

Northfield News

localmatters



3 Northfield authors publish new book **8A**



John J. Sletten: Northfield's artist and cobbler **9A**

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Business person of the year promotes coffee and community



Tanya Mollenhauer of The James Gang Coffeehouse & Eatery was named Businessperson of the Year by the Northfield Chamber of Commerce. (Pamela Thompson/southernminn.com)

By PAMELA THOMPSON
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When Tanya Mollenhauer was presented a balloon bouquet for winning the 2022 Businessperson of the Year from the Northfield Chamber of Commerce, customers inside The James Gang Coffeehouse & Eatery started applauding.

"I was so surprised," Mollenhauer said. "I'm just super thankful."

Tanya, husband Nate, and teen daughters Mia, Mahlia and Makenna, have owned the coffeehouse at 1818 Jefferson Rd. for seven years. The original owners, Jim and Joan Spaulding, owners of downtown Northfield's The Hideaway, gave the restaurant its name and decorated the rectangular space with an old west theme.

Nate, who works full-time for Fed Ex, manages the bookkeeping and payroll, while Tanya, a former physical therapy assistant,

handles the rest. Their daughters work occasional shifts behind the coffee counter.

But the Mollenhauers, who were high school sweethearts in Goodhue, wanted to put their own stamp on the place. They updated the décor, using blues and greys, and modernized the signage. They added a couple booths in back, split an old telephone spool table in two for window seating up front, and retained the original coziness by retaining the fireplace and bookcases.

"We wanted this to be an extension of home," Tanya said. "A fun place for coffee and community."

They also and retooled the menu, adding the perennially popular pumpkin cheesecake muffins and gingerbread scones, and peanut butter rice crispy bars to the bakery options. Other much-loved items include the breakfast burrito with avocado, pico and eggs, the turkey pesto

panini and the turkey Waldorf sandwich on a bagel.

Mollenhauer said she's grateful for her loyal, generous and understanding customers who continued to patronize the eatery by using the drive-thru, on-line ordering and home delivery as well as coming in person.

She said her customers range from high school and college students, to working professionals, to families, to seniors.

She and her staff of 14 mostly high school students pride themselves on knowing customers' names and remembering their orders.

"We keep smiles on our faces, serve great food, and offer delicious Roastery 7 coffee from the Twin Cities," she said.

Now that she's hired manager Megan Schwartz, Mollenhauer said she has more time to do at the restaurant what she likes best: enjoying people.

Northfield schools superintendent receives 2022 Human Rights Award

By PAMELA THOMPSON
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"In recognition of his work to offer better support to immigrant families and for his capacity to listen to the Hispanic community in Northfield."

These words are engraved on the plaque presented to Northfield Public Schools Superintendent Matt Hillmann last week by the Northfield Human Rights Commission.

"I am grateful to be recognized by the Human Rights Commission and proud of the courage our school leaders, teachers, and support staff have shown in our anti-racism work," said Hillmann. "At the same time, we have so much more work ahead of us. We are committed to preparing every child for lifelong success, removing barriers, and helping them develop the tools to achieve the American Dream."

Mar Valdecantos, former vice chair of the Human Rights Commission, explained much of the reason for Hillmann's nomination was his willingness to listen to the immigrant community in Northfield and take action to effect change and offer improvements to the Northfield School District.

"He shows that he truly cares about the children of the immigrant community," said Valdecantos. "With his work and support, he is an example to follow."

For years, immigrant mothers wanted to organize a listening group with Matt Hillmann to express their views and hopes for the schools, she explained. "When Lucy González Mirón, at one of his regular visits to the Human Rights Commission, expressed the hope to have regular meetings with him and the group of mothers, Matt agreed and in the spring of 2021 the group started meeting three times per year."

Valdecantos helps with interpreting during the sessions.

See AWARD on 3A



Surrounded by members of the Northfield Human Rights Commission, Matt Hillmann, Northfield Public Schools superintendent (second from right, back row) received the 2022 Human Rights Award. (Pamela Thompson/southernminn.com)



Luke Schell, interim general manager and Jim Gehrke, marketing specialist at Just Food Coop credit an uptick in quarterly sales to the shared belief in supporting local produce without harming the environment, an expanded and modernized retail food space and upbeat, friendly staff members who enjoy working with like-minded customers. (Pamela Thompson/southernminn.com)

REAL FOOD, FARM SOURCED

Just Food Co-op wins Northfield Chamber Business of the Year

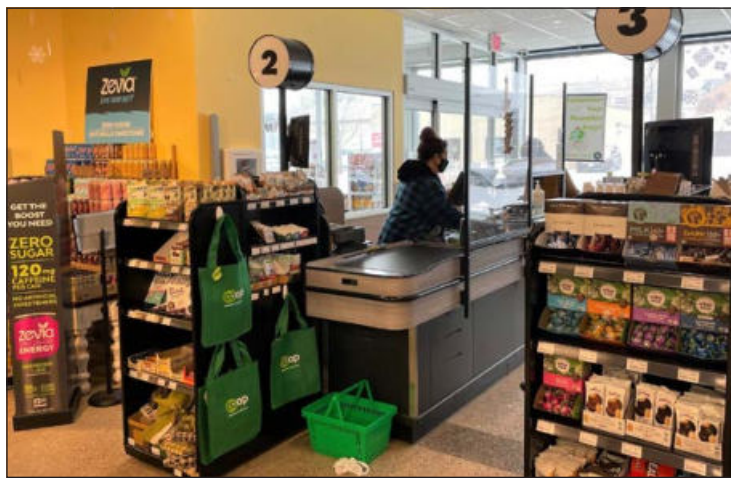
By PAMELA THOMPSON
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Criteria for being named 2022 Business of the Year by the Northfield Chamber of Commerce includes how much a business has been engaged in community involvement, how many new and existing jobs have been created, and any renovations or expansions have been done to of a business's physical location.

Just Food Co-op ticked all the boxes this year.

"This is a really special honor," said Jim Gehrke, Just Food marketing specialist. "It really means a lot to us, especially in Northfield which has such a vibrant business climate."

It's especially positive for the business after surviving — even thriving — through the last two years of construction chaos, which increased their retail food space by 40% on top of the



Just Food Co-op has continued to grow and thrive in Northfield, even during the pandemic. (Pamela Thompson/southernminn.com)

pandemic restrictions. Gehrke noted, "These have been topsy-turvy times with the supply issue challenges, but we managed to keep our shelves full."

He said that, even during the early

days of the pandemic when many Americans were hoarding toilet paper and snapping up flour and yeast for baking, Just Food Co-op didn't experience any shortages. Instead, Just Food

introduced innovative new ways to connect with customers such as online ordering and curbside shopping.

Gehrke said there's been an upsurge of support from customers that began in November when 50 new families became member/owners. This trend continued through the Christmas holidays and is now stretching into January.

He said Just Food Co-op was founded in 2004 by Northfield residents eager to bring natural foods and responsibly sourced products to our community. Located at 516 Water St. S., Just Food market and deli advertises itself with slogans such as "Everyone can shop, anyone can join," "We own this place (and you can, too!)", become a member/owner and "be part of the solution."

See JUST FOOD on 3A



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LOCAL

Local 110 members donate talent and time to Habitat for Humanity fourplex

By PAMELA THOMPSON
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For 22 years, local electricians have donated their talent and time to help place families into new homes collaborating with Rice County Habitat for Humanity. On Saturday morning, about 40 members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 110 teamed up to finish wiring four units in a south Northfield neighborhood.

Most of the Local 110 members planned to spend four to five hours Saturday morning roughing in the wiring, installing light fixtures, electrical receptacles and switches and turning on power of all four units. A coffee and donut break and photo shoot was set for 9:30 a.m.

“This is a big job,” said Jamie McNamara, union business manager. That’s why he arrived just after 7 a.m.

Jodi Beach, director of community engagement for Habitat, said the four-plex was the largest Habitat project in Rice County.

Jeff Anderson, a spokesman for Local 110, explained that the morning of intense volunteer work also provides hands on experience to apprentice electricians who benefit working side by side more seasoned workers.

“Giving back is good for our members, is good for our communities, and it’s good for Habitat families,” said Doug Suchanek, president of Local 110. “That’s a



More than 40 members of Local 110 braved frigid Saturday morning temperatures to rough in the wiring on a four-plex for Rice County Habitat for Humanity of Rice County. (Photo courtesy of Logan Beere, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 110)

big reason why we have been donating labor and material to Rice County H4H since 2000.”

McNamara said giving back to the community makes him feel good, especially when he’s personally met the new homeowners. “I got to see some new homeowners in Dundas when they first moved in and they were so thrilled,” McNamara said. “They’d had a long journey.”

Beach said she’s met some families who have been living in tough situations for quite awhile. “Some see no way out of poverty,” she said. “Owning a home gives them stability. For the kids, that stability allows them to stay in

school and often, to go onto college.”

Beach, who had been a teacher, said helping people own a home and build a stable life was in many ways more rewarding than helping educate youth.

“I’ve worked with many struggling families, some real tear jerkers,” Beach said. “We give them a hand up not a hand out” which motivates them to succeed.

She said the partner families who apply are chosen based on three main criteria:

1. Need for Housing — your current housing is inadequate in some way or you’re paying too much of your income for rent.

2. Ability to Pay — you must be able to pay a mortgage that includes principal, interest, taxes and insurance. Your household income needs to be at least \$30,000/annually and not more than \$69,150 which is 35-80 percent of Area Median Income (AMI). Even if your income is in that range, you are not guaranteed to be selected for our program.

3. Willingness to Partner — our families aren’t customers or clients — they are our partners! You must be willing to contribute hours of sweat equity (time building your home) and be ambassadors of our program.

“I take pride in giving back



Four families will move into this Habitat for Humanity four-plex sometime this spring.



Local 110 has been partnering with Rice County Habitat for Humanity for 22 years.

to society,” McNamara said. “It’s rewarding to know your sweat equity has helped someone whose had a hard life.”

“All of us have good jobs and get good benefits, so we are happy to get out and give back,” Ander-

son said.

Pamela Thompson is the associate editor for the Northfield News. Reach her at 507-645-1115 or pamela.thompson@apgsomn.com.




Jodi Beach, community engagement director of Habitat for Humanity, and Jeff Anderson of Local 110, stand in the first unit on the south end of the Habitat for Humanity four-plex.

Archer House demolition begins Tuesday



With Tuesday’s milder temperatures, demolition on the Archer House started in earnest. Demolition on the historic structure was necessary after the devastating fire in November 2020. (Pamela Thompson/southern.minn.com)


Northfield Area Athlete of the Month



Help us recognize our Northfield Area Athletes by nominating your favorite athlete today. We'll feature one each month in the Northfield News. Visit SouthernMinn.com/Athlete to nominate today.

Nominate throughout the month. One random winner every month.

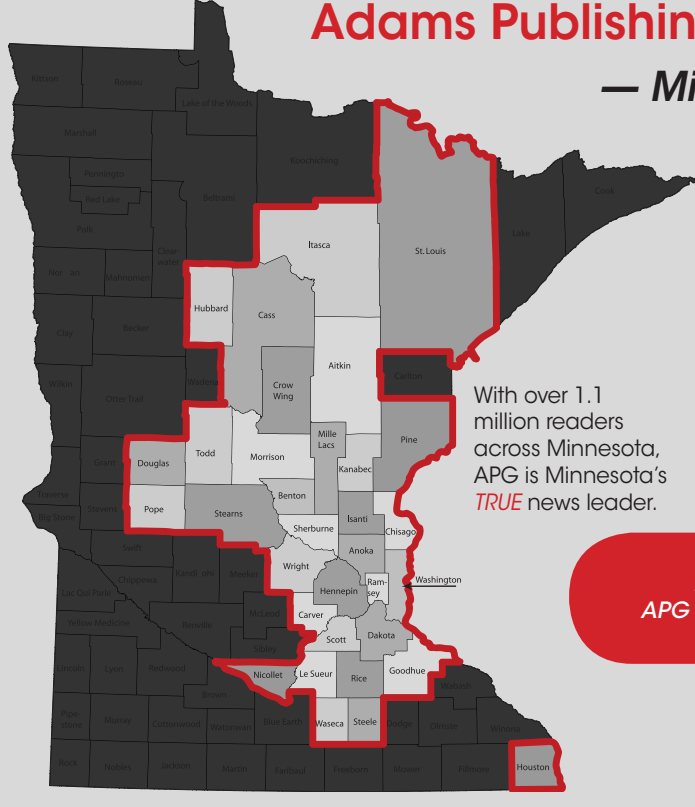
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- 33 of Minnesota's 87 counties...** are covered by an APG newspaper

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
The Northfield News welcomes letters to the editor. Here’s what you should know:
• Letters must express an opinion on a topic of local interest. Letters to announce events are not

appropriate for the Community page.

- Letters to the editor must be exclusive to the News.
- Submissions must be signed by the author and include an address and daytime number to verify authorship. That information will not be published. Anonymous letters will not be published.
- Letters should be 400 words or less.
- Writers are limited to one letter every 30 days.

GUEST COLUMN SUBMISSIONS
Readers are invited to submit guest columns of local interest. Submissions should be 500 words or less, be sent to the editor by mail, e-mail or hand delivered to the office, and include the writer’s name, address and headshot. Columns published at the News’ discretion. It reserves the right to edit submissions.

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Amendment 1

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Constitution of the United States 1789 (rev. 1992)

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New assistive voting devices will first be used in Rice County during the March township elections. The technology meets ADA requirements, but can be used by any voter who chooses. (Photo courtesy of SeaChange Print Innovations.)

Rice County’s new OmniBallot devices ready for township elections

By Rice County Communications

New Minnesota-made assistive marking devices will be in place by the time Rice County’s rural residents head to the polls, Tuesday, March 8.

The federal government requires devices that meet Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, including the OmniBallot tablets purchased by Rice County, to be located in polling places with more than 500 registered voters during township elections, and all polling places during state and federal elections. In Rice County, the Morristown, Richland and Wheeling townships have fewer than 500 registered voters.

While ADA accessible, the devices are

available to any voter making a request. Voters simply place their paper ballot into the attached printer and make their selection(s) on the tablet. Once the voter reviews their ballot and selects “Accept” on the device’s screen, the printer marks the ballot, which is then ready to go into the ballot counter.

The devices will be set up to ensure privacy when voting and placed on tables that allow wheelchairs to slide underneath them. They are hardened tables that do not access the internet and do not calculate vote totals.

The tablets allow voters to:

- Zoom in or out, making text larger or smaller
- Use headphones to listen to voting instructions and lists of candidates for each

office on the ballot

- Adjust the speed at which the speaker is talking
- Select a white screen with black lettering or a white screen with black lettering
- Use Braille to aid them in making their selections

The system ensures that the voter doesn’t choose more candidates per race than permitted, that the ballot is legible, and in primary races, that they vote only within their selected party. Voters can use the keypad or touch screen to add write-in candidates.

