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Paintings and pottery

Two Perham students honored at college art fair

By Elizabeth Vierkant
Perham Focus

Two young artists from Perham High School, junior Dana Arenivar and sophomore Amanda Jorgenson, were recently awarded for their artistic talents at the Minnesota State University of Moorhead School of Art's Art-A-Fair exhibition, receiving Honorable Mentions out of 250 other works from across the tri-state region.

"To be honest, I was really not expecting it," Arenivar said. "I felt so happy. It was so amazing to be respected that way. You feel like all your hard work got recognition, and you feel special."

Both Arenivar and Jorgenson received invitations from their art teacher to attend the fair, where they got to participate in art workshops with college professors and students, look at other students' art pieces and enter the art competition in various categories.

"It was really cool," Jorgenson said. "Since I knew (the art pieces) were going into categories, I thought there was a chance I could win. I was, like, sitting there shaking. And then they called my name, and everybody from our school was cheering me on."

While both Arenivar and Jorgenson create art simply because they enjoy it, they were still honored to be recognized. Jorgenson's winning piece, "A Set of Daisies," is a pottery set adorned with white daisies. Arenivar's winning piece, "Compañero (companion)," is an oil painting of a girl on horseback in the desert, riding toward a sunset in the distance.

"Compañero" was based on a dream Arenivar had, where she was the girl riding the horse.

"I didn't know where I was going, but I knew how free I felt, like I could go anywhere" she said, recalling her dream. "And I could

"I felt so happy. It was so amazing to be respected that way."

**DANA ARENIVAR,
ON WINNING
HONORABLE MENTION
AT THE ART-A-FAIR**

feel a connection to the horse, and it was so beautiful."

Not only did she want to illustrate the desert and sunset she envisioned, but she also wanted to show how the dream made her feel a sense of freedom and connection with the only other creature around her: the horse.

Whenever she creates, she said, her goal is to illustrate a feeling — to make it come to life. She's inspired by visuals all around her, from special effects in movies to stories about friends' vacations. She's always been drawn toward creating shapes, ever since she was little and growing up in the state of Chihuahua, Mexico.

"When I was 5 years old, I remember that I used to ask my mom if she had any little pieces of paper," Arenivar said. "I asked my dad for pencils and would always use them. I began to sketch things on paper. They didn't have any shape. It's not about drawing something for me, it's more about the feeling of sketching something."

As she grew up, she began to view the world differently, in shapes and shades. Then, when she entered high school, she discovered painting and fell in love. Arenivar hopes to be a professional artist one day, as well as a dietitian. She can't imagine her life without either of those passions.

Jorgenson, who lives on a dairy farm near Frazee, has always enjoyed doing small crafts, such as painting her nails. She likes to spend her time with animals and walking around in nature.

"I like flowers," she said. "When I go for a

ART: Page 11



Rebecca Mitchell / Perham Focus

Perham Area Community Center Executive Director Leigh Shebeck points to the in-progress construction area that will soon be a new child watch and playland center at the PACC. The three-story playland structure is set to open by fall 2022.

Construction is on track at the PACC

'Fit-up' project slated for completion by the end of this year

By Rebecca Mitchell
Perham Focus

The Perham Area Community Center's "fit-up" project is on target to meet its goal of completion by the end of 2022.

The fit-up complements two other recent and significant improvement projects in Perham — at the nearby HUB and gymnastics center.

Construction at the PACC began in March 2021 and has worked around school schedules and prime workout times to remain at least partially open to the public throughout. Several sections of the building were improved upon or added to, or are still under construction, as part of the project, including an updated pool area and locker rooms, which are already done, as well as fitness areas, a therapy pool and a giant indoor playland for kids.

"The goal's been to try and keep as much open as we could," said Leigh Shebeck, the PACC's executive



Contributed / PACC / Perham Focus

This designer's rendering shows what the front exterior of the Perham Area Community Center will look like at night, once updates are complete.

"It's something Perham has definitely wanted for a while."

PACC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LEIGH SHEBECK, ON THE NEW KIDS' PLAYLAND

director.

When it comes time to move the fitness equipment to its new location, the plan is to offer some equipment

in a temporary spot, so PACC users will never be without. And the upcoming closure of the fieldhouse was coordinated with community stakeholders like members of the local pickleball club and athletic leaders at Perham Public Schools.

First off the PACC's project list was the swimming pool and locker room area, which was closed last summer

as some of the major work was being done. The pool was updated with new flooring, tiles and drainage system. A new HVAC system was also installed, allowing for better temperature regulation in the pool area. Now, the air temperature can be set at one or two degrees higher than the water temperature, which is typically 85-87 degrees.

PACC: Page 12

WHAT'S INSIDE

Perham speech team places first in Underwood
See page 4

Parta family thanks the community
See page 5

QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

"Vision is the art of seeing things invisible."
-Jonathan Swift

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Year 139 Issue 7
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PERHAM CITY COUNCIL

Electric vehicle charging stations headed to Perham

News Staff
Perham Focus

Perham will soon join a growing list of cities offering electric vehicle charging stations. Otter Tail Power Company is set to operate two stations at Landmark Liquors, starting this summer.

The two stations will rest on the northwest side of the store's parking lot, and each station will fully charge a vehicle in about 30 minutes.

The charging stations were discussed at a Feb. 14 meeting of the Perham City Council. City leaders said the hope is that people will frequent nearby businesses while their cars are charging.

The city maintains the parking lot for the municipal Landmark Liquors store, and thus will be responsible for regular snow removal and other upkeep at the charging station spots.

If more funds become

available, the city may look at putting in additional charging stations downtown.

The liquor store stations will be installed this summer.

At the meeting, the council also:

► Approved the Pine-wood Lane Improvement District project following a public hearing. No members of the public spoke. The

COUNCIL: Page 11

Battle Lake man injured when two semis collide in Otter Tail County

News Staff
Detroit Lakes Tribune
A Battle Lake man was injured when two semi trucks collided on Inter-

state 94 in Otter Tail County the morning of Feb. 11. Joshua James Stock, 37, suffered

non-life-threatening injuries and was taken to Lake Region HealthCare in Fergus Falls, according to the State Patrol.

He was westbound on I-94 in a Kenworth tractor and collided with another westbound semi, a 2022 Freightliner trac-

tor, driven by Nikoloz Togonidze, 50, of Monroe, New York, who was not injured. Both drivers were

wearing seatbelts. The crash was reported at 7:45 a.m. that day on snowy, icy pavement on I-94 at mile marker 47.

PERHAM POLICE REPORTS

- Feb. 7
- ▶ **8:24 a.m. Traffic - Warning:** Issued verbal warning for speed.
 - ▶ **10:01 a.m. Disturbance:** Responded to Perham residence for a disturbance; adult male transported for evaluation.
 - ▶ **11:48 a.m. Harassment/Stalking:** Perham resident reported harassment via mobile device.
- Feb. 8
- ▶ **1:02 a.m. Alarm - Burglary:** Responded to Perham business for burglary alarm; cleared and secured building.
 - ▶ **9:53 a.m. Traffic - Warning:** Issued verbal warning for speed.
 - ▶ **10:38 p.m. Welfare Check:** Caller requested welfare check on adult male; party was transported for evaluation.
- Feb. 9
- ▶ **7:55 a.m. Animal Bite:** Perham resident reported being bit by a dog in residential neighborhood.
 - ▶ **10:17 a.m. Handgun Permits:** Processed Minnesota Uniform Firearm Application.
 - ▶ **7:13 p.m. Suspicious Activity:** Report of suspicious vehicle parked on private property; all okay.
- Feb. 10
- ▶ **3:02 a.m. Disturbance:** Responded to Perham residence for a disturbance; adult female transported for evaluation.
 - ▶ **9:29 a.m. Assistance:** Adult female arrested on Otter Tail County probation violation.
 - ▶ **11:07 a.m. Traffic - Ticket:** Citation issued for speed.
 - ▶ **4:32 p.m. Lost & Found:** Party turned in a wallet found at Perham business.
- Feb. 11
- ▶ **1:35 a.m. Disturbance:** Assisted Otter Tail County Sheriff's Office with a disturbance.
 - ▶ **2:24 a.m. Suspicious Activity:** Observed vehicle parked on private property; all okay.
 - ▶ **5:23 a.m. Traffic - Warning:** Issued verbal warning for inattentive driving.
 - ▶ **6:56 a.m. Vehicle Off Road:** Report of a vehicle off road.
 - ▶ **10:57 a.m. Welfare Check:** Caller requested welfare check on Perham resident; all okay.
- Feb. 12
- ▶ **8:12 a.m. Child Custody Issues:** Assisted Perham resident with documentation of child custody dispute.
- Feb. 10
- ▶ **3:44 p.m. Vehicle Off Road:** Report of a vehicle off road; assisted party with arranging tow.
 - ▶ **5:35 p.m. Welfare Check:** Caller requested welfare check on female party; all okay.
 - ▶ **6:41 p.m. Traffic - Warning:** Issued verbal warning for driving without headlights.
 - ▶ **7:05 p.m. Vehicle Off Road:** Report of a vehicle off road; assisted party with arranging tow.
 - ▶ **11:04 p.m. Welfare Check:** Caller requested welfare check on Perham resident; all okay.
- Feb. 13
- ▶ **12:15 a.m. Disturbance:** Responded to Perham residence for disturbance; all okay.
 - ▶ **2:09 p.m. Alarm - Burglary:** Responded to Perham business for burglary alarm; false alarm.
 - ▶ **3:11 p.m. Alarm - Burglary:** Responded to Perham business for second burglary alarm; false alarm.
 - ▶ **9:54 p.m. Suspicious Activity:** Responded to Perham business for suspicious activity; all okay.

Ex-officer Thao takes stand in civil rights case for Floyd death

By Rochelle Olson, Chao Xiong
Star Tribune

ST. PAUL — Breaking his public silence for the first time since George Floyd's killing, ex-Minneapolis police officer Tou Thao took the witness stand Tuesday morning to testify in his own defense.

Thao was the second witness called as the defense opened its case in their civil rights trial. Thao, J. Alexander Kueng and Thomas Lane are all expected to testify. The three are accused of violating Floyd's constitutional right to be free from unreasonable seizure by failing to provide him aid. Thao and Kueng are also charged with failing to intervene on Floyd's behalf to stop Chauvin's restraint.

Under questioning by his defense attorney Robert Paule, Thao testified that he decided to

become a police officer after flunking out of Anoka-Ramsey Community College and a stint at Cub Foods. He testified emotionally that he first encountered Minneapolis police after a domestic incident when his father was assaulting his mother and threatened her with a gun. He said police were called, and he was elected to go back to the family house, used a key to open the door and his father was arrested. His father's time away from the home was "The two most peaceful days of my childhood," he said under emotion.

Thao stood watch over increasingly angry bystanders as Derek Chauvin knelt on Floyd's neck for more than nine minutes while Kueng knelt on his back and Lane on his legs. Jurors convicted Chauvin last April in state court of murdering Floyd. Chau-

vin later pleaded guilty in federal court to violating Floyd's civil rights.

Thao testified that pinning a suspect to the ground with a knee was within his training protocol. Thao, who was 5 feet 6 inches tall and 150 pounds at the time of his academy training, he was used as "an example of things" because of his size.

Paule showed the jurors a photo of Thao from a 2009 training showing him with another classmate with an actor-suspect prone with their hands behind their back. Thao explained that he was using his knee to restrain the suspect, as was his classmate.

"Just to be clear, is this something that was typically taught at the academy when you were there?" Paule asked.

"Yes," Thao said. ©2022 StarTribune. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

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Log on to perhamschools.org to complete the online registration process. Enrollment forms will be found under the Heart of the Lakes Elementary school tab.

