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Memorial Day

Graduation Open House Ads Available
Celebrate this year's graduates in the paper with a photo and open house announcement. Cost is \$25 for one week or \$40 for two weeks.
Please email steagle@hickorytech.net or call 507-463-8112. The form can be found on the Star Eagle Website.

Retired staff from all iterations of the NRHEG School District gather May 29
All retired employees from the Ellendale, Geneva, Hartland and New Richland schools are invited to gather at The Willows around 11 a.m. Friday, May 29 for a social luncheon. Employees from all lines of work are heartily invited. For more information, call 507-380-9336.

Barnyard Treasures Spring Pop-up Sale New Richland May 30
There will be another Barnyard Treasures Spring Pop-Up Sale in New Richland at 10 a.m. till 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 30. Look for sourdough, wood working, garden decor, antiques, jams and jellies, barnwood and tin signs. They will have at least 11 vendors on hand and are located at 8623 SW 108th St. New Richland.

Tom Sexton 2026 Campaign Kick-Off Friday, June 5
Minnesota House of Representatives member Tom Sexton, representing legislative district 19B, will be kicking off his 2026 campaign from 4:30 to 7 p.m. June 5 at The Mill Event Center in Waseca. The event will include a \$10 burger fry.

Blood Drive at Waldorf Community Center June 9
There will be a blood drive at the Waldorf Community Center from 1-6 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9. They are located at 109 S Main Street.

Soil Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board Meeting June 11
The SWCD will be holding its monthly board meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 11. The meetings will be held in the SWCD offices located at 300 North State Street - Door 4.

Ride for Heroes at Pour House in Clarks Grove June 20
The Ride for Heroes will depart from the Pour House in Clarks Grove on Saturday, June 20. Breakfast and registration at 8:30 a.m. kickstands up at 10:30 a.m. Following the run, food, live auction and live music. Proceeds go to local veterans.

A word from

The Word



No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind.

And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear.

1 Cor. 10:13



Senior Jacob Karl (left) and the mother/daughter pair of Melissa and Sophia Williams provided musical offerings during the NRHEG 2026 Baccalaureate Ceremony on Sunday, May 17.

Star Eagle photos by Deb Bently



Seniors who contributed their talents during the Baccalaureate Ceremony were (from left) Adalyn Stadheim, Jacob Karl, Jordan Brouwers and Chloe Riewer.

Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

Officiant tells graduates they can rely on God's love

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

Officiant Trish Reedstrom, interim pastor with Trinity Lutheran Church of New Richland, turned the podium standing on the NRHEG High School stage sideways. Speaking to the seniors seated on the stage, she apologized for the small disruption, then indicated the teenagers who were now in front of her. "I have to do this," she explained as she adjusted the microphone, "because it's you I want to talk to."

To the audience whose seats were down below on the gymnasium floor, she said lightheartedly, "Of course, you're all welcome to listen in."

The NRHEG graduating class of 2026 had its baccalaureate ceremony at the school the evening of Sunday, May 17. An estimated 75 people gathered for the ceremony, and then for a short reception afterward sponsored by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Members of the senior class who took roles in the evening program included readers Jordan Brouwers, Adalyn Stadheim, and Chloe Riewer. Jacob Karl served as vocalist for the musical offering "The King of Love My Shepherd Is."

NRHEG vocal music instructor Krista Reeder was accompanist for the evening. A musical offering prior to the service was provided by the mother and daughter pair of Melissa and Sophia Williams, with Melissa as accompanist and Sophia singing "Blessings."

Reedstrom's message for the evening was summarized in one of her statements: "There is nothing on this earth that you can do to make God love you more than he already does. There is also nothing on this earth you can do to make God love you any less."

She warned students they are likely to encounter times in their lives when they fear they are disappointing God, or when they will feel separated from his love.

But however their lives proceed, whatever feelings of confusion or inadequacy they may feel, Reedstrom said, "That's okay, as long as you remember that, always and forever, you are going to be loved by God."

Copies of the New Testament were distributed to graduates and others in attendance by the local chapter of the Gideons.

ELLENDALE CITY COUNCIL

Council hears department updates

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff Writer

The Ellendale city council met in the evening of Thursday, May 14.

During the Ellendale city council meeting the evening of May 14, Fire Chief Logan Busho informed council members that lockers had been delivered for the new fire hall, but were damaged; the lockers were accepted "as is" when the company supplying them offered to reduce the \$8,500 price to \$5,500.

The council approved the purchase of a trailer for use by the fire department; funds will come from the Ellendale Fire Relief Association. Busho also requested a "piercing nozzle" capable of producing water pressure capable of breaking through walls during fire calls. The piece will come from Great Plains and will cost \$1,155. There are currently 20 fire fighters, with one on the verge of moving soon. Busho also reported the fire department will acquire "virtual private network" computer software which will encrypt official information about run times and all fire business as it is reported to dispatch. Busho stated his surprise the software will cost only \$15.

A walk-through for the new fire hall took place, and it was recommended they not lay asphalt on the south driveway because of the weight of the trucks. The driveway is 60 feet by 24 feet and must be 6 inches deep. Steve James Excavating completed the rock installation around the north side for diagonal parking. A retaining wall needs to be built around the southwest power box, otherwise the ground around it will wash away.

Josh Otto from city maintenance asked permission to purchase a DSG Parts Depot in Ellendale. This would allow maintenance to keep extra parts instead of having to order them. The sewer line on Sixth Street South that needs repair will cost \$8,300, and will be completed by Empire. The line runs under a private citizen's driveway, but it is believed the repair can be completed without disturbing the surface. To match the other trash cans in Brown park, the council, after a lengthy discussion, approved the purchase of a weighted blue can. They also purchased three red cans for the other park and under the mural, with a possible donation from the Lions Club. The ball on the tether ball game was stabbed and has been replaced. The edging around the playground equipment needs to be replaced. It was requested to have Otto look into the procedures for installing a disc golf course. Otto also shared, "I have four little kitties at the shop right now if anyone is interested."

The council would like to remind all residents not to park their cars on the streets

Council approves \$115,000 to repair fire tanker

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

During their regular monthly meeting the evening of Tuesday, May 12, Geneva City Council members were informed it will cost about \$115,000 to repair the city fire department's water tanker that was hit by a vehicle on Highway 35 earlier this year. Said fire chief Curt Boswell, "It's expensive, but when it's done it will look brand new." Council members also learned the fire department has bought four flags with a design which celebrates America's 250-year anniversary for use during this year's Fourth of July celebrations.

A law firm representing the city has sent a letter to the owner of a dog living within city limits that has reportedly bitten at least one person and killed or injured numerous animals. The council has received filmed footage and copies of veterinary bills resulting from some incidents. This issue has cost Geneva \$7,000 so far in their attempt to deal with this matter. Mike Wacholz, the new Geneva Maintenance man, who has accepted the new position in Geneva as the Animal Control Officer, said that he can have an animal kennel set up in the city shop in 45 minutes in case the city needs it. He will be given \$50 per day, per animal. This money will also aid in feeding the animals if needed.

GENEVA CITY COUNCIL

The Geneva community pool will not be open this summer (2026) due to lack of applicants, but the council is considering a swim-at-you-own-risk policy. The council hopes to find some sort of resolution regarding the pool in the near future; it has been three years since the city has had sufficient applicants to open the pool.

Jay and Leah Johns are purchasing Georges of Geneva effective June 1, 2026. The council members requested that the mural at the business either be retained or transferred to the town's community center. Laurie Jensen, the original painter, said she would clean it up and add to it if necessary. Jay and Leah Johns want to try to make this work. They are the first new owners in 19 years.

With the exception of the sidewalks in front of the old Sorenson building, the downtown sidewalk project will be complete by June 1.

The demolition of the Peterson property at Fifth Street NE will start on May 18. Dan Niles was set to do the destruction. All the permits are in place.

The State of Minnesota contacted Geneva and said they had no record of paying them \$850,000 for a grant during the Covid era, and asked for support, prompting the city clerk to verify that amount.

Ellendale woman charged with the theft of \$350K from Associated Church

By KAY FATE
Steele County Times

An Ellendale woman accused of embezzling more than \$350,000 from an Owatonna church has told authorities there was an issue with the bookkeeping software, but has been unable to provide documents to prove it.

Vanessa Ann Stoltz, 40, was charged by summons last week in Steele County District Court with one count each of theft by swindle and theft-no consent, both felonies.

She is expected to make her first appearance July 20.

Stoltz was hired to serve as the financial coordinator for Associated Church, working part-time and earning about \$20 an hour; she was in charge of payroll, which involved access to the church's QuickBooks account.

Church officials told detectives that when the board periodically asked Stoltz about their financial picture, she would "only provide small bits of information and not a complete summary," promising – but failing – to get them the data they requested.

In late summer of 2025, the IRS informed church leaders they had not paid payroll taxes; when they questioned Stoltz, "They did not receive a clear answer" about the issue.

The last contact the church had with Stoltz was in November; it remained "locked" out of QuickBooks, so sought help from a local accounting firm, which was able to access the church's account.

According to the criminal complaint, the bookkeeping records showed Stoltz had grossed nearly



An Ellendale woman was charged by summons last week with one count of theft by swindle and one count of theft-no consent.

\$450,000 in 2024 and 2025 – \$350,000 more than her expected salary for that time. Church leaders contacted law enforcement.

In December, a detective spoke with Stoltz, who confirmed she was the financial manager for the church, working part-time.

She told the detective she was aware of a problem with QuickBooks, claiming something happened when the church moved from "desktop to online," and that she brought the issue to the attention of church leaders.

The church had provided her with a laptop computer, so she could work from home.

Stoltz denied receiving any extra/over payments, the document says, and told the detective she was "broke."

The complaint further outlines that the accounting firm found that Stoltz was the only employee to be overpaid; the funds were deposited into a local bank, aligning

Finances continued on 14

Council continued on 4



FenceLines

by Mark Bernard

I’ve been waiting long for Saturday

The scurs bid Jack Frost adieu and changed the lock on the door based on the Weather Eye's data. Are they safe or will Jack Frost pick the lock? Starting Thursday, partly sunny with a modest chance of evening rain. Highs in the upper 60's with lows in the low 40's. Partly sunny Friday with a fair chance of rain. Highs in the low 60's with lows in the mid-40's. Partly sunny on Saturday with highs in the low 70's and lows in the low 50's. Sunday, mostly sunny with a slight chance of rain. Highs in the upper 70's with lows in the low 50's. Sunny Memorial Day with a highs in the low 80's with lows in the upper 50's. Tuesday, sunny with highs in the upper 70's and lows in the upper 50's.

