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Sports

Star writers, newspaper earn state-wide awards

The NRHEG Star Eagle and its staff took home three awards, including two first-place finishes during the Minnesota Newspaper Association's (MNA) annual awards banquet January 29, 2026 at Marriott North in Brooklyn Park.

The firsts came in Headline Writing, the other, Columnist - Mark Domeier. Whatever Flips Your Waffle.

Judges comments regarding Domeier, "I truly simply enjoyed reading these columns. I find the writer to be very clever and able, and these are relevant and readable columns."

Awards continued on 2

Trains at the New Richland Public Library Feb. 10

Put on your conductor hat while we get to work on the railroad's newest projects. Kids will build trains, sort cargo, draw tracks, name trains, and more at the New Richland Library at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 10, Ages 3-6.

Camelina Cover Crop Stakeholder Meeting at New Richland City Hall Feb. 11

There will be a Camelina Cover Crop Stakeholder Meeting at the New Richland City Hall from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 11. The meeting is also available remotely at <https://meet.goto.com/693322661>.

Soil Water Conservation District (SWCD) 2026 Board Meeting Feb. 12

The SWCD will be holding their monthly board meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 12. The meetings will be held in the SWCD offices located at 300 North State Street - Door 4.

SWCD Meeting Schedule: March 12, April 9, May 14, June 9, July 10, August 13, September 10, October 8, November 12, and December 10.

Pizza and Puzzles Competition at Farmamerica Feb. 13

There will be a Pizza and Puzzle competition at Farmamerica starting at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 13. Teams in groups of 2-4 will compete with 500 piece puzzles. Pizza from Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm included. Registration required and tickets must be purchased online.

A word from The Word

Do not gloat over me, my enemy! Though I have fallen, I will rise. Though I sit in darkness, the LORD will be my light.

Micah 7:8



SIGNED - Jordan Brouwers, (wearing black St. Olaf sweatshirt) signed his Letter of Intent to attend St. Olaf College and play football there next fall. Brouwers is with the members of the NRHEG football team. He credits them with his opportunity to join the college team saying, "They're what got me here."

Star Eagle photo by Ben Revermann

Jordan Brouwers signs his letter of intent

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

NRHEG senior Jordan Brouwers recently signed his Letter of Intent to play football with the St. Olaf College Oles beginning in the fall of 2026, signing at the New Richland High School to play football for St. Olaf College. Surrounded by family, friends, and his teammates, this 225-pound athlete signed his future to the Minnesota school.

His mother, Jessica Hanna, was

there. After making sure Jordan's two football jerseys, one black and one white, were hanging in the right spots behind him, she said, "He was accepted on Dec. 7. He received offers from three different schools- Bethel, Gustavus and St. Olaf." His grandfather, Gary Neil, who was also there, said, "He's not the first in our family to go to college, but he is the first one of us to go to college to play football. We have other athletes in our family, but he's pretty remarkable."

Said NRHEG Activities Director Dan Stork, "In my opinion, from my point of view, you cannot meet a better person than Jordan Brouwers. This kid does it all, two years as a starter. I can tell all of you right now, we are sorry to see him go. I will miss him around here; his experience in the game made playing that much easier, and a great role model for the younger kids playing as well. He's focused and in the game when

he needs to be."

Dorothy Brouwers, Jordan's grandmother, accompanied him during a tour of St. Olaf College. "We went up there for a two- to three-hour visit; they had an older, more experienced student help out with our tour. We looked at the dorms and ate lunch in the cafeteria. Toured the whole facility, but it was the coaches that came and showed us the football

Intent continued on 4

NRHEG Eagle Scout builds 'Gaga Ball' pit

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

Thanks to an Eagle Scout project performed by NRHEG senior Wyatt Larson, a gaga ball pit now stands on the district's secondary school playground in New Richland. Like all other playground equipment, it is available for use by students at the school, and for children who wish to make use of it outside of school time.

Larson explains Scouting America members are encouraged to make use of the skills and leadership abilities learned during years of participation to complete a project meant to bring lasting good. Performed prior to aging out of the program at 18, it allows participants to cap off their years of learning by earning the title

of "Eagle Scout."

A chief expectation for the project is that scouts will use leadership, communication, and cooperation skills in order to acquire the resources and funds needed to bring their project to completion.

Remembering gaga ball as a game he and friends had enjoyed throughout their childhood, including at scouting camps, Larson said, "I want it to be there for other people to enjoy." There was already a gaga ball pit at the NRHEG district elementary playground, which turned Larson's sights toward the New Richland location.

Larson explains gaga ball is a variation of dodge ball that places players inside an octagonal enclosure

with walls between two and three feet tall. Players-sometimes 15 or more at a time-attempt to put each other "out" by having the ball hit them anywhere at the knees or below. Players may hit the ball with their hands only once, then must wait until the ball has either bounced off the wall or been hit by another player before striking it again. The last person remaining in the pit is the winner.

An observer, Larson comments, will see lots of fast-paced, chaotic energy and hear shouts and laughter. Any one game is likely to last no more than five minutes, allowing everyone to get back into the pit and start again.

From the outset, he says, his goal

was to build a high-quality, durable structure that would be visually appealing while also providing a safe, comfortable play area. His plans included a concrete pad underneath, two-inch thick treated lumber walls, special brackets to create the octagonal shape, and rubber mulch for cushioning.

Significant donations for the project included funds from Finley's Wings at Work, Keen Bank, and the landscaping company Minnesota Roots out of Elk River. Donated supplies included lumber from Home Depot in Albert Lea; rubber mulch from Lowe's; landscaping and leveling from Sequoia Landscape of El-

Gaga continued on 4



BREAK A LEG - Drama participants at NRHEG School competed in section competition Saturday, Jan. 24, placing fifth. They also offered a public performance for NRHEG area residents the evening of Friday, Jan. 30.

One Act play brings big laughs

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writer

The NRHEG high school drama program delivered quick wit and sharp timing in its Friday, Jan. 30, performance of The Rules of Comedy by Peter Bloedel. The one-act play tells a fast-paced story that explores what happens when humor is taken far too seriously.

The play centers on a group of performers who attempt to follow strict "rules" about what makes something funny, only to discover that comedy refuses to be neatly contained. Through exaggerated situations, physical humor, and clever dialogue, the cast highlighted how laughter often comes from mistakes, surprises, and unmet expectations.

A cast and crew of sixteen students showcased strong comedic skills, particularly in their use of cabbage, real-time translation, and rubber chicken sword fights while performing an abbreviated version of Shakespeare's Hamlet in 35 minutes. Co-directors Holly Pederson and Solveig Sundblad said the NRHEG performers placed fifth out of the

seven schools in their class when performing at the regional contest last weekend.

The performance was well received, with frequent laughter throughout. More than just a comedy, the production reminded viewers that humor is unpredictable, personal, and sometimes funniest when it bends the rules.

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

County moves forward on local sales tax

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

During a Jan. 26 meeting, county board members began the process of seeking authority to impose a sales tax of .375 percent, or nearly 4 cents on every \$100 spent on taxable goods within its borders. Before being imposed probably sometime in 2027, the tax must first be approved by the state legislature during its upcoming session and then by Waseca County voters during the November election.

The commissioners' stated that the rationale in seeking the sales tax is to shift some of the financial burden for the construction of the county's planned judicial center onto members of the county population who do not pay property taxes and onto people visiting or traveling through the county. The intent is to simultaneously mitigate tax costs for property owners, with the most profound benefit reaching those who own large tracts of agricultural land.

County administrator Michael Johnson summarized during the Jan. 26 meeting that full construction cost for the new justice center is likely to be about \$35 million. Roughly \$5 million has been set aside over recent years in anticipation of the project. Another \$30 million will be "bonded" for, that is, the county will borrow the amount under special provisions allowed to government agencies. Anticipated interest costs over the life of any such bonds may reach \$15 million, leading to a total \$45 million by the time the bonds are fully repaid, likely 20 or more years in the future.

The purpose of the recent meeting was to finalize the terms of the application the county needed to submit to the state legislature before a Jan. 31 deadline. Under state law, such applications must describe the project the tax is meant to support, then provide the amount of the tax, the amount of money it is intended to collect, and the anticipated length of time it will take for the cumulative tax collections to cover that amount. The law further states that the tax cannot continue once either the full amount of money or the stated number of years mentioned in the application has been reached.

Since the county has not yet acquired any bonds, much of the discussion surrounding the terms of the application also included conversation about the terms the county might seek for those bonds, including the relative advantages of longer as compared to shorter repayment periods.

County continued on 5

Fence Lines

by Mark Bernard

She's got Bette Davis eyes

The scurs dialed in the Weather Eye and saw improvement last weekend. Do our forecasts continue to exhale or is the relief only temporary? Starting Thursday, partly sunny with highs in the mid-30s and lows around 25. Partly sunny Friday with highs around 30 and lows near 10. Mostly sunny on Saturday with highs in the mid-20s and lows in the mid-teens. Sunday, mostly sunny with highs in the low 30s and lows in the low 20s. Cloudy on Monday with highs around 40 and lows in the low 20s. Tuesday, mostly cloudy with highs in the low 40s and lows in the low 30s. Cloudy on Wednesday with a good chance of snow. Highs in the upper 20s. On February 5th we'll see the sun set at 5:30 p.m. CST. The normal high for February 5th is 24 and the normal low is 5.

The scurs aren't concerned about whether the groundhog saw his shadow or not. Of greater importance is when the Valentine's Day goodies show up.