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For more information or questions, call or email Jessie or Keshia at 218-346-5437
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Perham area college honorees

News Staff
Area students earned academic honors in fall 2021.

Concordia College
Local students earned academic accomplishments on the dean's list at Concordia College in Moorhead. To qualify for this designation, students must carry a minimum of 12 semester credits and have a grade point average of at least a 3.7 on a 4.0 scale. The local students are:
 ▶ **Dent:** Casey Coste
 ▶ **Fraze:** Delaney Matejka
 ▶ **New York Mills:** Brittany Johnson
 ▶ **Perham:** Alexandra Aadland; Nathan Kawlewski; Gabriel Thompson
 ▶ **Vergas:** Alex Day

University of Jamestown
The University of Jamestown dean's list includes students who earned a 3.50 GPA for the semester. The local students are:
 ▶ **Perham:** Talia Gabrielson
 ▶ **New York Mills:** Karli Kawlewski; Daunte Leiran; Kenna Salo
 North Dakota State University

A total of 957 degrees were awarded to students at North Dakota State University for fall 2021. Students in the local area graduated with honors; a student must earn a 3.50 grade point average or higher to graduate with honors. The local students are:
 ▶ **Fraze:** Canton Matson, Mechanical Engineering; Daniel Willenbring, Computer Science
 ▶ **Henning:** Colin Geyer, Finance
 ▶ **Perham:** Jack Deconcini, Accounting; Kirstan Finn, Finance; Emily Holzer, Microbiology
 ▶ **Vergas:** Mack-

enzie Ostlie, Electrical Engineering

Vermilion Community College
Local students were named to the Fall 2021 Honors List at Vermilion Community College in Ely, Minn. Students named to the honors list have attained a 3.0 grade point average for the semester. The local students are Isaac Lung and Abigail Tweeton of Perham.

University of North Dakota
The University of North Dakota announced its fall semester 2021 dean's list, President's Roll of Honor and names of winter commencement graduates. The dean's list includes students whose grade point averages are in the top 15% of enrollment. Students must have completed at least 12 semester hours of academic work for the semester. To qualify for the President's Roll of Honor, a student must have an overall cumulative grade point average of 3.80 or higher. The student must also have earned a minimum of 30 semester hours and have completed a minimum of 12 hours at the close of the semester, eight of which must be for traditional letter grades.

The local graduates are:
 ▶ **Fraze:** Samuel Nelmark, Bachelor of Business Administration
 ▶ **Perham:** Heidi Moe, Bachelor of Science in Social Work, Dean's List, President's Roll of Honor
 The local dean's list students are:
 ▶ **Fraze:** Makayla Melvin
 ▶ **Perham:** Lydia Rutten; Lindsey Soule; Megan Tellinghuisen; Maggie Trites
 ▶ **Vergas:** Kyra Bahls; McKenna O'Brien

Organics recycling pilot program starts in Otter Tail County

News Staff
PERHAM — The Otter Tail County Solid Waste Department, along with partner sites around the county, has just kicked off an Organics Recycling Pilot Program.

The organics program is supported by a grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Organics recycling is the industry term for composting food waste and other organic material on a large scale.

Otter Tail County had no organics recycling program before, and this program is a first step toward diverting a large amount of organic waste from disposal in landfills or the Perham Resource Recovery Facility where it doesn't burn well, according to a county news release. The program collects food scraps and other organic waste from larger waste generators such as schools and health care facilities and delivers it to the Glacial Ridge Composting Facility near Hoffman, Minn.

Participating pilot sites were equipped with green bins, compostable bags, signage and green refuse carts to collect the organic waste. Both pre-consumer and post-consumer food waste, including meat and dairy, are accepted in the program. Steve's Sanitation of Perham performs the weekly collection route for the program. The Area Learning Center, Henning School, Underwood School, Perham Health and Perham's Pizza Ranch are some of the participating sites.

Up to 30% of the waste stream



At Perham's Pizza Ranch, Owner and General Manager Nick Price shows the new organic recycling bin for pre-consumer and post-consumer food waste.

is organic waste like food scraps, and keeping organic waste out of the landfill has numerous benefits, such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions and saving landfill space for waste that isn't recyclable or compostable. Composting also helps recover some of the resources that went into producing the food and helps replenish soil fertility, as the release stated.

"Some of the participating sites will see a reduction in waste generation of 30% or more as a result of participating in this program," said Cedar Walters, Otter Tail County Solid Waste Public Infor-

mation and Education Officer, in the news release. "In one cafeteria, 50% of the waste was compostable, so they will be instantly cutting their waste in half by participating in organics recycling."

During the duration of the grant project, which continues through June 2023, the program is expected to divert approximately 200 tons, or 40,000 pounds, of organic material from the waste stream for composting.

For more information about the Organics Recycling Pilot Program, visit ottertailcountymn.us/content-page/organics-recycling/.

PERHAM SCHOOL BOARD

New positions at HOTL enhance student, teacher support

By Rebecca Mitchell
Perham Focus

With student support being a leading topic in conversations about education today, Perham Public Schools added new student support positions at the start of this school year. At a meeting on Feb. 9, school board members heard an impact statement on the new positions that were added at Heart of the Lakes Elementary School.

Both students and staff have experienced a "huge" and positive impact, elementary school principal Liz Johnson shared at the meeting, held via Zoom. Positions for a library media specialist, literacy coach and social worker were added in July 2021.

With the goals of increasing student literacy and helping students choose quality reading



Perham Focus File Photo

Two kindergarten students share new books at the school library with one another at Heart of the Lakes Elementary School in Perham.

materials, library media specialist Teresa Anderson works alongside teachers and students to make the library a relevant place of learning. She encourages students to read aloud with book talks and student-featured videos shown in their classrooms,

and also tries to make the library a welcoming place where kids can find books that they feel represent them.

As the new literacy coach, Amy Ohm works with teachers on math and reading interventions, professional development

lessons and literacy. She works throughout the school as a leader in professional learning communities and supporting new teachers.

In Jena Rosemore's classroom, Johnson said there are fun classes that range from robotic coding to Olympic sports practices. Rosemore teaches enrichment/STEM classes for grades kindergarten through four.

Another expanding program at the school provides support for students through social groups, movement breaks and academic help, Johnson explained. The Academic Social Emotional Learning room, or ACSEL, has doubled in the number of students it serves with interventions teacher Eryn Moser. Student and family mental health needs are supported through the program, as well.

At the meeting, the board also:

▶ Approved the district's pay equity implementation report, which evaluates male and female employee's positions and pay to ensure females are not being underpaid, as district business manager Kristi Werner explained. The district is in compliance. The report is submitted to the state every three years.

▶ Approved a revised budget for 2021-22, which was originally set in June. Werner said the biggest changes were the addition of the elementary kitchen project and federal coronavirus funds.

▶ Moved the next school board meeting to March 16 at 5 p.m. It will be held either at the high school media center or online.

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OBITUARIES

J. Paul Fritton



J. Paul Fritton, 93, of Kearney, Nebraska, died peacefully at his home Wednesday, February 9, 2022, with family present. Paul donated his body to the Anatomical Board for research. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Memorials are suggested to MONA. To leave online condolences please visit www.hlmkfuneral.com. Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services is in charge of arrangements.

Joseph Paul Fritton was born August 14, 1928, to Victor E. and Marie C. (Fox) Fritton in Albion, Nebraska, the youngest of three children. He graduated from Albion High School in 1946 and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics from Creighton University in 1950. Paul enlisted in the United States Air Force in January of 1951 and was honorably discharged that same year. He worked for the family-owned Albion Coca-Cola Bottling Company and Storz Beer Distributorship in the 50's. In the fall of 1961, he returned to school at Kearney State College to pursue a teaching degree. With the encouragement of Harry Hoffman, Dean of the English Department, Paul started teaching English in 1962 as a Graduate Assistant and received his Master's Degree in English in 1964 without having to write a Thesis. Paul sought a Doctorate Degree in English from the University of Northern Colorado. Although he never attained his Ph.D., he did ascend to the rank of Professor at Kearney State College and taught English until 1988 when he took early retirement. Paul became a fixture at Limmer's Resort on Rush Lake near Ottertail Minnesota in the mid 60's. He never missed a summer until the Covid pandemic ended an era in 2020. Although he never practiced it professionally, he was considered somewhat of a fishing guide, entertaining with his knowledge of Otter Tail County lakes and stories of yore, with Hans Hanebuth as his mentor. He became very close friends with owners of Limmer's Resort, Kathy and Howard Manteuffel. Paul also had a close relationship with Bobbi and Scrub Sandrock, whom he rented a cottage from in their backyard in Kearney for nearly 44 years, with Bobbi being his personal nurse. Paul was also a regular at Dad's Tavern and enjoyed the company of owners Gale and Ollie Dady and other regulars. Wendell and Chris Schoening were another couple that Paul considered family. Dave and Merylin Anderson too. Gary Zaruba, Bud and Betty Connell, and the list could go on. Paul enjoyed the Arts and was a big supporter of the Kearney Concert Association and attended UNK programs as well as the Kearney Symphony. He was known for his long walks and picking up litter. Paul was an avid reader and an intellect. Considered by many a unique and interesting individual. He did things his way with no regrets.

J. Paul was preceded in death by his parents, his brother George V. Fritton and his wife Ellen, his sister Victoria "Tori" Kos and her husband Edward, and great nephew Brett Romberg.

He leaves to cherish his memory fourteen nieces and nephews who adored him. Barbara (Mike) Romberg, Margaret (Jim) Martinosky, Mike (Tammy) Fritton, Theresa (Terry) Fichtner, Cecilia (Fred) Smiley, John (Angie) Fritton, Bill Fritton, Veronica (Mike) Trimble, Anastasia (Joel) Travis, Mary Agnes (Chris-deceased) Schafer, Pete (Teresa) Fritton, Rosemarie (Bernard) Schneider, Phillip Kos, Katherine (Andrew) McGeorge, and many great and great-great nieces and nephews.

Glenna Faye Fitzgerald



Glenna Faye Fitzgerald, age 78, Moorhead, MN, died Saturday, February 12, 2022, in Eventide - The Linden, Moorhead.

Glenna Faye Fitzgerald, the daughter of Glen and Alice (Tweeton) Meyer, was born December 20, 1943, in Perham, MN. She grew up in Dent, MN, and graduated from Perham High School in 1961.

On September 16, 1967, Glenna Faye married Allen Fitzgerald in Dent. Following their marriage, they made their home in Moorhead. Glenna Faye worked for the Law Office of Gunhus-Grinnell in Moorhead until she retired in 2000.

Glenna Faye loved her family. She was an excellent wife, mother, and grandmother. The family spent many summers at their lake home on West McDonald Lake, near Dent, adjacent to the farm she grew up on. Glenna Faye and Allen enjoyed travelling, especially to Sanibel Island, FL.

Glenna Faye is survived by her daughter, Dawn (Jeff) Kukert, Moorhead; a brother, Greg (Peg) Meyer, Dent; three grandchildren, Nikolas (AnnMarie), Lucas, and Katelyn Kukert; and a great-granddaughter, Evangeline Kukert

Visitation will begin at 9 AM, followed by a funeral at 10 AM, Friday, February 18, 2022, in Korsmo Funeral Chapel, Moorhead. Burial will be in Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery, Dent, MN, Friday, February 18, 2022, at 2 PM.

Memories and condolences may be shared at www.korsmofuneralservice.com

Arrangements by Korsmo Funeral and Cremation Service, Moorhead.

Carolyn Bernu

March 20, 1938 - Feb. 7, 2022

NEW YORK MILLS, Minn. - Carolyn Bernu, 83, New York Mills, Minn., died Monday, Feb. 7, in her home.

Services were previously held.

Arrangements by Karvonen Funeral Home.