Sunny on Wednesday with highs in the upper 70's and lows in the upper 50's. On May 25th we'll see around 15 hours of daylight, gaining only about 28 minutes more before the summer solstice. The normal high for May 25th is 71 and our normal low is 51. On Memorial Day the scurs will salute those who served as well as those who have gone before.

Finally we made some progress in the temperature department and the crops responded. Corn that seemed stuck in suspended animation suddenly made a move. Examining it up close and personal, most found that stands, while not perfect, were very adequate. Soybeans also began poking through with more regularity. The main bodies of most corn fields have remained clean despite the lack of rain to activate pre-emerge herbicides up until recently. Some took time over the weekend to border their corn for control of giant ragweed. Timing couldn't have been better from an efficacy and minimizing crop response perspective. It only makes sense to keep weeds from working their way in from the field margins as they generally don't suddenly appear out of nowhere in the middle. Some of the earliest planted corn was V2 around building sites and sheltered areas last week. Out in the wide open spaces, V1 was the rule.

An effort was made at the ranch to get early garden established. Getting a bonus day Sunday without rain seemed too good to be true. It was. Since it was dry enough, the spring bulb planters were planted along with a new Hosta and coral bell. In order to do that, weeding needed to be done. Removing the weeds by the AC unit took on more importance as some Johnny Jump Ups (viola) appeared there. They are likely descendants of some planted by earlier residents. The morning glory trellis was also a mess that needed attention. After rehydrating, the tiller went to battle in the vegetable garden. By 5:30 the area was ready to plant. Alas, the sprin-

kles started as we headed out the door for chores. Then the sky opened up. Oh, well, the rhubarb pie still tasted good. Maybe Saturday.

The Studebaker has been ailing as of late. I had high hopes of cruising after firing it up and running it up the road in April. The local Studebaker mechanic thought perhaps we should get it tuned up and I agreed. It hadn't been done in 10 years. While we were at it, the oil was also changed. I didn't remember how many miles it had on the change last fall when it was parked, but I recalled the oil level dropped on the stick after a couple of short outings. It left quite a puddle just in the short trip from his shop to the office. It was tuned up and ready to go except for the oil leak. I took the car home from there and within a couple of miles it coughed and sputtered, acting like it wasn't getting fuel. I made it home but just barely. I think the backfire even scared the Dubya's horses!

The mechanic loaded it up and hauled it back into town a few days later. After he drove it encountering the same problem, it was diagnosed as a bad electric fuel pump. Upon fixing the oil leak, another issue arose. The carb was losing vacuum as a result of a worn throttle shaft bushing, common on many carburetors nearing 70 years old.

Another parts search in an attempt to find the best permanent solution. Luckily, Studebaker used a Stromberg carburetor on this model. It will take some time and sleuthing, but there are parts and options available. It's very fortunate that there is a loyal group of Studebaker collectors and vendors who gladly offer their experience and expert advice.

Poppy got a workout from thunderstorms this past week. They weren't particularly intense, but several days in a row was enough to set her Corgi senses into overload. The Sunday night edition started off innocently enough. Prior to the storm, Poppy had sacked out on the bed for about an hour, peaceful as could be. By about 10:30 p.m. however, thunder was moving closer and she awakened with a start. Within a few minutes she was off the bed and disappeared. I watched a little more TV and decided to see where the little dog had gone. Apparently she was convinced the walk-in closet was her safe place. No question, it's very dark in there. While you can still hear the muffled thunder, you can't see the lightning. Makes perfect sense when you think about it. There are days when the notion of sleeping in the closet sounds appealing, as long as Poppy doesn't snore.

See you next week...real good then.



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

Confronted with a force of nature

There is a difference between knowing something and feeling it in your gut.

The other morning, I was volunteering at Farmamerica. This time of year, the organization offers field trips to students from area schools. Students from various communities arrive, are introduced to the facility and its offerings, and are divided into groups to visit the various locations in a rotation that gives them about half an hour at each site.

It's a delightful opportunity for the children, many of whom don't even realize that chickens not only lay eggs, they are capable of brooding and hatching them. Children are accompanied by a strong mix of chaperones and a lot of energy, so the large Farmamerica campus is a great choice for some good old-fashioned learning combined with exercise and fresh air.

Volunteers staff the different sites, supervising and guiding as children learn about everything from elements of agriculture that touch their everyday lives to schoolyard games played during recess at the one-room school buildings.

My job for the day was guiding kids through the 1850s farmstead, where they would get a look at the way settlers' lifestyles developed from the time they arrived to the time they were established enough to build a "mansion" of a cabin complete with glass windows.

I had been the interpreter on the site before, but because it had been awhile, I parked my car among the trees, opened the windows in anticipation of the 80-some degree day ahead, and

began perusing the information so my narratives would be as accurate as possible.

I realized I smelled smoke and wondered idly why that might be.

A moment later I looked up from the papers and realized I was surrounded by a haze of smoke so thick I could barely see past the trees I was parked among; it became obvious I should see what was happening.

When my line of sight brought the site's "smoke shack" into view, the small structure was more than living up to its name. Thick smoke was pouring out of every opening and being pushed rapidly northward by the day's strong wind.

I had been given a handheld radio "just in case of emergency." Since what I saw before me clearly qualified, I pressed the button and asked "Can anyone hear me?" The question was mostly to make sure I was pressing the right button.

I then proceeded to describe what I saw in front of me. I have very strong recollection of saying the words, "I don't see any flames yet, but there's definitely a fire inside," mostly because the flames appeared seconds later, stabbing out from the space above the loosely-hung door.

The radio conversation among staff included numerous requests and instructions, including getting some fire extinguishers to the site and, of course, calling 9-1-1.

For me, still temporarily alone at the location, there was only the knowledge there was nothing I could do.

What I saw in front of me made it



The smoke shack at Farmamerica caught fire when Deb was there to guide kids through the farmstead.

Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

clear that, whether it burned to ashes or was extinguished in short order, the structure would need to be replaced. The thing to watch for was the safety of the barn, probably 200 feet or more away, but in line with the ferocious wind.

Staff members arrived bringing the fire extinguishers; they slowed the fire somewhat, but had no hope of putting it out. My understanding of the extinguishers changed then and there—it became clear they would be very useful to put out a fire just getting its start, but against the robust flames pouring from the small building, they were of little help.

Even with the wind carrying the heat northward, all of us now waiting for the fire department—whose sirens we could hear approaching—had to step repeatedly backward.

Standing there among the 1850s buildings, I imagined how hopeless it would have been to a pioneer family to see those same flames. Inside, some of their food being preserved for the winter was being destroyed. Outside, any efforts to fetch and throw enough water would be utterly futile. Around them, they had to worry for the other

structures and whether the fire would spread.

I have always had great respect for the resilience and determination our early pioneers showed when they came to the wide open spaces to establish a new home for themselves and their families. My regard grew as I recognized the utter helplessness we humans face when confronted by a true force of nature.

Fortunately, the Waseca Fire Department arrived, extinguished the fire, and ensured it would not reignite. The distances between the buildings kept the fire from spreading. Completely counter to what one might have expected, I was able to lead the scheduled tours of the site that day with surprisingly little disruption.

But as for me, I had faced a demon and known I had no power against it. I had received a visceral reminder of how valuable the services are which have been made possible by the society which grew from the resilience and determination of our pioneers.

There is a difference between "knowing" something and feeling it in your gut.

The human capacity for burden is flexible

I finished my third round of physical therapy today. Over the past two weeks, I have seen some improvement to my back, including getting a diagnosis following an MRI and X-ray. Two bulging discs and arthritis inflammation. I am awaiting insurance approval to schedule a cortisone shot which should neutralize the pain and allow the area to continue healing.

This new chronic pain began almost five months ago, presenting as lower back pain, something not entirely new, but it had been quite some time. After about two months, the longest stretch of back pain (far exceeding the week it may have lasted other times) finally gave way. At the same time, I started getting pains in my left leg, which got so bad I could only walk with a limp. I finally went to the doctor—and then another doctor and then another doctor. I was prescribed steroids to help and later an anti-inflammatory medicine. The doctors didn't think anything was structurally wrong and didn't schedule an MRI until the physical therapist strongly suggested it. Every doctor I talked to told me I didn't have a bulging disc—until two of them showed up on the MRI.

Two weeks ago I began sleeping with six pillows under my left leg. That



Just a Thought...

by Eli Lutgens

was the first and only position I have found that allows enough relief to let me sleep. (Oh, glorious sleep. I'm so grateful I have found you again!) Over the past three weeks, I have had four physical therapy sessions and taken four acupuncture treatments from Swanson Acupuncture, located at the Growing Roots Chiropractor building. Between those and the new sleeping position, which takes the pressure off of the nerve pinched by the bulging discs, I have finally seen about a 10 percent improvement. I was very surprised, and grateful, the acupuncture helped. The first session was incredibly relaxing, the second, not really, but, the second session I was able to tell Michelle about the results of the MRI, so she was able to pinpoint the care around those specific nerves. The result, less pain.

Over this time of pain, I have done

very little newspapering. I put together the classified sections each week, special sections, and oversee the operation of each newspaper. The only newspaper assignment I completed, aside from the occasional column, was covering New Richland Prom. I wanted to give Deb a break. Also, I have taken those photos every year, aside from maybe one, since I was 22-years old. I took over the responsibility from former photographer Chris Schlaak and consider it a privilege to photograph

important events. (The one year I didn't cover prom I asked Deb, because she, too, is a professional.)

Coming up I plan to attend the NRHEG graduation ceremony along with as many baseball games as I can attend. It is painful to stand, painful to sit (although less, depending on the seat), and even worse to lie down. I hope the games are available electronically on the NSHS network, like the basketball games and wrestling tournament were. If not for that, I would have been incredibly sad not to be able to watch NRHEG athletes compete. High school sports, specifically the Panthers, are my favorite sporting events to watch.