The 33 machines, will replace devices purchased in 2006 that are years beyond their lifespan and are about a third the weight of their predecessors, making them

much easier to transport. The cost for the new devices is \$152,328. To help defray costs, the county has applied for \$76,164 in federal grant money. It expects to submit a second request, this time to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, for another \$34,983.

The machines will be available for voters to test weekdays between 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. from Tuesday, Jan. 25 to Monday, March 7 at the Rice County Government Services Building, 320 Third St., Faribault. Rice County offices are closed Monday, Feb. 21 for Presidents Day. New assistive voting devices will first be used in Rice County during the March township elections. The technology meets ADA requirements, but can be used by any voter who chooses.

COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS				
APG SOUTHERN MINNESOTA				
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH DAILY UPDATE				
AS OF JAN. 18, 2021				
COUNTY	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES	TOTAL PROBABLE CASES	TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS
GOODHUE.....	9,782	419	10,201	112
LE SUEUR.....	5,038	332	5,370	45
NICOLLET.....	6,007	222	6,229	63
RICE.....	13,024	780	13,804	155
STEELE.....	7,913	247	8,160	47
WASECA.....	4,275	247	4,522	36
STATEWIDE				
Total COVID-19 vaccinations				8,989,222
Newly reported cases				10,651
Newly reported deaths				29
Total number of reinfections				28,580
Total probable cases				144,395
Total confirmed cases				1,004,493
Total positive cases, including reinfections				1,148,888
Total cases hospitalized				53,836
Total cases hospitalized in ICU				10,335
Patients no longer needing isolation				1,073,545
Total deaths.....				11,000
Deaths of residents in long-term care/assisted living				5,234
Numbers updated Monday - Friday on our website.				

AWARD

From Page 1A

“This channel of communication allows for Matt to listen directly from community members and also offer solutions,” she said. “The group is very pleased with the support Matt is giving them, even when the conversations are difficult and the issues revolve around discrimination and racism at the schools, coming not only from students but teachers and schools administrators.”

Valdecantos said Hillmann listens intently during the meetings, offers solutions and often promises he will look further into some of the issues and come back to the group with updates.

Clean River Partners executive director announces bid for House of Representatives seat



In February 2020, DFLer Kristi Pursell explained her support for first-term 20B Rep. Todd Lippert, DFL-Northfield, during a caucus at St. John’s Lutheran Church. (File photo/southernminn.com)

By PAMELA THOMPSON
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On Friday, Kristi Pursell, of Northfield, officially became the first candidate to announce her candidacy for the House of Representatives seat Todd Lippert is vacating.

Pursell, executive director of Clean River Partners, said she was inspired to run for office, mainly because of Lippert’s outstanding example.

“I’m inspired to continue to build upon the coalitions and relationships Todd’s created,” Pursell said. “Many people were distressed by the news that he was stepping down.”

She said, after helping with Lippert’s door-to-door grassroots campaign the last couple of years, she’s been especially impressed with his unflagging “hope, enthusiasm and energy.”

Pursell praised Lippert’s heroic efforts on getting the \$5.5 million soil health bill passed. She testified at the state Capitol, along with other farmer partners, who advocated for soil health and clean water during the bill’s debate.

“I’m inspired by how Todd has run a community-focused grassroots office. I want to talk to everyone, not just Democrats, but to listen to all perspective,” she said.

“Rural Minnesotans often get pigeonholed. I want to hear from everybody.”

Kristi Pursell, candidate for House of Representatives.

“That’s where I saw how sausage is made,” she said.

Pursell has a degree in English/Environmental Studies from St. Olaf College and has a background in small-scale farming, environmental education, and leadership. She joined Clean River Partners in 2015 as the community engagement coordinator. In 2018, she became executive director.

“As an environmental educator, I want to continue to work with people to create a cleaner, healthier environment,” she said.

Lippert called Pursell “a strong candidate” whose established connections with farmers around Northfield and in the smaller

communities in the district will be key to a successful campaign.

“Kristi is a strong local environmental leader, who has many, many gifts,” he said. “She’s a champion for clean water, soil health and helping farmers become more resilient to climate change.”

Lippert said some of his supporters reached out to tell him they are excited that she’s in the race.

“She has experience in the Legislature as a citizen leader,” said Lippert.

Pursell said she hopes to hold a campaign kickoff event outdoors in late-March.

“Hopefully Omicron will be over by then,” she noted.

JUST FOOD

From Page 1A

Just Food is cooperatively owned by over 3,200 area families called member/owners.

“It’s so gratifying that a lot of people want to be part of something bigger than themselves and care enough about climate change, living wages and equity to believe in what we’re doing by supporting local products,” Gehrke said.

Gehrke also credits the staff of 57 people who make shopping at Just Food Co-op such a rewarding, personal and positive experience.

“We’re happy to be an asset to the community,” he said. “And to be recognized for being proactive and responsive to ensure that affordable, good food is available to everyone.”

AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR

The Northfield Chamber of Commerce has named Victoria Davis, a multimedia account executive with the *Northfield News*, this year’s Ambassador of the Year. Davis, who has been with the *Northfield News* since 2020, sells print and digital advertising solutions to community businesses throughout Northfield and Dundas.

“Victoria is a great asset to the Chamber,” said Jane Bartho, director of membership and events at the Chamber. “She has attended nearly every Chamber event, helped emcee events and has hosted business afterhours and morning business brews. She’s always will to lend a hand whenever we need help.”

New charges filed after man fails to report back to jail

A Northfield man is facing new criminal charges after he allegedly failed to report back to the Rice County Jail following a furlough granted in November.

Thomas James Ohren, 37, was charged Dec. 30 in Rice County District Court with one count of escaping from custody, a felony. Prior to these charges, Ohren was already in custody in the Rice County Jail for a controlled substance charge, according to court records.

According to the criminal complaint, Ohren filed for a furlough on Nov. 28 so he could attend a family member’s funeral in Ottertail County, but court administration rejected the filing, stating the communication needed to come through his attorney. On Nov. 30, Ohren’s attorney filed a letter requesting a furlough until 2 p.m. on Dec. 2, to attend funeral services on Dec. 1 in Ottertail County, according to the report. The letter reportedly indicated Ohren agreed to GPS monitoring while on furlough.

Judge Christine Long issued an order on Nov. 30 for Ohren to be released on furlough from the Rice County Jail that day until Dec. 2. Ohren was subsequently hooked up to GPS monitoring through Midwest Monitoring and Surveillance, or MMS, and was released from the jail. According to the report, Ohren was cautioned that if he were to tamper with the GPS monitoring or fail to follow the conditions of his furlough that he could be arrested, have his bond or bail forfeited, charged with a new crime, or be held in contempt of court.

On Dec. 2, MMS notified the jail that they were concerned about Ohren’s whereabouts. MMS said Ohren allegedly had not gone any further north than



Ohren

Inver Grove Heights in Dakota County and had spend a majority of his time in the Dundas and Northfield area.

The company reportedly said Ohren’s GPS device only had about two hours of battery life left and that it appeared he had not charged the device since it was installed. Ohren’s last known location was at a Target in Inver Grove Heights, but local police were unable to locate before his GPS monitor died, according to the complaint. Ohren did not return to the Rice County Jail.

Based on the purpose of the furlough was to allow Ohren to attend a funeral in Ottertail County, the jail considered him in violation of the order when Ohren remained in Rice County and an arrest warrant was issued on Dec. 2, according to court documents. Northfield police located and arrested Ohren on Dec. 28. He was allegedly found hiding in a closet and tried to provide officers with a false name upon his arrest.

Ohren is currently in custody at the Rice County Jail and bail without conditions is set at \$50,000. His next court appearance is scheduled for Thursday.

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OPINION

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Rep. Lippert: My decision not to run for re-election

January 6th, I announced that I will not run for re-election to the Minnesota House in 2022. I will finish out my term, working hard during the upcoming session to meet the needs of our district and the people of Minnesota.

I have been honored to represent district 20B in the Minnesota House, and I've been humbled to be entrusted with this work for two terms. I have learned so much about our district, and I have grown because of all you have shared with me.

Since the last election, and the insurrection at the nation's Capitol in particular, I've felt a growing sense of urgency to help Democrats build connections with more people in rural areas.

I grew up in a town of 700 people, and I've served as a pastor in communities of 2000, 5000, and 20,000 people in Wisconsin



Another View

Todd Lippert

and Minnesota. As a child, I went to church with my family every Sunday, and I learned that Christians are to love their neighbors. I taught this week after week as a pastor in small towns too. We are to be caring, compassionate, and generous towards one another. I grew up believing these are rural values, and I still do. We care about our neighbors and help out when someone is in need, and we know that we're better off together.

I ran for office because I care about people in rural places, and I knew we needed to find ways to come together across race and geography to address

needs we share. I was deeply concerned about the ideology of the Trump movement, now the dominant ideology of the Republican party. I don't hear anything from this movement that is loving. I don't hear anything that is compassionate or generous towards others, or that comes close to bringing out the best in us. I certainly don't hear anything that has any chance of bringing us together across race and place to help us face the challenges in front of us.

I believe care for others is a central rural value, not to mention pride in our democracy and respect for those who serve. So many politicians that represent rural communities, or say they speak for rural communities, express values I don't recognize at all.

The fear and division politics of the Trump movement has

pushed our democracy to the brink. We must turn around. For that to happen, Democrats will need to do a better job of connecting in rural communities, building trust and relationships in rural places, and listening to rural people. Building relationships takes time, and we need people to give time to this work.

I've decided to give my full time and energy to helping Democrats build connections in rural areas, in southern Minnesota and beyond.

I will be stepping away from the Minnesota House, but I won't be stepping away from politics. I'll be walking towards the biggest challenges we face.

Todd Lippert, D-Northfield, represents District 20B in the Minnesota House of Representatives.

COVID-19 testing options — not the Emergency Department

COVID-19 testing is key to managing the spread of Omicron. A test can tell if you're infectious even if you don't have symptoms – so you can take precautions right away and protect others. Omicron is spreading so fast that the need for COVID tests is skyrocketing. You have several options.

Please do NOT come to the Emergency Department for a COVID test unless you have severe symptoms: trouble breathing, very high fever, pain in chest or belly, severe vomiting or dehydration. Minnesota runs community testing sites across the state. Tests are free. The state's database includes health provider locations, too. Search by ZIP code: mn.gov/covid19/get-tested.

Other options for testing:

•Pharmacy: Schedule an appointment. Some will test via

Another View

Betsy Spethmann

drive-through. Free.

•At home: Buy a test kit online or at a pharmacy. Follow test kit instructions exactly. Results in 15 minutes. Cost is \$14-\$24 for two tests. (Plans are in the works to make this free.)

•Your primary care clinic: Schedule an appointment. You might not get an appointment for several days: demand is high, and capacity is limited. NH+C clinics prioritize pre-surgery patients, current clinic patients with symptoms, and healthcare staff. Result time varies. No cost. (Fees are covered by insurance or government funding.)

•By mail: The state and Vault

Medical Services mail you an at-home saliva test kit, you mail back a saliva sample and get results via email in about 2-4 days. Free.

Anyone experiencing any COVID symptom, whether vaccinated or not, should get tested. Some symptoms can seem like a cold, flu or even allergies. Don't dismiss them. No symptoms?

Get tested when you:

•Plan to spend time with people outside your household

•Are traveling (coming + going)

•Attended a high-risk event (sporting event, concert, large indoor gathering)

•Have close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19

•Aren't fully vaccinated and work in close contact with a lot

of people

•Aren't fully vaccinated and go to childcare, school, sports or extracurricular activities

•Have an immunocompromising condition (even if fully vaccinated)

•Were asked to, by a health care provider or health department

•Think or worry that you might have COVID-19

Being vaccinated – and boosted – is your best protection against getting or spreading COVID. It's not too late to get vaccinated. Schedule your vaccination or booster. It's free. Find vaccination options here: <https://mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/>

Betsy Spethmann is the communications director for Northfield Hospital + Clinics.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Chuck DeMann was a great patriot and entrepreneur

To Editor:

Chuck DeMann was a great patriot and a great entrepreneur. I only met Chuck about 20 years ago. His World War II story as a Kamikaze survivor has been often told. Asking him how he became the lookout on the USS Little, he said of all the ship's crew he was the skinniest and smallest and fastest to climb to the crow's nest. So he became the ship's lookout in all the battles around Iwo Jima and up to Okinawa.

While the rest of the crew was below decks, Chuck was the "eyes" for the ship and the entire crew. What he told them was all they knew. Thus in all the reunions, Memorial Day services, and other occasions to talk to and about the crew, Chuck held this special relationship.

He said he became a lifelong Episcopalian after hearing kind words from an Episcopalian chaplain. And his patriotism led him to be a lifelong Republican as that party best matched his beliefs. As a horseman on the DeMann farm south of Dundas, he led his family riding in the Jesse James Gang re-enactments over the decades in Northfield.

Chuck and Audrey DeMann's wonderful family included son Chip, who carried on the reenactment tradition, but sadly fell to Alzheimer's well before Chuck's death.

Remarkably, Chuck turned entrepreneur and became a home developer in his nineties, on the old family farm on Railroad Street. He had all kinds of troubles fighting city hall, and especially supervisor McCarthy, before getting his platting. Then he had trouble getting financing, even from his long-time bank, Wells Fargo. So he turned to his life insurance policies. The insurer was not eager to lend to a policyholder in his 90's.

But Chuck persevered and got his loan and started his housing development, settling on a second builder. Chuck put in the utilities and streets and began building homes. When COVID-19 struck, Chuck was already with builders' lots and now about 16 families are at home overlooking the Cannon River valley in south Dundas, thanks to Chuck DeMann.

I suggested applying to the National Home Builders Association for an award, but Chuck was too modest. So I hereby award posthumously to Chuck DeMann the Home Builder of the Twenty First century, in the special category of "start-up entrepreneurs in their Nineties". Rice County can always be proud of this great patriot.

Sincerely,
Doug Jones
Nerstrand

Name calling not helpful

To Editor:

A recent contributor responded to a well thought out column by a local Republican by hurtful name calling rather than a serious rebuttal of the facts at hand. Deb Kaczmarek wrote of the aftermath of the "Defund the Police" movement. The 29% increase in murders from 2019 to 2020, flash mob robberies, carjackings, large corporations appealing to Congress for help to fight criminality, increased cost of security passed on to consumers and more. Now there is a shortage of police to respond to calls, and the criminals are encouraged by that lack, and also by the courts not holding criminals feet to the fire when they commit these actions. Some worry more about felons being traumatized by being sent back to prison than they do about the victims of these crimes.