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Perham speech team finishes first in Underwood

News Staff

The Perham speech team finished first at a competition in Underwood on Feb. 12.

The following individuals placed:

▶ **Creative:** S. Shippee (11th grade) first place; and Ewan Brandvold (7th grade) second place.

▶ **Discussion:** Reid Starzl (10th grade) first place; Angelina Nicholas (11th grade) sixth place; Jaxon Bain (10th grade) honors first place; and Maddox Wagner (eighth grade) honors second place.

▶ **Drama:** Beau Johnson (12th grade) first place; and Andrea Guajardo (12th grade) honors first place.

▶ **Duo:** Tessa Starzl and Faith Kalina (7th grade) fifth place; and Caidyn Breid and Jillian Bain (8th grade) honors third place.

▶ **Extemporaneous reading:** Molly Pearson (11th grade) third place.

▶ **Great Speeches:** Brynn Greisen (11th grade) third place; and Skye Hayes (10th grade) honors fourth place.

▶ **Informative:** Madeleine Lamb (11th grade) fourth place; Daisy Loerzel (7th grade) sixth place; Nox Cole (7th grade) honors first place; and H. Frost (11th grade) honors fifth place.

▶ **Original Orato-**

ry: Clodarl Seema (8th grade) fourth place; Shelby Johnson (7th grade) honors second place.

▶ **Poetry:** Haven Roth (11th grade) third place; Roman Guajardo (10th grade) fourth place; and Madeleine Lamb (11th grade) honors second place.

▶ **Storytelling:** Josh Kalina (10th grade) first place.

The junior high speech team also took first place at its first meet of the season on Feb. 7.

The following individuals placed:

▶ **Creative:** Ewan Brandvold (7th grade) second place.

▶ **Discussion:** Liliana Hesse (8th grade) fourth place; and Kelly Wagenman (7th grade) fifth place.

▶ **Duo:** Tessa Starzl and Faith Kalina (7th grade) second place; and Caidyn Breid and Jillian Bain (8th grade) fifth place.

▶ **Humor:** Ella Hendrickson (8th grade) third place; Gabby Scraper (7th grade) sixth place.

▶ **Informative:** Nox Cole (7th grade) first place; and Daisy Loerzel (7th grade) second place.

▶ **Original Oratory:** Clodarl Seema (8th grade) first place; Reese Hunt (9th grade) second place; and Shelby Johnson (7th grade) third place.



Contributed / Perham Public Schools / Perham Focus

The Perham speech team placed first at a meet in Underwood on Feb. 12.

Coalition again calls for Minn. to require 12 weeks of paid leave

By Alex Derosier
Perham Focus

ST. PAUL — Minnesota Democrats and a coalition of labor groups and other organizations continue to call for lawmakers to pass paid family and medical leave legislation, saying the pandemic has only further emphasized the need for a state program.

Minnesotans for Paid Family & Medical Leave, along with Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan, bill sponsors and business owners, touted the legislation at a Monday news conference. Backers emphasized paid leave's importance for women in the workforce, who are often primary caregivers in families.

"To retain the workforce we need paid family and medical leave, it should be a basic right and not a privilege. While you or I might have the luxury of taking this policy for granted, that right is not available for too many in our state," said Gloria Perez, president and CEO of the Women's Foundation of Minnesota. "Family medical leave is key to long-term success of women, parents and all human beings and it should not be optional."

Bills introduced by Democratic-Farmer-Labor lawmakers in the Senate and House would create a state-funded family and medical benefits insurance program in Minnesota. The program

would offer up to 12 weeks of partially paid time off for pregnancy, serious health conditions, family care, leave when a family member is called for active military duty and safety leave for domestic abuse situations. It would be administered by the state Department of Employment and Economic Development and funded by a payroll tax similar to the unemployment insurance fund, with each Minnesotan contributing about \$3 per week, Forum News Service previously reported. The amount of pay a beneficiary receives would be based on a sliding scale.

The House Workforce and Business Development Finance and Policy Committee on Monday, Feb. 14, adopted an amendment to the House paid leave bill that appropriates \$1.7 billion from the General Fund to support the first two years of the program. Under the newest version of the proposal, workers would start receiving benefits starting in 2023 but employers would not begin paying premiums until 2024.

Sen. Susan Kent, DFL-Woodbury, has backed paid leave legislation for the past six years and is carrying a Senate bill to create a program. The Republican-controlled Senate has not held a hearing for the bill. Meanwhile, the DFL-controlled House has passed paid leave legislation in previous sessions and will likely

do the same again this year. The house paid leave bill's author is Mendota Heights Democrat Ruth Richardson.

Gov. Tim Walz has expressed support for a paid family leave bill and included a program in his multi-billion dollar budget proposal ahead of the legislative session. However, without Senate approval, a bill will never reach his desk.

The Minnesota Chamber of Commerce opposes the family leave program proposal. Minnesota Senate Republicans opposed to the bill said it increases taxes on employers for benefits they may already offer or that workers might not need.

"We've heard the calls from parents and working Minnesotans to have a flexible, free-market solution to help them care for their families and we will work on solutions to meet their needs," Sen. Julia Coleman, R-Chanhassen, said in a January statement in reaction to Walz's paid leave proposal. "A bureaucratic, government-run, one-size-fits-all program that taxes main street businesses and their employees is not the answer to meet the individual needs of parents and caregivers."

Nine states and the District of Columbia require employers to offer paid family leave.

Follow Alex Derosier on Twitter @xanderosier or email aderosier@forumcomm.com.

Cythnia Ann Swanson



Cindy Swanson resident of Hayward WI. passed away on Feb 3rd 2022.

Cindy was born on Dec 27th 1951 to LeRoy and Arlene Boedigheimer in Perham, MN. She graduated from Perham Public High in 1969. She was joined in marriage to Jerry Swanson on Oct 3rd, 1970.

Cindy worked many years at West Central Turkeys/Jennie-O in Pelican Rapids. She recently retired from Jack Links in Hayward WI. Cindy enjoyed fishing and being by the lake. She also loved spending time with her grandchildren.

Cindy is survived by a previous spouse Jerry Swanson, A Son Shane (Katie) Swanson, A Daughter Jeanna (Dustan) Thoenke, Grandchildren Mariah, Tanner, Kherington, Parker and Sammi.

Cindy was preceded in death by her parents, a sister Sue, Sister Rheta and Brother Randy.

Wayne Mattson

Oct. 26, 1936 - Feb. 7, 2022

FERGUS FALLS, Minn. - Wayne Mattson, 85, New York Mills, Minn., died Monday, Feb. 7, in Pioneer Nursing Home.

Services were previously held. Burial will be in Woodland Cemetery in New York Mills.

Arrangements by Karvonen Funeral Home in Wadena, Minn.

Maurice Roth

May 8, 1928 - Feb. 8, 2022

MENAHA, Minn. - Maurice Roth, 93, Wadena, Minn., died Tuesday, Feb. 8, in Green Pine Acres.

Visitation will be from 9:30-10:30 a.m., followed by a memorial service at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 26, at Wadena Alliance Church.

Arrangements by Karvonen Funeral Home.



LETTERS

Today's worries are enough

I recently was speaking with someone who is experiencing enough serious medical concerns between themselves and several close family members that it is no wonder they feel anxious. It is an unfair amount of grief for one family, by any standard.

of the wildlife, and many of the plants, wanted to kill you, worry probably was an asset. But thousands of years later, we seem unable to deprogram that particular function, despite the fact that we aren't being chased by saber-toothed tigers anymore.

honestly, we mostly have the same genetic material as you, and so we're prone to worry, too.



DEVLYN BROOKS

During the conversation I was reminded of Jesus' advice given in Matthew 6:34: "So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today."

Here's an admission: Pastors get anxious too. Sure, we're trained to try to be a non anxious presence, but it's darn hard to forget about things that press in on our lives. Job stress; financial concerns; worry about our loved ones; our friends getting divorced; our cars breaking down; and our pets making messes on our living room carpets that have to be cleaned up on Sunday mornings before we can get to church!

Here is some biblical truth: We're not promised easy lives here on this beautiful rock. And Jesus, who knows firsthand a little about the human trials we endure, encourages us to put off tomorrow's trouble as we have enough on our plates for today.

Foregoing worrying isn't easy for anyone, but I do try to practice what I preach. Turn to prayer. Turn to quiet. Turn to a friend. Turn to scripture. Find a practice that helps you focus on the now. We are only given this present moment in which to live, and Jesus knows that is all we humans are capable of handling anyway.

It's text one of my mentors taught me, and one I often go to when I'm counseling those who are filled with anxiety.

We really do live real life. Trust me, the past couple of years have worn me out, too. I know that clergy are expected to exude optimism and confidence that God has a design for all this chaos in which we're living - Jesus, take the wheel, and all that - but,

So, let's take up his advice and give up tomorrow's worries. Isn't it difficult enough just to live in the moment in this great, big ol' world?

Devlyn Brooks, who works for Modulist, a Forum Communications Co.-owned company, is an ordained pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. He serves as pastor of Faith Lutheran Church in Wolverson, Minnesota. He can be reached at devlyn.brooks@forumcomm.com for comments and story ideas.

But isn't it the truth, though! All of us - especially these past couple of years - have enough worry on our plate that it's sometimes hard to just get through a day, let alone add the concerns of tomorrow on top.

I suppose we humans are programmed for worry, probably an ancient survival mechanism. After all, during prehistoric times, when most

Cable news is the intellectual equivalent of cotton candy

Minot, N.D.
Our society is dysfunctional. It's not that we merely disagree. At times, it's like we're not living in the same version of reality, and that can't be.



ROB PORT
Say Anything

It's not just a problem for cultural harmony.

Just stop watching it. There is not one single redeeming quality of cable news programming. You aren't being informed. The goal is titillation and outrage and pandering to other base instincts.

Our system of government requires some level of national accord to get anything done, and yet we're living in a political environment where truckers-turned-activists are heroes to one faction and dangerous extremists to another.

It goes without saying that the talking heads on cable news are not scrupulous journalists carefully gathering and curating accurate information, but the folks behind the pancake makeup on your television screen aren't even living up to the low ethical bar we've set for pundits. Emails and text messages divulged as a part of the investigation into Jan. 6 showed that Fox News hosts like Sean Hannity and Laura Ingraham were acting as mouthpieces for disgraced former

Joe Rogan is either an erudite interviewer and commentator exploring provocative topics or a dangerous provocateur on par with the morons who infiltrated Congress on Jan. 6, 2021.

Folks, we've got to do something different. The list of somethings we could do is longer than I have room for in this column, but one thing that would help is turning off cable news.

Folks, we've got to do something different. The list of somethings we could do is longer than I have room for in this column, but one thing that would help is turning off cable news.

President Donald Trump. Hannity was basically a Trump staffer, and the emails revealed moments where he tried to keep Trump between the guardrails of acceptable behavior for a national leader, he did that only behind the scenes.

counseling his brother through a sexual harassment scandal. It was only after later revelations detailed a far more involved level of involvement in advising his brother that Chris Cuomo was fired.

Publicly, to his audience, he was never anything more than a servile bootlicker.

Now the man who fired Cuomo, CNN President Jeff Zucker, has also resigned after it was revealed he was sleeping with a subordinate who, previously, was a communications director for Andrew Cuomo.

Is that what you want? To spend your evenings watching someone who only tells you what some politician wants you to hear?

Again, the goal of these "news" networks is not to inform you. The goal is to manipulate you. To make you beholden to a specific narrative that often has very little to do with truth.

CNN isn't much better, and I'm not just talking about their decision to let Jeffrey Toobin return to on-air duties after he was caught masturbating during a video conference call.

You don't have to participate.