Actually, the groundhog probably saw his shadow at some point this past Monday. Initially it was cloudy but by 9 a.m., there was plenty of sunshine for him to cast a good, dark shadow. If you go by the metrics set forth in Punxsutawney where Phil reigns supreme, the observation time was about 7:25 a.m. As legend has it, if he sees his shadow, it means six more weeks of winter. If he doesn't, it means that spring is just around the corner. And he did see his shadow. His track record, however, isn't something to make book on. His accuracy is 39% - 40%, so not exactly Rain Man material. At the ranch we have a groundhog affectionately known as Brush Pie Bob. He didn't see his shadow because he was asleep in his den. However, if you believe in omens or lucky rabbit's feet and you're hellbent on increasing the odds of an early spring, dig one of the large rodents out of its den in the dark.

Problem solved!

So where are we in real time as far as when and what to expect for spring? Looking at the recently released outlook from NOAA, it's calling for better than even odds of a colder than normal February, with even odds of above or below normal precipitation. The 90-day outlook which encompasses February through April is looking at even odds of above or below normal temps with slightly better than even odds of above normal precipitation. Parts of IL, IN and OH are under severe drought at this point. The seasonal outlook there, however, is for improvement into April, so in other words, there could be some early planted crop in those areas if the drought persists. The good news for us is the heavy snow risk map appears to show most of that occurring to our north in eastern MT, ND and northern MN as well as west in the Rockies. I don't know about you, but I'm keeping the snowblower handy just in case.

Are you a fan of old movies?

I know I am, and if there happens to be one of my favorites playing when I actually have time to watch, that's probably what'll happen if I don't fall asleep first. While I'm partial to things like the Spaghetti Westerns, "Unforgiven," "Cool Hand Luke," "Jeremiah Johnson," etc., I also enjoy movies that move perhaps more slowly with an undercurrent of dark humor. One night after making a barn check, I came to bed to find

"What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?" on the TCM channel. It was one of Mom's favorites, and I recall fondly staying up late watching it with her as she recovered from a hospital stay. The movie starred Joan Crawford and Bette Davis. It was released in late 1962 and was filmed in black and white. The post-war Lincoln cabriolet the police in the movie identified as a 1940 also gave Ford enthusiasts something to talk about. Sources say it was likely a '47.

It was no secret that Bette Davis and Joan Crawford had a long-running feud and bitter rivalry. Davis once said of Crawford, "She has slept with every male star at MGM except Lasse!" Crawford offered to accept any Oscars in 1962 for those who couldn't make the Academy Awards in an effort to snub Bette Davis who was nominated for Best Actress. She didn't win, but was once quoted as saying, "The best time I ever had with Joan Crawford was when I pushed her down the stairs in 'What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?'" At one point during the filming, Davis "accidentally" kicked Crawford in the head. Crawford countered by putting extra weights in her clothing to make it more difficult for Davis to drag her around the stage. Without spoiling the plot if you haven't seen the movie, it is chock full of deliciously hilarious evil little twinges and turns. With the real-life, ongoing feud simmering just beneath the surface, it makes the performances of both actresses incredibly believable.

Puppy finally decided to watch the Westminster Dog Show with us. Surprisingly enough, she actually did pay attention at times as some of the dogs made their way around the show ring. No barking or carrying on, but you could see the little gears turning as she watched the activity on the screen. She definitely wasn't as animated about it as Ruby used to be when she'd launch herself at the TV. It didn't take much to set her off either. One had to be impressed with Puppy, however, as she even watched some while I ate the piece of pizza on my plate. It takes some doing to change a dog's focus from food to television. Once the pizza was gone, it was time for Puppy to curl up against my leg and fall fast asleep. After watching the Corby's in the dog show and my trip to the barn, I followed suit. The Corby didn't win the Herding Group class, but the one on the couch has definitely won our hearts.

See you next week...real good then.

Arriving in cold-snapped Florida

If I were a suspicious person, I might begin to believe I am the victim of a nationwide conspiracy having to do with the weather.

I am currently on a trip to Florida, my first since 30 years. As I write this, I am at a hotel with my sister-in-law Joan anticipating a day at Disney World, which will begin after breakfast tomorrow.

The trip began with a drive from Minnesota to the northern suburbs of Chicago, where Joan lives. I have no complaints about the beginning. When I drove away from home, the temperature was -5 degrees. 15 degrees warmer than the overnight low had been the morning before. As the drive continued, the temperature reached the low 20s, but most importantly my car heated up nicely and all went smoothly during the six-hour drive.

I listened to a "books on tape" version of some of C.S. Lewis's essays. Lewis wrote the Narnia series of books, and wrote books and essays on various topics having to do with Christian faith. One of his books which has provided continued meaning and insights for me is "Mere Christianity." A replanning of the intent of the title might be "Christianity at its simplest."

The essays were richly engaging, and helped the drive fly by.

The next day, our flight was scheduled to leave from O'Hare International Airport just prior to 3 p.m. Joan is a very detail-oriented individual, and so we got ourselves to the airport about noon. On the drive, we encountered some nerve-racking moments on the eight-lane road that took us down. It had been snowing lightly at Joan's house, but we did not seem threatening. Once we left on the one-hour drive, the snow became thicker and thicker. For about 20 minutes of the drive, the snow was so heavy we could barely see other cars on the freeway. Drivers were slowing sharply and putting on their flashers.

In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently



Fortunately, it was for only part of the drive. When we got to the airport, it wasn't snowing at all.

But then it was, and eventually visibility became a problem.

Without going into tedious detail, it was past 5 p.m. when our pilot was in place and we were able to get on board. Then our plane had to wait its turn to be de-iced.

It was practically 6 p.m. when we got in the air, changing our arrival time from 6:40 (which included "losing" one hour as we changed to the Eastern time zone) to essentially 9 p.m. It was a relief to finally be in the air, but frustrating to know our planned schedule had been shoved haphazardly askew.

One fortunate thing—thanks to modern interconnection, Eli—who was scheduled to pick us up at the Orlando airport—was able to access on-going current information about our status. He knew exactly when we'd be at the airport to meet us, despite the repeatedly delayed times.

Back when we were planning the trip, the 6:40 arrival time was "okay" for our original time. We were going to travel together in Eli's vehicle to a hotel in the Everglades. The 11 p.m. arrival time we had originally figured on became 1 a.m.

At least the traffic was light at that time of the night. We got to our hotel and bedded down quickly, since we were all quite tired.

The next morning we took the scenic route to "Captain Jack's Airboat Tours," located at the fringes of Everglades National Park. There we had three different types of rides ar-

ranged for. The first was an airboat through the "Mangrove Tunnels," waterways that run between thickly wooded islands covered in mangrove trees. The second was through the "grasslands."

Both rides were filled with variety. We saw alligators, passed through a no-wake zone where manatees are known to swim, and moved at paces fast and slow among the trees, which did, in some cases, create roofed-over "tunnels."

Our drivers were obviously used to thrilling and fascinating their riders, both by stopping to look at special views of wildlife or forest and by racing at top speed—an estimated 50 m.p.h.—through some of the tunnels.

They added narrations about the setting, the wildlife, and their personal experiences. Everything about it was enjoyable, except the weather.

Joan and I had arrived in Florida during the worst cold snap in about 15 years. Though it almost never does, the state experienced overnight lows in the upper 20s. The high was around 50 degrees. Worst of all, it rained during our airboat rides.

When it was raining and the boat was moving fast, the raindrops felt like icy pellets hitting our faces. It wasn't a heavy rainfall, so it took a while for our clothes to get soaked through. But the wetter we became, the colder the wind would feel.

It rained the most during our second airboat tour. I was wearing a hooded sweatshirt and a short-sleeved shirt underneath. My jeans

were dripping wet. Eli and Joan had fared slightly better because Eli had a somewhat waterproof jacket and Joan had purchased a rain poncho. The poncho helped a lot, until the speedy, windy pace of our ride started to whip the plastic around and start tearing it.

So, that's the "victims of a weather conspiracy" part of the narrative.

More importantly, the day was still magnificent. The airboat drivers knew how to swing the boat around in exciting ways. We saw fascinating and beautiful wildlife, and we were in good company together.

After two and a half months of planning and anticipation, we were in the Everglades, passing through a fascinating, even surreal environment. We didn't let the weather spoil our delight in the day and the nature of the experience.

When we left the Everglades on Sunday, we returned to Orlando to begin the adventure Joan and I had planned at the amusement parks. We had to walk through a large shopping area called "Disney Springs" to get to the customer service area and "activate" a pass that had been purchased online. As we walked, we passed numerous flowerbeds that had been covered over to protect the plants from freezing.

Perhaps most strikingly, a large fountain had icicles hanging from it, something Florida "never" sees. The same record-setting overnight lows are due to flavor the days we will be spending at the park. We have acquired some additional items of warm clothing in preparation. Joan had packed only one pair of long pants—all her other items were summer wear, short-sleeved shirts, shorts, and sandals.

We don't "like" it, but we're not going to let it spoil our time either. We're looking forward to the fun and thrills we anticipate over the next few days.

Final leg of trip leading to the Everglades

Just a Thought...

by Eli Lutgens



(where the Everglades get their name, forever grass), but Florida is experiencing a drought. The road was clear enough that my truck could have driven down it.

The tour guides were excellent, giving us information about our surroundings along with a bit of history.

An alligator "wrestling" show and tour of a small zoo completed our day of activities. Oh, and Deb and I each held an alligator. That was odd. They are not supposed to be pets and I don't enjoy seeing animals look sad/out of their natural habitats. That said, the tiger we saw did come up to the edge of the cage and purr as he rubbed his face against the cage.

The night concluded with a seafood dinner before a return trip to the hotel. I fell asleep promptly by 9 p.m. or so, utterly exhausted. Thankfully, the cold rain kept me wide awake during the daytime hours.

Sunday morning, after a breakfast of waffles, we made the decision to drive most of the way to Key West to see the beautiful highway into the ocean. It was scenic, and after a little extra driving than planned, we stopped at "Anne's Beach" along the ocean to enjoy the morning views and beautiful, baby blue water.