"The human capacity for burden is like bamboo – far more flexible than you'd ever believe at first glance." — Jodi Picoult

NRHEG Star Eagle

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Farmamerica Field Trip



SPRING TOURS - Students from the Hollandale Christian School were among many who took part in field trips at Farmamerica during the organization's spring tours for schools.

Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently



Compostings

by Al Batt

Rounding up cows

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
What's wrong?
I lost another ball today.
You should give up bowling.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE
I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. It blew my whiskers off. A lot of farmland changed hands in May. Fierce winds moved the soil. The wind blew so hard that a hen laid the same egg twice.

When you think of Iowa, what do you think of? Was it eggs? Probably not, but Iowa is the largest egg-producing state, followed by Ohio and Indiana. My mother had the egg money she earned by selling eggs from her hens to Sibilrud's Grocery Store, which she used to buy essentials like food. No one told her how to spend her egg money. Why would we? She spent it on us.

My mother was of such a height that the sun visor in her car blocked no sunlight from her eyes. If we were leaving at noon on Friday, Mom was ready to go by 9 Thursday morning. Mom liked her coffee strong enough to float a spoon. When served decaf and creamer, John Wayne became annoyed and famously asked, "Who turned my coffee into dessert?" John would have loved my mother's coffee. Mom turned the end piece of bread toward the inside of the sandwich. She cut off the blue part of the cheese and we ate the rest. She was somebody who made everybody feel like somebody.

Do I miss talking to my mother? I never stopped talking to her. Happy Mother's Day, Mom.

YOU ARE GETTING OLDER
If you can forget what you're doing while you're doing it.

If you remember driving cars with more cigarette lighters than seatbelts.

If your first-aid kit contained Band-Aids, Mercurochrome or Merthiolate, iodine and horehound cough drops. Mercurochrome, Merthiolate and iodine were used on scrapes and cuts. Iodine is an effective germicide still in use. Mercurochrome and Merthiolate were banned due to mercury toxicity. Any products sold under those names today use mercury-free ingredients. Iodine was the more effective antiseptic, and it created intense stinging. Mercurochrome was water-based and my favorite because it didn't sting. Merthiolate had alcohol, so it carried a stinging sensation. Mercurochrome and Merthiolate left bright red-orange stains, earning those products the nickname "monkey blood." Iodine left a dark yellow-brown stain. Kids blew on their treated wounds, hoping to lessen the

sting or make the antiseptic dry faster. Horehound cough drops are traditional, old-fashioned herbal lozenges used to soothe sore throats and relieve coughs. Made from a member of the mint family, they feature an earthy, licorice-like flavor.

I'VE LEARNED
According to the USGA, a typical 18-hole golf course covers 110 to 200 acres.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT
What kind of water does a cat drink? Purrified water.
A friend asked me to help round up his 37 cows. I said, "40."
My grandson swallowed a bunch of Scrabble tiles. His next trip to the toilet could spell disaster.
One-one was a racehorse. Two-two was one too. One-one won one race. Two-two won one too.

NATURE NOTES
I watched ring-billed gulls fly invisible roads in the sky. The European Seagull Screeching Championship takes place at the Verloren Gemoare cafe near the Belgian coastal city of De Panne. Ring-billed gulls are nicknamed McGulls, dumpster gulls, landfill gulls, fast-food gulls and french-fry gulls. I associate the cries of these iconic birds with tranquil weather.

Maple helicopters aren't Mayo helicopters. The winged seeds of a maple tree are called helicopters, keys, whirlybirds, spinners, whirligigs, spinning jennies, whirlers, twisters, whirlwinds, wing nuts or samaras. Red maple samaras are red, in contrast to those of the silver maple, which are green in spring when the samaras of both the red and silver maples disperse. Norway, sugar and Japanese maples drop their seeds in the fall.

In the King James Bible, the Song of Solomon includes: "The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of the birds is come and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land," heralding the onset of spring in what is now the modern-day Middle East. Turtle derived from "turtur," imitating the cooing call of a dove. The New International Version of that text is "Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land." The New Living Translation of the Bible reads, "The flowers are springing up, the season of singing birds has come, and the cooing of turtledoves fills the air."

Get outside and count the dandelions.

MEETING ADJOURNED
"Neither genius, fame, nor love show the greatness of the soul. Only kindness can do that."—Jean Baptiste Henri Lacordaire.

NRHEG FFA at Minnesota FFA Convention



Ag Sales - 10th place. Alexa Viktota (Silver), Kinley Adams (Gold - 18th), Emily DeLaCruz (Silver), Mady Schlaak (Bronze)

Chapter Delegates Makenna Reeder and Hadley Roeker



Lauren Wakefield - 3rd place in Best Informed Greenhand

Best Informed Greenhand - 7th place. August Bethke (Gold), Lauren Wakefield (Gold - 3rd), Ellie Clark (Gold), Emily DeLaCruz (Gold), Madison Schultz (Gold), Dylan Malakowsky (Silver). Not pictured, Hadley Roeker (Silver).



Vet Science - 10th place. Brooklyn Sommer (Gold - 18th), Ezra Boerner (Bronze), August Bethke (Silver), Colton Lermom (Silver)

Livestock - 30th place. Olivia Johnson (Silver), Abbie Viktora (Silver), Paige Johnson (Gold), Lauren Wakefield (Gold).





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The NRHEG FFA competed at the Minnesota FFA Convention on April 20 and 21 at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities campuses, the Minnesota State Fairgrounds, and the St. Paul Pipefitters Training and Certification Center. More than 6,000 FFA members and guests from across the state participated in general sessions, competitive events, educational tours, leadership workshops, college visits, and more.

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OBITUARIES

Lorraine Wallace

Lorraine Cecelia Wallace, 91, of Geneva, passed away peacefully on Monday, May 11, 2026 at the New Richland Care Center.

Born on June 16, 1934 in Wells, Minnesota, she was a daughter of the late Stanley and Agnes (Klocek) Kozioliek. On May 6, 1953, Lorraine married Donald Wallace and together they built a loving home that created countless cherished memories. They instilled a strong work ethic and modeled that for their children. She was a beloved mother, grandmother, great grandmother (Grandma Rain), and friend, known for her warmth, and kindness.

A talented cook and baker, she was renowned for her chocolate chip cookies, scotch-a-roos, and popcorn balls. Her talents extended beyond everyday cooking, as she took pride in making beautiful wedding, birthday, and graduation cakes for family and friends throughout the years. She spent many hours gardening and canning delicious foods, including pickles, spaghetti sauce, salsa, and peaches.

Lorraine also enjoyed playing Bingo. She always had to wear her lucky red shirt. Her greatest joy came from her family. Lorraine cherished her role as a grandmother and great-grandmother, creating lasting bonds with her loved ones. Her caring, nurturing heart was noticed by all. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Those left to cherish Lorraine's memory include her five children: Laureen and James Hohansee, Sharon and Jeff Lageson, Diane



Lorraine Wallace

and Dave Broskoff, Dan and Barb Wallace, and Stacy and Shannon Wobschall; 15 grandchildren: Jayme, Jeanne, Candy, Krissy, Angie, Jenny, Travis, Jeremy, Michel, Spencer, Kyle, Lindsey, Courtney, Jordyn and Renae; 30 great-grandchildren; several nieces, nephews and extended family members; and countless friends.

In addition to her parents, Stanley and Agnes Kozioliek, Lorraine was preceded in death by her husband, Donald Wallace; two sons and daughter-in-laws, Lyle and Becky and Bob and Kathleen Wallace; siblings, James and Marvin Kozioliek and Betty Gavle.

A funeral service was held at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, May 18, 2026 at Sacred Heart, 810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna with a visitation, which began at 9:30 a.m. at the church. Burial was held at Geneva Cemetery.

Dale Joecks

Dale Ronald Joecks, age 88, passed away on May 12, 2026 at Prairie Senior Cottages in New Richland, where he received wonderful care.

Dale was born in Waseca on February 28, 1938, the youngest son of Erich and Elizabeth (Schoenrock) Joecks of New Richland. He was a member of First Lutheran Church in Waldorf, where he was baptized and confirmed. He grew up on the family farm near Waldorf where he helped his parents farm. When he was old enough, he took a job hauling grain. In 1956, he graduated from Waldorf High School.

On September 7, 1958, he married Judith Kay Lorig, daughter of Elwin (Bud) and Darlene (McKeighan) Lorig at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Waseca. They made their first home in Waseca, where Dale was employed by Patton Chevrolet. A true car enthusiast, Dale thoroughly enjoyed his

time selling cars at Patton. Dale also worked at Corchran, Inc. in Waseca, which he loved reminiscing about. We think he had a lot of fun at Corchran's.

In the fall of 1960, Dale and Judy moved to the home farm, planted their first crop that spring, and continued farming until retiring in 2018. After retirement, he still enjoyed helping with tillage until age 80. Their son Todd and his family moved to the home farm in 2004 where they lovingly operate this now third generation farm.

Dale liked to travel but liked getting home even better. Dale and Judy enjoyed a number of great company trips around the world with customers, fellow dealers and friends during his time selling seed for Super Crost. The time he spent with his family, whether it was a road trip to CA, or a trip to the Dairy Queen, was what he enjoyed the most.

He is survived by his wife, Judy

Joecks of New Richland; children, Becky Joecks of Sioux Falls, SD, Todd (Denise) Joecks of New Richland, Gail Joecks of St. Louis Park; one grandchild, Lucas Joecks; as well as many cousins, nieces, nephews, and their families.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Erich and Elizabeth Joecks; sister, Leona Collins; brothers, Luverne Joecks, Kenneth Joecks; granddaughter, Elizabeth Moen; mother and father-in-law, Elwin and Darlene Lorig; sisters-in-law, Loretta Joecks, Leola Joecks, Nancy Lorig; brothers-in-law, Orville Collins, Douglas Lorig, and Philip Lorig; and nephew, Curtis Collins.

Visitation for Dale was held from 4 - 7 PM on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca. Visitation continued one hour prior to the service at the church on Wednesday.



Dale Joecks

Funeral Service was at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 at First Lutheran Church in Waldorf. Burial followed at First Lutheran Cemetery in Waldorf.

