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Preschool Grads

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.

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.

Special Olympics Friendship Wagon Train June 25

The Special Olympics Friendship Wagon Train will travel from Owatonna to Meriden for lunch, then to Waseca on Thursday, June 25. On June 26 they will travel from Waseca to Wilton to New Richland and on June 27, they will hold a special ceremony in New Richland. Souvenir hats and t-shirts will be available to purchase from the wagon train’s Peddler Wagon at lunch stops, evening stops, and before they depart town each morning.

A word from

The Word

For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you - that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours and mine.

Romans 1:11-12



CELEBRATING SERVICE - NRHEG communities honored Memorial Day on Monday, May 25. Left, Paul Stene was emcee at Hartland’s celebration at Cross of Glory Lutheran Church. Right, Legion representatives stood guard at Geneva Cemetery.

Star Eagle photos by Ben Revermann



NRHEG communities observe Memorial Day with music, speeches

By BEN REVERMANN and DEB BENTLY
Staff Writers

Jerry Ibberson and Mark Domeier were emcees on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25 for ceremonies held at both the Geneva and the Ellendale First Lutheran Cemeteries. They spoke of veterans, both the fallen and the ones at home. The NRHEG Panther Band (grades 6-12), played “My Country, ‘Tis of Thee” as a wreath was laid. The band was directed by Seth Schaefer.

Even though it was a solemn day to give quiet reflection and thought, it was beautiful weather, with full sunshine, a clear sky, and a hefty wind keeping the heat at bay. Jerry Ibberson and teacher Mark Domeier were on hand to pay their respects and to speak. Domeier spoke of some interesting facts about inventions that came from the military, “We get rock history, bug spray,

Memorial continued on 4



There was a 21-gun salute and the playing of Taps at the Geneva and Ellendale First Lutheran Ceremonies.

Star Eagle photo by Ben Revermann

Foundation donates \$17,000 to school initiatives

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

During the May 18 NRHEG School board meeting the New Richland Area Foundation, represented by board members Betsy Bartness, Kalisha Routh, Karla Christopherson, and Kermit Schoenrock, shared news about more than \$17,000 in grants given to school-related projects. The spring round of New Richland Area Foundation (NRAF) grants included about \$2,000 for the purchase of interactive display screens for use in classrooms; about \$5,000 worth of textbooks and materials to be used in a new elementary reading curriculum; \$1,000 toward the cost of installing handicapped accessible walkways to the equipment now in place at the elementary site’s inclusive playground; \$3,000 to be used



as “scholarships” to help three- and four-year-olds attend the Panther Preschool; nearly \$3,000 toward a “core knowledge” language arts curriculum for preschoolers; \$2,000 to purchase supplies for activities offered during summer school and after-school programs; and \$1,000 toward the support of the competitive cheerleading boosters’ initiatives.

Prior to arriving at the school board meeting, Foundation board members had also visited the New Richland Area Sportsmen’s Club, where \$1,800 was donated in support of the club’s pollinator garden, native

prairie, and the purchase of trees to replace some which are dying in St. Olaf Lake park. They had also stopped at the New Richland Public Library, where \$700 was given to allow the library to acquire an interactive “Toniebox” collection. The electronic equipment incorporates small figurines which, when placed on a portal, appear to begin talking about and interacting with a specific book.

In addition to learning about the various initiatives the grants will support, board members accepted a list of 55 twelfth-graders who are “on track to graduate.” Superintendent Michael Meihak clarified that, although not all individuals on the list have completely met the requirements, it is understood there is still sufficient time before the May 31

graduation ceremony for the necessary work to be completed.

The board also accepted the retirement of elementary physical education teacher Beth Schoenrock and paraprofessional Diana Oltmann. Resignations were submitted by administrative assistant to the secondary principal Nikki Cromwell, director of bands Seth Schaefer, and paraprofessional and ELL specialist Cynthia Tucker.

The board also approved renewing the school district’s property, liability, auto and workers’ compensation insurance through agent and past district graduate Tyler Firme of Heinz Insurance out of Owatonna. Board members made the observation that the 6.9 percent cost increase for the insurance was lower than they had feared.

Honor guard gathers for pilot

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

About 15 veterans gathered the afternoon of May 22 at the Ellendale Casey’s store to act as honor guard for a World War II fighter pilot whose body was recently identified using DNA information.

First Lieutenant Thomas Ruth grew up in Jackson, Minnesota. He enlisted within days of the Pearl Harbor attack and was trained as a pilot. His squadron was stationed in the Pacific Arena in 1943 when he and fellow pilots were providing “cover” for naval units and ground forces during an assault. Ruth’s was one of two planes to go down during the battle; another pilot reported seeing him crash in a jungled area where authorities were unable to



HONORING THE BRAVE - About 15 veterans gathered at the Ellendale Casey’s store to act as honor guard for First Lieutenant Thomas Ruth, who was a WWII fighter pilot whose body was recently identified.

Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

search. Ruth was eventually classified as “killed in action,” but his body remained unrecovered.

In 2013, a crashed plane with human remains inside it was located. The body was taken to the Pearl Harbor forensics facility—a laboratory which works to identify remains recovered from field site burials, airplane crashes, battlefields, and other types of locations.

In 2025, DNA samples made it possible to issue a positive identification.

On May 22, Ruth’s flag-draped coffin was flown from Pearl Harbor to the Twin Cities. There, it was loaded into a hearse to be transported to Jackson, where a funeral with full military honors took place on May 27.

The hearse carrying Ruth’s coffin was part of a motorcade that included escorts from the military and from law enforcement, along with them were 10 or so “Freedom Riders,” volunteers on motorcycles who come together to honor fallen military members.

The honor guard at Ellendale was requested because the motorcade would be making its only stop there. A change in the motorcade would also occur: Freeborn County Sheriff Ryan Shea would take over the role of law enforcement escort through Freeborn County. Representatives from other counties would take his place as the motorcade continued on its 1.5 hour drive to Jackson. It also happened that

two Albert Lea members of the Freedom Riders would be joining the motorcade in Ellendale.

Members of the Ellendale and Geneva V.F.W. and American Legion organizations provided an honor guard during the time the motorcade was in Ellendale, standing at attention and holding the American Flag, the Missing in Action flag, and flags for the local veterans’ organizations.

Regarding being called upon to provide an honor guard for someone with no local connections, one veteran said, “He deserves our respect. He died protecting others, so that they were able to go home to their families.”

NRHEG class of 2026 to graduate Sunday

Commencement exercises Sunday at 2 p.m. in New Richland

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

The NRHEG High School graduating class of 2026 takes the stage at the high school for commencement Sunday, May 31 at 2 p.m. This year’s graduates number 55, the same as last year.

There were 57 graduates in 2024, 67 graduates in 2023 and 57 in 2022.

The valedictorian for the class of 2026, Chloe Diane Stork, is the daughter of Dan and Stacy Stork. Her future plans include attending the University of Notre Dame for Business Management.

This year’s salutatorian is Wyatt Francis Larson, son of Shawn and Jody Larson. His future plans include attending the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities for Biological Sciences.

Musical selections, performed by the NRHEG High School Band and Choir, include “(Risk) Everything for a Dream,” arranged by Richard L. Saucedo as well as a chosen favorite song selected by the seniors.

Class speakers, as selected by their peers, are: Chloe Stork, Winter Pederson, and Kaitlyn Dobberstein.

Leading the parent appreciation statement this year will be Gabrielle Schlaak.

This year’s class officers and representatives are: Kaitlyn Dobberstein, Devon Nelton,

Adalyn Stadheim, Chloe Stork.

The senior class motto is, “Your time is limited, so don’t waste it living someone else’s life.”

The class colors are Pink, Orange, and Yellow.

The class flower is the tulip.

Graduates joining a branch of the military after graduation will be wearing cords in patriotic colors.

Presenting the class this year will be Principal Grant Berg.

Presenting diplomas this year are Superintendent Michael Meihak and school board members Amy Ihrke and Kelly Delacruz.

Owen Wayne and Jozie Klimmek will be reading the graduates’ names as they receive their diplomas.

The 2026 Honor Escorts are: Jack Bartlett, Fynn Baumann, Izley Boerner, Clara Buendorf, Brooks Gilliland, Paige Johnson, Dominic Olson, and Kylie Olson.

This year’s graduates and their future plans are pictured on Pages 5-7 of this week’s Star Eagle. Honor students are identified with an “*” by their names.



Fence Lines

by Mark Bernard

Like a boomerang, I need a repeat

The scurs got the Weather Eye tuned back into summer and just in time. Will sales of sweatshirts continue their current slump, or will they be selling like hotcakes again? Starting Thursday, sunny with highs in the low 80's and lows in the mid-50's. Mostly sunny Friday with highs in the low 80's and lows in the mid-50's. Mostly sunny on Saturday with highs in the upper 70's and lows in the mid-50's. Sunny Monday with highs in the upper 70's and lows in the mid-50's. Tuesday, mostly sunny with highs in the low 80's and lows in the mid-50's. Sunny on Wednesday with highs in the low 80's and lows in the upper 50's. On May 30 we'll see our gain in daylight drop below one minute and 30 seconds per day. The normal high for June 1st is 74 and our normal low is 55. The scurs will be celebrating the blue moon, or the Moon with No Name. Clint Eastwood made a name for himself with a character with no name.

As we wrote a few weeks back, we'll see a monthly version of the Full Blue Moon as opposed to the Seasonal version. The difference being that, in order for the monthly version to occur, the Full Moon must occur on the 1st of the month. The seasonal variety is defined as the third Full Moon in an astronomical season with four Full Moons. Either kind is rare and occurs once every two to three years. Occasionally there can be enough dust from sources such as volcanic eruptions to turn the moon blue as well, but these are not officially denoted as Blue Moons.

Enough about moons for now. We've got bigger fish to fry.

Crops finally got some heat and with sunshine, they're starting to look more respectable. Corn in particular was looking pale green from the road. Up close and personal, the whorl was yellow in many cases. Fortunately the weather turned when it did or the likelihood that we'd see the old "disappearing corn" trick might've happened.

When we've had extended periods of cold, cloudy weather, the corn can turn an almost purplish-brown color, about the same color as the soil in some fields. This crop, however, should recover nicely. The weed growth should be ideal for applications of post-emerge herbicides. Soybeans are emerging, but they have been slow, not unlike some of the early May planted corn. Some timely rains have helped those who had seed lying in dry soil. We've led a charmed life so far this spring.