But Bill Nelson downplayed the defund movement by asserting that Minneapolis is now focusing on better ways of policing. He seems to think there are no after affects to this stupidity. But the police departments are terribly understaffed due to the condemnation of people like Ilhan Omar who said the police "are rotten to the core". Who wants to put their life on the line only to be condemned as an entire group because of the actions of some members.

Nelson also referred to Republicans questioning the last election, but apparently doesn't remember the Democrat push to deny Donald Trump the presidency in 2016 by Hillary Clinton's actions in paying for the Steel dossier --a complete and proven lie--which lead to the Russian interference charges--another complete lie, costing this country much distress and billions of taxpayers dollars. Maybe a medication to improve memory is needed.

Further, no Republican or group has supported the unlawful entry into to the nations Capitol building and the harm it caused. We only supported the peoples' right to gather and protest outside the building.

Kathy Brown Dodds
Lonsdale

Tax increment financing (TIF)

To the editor:

I would like to publicly thank Councilor Zuccolotto for the courage to vote against the plan for the Kraewood Addition. He was representing his people — the Third Ward. But, there were plenty of other reasons he and others could have used to vote against the project — the most glaring being the use of tax increment financing (TIF). It was neither fair nor socially just.

The legislative intent of

TIF was to have a semi-competitive bid process for identified areas in need of redevelopment. Instead, the Council has been creating TIF districts, like the hotel site and Paulson tree farm, for areas that already have infrastructure readily available, and then offering the tax break to just one developer. Affordable housing is a laudable goal, but is it really worth \$45,000 per apartment to fund apartments that are still too expensive for those needing housing?

Lurking within the use of TIF is the larger issue of "social justice". Property taxes are a highly regressive form of taxation hitting the less wealthy much harder than the well to do. Giving a "TIF privilege" to the developer should be done sparingly, if for no other reason than it is unfair to give a benefit to one that is not given to all. It is hard to blame a developer for continuing to request those monies when the Council keeps giving it away.

Mayor Pownell said in a recent article in the paper that TIF is complicated. I disagree. While TIF monies are being given away to the same developer, taxes will be raised more than 11% next year, and more than 40% over the last 5 years of the Pownell administration — making Northfield less affordable for all 20,000+ people who already live and work here. Is that complicated? And, is that tax/social justice? And, is it justice that you and I have been paying market rate taxes for decades, and the newcomer gets a tax break for the next 25 years?

Once again, Mr. Zuccolotto, thank you for your vote. Thank you for listening to your ward, and your people. Thank you for the courage to vote against the proposal. Thank you for supporting social justice.

David Ludescher
Northfield

Northfield Library: All are welcome



Another View

Natalie Draper

It goes without saying that America is polarized. A great many of you expressed concerns about this and its negative impact on your community in our recent survey and in small discussion groups we've hosted. Maybe it has always been like this and we're just more aware now, or maybe we've gotten rusty in civic discourse. It's almost as though we've missed out on a couple of years of interacting with others.

To guide discussion on the library's role in this, the Library Board will be reading a book together: "Palaces for the People: How social infrastructure can help fight inequality, polarization, and the decline of civic life" by Eric Klinenberg. Klinenberg, a sociologist, looked at how neighborhoods in Chicago fared during a catastrophic heat wave in the 90s, in which almost 800 mostly poor, mostly African American or Latino people died. He observed that neighborhoods with "shoddy" social infrastructure fared poorest—their lack of access to things like libraries and community centers "discouraged interaction and impeded mutual support" whereas neighborhoods with better social infrastructure, even though they had a lot of the same risk factors, fared much better. In his book, he dives deep into what social infrastructure is (hint: libraries are a big part of it) and how it can alleviate many challenges facing us, such as social isolation, climate change, education, and polarization.

No matter where my career in libraries has taken me, I've found my heart still belongs to designing programs to engage the community. I'm usually in the back at these, observing connections formed, friendships made, and conversations had. I love a good book talk, but the Q&A afterward is my favorite part. That's when the audience gets to engage directly, diving into the topic, asking questions, and learning from each other. The library is one of our most powerful social institutions in its openness to all. You never know who will show up and ask questions!

Libraries afford everyone equal opportunity to benefit from new and different perspectives. One of my favorite things about libraries is the people I've met through the work. Relax and read, use the computers, take a class, work on a puzzle, take a little knowledge home with you, be entertained, be warmed. Regardless of what you have or where you're from, you're welcome to come and spend the day. Take a look at all we have on offer this month; from crafts to herbs, from games to hikes, from stories to live music, we've got something for everyone to keep your mind and hands active this winter.

Another thing you told us on the survey is that you really like coffee. You're always welcome to bring your own (with a lid) or you can enjoy a cup on us every first Friday. Join us in the Atrium on the 1st Friday of every month from 9 to 11 for a little coffee and conversation. We may have more in common than we thought.

Natalie Draper is the Northfield Public Library director and staff liaison to the Arts and Culture Commission. Reach her at natalie.draper@ci.northfield.mn.us.

RECORDS

Continued on 6A

Diane M. Ingersoll

1941 ~ 2022



BURNSVILLE — Diane M. Ingersoll, age 80, of Burnsville, formerly of Northfield, passed away Wednesday, January 12, 2022, at M Health Fairview Southdale Hospital in Edina.

Diane was born the daughter of Otto and Blanche (Anderson) Knippschild on August 12, 1941, in Milwaukee, WI. She graduated from Central High School in West Allis, WI. Following high school, Diane began, what would become, a 50-year career in the insurance business. She began working for Western National in Milwaukee. In 1974, the family moved to Apple Valley where she worked for 1st National, Farmers Home, and Richfield Insurance Company. Previously divorced, Diane met Rich Ingersoll in 1988 and they were united in marriage in 2004. Diane worked along with Rich at Modern Computer Systems.

After 'retiring' from their jobs in Minnesota, Diane and Rich moved to Fort Myers, Florida and owned and operated an ice cream shoppe in Fort Myers and Fort Myers Beach. They returned to Minnesota where they made their home in Farmington. They once again returned to Florida where they lived in Beverly Hills and later, they would move to Northfield. Once they moved back to Northfield, they continued to travel South during the winter in their RV to Naples, FL. Diane enjoyed making cards, collecting and making shell crafts. She was also a member of the Marco Island Shell Club.

There are so many ways one could describe Diane. She could light up a room with her presence, big smile, and outgoing personality. Her hair was never out of place

and her lipstick was always perfect. According to Rich, she was fun, good looking, and had an infectious laugh. Four-year-old, great-grandson Roman, said that she was the best Grandma ever. Diane was spunky and fun. She always put others first and made wonderful friendships along the way. Everybody loved her. She enjoyed going out to eat or just taking a drive at times.

She is survived by her husband Richard of Burnsville; a daughter Stacy (Steve) Johnson of Farmington; stepdaughter Sheila (Jeff) King of Council Bluffs, IA; her daughter-in-law Karla Ingersoll of Nerstrand; grandchildren Faith, Zoe, Alec, Amanda, Allison, Nolan, Ella, Hailey; and great-grandson Roman. She was preceded in death by her parents; stepson Richard Ingersoll; a brother Richard; and sister Beverly.

Funeral services will be at Bierman Funeral Home in Northfield on Saturday, January 22, 2022, beginning at 2:00 PM. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service. Masks are required. The family would like to thank the staff in the heart center at M Health Fairview Southdale Hospital for the compassionate and excellent care Diane received while in the hospital.



Wayne R. Nelson

1944 ~ 2022



PEPIN, WI — Wayne Roger Nelson died peacefully on January 12, 2022, at Season's Hospice Home in Rochester.

Wayne was born on June 28, 1944, in Pine City, Minnesota, to Floyd and Ann (Peters) Nelson. One year later, in 1945, the family moved to Northfield, Minnesota, where they stayed for five years. In 1950, they settled on a farm north of Kenyon. Wayne attended a country school through seventh grade and graduated from Kenyon High School in 1962. He married Helen Leubke in 1966 and they had a daughter, Cathrin Lawton in 1969.

Wayne moved to Northfield and worked for Sheldahl Inc. and Drentlaw/Nelson Insurance. In 1975, he met and later married Carol (Reith) Allen in Clear Lake, Iowa. He became a stepfather to Carol's four children and he loved watching them in their sports and activities.

Wayne and Carol purchased Northfield Travel and the Leader in Travel in Faribault in 1977. Ten years later, they opened The Pickle Factory Bar and Grill in Pepin Wisconsin. They sold the restaurant in 2003 and Wayne began working for the Wisconsin Restaurant Association traveling the roads of western Wisconsin. Wayne had a varied career, was a quiet and dedicated worker, and always loved whatever work he was doing.

In 2011, Wayne was first diagnosed with cancer. Throughout his journey, he was always positive, never complained and fought his cancer through the years with strength and courage.

Wayne was preceded in death by his parents Floyd and Ann Nelson; his beloved daughter, Cathrin; his step-

son, Tom Allen; brother and sister-in-law Floyd (Bob) and Carol Nelson; and brothers-in-law, Dwain Vangsness and Larry Davis.

He is survived by his loving wife of 46 years, Carol, of Pepin and Northfield; his stepchildren Mike (Laura Kay) Allen of Northfield, Cathy Freeman of Rush City, Tim (Jill) Allen of Lake City and daughter-in-law Audra Allen of Bemidji; his son in-law Sameer Ijez of Mesa, AZ; Eleven grandchildren Robert, Zibby, Chris, Matthew (Averie), Brent, Megan, Justin, Brandi, Josh, Brendon and Jacob; four great grandchildren - Wyatt, Levi, Hayden and Aubrey. Wayne is also survived by two sisters Beverly Vangsness of Adams, MN and Audrey (Duane) Anderson of East Grand Forks, sister-in-law Priscilla Davis of Stratford, IA; nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews.

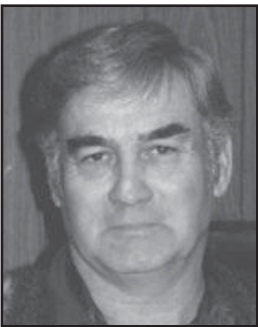
A private memorial service for the family will be held at All Saints Episcopal Church in Northfield on Saturday January 22, 2022.

A Celebration of Life for Wayne is being planned for May 14, 2022, at the Pepin Sportsman's Club from 2-6 pm. Arrangements by Bierman Funeral Home and Crematory. biermanfuneralhome.com.



Donald Johnson

1936 ~ 2022



NORTHFIELD — Donald Johnson, 85, passed away unexpectedly from natural causes Saturday morning, January 15, 2022, at his home.

Donald Stanley Johnson was born on July 3, 1936, in River Falls, WI, to Clarence and Frances (Kukuska) Johnson. He grew up as a young boy in Wisconsin and eventually moved to Stanton, MN where he spent his teenage years working on a local farm. Don met his wife of 66 years, Marion Hausen at the roller skating rink in Faribault and they were married in October of 1955. Don and Marion eventually moved to Northfield in 1964. Don was a hard-working man. Beginning as a farmhand, then a gas station attendant, he ultimately found his calling in heavy construction. Don was a superintendent for Johnson Brothers Corporation for over 40 years overseeing the building of major roads, bridges, and pipelines all across the United States. He was a master in his trade and highly respected; all of his crews enjoyed working for him. Don had a way of making the most challenging project lighthearted and productive at the same time. When he wasn't on the road working, you could find Donnie hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, or tinkering with his classic cars. Donnie's cars were always spotless; he cleaned them more than he drove them. After retirement, Donnie spent his time with his family, enjoying his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren or watching westerns with his dogs on his lap. He loved a good family cookout or a birthday celebration. Everyone who knew Donnie,

loved him. Friends and family always knew Don would never say no or let them down. He was a humble man of few words with a big heart.

Don is survived by his wife, Marion; children, Allen (Sharon) of Eden Prairie, DeeDee (Thomas) Nelson of Northfield, and Jodi (Jeffrey) Greene of Annapolis, MD; grandchildren, Jayson (Nikki) Nelson, Kent Nelson, Nicole (Jeff) Sunberg, and Carly (Jason) Olsen; great-grandchildren, Sabrina Nelson, Jerrin Nelson, Ivy Sunberg, Sienna Sunberg, Liv Olsen, and Juliette Olsen; siblings, Dick of Northfield, Gene of Rosemount, Karen Gudim of Rosemount, Kathy Spartz of Northfield, and Larry (Kay) of Durand, WI. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Jill; parents; and siblings, Gary, Jim, Pauline Truax, Ray, and Clarence Jr.

A visitation for Don will be held from 9:30-11:00 AM, Thursday, January 20, 2022, at Bierman Funeral Home, Northfield. Don's family kindly asks that anyone attending wear a face mask. A family service will be held at the funeral home following the visitation. Interment will be in Oaklawn Cemetery, Northfield in the Spring.

biermanfuneralhome.com



Jim Bierman

1950 ~ 2022



NORTHFIELD — Jim Bierman, 71, passed away unexpectedly Saturday morning, January 15, 2022, at his home.

James Edmund Bierman was born on November 27, 1950, to John and Margaret (Shedd) Bierman in Northfield. He grew up in Northfield and graduated from Northfield High School in 1969. Jim attended Grinnell College in Grinnell, IA for two years and then transferred to the U of M where he received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Mortuary Science. He returned to Northfield and worked for the family's furniture store and mortuary. Jim eventually bought the funeral home from his father and owned and operated Bierman Funeral Home until retiring in 2015. He sold the family business but continued to work with the staff at Bierman's for funerals and visitations.

Mary Boyd and Jim were high school sweethearts and were married in 1972 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Northfield. They moved south of town on Hall Avenue, raised their three children on their small farm, and continued living there through retirement.

Northfield lost a beloved member of its community. Jim was active throughout his life in the Sportsman's Club, member and usher at St. John's Lutheran Church, and took great pride in his work at the funeral home. Jim helped many families get through hard times over the years and worked hard to honor their loved ones. He enjoyed fishing and took many trips with friends and family to Canada and Alaska. Jim would work in the woods behind their house often, clearing trails, cutting wood,

planting trees and many acres of native prairie grass. Jim was proud of the Rice County Wildlife Enhancement Award he received in 2020. He loved being around small children, dogs, and cats and gave many nieces and nephews their first taste of ice cream. Jim was a loving husband and supportive father and grandfather; an amazing man who will be deeply missed by those that knew him.

Jim is survived by his wife, Mary; children, Jesse (Melissa) of Portland, Betsy (Jim) Shultz of Portland and Max (Ashley Eckdahl) of Northfield; granddaughter, Willa; siblings, Peter (Diane) of White Bear Lake, Mary (David) Patterson of Northfield, Jane Bierman (Paul) Lytle of Northfield, Joe (Kris) of Cannon Falls, Susan (Bonnie) of Lakeville, Chris (Dawn) of St. Louis, Robert (Ellen) of Apple Valley, Charlie (Dawn) of Rochester, Margaret (Steve) Cloud of Northfield, and Jennifer (Jim) Griffin of Wilmette, IL; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, John.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to St. John's Lutheran Church of Northfield Radio Broadcast or the Cannon River Sportsman Club of Northfield for youth activities.