Memorials may be directed to the First Lutheran Church of Waldorf, MN in Dale's honor. Dsofuneral.com

Local students earn spring accolades

- Minnesota State University, Mankato** degrees
- Ellendale, MN**
- Brenna Sommer, BS, Communication Sciences and Disorders, Summa Cum Laude, CERT, American Sign Language.
- Geneva, MN**
- Shelby Johnston, BS, Psychology, Summa Cum Laude.
- New Richland, MN**
- Severin Eads, BS, Law Enforcement, Magna Cum Laude
- Nicole Loken, GC, Spec Ed: Learning Disability, Magna Cum Laude
- Nicole Loken, GC, Special Ed: Emotional/Behavioral, Magna Cum Laude
- Taylor Schmidt, BS, Communication Sciences and Disorders, Summa Cum Laude
- Taylor Schmidt, CERT, American Sign Language, Summa Cum Laude
- Kristina Tufte, BS, Applied

- Leadership Waseca, MN**
- Claire Adams, BS, Special Ed: Academic and Behavior Strategy, Cum Laude
- Aspen Ascheman, BS, Psychology, Summa Cum Laude
- Autumn Bleess, BBA, Business Administration
- Erika Bowers, BS, Aviation
- Theresa Breck, BFA, Dance, Summa Cum Laude
- Riley Britton, BS, Construction Management
- Dahminik Deutsch, BS, Aviation, Magna Cum Laude
- Eddy Gallegos, BS, Music Industry
- Sammie Neff, MS, Advanced Professional Nurse
- Benjamin Priebe, BBA, Business Administration
- Isabella Sorenson, BS, Management, Summa Cum Laude
- Ryan Zimmerman, BS, Social Studies Teaching, Cum Laude



TOURING HOLY LAND- Speaker Melissa Finner shared information about the Holy Land during a talk she gave at First Lutheran Church in Waldorf on May 12. Finner, at far left, is pictured here with the members of her audience. Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

Local group hears about Holy Land

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

About 25 people gathered at lunchtime on May 12 at First Lutheran Church in Waldorf to hear from Melissa Finner about a trip she and her husband, Pastor Adam Finner of St. Peter Lutheran Church in Vernon Center, took to the Holy Land early in May of 2025.

Finner told the group that, even though there is war in the region, they and the other 22 members of their group never felt unsafe. The tour guide and others, though, informed them the size of their group was much smaller than before hostilities began—previous tours typically numbered in the 80s and required two or more buses to travel throughout the region. “That was an advantage for us,” said Finner. “We didn’t feel crowded or jammed in. Some of the places we visited had very tight quarters.” During her 30-minute talk, she showed photos and described what it was like to be in some unusual settings, including making their way through underground tunnels and ruins where pathways were so narrow, group members had to shuffle sideways to get through.

When asked whether she would go again, Finner responded with an enthusiastic “yes,” saying that, having now seen and learned about some of the locations for the first time, she would feel better equipped to truly take in some of the information

shared and make more connections between them and what she has read in the Bible. She repeated one comment said to her before she left on the trip that she found to be very accurate: “It will take what you read in the Bible and change it from black and white to full-color 3D.”

She went on to say that now, as she reads about biblical events, she has a picture in her head of what the countryside, the roadways, and the towns looked like.

Finner showed many slides with pictures of famous sites, including the Qumrun tunnels where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered and the “Palm Sunday Road,” which is the roadway Jesus would have ridden down while being greeted by the jubilant citizens of Jerusalem. Deeply meaningful for her, she said, was the Via Dolorosa, Latin for “Way of Sorrow,” the path Jesus would probably have walked carrying the cross. On walls along the roadway, she mentioned, are “stations” which call to mind incidents that happened during that journey.

Among the places she and her husband found most profound, she said, were the Garden of Gethsemane, a baptism remembrance in the Jordan River, and standing on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, where the joyful miracles of the fishes and the walking on water took place.

She described one meal named “St. Peter’s Fish Meal.”



Melissa Finner and her husband Adam, pastor at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Vernon Center, found it personally meaningful to stand on the shore of the Sea of Galilee during their 2025 trip to the Holy Land.

“It was the whole fish, head and all, with the eyes still in it,” she said. “You can guess we didn’t eat the whole thing.”

For nearly every presumed known location, Finner commented, there seemed to be a church. Such locations include the stable in Bethlehem: a church has been built above and tunnels through the ruins beneath lead to a cave which has long been identified as the one from the nativity. Another was the place where people believe Mary was visited by an angel and informed she would be the earthly mother of the Messiah. A church also stands above the ruins of a home believed to be Peter’s house. Another space has been identified as the “upper room” where Jesus and his disciples celebrated the Last Supper. Two caves in the Holy Land are considered likely choices for the place of Jesus’ burial: the tour group visited both.

A church built near the house of High Priest Caiaphas was also deeply meaningful for her, Finner said. She described that Caiaphas’ house had cells for prisoners; a common way to deliver them to those cells was through holes in the floor.

“I could just picture Jesus being dropped down there all alone, in the dark, waiting for dawn and knowing what was coming,” recalled Finner.

The group was impacted by modern-day hostilities only just before leaving Israel on May 8: their flight home could not depart from the Jerusalem airport because there had been a missile strike. Instead, they had to transfer into the Gaza Strip to take a flight from there. She remembers the whole group felt uneasy when they were asked to hand over their passports to a courier who needed to confirm their identities.

“We were nervous, but it all worked out,” said Finner.

■ Council
from Page 1

for extended periods. Council members also issued a friendly reminder that the summer season has started and city standards require that grass grow no taller than six inches. Spring cleanup is set for June 13 from 9 a.m. to noon. The community hall floor stripping and waxing

will take place from May 18 to 21, during which time the hall will be closed for public use.

The council approved the First Quarter Fire Department Emergency Responder Clothing Stipend from the Ellendale Joint Ambulance, the resolution authorizing donation of money from the Ellendale Fire Relief Association; and a resolution recognizing the payment of state ambulance funds to be issued to the Ellendale Ambulance in the amount of \$27,255.



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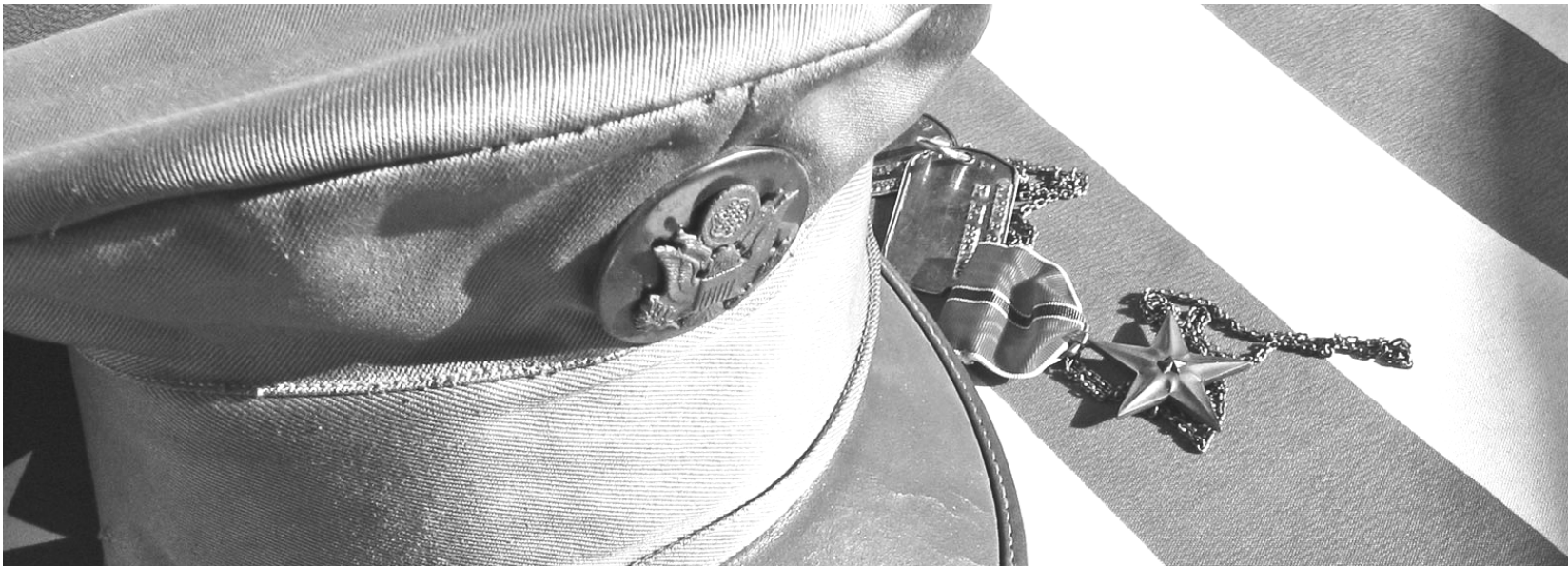
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MEMORIAL DAY

MAY 25, 2026



Area Memorial Day ceremonies

Memorial Day Events

Veterans organizations will celebrate Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, 2026 in accordance with the following schedule. Please set aside time to attend one of these featured events in commemoration of those who have and are currently serving our country in the military. The events especially pay tribute to those who have given the ultimate sacrifice of their lives, establishing freedom in the United States of America.

Those who wish to be able to sit during outdoor ceremonies may wish to bring a lawn chair.

New Richland

The New Richland American Legion invites all members of the public to its annual Memorial Day program, scheduled for 11 a.m. Monday, May 25 in the NRHEG Secondary School gymnasium. Along with ceremonial observations, the program will feature local news reporter Deb Bently as speaker. The school choir will sing the national anthem, "My Country 'tis of Thee," and "America, the Beautiful." Seniors Chloe Stork and Jacob Karl will give readings.

After the ceremony, participants are invited to The Willows restaurant, which will offer lunch that day even though it's typically closed on Mondays. A limited menu will feature pulled pork sandwiches and potato

salad for \$11 a person.

The American Legion members will meet at the Legion Post at 8 a.m.; they will leave town at 8:25 a.m. to arrive at Calvary Cemetery at 8:30 and then go on to other area cemeteries.

The Church of All Saints will celebrate a Mass at Calvary Cemetery at 10:30 a.m. with Father Frerichs officiating. In case of rain, Mass will be held at the church.