Our weather, particularly the rainfall, has thus far been part of our charm. We do drier weather better here than we do wet weather. Most in the area have seen a May with rainfall totals between 2" - 2.5" for the month. While it's definitely below normal, it's rained in

a timely fashion and hasn't overdone it as it has the past couple growing seasons. Don't get me wrong, there's plenty of time for it to change, but for now we have plenty of soil moisture. As long as it doesn't get carried away with heat and wind, we can go a long way into the growing season with what's in the tank. Continued, timely, beneficial rains become the name of the game. Lately we've been getting surprise rains with the heavier amounts generally falling to the west. Forecasters still can't fool Mother Nature.

The lawn continues to be on the minds of many, especially the cursed dandelions. Seems as if one can mow and two days later the ugly heads return like a boomerang, looking like nothing was done. The grass in many cases really doesn't need mowing, but if you're like me, you tire of looking at the spent flower stalks and mow it anyway. So much for "No Mow May." I always wonder about some of the people advocating this practice. It's bad enough to mow weekly with all the sticky white dandelion goo resulting in pack manure under the deck. Trying to jam a month's worth of vegetation thru the mower must leave the lawn looking like someone's freshly mowed CRP. If you like creating woodchuck and gopher habitat, then that's what you should do.

Major garden progress this past week at the ranch. The early garden was established, including onions, snap peas, carrots, radishes and salad greens. There are two kinds of onions, three kinds of snap peas, four kinds of radishes and four kinds of salad greens. Variety is the spice of life as they say. The rain held off Sunday night long enough so the cannas and four o'clocks could be planted. More planters were completed by Mrs. Cheviot, so the hummingbirds and pollinators have something to occupy their time. Tomato and pepper transplants are ready to go. Any evening when the weather and soil conditions are fit, those will be in the ground. So will the bunny guards.

The day for Poppy's pedicure finally arrived. I am sure she will be relieved once it's over. She had a pretty good Memorial Day weekend with all the planting and bird feeder filling. Not to mention chasing squirrels and bunnies. Of course, that was all between lengthy naps. It still amazes me how much a Corgi can sleep. Once one of those chasing or ball playing sessions is over, it's suddenly lights out. Even the lengthy outdoor dawdling sessions are followed by naps. Apparently, it's a lot of work wandering around the yard sniffing and looking for things to roll in. I know it wears me out just watching her sometimes.

See you next week...real good then.



COMING HOME - On May 22, a flag-draped casket holding navy pilot Thomas Ruth's remains was loaded into a plane in Hawaii and flown to the Twin Cities.

The final return of a lost navy pilot

"The creator worked this out just right," commented one veteran. "To have this happening over the Memorial Day weekend."

"This" is the return of navy pilot Thomas Ruth to his home town 85 years after he left. Ruth's plane had crashed in an obscure jungle in enemy territory during a battle in the Solomon Islands in 1943; believing the plane to have gone down in deep water, the navy had pronounced his body "unrecoverable." In 2013, an MIA/POW investigation team learned of a crashed plane in the jungle in the vicinity of the battle site and found human remains inside. Based on various clues, the military contacted the Ruth family and requested DNA samples from three nephews. After the DNA comparison provided positive identification last year, arrangements began for the lieutenant's trip back to Jackson, where he will be buried near his parents. The Fairmont Sentinel newspaper reports that, after being told her son's body would likely never be returned to her, his mother had long ago had a stone placed for him in Jackson's Riverside Cemetery.

On May 22, a flag-draped casket



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

holding Ruth's remains was loaded into a plane in Hawaii; the forensic laboratory which had identified him is located at Pearl Harbor. At the Twin Cities airport, arrangements had been made for a hearse, a law enforcement escort, and a team of volunteer "Patriot Riders," veterans who volunteer to accompany military processions on their motorcycles, to take custody of the casket and travel with it on the 2.5 hour drive to Jackson.

The procession planned only one stop, to purchase fuel at the Casey's convenience store near Ellendale. There, area veterans had been asked to gather for an "honor guard," a recognition they provide often during ceremonies of various types, including funerals. Veterans were asked to

be there in advance of the time the procession was expected, about 4 p.m.

Veterans from the Ellendale and Geneva American Legion and V.F.W. organizations began gathering around 3:30. As they were preparing for the expected arrival, they learned the plane had only just landed in the Twin Cities.

The day was chilly, with temperatures in the 60s which, thanks to the wind, felt like the 40s. The wind made conversation difficult, so the veterans there stood in tight groups or retreated to their cars to wait. No one left. No one complained. They chatted amicably about a wide range of subjects.

Having been asked to be there for the sake of some newspaper coverage,

I was now also compelled to wait. I'm grateful I did.

The conversations among the veterans as they waited provided me with an insight. However far apart their birth years may have been, veterans came of age in the same place. They were faced with physical, mental and emotional challenges—their drill sergeants made sure of it—and leaned on each other to overcome them. They learned who could be relied upon and who could not, and were forced to recognize that very little in life is "fair."

That hour-long wait allowed me a glimpse at why veterans feel so strongly connected to one another. Wherever and however each of them grew up, the compacted, concentrated coming of age they have in common has made them brothers.

So given that it has now been 109 years since his birth, it could be said there are no members of Thomas Ruth's generation waiting to welcome him back to his hometown. On the other hand, he has hundreds of brothers whose hearts are lifted to know that he has finally come home.

It's the mistakes that hurt the most

'Tis the season of Graduation and baseball.

I had the pleasure of watching a lot of high school baseball this week. Namely NRHEG and JWP.

Both teams are still alive in the section 1A playoff race, which is down to the final four teams: NRHEG, JWP, Southland and Lewiston-Altura.

JWP and Southland remain undefeated and play in the Section Semifinals Saturday at Riverland College in Austin at 11 a.m. The loser will play the winner NRHEG and LA.

NRHEG, seeded 1st of 16 teams, began their tournament run with two wins, defeating the 16-seed 4-1 in the opening round and LA 10-6 before losing to Southland in a nailbiter 6-5.

One bad inning cost the Panthers in their 6-5 loss. The Panthers left a run on the board on a failed attempt to score via sacrifice fly in the third. Some could argue we should not have tried to score on such a short fly ball, especially with it being the first out, but as I watched the play unfold, I thought from the stands, we should make Southland make the play. They did, and we looked the fools on that play. Hindsight tells me, with that being the first out, we should not have sent the runner. We clawed back, scoring runs multiple times, but came one clutch hit from securing the win. Southland cele-



Just a Thought...

by Eli Lutgens

brated as if they had won the world series. Good for them.

Many teams would have quit after such a "wind blown out of our sails" type of loss, but not the Panthers. After falling down 5-3 in the first inning, they exploded for 13 runs over the final six innings of the game. One broken bat, and a few fiery speeches from coach Marcus Fischer later and the Panthers extended their season a few days.

JWP, seeded 2nd in the section, sailed to victories in its contests, until Monday when they faced their toughest challenge, 3-seed Blooming Prairie. The Bulldog starting pitcher looked unhittable through three innings. Blossom players were intentionally calling "timeout" in the box seconds before the pitch to try and rattle him. It didn't work. I left for the Panthers game, across the sporting complex after said third inning, not expecting the Blossoms to manage much against such a strong ace pitcher. I was wrong.

As I walked back from the Panthers game to catch the end of the Bulldog game, JWP walked it off 6-5, coming from behind to earn a trip to the semifinals.

For the Bulldogs to earn a trip to the state tournament, they will have to win two more games. One Saturday and another Tuesday. If they lose Saturday, they will have to win again on Saturday and twice on Tuesday.

For the Panthers, they need to beat LA again on Saturday at 11 a.m. in Austin, and then beat the loser of Saturday's semi-finals and then win twice Tuesday. Watching numerous section tournaments over the past handful of

seasons, it is not completely uncommon for the winner of the "elimination" bracket to come from behind and earn a trip to state.

It was great fun to watch close, competitive games. As I often say about high school baseball. It's often the team which makes fewer mistakes that comes out on top. Baseball is especially punishing, it seems. In the Panthers win Monday, they committed far fewer errors than their competitors. In their loss, all six runs allowed were "unearned" because the Panthers committed three errors before allowing any runs, which all came in the same inning. The runs are "unearned" because the inning should have been over had the defense not made mistakes on routine plays. However, no play is routine at the high school level. Put the ball in play and good things will happen.

My dad tells me, in his more than four decades covering high school sports, he has never had one of his teams qualify for the state baseball tournament. This year may be the first.

County Board considers trail, construction

By **DEB BENTLY**
Staff Writer

During their meeting the morning of May 19, members of the Waseca County Board of Commissioners welcomed Freeborn County public works director Phil Wacholz, who provided an update regarding the planned regional Songbird Trail, slated someday to provide walking or biking passage from Albert Lea to the Sakatah Trail in the vicinity of Waterville. Thanks to grants and donations, Wacholz said, Freeborn County now has funds for some of the most expensive elements of the project within its borders: a bridge across the four-lane section of State Highway 13 on the west side of Albert Lea, and upgrades to bring three or four railroad bridges up to pedestrian or biking standards, with a smooth surface and guardrails.

The Waseca County Board had previously signed a resolution to become part of the efforts to create a regional trail: Wacholz now asked for a memorandum of agreement which

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

would help provide assurance to agencies and benefactors that the trail will someday actually cover the intended distance.

Wacholz promised Waseca County leadership would be an independent actor as far as the pace and planning of the trail within its boundaries. He shared some information regarding possible sources of funding which commissioners commented seemed promising. Freeborn County was able to purchase right of way for their section of the trail from the railroad soon after train traffic on the north/south tracks was discontinued: Waseca County made efforts to do the same a decade or more ago, but was met by no interest from the railroad company.

Board members also heard from University of Minnesota Extension educator Amy Nelson, who works

closely with county 4-H chapters. Nelson said more than 230 county youth are enrolled in 4-H. 170 youths prepared projects or took part in the 2025 county fair in some way. Nelson commented on the many ways 4-H helps participants build leadership skills and stated the county has a young generation which is "beyond ready" to step into roles where organization and planning are needed.

County board members followed the recommendations of the planning commission to issue needed permits for an outdoor cannabis growing operation on property south of Waseca, for the construction of a four-megawatt photovoltaic solar array on a 26-acre parcel of land near Waterville, and for an electrical substation to be located just east of Janesville along County Highway 14.

During their 8 a.m. work session, board members looked at the first draft of a county-wide strategic plan. Over the past several weeks, county administration and board members had worked with consulting firm

DDA Human Resources out of Fari-bault to share their impressions about various aspects of the county government's work.

County administrator Michael Johnson gave a quick summary of the document, which is dozens of pages long.

Shown near the beginning of the document were the county's three proposed priorities for the years 2026, '27 and '28: Continue work on the new justice center and modernizing infrastructure; build and maintain excellence in the county workforce and organizational leadership; provide excellent service and communication to continue building public trust. Listed under each of the priorities were proposed strategies and goals.

Johnson asked board members to consider the proposed plan and be prepared to provide input at a future meeting. In the meantime, he said, a similar request would be made of county department heads.

