NRHEG
Star Eagle

SERVING THE NEW RICHLAND-HARTLAND-ELLENDALE-GENEVA AREA

No. 36 Vol. CXL $2 Office in New Richland, Minnesota 56072 Thursday, September 3, 2026

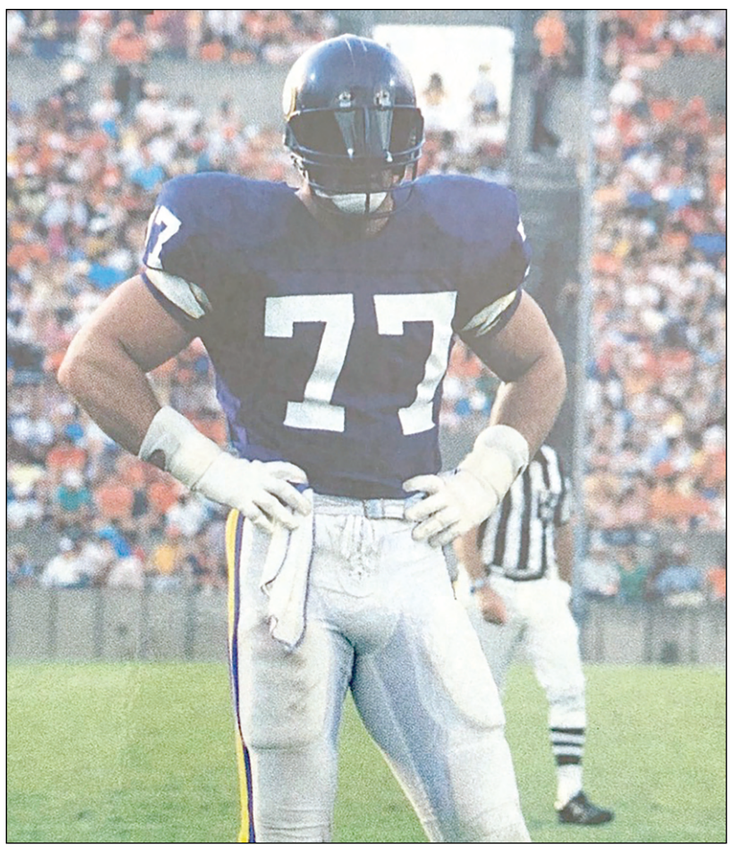
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Sports



FINDING A CAREER - Mark Mullaney, a Minnesota Vikings retiree, is a frequent shopper at the Lady Bug in New Richland.

The stuff of legends

By MELANIE PILTINGSRUD
Copy Editor

Mark Mullaney was drafted again. Not to play for the Minnesota Vikings this time, but to help entertain guests at the Lady Bug's grand re-opening on Saturday, Aug. 29.

Mullaney and his wife, Lynette, are frequent shoppers at the Lady Bug, and both were happy to oblige. Accordingly, thrift shop owner Paulette Krampitz set up a table in the store where visitors could request autographs and chat with the retired football player.

Beginnings

Mullaney's love of football goes way back to his childhood. When his father, Ed Mullaney, asked him what the boy wanted to be when he grew up, he had a ready answer; he wanted to play football.

"That's not a career," his father warned. "What else do you want to be?"

Mullaney liked the circus. "I want to be a clown!" he answered.

"I didn't know who the Vikings were," said Mullaney. "I didn't follow sports; I just wanted to play – baseball, football, basketball."

But when he was growing up, Mullaney's father forbade him and his older brother, Ed, to play football until they were 18. "As long as you're in my house, I make the decisions," their father had said. "You do what I say, and I'm not going to ask you twice."

Ed Mullaney was a formidable-looking man from Chicago with a bulldog underbite. He didn't have to ask twice.

Drafted

The chain of events that got Mullaney into the Minnesota Vikings should be the stuff of legend.

"You're not going to be drafted. Nobody knows who you are," his dad told him. Nonetheless, he asked his son, "So what team do you think you could

Mullaney continued on 4



LOCAL CHAT - Mullaney was already halfway through his Vikings career when he met Lynette Peterson, originally of New Richland. Star Eagle photo by Melanie Piltingsrud

Clarks Grove Historical Society Meeting Thursday, September 10

The Clarks Grove Historical Society will hold their monthly meeting at the museum at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 10. Donna Haugen will be the special guest, the topic will be birds; snack and refreshments served.

Soil Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board Meeting September 10

The SWCD will hold its monthly board meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 10. The meeting will be held in the SWCD offices located at 300 North State Street - Door 4.

Geneva Cancer Auction Annual Mum Sale Friday Sept. 11

The Geneva Cancer Auction will hold their annual mum sale from 4 p.m. till gone on Friday, Sept. 11. Cost is $20 each at the Geneva Bar and Grill.

Blooming Prairie Cancer Group Weekend Sept. 11 to 12

A two-day live auction held by the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group will raise funds to fight the disease and increase awareness. Along with the auction will be family friendly events including a "Field of Flags," a color run, a medallion hunt and sportsmen's bingo. Look for a more detailed scheduled on Facebook.

Fourth Annual Ride to Remember at Hartland University Bar Saturday, Sept. 12

The 4th Annual Ride to Remember will depart the Hartland University Bar at noon on Saturday, Sept. 12. Those riding in side by sides will visit five different bars and at each bar receive a different playing card; best hand is the winner. There will also be a 50/50 raffle and silent auction. Proceeds go to Flags for Vets.

A word from The Word

As for me, I will call on God and the Lord will save me.
Psalm 55:16

Toward Zero Deaths has local impact

By DEB BENTLY
Staff writer

Under a special statewide program, Waseca County Sheriff deputies spend as much as 20 hours in some months on patrols designated to watch for specific driving dangers—for example, speeding, driving under the influence, failure to use seat belts or car seats, and hands-free violations.

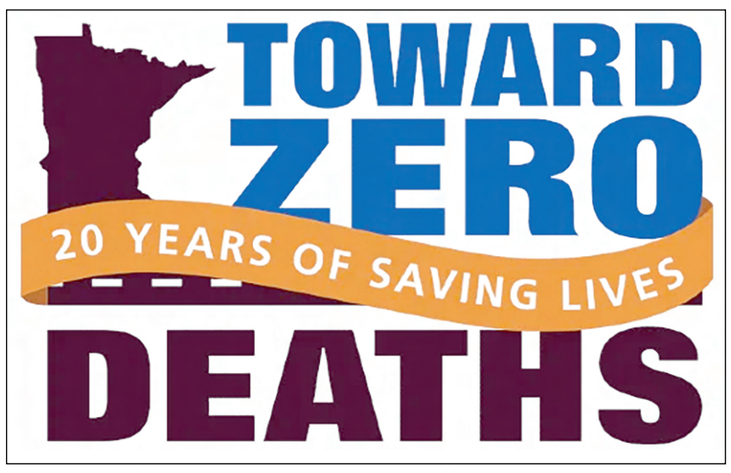
As Waseca County Sheriff Jay Dulas explains, "Toward Zero Deaths" is a federally funded initiative managed within Minnesota by the state office of traffic safety. Under the program, enforcement agencies are reimbursed the cost of the hourly wages of sheriff deputies, police officers and highway patrol staff who follow the program's guidelines. One of the first steps is taking part in targeted in-person training sessions which help the officer recognize typical warning signs associated with specific unsafe driving habits.

Another requirement is that, when on Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) patrols, officers are attending only to the designated behavior. If the state has named, for example, seat belt usage as the target behavior for the month, the officer is looking only for drivers failing to follow the laws associated with seat belts and car seats. Along with that, the patrol is in addition to the department's regular shifts, so that the TZD officer is not expected to respond to other enforcement tasks, for example, security checks or complaints of someone disturbing the peace.

"There are no quotas or anything like that," Dulas says regarding the patrols. "They are out there to raise awareness about safe driving habits." He goes on to say it's an important task. "Being pulled over and either getting a ticket or a warning from an officer can have a lasting impact.

"Changing someone's habits today could be preventing who knows how

Driving continued on 4



Waseca County law enforcement officers participate in the statewide "Toward Zero Deaths" initiative, meant to reduce accidents--especially accidents leading to fatalities. Officers sign up for extra shifts during which they raise public awareness regarding various aspects of safe driving by issuing tickets or performing traffic stops during which they remind drivers about the dangers of distracted driving, speeding, failure to use seat belts, and more.



A NEW ANGLE ON FIRST AID - Nearly all teachers and paraprofessionals at the NRHEG school system took part in a "Mental Health First Aid" course intended to help them recognize indications young people are experiencing difficulties which might lead to mental health challenges. The course also included training in best ways to approach and assist people having difficulty. Here are many of the district's paraprofessionals who attended the course on August 30. With them are Annette Duncan, instructor for the course and president of the United Way of Steele County (front center) and fellow trainer Bruno Vela (back left.)
Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

NRHEG staff learn "Mental Health First Aid"

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

In recent years, the number of people coping with mental health challenges has been rising, particularly among those 35 and younger.

Unlike physical ailments which are made evident by symptoms such as a fever, a limp, or some sort of pain, mental health difficulties are entirely internal and can be recognized mostly by changes in behavior.

The NRHEG School system recently brought in the United Way of Steele County for a "first aid" class in how to recognize and respond when "youths" from elementary grades all the way up to age 19 are having trouble; current statistics show that 1 in every 5 young persons will experience a mental health diagnosis sometime in their lives.