Rolynn Ensrud

1931 ~ 2022



NORTHFIELD — Rolynn Ensrud, 90, passed away Wednesday evening, January 12, 2022, at Northfield Hospital.

Rolynn Laurence Ensrud was born on March 31, 1931, in Money Creek, Minnesota to Stanley Linden Ensrud and Eileen Jessamine Forsyth, the third of seven children. His early years were spent growing up in Money Creek, Houston and Winona, Minnesota. He spent 6 years of his childhood living with his maternal grandmother in Houston and graduated from Winona High School in 1950.

Rolynn was drafted into the Marine Corps in 1952, during the Korean Conflict. Rolynn spent three months of his service stationed in Japan. Upon his discharge he attended Winona State University, graduating with a BS degree in education in 1957. Rolynn taught social studies in Rapid City and in Alma, WI before the fall of 1960 when Rolynn moved to Northfield and started teaching social studies at Northfield High School. He earned a master's degree from Winona State University in July 1969. Rolynn coached baseball and basketball while teaching and retired in 1993.

In the fall of 1960, Rolynn met Nancy Johnson, also newly hired by the Northfield School District, as an elementary teacher. They were married on February 9, 1962, at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota. They continued their teaching careers in Northfield where they raised their three children, Debra, Scott, and Bryan. Rolynn and Nancy were long-time members of Bethel Lutheran Church. They were ushers and served on various committees.

Always a strong and proud Norwegian, Rolynn loved to start his day with a hot

cup of coffee and his daily newspaper. His interests included Boy Scouts, fishing on the Mississippi River, trout fishing at Whitewater State Park, sports of all kinds, biking, traveling, and a good serving of lutefisk. Special family vacations included camping trips to state parks, national parks, and the Black Hills. Special memories were made in Door County, WI with his two granddaughters. Other favorite destinations of Rolynn and Nancy included Hawaii, Anna Maria Island, Florida, and Mexico. A highlight was flying to Mexico where they were houseguests at their son's host family while he was a Rotary student.

Rolynn is survived by his wife, Nancy; children, Debra (Bob) Anderson of Rochester, Scott of Mount Pleasant, TX, and Bryan (Tom Schierholz) of Minneapolis; and granddaughters, Rachel and Kara Anderson. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, J. Alan; sisters, Ruth and Joan Smith; and beloved nephews.

Memorials are preferred to the Parkinson's Foundation. www.parkinson.org

A celebration of Rolynn's life will be held at 2 PM, Monday, March 14, 2022, at Bethel Lutheran Church, Northfield. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church. Interment will be in Money Creek Cemetery, Houston, MN, at a later date. biermanfuneralhome.com



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RECORDS/COMMUNITY

OBITUARY

Richard Weiland

1935 ~ 2022

ROCHESTER — Rochester - Richard John Paul Weiland, Ph.D.

Richard Weiland was born in Onalaska, Wisconsin on October 13, 1935. After graduating from Aquinas High School in La Crosse, Wisconsin in 1953 and Saint Mary's College in 1957 he married Mary Jane Gantenbein and taught business and accounting at Aquinas High School in La Crosse.

He then went on to receive a Master's Degree in Theatre Arts at Saint Louis University in 1959 and taught at Gannon University in Erie, PA until 1961 when he moved to the College of Saint Theresa in Winona, Minnesota where he served as a professor of theatre arts and speech. After earning a Ph.D. in dramatic literature from the University of Minnesota in 1972, Dr. Weiland worked in several administrative posts at the College of Saint Theresa, including tri-college coordinator and vice president for academic affairs. He was appointed to the position of vice president for institutional advancement at the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth for nearly 10 years and then moved to Northfield, Minnesota to work as a senior development officer at Carleton College. He was then called to serve for another 10 years as executive director for development at the University of St. Thomas in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Over the years Dr. Weiland has served in a variety of community service organizations such as the chair of the Southeastern Minnesota Regional Arts board (Winona); board member and director for the Winona Community Theatre; president of the Kiwanis Club (Duluth); president of the St. Louis County Heritage and Arts Center (Duluth); Serra Club (Duluth); and vice president for the International Waldenstrom's Macroglobulinemia Foundation, a rare cancer support organization located in Sarasota, Florida. He has also served as a financial resource consultant for Catholic



Eldercare in Minneapolis; Cathedral of St. Paul; the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis; Catholic Charities (Minneapolis); and the Science Museum of Minnesota.

Children include, Maureen Sherman, Rochester, MN; Jeanne Cerceo, Elmwood Park, IL; Daniel Weiland, Winona, MN; Mary Mayerchak, Rochester, MN; Kathryn Johnson, Dilworth, MN; Anthony Weiland, Minneapolis, MN; Amelia Smith, Rochester, MN; and Andrew Weiland, St. Paul, MN; 23 Grandchildren; and 5 Great-Grandchildren. Siblings include, Marie Thurston, Timonium, MD; Suzanne Welch, Caledonia, MN; and Dave Weiland, Lombard, IL.

Dr. Weiland is preceded in death by his father, Bernard Ferdinand Weiland and Alice Lydia Weiland both of La Crosse, WI and Lorie Patros (sister) of Hilton Head, S.C.

The funeral Mass will be at 11:00am on Thursday January 20, 2022 at Pax Christi Catholic Church in Rochester with Reverends John Sauer and Thomas Loomis officiating. The visitation will begin at 10:00am, at the church. There will be a Rosary at Pax Christi Church around 9:35 AM or at the end of the celebration of daily Mass. All are welcome to pray the Rosary with our family if you wish. Burial will be in Hazelwood Cemetery, Rural Northfield, MN. Please see the Pax Christi Church website to see the link for a livestream option.

Memorials are suggested to Alpha Women's Center, P.O. Box 435, Savage, MN 55378. MiracleMachineMN.com

Macken Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Online condolences are welcome at www.mackenfuneralhome.com



The Key serves at-risk and homeless youths in Northfield who need a safe place to spend time between 3-10 p.m. (Pamela Thompson/southernminn.com)

Addressing Homelessness in Northfield: The Wallflower Project

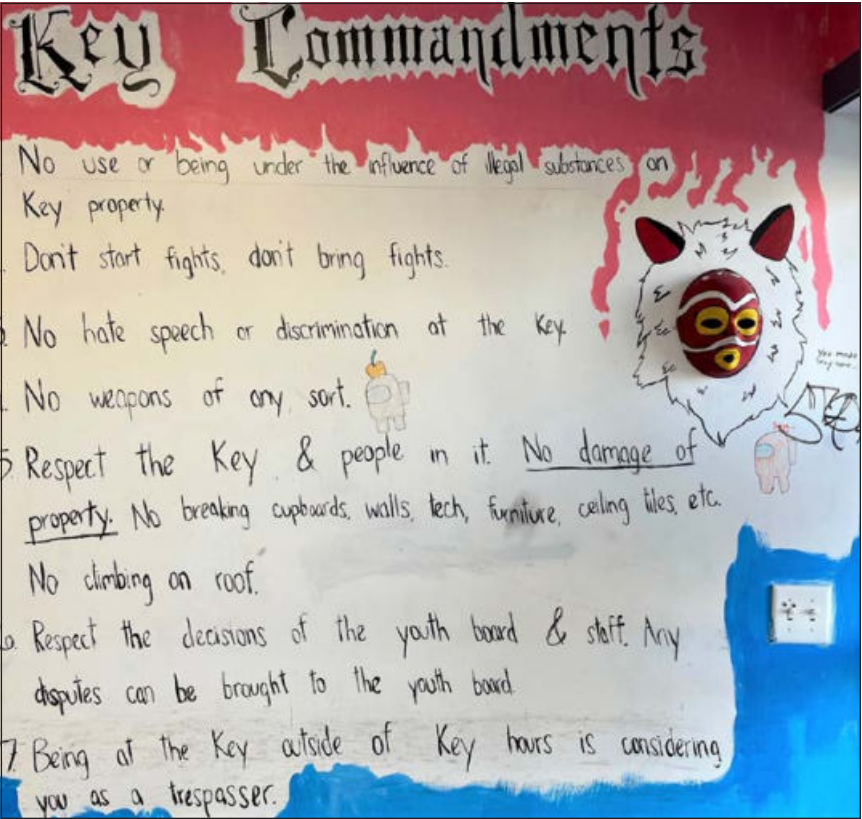
By PAUL CARLSON
Northfield Union of Youth

Lauren wasn't comfortable going back to her home. She had a blanket, a few clothes, and her car. She tried sleeping in her car overnight a few times, but it was February in Minnesota, and she had to keep waking up to run her car to get warm. Then in the morning she would grab a granola bar before school, and after school she would eat some fast food before she went to work. Then repeat.

According to Wilder research, 13,300 Minnesota youth are homeless or do not have a safe nighttime residence some time during the year. This number includes 5,800 minors on their own and 7,500 youth ages 18-24. These numbers are considered conservative; the actual number is likely to be considerably higher. Young people experiencing homelessness are often invisible, as they may be couch-hopping with friends, going to emergency shelters, staying in their cars, riding the bus, or even staying outside. About 20 percent of homeless youth report spending more than a week outside. The number of shelter beds and affordable housing does not meet the need for youth homelessness.

Several years ago staff at the Northfield Union of Youth (NUY) interviewed many local youth who had experienced housing insecurity. We found that youth in Northfield were employing all of the strategies mentioned in the previous paragraph (except the shelter option, there are no youth-serving shelters in Rice County). In response to this problem, NUY created a community-based host home program called the Wallflower Project. It depends on community members who have a spare room to temporarily open their doors to a young person who needs a safe place to stay, while supportive services are provided and until more permanent housing solutions can be obtained.

"My husband and I joined the Wallflower Project and did our training in December. It took two months before there was a match between what we were able to provide and what a local youth needed for housing. Although she was shy at first, and the situation was awkward for everyone, it was only a couple of days before she was eating meals



The Key Commandants painted inside the Sixth Street door remind teens of the house rules. (Pamela Thompson/southernminn.com)

with us and chatting in a comfortable way. We had told the NUY staff that we were only able to host someone for a short term, but we so enjoyed having her around that we ended up being her hosts through the spring. She was busy with her classwork and her after-school job, so she wasn't around very much. And it wasn't that every day was easy — she had some drama in her life that would occasionally find its way into our home, but the staff at the NUY were great about helping us through difficult patches.

"What did the youth get out of it? For three months she had a room where she could sleep at night and feel safe, and she could eat healthy food with no strings attached — something every kid deserves. What did we get out of being hosts? We got to know that we lived in a community that cared for youth in need."

The Wallflower Project is a volunteer program and cannot exist without caring com-

MORE INFORMATION

If you are interested in becoming a host or just want to learn more about the Wallflower Project, please contact Paul Carlson with Northfield Union of Youth at Paul@unionofyouth.org or 612-615-9540.

munity members. Hosts are provided with training and support and choose whether they wish to be a short term (one night to two weeks) or longer term (two weeks to several months) solution.

Hosts are responsible for providing a spare room and food or meals until more permanent housing is found for the youth. Meanwhile, the youth will be provided with an advocate to connect them with community-based services and affordable housing.

BRIEFLY

Mental Health First Aid Training

Event Invitation
Mental Health First Aid Training by Northfield Chamber of Commerce
Northfield is Part of a National Initiative to Increase Mental Health Literacy. In response to our nation's mental health crisis, the Northfield Area Chamber of Commerce will bring Mental Health First Aid training to the Northfield/Dundas. This groundbreaking skills-based course gives

people the tools to identify, understand and respond to someone who might be struggling with a mental health or substance use challenge — and connect them with appropriate support and resources when necessary. One in five Americans has a mental illness, and the pandemic has dramatically increased depression and anxiety, but many are reluctant to seek help or don't know where to turn for care. Unlike physical conditions, symptoms of mental health and substance use problems can be difficult to detect. Friends and family

members may find it hard to know when and how to step in. As a result, those in need of mental health services often do not receive care until it is too late.
Just as CPR helps even those without clinical training assist an individual having a heart attack, Mental Health First Aid prepares participants to interact with a person experiencing a mental health crisis. Mental Health First Aiders learn a 5-step Action Plan that guides them through the process of reaching out and offering appropriate support.

Date: January 21, 2022
Time: 08:00 AM — 05:00 PM CST
Location: Ruth's on Stafford
410 Stafford Ln
Dundas, MN 55019
Contact: Lisa Peterson
Email: lisa@northfield-chamber.com
Date/Time Details: The training is offered 3 separate times. Participants should only register for 1 event.
Friday, January 21
Wednesday, February 16
Thursday, March 10
Fees/Admission: \$20/person



Bridgewater students in Mrs. Charlton's first grade music class holding new books recently purchased through a grant from NFAB (Northfield Fine Arts Boosters)

Generous grant from the Northfield Fine Arts Boosters

Kristin Hummel, vocal music teacher at Bridgewater School, uses story books in her classroom to help students make musical connections. Literature plays an integral role in music education as it provides context to listening lessons and often serves as the building blocks of music lessons. Thanks to a generous grant from the Northfield

Fine Arts Boosters (NFAB), Hummel was able to purchase an additional set of books for the Bridgewater School Library — for students to check out, read, and share at home. This set of books supports the development of music/cultural awareness, addresses social emotional topics, and shares stories of overcoming adversity.

Courageous Conversations Presents

"Sinner and Saint: The Church and Racism"
Northfield pastors, Pastor Pam Fickenscher and Pastor Jonathan Davis, will offer frank discussion of the church's complicity concerning racism, while acknowledging good work that has been, and is happening, to build the beloved community. Sponsored by St. Johns Women.
Thursday, February 3, 2022
7:00pm via Zoom
Registration required: www.StJohnsNorthfield.org/courageous

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LOCAL

3 local authors publish books in January

By PAMELA THOMPSON
pamela.thompson@apgsomn.com

Legs for a little tadpole, untangling middle school's worry knots, and why health freedom is essential in this technological age are three topics of three new books by three Northfield authors.

All three books, "Little Tadpole" by Darlene Messner Hand; "The Worry Knot" by Mary Bleckwehl; and "Health Freedom" by Diane Miller, were published in mid-January.

Darlene Messner Hand

The story of an impatient little tadpole who can't wait to get legs was written in longhand on lined paper and stowed in a box almost 50 years ago, explained author and illustrator Darlene Messner Hand.

"I was busy raising four girls and a boy," she said laughing. "I wasn't into publishing."

Six years ago when her husband Roger died, Hand found the story in a box and sat down to illustrate the pages herself. But first, she had to learn how to use watercolors.

Painting came naturally to Hand, who grew up on a farm three miles east of Northfield. She said she had fun as a little girl watching her grandmother, a self-taught artist, who lived with her family, paint pictures.