NRHEG Star Eagle

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

PHONE: 507-463-8112

FAX: 507-463-0504, email: steagle@hickorytech.net

USPS No. 382-040, address: 128 North Broadway

Mail: PO Box 248, New Richland, MN 56072

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

ELI LUTGENS
MELANIE PILTINGSRUD
AMELIA ROESLER
DEB BENTLY
JIM LUTGENS
TERESA ROSACKER
PAYGE ROSACKER

Publisher/Editor
Copy Editor
Editor
Staff Writer
Sports Editor
Advertising Sales
Editorial Assistant

Contributors: Al Batt, Bob Hanson, Mark Bernard, Mark Domeier, Dick Herfindahl, Barb Mrotz, Brenda Dokken, Judy Tweeten, Rachael Jaegar, Tristan Gehring, Ben Revermann, Payge Rosacker, Darin Reese, Rachel Loverink

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Compostings

by Al Batt

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

I applied for a job at a convenience store. They asked me where I see myself in five years.

What did you tell them?

In a mirror.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I hate to brag, but Mr. Rogers asked me to be his neighbor. I was a passenger in a small, formfitting airplane flying over endless water, where I was the only passenger, and seated next to the pilot. He asked me to guess how old he was. I don't like that game. You can't win. He gave me a clue. He said he had been flying since Pontius was a pilot. My guess was way off. He told me he'd always been 83, but I shouldn't worry as he no longer drove a car.

My class was so bright that our teachers had to wear sunglasses. My neighbor Crandall claims he was a flower blooming in manure. He said even though he was as dumb as a bucket of dirt, he graduated because the sheer force of his apathy overwhelmed the school. Once sprung from high school, he couldn't wait to get away. Once away, he couldn't wait to come back.

I got extra credit for sharpening my yellow HB2 pencils made by Ticonderoga, Empire and Papermate. Each pencil had an eraser as a reminder that we all make mistakes. I haven't seen my diploma since we finally got the kitchen table to stop wobbling.

Here's some advice for graduates.

If you eliminate everything that doesn't spark joy, you might end up with nothing but a TV, a sofa and a refrigerator.

The loudest usually know the least.

If you can't fix it, use more duct tape.

Never trust anyone who claims to have all the answers.

Remember where you parked.

I'VE LEARNED

Everything sounds simple if you don't have to do it.

I can tell when they're not using real dinosaurs in a movie.

Donuts are hole grains.

Food dropped on the floor is OK to eat as long as it's picked up within 5 seconds. This can become the five-hour rule if someone is hungry enough.

All high-fiber breakfasts are to go.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

I used to have a fear of hurdles,

but I got over it.

What kind of trousers does a ghost hunter wear? A paranormal jeans.

NATURE NOTES

Why do birds sing loudly in the morning? Because they have no thumbs and can't text.

A deer's coat is reddish in the spring and brown in the fall. It provides thermoregulation and camouflage. Summer coats are reddish and thin, helping to cope with heat stress. The coats tend to be darker in forested areas, and lighter in agricultural areas where deer are exposed to more direct sunlight.

Canada geese don't spend all their time playing vuvuzelas to let us know they aren't quacks. They typically build their nests on the ground, but will nest in trees or on buildings. In 1804, Captain Meriwether Lewis (Lewis and Clark Expedition) reported Canada geese nesting in trees along the Missouri River in North Dakota. In 1820, Titian Ramsay Peale recorded a goose in possession of an eagle's nest near what is now Council Bluffs. In the mid-1950s, Montana biologists monitored 77 tree and cliff nests where Canada geese nested. Some sites were 200 feet off the ground. How do the nestlings get out of the nest? They escape the nest in an uncomplicated way. After the goslings hatch, the parents call persistently from the ground. The goslings jump from the nest and flap their puny wings on their descent to the ground. Goslings are as tough as baby wood ducks.

A group of crows is called a "murder." There are several explanations based on folklore and superstitions. There is a folktale in which crows gather and decide the capital fate of another crow. Ancients regarded the appearance of crows as an omen of death because crows are scavengers and were associated with dead bodies, battlefields and cemeteries. The term "murder of crows" reflects a time when groupings of many animals had colorful and poetic names. Is one crow an attempted murder? Are the crows in my yard a murder? They have probable caws.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"I should dearly love that the world should be ever so little better for my presence. Even on this small stage we have our two sides, and something might be done by throwing all one's weight on the scale of breadth, tolerance, charity, temperance, peace, and kindness to man and beast. We can't all strike very big blows, and even the little ones count for something."—Arthur Conan Doyle.

NRHEG Preschool Graduation



YOUNG LEARNERS - NRHEG Community Education preschool programs based both in Ellendale and New Richland held a graduation ceremony at the New Richland school building the evening of Thursday, May 21 2026. Marching in to "Pomp and Circumstance" were 42 young learners ready to advance to either the Bridges program or Kindergarten. Topics covered during the ceremony included the pledge of allegiance, days of the week and months of the year.

Star Eagle photos by Deb Bently

City council approves fire chief salary

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Waldorf city council met on the evening of Monday, May 11. During their regular monthly meeting, Waldorf city council members approved a \$3,900 annual salary for the city's fire chief, with the condition that either he attend council meetings personally or make arrangements for a representative to attend. Council members learned the fire department has accepted three new fire fighters. For the Waldorf Days FD raffle, Natalie Roecker, gambling manager, requested an offsite gambling permit.

For water/sewer a total of \$2,871

WALDORF CITY COUNCIL

was not collected. The city media and anthracite (filters) need to be cleaned due to iron buildup. This will cost around \$10,000.

Council members were also informed that an aging Xcel power line that supplies electricity to the light post near the city's Veterans Park is in need of replacement; Xcel will be billing the city almost \$2,500 for the work.

The next meeting of the Waldorf Days committee is 5 p.m. on June 8 at city hall. Waldorf Days will be August 21 to 23. John Hanson, Waseca

teacher, was present to discuss the Waldorf History Walk, which he would like to advertise alongside Waldorf days. These walks consist of GPS tours using a downloaded app and include historic landmarks and events. Janesville, New Richland, Waseca and Waldorf are all being included. The tours and other features can be viewed at www.explorewasecacounty.gov.

Wendy Holmes, Waldorf resident, is interested in using the community center on Monday nights to offer free line-dancing lessons.

The Waldorf Park Committee will have the old playground equipment removed free of charge with the exception of two blue slides that were

purchased at Menards and can be rehomed. Renee Cordes has requested that their family could obtain both slides, provided Waldorf is no longer liable for the slides once removed. The Waldorf Park Committee is still accepting donations for the playground.

The next council workshop will be at 6 p.m. Monday, June 1. The topics will be data centers and the new Mediacomm contract.

The plastic Bag Trex Program will continue, but will not guarantee park benches for every 250 pounds collected. Instead, for collecting 250 pounds, Waldorf will be entered into a quarterly drawing.





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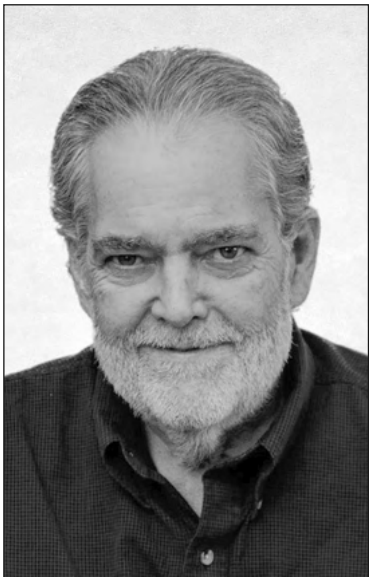
James Blake

James Gordon Blake, age 68, passed away peacefully on May 18, 2026.

He was born in Albert Lea, MN to Gordon and Lola (Ryan) Blake on May 24, 1957. Jim, or Jimmy, graduated from Albert Lea High School in 1975, and attended St. Cloud State University before moving to Waseca to manage Waseca Bowlers World and Playmate Lounge. After the family sold the business, Jim ventured into food management.

In 1990, Jim and his former wife Julie Kramer purchased Thompson's Boathouse in Waseca. Jim started the Annual Ice Golf Tournament that took place on Clear Lake. Businesses would sponsor holes to raise money towards the American Diabetes Association. An event that would fill up quick with golfers every year and became a tradition for many years.

In 2006, Jim sold Thompsons Boathouse. A year after selling, Jim purchased a vacant, fire-damaged building that used to be called Jerry's Inn. He spent 11 months fully renovating the shell of the building before launching what would be called The Willows Restaurant and Lounge where he brought his son Travis Blake on board as the initial manager. You could find Jim sitting at the bar with a cup of coffee and a crossword puzzle. Travis and Heather officially purchased the family business in 2016, and Jim continued to work and help out when needed.



James Blake

Outside of work Jim was an avid golfer, a fan of his favorite sports teams and loved his casino trips, especially sports gambling. His dogs were his constant companions and brought him great joy. Jim might have been a man of few words, but he was quick witted, a "wise guy" and full of knowledge. Jim was proud of his kids and grandkids.

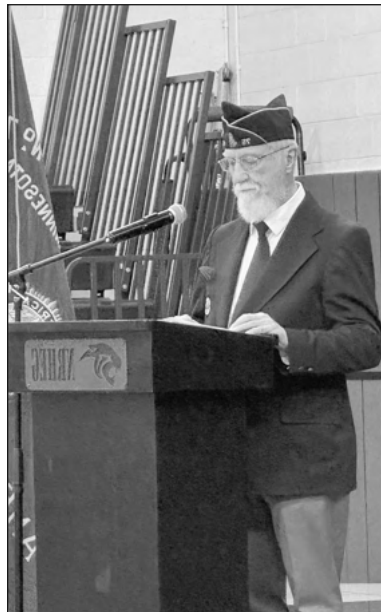
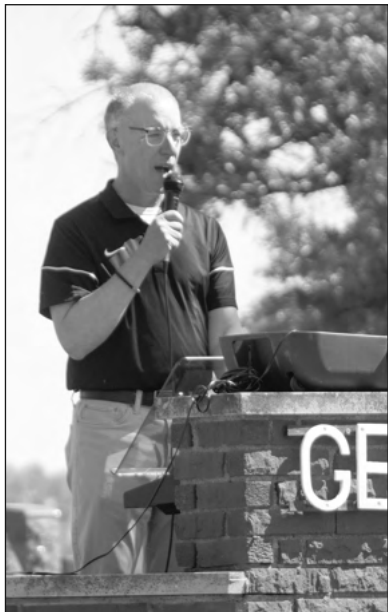
Jim is survived by his daughter Kristi of St. Cloud, son Travis (Heather) Blake of Waseca, grandkids Kylie, Addison, Landon and Tenley Jo, along with his sister Bonnie (Tom) Kennedy and nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Gordy and Lola.