Former anchor Chris Cuomo was allowed to interview his brother, former governor of New York and pandemic-era media darling Andrew Cuomo. Chris Cuomo even stayed on-air after initial revelations of his work

You're not doing yourself any favors when you tune in.

Watching cable news is like eating cotton candy for dinner.

Rob Port is a columnist, news reporter and podcast host for Forum News Service. Reach him at rport@forumcomm.com.

Post Office should do a better job of clearing its handicap ramp

To the Editor:

I think social responsibility is an important issue in any community. I flexed that responsibility the other day. I walk up the handicap ramp when I get my mail at the Perham Post Office, and the snow and ice removal on the ramp is a 3 out of 10.

The other day I fell and reported this to an employee who said she would have someone put salt on it. The next day there was salt on it but not nearly enough. The day after that I addressed this problem again and found out this is out of that employee's hands.

So the postmaster, I think, discussed this issue with me. She pointed out that there is a minimum standard on ice and snow removal and they are meeting that minimum standard. When I mentioned that old people like me, and older, are at risk of falling and something needs to be done, she said she would call the "postal security."

I called the local police department and the sheriff's office to see if I was just put on the most wanted list, and to get information about the "postal security." No one had any knowledge of this secret government entity.

So, so far, I am still a free man, but the rest of you walking up that deadly ramp to get your mail are on your own. I'm one person trying to make a difference!

Maybe the post office should address my issues in the newspaper and tell their side and inform the citizens of their responsibility for their own safety.

I offered to shovel the ice and snow; my offer was declined. If it's a money issue, I will gladly purchase all the salt the Post Office would need! This is a perfect example of the world we live in today - don't rock the boat and ask questions. What is this, do we live in Canada?

- Mike Wasche, Perham

Family thanks all who helped with Mike Parta funeral and remembrance

To the Editor:

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who said a prayer, brought food, gave a hug, sent a card, and remembered our family in so many ways during this past couple of weeks, as well as the last few years.

You all showed up when we needed you. Mike would be so happy that you were looking after us.

Special thanks to Pastor Ryan Stout, those serving lunch, the music by Janel and Heidi, the VFW and Karvonen's Funeral Home for their guidance and compassion as we celebrated Mike's life.

Thanks also to the medical staff at the New York Mills, Wadena, and Mayo clinics and hospital for their excellent care.

"What a wonderful world!"

- Jan, Jennifer, Chris and Abby Parta and families, Perham MN



GOVERNMENT CONTACTS

DISTRICT 8A REPRESENTATIVE
Jordan Rasmusson
651-296-4946
rep.jordan.rasmusson@house.mn

U.S. HOUSE 7TH DISTRICT
Michelle Fischbach
202-225-2165

U.S. SENATE
Amy Klobuchar
202-224-3244

DISTRICT 8 SENATOR
Bill Ingebrigtsen
651-297-8063
sen.bill.ingebrietsen@senate.mn

U.S. SENATE
Tina Smith
202-224-5641

LETTERS POLICY

The Perham Focus encourages letters to the editor.

Letters to the editor must be received by 4 p.m. Monday for consideration of publication in the coming week's newspaper. Generally, letters should be 250 words or less. Include your name, address and telephone number. Only your name and city will be printed. All letters are subject to editing. For questions or comments, call (218) 346-5900.

Drop off or mail your letter to the Perham Focus, P.O. Box 288, Perham, MN 56573. Perham, MN 56573. Or, email your letter to editor@perhamfocus.com.

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LOOKING BACK

50 years ago

Distinguished Service: John Knight was presented with the Distinguished Service Award by Ted Meinhover for his many years involved with the local scouting program.

Gymnasts Win Triangular Meet: Perham gymnasts placed first at the triangular meet in

Hawley on Feb. 10. Athletes who placed in this meet included Lyndes Johnson, Connie Shaskey, Kay Grismer, Karen Moenkedick, Julie Melgard, Judy Colby, Cindy Hammers, Pam Davis and Corrin McGuire.

Thieves Hit Public School: Thieves broke into Perham Public School

on Sunday night and stole about \$30 - \$50. They also did another \$50 worth of glass damage to the building to gain entry. The money was stolen from a pop machine, the boys' locker room and one teacher's classroom.

From the Thursday, Feb. 24, 1972, Perham Enterprise-Bulletin

25 years ago

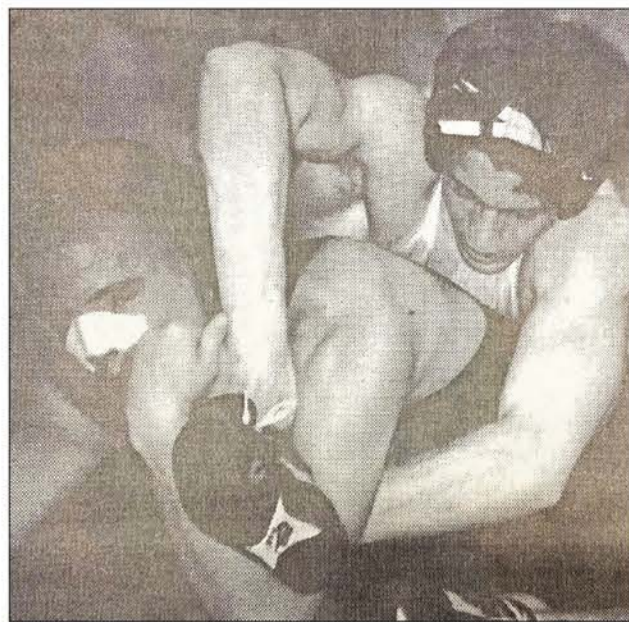
125 years: Perham and FF together at museum: To celebrate 125 years of existence, Perham and Fergus Falls came together to create an exhibit at the Otter Tail County Museum. The exhibit showed people and landmarks that each city had 125 years before. The show was on display

throughout the summer.

Wrestling team records 14 wins this season: The Perham Yellowjackets wrestling team finished the dual team season with a record of 14 wins. They were 14-8 overall, and the eight losses were to the top-rated teams in the state. Up next was the Section 7AA individual tournament at Staples starting Feb. 21.

20 Years of Service: Denise Zepper, Sue Dunlap, Norma Bleichner and Monica Monson were celebrated and honored for providing 20 years of service to the Perham Memorial Hospital.

From the Thursday, Feb. 20, 1997, Perham Enterprise-Bulletin



From the Thursday, Feb. 20, 1997, Perham Enterprise-Bulletin 1997 Yellowjacket wrestler Damon Jenson wraps around his opponent in a match.



From the Thursday, Feb. 20, 1997, Perham Enterprise-Bulletin Top: Denise Zepper, Sue Dunlap and Norma Bleichner hold up their certificates commemorating their 20 years of service at the Perham Memorial Hospital. Bottom: Ted Meinhover presents John Knight with the Distinguished Service Award in 1997.

CHURCH SERVICES

EDITOR'S NOTE: Because of the response to the coronavirus pandemic, some scheduled meetings or services may have changed or been canceled. Call ahead to confirm that events are taking place as scheduled.

Apostolic Lutheran Church
New York Mills
Rev. Pastor Nicholas Kandoll
360-241-8450
Echoes of Mercy on KWAD
Sunday: 8:05 a.m., 9 a.m. Finnish
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Assembly Of God
103 N. Hayes Ave., New York Mills
Pastor Larry Bessler, 385-2033 (church) or 385-3270 (home)
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship
Wed. 7 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Basswood Baptist Church
Intersection Co. Rd. 14/32, Richville
Pastor Bert Holmquist, 495-3800
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, 10:45 a.m. Worship Service
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Prayer/Bible Study/Kids Club

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
210 Maple Ave. E, Frazee
Pastor Ed Borchardt
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. Worship
10:15 a.m. Sunday School/Adults
9-10:30 a.m. Coffee/Fellowship
Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays
Services 104.1 Sundays at 8 a.m.

Calvary Lutheran Church ELCA
619 3rd Ave SW, Perham
346-4780
Lead Pastor Erin Bovendam
Associate Pastor Dennis Preston
9 a.m. Tues. TV Brcdst (Ch. 14)
www.calvaryperham.com
8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
Communion every Sunday

Crosspoint Alliance Church
600 8th Street NE, Perham, MN
Office: 218-346-4673
Pastor Michael Bochman
Services at 9:00am & 10:30am
Sermons are posted on our FaceBook page as well as on our website: crosspointalliance.com

First Congregational United Church of Christ
'God Is Still Speaking'
11 E. Gilman St.
New York Mills, 385-2587
Sheri Nelson, Pastor, 640-3722
Jack Volpe, Shirley Davis, 639-3192
Open Communion, Handicap Accessible
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Worship, Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. Refreshments

Holy Cross Church
Butler | Fr. George Michael - Canonical Administrator, Fr. Tom Skaja - Parochial Vicar
Weekday Mass: 5:15 p.m. Wednesday
Weekend Mass: 8 p.m. Saturday

Immanuel Lutheran Church LCMC
Dent Pastor Dan Abrahams
Sunday 9 a.m. Worship/SS

Lakes Area Word Fellowship
Vergas Pastor Larry Vosika
218-847-8499 or 218-342-2620
Sunday 10 a.m. Worship
Wednesday 7 p.m. Worship

Maine Presbyterian Church
30761 Co. Hwy. 45, 2 mi. N of Phelps Mill
Pastor: Bob Kersten
Summer (June thru Aug.): 9:30 a.m. Worship Service, Coffee Fellowship
Every Week
Winter (Sept. thru May): 10 a.m. Worship Service, Coffee Fellowship
2nd Sunday of the Month
Handicap Accessible

New Creation Lutheran LCMC
295 Coney St. West, Perham
Pastor Randy Freund | 346-7203
Pastor Linda Nicklason
garden@newcreationperham.org
10 a.m. Contemporary Worship
Communion every Sunday
Nursery available
Coffee fellowship after worship
Mondays 9 am-5 pm
Tuesdays 9 am-3 pm
Wednesdays 10 am-6 pm
Thursdays 9 am-12 pm
Friday Closed

Northwoods LIFE Church
945 West Main St. Perham
Pastor Jason Erickson
Assistant Pastor Stew Burns
6:15 Wed. LIFE Groups & Kids LIFE programming
10 a.m. Sun. Service
218-346-LIFE (5433)
www.northwoodslife.com

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Dent | Fr. George Michael - Canonical Administrator, Fr. Tom Skaja - Parochial Vicar
Weekday Mass: 7 p.m. Tuesday; 8:30 a.m. Thursday
Weekend Mass: 4 p.m. Saturday; 8:30 a.m. Sunday

St. Henry's Catholic Church
234 2nd Ave. SW, Perham
Fr. George Michael - Canonical Administrator, Fr. Tom Skaja - Parochial Vicar
Weekday Mass: 8:45 a.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
Weekend Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday; 8 and 10 a.m. Sunday
Second Sunday of the Month: 1 p.m. Spanish Mass

St. Lawrence Catholic Church
Rush Lake | Fr. George Michael - Canonical Administrator, Fr. Tom Skaja - Parochial Vicar
Weekday Mass: 8:30 a.m. Wednesday and Friday
Weekend Mass: 10:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Sunday

St. John's Lutheran Church
49658 Co. Hwy. 53, Rural Perham
Pastor Jared Nies, 218-346-4302
stjohnperham.org
8:30 a.m. Bible Study
9 a.m. Sunday School
9:30 a.m. Divine Worship
10 a.m. Friday TV Broadcast, Channel 14

St. John's Lutheran Church LCMC
4 miles west of Dent, Hwy. 108 18-758-2440
11 a.m. Sunday Worship
10 a.m. Sunday School (Sept.-May)

St. John's Lutheran Church LCMC
Ottertail | Rev. Dr. Karl Weber
9:30 a.m. Worship Service
11 a.m. Sunday Schl Communion

St. John's Lutheran Church LCMC
410 E Scharf Ave, Vergas 56587
stjohnvergas@arvig.net, 342-2791
Rev. Jacob Wagner, Pastor
Worship Services:
Sunday 9 am, Coffee Fellowship after Advent & Lent-Wednesday 6pm potluck after
Summer-Wednesday 7 pm
Sunday Bible Study 10:30 am (Sept-May)
Sunday School 10:15 am (Sept-May)
Confirmation Class 5 pm (Sept-May)
Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays
Handicap accessible

St. John the Baptist Catholic
Bluffton | Fr. Aaron Kuhn, Pastor
Sunday Mass: 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Mass: 8 a.m.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church LCMC
13130 Co. Hwy. 39, Frazee
Pastor Thomas Batchelder
9 a.m. Sunday Worship
Communion every 1st and 3rd Sunday/Mo.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church LCMC
Richville | Rev. Dr. Karl Weber
8 a.m. Sunday Worship
9 a.m. Sunday School

St. Paul's Lutheran Church LCMC
31385 Co. Hwy 4, Vergas
Pastor Delton Stohs
Communion: 1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays
Worship: 10 a.m.
Sunday School and Bible Study 9:15 a.m.