Instructor for the topic was Annette Duncan, president of United Way of Steele County. Duncan explains the course was made possible by the settlement money distributed all across the country when pharmaceutical companies were sued for their handling of opioid medications. Steele County chose to use part of its opioid settlement money to support the mental health first aid class: substance abuse is one of several classifications of mental health challenges that is covered during the course.

All NRHEG staff members whose duties call for working directly with students–chiefly teachers and education support professionals–were expected to take part in the 8-hour training.

The course identified and provided information about seven classifications of mental health difficulties, including depression, anxiety, eating imbalances, psychosis, substance misuse, attention-deficit difficulties, and trauma-related developments.

Staff members received training in how to recognize some of the symptoms of a mental health challenge: these included changes in behavior, withdrawal from interacting with others, fear, separation difficulties, and many more.

Along with that, a significant part of their time was spent learning the "ALGEE" response system, which called for anyone who is observing possible signs of an emerging mental health challenge to assess the circumstances, approach the individual, listen without judgment or interruption, and then, when appropriate, encourage the person to seek assistance

Health continued on 3

County Farm and Home Safety Day

From Debbie Roemhildt: I am again coordinating the Farm Bureau Farm and Home Safety Day on Tuesday, Sept. 15, at the north side of the buildings on the Waseca Fairgrounds. The day starts at 9 a.m. and includes 6 different safety stations; elementary students from all over the area will be attending.

Various organizations will be there, including the Steele Waseca Coop, Waseca Sheriff's Office, Crystal Valley, FM Bank-David Trcka of Waseca, Summers Ridge Veterinary from Janesville and Northland Farm Systems-Owatonna. I want to thank these businesses for their time and contributions.

Please come out to see what we do for our local fifth-graders coming from New Richland/Hartland/Ellendale/Geneva, Trinity Lutheran School in Janesville, Janesville Public School, Waseca Team Academy and Waseca CIS Schools. We expect about 260 students.

As in the past, we will have a Mock FARM Accident involving a tractor with a PTO running. This event is thanks to our local Waseca Fire and Rescue, and North Waseca Ambulance which makes the helicopter evacuation possible.

I want to thank the following for their donations to help fund this event - Culligan, Waseca; County Corn & Soybean Growers; Schoenfeld Family Fund; Cally Jo Children's Fund; Janesville State Bank; Keen Bank; Compeer Financial and MinnWest Bank.

We hope to see you out there for the day or part of the day! SAFETY FIRST!!

Debbie Roemhildt (507-461-7074)

Got news?
507-463-8112



Fence Lines

by Mark Bernard

Hot August night

The scurs noticed the Weather Eye is kicking out heat again. Do July-like conditions hang around another week or will we see fall again? Starting Thursday, mostly sunny with a good chance of evening showers. Highs in the mid-80's with lows in the low 70's. Sunny Friday with a slight chance of rain. Highs in the mid-80's with lows in the upper 60's. Mostly sunny on Saturday with a modest chance of rain. Highs in the mid-80's with lows in the mid-60's. Sunday, partly sunny with a modest chance of evening showers. Highs in the low 80's with lows in the mid-60's. Mostly sunny on Monday with highs in the low 80's and lows in the mid-60's. Tuesday, mostly sunny with highs in the upper 70's and lows in the low 60's. Partly sunny on Wednesday with highs in the upper 70's and lows in the upper 50's. On September 5th we'll see 13 hours of daylight and Labor Day is on the 71h. The normal high for September 7" is 76, and the normal low is 54. The scurs will keep their fridge stocked with ice cold beverages.

The heat returned with a vengeance after leading us on with September-like temperatures the latter part of August.

The results shouldn't be as detrimental as they were last year in mid-September when temps were in the upper 80's and low 90's. Most corn was half-milk line last week, meaning we were looking at maturity in about two weeks.

Sure, there are some early planted, early maturing hybrids defying that rule of thumb, but they are the exception.

Once temperatures moderate, harvest may behave more normally. We're still likely to finish harvest early as we're roughly 10 days ahead of normal. Likewise with the soybeans. Some are turning rapidly while other fields are taking a more leisurely approach, changing very slowly. Our rainfall seems to be following a similar pattern to recent falls, starting September with little major precip on the horizon. That can change.

The recent warmth has moved things along on other fronts. There were trees and other vegetation showing color from the hot August nights. The sedum I moved from its original bed last fall is blushing, soon to attract pollinators of all kinds. Cannas continue their spectacular run with some attaining a height of 9' while the morning glories I'd left for dead continues has ascended to over 10' on the power pole. Silver maples are also making me believe they may show more color this fall than in recent years. The autumn blaze maple is showing signs it too doesn't want to be left out on the action. Sumac in places on the edge of the yard has started to show hints of red, but nothing like what it sure to come.

Bird activity in the backyard has been transitioning from our summer guests to the more permanent fall and winter species. There have been orioles moving through yet, although as long as the house sparrows aren't around, the jelly consumption isn't on a par with May and June. Usually by Labor Day we bid adieu to them and focus on the hummingbirds for a few more weeks. The sugar water goes down more quickly than it has all summer as they move through. Goldfinches have started bringing their young to the feeders judging by the appearance of small, drab olive birds accompanying the still brightly colored males. In my wintertime journeys into the CREP acres, I frequently find their summertime nests attached to the red osier dogwood I'm looking to harvest.

It's been interesting to see what appears to be an uptick in monarch butterfly activity and numbers this summer. As kids we had a black cherry tree in the front yard they frequently gathered on when making their way south. When we first moved to our present location, there was a silver maple in the backyard that was a gathering place for them in the fall. It's been many moons since that happened, but it looks like there is a renewed effort on their part to congregate once again. A large part of this is due to weather conditions to their liking for migrating and breeding season. Sure, habitat improvement helps, but it is only piece of the puzzle. There are a lot of milkweed plants in CRP and in road ditches all across the area. If you don't think so, take another look.

I seeded some fall garden ahead of the rain on August 29th.

My success with the early spring planted garden was a dismal failure, so thought we'd plant snap peas, radishes and some salad greens to give it another go for fall. Success is never a given when gardening. Luckily we received close to a half inch of rain early Saturday morning within six hours of planting it. Unfortunately the weather turned hot again, so by Monday night, I was watering the new seeding to tide it over until rainfall showed up again. As if on cue, rainfall appeared in the forecast. Hopefully it'll arrive soon enough and be substantial enough to carry it until it germinates. If not, more watering. Isn't gardening fun?

Poppy has been coming up short on dog days lately. Too many places for us to be over the past several weeks with county fairs and now State Fair in the mix. Fear not. That should be changing soon. Mrs. Cheviot returns from the fair on Sunday and should be around for a stretch. Then Mrs. Cheviot is gone again, but yours truly will ride herd on the Corgi as harvest gets started. We do a fair amount of ball playing and exercising the backyard woodland creatures. By the time the day is done and supper is over, we're tuckered. After our celebratory Drumstick where Poppy vacuums up the peanuts that fall off the top, some TV and lights out. Rinse and repeat.

See you next week...real good then.



Star Eagle is for sale at these locations:

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

And At The Star Eagle Office





GREAT MINNESOTA GET-TOGETHER - Deb volunteered at the Education Minnesota booth at the Minnesota State Fair this year. It was her first time attending the state fair. Star Eagle photos by Deb Bently

Stepping outside my comfort zone

In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

A couple months back, I decided to take a step outside my comfort zone: I signed up to volunteer at the Education Minnesota booth at the Minnesota State Fair.

You see, I have long harbored a deep dark secret: I had never before attended the state fair. Perhaps you remember my jokes about how Ben Revermann's children would not be permitted to get Minnesota driver licenses if they had never been to the headwaters of the Mississippi.

It may be you are now thinking of me as a gigantic hypocrite–after all, many view the "Great Minnesota Get-Together" as a fundamental part of being a Minnesotan.

Fortunately I can now keep my driver license: I have been. I have seen. I have eaten a food served on a stick.

I went on Sunday, August 30–perhaps the worst possible day to choose, given the temperatures near 90, the high humidity, and what I hear was a record crowd. Because I was going to be spending three of my hours at the fair handing out pencils and sharing information about the teachers' union with passersby, I went by myself, not wanting to burden anyone with the wait.

Probably the worst part of my day was arriving.

You see, I am not a totally altruistic individual. I volunteered to be in the booth because it came with a couple of perks: admission to the fair, a shirt to wear in the booth (and then keep, obviously), and reimbursement for parking costs.

Knowing the forecast was for a hot day, and that the fairgrounds can be very crowded, I came up with what I thought was a very practical plan. Online information shared a list of places people can park for free, then get on a free bus to be transported to the fairgrounds. I chose the "maroon" lot at the University of Minnesota because it was specified that passengers from there would be dropped off at gate 5–half a block from the "Education Building" where the Education Minnesota booth is located.

Well and good–until I arrived at the University of Minnesota campus and passed five parking lots in quick succession, each with a sign that said "Lot Full. Closed."

I pulled into a quiet cul-de-sac to regroup. Even all the streets leading to that quiet little backwater space were parked end-to-end with cars. The only spot I could stay still for a few moments was right next to a fire hydrant.

I decided I had little choice but to head toward the fairgrounds and hope there would be a spot in one of the pay-to-park lots. Thanks to the navigation app on my cell phone, I arrived in the vicinity. The very first lot I came to still had a few spots, so I paid the necessary $25, pulled into a tight little space, and locked my car.