A celebration of life will be held at the Waseca American Legion on Friday, May 29 from 4 p.m.-7 p.m.



HONORING THE REMEMBERED - A Memorial Day program at the NRHEG Secondary school featured members of the NRHEG choir, left, and representatives of the American Legion, right.

Star Eagle photos by Deb Bently



Left, Mark Domeier was a speaker for the ceremony held at Geneva Cemetery. Also present was the NRHEG Panther Band. Right, Dan Economy was the emcee at the New Richland area Memorial Day program on Monday, May 25.

Star Eagle photos by Deb Bently and Ben Revermann

Memorial

from Page 1

EpiPens, radar, GPS, duct tape and the internet, all from guys in the military."

Those in attendance at the Geneva Cemetery stood or sat on their own lawn chairs or blankets. The mood was solemnly respectful throughout the ceremony, including the 21-gun salute and the playing of Taps.

With observances complete in Geneva, ceremony participants and volunteers gathered their items to move to Ellendale, where an equally respectful ceremony was held at the Ellendale First Lutheran Cemetery. Ibberson and Domeier again gave it their all in speaking of those who gave their all. Heather Crabtree-Krenke laid a wreath as Taps was played. A small group lingered for personal reflection as others packed up and departed.

Hartland Memorial Day

A group of 50 or more gathered inside the Cross of Glory Lutheran Church during the Hartland Memorial Day observance.

Emcee for the event was Paul Stene of the Hartland Legion. The morning's guest speaker was Mark Larson, former Hartland resident, veteran and pastor. An opening prayer was read by veteran Tim Johnson.

The NRHEG Choir, directed by Krista Reeder took a break from the Geneva celebration. Said Reeder, "We like to switch the choir out with the band year by year, to give the students a chance to see more of their district. Last year [the choir] accompanied the Legion at the Geneva and Ellendale memorial." NRHEG student Crissa Koopal read the Gettysburg Address, and Rachael Knutson read the poem "Flanders Field."

Speaker Larson said he lived in Hartland from ages 5 to 15. "But I currently live down in Cedar Rapids, Iowa," he said. "I've always considered Hartland to be the center of my universe, no matter where else I live. Did you guys know that Memorial Day used to be called Decoration Day?" He spoke on his military service, but wanted to focus more on those who have fallen.

There was a reading of all deceased veterans for five cemeteries including East Freeborn, Central

Freeborn, North Freeborn, the Hartland Cemetery and Hartland South. A 21-gun salute, otherwise known as "volley salute," took place outside. The choir and congregations sang the Star-Spangled Banner before Taps was played. There were snacks and refreshments provided afterwards for a somber social hour.

New Richland Memorial Day

In New Richland, representatives of the American Legion visited six area cemeteries before gathering for an 11 a.m. program at the NRHEG Secondary school. Speaker Deb Bently described her impressions of a recent event involving area veterans who had been asked to provide an honor guard for Navy Lieutenant Junior Grade Thomas Ruth, a World War II pilot who had gone down during a battle in the Pacific in June of

1943. Ruth's body had been recovered more than 10 years ago, and finally identified within the past year. His remains were being delivered home to be buried near family in Jackson, Minn. Bently said that mingling with the veterans providing the honor guard had given her an understanding of veterans' shared experiences, and she now better recognizes the ways in which all veterans are siblings.

Also during the New Richland ceremony, high school student Chloe Stork read the Gettysburg Address, student Jacob Karl read "In Flanders' Field," and high school choir members sang the National Anthem, "My Country 'Tis of Thee," and "America the Beautiful," directed and accompanied by vocal music instructor Krista Reeder.

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modification that increases speed or increased the motor output may be unlawful.

Age restrictions also apply. Even legal e-bikes may not be operated by anyone under the age of 15.

Additional information can be found <https://www.bikemn.org/initiatives/ebike/>

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota send your questions to Sgt. Troy Christianson - Minnesota State Patrol at 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester MN 55901-5848. (Or reach him at, Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us)

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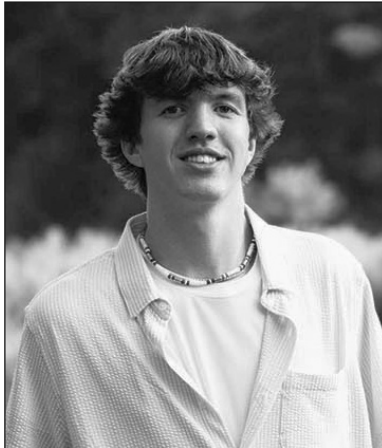
*Kaitlyn Dobberstein, Devon Nelton,
Adalyn Stadheim, Chloe Stork*

Class Colors

Pink, Orange,
and Yellow

Class Flower

Tulip

 *Holly Grace Bartness Daughter of Mark and Kelly Bartness Future Plans: Attending University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point - Food and Nutrition	 Isaac Michael Bauleke Son of Jerry and Kathy Bauleke Future Plans: Undecided	 *Kaitlyn Elizabeth Bauleke Daughter of Jerry and Kathy Bauleke Future Plans: Undecided	 *Justin Delane Beauvais Son of Matt and Carina Beauvais Future Plans: Entering the workforce	 *Melina Jane Bell Daughter of Alex and Angela Bell Future Plans: Attending Bennington College - Environmental Sciences	 *Evan Matthew Berg Son of Shane and Brooke Berg Future Plans: Entering the workforce
 *Madison Joy Bogue Daughter of Aaron and Sara Bogue Future Plans: Attending Minnesota State University, Mankato - Athletic Training	 *Jordan Del Brouwers Son of Jessica Brouwers Future Plans: Attending St. Olaf College - Economics/accounting	 *Meela Rae Budach Daughter of Dan Budach and Kari Budach Future Plans: Attending Lake Area Technical College - Surgical Technology	 *Hudson Beau Chrz Son of Jared Chrz and Gwyn Regehr Future Plans: Undecided	 Corbin Eugene Delacruz Son of Kelly Delacruz and Robert Shaw Future Plans: Attending Dunwoody College - Welding	 *Hailey Lynn Deniz-Clark Daughter of Tiffany Clark and Jonathon Stoops Future Plans: Entering the workforce

*****Valedictorian - Chloe Diane Stork**

***Honor Student **Salutatorian - Wyatt Francis Larson Speakers at graduation**
(elected by their peers) - Chloe Stork, Winter Pederson, and Kaitlyn Dobberstein

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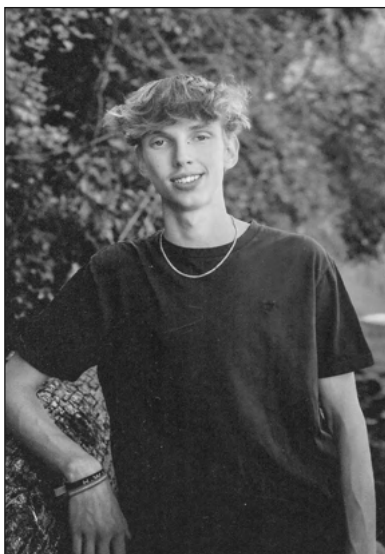
***Kaitlyn Rae Dobberstein**
Daughter of Josh and Linda Dobberstein
Future Plans: Attending Winona State University - Elementary and Special Education



***Kyera Kristi Eustice**
Daughter of Craig and Rachel Eustice
Future Plans: Attending Gustavus Adolphus - Accounting and Business



Nora Stella Flatness
Daughter of Brandon and Karen Flatness
Future Plans: Attending Minnesota State College Southeast - Cosmetology



Charlie Glenn Fuller
Son of Tony and Katie Fuller
Future Plans: Undecided



Jannelle Kamillah Garrido
Daughter of Liliana Miranda Kelley
Future Plans: Entering the workforce



Devlin Alexander Hudson
Son of Tanya Ott
Future Plans: Undecided



***Kaleb Roman Hughes**
Son of Zach and Angie Hughes
Future Plans: Attending college - Automotives



***Christian Thomas Huntington-Cully**
Son of Brett Cully and Samantha Huntington
Future Plans: Minnesota State University, Mankato - Electrical Engineering



***Molly Marie Johnson**
Daughter of Lowell Johnson and Mary Baker
Future Plans: Attending South Dakota State University - Animal Science



***Olivia Mae Johnson**
Daughter of Jeff and Jennie Johnson
Future Plans: Attending University of Wisconsin, River Falls - Agricultural Education



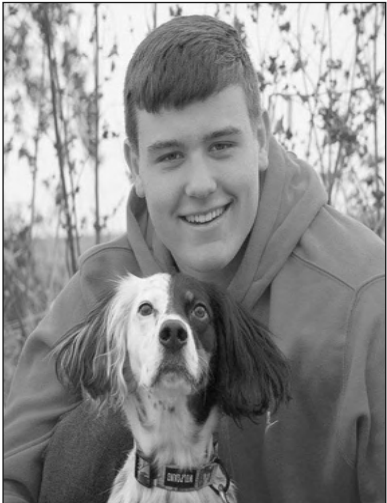
DeShawn Joseph Jones
Son of Mariah Britton and Greg Jones
Future Plans: Entering the workforce



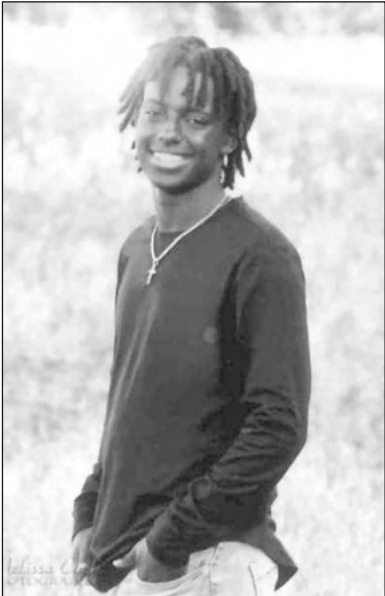
***Jacob William Karl**
Son of Tony and Melissa Karl
Future Plans: Attending Crown College - Business Finance



***Jozie Jo Klimmek**
Daughter of Harley and Amy Klimmek
Future Plans: Attending University of Minnesota, Rochester - Health Science



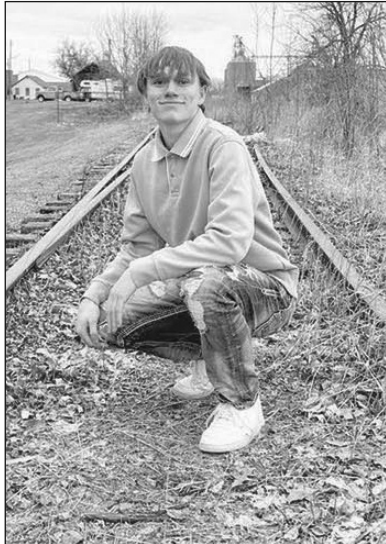
****Wyatt Francis Larson**
Son of Shawn and Jody Larson
Future Plans: University of Minnesota, Twin Cities - Biological Sciences