Hand, who attended St. Olaf College for one year before marrying Roger, said she was so busy raising five children, working on the farm, working part-time as a nurse's aide and a clerk in a Northfield variety store, that her paintbrushes often sat idle.

After taking a community

writing class and receiving praise from the teacher, Hand penned the story of the little tadpole.

"I loved spending time on my aunt and uncle's farm, mainly because they had a pond. That's where my sister, cousins and I first found a caddisfly larva. I've loved tadpoles, frogs and pond life ever since," she said.

As a practiced painter in oils and acrylics, Hand knew she had to learn how to use watercolors for the book.

"When I make a mistake, I have to start over on that page," she explained. "I had a lot of trouble with sunrises for some reason."

Hand painstakingly painted each page to perfect the colors, the details of the book's characters; Little Tadpole, Crayfish, Old Croak, Diving Beetle and Caddisfly Larva just right.

"My favorite pages are last two, showing the night sky, moon and the constellations," she said. "I loved doing the big and little dippers."

Hand said she enjoyed the collaborative process of putting the pages together into a book once she brought the project to Beaver's Pond Press in St. Paul. They were creative and encouraging, especially after she spent a few frustrating years with a publisher in Pennsylvania.

Now, her car's trunk is filled with boxes of her books.

"Everybody's so excited about the book," she said.

Despite the long journey for the newly minted author/illustrator, Hand has already begun research and sketches for her next children's book about little wood ducks.

Diane Miller

Local attorney Diane Miller intentionally chose to publish her first book about health and freedom in the middle of a global pandemic, because many of the issues she addresses in the 236-page book have echoes in today's headlines.

"Health and freedom is an important conversation we all should be having," Miller said. "We have to talk, or we're in deep trouble as a society."

Miller is the director of law and public policy for National Health Freedom Coalition and its sister lobbying organization, National Health Freedom Action.

Asked why she decided to publish this book about health, freedom and law now against the backdrop of COVID-19, she said "The world is searching for answers about health and even survival. People want clarity on freedom, liberty and the role of government in our lives."

"My book shows the intersection of health, law and freedom," she said. In the first three chapters, she describes her personal journey and why she does not support mandates for personal health decisions. Instead of government making decisions about an individual's health, Miller supports the protection of bodily autonomy.

"I've always been a bit of a rebel trying to make a difference," she said.

Miller's health and law advocacy didn't begin right away. Born on a farm near Waseca into a large family of 22 children, Miller raised her own two daughters in Northfield, before taking the bold step of going to Hamline University School



Darlene Messner Hand, author and illustrator of Little Tadpole, stands in her basement art studio. (Pamela Thompson/southernminn.com)



Diane Miller, author of Health Freedom, has spent the majority of her career after law school advocating for the implementation of health freedom in all areas of health and law. (Pamela Thompson/southernminn.com)

of Law at the age of 40.

Her career as a leader in the health freedom movement began when she successfully defended a dairy farmer who was prosecuted for helping people by giving them dairy colostrum. When the charges were dismissed, Miller joined a band of Minnesota citizens who advocated for a new law that protected herbalists, homeopaths, farmers and many healers.

"This book comes at a critical time in the history of the world, and all people are searching for answers about their rights and freedom and the role of government in our lives," she said.

Asked what message readers can take away from her book, Miller said she wants people to participate in shaping laws and public policies.

"Participation is essential to protect freedom and health," she said.

Mary Bleckwehl

After writing three award-

winning picture books, as well as a fun and easy recipe book for kids, Mary Bleckwehl's latest book takes on angst, peer pressure, homework and relationships, all common middle school dramas.

Bleckwehl said she started writing "The Worry Knot" over 10 years ago. As a worrier herself, she said setting the story in middle school was a conscious decision to exploit a transition time fraught with anxieties.

"Middle school is an exciting time, but a transition time of moving from a small to a bigger arena, creating a time that can cause worries," she said. "It's important to find a coping strategy for transition times."

Bleckwehl said she likes to inspire young readers to take on challenges and opportunities that will expand their awareness of the complex world they live in.

"Everyone has a mountain to climb," she said. "But the climb can be turned into an adventure,

a hunt for a silver lining of sorts, if they keep their hearts and eyes open."

A mother of three, including a son with autism, Bleckwehl grew up on an Iowa farm and graduated from Wartburg College. She has a master's in Educational Management from Lesley University in Boston. She's worked as a first- and second-grade teacher in Northfield and as a guest teacher. She said she loves doing author visits in area schools and has presented at many young writer conferences, libraries and bookstores throughout Minnesota.

From her desk in the converted bedroom that is now her home office, Bleckwehl said she tries to get young readers not only to imagine a better world but to take action to make it so.

"As I say at the end of every one of the hundreds of presentations I've done, in a world where you can be anybody, don't forget to be kind."



After writing three picture books and a children's cookbook, Mary Bleckwehl has written a coming-of-age novel focusing on the often-complicated middle school years. (Pamela Thompson/southernminn.com)

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(Pamela Thompson/southernminn.com)

John J. Sletten: Northfield’s artist and cobbler

By PAMELA THOMPSON
pamela.thompson@apgsomn.com

Before mounting an art exhibit featuring 10 of Northfield resident John Johannes Sletten’s works, Cathy Osterman hesitated a few days before going forward.

“Art is not something we typically do,” said Osterman, executive director of the Northfield Historical Society.

What convinced her of the historical relevancy was Sletten’s job as the town cobbler who owned a shoe store inside the First National Bank where the famous James-Younger bank robbery was thwarted.

John Johannes Sletten was born in Solar, Norward on Nov. 3, 1869 and died in Northfield Dec. 20, 1947. Between the dashes, he lived a life as a painter, a cobbler, a musician, a husband, a father and a caring community member.

The exhibit, which runs through the end of February, features 10 Sletten paintings hung gallery style on the walls. There are interactive opportunities for visitors, young and old, to test their knowledge about shoes with a trivia game, a replica shoe shine kit and a talk-back board about hobbies.

In the exhibit, we tried to blend both the artwork and the cobbler’s trade to create a glimpse into the life of Northfield’s own cobbler-artist, Osterman explained.

While Sletten may not have become an internationally known artist during his lifetime, in 1922 he was selected to be a part of a national art exhibit in

Brooklyn that featured a group of Scandinavian artists, Osterman said. He submitted “The Unsolved Problem,” a smaller oil painting of a man in his library with his head in his hands that is encased in glass at the museum.

Essential to filling in the historical gaps was Janet Sletten Wilson, J.J. Sletten’s granddaughter who now lives in Eagan. She said many of her grandfather’s bucolic landscapes of Norway and Northfield, along with commissioned portraits of city leaders, hung in homes around Northfield. Wilson said his works also graced the walls of City Hall, St. John’s Church, the American Legion, the library, St. Olaf College and Carleton College.

Sletten often sold his paintings by using them in the window displays at the shoe store. Another down merchant, Karsten Grastredt, who owned a plumbing store, commissioned Sletten in 1930 to paint the fjord on his family’s Norwegian homestead.

That work was donated to the museum, Osterman said.

Occasionally, Sletten’s paintings would be incorporated into advertising campaigns, like the Douglas Shoe Store in 1905 that used his portrait of Theodore Roosevelt in an ad where the legendary hunter is looking at a sign stating: “No hunting unless you wear the Douglas shoe.”

Wilson said she enjoyed visiting the museum last fall with her four children. “I really liked the exhibit with the shoes,” Wilson said. “It reminded me of the time I wanted a pair of penny loafers but I was told they were bad for my feet. My grandfather knew how much I wanted a pair, so he put a strap across the top of my foot and off I went.”

Wilson, who was born in 1936, said she remembers walking into her grandfather’s shoe store on Division Street and seeing his artwork hang near the ceiling high above the rows of shoes. She remembers the big

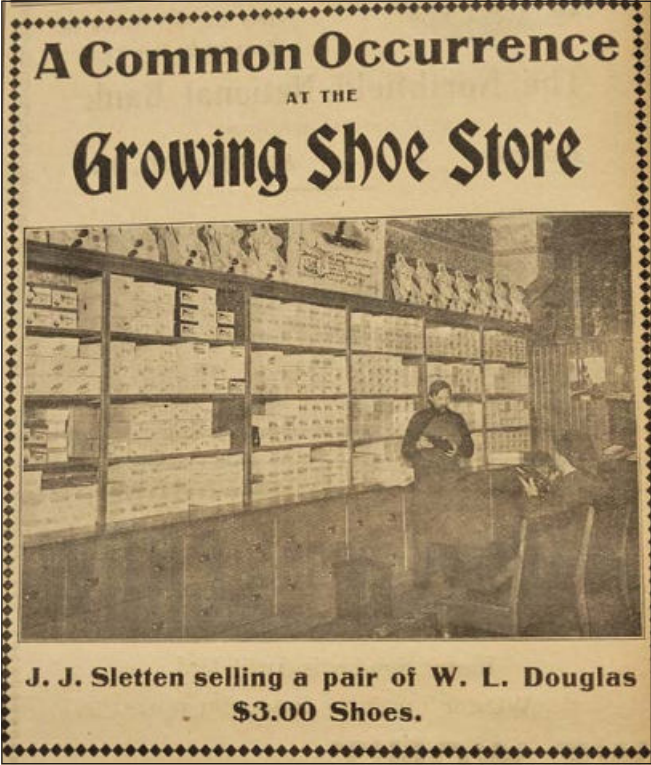
canvases like the one with the bear hunters.

She said she acquired an early appreciation for art growing up in Northfield. “My father was also an artist so we had art on every wall.”

Wilson said she particularly likes the portrait encased in glass in the exhibit that she has nicknamed “The Thinker.” The oil portrait shows a man at his desk with his head in his hands. “I think that is a self-portrait of my grandfather,” she said. “Some of the elements around him seem familiar like the books and the furniture from his study.”

For Janet’s daughter, Nancy Bauernfeind, seeing her great-grandfather’s artwork displayed in a museum exhibit was a special experience.

My siblings and I were able to view artwork of our Great-grandpa’s – some we had seen before, some we had not,” Bauernfeind said. “We were treated to hearing for the first time, the stories behind some of the paintings. I was thrilled to be able to share some



An old advertisement from the Northfield News archives featuring John J. Sletten’s downtown Northfield shoe store. (Pamela Thompson/southernminn.com)

items that were not just seen as ‘old’ but appreciated as items that were attached to a story — the story of my family.”

Her appreciation for history and love of Northfield may have grown even more, Bauernfeind explained. “Northfield has always been a part of my life, and I find myself always being drawn back to it. Hearing stories of J.J. Sletten and his life in Northfield, gave me even more reason to feel like I was truly home when I walked up and down Division Street and shopped in the stores that once housed the beginnings of family ties to Northfield.”

She said her daughter, a student at St. Olaf, recently began working in a shop directly across from the Historical Society, which gave her “a feeling of family history coming full circle.”

“The exhibit gives Northfield an opportunity to learn the history of the town beyond Jesse James and the colleges,” she said. “It personally gave me the desire to learn more about the impact of the Sletten family — all genera-

tions — on Northfield.”

While some of the artwork was loaned to the museum for the exhibit, Osterman said the NHS owns many of the pieces. Unfortunately, she said many of the paintings are damaged or distressed, including noticeable rips in the canvas, discoloration and chips and scratches in the oil paint.

Besides the large landscapes of Carleton College and St. Olaf College buildings, the exhibit includes Sletten’s self-portrait and a portrait of his second wife Helen Crary, whose family owned the bookstore across Division Street from Guess’ Shoe Shop, which later became Sletten’s Booterie.

“It’s been fun to watch people’s reactions to the art,” Osterman said. “Typically we are just seen as doing the bank robbery.”

Pamela Thompson is the associate editor for the Northfield News. Reach her at 507-645-1115 or pamela.thompson@apgsomn.com.



Sletten painted a variety of nature scenes including this lovely seascape. Pamela Thompson/southernminn.com)




Sletten painted “Bear Hunting” after copying a similar scene by the artist A.B. Frost. This large-scale work hung in Northfield’s City Hall for many years before arriving at the NHS museum. (Pamela Thompson/southernminn.com)


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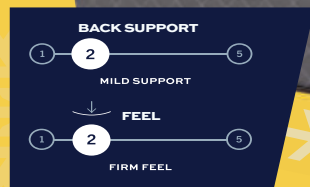
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010222 AB

HOCKEY

Stephes' late goal pushes conclusion of Big 9 title race until final game of regular season

By MICHAEL HUGHES
michael.hughes@apgsomn.com

The projected battle for the Big 9 Conference on Thursday night delivered on entertainment value and likely pushed any conclusion to the title race until the final day of the regular season.

That's because with 1 minute, 2 seconds remaining in the third period at Northfield Ice Arena, Northfield sophomore Isabelle Stephes fired a wrist shot from just below the blue line that deflected off something and into the back of Owatonna's net for a game-tying goal.

After eight minutes without a goal in overtime, Northfield (11-3-3, 4-0-1 Big 9 Conference) and Owatonna (8-6-2, 5-0-1) settled for a 2-2 tie to both stay undefeated against conference opponents. The rematch is scheduled for 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 5 in Owatonna.

"I think we really came out strong at the end," Stephes said. "Even with a tie, we really tried and came together, and it was good to score."

Stephes' goal capped a comeback for the Class AA No. 17 Raiders, who trailed 2-0 against the visiting Huskies. In the first period, Owatonna poked and poked away at a rebound until it cashed in on a 1-0 lead entering the first intermission.

The Huskies then executed a 2-on-1 rush with 13:30 left in the second period to snag a 2-0 lead. At the end of the second period, however, the momentum shifted.

Stephes won a face-off in the offensive zone and delivered the puck back to junior defender Lucy Boland.

Boland fired a wrist shot toward net, where it looked like the puck glanced off the crowd of players in front to redirect itself past Owatonna goalie Ava Wolfe.

"I actually haven't done face-offs in a while, so the one where our D scored it felt pretty good," Stephes said. "I was really happy for her and it was a good goal."

"We were talking about screening, getting in front and getting her eyes. That way we could get shots through and low shots we could get rebounds and stuff like that."

See HOCKEY on 2B



Northfield sophomores Grace McCoshen (11) and Isabelle Stephes (3) celebrate after Stephes' game-tying goal with 1:02 left in regulation. Northfield and Owatonna tied 2-2 Thursday at Northfield Ice Arena. (Michael Hughes/southernminn.com)

WRESTLING



Northfield senior Darrin Kuyper pins Owatonna's Jacob Reinardy during Thursday's 55-18 victory at Northfield High School. (Michael Hughes/southernminn.com)

Raiders race past Huskies for largest win in rivalry since 2016

By MIKE RANDLEMAN
editor@apgsomn.com

Northfield never intended for its home dual meet debut to come this late into the season, but it was worth the wait.