Waldorf

The Waldorf American Legion Post #587 Memorial Day Program will be at the Waldorf Community Center located on Main Street at 10:15 a.m. with Past American Legion District Commander Mark Maloney as speaker. Prior to the program at 9 a.m., a graveside service will take place at Zoar's Cemetery. Following the program, graveside services will be presented at St. Joseph Community Cemetery and First Lutheran Church Cemetery. A potluck dinner will begin at noon in the Community Center; everyone is welcome.

Ellendale and Geneva

Members of the Ellendale and Geneva Legion and VFW will meet at the Ellendale community building at 7:30 a.m. on Monday, May 25, Memorial Day. All veterans and current members of the military are encouraged to join them as they take part in brief ceremonies at area

cemeteries: Litomysl at 8 a.m.; Zion Lutheran Church Cemetery at 8:45; St. Aiden's Cemetery, Bath, at 9:15. Mark Domeier will speak during the program at Geneva Cemetery, which begins at 10:15. A ceremony at the Ellendale First Lutheran Church Cemetery will begin at 11:15.

St. Aidan's: Memorial Day observations at St. Aidan's Cemetery will include an Honor Guard presentation at 9:15 and a 9:30 Mass. No event will be held if it rains.

Hartland

Hartland American Legion Post 266 will hold a Memorial Day service at Cross of Glory Church social hall beginning at 9 a.m. on Memorial Day. The NRHEG music department will participate. Hospitality will follow from the Cross of Glory Altar Guild.

Clarks Grove

An outdoor Memorial Day service is scheduled for 9 a.m. at the Clarks Grove Baptist Cemetery.

If it rains, no service will take place.

Freeborn

A 9 a.m. Memorial Day Service at Hartland's Cross of Glory Church will include a guest speaker and lunch. The NRHEG Band will play.

A 10 a.m. service will be held at the West Freeborn Lutheran Church Cemetery; taking part in the service will be the Freeborn American Legion Post honor guard.



Norbert Schultz



Merlyn Bohlen



Gene Nelson



Robert Wilson



Howard Christensen



Orville Langlie



Martin Roth



Gerald Johnson



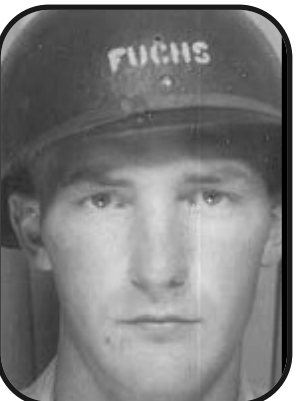
Adrian Prescher



Adam Finseth



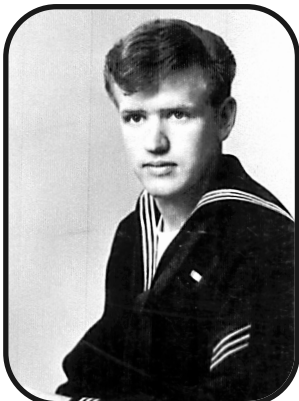
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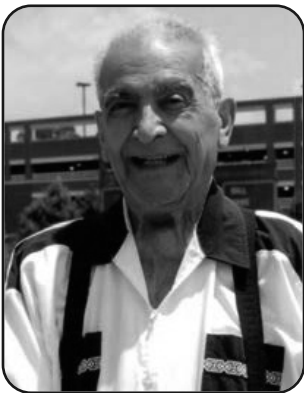
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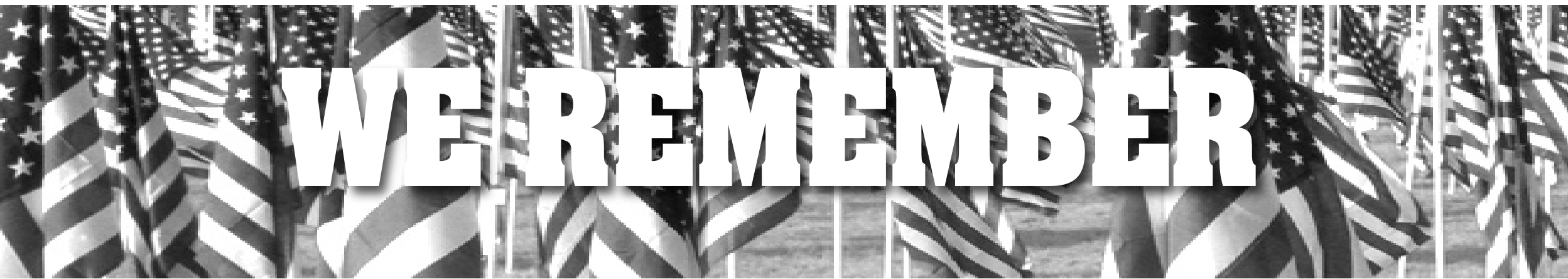
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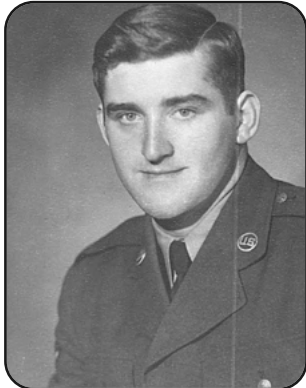
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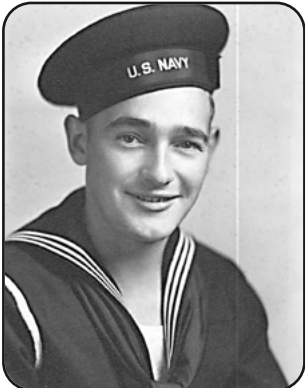
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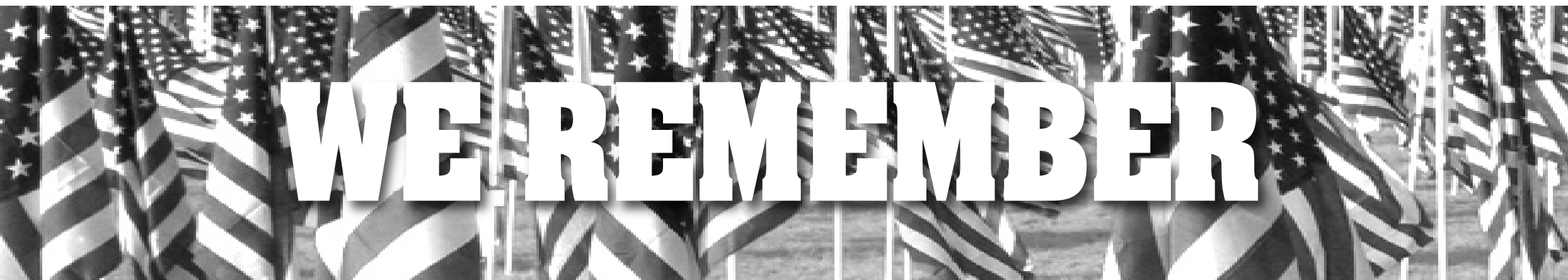
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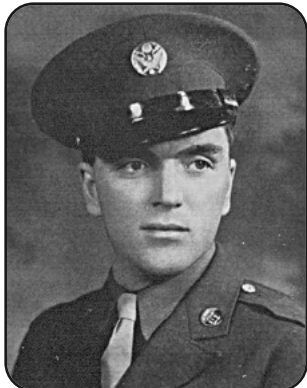
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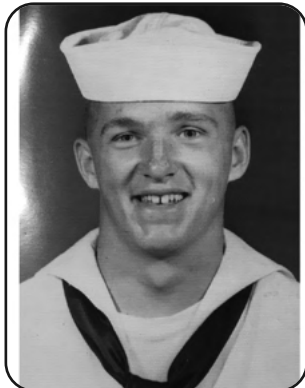
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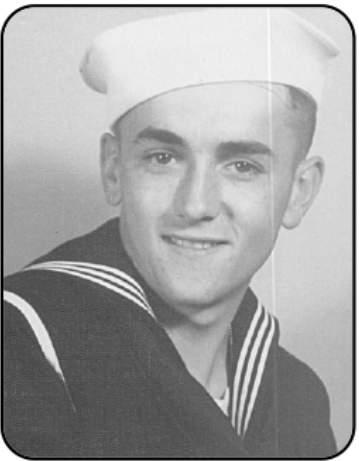
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Don Olson



James Paulson



William "Bill" Robinson



George "Bud" Shurson



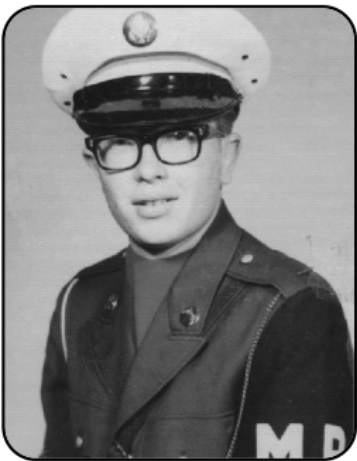
John Somage



George Tukua



Gilman Olson



Randy Paulson



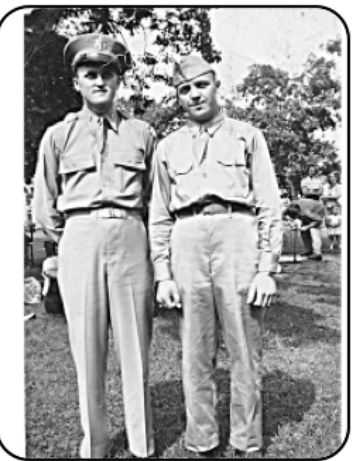
Ronald Roehrs



Merle Shurson



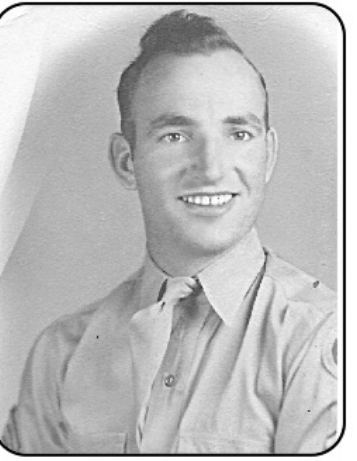
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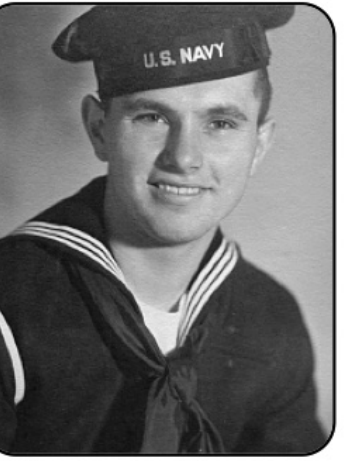
Donald Peterson