***Gavin Bradley Lewison**
Son of Brad and Tammy Lewison
Future Plans: Undecided



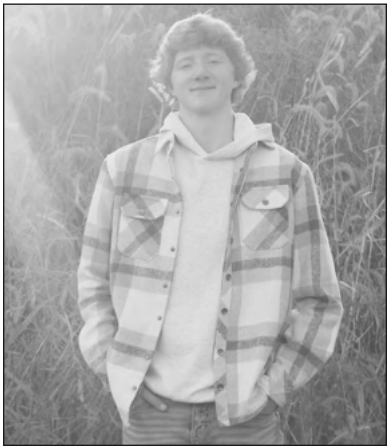
***Alexis Lyn Loken**
Daughter of Dallas and Nicole Loken
Future Plans: Entering the workforce



Jakob Herbert Loverink
Son of Jenna Farr and Curt Loverink
Future Plans: Undecided



Alexia Rose McGannon
Daughter of Peter and Angela McGannon
Future Plans: Entering the workforce



Quen Michael Meyering
Son of Matt Boyes and Tanya Meyering and Terry and Tawnya Olson
Future Plans: Undecided



***Ezekiel Dean Morrison**
Son of Shayne and Kim Morrison
Future Plans: Entering the workforce



Brody Ray Mudgett
Son of Billy and Becky Mudgett
Future Plans: Entering the workforce



Cloe Lynn Muilenburg
Daughter of Chad and Allison Muilenburg
Future Plans: Attending South Central College - Child Development



***Devon Gregory Nelton**
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***Winter Jade Pederson**
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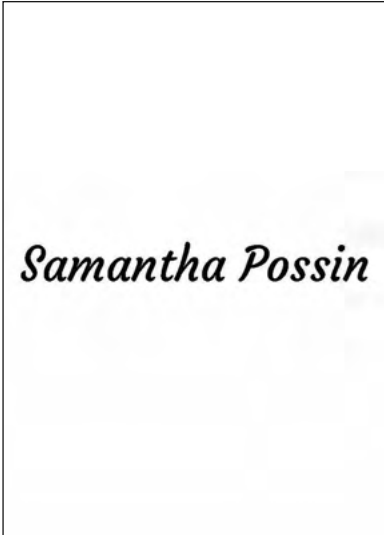
***Gabrielle Lynn Schlaak**
Daughter of Justin and Kim Schlaak
Future Plans: Attending Minnesota State University, Mankato - Dental Hygiene



Camryn Ann VanMaldeghem
Daughter of Kelly VanMaldeghem and Steve VanMaldeghem
Future Plans: Undecided



Zoe Sunshine Wilson
Daughter of Dale and Sara Wilson
Future Plans: Attending Minnesota State University, Mankato - Biology



Samantha Possin



***Trevor Lloyd Selover**
Son of Gary and LuAnn Selover
Future Plans: Attending South Central College - Machining



***Quinn Marie VanMaldeghem**
Daughter of Kelly VanMaldeghem and Steve VanMaldeghem
Future Plans: Undecided



Kyah Beth Quillen
Daughter Kristin Otto and Josh Otto
Future Plans: Attending Nova Academy - Cosmetology



***Adalyn Irene Stadheim**
Daughter of Darrin and Linda Stadheim
Future Plans: Attending Augsburg University - Psychology



***Abigayle Rose Viktora**
Daughter of Dan and Libbie Viktora
Future Plans: Attending South Dakota State University - Agricultural Science



***Chloe Jo Riewer**
Daughter of Andy and Jodi Riewer
Future Plans: Attending University of Minnesota, Twin Cities - Biology



*****Chloe Diane Stork**
Daughter of Dan and Stacy Stork
Future Plans: Attending University of Notre Dame - Business Management



***Kayden Mae Warke**
Daughter of Josh and Kelly Warke
Future Plans: Attending Minnesota State University, Mankato - Nursing



***Claire Jane Robran**
Daughter of Nicholas Robran and Heather Tilghman
Future Plans: Attending Riverland Community College - Nursing



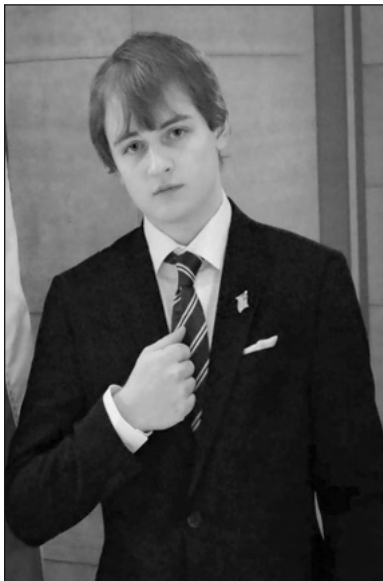
***Tatum Isabell Thibodeau**
Daughter of Brandon and Kelly Thibodeau
Future Plans: Attending University of Nebraska, Lincoln - Nursing



Ava Elizabeth Schember
Daughter of Cameron and Dayna Schember
Future Plans: Attending Nova Academy - Nail Technician



***Wyatt Anthony Tuttle**
Son of Thaddeous and Jessica Tuttle
Future Plans: Entering the workforce



Henry Ivan Willert
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A Graduation Open House
in honor of **Nora Flatness**
Daughter of Brandon and Karen Flatness
will be held at
**the Hartland Fire Hall,
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on Saturday May 30, 2026
from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

A Graduation Open House
in honor of **Winter Jade Pederson**,
Daughter of Michael Pederson & Nikki Cromwell, will be held at the **Geneva Community Center**,
406 1st Ave. SE, Geneva
on Friday June 5, 2026
from 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

A Graduation Open House
in honor of **Abbie Viktora**,
Daughter of Dan & Elizabeth Viktora,
will be held at **her home**,
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on Saturday, June 6, 2026
from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

A Graduation Open House
in honor of **Chloe Stork**,
Daughter of Dan and Stacy Stork
will be held at **her home**,
224 3rd st NE., New Richland
on Saturday, June 6, 2026
from 4 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

A Graduation Open House
in honor of **Camryn and Quinn VanMaldeghem**
will be held at
Riverview Golf Course
15590 240th Ave. New Richland
on June 6, 2026
from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

A Graduation Open House
in honor of **Jordan Del Brouwers**,
Son of Jessica (Brouwers) Hanna
will be held at the
Ellendale Community Center
507 2nd St. S. Ellendale
on June 7, 2026
from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

A Graduation Open House
in honor of **Owen Wayne**,
Son of Brandon & Jodi Wayne
will be held at his home
**4501 SW 108th St. Ellendale, Mn,
56026**
on Friday June 5, 2026
from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Panthers send eight individuals, one relay to section

The NRHEG High School track and field teams traveled to St. James for the Section 2A South Sub-Section meet last Thursday.

The top eight individual placewinners and first four relays advance to the Section 2A meet Saturday, May 30 at JWP High School in Janesville.

Maple River won the boys' sub-section title last week with 127 points. The Panther boys were 11th among 13 teams with 28.

Leading the NRHEG boys were Quen Meyering, who was third in the 200-meter dash in 24.08 seconds, and Kasey Jewison, who took third in the 3200 with a time of 11:04.48.

The Panthers' top relay was the 4x200, which finished fourth in 1:38.37 with Wyatt Tuttle, Nathan Hager, Brendan Schmidt and Meyering.

Other section-qualifying places: Meyering, third, 100, 12.06; Gavin Lewison, fifth, triple jump, 37-6; Noah Weller, sixth, discus, 125-5.

The NRHEG girls placed ninth out of 13 schools with 38 points. JWP/WEM won with 116.

Gabby Schlaak, a senior, paced the Panthers, taking second in the 100 hurdles in 16.9 and clearing 4-10 for fourth in the high jump. Julieann Wobbrock was third in the

1600 in 5:39.94 and third in the 3200 in 16.31.

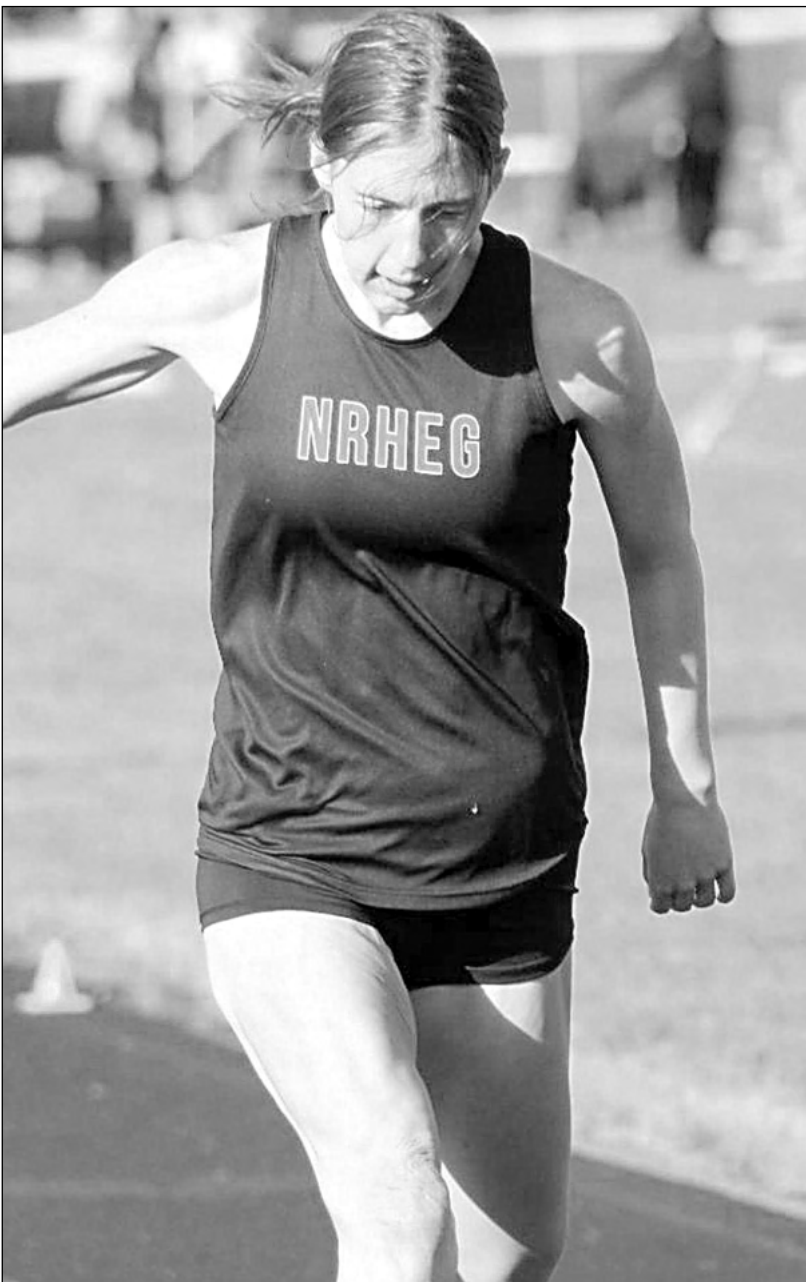
Chloe Riewer advanced to section in the long jump, taking fifth at 15-4.