I was now about a block away from gate 14–the entry point farthest from my destination. I set out to find my way and, after a number of wrong turns, arrived at the Education Building. Between being red-faced with the heat and glad to have finally found it, I must say I have seldom been happier to reach a destination.

If the story had ended there, this column might be proclaiming that August 30, 2026, is the one and

Fair continued on 4

Prayers, baseball and a gut feeling



Just a Thought...

by Eli Lutgens

This week I have health updates, a Braves baseball update and a little local news.

Locally

The bakery in New Richland is for sale/has been for sale. Nancy Jane and company plan to retire when they sell.

As long as I have been alive, New Richland has had a bakery. During my youth my family traded newspaper advertising for donuts. I have sampled everything they have at Nancy Janes. There is nothing I didn't like. I hope someone picks up and continues the successful business.

Trappers Lanes was for sale. I don't know if they still are. Like the bakery I spent many an hour bowling on Friday evenings. And more than one birthday was spent there. Kids in town today don't bowl like they used to.

Express Lube in Waseca sold to Valvoline. When I arrived there a few months ago for an oil change, I was struck with panic and, to be frank, a little betrayal. I wrote about owner Wayne just shy of their 25th anniversary about five or so years ago. He warned me of "chain" oil change companies. Every oil change my vehicles have needed outside of doing my own have been done by Wayne or Mark at the Express Lube. Over a dozen years of seeing them, four or more times a year. They saved me countless dollars in repairs. Not knowing it was my last time seeing them, they showed me a sensor that went out. I stopped at O'Reilly Auto Parts in town and used their tools to swap it out that same day.

No, they didn't betray anyone. I have had good experiences at Valvoline since they opened.

It is not the same, but it is good, fair, quality service. I want to thank Wayne and Mark and the rest of the crew for making my oil changing experiences something I could look forward to and feel comfortable about rather than avoid and put off. Wayne worked really hard and I hope he enjoys retirement if that is what he is doing.

Braves

I attended my only Waseca Braves game of the year a couple weeks back. The boys won 5-1 and punched their tickets to the state tournament where they were ousted in a close contest 4-2.

I really wanted to see Kelvin Nelson pitch, which he did the game prior. But my body and schedule did not comply.

I toughed it out that night and was really glad I did.

I spent the entire length of the game talking with the guys. It's been a few seasons since I wore a uniform, but I still know plenty of the crew. The group of guys is really something special.

During the game I felt at ease, little stress. I was confident we would win. Something I hadn't felt during the Braves season ending games each of the last four seasons. All games which I have attended.

I can not say the same of manager Blake Nelson.

Nerves and a little stress were glowing off of him.

In a good way, though. He cares, a lot.

I almost wrote it in my article covering the event that three prayers were said during the game, including one out loud.

I don't know if it was Tink or Blake who said the short prayer out loud asking for a Braves win. But right afterwards, this was in the 7th inning or right before we scored a few insurance runs, I made the comment that I said a prayer the inning earlier for 44-year old designated hitter Ryan Wangen to get a hit. He is a very kind man with a good heart and a strong baseball mind. That may have been the only prayer I have ever had answered in a sporting contest because Wangen got a single on the very next pitch. That brought a smile to my face.

The Braves winning, that also made me smile.

Health update

I have been attending physical therapy at a new-to-me place in Mankato, the orthopedic and fracture clinic. This actually feels like what I expected physical therapy to be.

Between them, Jay Bulfer at Growing Roots Chiropractic and also Michelle at Swanson Acupuncture, I am making some progress. This past week I have only needed Tylenol for pain and even managed to sleep a few hours in my bed as opposed to just my chair. I am moving better and feeling better. They really allow me to push myself and work on my body in Mankato. It is a workout. And I like that. I pray the progress continues.

In addition I saw a specialist for my side/GI pains. She ordered five different tests, one of which is 8 tests for food intolerances and also bacterial tests to see what's wrong. She, the doctor, mentioned that antibiotics could be used to help if it's a certain bacterial imbalance. But she also said antibiotics can cause problems. I then mentioned I had just finished the first and only round of antibiotics I had ever been on before all of these issues started 3½ years ago. Who knows what's wrong with my gut? This doctor was left speechless. Thankfully, though, she ordered tests I didn't even know existed to help diagnose whatever causes my pain. We both agreed simply managing pain and symptoms is not a good way to live.

Cribbage

In cribbage this week, Dad got the best of me, winning 20-15 with about four skunks to my three. Counting last week's score of 22-20, our updated scores for the year follow:

Eli 166 wins, 16 skunks, Dad 144 wins, 26 skunks.

Lifetime

Dad 557, 87 skunks, Eli 503 wins, 55 skunks, 1 double skunk.

NRHEG Star Eagle

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

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Ellendale Ambulance



THANKFUL - The Ellendale Ambulance recently posted on their Facebook, "We would like to thank Flatlanders chapter A.B.A.T.E of MN for the donation of buddy bears to help comfort children when they are in a time of need."

Mental Health First Aid class available via United Way

Annette Duncan, president of United Way of Steele County, encourages interested groups and individuals to look into attending the "Mental Health First Aid" course she teaches at a cost of $50 a person. The 8-hour seminar is taught as "blended" instruction–part of the time participants study independently using an online resource, and part of the time features in-person instruction from Duncan. Also included are high-quality printed materials provided by the National Council for Mental Wellbeing, and lunch.

"The more people we have who learn these techniques," Duncan observed, "the more people there are who can respond when they see someone experiencing challenges with their mental health.

"I think a lot of what's covered is also really helpful in people's everyday lives as they interact with others. It's eye-opening information."

Anyone interested in registering for a course can visit unitedwaysteelecounty.org, or contact Duncan via email at annette.duncan@unitedways-teelecounty.org.

■ Health

from Page 1

from a qualified mental health professional and also encourage him or her to find healthy activities and settings likely to help prevent difficulties from cycling downward.

"It's very difficult to listen non-judgmentally," Duncan observed as she taught. "We have to set aside our own preconceptions and recognize that, right now, we are working with this person who is coming from their own culture, their own life experiences, and their own way of life.

"We don't judge. We listen and we do what we can to make the situation more positive."

"First Aiders," as class members were called, took part in group exercises meant to strengthen their understanding of the many topics. They were also given tools to help assess whether a situation should be viewed as a "non-crisis" or "immediate crisis," then addressed various types of responses suitable to the circumstances.

Staff members who attended the training commented on how it provided information they expect to find very useful as they interact with students in the coming year.

On a first-name basis with the birds



Compostings

by Al Batt

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

Want to hear your horoscope?

Sure, why not?

It says, "Your generosity will glow like 10,000 fireflies after you buy pie for everyone in the cafe."

I don't believe my horoscope says that.

Have you always had such deep-seated trust issues?

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I grew up on a farm. That's why I keep a pitchfork handy just in case I want to relive my youth and lean against one. The forecast was for a chance of precipitation, but the clouds said there was no chance of participation. The day had its complications. Every day does. The day started poorly. My chia pet bit me. Then I went off to the big city for important business. I went to a building about the same size as the big city. I got off the elevator on the 8th floor. I was supposed to get off on the 9th floor. But that's another story.

MEMORIES OF THE BARN DIET

The barn was full of shadows. I was in the hayloft helping a neighbor stack hay. It was stifling hot. Sweating came easy. The neighbor's little brother was eating crickets. He ate only a couple of them, but he ruined his appetite and ours.

WE USED TO ASK FOR DIRECTIONS

How far is it to the stadium?

It's 3 miles as the crow flies.

How far is it if the crow is walking?

I'VE LEARNED

Willful waste makes woeful want.

Zyzzyva is the last word in major English reference books like the Oxford English Dictionary and the official Scrabble Player's Dictionary. It's a group of tropical weevils native to South America. Coined in 1922 by an American scientist named Thomas Lincoln Casey, it was meant to claim the final entry in a dictionary. Its Scrabble value is 73 points.

The Trojan Horse came from IKEA.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has given away over 300 million free books to children worldwide.

You don't have to be a pickle to play pickleball.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

I ran out of clean socks, so I piled all my dirty ones on a tray, grabbed my detergent, and headed down a steep hill from my home to the laundromat. As I descended, I slipped and fell. The dirty socks fell to the ground, and the detergent rolled away. I got up slowly, sat down quickly, and watched it go. There I was sittin' on the sock of the tray, watching the Tide roll away.

My nephew was in bad shape after his girlfriend dumped him. I bought him a PlayStation and an Xbox. That helped console him.

My dog got into our Scrabble game and ate a bunch of lettered tiles. We rushed him to the vet and are waiting. No word yet.

NATURE NOTES

In late summer and fall, when a bird molts, it typically grows and replaces its feathers gradually, but occasionally a bird loses all the feathers on its head at once. This is true of blue jays, many of which molt their feathers of the head in synchrony. The result is a bald bird. This baldness lasts for about a week before new feathers replace the molted ones. Pin feathers appear within days, and the head is feathered again within two weeks.

I'm on a first-name basis with the yard's birds. I call the male cardinal "Northern." I'm a bouncer at the bird feeder. I'm not one to crittersize a squirrel, but I use baffles to discourage squirrels from eating more than their share. It doesn't always baffle them, so my feeders have become subscription-based to help cover the cost of seed. No subscribers yet. Birds aren't good at carrying wallets.