A five- or so hour drive from there returned us to Orlando, where we enjoyed dinner at Disney

Spring, a large outdoor Disney Mall unlike any in the world. Joan recommended an excellent Mexican place for dinner. Our trip ended with hugs as I dropped Joan and Deb off at the Shades of Green resort.

Deb and Joan were excellent company this entire trip. Notable car-conversations included talks of C.S. Lewis, his works, the most American foods, favorite restaurants, the subject of dying, religion, a little politics, and many, many life stories.

I'm grateful for their company

and shared experiences. And I would be remiss if I did not mention the old-time film camera I purchased which prints out photographs. I don't like bringing a camera with me to places, but I want a physical representation of the trips I take. So this camera allows me to snap a photo at the beginning of the trip and go on enjoying my time and the views, with my eyes and mind clear.

We snapped group photos at the Everglades and ocean at Anne's Beach.

For now, the day is Tuesday, Kyle and Anastasia and I are spending our last day going to a Disney Wildlife Preserve to spend the day hiking before enjoying smoked salmon for dinner. Wednesday and Thursday I will spend commuting home.

"A journey is best measured in friends, rather than miles." - Tim Cahill

Awards

from Page 1

After a decade of writing, Domesier retired from writing this year.

"As a publisher, this award was the most rewarding honor we earned this year," Eli Lutgens stated. "Mark was not only one of our favorite teachers. I'm grateful to see

him honored among the best in the state for his writing. It's one thing to know someone is a great writer. It's another to see him honored among his peers."

Regarding the Star Eagle's Headline Writing award, judges comments were, "Great job of utilizing consistent fonts and style—eye-catching but very easy to read throughout."

Deb Bently earned third place honors for her story "Ingram's Wa-

tersing career began on Beaver Lake"

Newspapers from across the state submitted entries for consideration in a wide array of categories. The Pioneer's work was compared with publications of similar frequency and circulation, referred to as "non-multiplicity day" and with 1,000 or fewer subscribers.

More than 4,100 entries were submitted to MNA for consideration this year.

Eli Lutgens states, "Thank you to our incredible team of writers, staff, graphic designers, delivery drivers and volunteers. And of course our readers and advertisers. None of this could be done without an excellent community of people."

There truly is no better part of the world than Southern Minnesota."

The articles and columns referenced here can be found on the Star Eagle's website, nrhregstar-eagle.com

Star Eagle

SERVING THE NEW RICHLAND-HARTLAND-ELLENDALE-GENEVA AREAS and the communities of Waseca, Oshtemo, Hope, Charles Grove, Mankato, Freeborn and Vaiden

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

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AMELIA ROESLER
DEB BENTLY
JIM LUTGENS
TERESA ROSACKER
PAYGE ROSACKER**

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Compostings

by Al Batt

'I'll become a bouillionaire'

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

It's a great day.

What happened?

The bulb in my car's "check engine" light finally burned out.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me.

Each year, I suffer through an agonizing phenomenon called winter. I know it's been a prolonged cold spell when people stop asking me if it's cold enough for me. The degrees below zero are louder than the degrees above zero. The blessing is that the numbing temperatures boost long underwear sales. There were rumors of the temperature hitting 40 degrees in a few days. Palm trees moving in a tropical breeze danced in my mind on a day so cold the pipes froze in my snow globe. One day, in an endless glacial spell, I dug out a scarf my mother had given me when I was in high school. It still fits. It was good to make it through another January. I grew up with an out-house. The worst part of January was that the out-house mysteriously moved farther from the house.

I wished for friendlier weather. I wished hard and it warmed enough to snow. Acres of lonesome ground became an arresting vista of snowfields. It was lucky that there was room for it. The snow hadn't made a reservation.

I'VE LEARNED

An opinion should not be used as a battering ram.

It shouldn't take much for something to be a big deal.

I had to give away my old Operation game because my insurance company denied coverage.

I stopped to eat at a Cracker Barrel in Missouri. It's a place to make America grits again. I stumbled around and through a staggering selection of merchandise in its gift shop while waiting a few minutes to be seated. Once inside the restaurant proper, I was greeted by walls and a ceiling adorned with old signs, farm equipment and household items. The chain is trying to reduce the clutter presented for my enjoyment. They need not do that for me. I welcome the clutter as long as I don't have to eat it. There, I enjoyed a savory meatloaf dinner while staring up at a fence wire puller. I asked the server if part of her job was being able to identify the implements hanging on the walls and from the ceiling. It was

n't part of her job description.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

I got fired from my job because I kept asking my customers whether they would prefer "Smoking" or "Non-smoking."

Apparently, the correct terms for a funeral director to use are "Cremation" or "Burial."

A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. I have a workstation.

Why don't you ever see hippopotamuses hiding in trees? Because they're good at it.

I've started investing in stocks. Chicken, beef and vegetable. I know it's risky, but with any luck, I'll become a bouillionaire.

I accidentally sprayed men's deodorant in my mouth. Now I speak with a weird Axe scent.

I bought a dog from a blacksmith. He seemed to like his new home, but the minute I turned my back, he made a bolt for the door.

NATURE NOTES

The January day was headed for perfection, but it was a long trip, even if it knew a shortcut. It was -20 degrees and it was windy. That's an invitation to stay indoors. Mama didn't raise any fools, so I waited until it warmed up to -18 degrees, a less than drastic improvement, before heading outside. I tried to do the right thing by my neighbors by feeding the birds. Birds are my neighbors. It was quiet as I trudged along briskly, if a person can trudge along briskly. Then, I heard the voice of a harbingers of hope: A white-breasted nuthatch sang its spring song—a rapid, nasal, "way-way-way-way."

The bird gave voice to an appreciation for a new day.

Some owls commonly forage at the same height as vehicles, making them prone to vehicle collisions. Spilled grain, bags of chips, half-eaten cheeseburgers and beverage containers litter the edges of our roadways. Rodents love to snack on discarded food scraps and grains, and the owls love to snack on the rodents that love to snack on those food scraps and grains. Once an owl zeroes in on a mouse or vole, it doesn't notice traffic. Owls hunt at low altitudes at night, flying close to the ground where vehicles are traveling.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"The very nature of kindness is to spread. If you are kind to others, today they will be kind to you, and tomorrow to somebody else."—Sri Chonmony.

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Meet your neighbor: Jan Kalbow

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The small town of Hartland has a population of about 315. Contributing to that number for more than 60 years has been Jan Kalbow, 83. She consented to be the subject as the Star Eagle launches a new series meant to help people get to know their fellow subscribers.

Kalbow was born in Freeborn, Minn., 83 years ago. She married Bob Kalbow in 1960 and they lived in Hartland together. Sadly, Robert passed away 14 years ago. They raised two children. Their daughter Lynn Somage, lives in Owatonna and has three children, twins Tory and Chris, 39, and Calvin, 37. Her son Kerry Kalbow lives in New Richland and has one daughter, Kaylee, 29.

Currently retired, Jan worked for EF Johnson's out of Waseca for 34 years. She ended up retiring from Truth Hardware in Owatonna after a 13-year stint there; she says she preferred that job because she was able to be friendlier and have more fun. Since retiring, she's vacationed in Florida for a month at a time for three consecutive years and she once spent a month in Texas. Her vacations have brought her to Europe, and both the east and west coasts, but her favorite place to visit was Graceland in Memphis, Tenn. Said Kalbow, "I would love to take the tour of Elvis's house

again, and see his gravesite. I loved his house." She also wouldn't mind visiting Hawaii again: "I especially liked the Pearl Harbor tour I took, and that museum. That was a very emotional visit, seeing that ship under the water, knowing what those sailors went through that day must've been awful."

She doubts she'll be traveling much anymore. "As I've gotten older, I don't like traveling so much. Small towns are so much safer and people look out for each other, good neighbors, good friends, less worry. For example, my neighbor mows my lawn and keeps my driveway clean, there's a lot of trust in a small town."

Her favorite movies are the two "Top Gun" movies, both the original and Maverick. "I saw the tavern from the first movie, that and the museum ship tour I took in California just won me over. I even had two brothers in the Navy." She chooses not to name any particular book she's read, but says she likes romances and love stories: "But I don't like books with a lot of violence, not at all."

Jan loves the Twins, her Vikings, the Gophers, and her precious Lynx. But her current favorite thing to do is to see her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. "I have six great grandchildren, ages 11 through three. I call them my crew. Here comes my



SHARING HER STORY - Hartland's Jan Kalbow has led a busy life filled with joys and successes.

Star Eagle photo by Ben Revermann

crew, they call me granny; they put the love in my heart. I also like to tell them that Elvis is my boyfriend."

But before the great grandkids get there, in her spare time she likes to work out, color in adult coloring books, and sometimes visit Diamond Joe's Casino, so she can hit the slots.

She plays Bunco once a month with 11 of her friends at the Red Leaf Café in New Richland. Jan also takes part in the Albert Lea senior center bingo events and

day trips. Her favorite food wherever she eats is shrimp.

Work out, read, adult coloring books, casino-slots Diamond Joe's, active in the senior center in Albert Lea bingo trips-day trips. One thing that bothers her is people who are negative. But if she could have dinner with anyone, living or dead, it would be her parents because she misses them, or her older brother Bill, who passed away many years ago.



ARTISTS - From left: Mila, Layla, Raehlyn, and Mackenzie all took part in the New Richland Library's Bead Art Keychains class on Thursday, Jan. 29, 2026.