St. Paul Lutheran's Church (LCMS)
500 6th Ave SW
Perham, MN 56573
218.346.7725 Church Office
stpaulschurch@arvig.net
Rev. Andrew Ratcliffe
pastorratcliffe@gmail.com
Sundays 9:00 am Worship, 10:15 Education hour

St. Peter's Lutheran Church-NYM
101 W. Gilman St. (P.O. Box 7)
New York Mills, MN 56567
Phone: (218) 385-2011
E-mail: stpetersnym@arvig.net
St. Peter's will be resuming Worship with Communion at 9:00 a.m. beginning on June 28th!

Trinity Lutheran Church-NYM
P.O. Box J | 424 E Gilman Street
New York Mills, Minnesota 56567
(218) 385-2450

Unitarian Church of Underwood
206 N. Main St., Underwood.
www.ucfu.org
Weekly Sunday services 10 a.m.
Mindfulness and Quaker Quiet Time:
3rd Sunday/month at 8:30 a.m.

United Methodist Church
301 Main St., Dent
Handicap accessible
9 a.m. Worship
10 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
Communion first Sunday of month
Monday and Friday
8:30 a.m. Exercise Group
Wednesday 9 a.m. Quilting

United Methodist Church
Frazee | Pastor Ray Sherwood
9 a.m. Worship Service
10:45 a.m. Sunday School

United Methodist Church
Ottertail | Rev. Ricardo Alcoser
218-367-2270
8:45 a.m. Sunday Worship
Coffee and Fellowship to Follow

United Methodist Church
223 4th Ave. SE, Perham • 346-7420
www.pdumc.weebly.com
Handicap accessible
10:00am Sunday Worship
11:00am Coffee Fellowship
Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

United Methodist Church
Richville | Pastor Rod Tornquist
218-346-5656
Sunday: 10:30 a.m. Worship
Wednesday: Youth 6:45-8 p.m.;
Choir 7-8 p.m.

United Methodist Church
Vergas | Pastor Ray Sherwood
10:30 a.m. Worship Service, SS

Waters of Grace Lutheran - ELCA
Laurie Albertson, Synodically
Authorized Minister | 334-3455
9 a.m. Worship with Communion
every Sunday
Location: Frazee Event Center

Zion Lutheran of Amor
Pastor Jim Gronbeck
495-2563/ www.zionamor.org
Facebook: Zion Amor
Worship service 10:00 a.m.
with fellowship following

HAPPENINGS

The Perham Focus accepts community calendar items for publication online and in our Thursday print edition, space permitting. Submissions must be made at least a week in advance of the event date, in writing, to either editor@perhamfocus.com or vgerdes@dlnewspapers.com. Each submission must include the date, time and location of event, whether it is recurring or a one-time happening, and where to go for more information (phone, email and/or website). Also include whether the event is free or paid admission, and how much it costs when applicable.

Saturday, February 26

Ice Fishing for Kids: Parents, grandparents, mentors and guardians, bring your kid out ice fishing on Perham's Big Pine Lake between 1-4 p.m. and receive a free, ready-to-use ice fishing package (i.e., rod and reel, bucket, scoop and tackle). Holes will be pre-drilled and bait will be provided. Hot dogs, chips, hot chocolate, water and coffee available. Contact Rick, 218-298-4760, or Shirley, 218-791-0848, for more information.

Multi-Day and Recurring Events

Cultural Center Gallery Exhibit: The New York Mills Regional Cultural Center Gallery is featuring the paintings of Illinois folk artist, Leonora, through Saturday, Feb. 26. This show and sale, titled "In Memory Of," will be the first event to raise funds for a new Memorial Tree wall mural to be created in the Cultural Center.

Library Storytimes: The Perham Area Public Library hosts preschool storytime every Tuesday at 10:15 a.m. Toddler Storytime with Becky is held periodically on Monday evenings at 6 p.m. Visit perhamlibrary.org or call 218-346-4892 for more information.

Old Time Photographs: Stop by the History Museum of East Otter Tail County, at 230 First Ave. North in Perham, and take a trip down memory lane. The museum would like the public's help identifying old photos. Hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, and 9 a.m.-12 p.m. on Saturdays. Call 218-346-7676 for more information.

Resident Artist: Springboard for the Arts is bringing Hinge Artist alum Alo Osberg back to Otter Tail County for a residency with the Lakes Area Precious Plastic Lab from Feb. 21 to March 20. Osberg was a Hinge Artist in early 2020, and initially sparked the idea for the Plastic Lab that is now at the Otter Tail County Recycling Center. He will be giving a virtual artist talk on March 16 from 3 to 4 p.m. and participating in Plastic Discovery Day on Sunday, March 20 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the recycling center. For more information contact Cedar Walters at Otter Tail County Solid Waste, at 218-998-8914.

Friday, February 18

Ottertail Ducks Unlimited: The Ottertail chapter of Ducks Unlimited will hold its 31st annual banquet at Thumper Pond, starting at 5:30 p.m. Tickets available online at www.mndu.org.

Saturday, February 19

Virtual Writing Class for Adults: Led by The Loft's teaching artist, Michael Kleber-Diggs, this 10 a.m. "Nature Writing" virtual workshop delves into writing about the natural world. Class size is limited and registration is required. Sign up at viking.lib.mn.us/legacy-events-calendar.

Good Morning Bedlam Concert: The Cultural Center in New York Mills will be hosting Good Morning Bedlam for an album release concert. The Minneapolis-based band of three plays their own unique brand of "furious folk." Doors open at 7 p.m., music starts at 7:30. Cash bar and light refreshments available. There is a cost to attend; call 218-385-3339 with questions or visit kulcher.org for more information.

Monday, February 21

Family Valentine Night: Lakeland Mental Health's Courtney Rooney and Sage Becklund-Erickson will be presenting a free program on "The Five Love Languages of Kids" starting at 5:30 p.m. at Heart of the Lakes Elementary School in Perham. Pizza and family valentines for all, and a program presentation for parents at 6 p.m. while kids enjoy art activities.

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New Minnesota congressional maps show changes in CD8, 7, 1 and 2

By Alex Derosier
Perham Focus

ST. PAUL — A panel of five judges released the new legislative and Congressional district maps for Minnesota after Democrats and Republicans in the state Legislature failed to reach an agreement on new maps of their own.

The five-judge panel in a court filing on Tuesday, Feb. 15, said they'd come up against the deadline for the Legislature to put forward new maps. And since lawmakers in the divided Statehouse couldn't agree, the panel published the new congressional and legislative maps at noon.

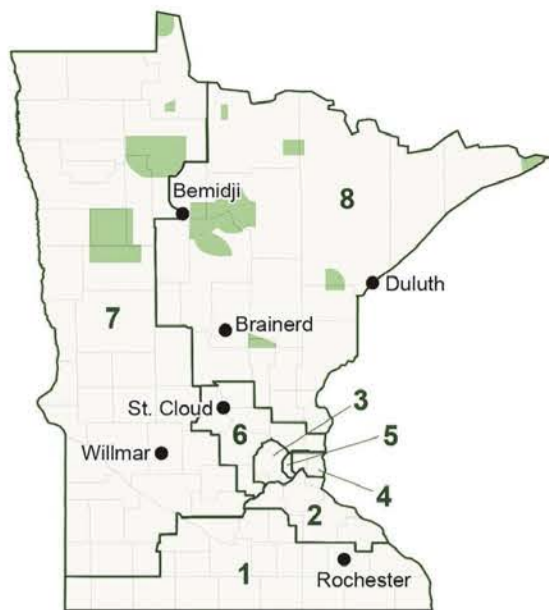
"To avoid delaying the electoral process, the panel must now act," the judges wrote.

In the five congressional districts around the Twin Cities Metro area, populations grew over the last decade, meanwhile the three more rural districts saw their populations decline. As a result, the judges said they remained close to the prior congressional maps but redrew each district to get the boundaries closer to containing an even voter population.

As a result, the five more populous districts shrunk in terms of geography, while the three more rural ones grew.

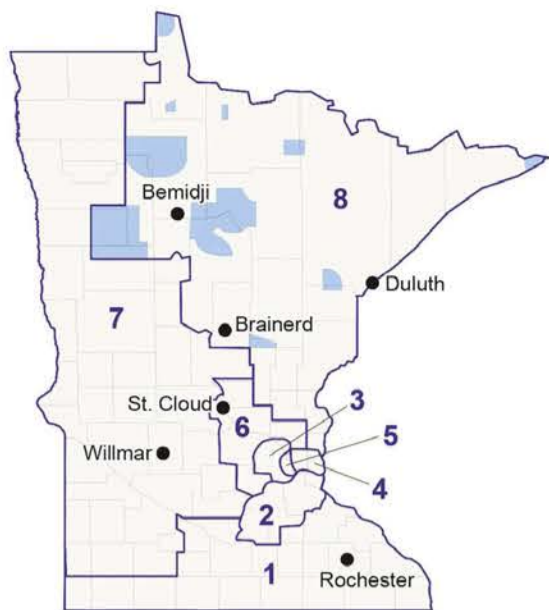
"Simply put, we are not positioned to draw entirely new congressional districts, as the Legislature could choose to do. Rather, we start with the existing districts, changing them as necessary to remedy the constitutional defect by applying politically neutral redistricting principles," the panel said.

The maps will set the new boundaries for Minnesota's eight Congressional districts, 67 Senate districts and 134 House districts, and will be in effect for the 2022 elections.



2012 Minnesota congressional districts

Indian Reservation



2022 Minnesota congressional districts

Indian Reservation

Forum News Service

States adjust their representative maps every 10 years based on new data from the Census.

One of the more visible changes includes northeast Minnesota's 8th Congressional District expanding west to include the White Earth and Red Lake Indian reservations. The southern rural portion of the 2nd District in the Twin Cities' southern suburbs crept westward.

In a statement, 2nd District Rep. Angie Craig, a Democrat, thanked the redistricting panel for their commitment to a "nonpartisan and transparent process."

"I am proud to announce that I will seek re-election in Minnesota's newly drawn 2nd Congressional District — where I will officially be launching my campaign in the

coming weeks," Craig said in a statement. "While I am, of course, disappointed that the new boundaries do not include all of the cities and towns that I currently represent in Congress, I look forward to being the voice of several new communities across Minnesota."

Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party Chairman Ken Martin reacted to the new maps in a statement early Tuesday afternoon.

"It will take some time for us to conduct a full analysis of these maps, but we are excited nonetheless to have this process conclude and have a clear sense of the political landscape in front of us," he said. "Across Minnesota, local DFL Party organizing units will be working overtime to endorse our candidates in new

districts and ensure our campaign infrastructure is ready to kick into high gear."