How common is it for white-tailed deer to give birth to twins? Researchers at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the Illinois DNR found that in 2024, 21% of does had a single fawn, 71% had twins, and 8% triplets. The number is determined by age, nutrition, genetics and habitat quality. Young does giving birth for the first time, typically have one fawn.

BirdCast, created by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, is an online resource that combines biological research, community science observations and radar data to forecast the movements of migratory birds. BirdCast shows live maps that track flocks as they travel through. Users can localize the data, letting them zoom in on a county to see estimates of how many birds are migrating. Search BirdCast and see.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"When a child gives you a gift, even if it is a rock they just picked up, exude gratitude. It might be the only thing they have to give, and they have chosen to give it to you."—Dean Jackson. Be kind.

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OBITUARIES

Shirley Vogelsang

Shirley A. Vogelsang, age 87, formerly of Waldorf, MN, died peacefully Friday, August 28, 2026 at Parkview Care Center in Wells, MN. A visitation will be held from 4 p.m.-7 p.m., Wednesday, September 2 at Nasinec Funeral Home in Wells. At 6:30 p.m. the family wishes to have a time of reflection and share memories of Shirley. The visitation will resume Thursday, September 3 from 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. at Nasinec Funeral Home; the funeral service will start following the visitation at 11 a.m.. Pastor Wendy Browne will be officiating, and burial will be in Dunbar Cemetery. Please see nasinecfh.com to read the full obituary.



Shirley Vogelsang

Robert Erickson

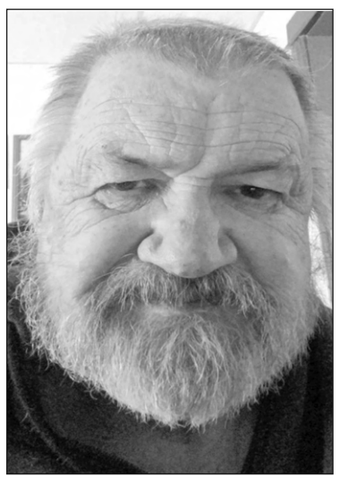
Robert Donald (Bob) Erickson, age 72 of Sandstone, Minnesota. Passed away July 17, 2026 in Waseca, Minnesota.

He was born September 6,1953 in Mora, Minnesota, a son of the late August Boyde Erickson and Marion Gertrude- Clara Erickson.

In addition to his parents was preceded in death by his daughter Tina and his loving puppy Ellie-May.

He is survived his kids Brianna, Jessy, Patrick, Anthony "Tony", Justin and Joshua, As his multiple grandchildren.

He was a man of many passions-from blasting his favorite rock music (or a little John Fogerty), to reading thrilling books to spending building things and also spending times with his grandchildren. He was a life long guitar player and was thrilled to show whom ever wanted to listen. He was also an amazing Father and a great friend to those who wanted to get to know him.



Robert Erickson

A Celebration of Life will be held September 6th, 2026 at 11am, at 3698 Velvet St, Sandstone, MN. A luncheon (potluck) and time for sharing storied will immediately follow after the service at the Kroschel Town Hall.

■ Driving

from Page 1

many devastating incidents in the future."

He mentions that the sheriff's department has been thanked by parents of young drivers who have seen a change in the way their teens drive.

Officers do submit a summary of their activity during the TZD patrols to the state. Numbers are compiled to look for a cause/effect relationship over time between the number of interactions and the number of future incidents involving the specific driving infraction.

The stated goal of the TZD program is that by 2030 no more than 225 people die in crashes on Minnesota roadways and fewer than 980 experience serious injuries. If a trend which began in 2003 had continued, the state might be experiencing more than 900 deaths a year, but "the statewide TZD program was launched as a deliberate, interdisciplinary approach to traffic safety. Despite increases in the number of licensed drivers, registered motor vehicles, and vehicle miles traveled, there were just over 360 traffic deaths in Minnesota in 2025, a 43 percent reduction from 2003," according to a "TZD Overview" available online.

Dulas goes on to say typical law-abiding drivers are often unaware of the many ways people disobey and sometimes even flaunt the rules of the road. "For every safety feature and every law," he observes, "people find a way to circumvent it." He mentions ways he has seen people disable the warning signal meant to remind people to wear their seatbelts.

Such choices, however, should not be considered "solutions."

He tells of an accident in the region within the past few months that occurred after one of the back tires of a pickup blew out. The truck went into the ditch and rolled over; neither occupant was wearing a seatbelt. Both were ejected from the vehicle and one of them was killed.

"That's exactly the type of tragedy the TZD program is hoping to reduce," he observes.

Dulas says he believes the TZD patrols do make a difference. For one thing, he says, they are often employed during times when a lot of people are on the road—holidays, special events like prom or homecoming, and long weekends. At times, there are likely to be two or three local law enforcement officers taking part in TZD activities, since the sheriff's department and the Waseca and Janesville police departments all participate.

He also believes a single traffic stop has a circle of influence which goes beyond one warning or ticket. "It provides a good reminder to do the right thing," he says. "People see us, or hear others talking about the incident.

"Because they've learned we're out there, they pay more attention to their driving habits."

■ Mullaney

from Page 1

make?"

Mullaney's answer was decisive: "I don't care! Just get me a try-out."

Ed thought his son sounded like a big shot. "Oh, you think you can make any team! Nobody wants you!"

But Mullaney's goal was just to play the game; the name of the team was irrelevant as long as he got to play. "Just get me a try-out," Mullaney insisted.

So, as his son's agent, Ed made phone calls, which nobody returned.

Ed gave up on the telephone and walked into the office of Carroll Hardy of the Denver Broncos, who was then head of player personnel. It was his job to create the list of draft-eligible players.

The receptionist asked, "Can I help you?" Ed said, "No," and walked right passed her up to Hardy's door and walked in.

The receptionist complained to Hardy, "He just walked in on his own!"

Hardy asked him: "Who are you?"

Ed Mullaney introduced himself.

Hardy had never heard of either Ed or Mark Mullaney, but Ed was undaunted. He asked Hardy to get his son into the Senior Bowl.

"You see that board?" Hardy asked, referring to the list of draft candidates on the wall. "Your son's not even on the board!"

Ed agreed: "Yeah, all you gotta is plug him in that thing; get him in the Senior Bowl."

"I'd kinda like to keep my job," Hardy countered.

"Randy White just dropped out; he's not gonna play," Ed persisted.

Hardy said dryly, "So you want me to trade your no-name son for the Outland Trophy winner, Randy White."

Per Mullaney, Ed said, "I promise you anything you want. You want somebody's legs broken, you tell me; I'll take care of it for you."

"I could lose my job for this," said Hardy.

The upshot of the interview was that Ed made one more phone call.

Camp practice for the Senior Bowl game was already underway in Mobile, Alabama. Mullaney recalled the circumstances: "They'd been practicing Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday... It's Wednesday. The game's Saturday. My dad called me and he says, 'Get to the airport! You're flying out and you're going to Mobile, Alabama.'"

Mullaney had never heard of Mobile, nor did he know what the Senior Bowl was, but his dad was adamant: "Just get your ass to the airport!"

Mullaney drove to the airport, and his dad was waiting there with a ticket to Mobile.

In spite of the fact that Mullaney came directly from playing for Colorado State, he felt totally unprepared for a game with the cream of the crop. "I wasn't in shape," he said. "I wasn't prepared for this."

"They want you to suit up," he was told upon arrival.

The teams had been on the field already for an hour.

"That's OK. Just put on your uniform."

Mullaney assumed he was just going out to watch, so he put on his suit without bothering to tape up.

Frank Kush, then head coach for the Arizona State Sun Devils, saw Mullaney on the sidelines. He approached and asked him who he was and what he played.

Mullaney normally played offensive tackle.

Kush sent him into the game to play opposite Mack Mitchell. "He was like 6'8", black guy. I can't remember who he played for," said Mullaney. "I didn't know who he was. He was just another player to me. The play started with a pass play, and Mullaney laid his opponent on his back on the ground.

Kush was annoyed. "Do that again," he said.

Mullaney obliged. This time it was a run play. Mullaney drove Mitchell back, and laid him on the ground again.

Kush beckoned Mullaney over. "You see all those reporters over there?" He gestured toward the stands where press agents snapped photographs in a crowd of 500 people. "None of them know who you are!" Kush told Mullaney he needed to draft someone else in the first round, but added, "But I promise you, I'm going to draft you in the second round. You've got my word on that, but you're not going to play in the game."

Mullaney called his dad and told him not to come to the game on Saturday; he'd already been told he wasn't going to play. Ed insisted on coming anyway.

On Saturday, Mullaney didn't bother to put on pads; he just put his suit on.

"It came down to the end of the game, and we're down by seven points," said Mullaney. The defensive line coach said, 'Put Mullaney in there for one play, because we've gotta score.'"

When Mullaney entered the play, he saw Mack Mitchell's eyeballs grow wide. "And I knew right by looking at him that he was thinking, 'Holy sh*t, he's in the game?'"

Mullaney drove Mitchell into the end zone. "They followed me into the end zone, and we scored," said Mullaney.

Mullaney exited the field, but the coach told him to go play defensive line. Mullaney's heart pounded; he'd never played defensive line in his life. He played two plays as defensive line. When he came out of the game, he locked eyes with his dad in the stands. Ed held up one index finger, predicting his son would be a first draft pick.

Mullaney had already decided not to finish his stint at Colorado State, but he was sitting in the student center sipping coffee when his older brother, Ed, tracked him down. "Did you hear the news?" Ed said. "You just got drafted!"