Riewer, Peyton Frye, Lauren Johnson and Schlaak combined for fifth in the 4x100, clocking 53.94.

The Panthers' other section-qualifying performances were by Riewer, seventh, 100, 13.31; and Ellie Clark, eighth, 300 hurdles, 52.11.

Both the NRHEG boys and girls had several disappointments where athletes barely missed advancing to section. They included: Jacob Karl, ninth, 1600, 4:55.02 (8th was 4:51.73); Hudson Chrz, ninth, 110 hurdles, 17.72 (8th was 17.48); Charlie Fuller, ninth, long jump, 18-7.25 (8th was 18-8.5); Frey, ninth, 200, 28.77 (8th was 28.38); Ella Jenö, 9th, 1600, 6:00.5 (8th was 5:59.36); Clark, ninth, 100 hurdles, 18.59 (8th was 18.36).

"There were several personal-best performances, many by kids that finished just outside the qualifying positions," sad NRHEG co-head coach Larry Nydegger. "That tells me that those kids took their preparation for this meet very seriously and it showed! I am extremely proud of those kids that gave it their all!"



SUB-SECTION ACTION — Competing at last week's Section 2A South Sub-Section Track and Field Meet are Quen Meyering, left, and Gabby Schlaak. Both advanced to section. Photos by Larry Nydegger

Baseball Panthers stay alive in Section 1A tournament

Top-seeded NRHEG nine retains state tourney hopes

The NRHEG High School baseball team showed fight until the final out Monday at Riverland Community College, but a six-run, error-filled second inning by the fifth-seeded Southland Rebels proved too much to overcome in a 6-5 loss in a Section 1A quarterfinal game.

It dropped the top-seeded Panthers into the loser's bracket, where they remained alive by defeating 11th seed Mabel-Canton 13-8. The Panthers will play Lewiston-Altura on Saturday, May 30 at 11 a.m. at Riverland, still entertaining state tournament hopes.

"We will need to battle and play our best baseball as we fight back to the chance to go to state," said NRHEG coach Marcus Fischer. "We will need to win two games Saturday, and then get back to the championship, and beat either JWP or Southland twice, whoever is there waiting."

NRHEG opened strong against Southland with two runs in the first inning, sparked by A.J. Deen's RBI single. Momentum swung in the top of the second when Southland pushed across six unearned runs on four hits. Defensive miscues cost the Panthers in the frame, and none of the six runs were earned.

The Panthers didn't go quietly. They answered with a run in the third, another in the fifth, and plated one more in the seventh on a sacrifice fly from Ryan Schlaak. NRHEG outhit Southland 9-6 and put the tying run in scoring position late, but the Rebels closed it out.

Mack Gilliland battled on the mound for the Panthers, tossing a

complete game. He allowed six hits and six runs, with zero earned runs, while striking out eight. NRHEG's defense turned two double plays behind him.

Deen, Dakota Schlaak and Owen Wayne had two hits each for NRHEG, with one apiece by Mack Gilliland, Brooks Gilliland and Calvin Nissen.

The Panthers used a big sixth inning and 14 hits to defeat the Mabel-Canton Cougars.

NRHEG jumped ahead 3-0 in the top of the first on an RBI single from Deen, a run-scoring triple by Mack Gilliland, and a Brooks Gilliland sacrifice fly. Mabel-Canton answered with five runs in the bottom half to take a 5-3 lead.

The Panthers tied it 5-5 in the third on Brock Holland's sacrifice fly. They took the lead for good in the fifth with three runs, coming on a Nissen sacrifice fly, a Tyler Piepho RBI double, and a Dakota Schlaak RBI single. NRHEG broke it open with five runs in the sixth, highlighted by Holland's RBI single and Deen's two-run single.

Brooks Gilliland earned the win on the mound, going 5 1/3 innings while allowing 13 hits and seven runs, striking out four. Dakota Schlaak tossed 1 2/3 innings of relief. The Panthers swiped seven bases and turned two double plays.

Wayne, Deen, Mack Gilliland, Ryan Schlaak, Holland and Piepho finished with two hits each. Mack Gilliland tripled, Wayne and Piepho doubled. Dakota Schlaak and Brooks Gilliland had one hit each.

NRHEG continued its strong postseason push Saturday, defeating

Lewiston-Altura 10-6 at Riverland Community College behind a powerful offensive performance, strong pitching, and several momentum-changing defensive plays.

The Panthers wasted little time getting on the board, taking a 1-0 lead in the first inning when Mack Gilliland delivered an RBI single. After Lewiston-Altura tied the game in the third inning, NRHEG immediately responded with a big inning of its own. Sean Lassahn ripped a two-run double to put the Panthers back in front before Deen followed with an RBI single to extend the lead to 4-1.

The Panthers' bats stayed hot all afternoon as NRHEG piled up 13 hits while striking out only twice the entire game. Dakota Schlaak led the offensive attack, going 3-for-4 and scoring three runs. Lassahn had another huge day at the plate with three hits, including two doubles and three RBIs, while also making one of the biggest defensive plays of the game. Deen finished 2-for-3 with three RBIs and three stolen bases.

Holland added two hits and two RBIs, while Mack Gilliland finished with two hits and an RBI. Ryan Schlaak chipped in a hit and scored twice as NRHEG consistently pressured the Cardinals on the bases, finishing with five stolen bases.

On the mound, Wayne turned in one of his strongest performances of the season. The right-hander gave the Panthers six solid innings and allowed just one run through the first six frames while keeping Lewiston-Altura off balance throughout the afternoon.



BIG PLAY — NRHEG catcher Wyatt Larson tags out a Lewiston-Altura basrunner at the plate during last week's Section 1A Baseball Tournament at Riverland Community College in Austin.

Photo by Eli Lutgens

NRHEG battled through a couple of early defensive errors, but the Panthers quickly answered. In the third inning, Lassahn erased one of those mistakes with a perfect throw from right field to cut down a Cardinals runner trying to score at home, stopping a potential rally and swinging momentum back toward NRHEG.

The Panthers made another huge defensive play in the seventh inning when catcher Wyatt Larson threw out a Lewiston-Altura baserunner attempting to steal third for the first out of the inning.

Lewiston-Altura mounted a late push with five runs in the seventh, but Brooks Gilliland came on in relief and helped close the door.

Despite the late inning rally, NRHEG controlled the game for

most of the afternoon with timely hitting, aggressive baserunning, and strong pitching as the Panthers continue their postseason run.

The Panthers opened the section tournament last Wednesday with a 4-1 victory over 15th-seeded Houston at Reese Field in New Richland.

Mack Gilliland struck out 12 batters over seven innings while allowing just three hits and one run with one walk. Houston's only run came in the seventh inning as NRHEG controlled the game from the start.

"Mack threw a great game, found the strike zone and had great locations in his pitches," said Fischer. "We did not give Houston many chances in the game, and we stayed composed in the seventh when we allowed some hits and some base

runners. We had players do their job, even though it doesn't show up as hits. We had great sac flies, hard hit balls, and were aggressive on the bases."

The Panthers jumped out early with two runs in the first inning on sacrifice flies from Lassahn and Brooks Gilliland. NRHEG added another run in the second when Dakota Schlaak delivered an RBI single, then pushed the lead to 4-0 in the third on a fielder's choice off the bat of Ryan Schlaak.

Dakota Schlaak led the Panthers, going 2-for-3 with an RBI and a run scored. Wayne finished 1-for-3 with two runs scored, a walk, and two stolen bases. Mack Gilliland added a hit, while the Panthers drew four walks and stole five bases.

NRHEG played errorless defense.

Season ends for NRHEG softball

Panthers upset 8-6 by Bethlehem Academy in section tournament opener

For five innings, it looked like the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Panthers were well on their way to victory in the opening round of the Section 1A tournament.

With two outs in the seventh, it seemed a sure thing that at worst the Panthers would go to extra innings.

Things fell apart both times.

The Panthers, seeded sixth in the section, surrendered three runs in the sixth and two with two outs in the seventh while falling 8-6 to 11th-seeded Bethlehem Academy at

New Richland's Legion Field Monday, May 18.

The Panthers, who went 6-4 in the Gopher Conference, finished the season with a record of 9-8. The Cardinals lost 4-1 to fourth-seeded Lewiston-Altura in the section quarterfinals.

According to coach Wendy Schultz, shabby defense cost the Panthers in the sixth. They finished the day with four fielding errors.

In the seventh, the Cardinals strung together some hits to score

twice, and the Panthers were unable to manufacture any runs in the bottom of the inning.

Quinn VanMaldeghem capped a stellar spring at the plat, going 3-for-4 with a double and scoring a run. Brooklyn Summer was 2-for-3. Addy Stadheim, Chloe Stork and Faith Phillips had one hit each. Olivia Berg and Kyera Eustice scored.

Izley Boerner again pitched all seven innings for the Panthers, allowing three earned runs while

striking out three and walking four.

"It wasn't the way we wanted to end the season, but I'm proud of the girls' work ethic, positive attitude and determination," said Coach Schultz. "We will definitely miss our five seniors Kyera, Chloe, Addy, Quinn and Camryn VanMaldeghem. I have no doubt that they will do great things in their future. It was a privilege to be their coach."

Panther golfers complete conference tournament

The NRHEG High School golf teams played their final round of the Gopher Conference Thursday, May 21 at Waseca's Lakeside Golf Club.

The NRHEG girls made a strong showing, finishing second. Panther scores for 18 holes: Alexis Olson 111, Addison Bauleke 119, Olivia Wilkenson 123, Hailey Staska 135. Shan Hansen led the boys with a 92, with Reid Sandry carding a 93. Also: Chuck Tufte 97, David Deen 99, Braxton Arnold 111, Blake Olson 116.

The Panthers hosted the Panther Invitational Monday, May 18 at Riverview Golf Course. The girls finished fourth, the boys fifth.

Eighteen-hole scores for the girls: Wilkenson 110, Olson 115, Staska 123, Bauleke 124. For the boys: Sandry 86, Deen 91, Arnold 93, Hansen 96, Tufte 98, Williams 132.

