Church meeting (All Welcome)

FIRST LUTHERAN, ALC
Ellendale, Minnesota
Pastor Kyle Smith
Sunday: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. Church, 10:30 a.m. Worship
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Church meeting (All Welcome)

ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Ellendale, Minnesota
Pastor Philip K. Lepik
Sunday: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. Church, 10:30 a.m. Worship
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Church meeting (All Welcome)

ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Ellendale, Minnesota
Pastor Philip K. Lepik
Sunday: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. Church, 10:30 a.m. Worship
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Church meeting (All Welcome)

CENTRAL FREEBORN LUTHERAN CHURCH
Hartford, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kerkhof
Sunday: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. Church, 10:30 a.m. Worship
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Church meeting (All Welcome)

EAST FREEBORN LUTHERAN CHURCH
Hartford, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kerkhof
Sunday: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. Church, 10:30 a.m. Worship
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Church meeting (All Welcome)

FAMILY OF FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH
Hartford, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kerkhof
Sunday: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. Church, 10:30 a.m. Worship
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Church meeting (All Welcome)

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Hartford, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kerkhof
Sunday: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. Church, 10:30 a.m. Worship
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Church meeting (All Welcome)

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Hartford, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kerkhof
Sunday: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. Church, 10:30 a.m. Worship
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Church meeting (All Welcome)

JOHN LUTHERAN, ELCA
Hartford, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kerkhof
Sunday: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. Church, 10:30 a.m. Worship
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Church meeting (All Welcome)

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN, ELCA
Hartford, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kerkhof
Sunday: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. Church, 10:30 a.m. Worship
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Church meeting (All Welcome)

POWDERHORN LUTHERAN CHURCH
Hartford, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kerkhof
Sunday: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. Church, 10:30 a.m. Worship
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Church meeting (All Welcome)

FIRST LUTHERAN, ELCA
Hartford, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kerkhof
Sunday: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. Church, 10:30 a.m. Worship
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Church meeting (All Welcome)

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Hartford, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kerkhof
Sunday: 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. Church, 10:30 a.m. Worship
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Church meeting (All Welcome)

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH
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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

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

DATE OF MORTGAGE: October 14, 2022

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$205,623.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Colton C. Eustice, a married man

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for American Portfolio Mortgage Corporation

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on February 8, 2023 as Document Number A332886 in the Office of the County Recorder of Waseca County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Amerihome Mortgage Company, LLC by assignment recorded on April 25, 2024 as Document Number A336738 in the Office of the County Recorder of Waseca County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The North One Half of Lots (11) and Twelve (12), Block Nine (9), First Addition to the Village, now City of Waseca, Minnesota, according to the map or plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the Register of Deeds in and for Waseca County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 201 6TH ST SE, WASECA, MN 56093

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

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$233,270.73

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: American Portfolio Mortgage Corporation

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Amerihome Mortgage Company, LLC

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17.276.1140

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 1003336-0000078258-4

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.

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

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: April 23, 2026 at 10:00 AM.

PLACE OF SALE: Waseca County Sheriff's Office, 122 3rd

Ave. NW, Waseca, MN 56093.

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.

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

October 23, 2026.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

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

Dated: February 12, 2026

AMERIHOME MORTGAGE COMPANY, LLC Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.

By: /s/

N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq. Samuel R. Coleman, Esq. Alexa Marsh, Esq. Attorneys for Mortgagee 25 Dale Street North St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 209-9760 (25-1337-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. Published in the NRHEG Star Eagle on Feb. 19, 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26

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