"So I'm going to Vietnam?" said Mullaney.

His brother said, "No, you idiot! You got drafted to play football. You're going to be a purple people-eater!"

Mullaney had no idea what his brother was talking about.

Ed said, "You're going to go play in Minnesota!"

Mullaney asked, "Where's Minnesota?"

When Mullaney's dad learned that his son would play for the Minnesota Vikings, he said, "Congratulations. You made your goal, and you're still a clown."

Mullaney never did play the offensive tackle position for the Minnesota Vikings that he'd played at Colorado State; he played whatever position they needed. If someone got hurt or was out for a play, Coach Bud Grant would say, "Put Mullaney in there."

"That's how I moved around and played in different positions," said Mullaney.

Grant had been at the Senior Bowl, and seen Mullaney play, which is how Mullaney ended up being a first round draft pick. Grant said later that he hadn't drafted Mullaney because he played a certain position; "I drafted him because he was the best athlete available. I look for athletes. I can put him at a position, and I can know he can play it."

Enter: Lynette Peterson

Mullaney was already halfway through his Vikings career when he met Lynette Peterson, originally of New Richland, the daughter of Gordon and Lorraine Peterson.

Mullaney said he'd been walking around the Southdale Center in Edina. He lived just across the street from the mall, because the Vikings practiced nearby at Midway Stadium. While at the mall, a girl attracted his notice. He began following her around the mall. "I think she caught on to it," he said.

"I kind of just chuckled," said Lynette, who saw the stranger watching her. "I kind of thought it was comical." Her intuition told her he was safe.

Mullaney walked home to call his brother, telling him, "I just saw the most beautiful woman I've ever seen in my life." Mullaney hadn't been tactless enough to approach a total stranger to ask for her phone number. He figured he'd never see her again, but it seemed that fate had other ideas.

Shortly afterwards, Mullaney was lunching with a friend at the Rusty Scupper when the beautiful woman of Southdale walked up to his table, and asked, "Haven't I seen you from somewhere before?"

Mullaney learned that Lynette babysat Dave Roller's kids, another Vikings player, who happened to live in the apartment below Lynette's. Roller asked Mullaney if he could help babysit; he wanted to go to a Vikings retreat that only the married players were allowed to go to. He explained that Lynette, his regular babysitter, had to leave at midnight because she was going to school.

Mullaney readily agreed, taking over for Lynette as agreed at midnight.

The next morning, Lynette related, it sounded awfully quiet downstairs and she knew the kids had to go to school. She knocked on the door. In answer to her concern, Mullaney answered, "Ah, they're taking the day off; they're going to hang out with me."

Lynette laughs, "I should have known then what I was dealing with."

Mullaney took the kids out for breakfast with his dad.

Mullaney and Lynette became engaged four months after their first date. Six months after that, they married.

Mullaney grew up Roman Catholic, so the couple had what Mullaney refers to as a "double header"; they got married twice: once at a Catholic church in Florida, and again at Vista Evangelical Covenant Church in New Richland.

The Food Industry

It was during a time when the Vikings football team was on strike when Mullaney began working for a friend of his, John Bullen, owner of Bullen Associates, a company that sold packaging and food ingredients. "I was still playing [for the Vikings] when I went to work," Mullaney clarified. "I didn't know anything about food ingredients and I didn't know anything about packaging."

It didn't matter. The sales manager told Mullaney he just wanted his name in order to get their foot in the door at Miracle Foods, something they had as yet struggled to accomplish. "They wanted Minnesota really bad, because it was the biggest dairy industry [in the country]," said Mullaney.

The ploy worked. Mullaney introduced Dave Nelson, the head buyer of Miracle Foods, to Jeff Nichols of Beck Flavors. Mullaney tried to go through his sales routine, discussing Beck Flavors with the head buyer. Nelson said, "Screw flavors. I don't want to talk about flavors. I'll buy it. […] Let's talk football."

When Mullaney got back to the car, John Bullen said, "I ain't calling this account. This account's yours, period."

Not only did Mullaney get the flavorings account, the head buyer of Miracle Foods bought several other contracts from Mullaney, including packaging, emulsifiers, and stabilizers. Mullaney went on to create accounts with Schwan's, Land o' Lakes, and other dairy companies for bullen Associates, but the Miracle Foods account was his. "I was making more money on that account than [my sales manager] was making at all these other ones," said Mullaney.

When Mullaney retired from playing for the Minnesota Vikings in 1987, he continued working for Bullen Associates.

Eventually, Mullaney and Lynette started their own company in the food industry called LJM Unlimited, the title based on Lynette's initials, and with Lynette as CEO. Altogether, Mullaney and Lynette worked in the food industry for nearly 40 years. Although the two are retired now, Mullaney jokes that his wife is still cracking the whip. With four children and 12 grandchildren, Mullaney and Lynette say it was time to retire; their life is full as they once again make time to play – this time with the grandkids.

■ Fair

from Page 2

only time I will ever have attended the state fair.

But by the time my 3 to 6 p.m. volunteer shift ended, the temperature had dropped considerably. From the beginning, I had planned a journey on the "Sky-Ride," some gondolas which ride on cables probably 50 or so feet above the ground. And of course I felt my sojourn would be incomplete if I didn't have some fair food–although not much, my cheapskate nature rebels at the idea of paying fair prices.

I greatly enjoyed the sky ride, which cost $12 for a round trip to the north end of the park and back. I took a fair number of pictures and appreciated being above all those people who made walking like finding one's way through a maze.

I got a pickle on a stick and a "dog burger," which despite a name that made me think of a hot dog covered in hamburger toppings, turned out to be mostly just a bratwurst.

When I sat down to eat, I asked for an open space at one end of an occupied picnic table. By coincidence, I had sat down next to four young educators and ended up having a very pleasant conversation–one I now regard as a highlight of my very interesting day.

With the cooler temperatures–by now it was about 7 p,m,--it was far more amiable to wander around a bit. I was delighted when I came across the booths I had written a news piece about from the Waseca County Fair–Strawberries-N-Creme and Loon Lake Iced Tea.

Arriving back at my car seemed to take forever, but I saw some worthwhile things along the way, so I was okay with it.

Thanks to my experiences as I left the fair, I am now open to a return visit, though not any more this year, thank you.



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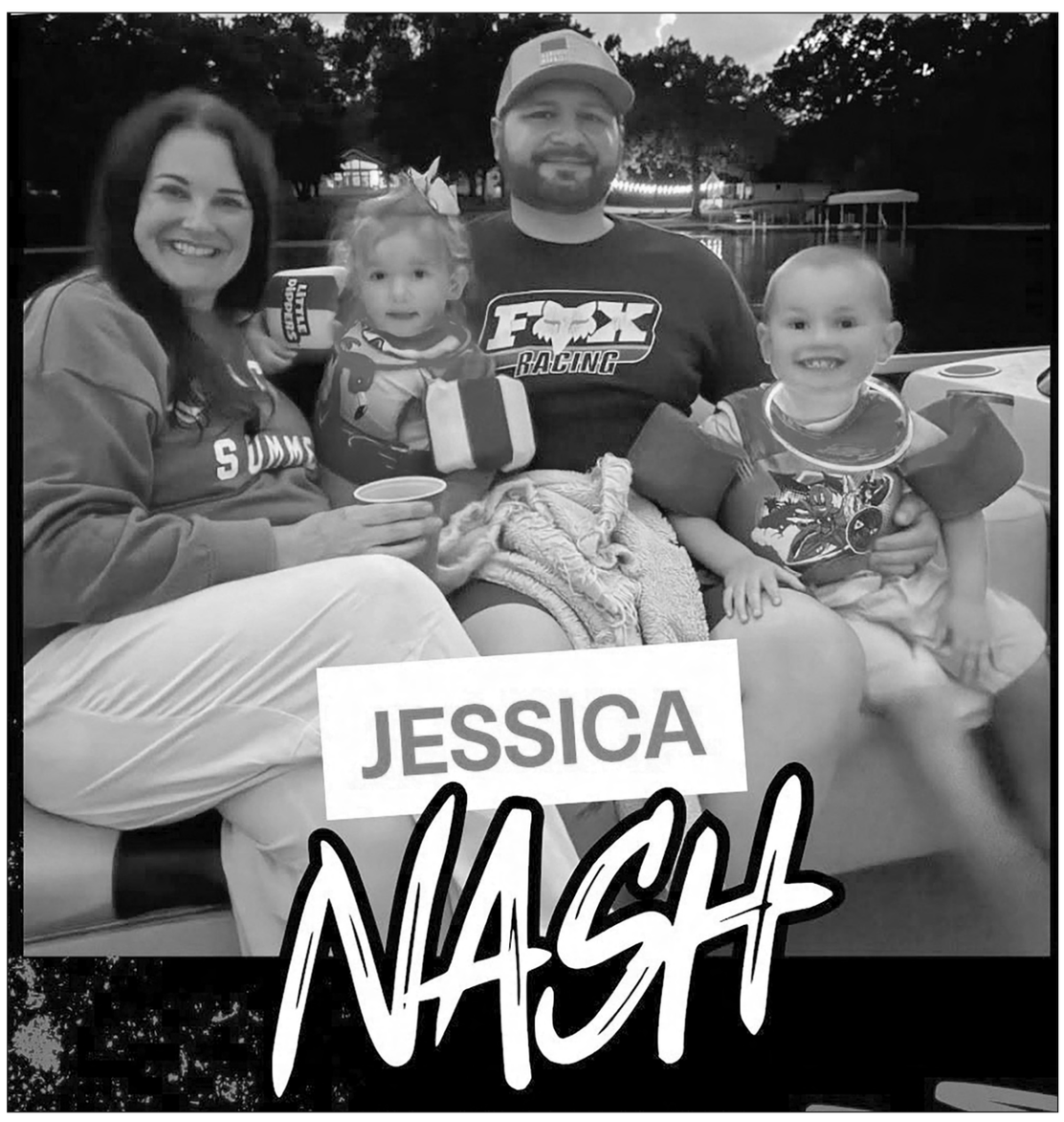
Position: Secondary FACs teacher, FCCLA advisor **High School:** Mayer Lutheran **College:** Bethany Lutheran, Mankato **What are you most excited about for the upcoming school year?** Getting to use our awesome kitchen with students, making cooking fun (or at least getting them to try new things)! **What's one fun fact about you that your students might be surprised to learn?** I can't water ski! **What's one thing you hope to bring to our school community this year?** Fun energy. **Outside of school, what do you like to do for fun?** I love to spend time in the water: lake, pool or hot tub, I love them all. I also love to enjoy good food, read a book, Diet Coke, playing games and travel. I have 4 kids, who are all in the building this year, a dog, Komet, and cat, Kane.