This round of redistricting will mark a half-century of the courts having the ultimate say in Minnesota's political district boundaries, as Republicans and Democrats in the Legislature have consistently failed to reach a compromise on new maps. The Minnesota Supreme Court appointed a five-judge redistricting panel in June.

Minnesota lawmakers started seeking public input and developing new legislative and Congressional maps after receiving new data from the 2020 Census in August — much later than usual. Lawmakers typically expect census results by February, and with a tighter turnaround this year

the judicial panel worked concurrently with legislators to develop new maps. Lawmakers of both parties introduced map proposals, but none saw traction in the 2022 legislative session, which started Jan. 31.

Based on data from the 2020 Census, the ideal size for a Congressional district in Minnesota is now 713,112. Minnesota narrowly held on to its eight districts in the last Census. The ideal legislative district population in Minnesota increased in the last census from 39,582 to 42,586. Minnesota Senate districts are split into two A and B House districts.

New boundaries for representation can impact elections in a number of ways. Shifting boundaries can change the demographics of a district, which can play to the advantage or disadvantage of candidates. For example, a Democrat in a suburban district on the edge of a metropolitan area could have their district boundaries changed to include larger swaths of potentially more conservative rural areas — meaning a disadvantage in the upcoming election.

In the substantially smaller legislative districts, incumbent senators and representatives are more likely to see map changes that make the district they serve disappear from beneath their feet. Suddenly they'll be in a position where they are running against another incumbent — sometimes of the same party — or will have to move to run for an open seat.

Follow Alex Derosier on Twitter @xanderosier or email aderosier@forumcomm.com.

Senate OKs \$2.7B plan to replenish jobless fund, prevent tax hikes

By Dana Ferguson
Perham Focus

ST. PAUL — Minnesota senators on Monday, Feb. 14, pushed forward a plan to spend \$2.7 billion to repay the federal government and replenish the state's unemployment insurance trust fund to avoid a tax increase for business owners.

The Senate on a 55-11 vote to advance the plan to pay back the federal government more than \$1 billion for unemployment funds and to bring the fund's total up to \$1.3 billion. Lawmakers face a March 15 deadline to pass a policy resolving the issue if they want to prevent tax assessments from taking effect in April.

The push to refill the trust fund comes after an

unprecedented number of Minnesotans pulled down jobless benefits in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and state efforts to manage it. Roughly one in five Minnesota workers applied for unemployment insurance since March of 2020, per the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, and 873,707 employees got at least one unemployment check. Since that time, the department sent out roughly \$15 billion to Minnesotans out of work.

The bill's supporters said it was critical to keep money in the fund in case Minnesota workers lost their jobs and needed financial help. And they said business owners shouldn't face a tax hike after they'd paid

into the fund throughout the pandemic.

"It's downright inconceivable to consider this kind of burden at a time when the state is using \$2.3 billion in federal money and about \$400 million in state money while employers are struggling to recover from the pandemic and to keep their doors open," Sen. Eric Pratt, R-Prior Lake, said. "This is about helping small businesses recover from the pandemic and the executive orders that helped exacerbate it. Every dollar that was paid out of that trust fund went to an unemployed Minnesotan, not a single dollar went to business and yet we're asking them to pick up the cost."

Opponents on the floor said large corporations

would see a benefit as a result of passing the \$2.7 billion plan and they said the state should prioritize supporting small businesses and workers instead. Democrats attempted to amend the bill on the floor to include \$1 billion to be sent out to front-line workers that remained on the job during the pandemic and to make paraprofessionals in Minnesota schools eligible to receive unemployment insurance. But Senate President Dave Osmeck, R-Mound, ruled that those additions weren't germane to the subject of the bill.

"While \$7.7 billion is a lot of money, there's a lot of struggle and I don't know that \$7.7 billion is going to make it all go away," Sen. Erin Murphy, DFL-St. Paul, said. "The decision by

the majority today to put \$2.7 billion into replenishing the UI fund and forgiving large businesses and small businesses of their obligation I think is a statement of priority. ... We made a promise to front-line workers and they are still waiting. A \$1,500 check into the pockets of workers would be good for them, their families, their communities and our economy."

The DFL lawmakers said they would continue to push a plan to get hero checks out to front-line workers. Lawmakers last year set out \$250 million to send out to the workers but have since been unable to agree on who should qualify for the funds.

Leaders at the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce on Monday laud-

ed the Senate's quick passage of the bill and urged House lawmakers to advance it soon. Democrats in the House of Representatives have said they'd seek to pair the plan with a proposal to send out \$1 billion in checks to front-line workers that remained on the job during the pandemic. They've also put forward other options to repay the federal government and to partially replenish the unemployment trust fund.

Democratic Gov. Tim Walz has said he supports the \$2.7 billion plan to repay the federal government and replenish the trust fund.

Follow Dana Ferguson on Twitter @bydanaferguson, call 651-290-0707 or email dferguson@forumcomm.com.

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MN LEGALS

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS
Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Edna Township that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022. In case of inclement weather, the meeting and



MN LEGALS

election may be postponed until the third Tuesday of March, March 15, 2022. If there is inclement weather on the 15th the election and meeting will be held on the March 22, 2022. The Election Poll hours will be 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The positions to be elected are: one Supervisor for a 3 year term one Clerk for a 2 year term The Annual Meeting will begin at 8:05 p.m. Please note that the meeting place is the Dent Community Center, 201 Birch St, Dent MN Echo Dockter Edna Township Clerk 2/17, 2/24

DORA TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voter(s) of Dora Township, County of Otter Tail, State of Minnesota that the Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022. In case of inclement weather the meeting and election may be postponed until the third (3rd) Tuesday of March. The election Poll hours will be open from 5:00pm to 8:00pm at which time the voters will elect: ONE (1) SUPERVISOR FOR A THREE (3) YEAR TERM ONE (1) CLERK FOR A TWO (2) YEAR TERM The Annual Meeting will commence at 8:05 p.m. to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law. The Annual election and meeting will be held at 29375 430th St. Vergas, Mn. Located at the shop on the David Antonsen homestead, Michael Kratzke, Clerk Dora Township 2/10, 2/17



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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MN LEGALS

CORLISS TOWNSHIP NOTICE
The Annual Meeting and Election of Officers for Corliss Township will be held Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Corliss. Election polls open from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Business meeting following at 8:05 p.m. Officers to be elected are one Supervisor for a three year term and one Clerk for a two year term. Bad weather alternate date is Tuesday, March 15, 2022. Treva L. Mayfield, Clerk Corliss Township 2/17

HOBART TOWNSHIP Annual Meeting and Election

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Hobart Township, County of Otter Tail, State of Minnesota, that the Annual Election of Town Officers and the annual Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 8th, 2022. In case of inclement weather, the meeting and election may be postponed until the third Tuesday in March, March 15th, 2022. The election polls open at 4:00 p.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. to elect: One Supervisor for a three (3) year term One Clerk for a two (2) year term The Annual Meeting will commence at 8:15 p.m. to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law. The Election and Annual Meeting will be held at: Hobart Town Hall 49046 370 th Avenue Frazee, MN To obtain an Absentee Ballot, please contact the Otter Tail County Auditor-Treasurer, 510 W Fir Ave, Fergus Falls, MN or (218) 998-8030. Contact Debi Moltzan, Township Clerk, if you have any questions regarding the upcoming March election or Annual Town Meeting at: 218-342-2415. 2/17, 2/24, 3/3



CONDOMINIUMS/TOWNHOMES FOR SALE

MN LEGALS

Notice of Annual Town Meeting and Election of Officers Board of Canvass
Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Gorman Township, County of Otter Tail, State of Minnesota that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022. In case



MN LEGALS

of inclement weather, the meeting and election may be postponed until the third Tuesday, March 15, 2022, and if inclement weather also postpones the election and meeting on the third Tuesday they shall be held on Tuesday, March 22, 2022. The Election Poll hours will be open from 5 pm to 8 pm, at which time the voters will elect: 1 Supervisor - 3 year term 1 Clerk - 2 year term The Annual Meeting will commence at 8:10pm to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law. Board of Canvass to follow Annual Meeting. The Annual Election and Meeting will be held at the Gorman Township Hall 2/17, 2/24

HELP WANTED GENERAL

HELP WANTED GENERAL

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20. Final
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26. In flames
27. Former: hyph.
31. Kind of music
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39. Pod dweller
40. Springs up
41. Flat bread
44. Goes on and on
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47. Ice mass, for short
48. So long, in London: 2 wds.
52. Negative linking word
53. Employer
54. Self-images
55. Shady tree

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5 4 7 8 2 1 6 3 9
9 2 8 7 3 6 4 5 1
1 9 2 3 6 4 5 7 8
7 8 7 4 1 5 2 3 6 9
6 3 5 9 8 7 2 1 4
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GYMNASTICS

'SHE'S LIKE MY OTHER HALF'

McAllister and Lorentz headed back to state gymnastics tournament; Perham takes third

By Jared Rubado
Perham Focus

Detroit Lakes

When Perham's Brittney Lorentz stuck her Section 8A championship-winning bars routine, one person on the floor at Lakeshirts Fieldhouse cheered louder than the rest: Her best friend Avery McAllister

McAllister and Lorentz are sophomores at Perham High School and have been tied at the hip for as long as they can remember. They'll compete at the state Class A individual gymnastics tournament this Saturday. McAllister took second in the all-around competition with a score of 36.875. Lorentz was right behind her in third with a 36.7.

"We've been best friends since we were 3-years-old," McAllister said of her relationship with Lorentz. "We grew up together, and we've always been together. She's like my other half. Her going with me (to state) is like the best thing ever."

McAllister was the top scorer on the vault and beam at sections. She put an impressive 9.725 on the vault and a 9.475 on the beam. Her

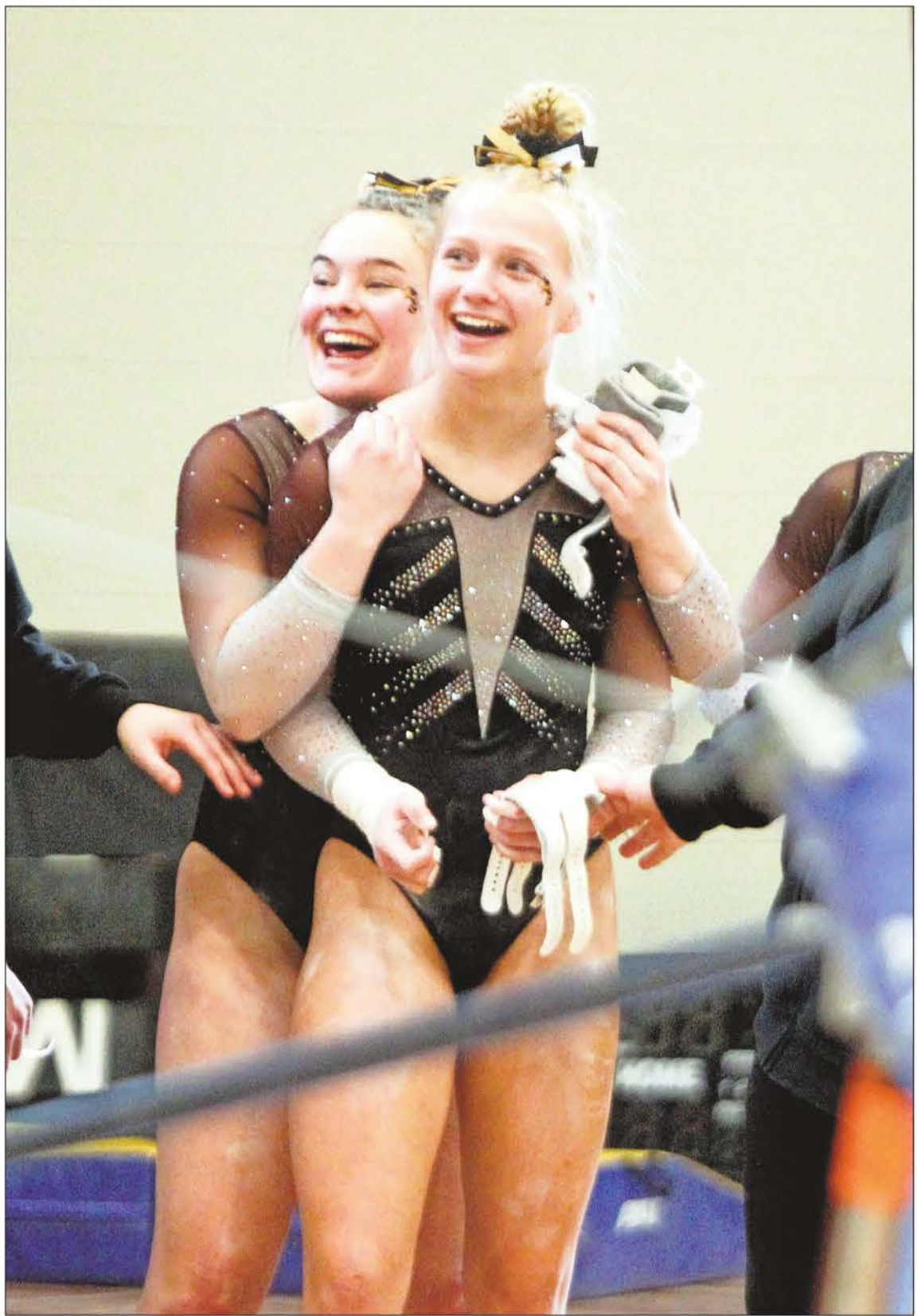
floor routine also took second place with a score of 9.375.