Star Eagle photo by Ben Revermann

'They'll get better the more they do'

New Richland Public Library runs Bead Art Keychain Jan. 29

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The New Richland Public Library held a Bead Art Keychain class for children on Thursday, Jan. 29. It was hosted by the Waseca Public Library's visiting librarian Brianna Blecker, who said, "This is our chance to help other libraries with activities like these, and they're fun to do."

Blecker is the children's librarian for the Waseca Le Sueur Library System. She said, "I made one of these keychains two weeks ago, so I would be better equipped

to teach the children how to do theirs. I did mine in 25 minutes, but I think the kids, especially with their first one, might take 35 to 40 minutes, but they'll get better the more they do." A few of the other librarians made examples for the children to model their projects after, including a crayon and an owl. Said Blecker, "We needed examples because that makes it easier to explain to the kids what to do visually."

There were plastic totes on the table with almost 10,000 different beads and 20 different colors.

Blecker explained, "Some of these beads are from other projects that were disassembled. The new ones were purchased off of Amazon."

For these projects, Blecker visits up to eight different libraries, and each month there are numerous projects going on at all of them. Said Blecker, "Each year we introduce two new projects for kids aged 3 to 5; two new ones for the pre-teens and two more for the teenagers and adults. That way we don't get too repetitive and, of course, the older the child, the more complicated the project."

Blecker checked the time. The event was supposed to have started at 4 p.m., but with no children there by 4:20 p.m., she said, "Sometimes we have no shows, but for the majority we'll get at least one person." There were children in the library, a boy and a girl, younger kids who were pushing little toy tractors or playing with dolls quietly on the floor.

But as it turns out, a group of girls did arrive. They got there just at 4:30 p.m., and Blecker was able to put on her bead art keychains demonstration in fine style.

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- When in doubt, hang up and call the business yourself

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OBITUARIES

Kevin Alan Hamor

Kevin Alan Hamor passed away January 20, 2026. He resided in Ellendale, MN.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, February 21, 2026 at 2 p.m. at First Lutheran Church in Ellendale, MN with Pastor David Modder officiating. A visitation will be held one hour prior to the service.

A full obituary will be printed in the February 11 edition.



Kevin Hamor

United Way of Steele County offers tax filing help

By KAREN JORGENSEN
Steele County Times

Although the service is offered to all households with an income less than \$89,000, United Way of Steele County's tax preparation assistance can be an extra help to many senior citizens.

The free tax assistance is provided by certified volunteers, United Way of Steele County President Annette Duncan said, because the organization is a VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) site funded by an IRS initiative designed to support free tax preparation services for the underserved.

Last year, Duncan said, the volunteers completed over 700 returns saving over \$1,000,000 between filing fees saved and refunds received.

Anyone, even those outside Steele County, can register for the service. The volunteers can help with federal (individual) income taxes, Minnesota state (individual) income taxes, the Minnesota Property Tax Homestead Credit Refund, and the Minnesota Renter's Property Tax Refund.

In person visits are by appointment only and are typically scheduled for one hour, although simple filings may not take the full hour. An appointment can be scheduled by calling the office at 507-451-1180. Registration will be completed over the phone before setting up the ap-

pointment.

For those who wish to drop off their tax documentation documents, there are three drop-off sites in Steele, Freeborn, and Rice counties. When dropping off documentation, be prepared to present a photo ID and spend approximately 10 to 15 minutes to complete the process before leaving the documentation.

In Steele County, the drop-off location is the United Way offices at 245 SE 18th St., Suite 1, Owatonna.

In Rice County, documents may be dropped off at Buckingham West, 19 Division St. W. in Fairbault. In Freeborn County, the drop-off site is at Workforce Development, Inc., 2200 Riverland Dr., Albert Lea.

Both the Freeborn and Rice County locations are available only from Feb. 15 to April 15.

Under the program, taxes can be filed for income tax years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025. Through April 15, Duncan said, priority is given to the 2025 tax filings.

Duncan said that it is important to note that, effective with the 2025 filing period, federal refunds will no longer be issued by paper check, and all filers must have direct deposit to a bank account. The state is still issuing refunds by paper check, she said, at least for this tax season.

She said that last year, about 25% of their clients did not have a bank account.

I show dogs for 4-H. I love it here in New Richland. I mostly chose St. Olaf, so my family can come and watch my games; being so close makes that easier. The coaches were very nice and I look forward to playing there. I also play in band, and I play basketball and baseball." Jordan's GPA is currently 3.5.

St. Olaf College is located in Northfield and has around 3,100 students. The team mascot is the Oles, represented by a costumed lion named Ole.

Nelson.

"Scouting is a really good program that can help people build friendships and skills," comments Wyatt. "I'm really grateful for everything I learned, and I'm glad I could use it to do something good for others."

He encourages others to consider joining Scouting America. Kids up to sixth grade would start by joining cub scout programs available at local communities.

New Richland city park refresh and renew project

An initial planning meeting was held at the end of 2025 to discuss the City's Park Refresh and Renew Project. Attendees included Brandy Jacobson, Deputy Clerk; Heather Christensen, City Council Member; Jason Casey, City Administrator; Tyler Lendt, EDA Member; Katelynne Kratz, and Tim Truelson of Flagship Recreation.

The group discussed the project timeline and acknowledged the tight window for grant writing. To ensure a strong and competitive application, all parties agreed to push the project timeline back by one year. The targeted grant submission date is April 2027, with the goal of beginning construction by the end of 2027.

Katelynne Kratz has researched multiple funding opportunities and identified the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) grant as the best fit for the project. The MN DNR grant requires a 50% match, which may include cash contributions and donated time, material or labor, and mandates that all elements of the project be ADA inclusive. Tim Truelson shared his experience working with DNR grants and committed to assisting with project planning, design, and grant preparation to ensure all requirements are met and to maximize the chances of receiving funding.

The project may be divided into multiple phases, potentially including a bathroom and pavilion phase, city park improvements, and baseball field park updates. It was noted that bathroom and pavilion components would need to be designed separately from Flagship Recreation, requiring the city to hire a contractor for design and construction services. The City Engineer has determined that the existing bathroom facil-



PARK PROJECT TIMELINE - The City's Park Refresh and Renew Project was agreed to push back one year due to the tight window for grant writing.

ities are not viable and would be more costly to repair than to replace, prompting discussion on whether to build off the existing structure or remove it entirely.

Various options for restroom and pavilion amenities were discussed, including permanent portable restrooms, single ADA-accessible restrooms, open pavilions with electrical, or enclosed structures with both indoor and outdoor restroom access.

Community input will be critical in determining the preferred option. Additionally, it was agreed that the new park entrance should be relocated to the north side of the park on 1st Street SE to avoid traffic concerns on Broadway Avenue.

ADA accessibility will be a central focus throughout the project, including paved entrances and walking paths to bathrooms, pavilions, and new playground equipment. Proposed playground updates include reimagining the existing enclosed wood chip area, which currently contains limited equipment. Ideas include removing existing structures to create separate playgrounds for ages 2-5 and 5-12, along with climbers and a stand-alone slide accommodating a wide age range. A new inclusive play area is planned between the bathroom facility and the enclosed play area, featuring a safety surfacing and/or turf path-

ways for accessibility to inclusive play equipment, potentially to include such items as swings, spinners, bouncers, zip kooz, and early childhood items.

Updates to the baseball field park were also discussed, with plans to relocate the newer 5-12 year-old playground equipment from the city park and supplement it with additional 2-5 year-old features.

The overarching goal of the project is to "think big and plan for future generations" by creating cohesive, accessible, and fun park spaces that flow seamlessly and serve all members of the community. Recognizing the significant cost of the project, the plan is to organize fundraising opportunities over the next year as well as reach out to local volunteer groups for donations. Community engagement will be a priority, with equipment ideas and project information shared in the coming weeks to gather public input. Once community preferences are finalized, the information will be submitted to Flagship Recreation to develop project renderings.

This project represents a major investment in the community, and its success will rely on strong public support and collaboration. The future holds much excitement as the project moves forward. Thank you.

Southeast Partnership now accepting proposals

Southeast Minnesota residents with an idea to strengthen their community can now apply for a project partnership with the University of Minnesota Extension Southeast Regional Sustainable Development Partnership (Southeast RSDP).

Southeast RSDP supports local innovation by connecting community ideas to University of Minnesota resources. Community members partner with University students, faculty and/or staff to lead, research, design and plan their local sustainability projects.

Southeast RSDP seeks ideas from diverse populations and encourages those who have not previously part-

nered with the University to consider applying. In 2026, priorities identified by the Southeast RSDP board and work groups include fostering a resilient food system, addressing climate change and other ecological impacts, increasing opportunities for energy efficiency and renewable energy and encouraging local community action that welcomes all residents and celebrates the region's rich cultural traditions, natural assets and vibrant local economies.

"We are seeking ideas and expertise from Southeast Minnesota residents that enable all who live in our beautiful region to thrive," said Southeast RSDP Executive Director

Andi Sutton. "I encourage people to get in touch with me to talk about their ideas for making our communities more sustainable places."

Applications are being accepted through February 14. Visit the link z.umn.edu/RSDPideaBrief to read more about the programs and download application forms. Community members are encouraged to contact Sutton at sutton364@umn.edu or 857-928-4196 or Danielle Piraino at piraino06@umn.edu or 630-797-8862 to discuss their ideas and ask questions. Successful projects are selected by the Southeast RSDP community-university governing board through a competitive process.

Examples of projects recently supported by the Southeast RSDP include working with local entrepreneurs in St. Peter, advancing clean energy solutions for affordable housing and researching the economic impact of farmers markets. For more examples of projects supported by the Southeast RSDP, visit z.umn.edu/RSDPProjectExamples.

The Southeast RSDP serves Blue Earth, Fairbault, Dodge, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Le Sueur, Mower, Nicollet, Olmsted, Fillmore, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, Waseca and Winona counties and the sovereign Native Nation of Prairie Island Indian Community.