The Raiders hosted an individual tournament, their annual Larry Severson Invitational, on Dec. 18, but a pair of scheduled home duals Dec. 10 and Dec. 22 were postponed.

So, for Northfield — ranked No. 10 in the Jan. 13 Class 3A team rankings by theguillotine.com — it meant its Section IAAA and Big 9 Conference nemesis, Owatonna, was first dual on the docket at Northfield High School.

The Huskies walked into a hornet's nest Thursday, succumbing to the home squad by a 55-18 final score.

"The guys practiced hard, they got after it and, man, they showed it tonight," Northfield coach Geoff Staab said.

The two sides own four of the last five section team championships. They've squared off in plenty of thrilling matchups over the years.

On Thursday, it was lopsided. The Raiders walked away with the largest margin of victory in the rivalry since the Huskies were 40-point victors in December 2016.

The snowball began to roll downhill right away for Northfield (11-2, 4-0 Big 9) in the 106-pound weight class.

Really, momentum began to form the previous weekend. Northfield won five of six matches at The Clash, a dual tournament in La Crosse, Wisconsin that attracts a who's who of elite teams from across the midwest.

The battle-tested Raiders were ready to pounce on an Owatonna team (6-6, 4-2 Big 9) absent four regu-



Northfield freshman Ryan Kuyper won his match by fall during Thursday's 55-18 victory against Owatonna at Northfield High School. (Michael Hughes/southernminn.com)

lar contributors due to injury.

"They banded together since The Clash last week," Staab said. "They really came together as a team. We got healthy. They really got after it. Our guys practiced hard, they had the thing in their head that Owatonna's always a big rivalry for us. The last few years we're always in the mix and want to beat Owatonna."

Northfield seventh grader Caden Staab opened the night at 106 pounds with a 4-0 decision win against eighth grader Jayden Jirele.

"Staab's sharp, he's pretty well-rounded for so young," Owatonna coach Derek Johnson said. "For Jirele to come out and give him everything he had and take him to the wire, we were proud to see that. That was his first varsity match."

Freshman Keith Harner erased a 2-0 deficit after two periods to earn his team three more points with a 3-2 victory at 113 pounds over freshman Lane Karsten. That was one match the Huskies were counting on if they were

to hang around.

So was the next match at 120.

Freshman Logan Williams not only came out on top against eighth grader, Trey Hiatt, but had him pinned in 3 minutes, 3 seconds after leading 3-0.

"At 120, that's a huge win. Trey Hiatt's a good wrestler," Geoff Staab said. "We didn't quite know what was going to happen. Logan went out there and took him down twice, cradled him, pinned him."

No one earned more points than senior Beau Murphy in a 14-2 major decision at 126 over senior Jake Gronli.

The Raiders led 16-0 after the first four weight classes.

"We're feeling really good," Northfield senior Darrin Kuyper said. "Hopefully we can keep this energy going. We're all wrestling the best we have to wrestle."

Owatonna first got on the board at 132 with No. 4 junior Cael Robb winning by fall in the second period

against junior Brody Gorr.

The Raiders kept the Huskies from stringing together multiple wins in a row.

At 138, eighth grader Jackson Barron accrued an 8-0 lead before pinning senior Michael Bobo in 3:53.

There was plenty of familiarity between the two opponents at 145. Northfield senior No. 5 Jake Messner outlasted senior Kanin Hable in a 6-2 decision. Messner was in control with a 5-0 lead after two periods.

"I just knew I had to get the win," Messner said of his match, which pushed Northfield's lead to 25-6. "Me and my opponent, we've wrestled each other since elementary school. We're really good friends, we know each other really well. I knew what I had to do and I got the job done."

Northfield freshman Owen Murphy pinned freshman Charlie Seykora in 42 seconds to win at 152, and it wasn't the Raiders' quickest arm raise of the night.

At 160, junior Jayce Barron took Owatonna's top-ranked wrestler, senior Landen Johnson, to the second period before Johnson got the pin at 3:08.

The Kuyper brothers, Darrin and freshman Ryan, took nearly the same time to defeat their opponents at 170 and 182, respectively. Darrin earned a loud roar for pinning senior No. 6 Jake Reinardy in 1:28.

"He's a tough kid. I thought it was going to be a lot longer match than that," Darrin Kuyper said, adding that he saw his moment and was able to throw Reinardy on his back to clinch six points for his team.

See WRESTLING on 2B

GYMNASTICS

As Northfield gymnastics inches toward full strength, scores continue to grow

By MICHAEL HUGHES
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The process veered drastically off the blueprint, but Northfield gymnastics coach Zoe Ingersoll hopes the end result is the same. Maybe even better.

After the Raiders battled through a wave of COVID-19 that locked out half the team at one point emerging from the holiday break, the team is starting to tick back toward full strength.

With some of those projected varsity rotation members returning to the fold, plus the gains experienced by other gymnasts filling in, Ingersoll thinks the depth of her team has taken a sizable step forward.

"I wouldn't say we're back at full strength quite yet," Ingersoll said. "We have a couple individuals that only practiced a couple of days last week but are getting back into it more this week. Our scores have improved just from more consistency and routines. That one on one time with the individuals who were here when half the team was gone has been beneficial as well."

That's evident through the team scores from the past weekend, where Northfield competed Saturday at the star-studded Lakeville Invite and Monday night



Northfield's Jolee Harris executes a tumbling maneuver during her floor routine at the Faribault Invite at Faribault High School. (Michael Hughes/southernminn.com)

against Owatonna.

The Raiders finished 13th out of 15 teams in Lakeville and lost Monday's dual, but the team scores ranked as some of the highest of the season despite a

handful of falls and stumbles.

"The girls are feeling confident and seeing where they can go," Ingersoll said. "Even in the last couple meets with so many falls and scores that were uncharacteristic of them, they were still able to manage their season high throughout the weekend. I think that was really eye opening for them."

Jolee Harris and Alison Malecha have solidified themselves as all-around contributors so far this season, and this weekend Northfield enjoyed the return of varsity veterans Sidney Petersen and Paige Mier.

Others, like Inga Johnson, however, have taken advantage of the opportunity the past two weeks delivered to potentially carve out future varsity roles.

"Inga Johnson pretty clearly has moved up the last few weeks with people being gone, especially on beam and floor," Ingersoll said. "She performed at the Faribault Invite for us and didn't get the score she wanted with some falls, but she really practiced and through JV (Monday) night really stepped it up and performed really well. It's shown in her work ethic, as well"

In Monday's loss to Owatonna, Ingersoll said she was happy with Northfield's performance, even if the

final score was capped by a litany of small mistakes and missteps.

For now, that's all part of the process. So was the lead up to Monday's meet, which featured a team trip to Minneapolis to watch the Gophers gymnastics team take on UCLA.

"That really inspired them a lot they said," Ingersoll said.

For the next two weeks, the task is to clean up those routines. The Big 9 Conference championships are scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 5 at Rochester Century, with the Section IAA championships slated for Thursday, Feb. 10 at Rochester Mayo.

"Our team is always a little bit late to where we want to be," Ingersoll said. "We're always getting it in at the last minute, which is always a little bit nerve-racking, but it's also more exciting at the same time, I suppose."

"They hope they're in the running for state when we get there. We're definitely still just putting things together at this point. We have to stay on our feet without the falls and make sure we're connecting everything and gaining some confidence. I think that'll be really helpful for us going forward."

SPORTS

WEEKLY WRAP

Gators cruise to Section 1A True Team title, qualify for state

By MICHAEL HUGHES
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Backed by an astounding 65 season-best swims, the Northfield boys swimming and diving team cruised to the Section 1A True Team title Saturday afternoon at Northfield Middle School.

Even though, the diving was delayed until Monday afternoon, the 270-point lead the Gators built up over the next closest team Saturday meant the Section 1A championship already belonged to Northfield before a diver stepped on the boards Monday in Mankato.

After the diving was completed, Northfield finished with 1,243 points, well ahead of second-place Simley (1,021.5) and third-place Mankato East (970.5).

The Gators relied on all 22 swimmers that competed to build up that insurmountable lead. Those 22 swimmers averaged just over three season-best swims apiece Saturday, even with the maximum of four events each was eligible to participate in.

Nearly 50 of those 65 also qualified as lifetime-best swims.

Finishing on the top of the podium individually for Northfield were Jens Kasten in the 50-yard freestyle and 100 breaststroke, Owen Lehmkuhl in the 100 butterfly and the 200 freestyle relay team of Kasten, Lehmkuhl, Jeb Sawyer and Will Redetzke.

In three individual events, the Gators placed all four of their entrants in the top 10. In the 200 freestyle, Redetzke finished second, Garrett Gray fourth, Sawyer eighth and Aidan Hales ninth.

In the 100 backstroke, Connor Berndt sped to fourth, Evan Loe sixth, Josh Kraby seventh and Trevor Dell 10th. In the 100 breaststroke, Kasten motored to first, Peyton Truman to third, Franklin Hartwell to seventh and Gabe Heinritz to 10th

In a true team scoring format, that level of depth was overwhelming to the rest of the section. In total, the Gators recieved 22 individual top 10 finishes. Those are all listed below:

200 freestyle — Will Redetzke (2nd), Garrett Gray (4th), Jeb Sawyer (8th), Aidan Hales (9th).

200 individual medley — Owen Lehmkuhl (5th), Peyton Truman (6th), Oliver Momberg (8th).

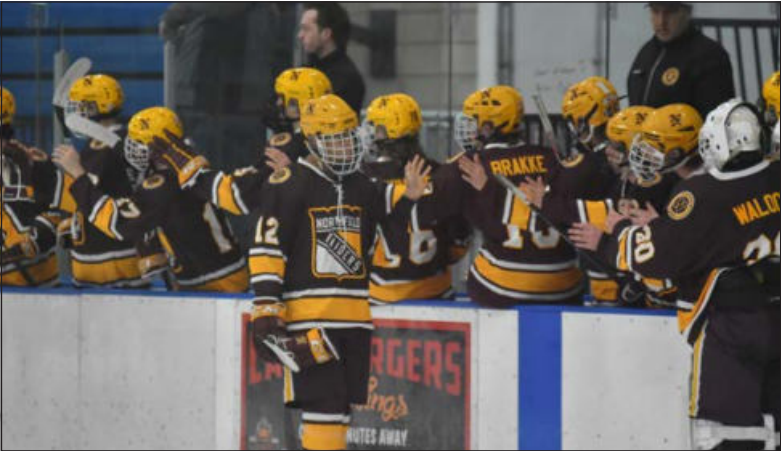
50 freestyle — Jens Kasten (1st).
100 butterfly — Owen Lehmkuhl (1st).
100 freestyle — Aidan Hales (5th), Jeb Sawyer (8th), Oliver Momberg (10th).

500 freestyle — Will Redetzke (2nd), Evan Loe (8th).

100 backstroke — Connor Berndt (4th), Evan Loe (6th), Josh Kraby (7th), Trevor Dell (10th).

100 breaststroke — Jens Kasten (1st), Peyton Truman (3rd), Franklin Hartwell (7th), Gabe Heinritz (8th).

With the first-place finish, Northfield earned one of six automatic qualifying spots into this Saturday's Class A True Team state championships at the University of Minnesota. With only six sections for Class A boys swimming, that left six wild-card spots up



Northfield sophomore Kamden Kaiser (12) celebrates after scoring his second goal in Thursday's 6-2 win at Owatonna. (Stephen McDaniel/south-ernminn.com)

for grabs, of which three were awarded to Section 1A teams (Simley, Mankato East and Winona).

Breck/Blake returns as the defending true team champions from 2020, while St. Thomas Academy and Hutchinson both traditionally place highly at state meets, along with Northfield.

The true team state meet is scheduled to begin at noon Saturday.

Boys swimming and diving: Northfield 97, Winona 86

Trailing by 17 points with three events remaining, the Northfield boys swimming and diving team was in need of a monumental comeback.

That's exactly what it received Thursday night in Winona, where the Gators erased that 17-point deficit to wind up claiming a 97-86 victory.

In the first of those final three events — the 100-yard backstroke — Northfield picked up first, second and fourth place from Connor Berndt, Josh Kraby and Evan Loe to snag 12 of the available 16 points in the event.

In the 100 breaststroke, the Gators finished first, second and third thanks to Jens Kasten, Peyton Truman and Franklin Hartwell to secure 13 of the available 16 points.

That meant entering the final event — the 400 freestyle relay — Winona's lead was down to one point, meaning whichever team won the race won the meet.

Northfield's A team of Will Redetzke, Oliver Momberg, Garrett Gray and Jeb Sawyer did just, while its B team of Nick Scheglowski, Adam Reisetter, Loe and Berndt finished second for an added sense of security.

"One of the more impressive runs that I have witnessed as a coach," Northfield coach Doug Davis said.

The Gators won a total of five events Thursday, with Erick Granquist claiming first in the 1-meter diving competition and Redetzke motoring to first in the 500 freestyle to add to the back-to-back-back victories to close the meet.

"We again posted many season/lifetime bests as our team continued to show resiliency, character, tenacity and teamwork," Davis said.

Northfield next competes in the Sec-

tion 1A True Team meet at noon Saturday at Northfield Middle School. The meet was originally scheduled to take place in Austin, but was moved to Northfield this week.

Boys hockey: Northfield 7, Rochester Century 1

A steady diet of goals allowed the Northfield boys hockey team to cruise to a 7-1 victory Saturday at Rochester Century.

The Raiders led 3-1 at the end of the first period and 5-1 entering the second intermission.

Senior Spencer Klotz led the way with a four-point night (one goal, three assists), while sophomore Jake Geiger scored twice and dished out an assist.

Other multi-point contributors included sophomore forwards Kamden Kaiser (one goal, one assist) and Cayden Monson (one goal, one assist).

Luke Johnson and Allen Royle both added a goal, and all of Mike Fossum, Ty Frank, Matthew DeBuse, Andrew Winter and Brayden Olsen finished with one assist.

The Raiders finished with just a 37-34 edge in shots, but notched the comfortable victory thanks to a 33-save performance from junior goalie Keaton Walock. Both teams finished 0-for-2 on the power play.

Northfield next travels to Winona on Saturday afternoon.

Boys hockey: Northfield 6, Owatonna 2

After a dominating first period, the Northfield boys hockey team continued to apply pressure throughout Thursday's 6-2 victory at Owatonna.

The Raiders posted a 10-1 shot advantage in the first period and finished with a 30-14 edge at the end of the night.

The Huskies stuck around by trailing only 2-1 at the end of the first period and 4-2 at the end of the second period.

Northfield's power play broke out of an extended drought by scoring three goals off five Owatonna penalties. The Huskies were called for a five-minute major penalty with 45 seconds left in the first period.

Sophomore Kamden Kaiser scored with 12 seconds remaining in the opening frame with assists from sophomore Jake Geiger and senior Spencer Klotz. The Raiders then

double-dipped the major penalty 17 seconds into the second period when Klotz scored off assists from Geiger and junior Michael Fossum.