"It's such a good feeling to land that vault," McAllister said. "To win vault and beam is so crazy to me. I never thought that this is where I would be. I joined gymnastics when I was 3-years-old, and I never thought that it would get me to this point. It's really special to see how far I've come and how much I can still do in the future."

McAllister came into sections as one of the favorites to snag a top-three all-around spot and a trip to the state tournament at the University of Minnesota. Lorentz had been climbing the all-around ranks throughout the season and put on her best performance of the year when it mattered most.

"It feels amazing," Lorentz said of qualifying for state. "Hitting my bars routine really pushed me over the top into the all-around spot. I'm so proud of my team. We got our highest score of the season. We put in so much work this year. We had a lot of ice bags and a lot of injuries, and we had to put in a lot of extra work to get to this point."

GYMNASTICS: Page 10



Jared Rubado / Perham Focus



Left: Perham's Avery McAllister sprints across the floor during her floor routine on Saturday at the Section 8A championships at Lakeshirts Fieldhouse. Right: Perham's Avery McAllister, left, and Brittney Lorentz celebrate Lorentz's bars score of 9.4 at the Section 8A championships at Lakeshirts Fieldhouse on Saturday. McAllister and Lorentz are both headed to state after finishing second and third in the all-around standings.

BOYS SWIMMING AND DIVING

Jackets take third at Mid-State

By Jared Rubado
Perham Focus

DETROIT LAKES - The Perham - New York Mills swimming and diving team won two races at the Mid-State Conference championships on Saturday at the Detroit Lakes Community and Cultural Center.

The 200-yard free-style relay team of Blake Swenson, Luke Becker, Bjorn Anderson and Domanik Hagen finished in first place with a time of 1:56.71. Anderson also won the 500-yard free-style race with a time of 6:01.1. Max George was right behind him in second place at 6:08.96.

Anderson also finished in second place in the 200-yard free-style with a time of 2:12.17. Blake Swenson took second in the



Photos by Vance Carlson / Forum News Service

Perham's Max George swims a freestyle race in Park Rapids on Feb. 8.

200-yard IM (2:26.76) as well. Both swam on

the second-place 400-yard freestyle relay team (4:04.20) with Jonah Bieger and Blake Swenson.

The Yellowjackets took third place with a team score of 249. Park Rapids won the Mid-State Conference championship with a 459, while Detroit Lakes took second (298).

Perham-New York Mills also competed in a dual meet last Tuesday against the Panthers. Park Rapids pulled out a 121-58 win.

MID-STATE BOYS SWIMMING TEAM SCORES- 1st- Park Rapids 459, Detroit Lakes 298, 3rd- Perham-New York Mills 249

PARK RAPIDS 121, PERHAM-NEW YORK MILLS 58
PERHAM TOP THREE FINISHERS- 200Y MEDLEY RELAY- 1st- Becker, Swenson, George, Hagen 2:05.51; 200Y FREE- 3rd- Anderson 2:12.93; 200Y IM- 1st- George 2:37.51; 50Y FREE- 1st- Swenson 24.44, 3rd- Becker 26.85; 100Y FREE- 2nd- Hagen 1:03.09; 500Y FREE RELAY- 3rd- Anderson, Bieger, Alex Mack, Hagen 1:55.8; 100Y BACK- 2nd- Swenson 1:00.88, 3rd- Anderson 1:10.87 100Y BREAST- 3rd- Caden Doll 1:36.95 400Y FREE RELAY- 3rd- Anderson, Becker, George, Swenson 4:18.45

Contact Jared Rubado: jrubado@dlnewspapers.com; Twitter: @DLtribSports



Perham's Domanik Hagen swims a freestyle race in Park Rapids on Feb. 8.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Perham takes down 14th-ranked Crookston

By Jared Rubado
Perham Focus

The Perham girls basketball team got back in the win column with victories over 14th-ranked Crookston and Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton last week. 17th-ranked Perham (16-5), according to MN Basketball News, knocked off the Pirates (17-3) 68-60 on the road on Saturday. The Yellowjackets pulled away in the second half with a 13-3 run. Perham led by 10 in the first half before Crookston closed the gap with a 12-2 run to tie the game 29-29 at halftime.

Sydney Anderson led the way with 25 points and four rebounds. Willow Thiel had a double-double with 22 points and 17 rebounds. The junior varsity and C-team squads also won to sweep the day for Perham.

On Tuesday, the Yellowjackets dom-

inated DGF (4-14) behind a balanced scoring effort. In the 63-26 win, 10 players found the score-sheet. Anderson had 21 points, while Thiel had 11. Greta Hillukka also had nine points.

Perham has four games left in the regular season. According to Minnesota-Scores and the QR rankings, the Yellowjackets are third in the Section 8-2A standings. Fergus Falls (15-5) and Crookston occupy the top two spots.

PERHAM 38 25 - 63
DGF 11 15 - 26
PERHAM- Olivia Rosenthal 3 points, 1 assist, 4 rebounds, 2 steals; Greta Hillukka 9 points, 3 rebounds; Greta Raser 2 points, 1 rebound; Kennedy Pilgrim 3 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist; Olivia Pilgrim 5 points, 2 assists, 1 rebound; Kaia Anderson 4 points, 2 rebounds; Kaia Startz 2 points; Willow Thiel 11 points, 3 assists, 4 rebounds; Sydney Anderson 21 points, 1 assist, 2 rebounds; Ryleigh Mickelson 3 points, 1 rebound
DGF SCORING- Makayla Bjelland 2, Kaleigh Peterson 3, Ashley Taves 4, Annaliese Aas 6, Aria Garrett 8, Alyvia Couchmann
PERHAM 29 39 - 68
CROOKSTON 29 31 - 60
PERHAM- Sydney Anderson 25 points, 4 rebounds, 4 steals; Greta Hillukka 9 points, 4 rebounds, 2 steals; Willow Thiel 22 points, 17 rebounds; Olivia Pilgrim 8 points, 1 rebound; Kennedy Pilgrim 2 points, 2 rebounds; Ryleigh Mickelson 2 points, 1 rebound

Contact Jared Rubado: jrubado@dlnewspapers.com; Twitter: @DLtribSports

FOOTBALL

Jackets football recognized nationally for academic excellence

By Jared Rubado
Perham Focus

PERHAM – The Perham football team is a finalist for the National Football Foundation National High School Academic Excellence Award. The NFF and College Hall of Fame announced the news in a press release on Feb. 2.

The Yellowjackets are one of 62 teams from 13 states to become finalists for the award. Perham was the top academic winner for Class 3A in Minnesota.

“I’m just really proud that the kids worked so hard and put such a high emphasis on their education,” Perham head football coach Aron Velde said in a release. “It is a team award that takes into consideration team GPA and football success— one of the huge benefits of being involved in activities is that it teaches them to balance school, social life and their activity. The fact that the boys chose to prioritize school is so awesome to me.”

The NFF announced the creation of the award in February 2021, with the Nebraska and Texas state high school coaches associations leading the initial effort. The initiative is designed to inspire and foster a culture of academic excellence on high school football teams throughout the nation.

“Academic and athletic success go hand-in-hand,” said NFF Chairman Archie Manning in a release. “We are proud to announce these 62 outstanding high school football teams as the top academic performers in their states. These schools, coach-



Contributed / Perham-Dent Public Schools

The Perham football team was recognized for its academic excellence by the National Football Foundation. The Yellowjackets are a finalist for the National High School Academic Excellence Award and were named Class AAA academic champions.

es, players and their families should all be incredibly proud of their accomplishments, and we look forward to announcing the overall winner of the NFF National High School Academic Excellence Award on February 9. We hope by inspiring teams to compete in the classroom with the same competitive spirit that it takes to win on the field, we will better prepare high school football players for success later in life.”

The 62 finalists from each division of play were selected by the individual states’ high school coaches associations from a pool of semifinalists submitted by each school’s head coach. A selection committee, created by the NFF, will be responsible for choosing one school as the recipient of the National High School Academic Excellence Award.

Eligibility requirements for the NFF National High School Academic Excellence Award

include: ► A minimum cumulative team GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

► Superior academic application and performance.

► Successful football season.

“The Minnesota Football Coaches Association is privileged and proud to participate in this visionary initiative to recognize and honor academic excellence by our student-athletes, and look forward to years of growth

in and for this forward thinking program. We thank the leaders of high school football in our nation for implementing this important effort. The NFF National High School Academic Award is yet another way to salute the intrinsic lessons and values of our fraternal huddle.” Ron Stolski, MFCA Executive Director said in a release.

Contact Jared Rubado: jrubado@dnewspapers.com; Twitter: @DLtribSports

BOYS HOCKEY

Detroit Lakes ties Red Lake Falls

By Jared Rubado
Detroit Lakes Tribune

RED LAKE FALLS – A late third-period goal led to the first tie of the Detroit Lakes boys hockey season.

Detroit Lakes (17-4-1) and Red Lake Falls (15-6-1) were knotted at 3-3 after 59 minutes of play on Saturday. Trailing 3-2, the Eagles tied the game with 1:15 left on Evan Girder’s 30th goal of the season. Brock Seger and Blaine Schmitz.

After a scoreless first period, Ty Kennett put Red Lake Falls ahead with the

first of his two goals on the day. Detroit Lakes’ Ben Hines tied the game 30 seconds later before Kennett’s power-play goal gave the Eagles a one-goal lead heading into the third period.

Hines’ second goal tied the game early in the third before Cooper Moore gave the Lakers their first lead of the game a minute later.

Elijah Blow made 17 saves in goal for Detroit Lakes, while Ashtin Fredrickson made 18 saves for Red Lake Falls.

The Lakers have two more games left on the schedule. They’ll take on

the Little Falls Flyers (19-4) in a makeup game on Thursday before hosting Northern Lakes (13-9) on Saturday. Tuesday’s game against Alexandria was canceled due to scheduling conflicts.