■ Intent

from Page 1

stuff, like the field and the weight room and training facilities. It was all very interesting, and everyone was very nice.

You could tell they really wanted him."

Jordan didn't say much, but among his comments was, "I've put in a lot of work these past four years. I'm also an Eagle Scout and

■ Gaga

from Page 1

ellendale; and concrete rebar from Olson Masonry of Ellendale. Workers who donated their time to assemble the pit included Larson and his parents Shawn and Jody along with fellow scout Devyn

Child's History of Waseca County

CHAPTER V, 1855. More settlers in midwinter – Chris Scott and family – Build a log hut and cover it with hay – Scott makes trip to La Crosse for the last of February.

About two weeks after the arrival of Mr. Sutfieff and his company, as detailed in chapter three, Mr. Christopher Scott and family, accompanied by a man called "Pat," came over from Straight river, where they had been staying since the previous fall. They too, were from Wisconsin, near Fox Lake. This family stayed, or "hung up," in the Sutfieff cabin, which, on their arrival, was pretty well filled; at least, it contained twelve persons, although it was only 14x16 feet with no chamber room. But in those days the stranger was welcome so long as there was standing room in the above of the pioneer.

Mr. Scott immediately made a

claim about a mile north of Sutfieff's. This claim is now owned by Mr. John Carmody, Sr. Mr. Scott commenced building a cabin, which was constructed of logs notched together at the corners; the building was "shingled" with basswood troughs; the crevices between the logs and troughs were chinked with prairie grass, cut in February, and then daubed, or plastered, with mud; the floor was the frozen ground, and the "banking" around the cabin was made of snow. There was no lumber in the country nearer than Mankato, and such a cabin was all that could be constructed with the materials at hand. Mrs. Scott having two or three small children, the bottom of a wagon box was brought in and laid upon the ground for them to play on, and for Mrs. Scott to use as a sort of sitting room.

Near the close of February Mr. Sutfieff started for Dodge county,

Wis., leaving his business in Minnesota in charge of J.E. Child. Mr. Scott, who was going to La Crosse for provisions, accompanied Mr. Sutfieff. They went by the way of Owatonna, having learned that several teams had been driven from Owatonna to La Crosse within the month of February. Mr. Sutfieff reached his destination in due time; and Mr. Scott, after a long and laborious struggle and much expense, returned with a small supply of flour and pork.

Editorial Note - Upon rummaging through the vast library of contents here at the Star Eagle, I stumbled across a very old blue book titled, "Child's History of Waseca County Minnesota for Fifty Years, 1854-1904."

After thumbing through the first several pages it was determined this book was too interesting to go back on the shelf. So it was used as a

stand for a computer monitor. Several months later, after finding a more suitable stand, I opened the book to show a reader who stopped into the office. After reading about the Horse Thief Detective Association, I made the decision that this piece of history should not be lost to time. Since then the Star Eagle has included, "a little bit of this and a little bit of that," from the book.

Eli Lutgens

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Installed: Pastor Gena



WARM WELCOME - On Sunday, Feb. 1, 2026, Pontoppidan Lutheran Church Lemond in Ellendale installed Pastor Gena Parker at their church.

Eight individuals advance in Minnesota Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers Discussion Meet

The Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) Young Farmers and Ranchers (YF&R) Committee held the preliminary rounds of the Discussion Meet competition Jan. 30-31 during the Leadership, Education, Advocacy, and Promotion (LEAP) Conference at the Sanford Center in Bemidji.

Nineteen competitors participated in the preliminary rounds, with eight semifinalists advancing to the final rounds. The finals will be held during the MFBF Annual Meeting in November in Minnetonka.

Finalists include Jeanne Anderson (Chippewa County Farm Bureau), Emily Bosch (Chippewa County Farm Bureau), Jesse Haarmann (Steele County Farm Bureau), Philip Horsager (Chippewa

County Farm Bureau), Lily Krona (West Polk County Farm Bureau), Mary Lanoue (Lyon County Farm Bureau), Braden Lertouneau (Washington/Ramsey County Farm Bureau), and Kloe Wadd (Waseca County Farm Bureau).

The Discussion Meet evaluates participants on their knowledge of key agricultural issues and their ability to exchange ideas and collaborate in a problem-solving environment, highlighting the leadership skills of agriculture's next generation of leaders.

The winner of the November competition will represent Minnesota at the national YF&R Discussion Meet during the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Convention, scheduled for Jan. 8-13, 2027 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

County

from Page 1

As with the repayment of any type of loan, a shorter repayment period leads to lower total cost while a longer one allows for smaller payments across the term.

County commissioners weighed these and other topics while speculating about what terms and amounts legislators are likely to find reasonable. They also stated concerns about

leaving their options open to allow more flexibility during the bonding process.

After nearly two hours of consideration and discussion, board members voted to request legislative approval for a tax to cover up to \$45 million with a possible repayment period of up to 30 years. Their decision included the strategic recognition that actual amounts and terms are likely to be lower, given that county voters must also approve the terms of the sales tax before it can be implemented.

The world is changing too fast for me



FACT OR FICTION

...you decide

by Bob Hanson, Emeritus

"Windy," many times is the term used to describe someone who likes to talk.

"Windy" has taken on a new way to describe something. If you have been in and out of your residence the month of January, you will agree "Windy" is an often used word by the local weatherman. In my case I used a few other choice words as the wind caused the car door to help me get into the car before I was ready.

(I suspect many of you readers know what I'm thinking about; I'll bet we used some of the same words in our windy experience.)

It is very interesting the many uses found by Thrivent members for the \$250 Thrivent will provide for an event (a \$250 debit card). For example: A bus to a Twins ballgame, a lunch at a church annual meeting, a youth + chaperones for a youth activity.

One of the most unusual I'm aware of was Hartland, Minnesota ladies using the \$250 to buy physical equipment to be used in workouts for ladies at their church on Tuesday and Thursday.

I've been told the men of Hartland, Minnesota are in the process of doing the same thing on Monday and Wednesday.

This world is changing too fast for me; it used to be we cancelled things because of the snow. Now we cancel things because of lack of snow!!

It has been said if you wait long enough, history will repeat

itself. This might be the case for the NRHEG girls to repeat as Minnesota girls basketball champs. (Genie and I went to the game the girls won to become state champions. We're ready to repeat!!)

There is now a southern trapping season for Bobcats and fishers in Minnesota. It started Saturday, January 3 and ended Sunday, January 18. In my lifetime I've seen one fisher in southern Minnesota at Big Island State Park and have heard many Bobcats by the parking lot at Beaver Lake by Ellendale. They make a

sound like a baby crying - this caused a resident of Beaver Lake to look for the baby while getting up and going outside in her nightgown. (She didn't find the baby.)

On Friday, January 16, 2026 I felt very honored to be presented "A quilt of valor" at the American Legion Albert Lea, Minnesota. (I was the 162nd person to receive this honor.) Along with the quilt of valor, a label was sewn into the quilt, reading: Awarded to Robert Hanson on January 16, 2026, pieced by Rea Peterson, quilted by Elaine Hart, binding by Lynda Harig, presented by Post 56 Auxiliary.

Bob is a retired ANL (ANL Association for Lutheran) agent, currently working on his master's degree in Volunteering. His wife, Genie, is a retired RN, currently working on her doctor's degree in Volunteering. They have two children, Josh in North Carolina, and Dan in New York. Bob says if you enjoy his column, let him know. If you don't enjoy it, keep on reading, it can get worse. Words of wisdom: There is always room for God.

HERITAGE BITS



Mrs. Wandrey's 3rd and 4th grade class. Back: John Grobner, Harriet Hauberschild, Lois Wayne, Audrey Hemingway, Tobin, Sandra Jensen, Marilyn Burschem, Delores Eggers, Marjorie Utpadel, Mrs. Wandrey (Norma Joyce). Middle: Barbara Mrotz, Doris Haberman, Leona Hendrickson, Donald Butler, Nora Nelson, Dale Mrotz, Wayne Roistad, Arlyne Langlie, Ruth Otteson. Front: Bruce Jensen, Gary Hansen, Geraldine Taylor, Verona Randall, Margie Eggers, Eileen Cornelius, Odeon Vangen. (2/5/2026)

ZED by Duane M. Abel



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STANDINGS

Boys' Basketball

Big South Conference - Black		
	Conf.	Ov.
Belle Plaine	8-1	13-2
St. Peter	8-3	13-5
Marshall	6-3	8-9
Waseca	6-5	12-7
New Ulm	5-5	9-9
Worthington	1-8	3-15
Tri-City United	0-8	0-15

Big South Conference - Gold		
	Conf.	Ov.
Fairmont	11-1	16-2
Jackson Co. Central	10-2	15-5
Laverne	7-4	12-5
Blue Earth Area	6-4	11-5
St. James Area	6-6	10-6
Pipestone Area	3-9	5-11
Redwood Valley	2-10	4-16
Windom Area	1-10	7-11

Gopher Conference - West		
	Div.	Ov.
Janesville-WP	6-0	20-0
New Richland-HIEG	3-3	7-11
Waukegan-EM	2-3	6-11
United South Central	2-3	3-12
Medford	1-5	5-15

Gopher Conference - East		
	Div.	Ov.
Triton	7-0	17-3
Bloomington	4-3	14-5
Hayfield	4-3	11-8
Randolph	3-4	7-13
Bethlehem Academy	2-5	6-10
Kenyon-Wanamingo	1-6	8-12

Girls' Basketball

Big South Conference - Black		
	Conf.	Ov.
Marshall	8-0	16-2
New Ulm	9-1	13-5
St. Peter	7-4	11-7
Tri-City United	4-4	7-11
Belle Plaine	3-5	8-9
Waseca	1-10	3-17
Worthington	0-8	2-16