Paul Romine



Virgil Shurson



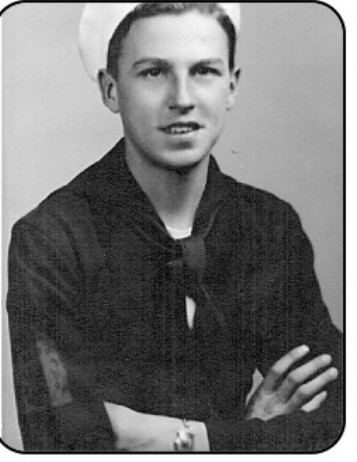
Laurence Supalla



Jule Tukua



Jerry Olson



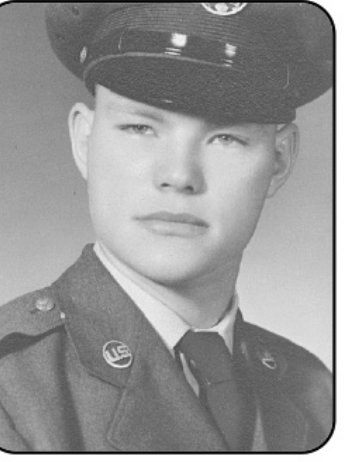
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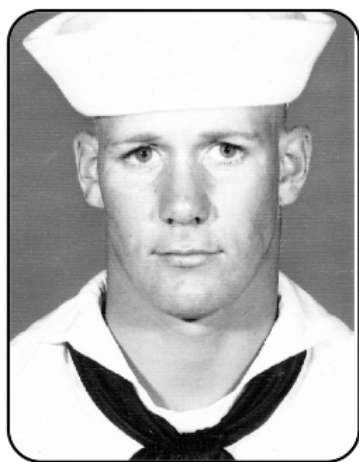
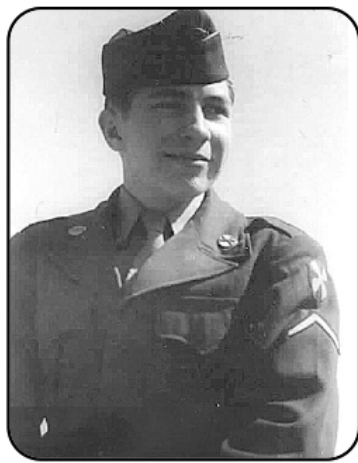
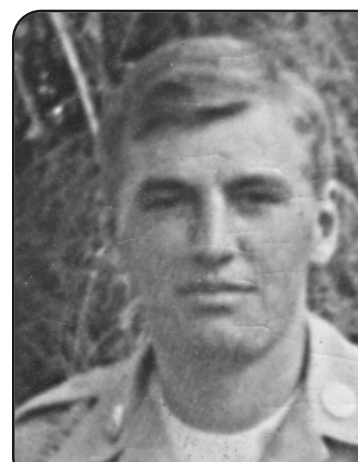
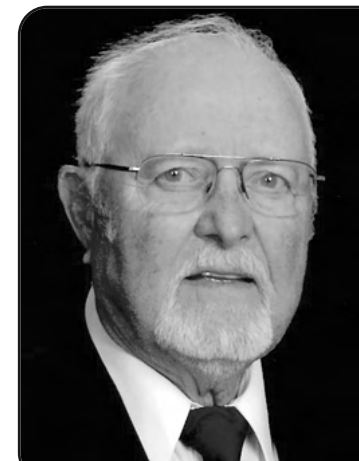
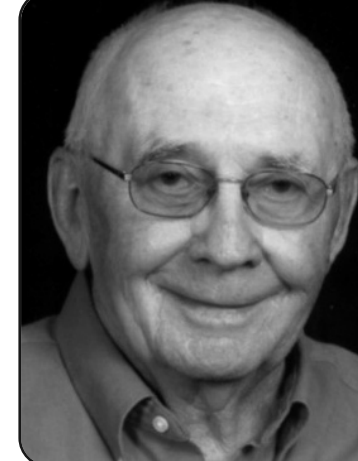
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Softball Panthers end regular season

NRHEG draws No. 6 section seed

The NRHEG High School softball team was already well on its way to 10-running Triton when Mother Nature settled the issue. Lightning spotted in the area halted play after four innings as the Panthers defeated the visiting Cobras 16-5 at New Richland's Legion Field last Thursday. The Panthers, according to coach Wendy Schultz, won despite not playing well on defense, finishing the day with six errors. "Honestly, this was not a well-played game defensively for us," said Schultz, whose team committed all six errors in the first two innings as Triton took a 5-1 lead. The Panthers also cost themselves with a couple baserunning mistakes. But they didn't fold. "The girls held their composure and bounced back in the next two

innings, committing no errors," said Schultz. The Panther bats, meanwhile, came to life, highlighted by Quinn CanMaldeghe at 2-for-3 with a triple and four runs, and Kyera Eustice at 2-for-3 with a double and two RBIs. "Quinn and Kyera's bats were alive," said Schultz. Izley Boerner went 2-for-3, Faith Phillips 2-for-4. Ezra Boerner and Addy Stadheim had one hit each. Brooklyn Summer and Chloe Stork both scored three runs. Izley Boerner was the winning pitcher. She allowed no earned runs on two hits, with two strikeouts and two walks. The Panthers had a rough outing at Randolph last Tuesday, getting just two hits in a 12-0 four-inning loss.



SOFTBALL – At left, the Panthers' Izley Boerner fires a pitch. At right, NRHEG's Olivia Berg slides safely into second.

Photos by Jodi Wayne



Stork and Eustice had the hits. Izley Boerner gave up 12 earned runs on 14 hits. The Panthers had five fielding errors. "This was a tough game defensively," said Schultz. "On a more

positive note, offensively we had only two hits but had a lot of hard-hit balls that Randolph played well. We will keep plugging away at practice." The Panthers finished the regular

season 9-7 overall and 6-4 in the Gopher Conference. The Panthers drew the No. 6 seed in Section 1A and hosted No. 11 Bethlehem Academy Monday. The winner plays Tuesday at No. 3 seed

Lewiston-Altura. The tournament continues May 21 at Todd Park in Austin, with the semifinals set for May 25 and championship May 27.

NRHEG nine walks off against Lyle Pacelli, 12-11

Panthers seeded No. 1 in Section 1A

The NRHEG High School baseball team delivered one of its most exciting wins of the season last Tuesday, rallying for a dramatic 12-11 walk-off victory over Lyle/Austin Pacelli at Jeff and Carol Reese Field in New Richland. Trailing 11-6 entering the bottom of the seventh inning, the Panthers exploded for six runs to complete an incredible comeback victory. With two outs and the bases loaded in the final inning, Sean Lassahn came through in the clutch with a bases-clearing triple to tie the game at 11-11 and ignite the Panthers' dugout. After Mack Gilliland was intentionally walked to put runners on first and third, A.J. Deen ended the game on the very first pitch he saw, delivering a walk-off RBI single to give NRHEG the 12-11 victory. The Panthers pounded out 12 hits in the win. Mack Gilliland led the offense, going 3-for-4 with a double, two runs scored, and two stolen bases. Deen finished 2-for-4 with three RBIs, including the game-winning hit, while Dakota Schlaak and Brooks Gilliland each added two hits and an RBI. Jordan Brouwers and Calvin Nissen contributed one hit apiece. Lassahn drove in four runs on the night, highlighted by his game-tying triple. NRHEG got on the board early when Deen lifted a sacrifice fly in the first inning. Dakota Schlaak added an RBI single in the second, and Brooks Gilliland extended the Panthers' lead in the third with an RBI double. On the mound, Owen Wayne kept NRHEG in the game and earned the win with a strong outing, striking out eight over five innings while

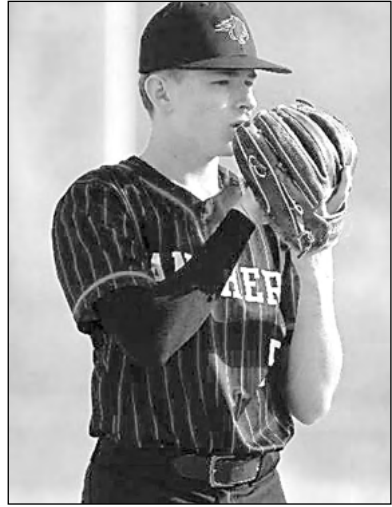
"The boys showed grit and how to never give up until the final out."
— NRHEG coach Marcus Fischer

allowing just two earned runs. The comeback showed the toughness and fight of the Panthers, who refused to back down and capped the night with a thrilling walk-off finish in front of the home crowd. "The boys showed grit and how to never give up until the last out is made," said NRHEG coach Marcus Fischer. "They had to persevere and have each other's backs. We got into a tough situation while being up after five innings. The wind and dust made it very difficult to see the ball off the bat for our outfielders. We made a few mistakes in the outfield, and it was difficult throwing the ball back into the wind to hit our cuts. It was not the situation we wanted to get into, but we fought until the end." The Panthers fell to Randolph 6-2 on Monday at Reese Field despite outpitching their opponent 6-4. The Panthers continued to battle throughout the night and had the game within two runs entering the seventh inning, but another pair of Randolph runs in the final inning helped seal the game. "We competed well throughout most of the game and put ourselves in position to win, but ultimately fell just short," said Fischer. Deen and Lassahn each recorded



FINISHING STRONG – The NRHEG baseball team earned the No. 1 seed in the Section 1A tournament, finishing 12-1 for the regular season. Above left, Sean Lassahn celebrates at third after hitting a seventh-inning triple. Clockwise from top right: Owen Wayne greets Brock Holland at home plate; Dakota Schlaak makes a throw from the outfield; Brooks Gilliland follows through on a pitch; Wayne looks in for the signal; Holland bunts.