The Panthers play at North Links Golf Course in Mankato this week for the Section 2A tournament.

LOOKING BACK

25 years ago

- Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton's Justin Danberry went the distance on the mound Tuesday in a non-conference victory against Cleveland Tuesday, May 8. He struck out 10, gave up five hits, two earned runs and walked four. The Bulldog's Jake Hall scattered two hits and Chad Schroeder knocked in three RBIs. JWP stole 12 bases in the contest.

- Army Pvt. Bruce Wagner has graduated from basic military training at Fort Leonard Wood, Waynesville, Missouri. During the training, the trainee received instructions in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, and Army history and traditions. Wagner is the son of William and Ellen Wagner of Owatonna. He is a 2000 graduate of Owatonna High School.

- Waterville-Elysian-Morristown School District elementary counselor, Karen Krause, was named Counselor of the Year in April.



- **New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School's Knowledge Bowl team won the 24-team Class A Knowledge Bowl state high school championship, Tuesday, May 8. Members of the team pictured here with their trophy are from the left: seated, Amy Sack and Matt Xavier; standing, Paul Drube, Darren Howell and Kristin Jessen. NRHEG placed 10th in the 1999 tournament and was fifth at last year's meet. Drube competed on all three teams. Coach is Mary Sack, media specialist.**

50 years ago

- Susan Espe was selected as the New Richland-Hartland senior to win The Johnson Foundation Scholarship award. The award is given to the most deserving senior who plans to pursue a 4-years college degree. Susan plans to attend St. Olaf College this fall. Her present interest in nursing.

- Mr. and Mrs. Richard Chicos of rural New Richland are happy to announce the birth of a daughter. Anne Marie as she has been named, arrived May 17 at the Naeve hospital in Albert Lea. She weighed 9 pounds, 1 ½ ounces at birth. She has one brother, Aaron Patrick, four years old.

- Jeff Thompson of New Richland was a starting first baseman for the Waldorf College baseball team this season. The Warriors posted a 6-13 record. Thompson was a strong asset for the warriors ranking fourth in hits.

75 years ago

- Miss Dorothy Amley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John T. Amley of New Richland will receive her Fairview nursing cap at a capping service Sunday, June 24 at 7:30 pm at Bethany Lutheran Church, 25th and Franklin, Minneapolis.

- Miss Dorothy Nelson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Nelson of rural New Richland will represent this community at Girls State, now in the session at the 4-H Club building at the State Fair grounds.

- Richard Kreuzer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Kruezer, spent Thursday in Minneapolis where he passed the physical and mental examinations for enlistment in the Army Air Force. "Dick" will report for Duty July 9. He has had two years training in the Air ROTC at St. Thomas College.

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Woods and Water
by Dick Herfindahl
Outdoors Writer

The trip to Walker
was well worth it

I managed to get up to our cabin this past weekend thanks to my son, Brad, who took good care of the "old guy." The downside was that it rained all day on the first day. The up side was that on the second day we took a trip to Walker where Brad's son, Dylan, his wife, Kloe, and grandson, Krew, were camping. Brad said that spending that day with them was well worth the trip. Krew is almost a year and a half, and once he found out what fun walking and running was, he was constantly on the go. He also has a fondness for brats. Dylan cuts a brat into little pieces, and Krew can't get enough.

That was a fun afternoon spent at Kloe's Dad's campsite. It brought back some fond memories of the days when we camped. I know that Brad really enjoyed it – any time spent with your first grandchild is precious. The hospitality that Josh and his family offered us was top notch and those chicken wings were second to none.

The day there was cold and gray, but driving through downtown Walker the sidewalks were packed with tourists. I'd guess that the cold weather kept people in town instead of out on the lake. It is a nice little town with plenty to offer visitors.

Until next time: Shortly after I wrote my last column, the dock on Pickeral was in and the ramp was repaired. Now folks can get on the lake for some fishing.

Gooseberry Falls State Park took first place in the vote for best state park in the USA Today 10 BEST Reader's Choice Awards. Over four weeks, people throughout the U.S. voted on the 20 best state park nominees, which were selected by a panel of USA Today editors and subject matter experts.

"Gooseberry Falls State Park is an iconic example of the incredible natural spaces that make Minnesota a great place to live and visit. Our public lands and waters are truly special, and it's gratifying to see that people across the nation agree," said DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen. "Through thoughtful conservation and forward-looking investments, the DNR is ensuring these spaces remain vibrant, accessible, and welcoming for all. I'm proud that our stewardship leads to memorable experiences for Minnesotans and visitors from across the U.S. and beyond."

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.

Shown here is Dick's great-grandson Krew eating a brat and another of Krew and his dad.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship Wednesday - 5:15 p.m. Supper; 6 p.m. Bible Study	Tuesday - Council meeting (First Tuesday) * *	www.vibrantlifegag.com	FAMILY OF FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH Rev. Neal Ooms 101 East Park Avenue Hollendale, Minnesota Sunday— 9:30 a.m. Worship; 10:45 a.m. Sunday School * *	ST. JOHN LUTHERAN Minnesota Lake, Minnesota Rev. Larry Sipe, pastor Sunday — 9 a.m. Worship
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 news-letter for dates. * *	HARTLAND EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN Hartland, Minnesota Pastor Phillip K. Lepak Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship	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 * *	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 * *
ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Otisco, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Interim Pastor Trish Reedstrom Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting (first Wednesday) * *	ELLEDALE 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. * *	PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN Lemond Township Pastor Gena Parker Sunday— 10:15 a.m. Worship * *	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Rev. Larry Sipe Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Worship * *
LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting * *	VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * *	CENTRAL FREEBORN LUTHERAN CHURCH Pastor Matt Griggs Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship FM Transmitter is used for those wanting to listen through their car radios at FM 90.7 * *	FIRST LUTHERAN, LCMC Hope, Minnesota Pastor Sandy Miller Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 10:15 a.m. Youth/Adult Study * *	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday - 8 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. * *	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 * *	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Clarks Grove, Minnesota Pastor James Cameron Sunday— 9:15 a.m. Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. Worship * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN Wilton Township Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor Sunday - 10:45 a.m. Worship * *
COMMUNITY LUTHERAN Geneva, Minnesota Pastor Leandra Anderson Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship (times very 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 * *	FAMILY OF FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH Hollendale, Minnesota Rev. Neal Ooms Sunday— 8:45 a.m. Worship; 9:20 Worship and kids church (now an eagle brook viewing church) * *	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.stisidioreschool.webs.com * *	THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS Brad Donner, Branch President Waseca, Minnesota www.lds.org Sunday — 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School Wednesday — 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages 12-18 * *
CROSS OF GLORY LUTHERAN Hartland, Minnesota Rev. Marcia Pedersen Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship	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	ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS Hollendale, Minnesota Pastor Jesse Krusemark Sunday— 9 a.m. Worship * *	FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod Waldorf, Minnesota Rev. Larry Sipe, pastor Sunday — 8 a.m. Worship; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Study * * *	NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE STAR EAGLE.

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Ellendale 2025 Drinking Water Report

Making Safe Drinking Water

Your drinking water comes from a groundwater source: two wells ranging from 369 to 398 feet deep, that draw water from the Galena Group aquifer.

Ellendale works hard to provide you with safe and reliable drinking water that meets federal and state water quality requirements. The purpose of this report is to provide you with information on your drinking water and how to protect our precious water resources.

Contact Josh Otto, Utility & Maintenance Supervisor, at 507-461-0804 or jotto2010@gmail.com if you have questions about Ellendale’s drinking water. You can also ask for information about how you can take part in decisions that may affect water quality.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets safe drinking water standards. These standards limit the amounts of specific contaminants allowed in drinking water. This ensures that tap water is safe to drink for most people. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulates the amount of certain contaminants in bottled water. Bottled water must provide the same public health protection as public tap water.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily mean that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by visiting the website [epa.gov/safewater](https://www.epa.gov/safewater).

Ellendale Monitoring Results

This report contains our monitoring results from January 1 to December 31, 2025.

We work with the Minnesota Department of Health to test drinking water for more than 100 contaminants. It is not unusual to detect contaminants in small amounts. No water supply is ever completely free of contaminants. Drinking water standards protect Minnesotans from substances that may be harmful to their health.

Learn more by visiting the Minnesota Department of Health’s webpage [Basics of Monitoring and testing of Drinking Water in Minnesota](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/sampling.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/sampling.html>).

How to Read the Water Quality Data Tables

The tables below show the contaminants we found last year or the most recent time we sampled for that contaminant. They also show the levels of those contaminants and the environmental protection agency’s limits. Substances that we tested for but did not find are not included in the tables.

We sample for some contaminants less than once a year because their levels in water are not expected to change from year to year. If we found any of these contaminants the last time we sampled for them, we included them in the tables below with the detection date.

We may have done additional monitoring for contaminants that are not included in the Safe Drinking Water Act. To request a copy of these results, call the Minnesota Department of Health at 651-201-4700 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Definitions

- AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- Contaminant:** Any physical, chemical, biological, or radiological substance or matter in water.
- EPA:** Environmental Protection Agency
- MCL (Maximum contaminant level):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- MCLG (Maximum contaminant level goal):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- MRDL (Maximum residual disinfectant level):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- MRDLG (Maximum residual disinfectant level goal):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- N/A (Not applicable):** Does not apply.
- pCi/l (picocuries per liter):** A measure of radioactivity.
- ppb (parts per billion):** One part per billion in water is like one drop in one billion drops of water, or about one drop in a swimming pool. ppb is the same as micrograms per liter (µg/l).
- ppm (parts per million):** One part per million is like one drop in one million drops of water, or about one cup in a swimming pool. ppm is the same as milligrams per liter (mg/l).
- ppt (parts per trillion):** One part per trillion is like one drop in one trillion drops of water, or about one drop in 20 Olympic sized swimming pools. ppt is the same as nanograms per liter (ng/l).
- PWSID:** Public water system identification.

Monitoring Results – Regulated Substances

LEAD AND COPPER – Tested at customer taps.							
Contaminant (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA’s Ideal Goal (MCLG)	EPA’s Action Level	90% of Results Were Less Than	Number of Homes with High Levels	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Lead (10/13/23)	0 ppb	90% of homes less than 15 ppb	1.3 ppb	0 out of 10	0 - 1.4 ppb	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper (10/13/23)	1.3 ppm	90% of homes less than 1.3 ppm	0.9 ppm	0 out of 10	0.02 - 1.21 ppm	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing.