Big South Conference - Gold		
	Conf.	Ov.
Fairmont	12-0	18-1
St. James Area	10-2	16-4
Pipestone Area	8-3	15-3
Windom Area	6-6	15-6
Jackson County Cent.	5-7	9-12
Laverne	4-7	10-10
Blue Earth Area	1-9	5-14
Redwood Valley	0-12	0-20

Gopher Conference - West		
	Div.	Ov.
New Richland-HIEG	5-0	18-2
Janesville-WP	4-2	14-7
Waukegan-EM	1-4	5-14
United South Central	0-4	7-12

Gopher Conference - East		
	Div.	Ov.
Triton	7-1	13-5
Hayfield/Schaeffer Ac.	6-1	17-4
Bloomington	6-1	12-7
Randolph	3-5	9-12
Kenyon-Wanamingo	1-7	7-13
Bethlehem Academy	0-8	5-13

Boys' Hockey

Big South Conference - Black		
	Div.	Ov.
Waseca	5-0	15-5-2
New Ulm	3-3	12-8
Minnesota River	3-3	9-10
Marshall	0-5	6-16

Big South Conference - Gold		
	Div.	Ov.
Laverne	8-0	19-3
Fairmont	5-3	6-11
Windom Area	4-5	6-14
Redwood Valley	3-6	4-15
Worthington	1-7	2-19

Girls' Hockey

Big South Conference - Black		
	Div.	Ov.
Marshall	5-1	22-4
Minnesota River	5-1	19-5
New Ulm	2-4	5-18
South Central	0-6	6-19

Big South Conference - Gold		
	Div.	Ov.
Laverne	5-1	16-9
Fairmont	5-1	12-9
Worthington/Pulda	2-4	9-14
Windom Area	0-6	5-16

Wrestling

Big South Conference - Black		
	Div.	Ov.
New Ulm	6-0	13-0
Marshall/Lakeview	5-1	16-3
Tri-City United	3-2	11-8
St. Peter	3-3	11-7
Worthington	3-4	4-13
Waseca	1-5	4-10
Martin County	0-6	6-12

Big South Conference - Gold		
	Div.	Ov.
Jackson County Central	6-0	10-0
Windom/Mt. Lake	4-2	14-10
St. James/Madella	4-3	13-7
Redwood Valley	3-3	11-11
Pipestone Area	2-3	12-5
Blue Earth Area	2-5	5-14
Laverne	0-5	7-11



BIG VICTORY — NRHEG's Quinn VanMaldeghem, left, drives the baseline against JWP last week. The senior went on to record her 1,000th career rebound later in the week against Kenyon-Wanamingo. In the middle, Quinn's twin sister, Camryn (12), passes after encountering JWP's Ava Krause (10) and Katie Olson (23). At right, the Panthers' Gabrielle Schlaak takes it to the hoop. Photos by Jim Lutgens

Lady Panthers pummel KW, edge JWP

Quinn VanMaldeghem secures 1,000th career rebound as NRHEG rises to No. 2 in rankings

By JIM LUTGENS

It was business as usual last week for the NRHEG High School girls' basketball team.

The Panthers extended their winning streak to 18 games, defeating Kenyon-Wanamingo Thursday after holding on to edge Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton on Monday.

Senior Quinn VanMaldeghem achieved a milestone in the Panthers' 79-36 victory over KW, pulling in the 1,000th rebound of her career, becoming just the third NRHEG player to do so. It gave her a career double-double as earlier this season she topped the 1,000-point mark.

Unlike Monday's game against JWP, which was a real battle, the Panthers handily defeated KW while taking a 41-21 halftime lead.

"The girls pulled away in the first eight minutes and never looked back," said NRHEG coach Onika Peterson. "This was a game that we expected to win."

Camryn VanMaldeghem, Quinn's twin sister, had a big night on the offensive end, scoring 37 points. Gabby Schlaak also reached double digits with 16. Quinn VanMaldeghem scored nine.

Others: Clara Buendorf 9P, Chloe Stork 5P, Ezra Boerner 3P. Monday's game against JWP, the first in a girl-boy doubleheader at

New Richland, went down to the wire, with the Bulldogs failing to connect on a last-second shot as NRHEG prevailed 63-61.

The Panthers led 28-27 at halftime. "A Gopher Conference win against a tough rival is a great way to start the week," said Peterson, who called it a game of runs.

JWP came out hot to start the first half and we had to claw our way back a couple of times," said Peterson. "It was back-and-forth all night in front of a big crowd at home and it came down to the last couple seconds. The girls held their composure, and were able to come out on top."

The VanMaldeghem sisters again

led the way, Camryn finishing with 34 points and nine rebounds; Quinn with 15 points and 17 rebounds.

Individual totals: Schlaak 6P, 2R, 1S, 2A; Boerner 2P, 1R, 3S, 1A, 1 block; Q.VanMaldeghem 15P, 17R, 3S, 2A; Buendorf 6P; C.VanMaldeghem 34P, 9R, 5S, 4A, 1B; Savannah Farr 1A; Stork 5R, 2S, 1A.

The Panthers, 18-2 overall and 5-0 in the Gopher Conference West, hosted United South Central Monday for Senior Night and played at Southland. They're at Hayfield Friday at 6 p.m., at St. Clair Feb. 10 and at Alden-Conger Feb. 13.

"Tuesday and Friday will be

against two tough section opponents," said Coach Peterson. "It should be a fun week to see how we handle the competition."

Minnesota Class A state rankings

1. Mountain Iron-Bulls (18-2)
2. New Richland-H-E-G (18-2)
3. Mayer Lutheran (14-5)
4. Hillereth Lutheran Academy (17-2)
5. BOLD (14-4)
6. Sleepy Eye Saint Mary's (17-0)
7. Hayfield/Schaeffer Acad. (17-4)
8. Breckenridge (12-6) 8-7
9. Hills-Beaver Creek (13-0)
10. Chisholm (13-3)



TOUGH CHALLENGE — The NRHEG boys' basketball team faced a tough challenge against top-ranked, unbeaten JWP last Monday in New Richland. At left, the Panthers' A.J. Deen looks to pass while guarded by Gavin Weedman. At right, Brock Holland drives against Caleb Quast. Photos by Jim Lutgens



Panther boys rebound against KW

By JIM LUTGENS

Two nights after facing the No. 1 ranked Class A squad in the state - with predictable results - the New Richland-Hartland-Elendale-Geneva boys' basketball team bounced back.

Sparked by stellar first-half defense, the Panthers held off visiting Kenyon-Wanamingo 82-77 at New Richland last Thursday.

The win improved the Panthers to 7-11 for the season and 3-3 in the West Division of the Gopher Conference - second only to that top-ranked team, Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton - while KW fell to 8-12.

According to coach Dan Schmidt, tough defense helped his squad thrive on offense as they opened a 12-point halftime lead.

"We came out with great intensity on the defensive end of the floor, and it opened up our transition options," said Schmidt.

It continued in the second half as the Panthers assumed a 24-point margin, but things tightened up after that.

"Kenyon started pressing and we struggled to settle in and attack the way we had earlier in the game," said Schmidt.

A handful of costly turnovers allowed KW to pull within five points, but the Panthers settled down after a couple timeouts.

"The boys did a great job of gathering themselves in the last couple minutes and knocking down free throws to ice it," said Schmidt.

The Panthers were led by Brooks Gilliland with 25 points, 7 rebounds and 3 assists, with Calvin Nissen totaling 18 points and 5 assists. A.J. Deen had a double-double with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

"A.J. had another nice game in the paint," said Schmidt.

Dom Olson played great defense and sparked some transition opportunities while hitting a couple free

throws down the stretch. Brendan Schmidt made three free throws in crunch time.

NRHEG individual totals: Deen 10P, 10R, 1 steal, 1 block shot; Olson 8P, 1R, 3A, 1S; Nissen 18P, 4R, 5A, 3S; B.Gilliland 25P, 7R, 3A, 3S; Fynn Baumann 5P, 1R; B.Schmidt 3P, 3R, 2A, 1S; Mack Gilliland 9P, 5R, 5A, 1S; Brock Holland 4P, 8R, 2A.

Coach Schmidt knew what to expect from unbeaten JWP last Monday in the second game of a girl-boy doubleheader at New Richland.

"We knew we had an uphill battle," he said.

And it was, though the Panthers kept it close early before succumbing 95-65.

"We went toe-to-toe with them for the bulk of the first half, before falling down by 12," said Schmidt.

A great run towards the end of the half pulled NRHEG within three before the Bulldogs hit a three-

pointer at the buzzer.

The Panthers started the second half with intensity but, according to Schmidt, were plagued by some foul trouble that took the win out of their sails.

"The boys played extremely hard, and we saw some good things on both sides of the ball, considering how tough JWP is," said Schmidt.

The Panthers again had balanced scoring with three players in double figures, led by Mack Gilliland with 20. Olson scored 11, Nissen 10 and A.J. Deen nine.

Totals: A.J. Deen 9P, 5R, 3B; Olson 11P, 1R, 1S; Nissen 10P, 3R, 1A, 1S; B.Gilliland 4P, 4R, 1A, 1S, 1B; Baumann 1P, 4R; B.Schmidt 2P, 6R, 1A, 2S, 1B; M.Gilliland 20P, 3R, 1A, 2S; David Deen 2P; Holland 6P, 6R, 2A.

The Panthers play Friday at 7:30 at Hayfield and Saturday at 7 against Cleveland at Minnesota State-Mankato. They're at Madelia Feb. 10.

Forfeits costly for NRHEG wrestlers

Panthers 11th at Takedown on 22

There's a good reason the NRHEG High School wrestling team lost last Thursday in a dual meet at Kenyon-Wanamingo.