Photos by Jodi Wayne



two hits, including a double by Deen. Ryan Schlaak contributed a hit and a run scored, while Nissen drove in a run. Mack Gilliland gave the Panthers a solid start on the mound, pitching 6 1/3 innings while allowing four

hits and striking out five. The Panthers defense also played a clean game without committing an error. "Mack did a wonderful job executing pitches, attacking batters, and showing composure on the mound," said Fischer.

The Panthers, 12-4 overall and 5-3 in the Gopher Conference, drew the No. 1 seed in Section 1A, earning a first-round home matchup against 16th-seeded Houston Wednesday. The winner advances to the double-elimination portion of the tourna-

ment Saturday, May 23 at noon at Riverland Community College in Austin.

Golfers host third round of conference

The NRHEG High School golf teams hosted the third round of Gopher Conference play last Monday at Riverview Golf Course. The Panther boys finished eighth as a team. Scores: Reid Sandry 95, Shan Hansen 97, Braxton Arnold 90, Chuck Tufte 115, Matt Williams 117, Blake Olson 121. The NRHEG girls did not field a team score. Individuals: Alexis Olson 116, Addison Bauleke 124, Hailey Staska 132.



FINISHING FIRST – The Panthers' Hudson Chrz, left, and Gabby Schlaak, right, captured firsts at Waseca last week.

Photos by Larry Nydegger



Tracksters try some new events at Waseca

With wind gusts upwards of 40 mph, the conditions were less-than-ideal for a track and field meet as the NRHEG Panthers competed at Waseca last Tuesday. "But there were still smiles to be seen on our athletes," said NRHEG co-head coach Larry Nydegger. It's because the Panthers performed surprisingly well in some first-ever attempts at new events. Among the highlights: Brendan Schmidt tried the high jump for the first time and finished fourth at 5 feet, 6 inches. Jacob Karl attempted the 300-meter hurdles for the first time and took third, clocking 51.97 seconds. And Chloe Riewer was a first-time entrant in the 3200. She was third in 14:17. In addition, the Panthers' Holly

Bartness accomplished something that Nydegger does not believe has been accomplished in the history of NRHEG. "By competing in the 100 hurdles, she has now competed in every running event that track and field has to offer," said Nydegger. Bartness finished sixth, clocking 20.74. Finishing first for the Panthers were Gabby Schlaak, 100 hurdles, 1:51; Julieann Wobbrock, 1600, 5:56; and Hudson Chrz, 110 hurdles, 19.03. Ellie Clark clocked 55.63 for second in the 300 hurdles. Colton Lermond was third in the 3200 in 13:22. The Panthers compete at the sub-section level today at St. James.

VanMaldegheM Signed



SIGNED WITH BETHANY - NRHEG senior Quinn VanMaldeghe (front row slightly right of center, holding child) has committed to Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato to be part of the school's basketball program. VanMaldeghe says she chose Bethany because she is impressed by the coaching staff, because the campus is appealing, and because the school is a short commute from home. She says she has not yet decided her major, but is leaning toward a career in the field of athletics. One of her first commitments as she joins the team, she says, will be to take part in summer weight room "practices."

Freeborn Legion Auxiliary newsletter

The Freeborn American Legion Auxiliary met on May 16, 2026 at 9 a.m. at the Freeborn Legion Hall. President Sandy Anderson called the meeting to order. The American Flag and the Auxiliary Pledge were recited.

The Secretary and Treasurer reports were given. Both reports were approved as read.

Bills were presented and motioned to be paid.

Our membership is at 52 and our goal is 53.

Sandy gave the current Poppy report. The Poppy will be available at the Memorial Day Program. The revised and final Poppy report will be given at the September meeting.

The Memorial Day Program will be held at 11 in the Freeborn Fire Hall and will conclude at the Freeborn Cemetery. The Freeborn Cemetery Association will hold a luncheon at the Fire Hall following the Memorial Day Program. They will serve a Sloppy Joe meal.

It was discussed and decided to do our "No Bake" fundraiser again this year. Sandy will include this in the August membership letter. Sandy announced that the dues will be

going up \$5.00 due to the Department wanting \$5.00 more per member.

The By-Laws were read through and no changes were made.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Announcements were made that the "Tee It Up for Campers Golf Tournament" for True Friends will be held on July 11 at Oak View Golf Course by Freeborn. For more information contact Jim Beach 507-391-3773.

Also announced was that the Freeborn Area Heritage Museum, which is located at 608 Park St in Freeborn, is open on Sundays 1 – 4 p.m., and all are welcome to come and look around. Everyone is also welcome to attend the Heritage monthly meetings which are held the 3rd Monday at 7 p.m. at the museum. The Museum will be open on Memorial Day at 1 p.m.

Also announced there will be a Freeborn American Legion Fish Fry on Saturday, May 23rd. Serving is from 5 to 7 p.m. They serve fish, coleslaw, and baked potatoes.

Respectfully Submitted by Sandy Anderson, President



BLOOMING BRIGHT - New Richland Town and Country Garden Club members invited the public to a plant sale at city hall the morning of May 16. Helping with the setup and customer service were (from left) Eleanor Schlaak, Jody Johnson, Kris Pfeffer, Laurie Goodnough, Barb Finseth, Sheryl Schanil, Valerie Bartelt, Stacy Bethke, Julie Economy, Elizabeth Knutson, and Diane Smith.

Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

New Richland Garden Club enjoys successful sale

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

The New Richland Town and Country Garden Club enjoyed a steady stream of shoppers at its sale at the city community center the morning of May 16. A wide variety of plants was set out for display. Alongside standards like geraniums, petunias and Gerbera daisies were a few special finds from among garden club members' collections. These included rhubarb, peonies, and even a jade plant.

Member Stacy Bethke mentioned the sale included a rich selection of plants, but surprisingly no hostas, which are typically a staple. "Plant variety varies by the year, depending on what's avail-

able in member's gardens," Bethke commented. She added that group members also like to bring plants they believe buyers may be interested in trying out.

Club member Barb Finseth expressed gratitude for Saturday's sunny warmth. "Often over the years the middle of May date has been rainy, windy or cold—and sometimes all of them," she recalls. The nicer weather may have encouraged buyers to think about this year's gardens, but at the very least it gave the club members pleasant conditions as they brought and then helped deliver their wares.

The sale is the Garden Club's only annual fundraiser; funds are used to support and enhance the



Garden club member Stacy Bethke, left, helps customer Diane Stenzel with some purchases during the club's annual plant sale.

Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

group's two major projects—the city flower garden located along Highway 30 across from the secondary school parking lot and a smaller garden next to city hall. Club members work under the leadership of an organizational committee headed by Kris Pfeffer.

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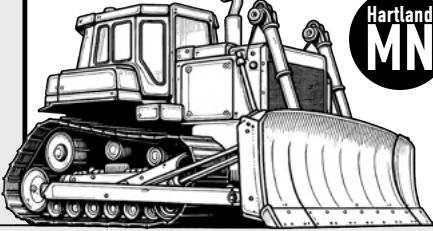
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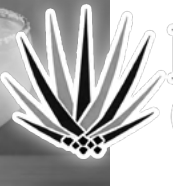
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Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl
Outdoors Writer

Our grandson Trevor keeps us in fish

This is the season for stormy weather that will hopefully bring some rain to our area and the whole state. I am not sure how much rain we received last Sunday night, but it came with wind and tornado warnings. There have been quite a few wildfires going on in northern Minnesota near Duluth, Crosby-Brainerd area and Park Rapids. We have to be mindful of fire warnings and burning bans, especially with the dry spell we have been having.

Being the owner of a cabin in northern Minnesota makes me mindful of fires and burning bans. There is not much to do but worry when the cabin sits over 300 miles from where I live. I guess there is not much that I could do about it if I was there either.

In a lighter note, I know that there have been a lot of fish being caught on many of the area's lakes. The crappie bite has still been strong, and pike and bass are also being reported. My brother-in-law, Lynn Johnson, has been having pretty good luck on a few different area lakes.

My grandson, Trevor, called me last Sunday and asked if his

grandma and I would like him to bring over his fryer, and he would fry up some crappies that he had caught the day before. I told him that would be great. He came over and fried up the crappies, which we devoured. He took me crappie fishing a couple of weeks ago and Jean and I enjoyed a nice meal. Trevor never keeps more fish than he needs for a meal. He doesn't like to freeze fish because he feels that it doesn't have that fresh taste once you freeze it.

I agree with Trevor, out of the lake and into the pan is always the best. He sure takes good care of Grandpa and Grandma, and we really appreciate it. He fished with us when he was younger and now it seems like he remembers those good times and is returning the favor.

He has taken his grandma and me walleye fishing a couple of times, and when Grandma went, I believe that she caught the first five or six walleyes before Trevor and I caught any, but we finally started catching fish, so it was all good. We always like it when Grandma catches fish.



Shown here are two pictures taken of Trevor when he was fishing on the Rainy River in April with his friend Collins. He said the fishing was good, but it was darned cold. He is shown here holding a nice walleye and a big sturgeon that were both released.



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

CROSS OF GLORY LUTHERAN
Hartland, Minnesota
Rev. Marcia Pedersen
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship

Tuesday - Council meeting (First Tuesday)
* * *

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

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

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

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

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

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

VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH
Ellendale, Minnesota
Pastor David Modder
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 10 a.m. Kids church
Check the website for additional updates

www.vibrantlifeag.com
* * *

FIRST LUTHERAN LCMC
Ellendale, Minnesota
Lay Pastor Ross Sletten
Saturday - 8am Men's Bible Study
Sunday - 9am Worship
Monday - 7pm Call to prayer
Wednesday - 9:30am Bible Study; 6pm Confirmation
* * *

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

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

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

FAMILY OF FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH
Hollandale, Minnesota
Rev. Neal Ooms
Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship; 9:20 Worship and kids church (now an eagle brook viewing church)
* * *

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

FAMILY OF FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH
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 Gena Parker
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; Pre-school 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. Larry Sipe, pastor
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Study
* * *

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
Minnesota Lake, Minnesota
Rev. Larry Sipe, pastor
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship
* * *

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LOOKING BACK

25 Years Ago

- The section solo and ensemble contest was held at Minnesota State University - Mankato last Saturday, May 5. The NRHEG Jazz ensemble received the highest superior rating they have ever received with a 39 (out of 40) while performing "Senor Banana," featuring Dave Halbakken on trumpet, "Since I Fell for You," featuring Ellen Johnson on alto sax, and "A Nasty Bit Of Blues," featuring Tyler Moe on bari sax, Gavin Berg on piano and Alex Barnett on percussion.