Position: Secondary Physical Education and Health Teacher, Varsity Football Coach **High School:** Faribault High School **College:** North Dakota State University **What are you most excited about for the upcoming school year?** I am excited to meet everyone and start building relationships. **Anything else you would like to share?** I have two younger brothers, one still in high school and one is starting his freshman year at Gustavus Adolphus College. **Outside of school, what do you like to do for fun?** I love to watch sports and hang out with friends and family.



Position: Secondary administrative assistant **High School:** NRHEG **College:** Riverland **What are you most excited about for the upcoming school year?** Getting to know and meet everyone. **What's one fun fact about you that your students might be surprised to learn?** I restored a 1979 Firebird Formula with my dad before I even had a drivers license. **What's one thing you hope to bring to our school community this year?** A familiar and family face. **Outside of school, what do you like to do for fun?** Camping with family and friends. I have 2 boys in the district, Wesley (7th), and Finley (3rd). I have two dogs, Dixie and Winnie, and a fiance, Andy!



Position: Elementary Special Education Teacher **High School:** NRHEG **College:** Winona State University/ St. Thomas University **What are you most excited about for the upcoming school year?** I'm most excited to be back at NRHEG this school year! After some time away, it feels great to return to a place that feels like home. I'm looking forward to reconnecting with students, colleagues, and the community, and I'm excited for all that this new school year will bring. **What's one fun fact about you that your students might be surprised to learn?** I'm an NRHEG alumn, and now I get to come back and teach at the school I once attended! **What's one thing you hope to bring to our school community this year?** I hope to be a bright light for everyone I come in contact with and make a positive difference in their day. **Outside of school, what do you like to do for fun?** I enjoy spending time with my family, being at the lake, and making memories together. My husband, Mike, and I live just outside of New Richland and with our two children.
We love being part of such a small, close-knit community.

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Panther volleyball again optimistic

Team coming off 21-8 season



VOLLEYBALL — The 2026 NRHEG varsity volleyball team. Front from left: Sierra Stenzel, Izley Boerner, Aubrey Hendrickson, Gia Cazares, Emmy Stadheim. Back: Joey Rossing, Sierra Fish, Clara Buendorf, Kylie Olson, Anika Ladlie, Jovey Knudson, Brooklyn Sommer, Ezra Boerner.
Photo by Deb Bently

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School volleyball team graduated a lot of talented players from last fall's varsity roster.

But that can't keep third-year head coach Bethany Tennis from being optimistic.

The Panthers have enjoyed plenty of success under Tennis, going 32-23 in her first three seasons.

Last year's crew fashioned a win-loss record of 21-8, including 7-3 in the Gopher Conference. They finished fourth in the conference and reached the section semifinals.

The lone returning starter this season is Anika Ladlie. Izley Boerner also returns to the varsity after missing last season because of injury.

Ladlie, Brooklyn Sommer and Clara Buendorf are this year's captains.

Among the key players lost to graduation was setter Addy Stadheim, who reached 1,000 career set assists. Outside hitters Gabby Schlaak and Camryn VanMeldeghem both played all around and, according to Tennis, were contributors to the Panthers' offense.

"We had 10 seniors graduate who all contributed to the team last year on and off the court," said Tennis.

So what does the coach expect this fall?

"I expect there to be some growing pains throughout the season, as to be expected after losing a large senior class," commented Tennis. "I think these girls have the capacity to be competitive in our conference and section, and I'm excited to watch them play some great volleyball."

The Panthers' strengths, according to Tennis, should continue to develop as they start the season.

"I am really looking forward to the girls working together and seeing the energy and determination they will bring with them on the court," said Tennis. "Another strength is our versatility. We have multiple players who are competent in multiple different positions. This allows for more flexibility during game play."

As for weakness or concerns, Tennis said one of the Panthers' biggest challenges will be developing consistency and cohesion quickly.

"With a relatively new group of players who have not had extensive playing time at this level, building trust and learning to play as a unit will be an important focus early in the season," explained Tennis.

The key to success?

"Defensively, we have the potential to be a very scrappy team," said Tennis. "We hope to turn defensive plays into offensive opportunities and consistently send challenging balls back across the net."

Another key to the Panthers' success will be establishing consistency from the service line and in serve receive.

"Strong serving and solid first contact will provide the foundation needed to run an effective offense and put the team in position to compete throughout each match," said Tennis.

Assisted by Corrine Schuller and Jen Hatton, Tennis' pick as the preseason Gopher Conference is Kenyon-Wanamingo, with Fillmore Central looking to lead the way in the Section 1A.

New coach leads NRHEG football

There's a new man in charge of the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School football team this fall.

He's Devin Lockerby, hired to replace longtime head coach Marc Kruger, who's now the tight ends coach at Mankato West High School.

Lockerby inherits a squad coming off a 2-7 record last year, when the Panthers finished 2-6 in the Mid-South Green District.

Lockerby is assisted by familiar faces, former Panthers Nick Goette, Andrew Phillips, Carter Martens and Jake Stork.

Returning letterwinners for the Panthers are senior Jack Bartlett (WR/DB), senior Fynn Baumann (TE/DE), senior Colton Conroy (LB/TE), senior A.J. Deen (WR/DB), senior Brooks Gilliland (QB), junior Zander Hanna (OL/DL), junior Sean Lassahn (RB/LB), junior Connor Louks (OL/DL), junior Calvin Nissen (WR/DB), junior Dakota Schlaak (RB/LB), senior Ryan Schlaak (RB/LB), senior Brendan Schmidt (WR/DB), junior Dylan Schroht (OL/DL) and junior Noah Weller (TE/DL).

Last year's Panther awards went to:

Most Valuable Player - Ryan Schlaak

Most Valuable Offensive Back - Nissen

Most Valuable Defensive Back - Quen Meyering

Most Valuable Offensive Lineman - Trevor Selover

Most Valuable Defensive Lineman - Jordan Brouwers

Scout Team Player of the Year - Tyler Piepho

Captains - Ryan Schlaak and Gilliland

So what does first-year head coach Lockerby expect from his Panthers?

"We expect to get better every day," he said. "We have a strong work ethic and team unity. Everyone worked really hard this summer and took steps forward."

The key to success?

"Being a team," said Lockerby. "All 11 playing as one."

Panthers top Sleepy Eye

The NRHEG High School football team rallied to defeat Sleepy Eye 42-37 Friday, Aug. 28 at Sleepy Eye. It marked the first game and first victory for Panther coach Devin Lockerby.

The Panthers scored the lone points of the first quarter on a 2-yard touchdown run by Sean Lassahn. The Panthers completed a two-point conversion.

An action-packed second period followed. Sleepy Eye scored first, cutting it to 8-7, and the Panthers answered with a 55-yard touchdown pass from Brooks Gilliland to Ryan Schlaak. NRHEG tacked on another two-point conversion. An interception return for a touchdown followed immediately when the Panthers returned the ensuing kickoff 60 yards for a touchdown. Lassahn added a 1-yard touchdown run, followed by a two-point conversion, and the Panthers led 30-15 at halftime.

The teams traded third-quarter scores, the Panthers' coming on another 1-yard run by Lassahn, followed by a two-point conversion.

Lassahn led the Panthers with 117 rushing yards while Gilliland threw for 96. Schlaak had 76 receiving yards.



CATCH IN TRAFFIC — The Panthers' Noah Weller (9) hauls in a pass from quarterback Brooks Gilliland during NRHEG's season-opening 42-37 triumph at Sleepy Eye last Thursday.
Photo by Johnnie Phillips/Steele County Times

Schedules

NRHEG FOOTBALL 2026
Saturday, Aug. 19 at Sleepy Eye 7 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 5 St. Clair 12 noon
Saturday, Sept. 19 Southland 12 noon
Saturday, Sept. 26 Lewiston-Altura 12 noon
Saturday Oct. 3 at Redwood Valley 12 noon
Saturday, Oct. 10 at Fillmore Central 12 noon
Thursday, Oct. 15 Medford 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 21 at USC 7 p.m.