The Panthers gave away 36 points.

Due to illness, NRHEG forfeited six of the 13 weight classes while falling 59-15.

"In the matches we did wrestle, we went out and competed hard, even in the matches we lost," said NRHEG coach Krey Cory. "We were aggressive and working to score points. It was good to see us go out and compete."

The Panthers got wins from Owen Schlaak, 107 pounds; Ryan Schlaak, 189; and Wyatt Larson, 215.

The Panthers placed 11th in Saturday's Takedown on 22 at Mapleton with 66 points. Watertown-Mayer won with 201.5.

The Panthers had one finalist, Ryan Schlaak, who finished second at 189. Owen Schlaak was third at 107, Graham Jacobson third at 114, and Larson fifth at 215.

On the girls' side, NRHEG's Josie Tuft placed third.

Finishing first among junior varsity boys were Rifen Jacobson, Bo Holland, Wyatt Hendrickson, Chase Johannsen and Adrian Naser. Julian Naser, Tucker Flatness and Noah Weller finished second. Taking fourth were Hayden Ripka, Khaideen Madison, Hunter McFarland, Jacob Klaras and Cooper Cordis.

The Panthers are in action tonight, taking on GMLCO and Maple River/USC in a 6 p.m. triangular at New Richland.

FFA Regional Contest



REGIONALS - The NRHEG recently posted on Facebook, "We had a number of teams competing in regional contests yesterday. The Ag Mechanics and Agronomy teams took home some valuable experience for next year. Mitchell Viktora lead the Agronomy team and Charles Buenger led Ag Mechanics."

The exciting news of the day came from the Ag Sales team as they finished 2nd and qualified for State later this spring. Emily Delacruz had the high individual score for the team. Congratulations to all participants and good luck at state, Ag Sales!"

ICE FISHING CONTEST

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FOOD! FUN! PRIZES!

Saturday, Feb 14
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm
(Bad weather date: next day)

Radio Station 88.1 FM will announce prize drawing (Reception in lake area only)

- Holes drilled
- Bait provided
- Restrooms on lake
- Fish houses welcome

Fishing Prizes - \$1,000 Total
1st: \$500 • 2nd: \$300 • 3rd: \$200
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Grand Prize Drawing \$500

Continuous Merchandized Prize Drawings for Kids & Adults!
FREE Lifetime Fishing License Drawing for Kids (ages 4-15) \$450 Value!

\$5 TICKETS Tickets On Sale at New Richland Liquor Company, or from any Club Member

Deer Hunters gather at VFW

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Waseca VFW hosted the annual Minnesota Deer Hunters Association South Central Chapter Deer Hunters Bingo and Membership Drive on Saturday, Jan. 31. Among the sponsors for the event were the VFW and Wiste's Meat Market.

It was a very busy evening, with many people taking part. There was food for sale and the atmosphere inside was warm and friendly. Pat Hammond was sipping on a ginger ale when his name was announced for the meat raffle. They had an industrial strength Cabela's cooler set up behind the table from which to choose meat. Hammond said, "I picked the two packs of bacon, then I ran out to my truck and put them in there, so they don't thaw." Asked why he got the bacon, he replied, "Bacon was the most expensive and I know I'll eat it because it's bacon." He said he was feeling lucky tonight. "I also won a drink ticket earlier, and I'm on the hundred number board for the handgun." Everyone who won their silent auction item was automatically registered to win the handgun; Hammond had about 1 in 10 chances. Sitting quietly next to him was Shirley Kunze. She was waiting for the bingo game to start. Mayor Steven Bailey of Geneva was also



BINGO - Shirley Kunze and Pat Hammond were hoping to be winners at the VFW's annual Minnesota Deer Hunters Association South Central Chapter Deer Hunters Bingo and Membership Drive on Saturday, Jan. 31, 2026.

"I am a big supporter of all this," said Bailey. "I always try to help out when I can." For the silent auction, there were wine baskets, a giant orange hoodie, a trail camera set, beer, flashlight kits, rancho road liquor, barrel gun, coffee baskets and assorted honeys. There were also rare items like an ammo box and numerous beautiful examples of deer artwork. Tickets were available for a June 3 raffle drawing; the prize will be a lifetime Minnesota Deer Hunting License and lifetime membership to the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association. Another raffle has a Chevy Silverado 1500 as a prize.

Volunteer Jim Kelting was monitoring the silent auction table. "I'm helping make sure

everyone has fun and spends money. This is for conservation education for the kids. This also helps out with land projects and gets kids to camp. That's what's most important: getting those kids, the young kids used to hunting and camping, so they develop those skills and they'll be so much more eager to protect the land and natural resources when they get older."

Evelyn Barnes was with her husband Joe of Barnes Gunsmithing. They had just finished dinner. She said, "All funds go towards kids for a special camp. I come here every year; my husband does the background checks for the gun winners."

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'Ask a Trooper': What is Vanessa's Law

Question: I heard about a thing called "Vanessa's Law" the other day and I wasn't quite sure what it was all about. I know it has to do with new or young drivers.

Answer: Vanessa Weiss was killed just days before her 16th birthday in May 2003. In her memory, Vanessa's Law was passed a year later. She was a passenger in a vehicle driven by an unlicensed 15-year-old.

Vanessa's Law applies to all teens who commit an impaired driving crime or crash-related moving violation but applies differently whether you have a provisional license or are unlicensed.

If you are convicted of a crash-re-

lated moving violation or an alcohol/controlled substance-related violation (such as Driving While Impaired, Implied Consent, Open Bottle, or Underage Drinking and Driving/Not a Drop Law) while you are driving without a license as a teenager, you cannot get a license, instruction permit or provisional license until you are 18. At 18, you must:

Pass the Class D written test. Fulfill reinstatement requirements, including payment of fees, which can be up to \$680 depending on circumstances.

Obtain an instruction permit and hold it for at least six months.

Pass the road test and apply for a

new license.

If you lose driving privileges due to a crash-related moving violation or an alcohol/controlled substance related violation while driving with your provisional license, you cannot regain a license until age 18.

At that time, you must complete the following steps to obtain a full driver's license:

Fulfill all reinstatement requirements, including the payment of fees, which can be up to \$680 depending on circumstances.

Complete the classroom portion of a formal driver education course.

Pass the Class D written test if the license has been expired for over one

year. Obtain an instruction permit and hold it for three months.

Complete the behind-the-wheel portion of a driver education course and apply for a new license.

You can avoid a ticket — and a crash — if you simply buckle up, drive at safe speeds, pay attention and always drive sober. Help us drive Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths.

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)

Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl
Outdoors Writer

Looking back at time spent with my Dad

There are times when I look back to my days as a youth and reflect on my parents and my relatives who had an influence on my childhood. My parents were a great influence on my love of the outdoors. My dad was a horseman and we always had horses. We lived on Bridge Avenue on an acre of land. When my Grandpa Winjum's barn burned down my Uncle Orville gave my dad the old milkhouse. My dad fenced in the backyard and turned that old milkhouse into a horse barn. It had two stalls and a tack room where he kept the saddles, and he also had room for some feed and hay.

When my sister came along, they had to sell the back half of the lot and one of the horses to pay the hospital bill. My dad eventually sold his other horse and after a couple of years he replaced it with another.

I can recall a couple of times when dad would be driving down a country road and spot a horse in a pasture that looked like it was neglected. On more than one occasion, he would drive up to the house and

ask if the owner wanted to sell it. He took great pride in rehabilitating a supposed lost cause. I learned a lot about caring for horses from my dad. He taught me always to talk to the horse when approaching it from behind. I spent many cold nights at the barn with my dad while he groomed, fed and bedded the horses. Although my interest in horses was minimal, this was my father-son time and I cherished it. Until next time: I have once again heard some good fishing reports from around our area. Although this is usually the time when ice fishing slows down in this area, I have heard some good reports of huge crappie and nice walleyes being caught on area lakes. On the chance of releasing some secret information that would ruffle some feathers, I will not be naming lakes at this time.

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 are a picture of myself on the first pony my dad bought for me. The other picture is of me helping my dad when we were working on our house.

LOOKING BACK

25 years ago



- Tony Schlaak and Jenifer Brouwers have been nominated as New Richland-Hartland-Elkdale-Geneva High School candidates for the Academics, Art and Athletic Award. A girl and a boy are selected from those nominated in each region from both Class A and Class AA schools and are honored at a banquet during the Minnesota State high school basketball tournament. At the banquet four scholarships are awarded.

- Jim and Sandra Finseth of Albert Lea are the proud parents of a daughter born Tuesday, January 23, 2001 at 12:02 a.m. at Naeve Hospital, Albert Lea. Jayna Olivia, as she has been named, weighed 7 pounds 14 ounces and was 19 1/2" in length.



- Helping to serve the Cancer Benefit supper at the American Legion Clubrooms, here, Friday night were Levine Paulson, Phyllis Peterson and Mary Ignaszewski.

50 years ago

- Gloria Smedstad, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Lowell Smedstad, formerly of New Richland, now of Pelican Rapids, is attending Konstanz University, West Germany this year.

- The New Richland-Hartland Junior High Wrestling Team placed second behind Elkdale-Geneva at the Junior High Wrestling Conference Tourney, Saturday, January 16, showing some of the strength the team is expected to have as they continue to practice and become a conference championship team in years to come.

- A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Mark Dodge at Mitchell, S.D., Thursday, January 29. The little miss weighed 9 pounds and 13 ounces at birth and has been named Karen Lynn.

75 years ago

- Alan Moldenhauer, a relative of the Moldenhauer families of the New Richland area living in Lincoln County, Colo., was honored recently by the Skelly Oil Co., for outstanding achievement in agriculture. He received the honor as a result of outstanding work in the field of soil conservation, beef raising as well as poultry management.

- Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Cannoles, nee Marie Christianson, of Chicago, are the parents of their first child, a son born Monday, February 26. The baby weighed seven pounds, four ounces and arrived on the anniversary of his father's birthday. He has been named John Carroll, and is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Christianson of this village.

- Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Scadden of Mankato have purchased the Brammer store at Matawan, from Mrs. A. F. Brammer, owner and operator. The new proprietors took possession today (Thursday) March 1.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Offico, Minnesota
Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship
Wednesday - 5:15 p.m. Supper; 6 p.m. Bible Study

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Mary Iverson
Sunday - 9 a.m. 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
Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting

VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

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

CROSS OF GLORY LUTHERAN

Hartland, Minnesota
Rev. Marcia Pedersen
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship
Tuesday - Council meeting

(First Tuesday)

WEST FREEBORN LUTHERAN

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

HARTLAND EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Hartland, Minnesota
Pastor Philip K. Lepak
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship

MANCHESTER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN

Manchester, Minnesota
Pastor Philip 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 9 a.m.

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

SIMPLY CHURCH

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

VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH

Elkdale, Minnesota
Pastor David Modder
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 10 a.m. Kids church
Check the website for additional updates
www.vibrantlifefg.com

FIRST LUTHERAN, AFLC

Elkdale, Minnesota
Pastor Kyle Smith
Saturday - 8 a.m. Men's Bible Study
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship
Monday - 7 p.m. Call to prayer
Wednesday - 9:30 a.m. Bible Study; 6 p.m. Confirmation; 7-9 p.m. Youth Group (No confirmation during summer)

ELKDALE UNITED METHODIST

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

CENTRAL FREEBORN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Elkdale, Minnesota
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

Elkdale, Minnesota
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

FAMILY OF FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH

Hollands, Minnesota
Rev. Neal Ooms
Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship; 9:20 a.m. Sunday school and kids church (now an eagle brook viewing church)

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS

Hollands, Minnesota
Pastor Jesse Kruemerk
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

FAMILY OF FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH

Rev. Neal Ooms
101 East Park Avenue
Hollands, Minnesota
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Worship; 10:45 a.m. Sunday School

ZION LUTHERAN, ELCA

Rural Elkdale
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

PONTOPIDAN LUTHERAN

Leona Township
Pastor Gena Parker
Sunday - 10:15 a.m. Worship

FIRST LUTHERAN, LCMS

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Clark's Grove, Minnesota
Pastor James Cameron
Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Worship
Sunday - 10:45 a.m. Worship

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITONYSKY

Elkdale, Minnesota
Pastor 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; Sacraments for grades K-Confirmation
www.litonysky.org
www.stsdoreschool.org

FIRST LUTHERAN

Missouri Synod
Waldorf, Minnesota
Rev. Larry Sipe, pastor
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Study

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Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl
Outdoors Writer

Looking back at time spent with my Dad

There are times when I look back to my days as a youth and reflect on my parents and my relatives who had an influence on my childhood. My parents were a great influence on my love of the outdoors.

My dad was a horseman and we always had horses. We lived on Bridge Avenue on an acre of land. When my Grandpa Winjum's barn burned down my Uncle Orville gave my dad the old milkhouse. My dad fenced in the backyard and turned that old milkhouse into a horse barn. It had two stalls and a tack room where he kept the saddles, and he also had room for some feed and hay.

When my sister came along, they had to sell the back half of the lot and one of the horses to pay the hospital bill. My dad eventually sold his other horse and after a couple of years he replaced it with another.

I can recall a couple of times when dad would be driving down a country road and spot a horse in a pasture that looked like it was neglected. On more than one occasion, he would drive up to the house and

ask if the owner wanted to sell it. He took great pride in rehabilitating a supposed lost cause. I learned a lot about caring for horses from my dad. He taught me always to talk to the horse when approaching it from behind. I spent many cold nights at the barn with my dad while he groomed, fed and bedded the horses. Although my interest in horses was minimal, this was my father-son time and I cherished it.

Until next time: I have once again heard some good fishing reports from around our area. Although this is usually the time when ice fishing slows down in this area, I have heard some good reports of huge crappie and nice walleye being caught on area lakes. On the chance of releasing some secret information that would ruffle some feathers, I will not be naming lakes at this time.

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 are a picture of myself on the first pony my dad bought for me. The other picture is of me helping my dad when we were working on our house.

LOOKING BACK

25 years ago



- Tony Schlaak and Jennifer Brouwers have been nominated as New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School candidates for the Academics, Art and Athletic Award. A girl and a boy are selected from those nominated in each region from both Class A and Class AA schools and are honored at a banquet during the Minnesota State high school basketball tournament. At the banquet four scholarships are awarded.

- Jim and Sandra Finseth of Albert Lea are the proud parents of a daughter born Tuesday, January 23, 2001 at 12:02 a.m. at Naeve Hospital, Albert Lea. Jayna Olivia, as she has been named, weighed 7 pounds 14 ounces and was 19 1/2" in length.



- Helping to serve the Cancer Benefit supper at the American Legion Clubrooms, here, Friday night were Levine Paulson, Phyllis Peterson and Mary Ignaszewski.

50 years ago

- Gloria Smestad, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Lowell Smestad, formerly of New Richland, now of Pelican Rapids, is attending Konstanz University, West Germany this year.

- The New Richland-Hartland Junior High Wrestling Team placed second behind Ellendale-Geneva at the Junior High Wrestling Conference Tourney, Saturday, January 16, showing some of the strength the team is expected to have as they continue to practice and become a conference championship team in years to come.

- A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Mark Dodge at Mitchell, S.D., Thursday, January 29. The little miss weighed 9 pounds and 13 ounces at birth and has been named Karen Lynn.

75 years ago

- Alan Moldenhauer, a relative of the Moldenhauer families of the New Richland area living in Lincoln County, Colo., was honored recently by the Skelly Oil Co., for outstanding achievement in agriculture. He received the honor as a result of outstanding work in the field of soil conservation, beef raising as well as poultry management.

- Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Cannoles, nee Marie Christianson, of Chicago, are the parents of their first child, a son born Monday, February 26. The baby weighed seven pounds, four ounces and arrived on the anniversary of his father's birthday. He has been named John Carroll, and is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Christianson of this village.

- Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Scadden of Mankato have purchased the Brammer store at Matawan, from Mrs. A. F. Brammer, owner and operator. The new proprietors took possession today (Thursday) March 1.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Orville, Minnesota
Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Mary Iverson
Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School;
Sunday School; 10 a.m.
Coffee
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 Schandl, Pastor
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School
Check the Shepherd's Roar Ministry; 1:30 p.m., 6-8 p.m.;
Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark

CROSS OF GLORY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Hartland, Minnesota
Rev. Marcia Pedersen
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship
Tuesday - Council meeting

(First Tuesday)

WEST FREEBORN LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

ELLENDALE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Hartland, Minnesota
Pastor Philip K. Lepak
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship

MANCHESTER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Manchester, Minnesota
Pastor Philip K. Lepak
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

SIMPLY CHURCH

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

VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH

Ellendale, Minnesota
Pastor David Modder
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 10 a.m. Kids church
Check the website for additional updates
www.vibrantlifecg.com

FIRST LUTHERAN, AFLC

Ellendale, Minnesota
Pastor Kyle Smith
Saturday - 8 a.m. Men's Bible Study
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship
Monday - 7 p.m. Call to prayer
Wednesday - 9:30 a.m. Bible Study; 6 p.m. Confirmation; 7-9 p.m. Youth Group (No confirmation during summer)

ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Ellendale, Minnesota
Randy Cirkensa, 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 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 89.3

FAMILY OF FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH

Hollande, Minnesota
Rev. Neal Ooms
Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship;
9:20 Worship and kids church (now an eagle brook viewing church)

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Waldorf, Minnesota
Pastor Jesse Kruemerk
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

FAMILY OF FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH

Rev. Neal Ooms
101 East Park Avenue
Hollande, Minnesota
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Worship;
10:45 a.m. Sunday School

ZION LUTHERAN, ELCA

Rural Ellendale
Deacon Billie Jo Wicks
Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN, ELCA

Meriden, Minnesota
Deacon Billie Jo Wicks
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship

POSTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN

Lemond Township
Pastor Gina Parker
Sunday - 10:15 a.m. Worship

FIRST LUTHERAN, LCMC

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL

Father Peter Schuster
Sunday - 8 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation; 8:30 a.m. Mass with Children's Church; Pre-school Sunday School during Mass
Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. - Faith Formation classes for grades K-8
Confirmation
www.litomyssl.org
www.stitomysschool.org

FIRST LUTHERAN

Missouri Synod
Waldorf, Minnesota
Rev. Larry Sipe, pastor
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Study

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN

Minnesota Lake, Minnesota
Rev. Larry Sipe, pastor
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

ST. PAUL UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH

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 Ave Adams-Morris
Waldorf, Minnesota
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC

Waldorf, Minnesota
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship

TRINITY LUTHERAN

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

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
Brad Donner, Branch President
Waseca, Minnesota
www.ld.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.

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WINTER DISPLAYS & EVENTS

SLEIGH & CUTTER exhibit ICE SCULPTURE

Historical Society

by Sakatah Carvers

DEC 17 → FEB 28

Courthouse lawn JAN 30

FIREWORKS SAT FEB 14 at dusk over Clear Lake

FESTIVAL WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

DINNER & MUSIC

FRI FEB 27 @ 5:00 VFW

6:30 Music by Los Tequileros

8:30 Frosty & Medallion winners

PARADE!

SAT FEB 28 @ NOON

DOWNTOWN WASECA

See website for parade route

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