Northfield also killed off all three power plays for Owatonna.

The Raiders also benefited from scoring throughout its lineup, with Brayden Olsen tallying his first varsity goal 2:13 into the game with an assist from Cullen Merritt to provide a 1-0 lead.

In the second period, junior Gabe Sawyer scored his first goal since Dec. 21 with assists from Klotz and Allen Royle to push the advantage to 4-2 for the Raiders.

In the third period, Kaiser and Klotz added their second goals, with both picking up assists on each other's goals. Fossum and Royle also tallied their second assists of the game in the third period.

In net, Keaton Walock stopped 12 of the 14 shots he faced to pick up the win.

Nordic ski: Northfield faces state's best at Loppet Invite

Competing Saturday in the premier high school nordic skiing competition, the Northfield boys finished 13th out of 16 teams and the girls slotted into 16th out of 16 at the Loppet Invite at Theodore Wirth Regional Park in Minneapolis.

Forest Lake won the boys competition ahead of St. Paul Highland Park and Eden Prairie, while St. Paul Highland Park claimed the girls title ahead of Forest Lake and St. Louis Park.

The highlight of the day came from Northfield junior Sam Folland, who placed sixth overall out of 41 entrants in the classic race. Folland posted a time of 14 minutes, 2.34 seconds to win the second of three heats. Carter Schlomann finished 37th and Grant Waslaski nabbed 41st in the boys classic race.

In the girls classic race Liv Fossum snagged 33rd and Charlotte Flory finished 37th out of 43 entrants. In the girls skate race, Clara Lippert grabbed 35th, with Alexa Fodor and Ani Gottfried finishing 43rd and 44th.

In the boys skate race, Nathan Amundson led the Raiders in 22nd place out of 43 entrants, with Grant Argabright and Liam Ailabouni finishing 38th and 39th.

Northfield also entered a pair of boys skate relay teams, with the duo of Zach Broden and Andy Amundson finishing 22nd and the team of Braylon Larish and Will Beaumaster finishing 26th.

Alpine ski: Northfield makes long-awaited debut

At long last, the Northfield boys and girls alpine ski teams made their competitive debuts this winter during a competition Tuesday, Jan. 11 at Mount Kato Ski Area.

The girls snagged second out of six team, while the boys team finished fifth out of six teams.

"It's nice that we have depth in our lineup," Northfield coach Tracy Closson said about the girls team. "We had a few mishaps and were able to still finish strong in second place. Camryn Zotalis (Red Wing)

and Ella Hegseth had very strong finishes. Probably the best racing that I have seen out of these two ever."

The boys team featured only four finishers, the minimum amount of skiers needed to register a team score.

"The rest of the team completed two runs, which I am very proud of," Closson said.

Northfield's girls results are listed below:

Place, name, first run, second run, total time, points scored
3. Camryn Zotalis, 23.38 (2), 24.57 (6), 47.95 (3), 51.

5. Ella Hegseth, 24.57 (7), 24.17 (5), 48.74 (5), 49.

14. Karina Johnson, 26.95 (13), 28.38 (21), 55.33 (14), 40.

18. Karli Zetah, 28.07 (20), 28.80 (24), 56.87 (18), 36.

21. Katherine Nesseth, 29.40 (25), 28.68 (23), 58.08 (21), 33.

37. Alivia Kortuem, 32.28 (36), 36.28 (41), 1:08.56 (37), 17.

44. Clara Wilson, 23.40 (3), 55.96 (50), 1:19.36 (44), 10.

48. Sydney Swedin, 30.54 (31), 53.33 (49), 1:23.87 (48), 6.

Northfield's boys results are listed below:

Place, name, first run, second run, total time, points scored

8. Kingsley Alsop, 23.55 (11), 21.98 (7), 45.53 (8), 45.

18. Carter Steenblock, 27.52 (26), 25.22 (20), 52.74 (18), 35.

25. Jack Peterson, 31.68 (36), 29.65 (30), 1:01.33 (28), 25.

33. Nolan Feldhake 36.67 (39), 35.63 (35), 1:12.30 (33), 20.

Boys basketball: Northfield 95, Albert Lea 52

After a 65-point eruption in the first half, the Northfield boys basketball team cruised the rest of the way in a 95-52 victory at Albert Lea (1-8, 0-6 Big 9 Conference) on Tuesday, Jan. 11.

The Raiders (6-4, 4-3) led 65-29 at halftime.

Soren Richardson led the way with 36 points thanks to converting on 24 of 19 field goals, 5 of 8 3-pointers and 3 of 3 free throws. Tate Journell added 16 points, Ian Stanton scored 10 and Haden Kelly piled up 11 seconds-half points to put his name on the varsity scoresheet for the first time.

Charlie Monaghan and Isaiah Mahal both notched their first varsity points as well.

Girls basketball: Albert Lea 47, Northfield 34

The Northfield girls basketball was unable to find the range in a 47-34 loss Tuesday, Jan. 11 against Albert Lea at Northfield High School.

The Tigers led 24-14 at halftime.

The Raiders finished the game shooting 22.5% from the field, including a 3-for-17 mark from inside the arc.

HOCKEY

From Page 1B

In the third period, Stephe shifted out of her starting position at center. In search of a spark, Northfield — which was without head coach Paige Haley due to illness — jumbled its line combinations.

The result was eighth grade defender Mia Miller moving up to center a line with Stephe now on the wing. The new combination worked, as Stephe's line con-

tinually pressured Owatonna's defensive zone throughout the third period.

That pressure boiled over with 1:02 left in the third period, when Stephe's wrist shot found its way into the back of the net.

"I trust our coaches and they know what they're talking about," Stephe said. "When we got switched, we all just tried to make the best of it and work with the people that were on our line. I thought it worked pretty good."

The goal shifts attention to what's now shaping up to be a winner-take-all game Feb. 5 in

Owatonna. Both the Raiders and Huskies have one game remaining against Mankato East, the only other conference foe to reasonably challenge both teams this year.

Assuming both teams manage to survive unscathed until Feb. 5, a clash for the Big 9 Conference title and a seeding advantage in Section 1AA is on the line.

"This is like a section game in that what happens in this game really matters for what's coming up," Stephe said. "We have a lot of things that we can work on, but we learned a lot in this game and it's going to help us."

LOCAL SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, JAN. 20

Northfield boys swimming and diving at Owatonna, 6 p.m.
Northfield dance at Tri-City United Invite, 7 p.m.

Northfield girls basketball at Faribault, 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JAN. 21

Northfield alpine ski at Welch Invite, 9 a.m.
Northfield, Dassel-Cokato wrestling at St. Michael-Albertville, 5 p.m.
Northfield gymnastics at Winona, 6:30 p.m.

Faribault boys basketball at Northfield, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 22

Northfield dance at Big 9 Conference championships, noon, Faribault High School
Northfield boys swimming and diving at Class A True Team state

championships, noon, University of Minnesota
Northfield boys hockey at Winona, 2 p.m.

Northfield girls basketball at Winona, 3 p.m.
Winona girls hockey at Northfield, 7:15 p.m.

MONDAY, JAN. 24

Northfield nordic ski at South Suburban Conference meet, 3 p.m., Hyland Lake Park Reserve

TUESDAY, JAN. 25

Northfield girls hockey at Mankato East, 7:15 p.m.
Mankato East boys hockey at Northfield, 7:15 p.m.

Rochester John Marshall girls basketball at Northfield, 7:30 p.m.
Northfield boys basketball at Rochester John Marshall, 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JAN. 27

Northfield, Faribault wrestling at

Albert Lea, 5:30 p.m.

Faribault boys swimming and diving at Northfield, 6 p.m.
Northfield girls hockey at Albert Lea, 7:15 p.m.

Albert Lea boys hockey at Northfield, 7:15 p.m.

FRIDAY, JAN. 28

Red Wing gymnastics at Northfield, 6:30 p.m.
Mankato West girls basketball at Northfield, 7:30 p.m.

Northfield boys basketball at Mankato West, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 29

Northfield dance at Mounds View Invite, TBD
Northfield wrestling at Lake City Invite, 10 a.m.

Rochester Mayo girls hockey at Northfield, 7:15 p.m.
Northfield boys hockey at Rochester Mayo, 7:15 p.m.

WRESTLING

From Page 1B

The applause heightened when Ryan pinned freshman Blake Fitcher in 1:30.

The next two Raider victories also came by fall. At 195, senior Nickolas Mikula found his rhythm in the second period to pin senior Andrew Nirk at 2:29.

Senior Mason Pagel pinned freshman Lucas Smith in nine seconds at 220.

"Whenever Mason storms out there, you know it's going to be a quick match," Darrin Kuyper said.

Owatonna claimed the 285 class with senior Mason Krampitz producing a second-period pin against junior Joseph Schulz.

There are few breaks on the schedule for Northfield.

Next up is a road trip Jan. 20 to the top-ranked team in the state, St. Michael-Albertville.

Exactly a week later, Northfield squares off in a triangular at Big 9 contender, Albert Lea, with another conference unbeaten and Section 1AAA threat, Faribault, in attendance.

The Raiders are eager for more challenges like these.

"We're ready," Messner said. "We're ready for anybody."

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NORTHFIELD AREA

FRIDAY NIGHT

SPORTS WRAP UP

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Do your Research

You should never walk in and wing an interview for a job you really want. You want to be as confident as you can be walking into the interview.

To do, that you need to research the position and the company you are applying to. Here are some tips to help you know what and why to research.

Research the Position

Researching the position you are applying for gives you an edge during the interviewing process. Knowing the jobs helps you answer those hypothetical "if you were hired how would you ..." questions more effectively and also helps you develop better questions to ask your interviewer. You should never go into an interview and wing it, especially for a position you really want. Research the

position on the internet, search for videos that show examples of what you may be doing or reach out to people you may know who have the same position at a different company. Make sure you know all the work the job may include.

Research your Employer

It's equally as important to research your potential employer and find out what others are saying about the company you are applying to. You want to research their culture, mission statement and company values to see if they align with what you think are yours. After all, you will be working at this company for a long time. Make sure the company is one you are happy with and are proud to be part of. Researching your employer will also help you find out what your employer really care about, prioritizes and will help you figure out if you want to be there. Researching also helps you determine whether the

company is a right fit for you.

Research the Work

If you are applying for a position and are unsure of what you would be doing, it's important to research the work the company you are applying to has done. Researching will allow you to see the impact the company has made in your community, in the world and for its employees.

Does the company do meaningful work? Do they have a résumé full of jobs that have impacted others positively? Are those qualities that matter to you and are important in a job you are applying for?

Ask Questions

The interview process isn't only a chance for employers to ask you questions. It's also a chance for you to get to know your potential employers. If you research before the interview process, it will give you a chance to show them how interested you are in the position by asking thoughtful questions.

Ask insightful questions that show your interviewer you did your homework. Questions that ask more than "How long have you been in business?" or "Who are your main competitors?"

Ask questions that show insight such as "I saw your core values on your website were X, how would this position demonstrate that value?"

These kinds of questions show you are more invested in being apart of the company than being an individual in the company.



Getting Interview Experience

When you're looking for work and trying to keep the lights on at the same time, it's not atypical to blast your resume all over the place in hopes one of them sticks. You're called for an interview, but beforehand you discover it's a job you don't really want. What to do? Glassdoor advises it's better to go ahead and show up. Good things might happen nonetheless.

Go for the interview experience

Attending job interviews can be nerve-wracking, so

the more experience you have under your belt, the more confidence you're apt to gain. Candidates are often advised to do trial runs before attending actual interviews, so if you're invited to meet with a company you don't think you'll end up working for, you can use that interview as a test run of sorts in order to do better in the future.

Expanding your network can help

Attending the occasional needless interview, so to speak, can actually help your career in the long run because every interview you go on gives you the chance to meet new people and make new connections, and that, in turn, can lead to different opportunities down the line.

It's amazing what happens when you show up

You might decide you do want the job. If you're willing to take the time to attend an interview, you might find that the job in question is more appealing than you thought.

A better job at the company might become available

If you go into an interview for a job you're convinced you don't want, there's a good chance that you'll walk away from that interview feeling the same way. But if you manage to wow the people you talk to at that company, there's a good chance they'll contact you the next time a better opportunity opens up.



Information Technology Systems Administrator

The Owatonna Public Utilities (OPU) has an opening for an IT Systems Administrator. This position is responsible for the administration of OPU's CSM/CIS System (NISC) and associated computerized systems/hardware. The environment includes technologies such as Microsoft, Windows Servers, Microsoft SQL servers and Microsoft Clustering technologies. Identify, evaluate and develop database solutions (SSIS) and reports (SSRS) that enhance the technical infrastructure. Also includes Mobile Device Management Systems (Intune), Phone system support, Security (iVUE, AD), reporting (Power BI, Crystal Reports, SSRS) and end user training. Provides technical assistance (troubleshooting hardware/software) to employees.

Qualifications for this position are the following:

- BS Degree in Computer Science or 2 year Associates Degree in Computer Science plus 2 years related work experience is required.
- Experience: Two (2) years' work experience in IT with a BS Degree in Computer Science. Four (4) years' work experience in IT with a 2 year Associates Degree in Computer Science.
- Experience in host operating and networking environments to provide all required functions and services, estimating & monitoring required hardware, coding & executing of administration jobs and monitoring and archiving backup files.
- Maintain documentation for all technical infrastructures.
- Business Intelligence a plus.
- Knowledge of the Utility industry is desired.

Salary Range is: \$67,863.74 to \$89,294.40.

If interested, more information and an employment application can be obtained from our website at www.owatonnautilities.com. Applications deadline is 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 26, 2022.

Return applications to: Marge.Madson@owatonnautilities.com
Human Resources
Owatonna Public Utilities
208 S. Walnut Avenue
P.O. Box 800
Owatonna, MN 55060 or
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Meter Serviceworker

The Owatonna Public Utilities (OPU) has an opening for a Meter Serviceworker. Duties of this position include the collection, transfer and editing of meter readings from the field to billing. Inventory, install, replace, test, calibrate and repair all devices involved with the measurement of electricity, water, natural gas including Advance Metering Infrastructure (AMI) as OPU is transitioning to AMI. Responds to customer service calls regarding metering issues, as well as, performs disconnection of utility services.

Qualifications for this position are the following:

- 2-year Technical College degree is require, ie. metering, electronics, electricity, natural gas, or other related degree.
- Work experience with an AMI metering at a Utility is desired.
- 2-years work experience in the utility metering field is required. Other combinations of training and/or documented experience will be considered.
- Advanced knowledge of computer fundamentals to include windows operating system. Proficient at Microsoft Word and Excel.
- Knowledge of blue prints & schematics; used for testing & maintaining meters.
- Valid Class "D" Minnesota Driver's License is required.