INORGANIC & ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS – Tested in drinking water.						
Contaminant (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA’s Ideal Goal (MCLG)	EPA’s Limit (MCL)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Nitrate	10 ppm	10 ppm	0.34 ppm	N/A	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium (09/11/23)	2 ppm	2 ppm	0.24 ppm	N/A	NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposit.
Gross Alpha	0 pCi/l	15 pCi/l	7.7 pCi/l	N/A	NO	Erosion of natural deposits.
Combined Radium	0 pCi/l	5 pCi/l	2.5 pCi/l	N/A	NO	Erosion of natural deposits.

CONTAMINANTS RELATED TO DISINFECTION – Tested in drinking water.						
Substance (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA’s Ideal Goal (MCLG or MRDLG)	EPA’s Limit (MCL or MRDL)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	N/A	80 ppb	10.5 ppb	N/A	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA)	N/A	60 ppb	6.6 ppb	N/A	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Chlorine	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	0.49 ppm	0.27 - 0.69 ppm	NO	Water additive used to control microbes.

Total HAA refers to HAA5

OTHER SUBSTANCES – Tested in drinking water.						
Substance (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA’s Ideal Goal (MCLG)	EPA’s Limit (MCL)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Fluoride	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	0.52 ppm	0.27 - 0.43 ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive to promote strong teeth.

Potential Health Effects and Corrective Actions (If Applicable)

Fluoride: If your drinking water fluoride levels are below the optimal concentration range of 0.5 to 0.9 ppm, please talk with your dentist about how you can protect your teeth and your family’s teeth from tooth decay and cavities. For more information, visit: MDH Drinking Water Fluoridation (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/com/fluoride.html>).

Monitoring Results – Unregulated Substances/Emerging Contaminants

In addition to testing drinking water for contaminants regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act, we sometimes also monitor for contaminants that are not regulated. Unregulated contaminants do not have legal limits for drinking water. MDH, EPA, and other health agencies may have developed comparison values for some of these compounds. Some of these comparison values are based solely on potential health impacts and do not consider our ability to measure contaminants at very low concentrations nor the cost and technology of prevention and/or treatment. These values may be set at levels that are costly, challenging, or impractical for a water system to meet (for example, large-scale treatment technology may not exist for a given contaminant). Sample data are listed along with comparison values in the table below; it is important to note that these comparison values are not enforceable.

Detection alone of a regulated or unregulated contaminant should not cause concern. The significance of a detection should be determined considering current health effects information. We are often still learning about the health effects, so this information can change over time.

A person drinking water with a contaminant at or below the comparison value would be at little to no risk for harmful health effects. If the level of a contaminant is above the comparison value, people of a certain age or with special health conditions-like a fetus, infants, children, elderly, and people with impaired immunity may need to take extra precautions. We are notifying you of the unregulated/emerging contaminants we have detected as a public education opportunity.

Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the Agency should consider regulating those contaminants in the future.

- More information is available on _____’s [-Z List of Contaminants in Water](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/index.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/index.html>)
- [Fourth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule \(UCMR 4\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/com/ucmr4.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/com/ucmr4.html>)
- [Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule](https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule) (<https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>)
- EPA has developed a [UCMR5 Program Overview Factsheet](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-02/ucmr5-factsheet.pdf) (<https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-02/ucmr5-factsheet.pdf>) describing UCMR 5 contaminants and standards.

In the past year, your drinking water may have tested for additional unregulated contaminants as part of the [Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule](https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule) (<https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>) and results are still being processed. The Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 5 (UCMR 5) Data finder allows people to easily search for, summarize, and download the available UCMR 5 analytical results (<https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule-data-finder>).

UNREGULATED/EMERGING CONTAMINANTS – Tested in drinking water.			
Contaminant	Comparison Value	Highest Average Result or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results
Sodium* (2023)	20 ppm	16.8 ppm	N/A
Sulfate (2023)	500 ppm	6.92 ppm	N/A

*Note that home water softening can increase the level of sodium in your water.

Some People Are More Vulnerable to Contaminants in Drinking Water

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available on [EPA’s website epa.gov/safewater](https://www.epa.gov/safewater).

Service Line Material Inventory

Ellendale has completed and submitted our service line materials inventory to the Minnesota Department of Health. The service line inventory is publicly available, and you can check the materials for your service line by visiting the [Lead Inventory Tracking Tool \(LITT\)](https://maps.umn.edu/LSL/) (<https://maps.umn.edu/LSL/>). You may also contact us at ellendalemaintenance@gmail.com (John Otto). Inspections by City personnel within all residential, commercial and industrial properties was completed. Survey questionnaires were sent to all city residents for their personal inspection of water services entering the homes and businesses. Pictures were taken of service lines by some residents, for identification of lines, by City personnel. We reviewed city water maps to determine when water mains were installed. As of 10/10/2025, our inventory contains 1 lead, 3 galvanized requiring replacement, 176 unknown material, and 201 non-lead service lines.

Learn More about Your Drinking Water

Drinking Water Sources

Groundwater supplies percent of Minnesota’s drinking water, and found in aquifers beneath the surface of the land. Surface water supplies percent of Minnesota’s drinking water and is the water in lakes, rivers, and streams above the surface of the land.

Contaminants can get in drinking water sources from the natural environment and from people’s daily activities. There are six main types of contaminants in drinking water sources.

Ellendale Drinking water report continued

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses, bacteria, and parasites. Sources include sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, pets, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants** include salts and metals from natural sources (e.g. rock and soil), oil and gas production, mining and farming operations, urban stormwater runoff, and wastewater discharges.
- **Pesticide:** Generally, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.
- **Herbicide:** Any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation.
- **Organic chemical contaminants** include synthetic and volatile organic compounds. Sources include industrial processes and petroleum production, gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants** such as radium, thorium, and uranium isotopes come from natural sources (e.g. radon gas from soils and rock), mining operations, and oil and gas production.

The Minnesota Department of Health provides information about your drinking water source(s) in a source water assessment, including:

- How Ellendale is protecting your drinking water source(s);
- Nearby threats to your drinking water sources;
- How easily water and pollution can move from the surface of the land into drinking water sources, based on natural geology and the way wells are constructed.

Find your source water assessment at [Source Water Assessments](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/swa.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/swa.html>) or call 651-201-4700 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Lead in Drinking Water

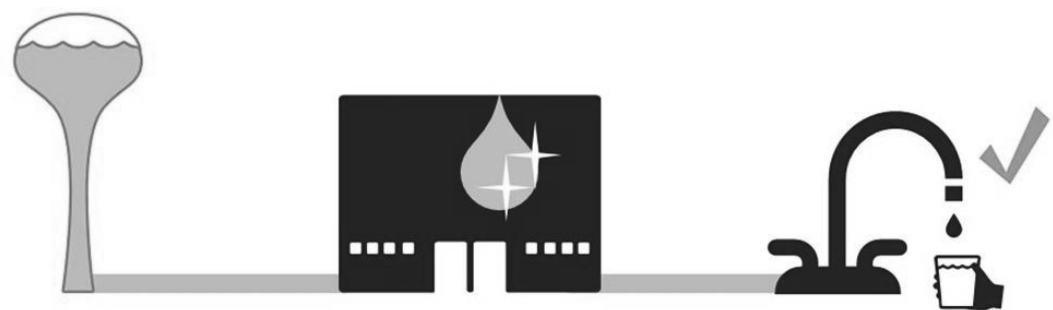
Lead can cause serious health problems, babies, children under six years, and pregnant women are at the highest risk. You may be in contact with lead through paint, water, dust, soil, food, hobbies, or your job. There is no safe level of lead.

Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Our water system is responsible for proving high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes from service lines but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk.

Read below to learn how you can protect yourself from lead in drinking water.

1. **Let the water run** before drinking tap water flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap. If you have a lead service line, you may need to let the water run longer. A service line is the underground pipe that brings water from the main water pipe under the street to your home.
 - Activities such as taking a shower, doing laundry or dishes help keep water moving in your home system but are not a replacement for running the tap before you drink if it has not been used for a long period of time.
 - The only way to know if lead has been reduced by letting it run is to check with a test. If letting the water run does not reduce lead, consider other options to reduce your exposure.
2. **Know your service line materials** by contacting your public water system, or you can search for your address online at the [Minnesota Lead Inventory Tracking Tool](https://maps.umn.edu/LSL/) (<https://maps.umn.edu/LSL/>).
 - **Protect Your Tap:** A quick check for lead (<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/protect-your-tap-quick-check-lead>) is EPA's step by step guide to learn how to find lead pipes in your home.
3. **Use cold water** for drinking, making food, and making baby formula. Hot water releases more lead from pipes than cold water.
4. **Test your water.** In most cases, letting the water run and using cold water for drinking and cooking should keep lead levels low in your drinking water. If you are still concerned about lead, arrange with a laboratory to test your tap water. Testing your water is important if young children or pregnant women drink your tap water.
 - Contact a Minnesota Department of Health accredited laboratory to purchase a sample container and instructions on how to submit a sample: [Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program](https://eldo.web.health.state.mn.us/public/accreditedlabs/labsearch.seam) (<https://eldo.web.health.state.mn.us/public/accreditedlabs/labsearch.seam>) The Minnesota Department of Health can help you understand your test results.
5. **Treat your water** if a test shows your water has high levels of lead after you let the water run. You can use a filter certified with ANSI/NSF standards 53 and 42 for lead reduction.
 - Read about water treatment units: [Point-of-Use Water Treatment Units for Lead Reduction](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/poulead.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/poulead.html>)Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and other steps you can take to minimize exposure are available at:
 - Visit EPA [Basic Information about Lead in Drinking Water](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead) (<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>)
 - Visit the Minnesota department of Health [Lead in Drinking Water](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/lead.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/lead.html>)
 - To learn about how to reduce your contact with lead from sources other than your drinking water, visit [Lead Poisoning Prevention: Common Sources](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/fs/common.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/fs/common.html>)
6. **Be Aware:** Head Start Programs, Child Care Centers, Public and Charter Schools all have requirements to test for lead in drinking water. These programs can learn more about requirements and resources for testing and remediation at [MDH Drinking Water in Schools and Child Cares](https://www.web.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/schools/index.html) (<https://www.web.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/schools/index.html>)

More Details About Our Community Water System



- Your drinking water is treated to [e.g. disinfect against microbes, add fluoride, prevent corrosion of lead and copper, remove iron and manganese, remove hardness, improve taste].
- [Number] gallons of water is available in storage for system capacity [and helping to maintain pressure with water towers].
- We have [number] miles of watermain that move finished drinking water from our [well(s) or treatment plant(s)] to your home.

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NRHEG Awards



HIGH-ACHIEVING SCHOLARS: The NRHEG Academic and Service Awards Program took place in the Secondary School gym on Tuesday, May 19, 2026. Students were awarded more than \$53,000 in scholarships given by many local organizations and individuals. Star Eagle photos by Ben Revermann

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