NRHEG BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY 2026
Friday, Aug. 28 at Medford 2:45
Thursday, Sept. 3 at Bear Cave Park
Thursday, Sept. 10 at Oaks GC
Tuesday, Sept. 15 at Blooming Prairie
Thursday, Sept. 22 Home at Riverview
Thursday, Oct. 1 at Prairie Ridge GC
Thursday, Oct. 8 at Waseca Lakeside
Tuesday, Oct. 13 at Oak View GC
Tuesday, Oct. 20 at Medford
Thursday, Oct. 29 Section

NRHEG GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY 2026
Friday, Aug. 28 at Medford 2:45
Thursday, Sept. 3 at Bear Cave Park
Thursday, Sept. 10 at Oaks GC
Tuesday, Sept. 15 at Blooming Prairie
Thursday, Sept. 22 Home at Riverview
Thursday, Oct. 1 at Prairie Ridge GC
Thursday, Oct. 8 at Waseca Lakeside
Tuesday, Oct. 13 at Oak View GC
Tuesday, Oct. 20 at Medford
Thursday, Oct. 29 Section

NRHEG 2026 VOLLEYBALL
Friday, Sept. 4 at TCU
Wednesday, Sept. 9 at USC
Friday, Sept. 11 WEM
Saturday, Sept. 12 at Lake City
Wednesday, Sept. 16 at Medford
Friday, Sept. 18 Beth. Acad.
Wednesday, Sept. 23 at Bl. Pr.
Friday, Sept. 25 Hayfield
Saturday, Sept. 26 at USC
Friday, Oct. 2 at JWP
Wednesday, Oct. 7 Kenyon
Friday, Oct. 9 at Alden-Conger
Tuesday, Oct. 13 Maple River
Wednesday, Oct. 14 at Randolph
Tuesday, Oct. 20 Waseca
Wednesday, Oct. 21 Triton

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CC teams low on numbers but not on enthusiasm

The 2026 New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School cross country teams are a little low on numbers this fall.

But the Panthers are never low on enthusiasm.

"This is a very young team," said head coach Larry Nydegger. "We have no juniors or seniors. We simply want everyone to strive for improvement in each meet that they compete in."

Nydegger, assisted this year by Wendy Schultz, does have a number of returning letterwinners from last year.

Julieann Wobbrock, a sophomore, leads the girls, along with Violette Botten and Rylie Cromwell.

Wobbrock was the Gopher Conference champion last year, finishing fourth in the section meet and 18th at state.

A newcomer for the girls' squad is sophomore Kasey Jewison, who had a very strong finish to the track and field season, finishing third in the 3200 meters at the sub-section meet and seventh at section.

A key runner lost to graduation was Jacob Karl, the Gopher Conference runner-up who went on to earn all-section honors.

> "This is a very young team."
> **— NRHEG coach Larry Nydegger**

So what do the coaches expect?

"I expect Julieann to contend for both the Gopher Conference individual title and qualify for state after a successful 2025 season," said Nydegger. "It will be a tough challenge, but I think she is up to the task."

Nydegger sees Blooming Prairie as having the top conference teams on both the boys' and girls' sides.

The keys for the Panthers, according to Nydegger, is remaining healthy.

Sophomores Devlin McWilliams and Colton Lermon are back for the boys.



CROSS COUNTRY — Members of the 2026 NRHEG High School cross country team include, front from left: Rylie Cromwell, Marvin Tolzman and Jordy Klocek. Back: Violette Botten, Julieann Wobbrock, Devlin McWilliams and Kasey Jewison.
Photo by Larry Nydegger





SEASON OPENER – The NRHEG cross country teams opened the season Friday, Aug. 28 at the Medford Tiger Train Run. At left, the Panthers' Julieann Wobbrock battles Blooming Prairie's top runner. At right, the Panthers' Kasey Jewison runs to first place in his first-ever cross country race.
Photos by Larry Nydegger

Panthers open season at Medford Train Run

On Friday, Aug. 28, the NRHEG cross country teams ran at the Medford Tiger Train Run.

Schools in attendance were Medford, Blooming Prairie, Le Sueur-Henderson, USC/AC and NRHEG.

The Panthers had two participants in the girls' varsity race. Juliann Wobbrock took the win on the course with a time of 22:03. Violette Botten finished in 16th place with a time of 29:50.

For the boys' varsity race, Kasey Jewison took the win with a time of 19:39. Colton Lermon was 19th (24:07). Devlin McWilliams finished 24th (26:08).

Blooming Prairie won both the girls' and boys' team competitions.

The Panthers run on Thursday, Sept. 3 at the Bill Glomski invitational in Stewartville.

"It was a nice start to the CC season to see two state qualifiers from last year on the course," said Panthers coach Larry Nydegger. "Julieann and Gloria are two of the top runners in our area, and I expect that they will challenge each other throughout the season and represent their schools and communities very well this year. Kasey is participating in cross country for the first time! This was a nice start for him. I am excited to see his growth as the season progresses."

Junior varsity volleyball



The 2026 NRHEG junior varsity volleyball squad. Front from left: Kendel Klocek, Hailey Staska, Kylie Warke, Jade Wyrum, Kebnley Gehrke. Back: Peyton Frye, Brynlee Neitzel, Aubrey Baseman, Jovey Knudson, Alayna Groskreutz, Joey Rossing, Mallory Groskreutz.
Photo by Deb Bently

Fall cheerleaders



NRHEG fall cheerleaders for 2026. Front from left: Alexis Olson, Addison Buenger, Orianna Degen, Ariel Star Anhalt, Aja Hollen, Tru Thao. Back: Riley Rinehart, Annie Buffington, Emily Delacruz, Ella Jeno, Avary Riskedahl, Alexia Schmidt.
Photo by Ben Reverman

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Sunday: Closed



Shown here are some pictures of the first day of school over the first three years. One is of Dick standing with the next-door neighbor girls, Sally and Judy Johnson, ready to walk to Hammer School with him. The next one is of him and his new neighbor Sandee Sorenson, getting ready for school. The last one is of him going to school solo.

Remembering the good old days



Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl
Outdoors Writer

This past week I have been spending a lot of time thinking about my younger years. The days when I was a carefree kid enjoying my summers and anticipating the start of another school year.

When grade school first let out for the summer, the options were endless. We would spend hours down at the bridge looking for the first signs of fish or tadpoles. When minnows would first appear in the spring, I would have a homemade net ready to trap them. Our neighbor offered to buy minnows from me, and I was always excited to make a little money.

I had some summer jobs to add to my paper route. I would help with baling hay at my Uncle Orville's farm and mow lawns for him. My Uncle Harvey had a used car lot on the south side of town. He had a small office downtown next to the cigar store and some days I would ride into town on my bike, and he would pay me to ride down to the lot and wipe the dust off of the cars.

I kind of had a crush on a girl that lived in that area, so I would make sure to ride past her house on the way. I don't believe that I ever got to see her on any of my trips, I'd guess that was what you could call an exercise in futility.

Before school started my mother would take me shopping for school clothes. She would buy T-shirts, socks and underwear. I would also get two pair of pants and two shirts. My parents weren't made of money, so these clothes had to last for the school year. It took me until I was out of the service before I realized the sacrifice that my parents made for me.

After Labor Day was over, it was time to go back to school. In the weeks leading up to the start of school, part of me was not excited about starting the school year and the other part was looking forward to fall and football season. I quit playing football in 10th grade, but I never missed attending a home game.

My grandma lived just down the hill from Abbot Field, so I would spend the night with her and my aunt and uncle and walk up the hill to attend the game. After the game I would walk down the hill to their house. They would have hot chocolate and cookies or some other tasty treat for me to enjoy.

The Austin TV station had movies on Friday nights called Friday Night Frights, which featured Frankenstein, werewolf and Dracula movies. My Uncle Lloyd loved scary movies, and he would watch them with me. Those are some good memories.

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.

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Wednesday - 5:15 p.m. Supper; 6 p.m. Bible Study

* * *

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

* * *

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

* * *

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

* * *

VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kordahl
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship

* * *

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

* * *

CROSS OF GLORY LUTHERAN
Hartland, Minnesota
Rev. Marcia Pedersen
Sunday - 9:00 a.m. Worship
Tuesday - Council meeting (First Tuesday)

* * *

WEST FREEBORN LUTHERAN
Hartland, Minnesota
Rev. Marcia Pedersen
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship
Monday - Council meeting (First Monday of the month)
Friday - Quilting meets 9:00 a.m. twice a month, see newsletter for dates.

* * *

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

* * *

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

* * *

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

* * *

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN
Geneva, Minnesota
Pastor Leandra Anderson
Sunday - 8 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

* * *

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

* * *

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

* * *

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

* * *

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

* * *

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

* * *

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

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Deacon Billie Jo Wicks
Sunday— 8:30 a.m. Worship

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

* * *

PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN
Lemond Township
Pastor Gena Parker
Sunday— 10:15 a.m. Worship

* * *

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

* * *

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

* * *

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

FIRST LUTHERAN
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Rev. Larry Sipe, pastor
Sunday — 8 a.m. Worship; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Study

* * *

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

* * *

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

* * *

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

* * *

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

* * *

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

* * *

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

* * *

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

* * *

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

LOOKING BACK

25 years ago

- On Wednesday, August 1, Jason Churchill received a letter from the Los Angeles Dodgers area scout, Jerry Raddatz of Winona, inviting him to workout and tryout camp at the Minnesota State baseball complex in Mankato. Only nine were invited to participate in the tryout camp. Jason was the only catcher.