Salary range is: \$29.59/hr. to \$38.94/hr.

If interested, more information and an employment application can be obtained from our website at www.owatonnautilities.com.
Application deadline is 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 26, 2022.

Return applications to:

Marge.Madson@owatonnautilities.com
Human Resources
Owatonna Public Utilities
208 S. Walnut Avenue
P.O. Box 800
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A professional HVAC technician is shown working inside a metal duct. The technician is wearing a blue cap, a white respirator mask with yellow straps, and a light blue polo shirt. They are holding a blue flexible hose that is connected to a large, green, circular air filter. The duct is made of metal and has a corrugated section in the background. The text "HIRE A PRO" is overlaid at the top in large, white, bold letters with a blue shadow.A man with glasses, wearing a grey blazer over a yellow shirt and khaki pants, stands in a classroom. He is holding a black pen in his hands. Behind him is a chalkboard filled with various mathematical diagrams and formulas, including a triangle with height 'h' and base 'b', a rectangle with width 'w' and length 'L', and the formula $A = L$. The text "FIND YOUR PASSION" is overlaid in large, bold, white capital letters in the top right corner. The foreground shows the backs of several students' heads and shoulders, suggesting a classroom setting.

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General Employment

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Hi Quality Bakery in Cannon Falls, MN is looking to hire a Lead Baker for their retail bakery. The Lead Baker will lead the production team and processes for the wholesale and retail bakery. Weigh and mix ingredients for nightly production process. Ensure baked goods are completed for wholesale and retail orders as well as for the retail store. Compensation will be based on education and/or experience starting at \$23/hour. Hours range from 25-40 hours per week, 5 days per week. We are closed on Sundays and Mondays.



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Public Notices

Public Notice
Northfield Township
February 2022 Meeting Change
The February 2022 regular monthly meeting of the Northfield Township Board will be held at 7:00 p.m., on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at the Northfield Township Hall. This is a change from the regular meeting night due to a schedule conflict.
Northfield Township Board of Audit
The Northfield Township Board will audit the 2021 financial records of the township during the regular township meeting on Wednesday, February 9, 2022.
Diane Lyman
Northfield Township Clerk
112721 1/19 NN

School District No. 659

Summary of Special School Board Meeting

December 22, 2021

Northfield District Office Boardroom

Board Chair Julie Pritchard called the Special meeting of the Northfield Board of Education of Independent School District 659 to order at 5:15 p.m. Present: Baraniak, Butler, Gonzalez-George, Pritchard, Quinnell and Stratmoen. Absent: Goerwitz. On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Quinnell, the agenda was approved. This meeting was open to the public, recorded, and access to the recording was posted to the school district website.

Items for Individual Action

Resolution Designating Hand Benefits & Trust Company As Health Reimbursement Arrangement Trustee. On a motion by Butler, seconded by Baraniak, the board designated Hand Benefits & Trust Company as the Trustee of the Northfield Public Schools ISD 659 HRA Trust effective January 1, 2022 and Removed Matrix Trust Company as the Designated Trustee. On a roll call vote, voting 'yes' was Baraniak, Butler, Gonzalez-George, Pritchard, Quinnell and Stratmoen. No one voted 'no'. Absent: Goerwitz.

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Baraniak, the board adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

The above is a summary of meeting proceedings. The complete minutes are available at www.northfieldschools.org and on file and available for review in the District Office, 201 Orchard Street South.

113153 1/19 NN



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School District No. 659

Summary of Regular School Board Meeting

December 13, 2021

Northfield District Office Boardroom

Board Chair Julie Pritchard called the Regular meeting of the Northfield Board of Education of Independent School District 659 to order at 7:00 p.m. Present: Baraniak, Butler, Gonzalez-George, Goerwitz, Pritchard, Quinnell and Stratmoen. Absent: None. This meeting was open to the public, live-streamed and recorded, and access to the recording was posted to the school district website.

On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Goerwitz, the board approved the agenda. There was public comment and an announcement.

Director of Finance Val Mertesdorf presented the proposed payable 2022 property tax levy followed by the opportunity for public comment. There was no public comment. She reviewed the current year's revised general fund budget and an updated financial forecast. Craig Popenhagen, Principal with CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP, presented the results of the 2020-21 fiscal year audit. The auditors issued a clean opinion on financial statements with no comments, and issued a clean audit report with no findings in the internal controls, financial reporting, or preparation of the audit papers. Superintendent Hillmann presented an operations and COVID-19 update and Director Mertesdorf provided an update on federal COVID funds.

Items for Consent Agenda. On a motion by Goerwitz, seconded by Stratmoen, the board approved the consent agenda which included minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on Nov. 22, 2021, gift agreements, financial reports and personnel items.

Items for Individual Action

FY2021 Audit. On a motion by Baraniak, seconded by Stratmoen, the board approved the FY21 audit.
Certify Final 2021 Payable 2022 Tax Levy. On a motion by Butler, seconded by Goerwitz, the board certified to County Auditors the 2021 Payable 2022 Final Certified Levy Limitation and Certification Report in the amount of \$20,009,247.48 which represents a 1.50% decrease from the prior year.

Fiscal Year 2021-2022 General Fund Budget Revision. On a motion by Goerwitz, seconded by Butler, the board approved the revised 2021-22 general fund budget. The adopted general fund revenue and expenditure budget for FY22 was \$57,741,045 and \$59,892,883 respectively. The recommended revised budget for FY22 is revenues of \$58,488,013 and expenditures of \$61,030,394. The major factors contributing to these changes include the final audited data from FY21, coronavirus relief funding, enrollment data, COVID protocol expenses, and increased health insurance premiums.

School Resource Officer Agreement. On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Stratmoen, the board approved the School Resource Officer agreement with the City of Northfield for the 2022-2024 calendar years. Voting 'yes' was Baraniak, Butler, Goerwitz, Pritchard, Quinnell and Stratmoen. Voting 'no' was Gonzalez-George.

Start Time for School Board Meetings. On a motion by Baraniak, seconded by Gonzalez-George, the board approved to begin regular board meetings at 6:00 p.m. instead of 7:00 p.m. and to modify Policy 203 Operation of the School Board Bylaws that regular school board meetings are adjourned at or before 9:00 p.m. whenever possible instead of 10:00 p.m. beginning in January 2022.

Five-Year Strategic Plan. On a motion by Baraniak, seconded by Gonzalez-George, the board approved the 2027 Five-Year Strategic Plan. Voting 'yes' was Baraniak, Butler, Goerwitz, Gonzalez-George, Pritchard and Stratmoen. Voting 'no' was Quinnell.

Additional Educational Assistant Support for the 2021-22 school year. On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Gonzalez-George, the board approved additional elementary educational assistant positions for the remainder of the 2021-22 school year.

Superintendent Hillmann provided an update on enrollment.

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Goerwitz, the board adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

The above is a summary of meeting proceedings. The complete minutes are available at www.northfieldschools.org and on file and available for review in the District Office, 201 Orchard Street South.

113152 1/19 NN



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EDITOR'S
CHOICE



WINTER CHARM ON THE FARM

22-JAN Winter Charm on the Farm Waseca 11 a.m.-3 p.m. "Horse Drawn Wagon Rides, Snow Painting, Winter Walking Tours, Snowshoe Trails, Cross Country Skiing, Campfire, smores and Hot Cocoa. Admission is \$5 per person in advance online." <https://go.evnt.com/974735-0> editor@southernminnscene.com

CARDBOARD CLASSIC

JANUARY 22ND
STRAIGHT RIVER PARK

CARDBOARD CLASSIC

EDITOR'S
CHOICE

22-JAN Medford Cardboard Classic "Straight River Park, Fourth Avenue SW, Medford" 12-5 p.m. "Different classes for different age groups. Awards to first two sleds in each class. Contest for best design, too. Teams of two should create their sleds prior to this event. See rules online." <https://go.evnt.com/993691-0> medfordmncivclub@gmail.com

SYMPHONIC SERIES: RUSSIAN TREASURES



EDITOR'S
CHOICE

23-JAN Symphonic Series: Russian Treasures "Saint Peter High School, 2121 Broadway Ave., Saint Peter" 3-5 p.m. The Mankato Symphony Orchestra will accompany the Academy Award-winning animated film Peter and the Wolf. This concert is truly a treasure trove of fantasy-style masterpieces. Tickets online. <https://go.evnt.com/993684-0> mso@mankatosymphony.org

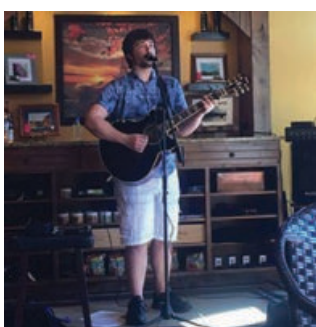
20-JAN The Jorgensens

"Kelly's Lake House Bar & Grill, 1702 N. Lakeshore Drive, Lake City" 5-9 p.m. "An acoustic duo, the two troubadours teamed up to record Brianna's debut album 'Wandering' with Kurt acting as producer and arranger for Brianna's multi-instrumentalist talents. It did not take long for the pair to team up as songwriters and performers to form as a team in life on and off stage. The sound is powerful and undeniably fresh, taking root in rock, blues and some southern kissed Americana soul." bandsintown.com



22-JAN Luke Smith

"Foremost Brewing Cooperative, 131 W. Broadway St., Owatonna" 1-5 p.m. "Luke Smith is a baritone singer-songwriter from Faribault Minnesota. He started playing guitar at the age of 13, and briefly attended McNally Smith College of Music where he discovered a passion for songwriting. He writes folk / pop music. In 2014 he self-recorded his debut release: the 'High & Dry EP.'" bandsintown.com



22-JAN Mark Ross & the Three-Nineteen

"Celts Pub, 200 Third St., Farmington" 7-11 p.m. "Mark Ross & the Three-Nineteen are an Americana/Alt Country band from Southern Minnesota. The influences of the music range from Jason Isbell, Ryan Adams, Turnpike Troubadours, Counting Crows, Sturgil Simpson and more." bandsintown.com



22-JAN PopROCKS!

"Torge's Live Sports Pub & Grill, 1701 Fourth St. NW., Austin" 9 p.m.-Jan. 23, 1 a.m. "What is PopROCKS!? It's not just a band. It's a high energy show. Pop ROCKS brings you the best of today's hottest top 40 hits, throwback hip-hop, pop country, party rock and timeless classics all mashed up and delivered in a non stop format. The music of a DJ. The theatrics of a Broadway musical. The live energy of an Arena Rock show." bandsintown.com



22-JAN
Hockey Day Minnesota
in Mankato
Mankato 8 a.m.-11:30 p.m. "Live games, featuring Edina vs Andover girls, East Grand Forks vs Prior Lake boys and then MNSU vs St. Thomas Division 1 men's games. Wild stream and Shane Martin Band at 8 p.m. Tickets online." <https://go.evnt.com/974751-0> editor@southernminnscene.com



22-JAN Dinner and Stand Up Comedy

"Cannon River Winery, 421 Mill St. W., Cannon Falls" 5:30-10 p.m. "An evening of food, friends, wine, and a huge helping of belly laughs. This event makes a great gift and is the perfect cure for January cabin fever. Tickets available online." <https://go.evnt.com/993696-0> info@cannonriverwinery.com



22-JAN Wayne and the Boys

"Minnesota Wing King, 43539 French Hill Road, Saint Peter" 7-10 p.m. "Join for fun and songs for everyone. Great food, drinks and atmosphere. Wayne and the Boys is a one-man-band from Coon Rapids Minnesota featuring a wide variety of music from a list of over 900 songs." <https://go.evnt.com/993686-0> wayne61348@msn.com



22-JAN Smokescreen Live "Blue Moon Bar and Grill, 300 S. Webster St., Kasota" 9-11:59 p.m. Smokescreen will offer its rock music to the Blue Moon for the night. <https://go.evnt.com/993700-0>

Reach Editor Philip Weyhe at editor@southernminnscene.com or 507-931-8579 or follow him on Twitter @EditorPhilipWeyhe. ©Copyright 2021 APG Media of Southern Minnesota. All rights reserved.

ARTS CENTER OF SAINT PETER: Souper Bowl solutions in the works

By ANN ROSENQUIST FEE
Guest Columnist

Well thank goodness this pandemic has made itself comfy in the guest room of our figurative homes, because how else would the Arts Center of Saint Peter get to refine our no-soup Souper Bowl?

In 2020, of course, COVID showed up and the world shut down the day before our traditional winter fundraiser (known as "Souper Bowl" because it involves soup and bowls, and at one point it coincided with football season, a pairing we still find hilarious), so we canceled.

Last year, we threw a pandemic-proof Souper Bowl that allowed small, socially distanced groups of advance ticket-holders to purchase bowls filled not with actual soup but with coupons from the St. Peter Food Co-Op & Deli and Patrick's on Third — the best we could do at a time when nobody wanted to be shoulder-to-shoulder in a small space serving or sipping soup, no matter how lovely the bowl or how good the cause.

This year, we're doing some form of a bowl sale at the Arts Center on Thursday, March 17, with some kind of advance ticket system and some kind of coupons, instead of soup, and some kind of fundraising goal and some kind of formula — like, any minute now, one of us will come up with it — to arrive at the number of bowls we need to create in order to make the goal despite that we're still restricting the number of potters who can use the clay studio simultaneously, so bowl-making is a less-festive, solitary, asynchronous process versus the feel-good throw-a-thons that formerly preceded the biggest event of our year (in regular years, in the pre-pandemic before-times).

Would this degree of uncertainty a mere eight weeks from game day have previously given us hives? Oh you bet. But we, like many artists and other survivalists, have recalibrated to all-new standards of what



ROSENQUIST
FEE



Stephanie Thull, left, and Emily Stark observing pandemic protocols at Souper Bowl 2021. (Photo courtesy of Arts Center of Saint Peter)

successful planning and follow-through look like. If you, too, have let this natural disaster retool your expectations in terms of what happens when and how much info you really need in advance, then join us in reserving some amount of time on Thursday, March 17, to attend a Souper Bowl event during some stretch of the afternoon, in our gallery, where you'll spend some amount of money to support the Arts Center and indulge yourself in one or more artful, unique, locally produced bowls. That's the one sure thing—the quality. As noted, the process has shifted from a group effort to a solitary one in which photos and group chats are the potters' only real means of encouraging and influencing each other. We weren't sure how that change would show up in the look and feel of the bowls last year, but as it turned out, the shapes and colors were some of the most stunning we'd seen in the event's 25-ish year history.

So please, save the date. Gorgeous bowls are guaranteed. As for the rest, keep watch at artscentersp.org and "Arts Center of Saint Peter" on Facebook, and we'll let you know just as soon as we do.

— Ann Rosenquist Fee is the executive director of the Arts Center of Saint Peter.

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The February edition will be inserted into your paper either on January 26th or 27th.

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