- Adam Groskreutz of Wells and Jodi Berg of New Richland announce their engagement. Jodi is the daughter of Stanford and Kathleen Berg of New Richland. She is a graduate of Riverland Community College and a nursing student. Adam is the son of Neil and Jean Groskreutz of Wells. He is a graduate of South Central Technical College with a degree in agriculture. A June 9, 2001 wedding is planned.

- Erik and Bridget Wiebold of Shakopee announce the birth of their daughter, Hannah Grace, born on Saturday, April 21, 2001 at St. Francis Regional Medical center in Shakopee. Hannah weighed 8 pounds, 10 ounces and was 21 inches in length.

- In a one-hitter thrown by Erin Anderson, the Panthers swamped Faribault Bethlehem Academy 12-1, Wednesday, May 2 at Faribault. In the process Anderson struck out nine, walked two while facing 28 batters. On Tuesday, May 1, the Panthers were rained out in the top of the fourth inning, leading 5-1 over Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton.

50 Years Ago

- Jim Jacobson and Dann Phillips, senior members of the New Richland-Hartland FFA chapter, have been awarded State Farmer degrees for their involvement in FFA and farming activities during their high school careers.

- The New Richland-Hartland High School Track team, under the direction of their coaches, Don Haugen, Roger Melquist and Gary Nordlie, ran away with the District IIA track meet, Tuesday evening, scoring 142 points. Austin Pacilli was second with 75; Grand Meadow third with 69 and Hayfield fourth with 61.

75 Years Ago

- The marriage of Adrian Boie of New Richland and Miss Marjorie Hanson of Lemond will take place Sunday, June 17, at the Pontoppidan Lutheran Church of Lemond, at 2:30 in the afternoon.

- A baby girl weighing six pounds was born to Mr. and Mrs. Donald Matasosky of Minneapolis Monday, June 11.

- Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Chicos, living southwest of New Richland, are the parents of a son born June 12 at the Naeve hospital, Albert Lea.

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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: March 27, 2007

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$65,650.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Glenn R. Vogler and Rita Vogler, husband and wife

MORTGAGEE: TCF National Bank n/k/a The Huntington National Bank successor by merger to TCF National Bank

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on April 13, 2007 as Document Number 270146 in the Office of the County Recorder of Waseca County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC by assignment recorded on June 18, 2015 as Document Number A304271 in the Office of the County Recorder of Waseca County, Minnesota; thereafter assigned to J.P. Morgan Mortgage Acquisition Corp. by assignment recorded on September 12,

2018 as Document Number A315757 in the Office of the County Recorder of Waseca County, Minnesota; thereafter assigned to Athene Annuity and Life Company by assignment recorded on May 12, 2021 as Document Number A326368 in the Office of the County Recorder of Waseca County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Commencing at a point 66 feet East of the SE corner of Lot 2 of Auditor's Plat of the SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 8, Township 107, Range 22, Waseca County, Minnesota thence running East a distance of 66 feet on a line parallel with the Northerly line of Fourth Ave. N.E. in the City of Waseca, Minnesota thence North a distance of 200 feet on a straight line parallel with the East line of said Lot 2, thence West in a straight line a distance of 66 feet thence South a distance of 200 feet to the place of beginning, according to the recorded plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the Register of Deeds in and for said county and state. Abstract property.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 709 4TH AVE NE, WASECA, MN 56093

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

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$64,494.74

TRANSACTION AGENT: None

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: TCF National Bank n/k/a The Huntington National Bank successor by merger to TCF National Bank

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Nationstar Mortgage LLC, n/k/a Rocket Mortgage, LLC successor by merger to Nationstar Mortgage LLC

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 171200040

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None

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: June 04, 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 December 4, 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: April 08, 2026
ATHENE ANNUITY AND LIFE COMPANY
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 (26-0176-FC01)

Federal law may require reporting to the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network for certain purchases of residential property by entities or trusts. A successful third party bidder may be required to provide ownership and identifying information as a condition to completing the transfer.

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. Published in the NRHEG Star Eagle on April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 14, and 21, 2026

Star Eagle

is for sale at these locations:

CLARKS GROVE - Gopher Stop

ELLENDALE - Casey's

GENEVA - Lerberg's

GENEVA - Geneva Bar & Grill

HARTLAND - BP Gas Station

NEW RICHLAND - Wagner Foods

WASECA - Casey's

WASECA - Kwik Trip

WASECA - Kwik Trip North

HOPE - Krause Feeds & Supplies

And At The Star Eagle Office

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



A Graduation Open House

in honor of **Nora Flatness**

Daughter of Brandon and Karen

Flatness will be held at the **Hartland Fire Hall, 407 Broadway**

on **Saturday May 30, 2026**

from **1 p.m. - 4 p.m.**



A Graduation Open House

in honor of **Jacklynn Kress**

Daughter of Kory and Vicki Kress

will be held at her home **78178 300th Street Ellendale**

on **Saturday May 30, 2026**

from **3 p.m. - 6 p.m.**

NRHEG Public Schools

Ind. School District No. 2168

Advertisement for Quotes

Snow Removal

This is to notify you that the NRHEG Public School #2168 will be accepting quotes for Snow Removal for the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 school years for the New Richland location only.

The Board of Education will be taking action on submitted quotes at the regular School Board meeting scheduled for Monday, July 20, 2026.

Please submit your quote to: Mike Meihak, Superintendent, 306 Ash Avenue South, New Richland, MN 56072 by 11am on Thursday, July 2, 2026.

Sarah Wacholz
Administrative Assistant
To the Superintendent
NRHEG Public Schools

Publish in the NRHEG Star Eagle
Thursday, May 21st and June 11th

City of New Richland Minnesota

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

203 N. Broadway Ave - PO Box 57
New Richland, Minnesota 56072
Tel (507) 465-3514 - Fax (507) 465-3375
www.newrichlandmn.gov

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of New Richland, Minnesota, will hold a public hearing on:

Date: May 27, 2026
Time: 6:30 P.M.
Location: New Richland City Hall Council Chambers, 203 N Broadway Ave, New Richland, MN 56072

Purpose of Hearing:
To consider a request for **conditional use** of the following described property:

Property Address: 316 N Broadway Ave, New Richland, MN 56072
Parcel Number(s): 151001370
Current Zoning: R1

Legal Description:
South 8.67 feet of Lot Seven (7) and all of Lot Eight (8), Block Twelve (12), Village of New Richland, Minnesota according to the plat thereof on file and of record in the Office of the County Recorder in and for said Waseca County, Minnesota, and being in the West Half (W ½) of the Southeast Quarter (SE ¼) of Section Seventeen (17), Township One Hundred Five (105) North, Range Twenty-Two (22) West

Applicant: JKR Investments LLC

All interested persons are invited to attend and be heard. Written comments may be submitted prior to the hearing to:

City Administrator, Tyler T Lendt, at New Richland City Hall

Additional Information:
A copy of the application and supporting documents is available for public inspection at City Hall during regular business hours.

Dated this May 13, 2026
Tyler T Lendt
City Administrator

Tyler T Lendt
City Administrator

Janda Ferguson
Mayor

Heather Christensen
Deputy Clerk

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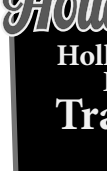
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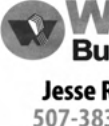
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DIRECTORS - NRHEG Vocal music instructor Krista Reeder and instrumental instructor Seth Schaefer helped students prepare for the Pops Concert.
Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently



FINAL BOW -Scenes from Friday's NRHEG Pops Concert help show the sense of energy and fun students conveyed. Directly above, senior members of the choir join hands for a bow.
Star Eagle photos by Deb Bently

■ **Finances**
from Page 1

with the payroll schedule on QuickBooks.

The funds were spent down each month on items such as Amazon payments, credit cards, clothing and food delivery services, liposuction and body-contouring treatments and more.

A search warrant of Stoltz's bank account did not reveal any type of reimbursement to the church, the report says.

During the course of the investigation, it was discovered that four checks were written to Stoltz and signed by a church leader; the leader told law enforcement none of the signatures were hers.

The checks – totaling nearly \$7,000 – were allegedly deposited into Stoltz's bank account.

When the detective spoke to Stoltz again in February, she again confirmed her wage, hours and responsibilities, including processing payroll for the church over the past two years.

According to court documents, Stoltz again mentioned the issues with QuickBooks, saying it "could show she was being paid essentially double," but there would also be a refund noted.

She reportedly said the excess payments were never deposited into her bank accounts, and agreed to provide investigators with copies of her bank statements to prove it.

Stoltz made arrangements to send the statements to the detective; as of Feb. 10, he had not received correspondence of any kind from her.

Associated is a community of faith of the Presbyterian Church and the United Church of Christ located on Owatonna's south end.

NRHEG Pops Concert is bright, cheery

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

The program for the NRHEG music department Pops Concert announced the performances on May 15 and 16 would feature the "junior choir, senior choir, guitar class, select soloists and small groups, and student and staff skits, dances and parodies."

Numbers presented during the evenings were in wide-ranging styles. With the various large groups dressed in brightly cheerful t-shirts and most numbers accompanied by dance moves, the energy was palpable, as was the sense of fun.

Seniors Christian Cully, Kaitlyn Dobberstein, Olivia Johnson, Jacob Karl, Cloe Mullenburg, Dom Porter, and Abbie Viktora

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by the massed choir took the audience on a visual time trip, with snippets of everything from the Chicken Dance to "Walk Like an Egyptian" and "Time Warp."

Other special touches included junior Sophia Williams accompanying herself on the piano as she sang "Vienna," and Faith Phillips sharing the words to "Both Sides

Now" both vocally and using sign language. Saturday evening's performance included a gymnastics routine by junior choir member Presley Roeker.

A group of students who have spent the year learning to play guitar under NRHEG Band Director Seth Schaeffer performed five numbers in two sets.

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