- At the meeting of the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva School Board Monday night, three new employees were hired. They approved the contract of Stephen Fredrickson as high school principal beginning August 17. A contract for 185 days was approved for Shelly Mangskau of Geneva for 185 days as kindergarten instructor at New Richland. The position of special education instructor at Ellendale was filled by hiring Marcie Lieske for a 185 day contract.

- Pam Marquardt, daughter of Phil and Bonnie Marquardt of Janesville and Ben Trumbell, son of Ranae Trumballl of Waseca and the late Brian Trumball announce their engagement and forthcoming marriage.

- Area students named to the 2001 spring semester dean's list at the University of Minnesota Crookston were Robert D. Johannsen, Freeborn, Health management; and Paula K. Meyers, New Richland, business management.

50 years ago



- Mrs. Robert (Sharon) Kortuem is the only new member of the New Richland-Hartland High School teaching staff this year. She will be teaching Spanish I. A graduate of the College of St. Teresa at Winona, she has taught at Ironton, Ohio, Saginaw, Mich., Owatonna and Waseca. She is a native of Waseca and graduated from Sacred Heart High School.

- Representative Rod Searle, IR-Waseca, an Assistant Minority Leader in the Minnesota House of Representatives, has been chosen to attend the annual meeting of the National Conference of State Legislatures this Week in Kansas City.

- Randy Kofstad, who exhibited Hampshire sheep at the Mower County Fair in Austin last week, received both champion ewe and champion ram besides winning six blue ribbons on his flock.

75 years ago

- The Sashay Juniors had their second meeting at the high school and named officers and four board members. Sixty young folks were in attendance. Elaine Sullivan was chosen president; Chris Hagen vice president; Dorothy Nelson secretary and Charles Evenson treasurer.

- Mr. and Mrs. Richard Crumb (Barbara Johnson) of New Richland community are the parents of a son, born at the Naeve hospital, Albert Lea, Tuesday, September 25. The Crumbs also have a daughter, Patricia.

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

DATE OF MORTGAGE: October 4, 2019

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $233,333.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Jesse Kwasniewski and Sarah Kwasniewski, Husband and Wife

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for BankVista

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on October 11, 2019 and memorialized upon Certificate of Title No. 550.0 as Document Number 2135; as modified of record by document recorded on October 25, 2021 as Document Number T2279 in the Office of the County Registrar of Titles of Waseca County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Freedom Mortgage Corporation by assignment recorded on August 14, 2026 as Document Number T2464 in the Office of the County Registrar of Titles of Waseca County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot Two (2), Block One (1), Prairie Ridge Addition, City of Janesville, Waseca County, Minnesota .
REGISTERED PROPERTY

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 202 PRAIRIE LN., JANESVILLE, MN 56048

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

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $251,537.34

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: BankVista

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Freedom Mortgage Corporation

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 145510020

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 1004296-0007502213-5

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

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

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: October 29, 2026 at 10:00 AM.

PLACE OF SALE: Waseca County Sheriff's Office, 122 3rd Ave. NW, Waseca, MN 56093.

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

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on April 29, 2027.

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

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

Dated: August 28, 2026

FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION
Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.

By: /s/
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Alexa Marsh, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(26-0985-FC01)

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. Published in the NRHEG Star Eagle on September 3, 10, 17, 24, October 1, and 8, 2026









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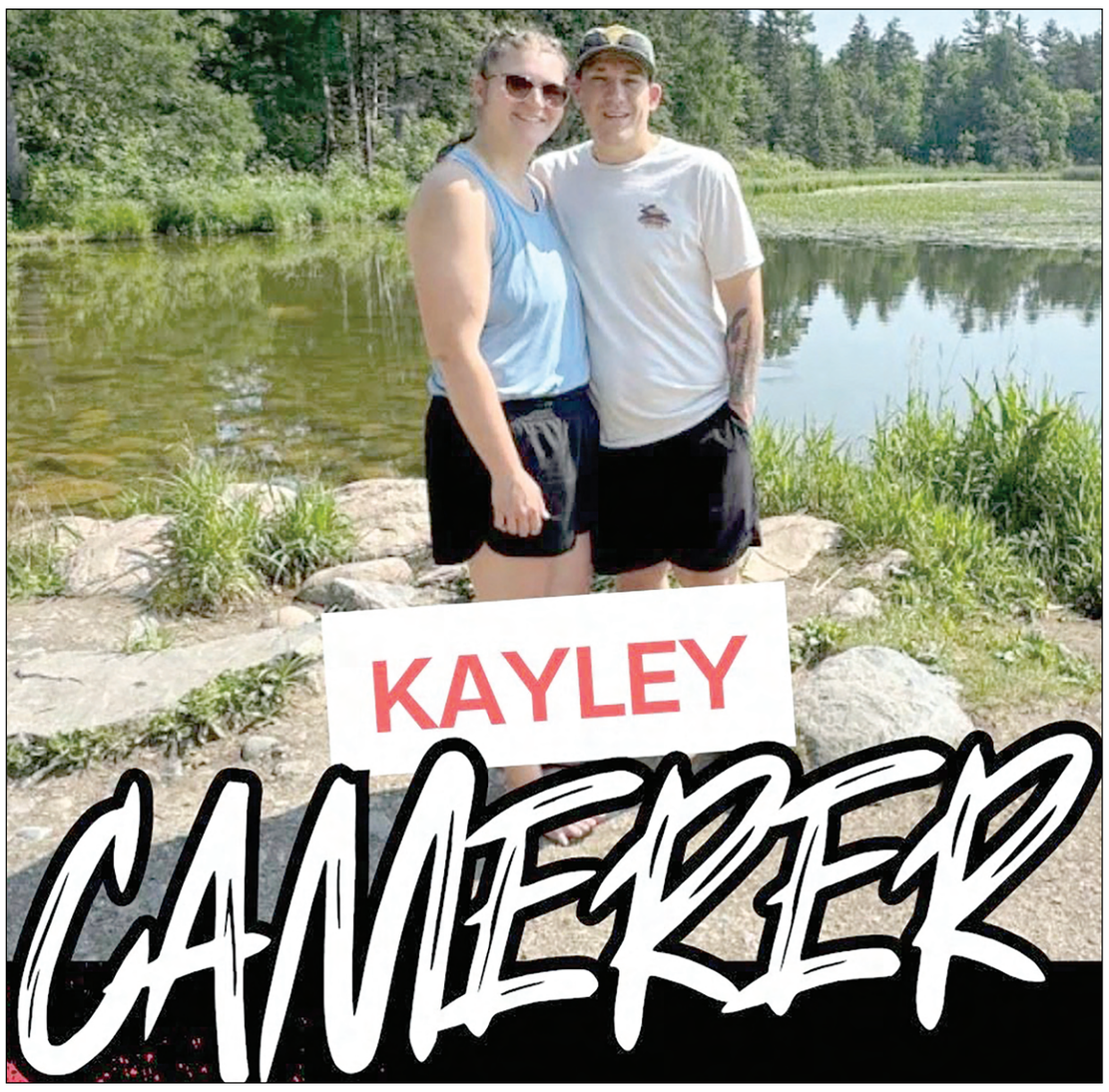
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Position: Elementary Physical Education Teacher, JV Girls Basketball Coach **High School:** NRHEG **College:** University of Wisconsin-River Falls **What are you most excited about for the upcoming school year?** Being back home in the NRHEG community, building relationships, and being active with students! **What's one fun fact about you that your students might be surprised to learn?** My godmother is Mrs. Eder. **Outside of school, what do you like to do for fun?** Golf, pickleball, play with my nieces and nephew.



Position: Secondary special education teacher **High School:** St. Clair **College:** Minnesota State University, Mankato **What are you most excited about for the upcoming school year?** I'm most excited to build relationships with my students and families and to create a classroom where students feel supported, confident and excited to learn! **What's one fun fact about you that your students might be surprised to learn?** I don't like math either! **Outside of school, what do you like to do for fun?** Spend time with my family, read, golf, exercise, spend time outdoors (weather permitting).



Position: Secondary History Teacher **High School:** Northfield **College:** North Dakota State University **What are you most excited about for the upcoming school year?** Getting to know students and becoming involved in the NRHEG community. **What's one fun fact about you that your students might be surprised to learn?** I hate strawberries! **Outside of school, what do you like to do for fun?** Golf, running.



Position: Secondary Art Teacher, Sideline Cheer Coach **High School:** Brandon Valley **College:** Minnesota State University, Mankato **What are you most excited about for the upcoming school year?** Meeting all the students and watching them grow as artists and humans. **What's one fun fact about you that your students might be surprised to learn?** I have a small photography business. **What's one thing you hope to bring to our school community this year?** Opening minds about art - it's not just a skill; it is using and opening your creative part of your mind in daily life. **Outside of school, what do you like to do for fun?** I love to spend my time with friends, traveling, and fishing.



Position: Secondary Band Teacher **High School:** Zurich International School, Zurich, Switzerland **College:** St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN **What are you most excited about for the upcoming school year?** Getting to know all the musicians at NRHEG and making some great music with them! **What's one fun fact about you that your students might be surprised to learn?** I can speak both French and German! **What's one thing you hope to bring to our school community this year?** I hope I can bring some appreciation for some classic 70s music! **Outside of school, what do you like to do for fun?** Make music, travel, and play board/video games.

Story idea?
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