DETROIT LAKES 0 1 2 0 - 3
RED LAKE FALLS 0 2 1 0 - 3
SCORING- SECOND PERIOD- Red Lake Falls- Ty Kennett (Brock Seger, Evan Girder) 7:44; Detroit Lakes- Ben Hines (Cole Larson, Cole Deraney) 8:14; Red Lake Falls- Kennett (Blake Schmitz, Seger) 13:52; THIRD PERIOD- Detroit Lakes- Hines (Tommy Suckert, Cole Larson) 2:11; Detroit Lakes- Moore (Hines) 3:15; Red Lake Falls- Girder (Seger, Schmitz) 15:45; PENALTIES- Detroit Lakes- 10 minutes on five infractions; Red Lake Falls- 2 minutes on 1 infraction; GOALTENDING- Detroit Lakes- Elijah Blow, T, 17 saves, 3 goals allowed; Red Lake Falls- Ashtin Fredrickson, T, 18 saves, 3 goals allowed

Contact Jared Rubado: jrubado@dnewspapers.com; Twitter: @DLtribSports

GIRLS HOCKEY

TRF knocks off DL in first round

By Jared Rubado
Detroit Lakes Tribune

THIEF RIVER FALLS – The Detroit Lakes girls hockey team’s season came to an end on Saturday in Thief River Falls.

The Prowlers (6-16-2) beat the Lakers (4-21) 12-1 behind a pair of five-point performances. Gretchen Cota scored a goal and recorded four assists, while Jaymin Klosterman scored twice and added three assists. Bella Amoiti had a hat trick, while Kali Knutson and Jayden Breiland each had two goals.

The lone goal scorer for Detroit Lakes was Ella Larson. Emma Coley assisted on the second-period tally. Coley finished the season with 29 goals and 13 assists.

She averaged 1.75 points per game to lead the Lakers in scoring this season. Adisyn Strand (16, 7 goals), Kaydence Thorsteinson (13, 7 goals), Haley Stattleman (13, 6 goals) and Ella Larson (10, 4 goals) rounded out the Lakers’ top five scorers this season.

DETROIT LAKES 0 1 0 - 1
THIEF RIVER FALLS 5 4 3 - 12
SCORING- FIRST PERIOD- TRF- Kali Knutson (Breanna Lee) power play, 2:52; TRF- Knutson (Jaymin Klosterman, Gretchen Cota) 6:00; TRF- Klosterman (Knutson, G. Cota) 9:40; Bella Amoiti (Jenae Johnson) 12:29; TRF- Klosterman (G. Cota) 16:48; SECOND PERIOD- Detroit Lakes- Ella Larson (Coley) 2:29; TRF- Amoiti (G. Cota) 3:44; TRF- Jayden Breiland (Mandi Colton, Milea Cota) 5:29; TRF- Ava Budish (Johnson) 12:19; TRF- G. Cota (Klosterman) 12:31; THIRD PERIOD- TRF- Breiland (Amoiti) 1:08; TRF- Amoiti (unassisted) 4:09; TRF- Johnson (Klosterman) 16:12; PENALTIES- Detroit Lakes- 4 minutes on 2 infractions; TRF- 4 minutes on 2 infractions; GOALTENDING- Detroit Lakes- Emma Wahl, L, 14 saves, 12 goals allowed; TRF- Bella Berzinski, W, 12 saves, 1 goal allowed

Contact Jared Rubado: jrubado@dnewspapers.com; Twitter: @DLtribSports

GYMNASTICS

From Page 9

Lorentz won the bars title with a 9.4, which was over a point better than Melrose’s Courtney Althouse (9.275) in second place. After landing on the mat, she looked up at the ecstatic Perham crowd before being swarmed by her teammates. It was her exclamation point on one of the best days of her career.

“I just thought to myself that this is my event,” Lorentz said before she performed her bars routine. “I knew that I could do well on it. After I did it, I looked around and saw my teammates and all of the people going crazy. It feels amazing to have so many people here supporting me and the rest of the team.”

“It was so crazy to see her do that,” McAllister said of Lorentz’s bars routine. “I was so happy I just started jumping up and down. I’m just so happy for her and how far she’s come.”

Lorentz has been the most consistent gymnast across all four events for Perham this season, but she took it to a new level at sections. Along with her first-place bars routine, she also took third on the floor (9.175) and fourth on the vault (9.4).

“Really pushing myself and my teammates,” Lorentz said on finding the key to her consistency. “Having my parents and my teammates



Jared Rubado / Perham Focus

Perham’s Brittney Lorentz performs her Section 8A championship-winning bars routine on Saturday at Lakeshirts Fieldhouse.

be there for me helps too.”

Dynamic duo

Both Lorentz and McAllister have already made the drive to the University of Minnesota in the fall. Both qualified for state in diving and are heading back to compete for individual hardware on Saturday.

“We both got to experience going to state in diving together, and now we’ll do this one too,” McAllister said. “I feel like it’s going to be so much fun and a really good experience we can bring back and share with

our teammates.”

Both Lorentz and McAllister qualified for state in 2021 as well. This time, they’re eyeing state gold as the torch has been passed to them as the new faces of Perham gymnastics.

“We’re really excited,” McAllister said. “It’s obviously a bummer that the whole team isn’t going, but Brittney and I made it, and I’m really happy for her. It’s going to be a super good experience for us.”

Competition aside, both are excited to share the memories of competing on

the biggest stage in both gymnastics and diving.

“Avery is my best friend, and I’ve known her since we were really little,” Lorentz said. “We’ve grown up together, and we live pretty close to each other. We just push each other through thick and thin. She’s amazing. She’s always been the biggest person that’s there for me. She’s my biggest supporter. It’s kind of relieving that I get to go to state with her instead of going alone. But I get to bring my best friend, and I couldn’t be happier about it.”

Perham takes third

Detroit Lakes and Melrose proved to be too much for Perham to overcome in an attempt to repeat as Section 8A champions.

Perham finished with a team score of 141.75, its highest of the season. Detroit Lakes won it with a 144.875, while Melrose took second with a 142.95.

“It’s really nerve-racking,” McAllister said of competing for a Section 8A championship. “When I got off the beam, I was so nervous and shaking. “Once you get past the emotions and you tell yourself you got this, it all kind of goes away. It’s a pretty emotional day, but you have to do your best to get through it.”

Aryanna Myers took ninth in the all-around with a score of 34.175. Cailyn Greisen took seventh in the

vault with a 9.05.

One of the biggest challenges of this season was overcoming the departure of Jada Olsen. The former two-time Class A individual champion left gaps in the Yellowjackets’ lineup.

“Losing Jada was huge. She’s crazy good,” McAllister said. “This year was kind of a rebuilding year. We’ve had to have people step up. I think this is the year that we’ve had to work the hardest. We needed people to step up and fill Jada’s spot, and I’m really proud of us for getting this far.”

SECTION 8A TEAM SCORES (TOP TEAM ADVANCES TO STATE)- 1st- Detroit Lakes 144.875, 2nd- Melrose 142.95, 3rd- Perham 141.75, 4th- Fergus Falls 131.45, 5th- Park Rapids 129.175, 6th- Little Falls 127.3, 7th- Long Prairie- Grey Eagle-Brownville 105.3

SECTION 8A ALL-AROUND TOP 10 (TOP THREE ADVANCE TO STATE)- 1st- Gabby Whitworth, Detroit Lakes, 37.575; 2nd- Avery McAllister, Perham, 36.875; 3rd- Brittney Lorentz, Perham, 36.7; 4th- Jerzie Horner, Detroit Lakes, 36.35; 5th- Courtney Althouse, Melrose, 36.025; 6th- Elsie Ratz, Detroit Lakes, 35.5; 7th- Maria Hinnenkamp, Melrose 35.1; 8th- Madeline Dehn, Little Falls, 34.225; 9th- Aryanna Myers, Perham, 34.175; 10th- Morgan Koppelman, Park Rapids, 32.8

SECTION 8A VAULT STATE QUALIFIERS (TOP THREE AND ALL-AROUND TOP THREE ADVANCE TO STATE)- 1st- McAllister, Perham, 9.45; 2nd- Whitworth, Detroit Lakes, 9.65; 3rd- Horner, Detroit Lakes, 9.575; 4th- Lorentz, Perham, 9.4; 5th- Ratz, Detroit Lakes, 9.25; 6th- Hinnenkamp, Melrose, 9.15

SECTION 8A BEAM STATE QUALIFIERS (TOP THREE AND ALL-AROUND TOP THREE ADVANCE TO STATE)- 1st- McAllister, Perham, 9.475; 2nd- Whitworth, Detroit Lakes, 9.425; 3rd- Hannah Hoppe, Melrose, 9.3; 4th- Horner, Detroit Lakes, 9.275; 5th- Hinnenkamp, Melrose, 9.05

SECTION 8A FLOOR STATE QUALIFIERS (TOP THREE AND ALL-AROUND TOP THREE ADVANCE TO STATE)- 1st- Whitworth, Detroit Lakes, 9.45; 2nd- McAllister, Perham 9.375; 3rd- Lorentz, Perham, 9.175; T-4th- Marett Van Beck, Melrose, 9.05; T-4th- Althouse, Melrose, 9.05; 6th- Meghan Pundsack 8.975

Contact Jared Rubado: jrubado@dnewspapers.com; Twitter: @DLtribSports

Minn. COVID hospitalizations fall below 900

By Christopher Magan
St. Paul Pioneer Press

ST. PAUL — The number of Minnesotans hospitalized for COVID-19 has fallen below 900 for the first time since early October, another sign the latest omicron-driven wave is declining.

There are 898 patients hospitalized with COVID-19 including 145 in intensive care. Hospital capacity also continues to improve, but is still strained in the Twin Cities metro, state data shows.

The Minnesota Department of Health recorded

6,469 new cases Tuesday — a decline of about 38% from the week prior. The state only releases new data on weekdays and those infections were reported to the state over the weekend.

The state's measures of test-positivity and cases per capita, delayed by a week or more to allow for data correction, also continue to fall. Test-positivity stands at about 11% and Minnesota is recording 53 new cases a week per 100,000 residents.

However, the rate of COVID-19 fatalities remains high with 32 more deaths reported

Tuesday. The latest reported fatalities range in age from their late 30s to their early 90s.

Seven resided in long-term care and 25 lived in private homes.

Minnesota has recorded 11,862 COVID-19 deaths since the pandemic began, including 5,484 in long-term care. About 82% of those who died were seniors 65 or older.

Health officials maintain that vaccines are the best way to avoid a severe infection and to slow the spread of the coronavirus. But breakthrough cases are increasingly

common, especially with the omicron variant, and booster shots are recommended for everyone 12 and older.

Since vaccination began, breakthroughs account for about 36% of cases. When the omicron variant hit the state in December, nearly 60% of those who tested positive for COVID-19 were vaccinated.

Minnesota has administered 9.3 million vaccine doses including 2.1 million boosters. About 50% of eligible Minnesotans, age 5 and older, have completed their vaccination series.

Beef selection webinars planned for February, March

The University of Minnesota Extension is hosting a four part spring beef webinar series titled: Genetic Selection with a Vision – An integrated approach to creating profitability and opportunities for every type of beef cattle producer. The Zoom meetings will be held Monday nights – February 21 and 28, and March 7 and 14 from 8 p.m. – 9 p.m. CST. The webinar series will focus on how to select for beef sire selection, associated costs using artificial insemination (AI) versus natural service, cost of raising replacement heifers versus purchasing them, and how to care for the bull throughout the year and prior to turnout to ensure a successful breeding season.

Speakers: Troy Salzer, St. Louis County Extension Educator

March 7: Raising versus Purchasing Replacement Heifers

Topics to be discussed: Expenses associated with raising your own replacement heifers versus purchasing them, and the trade-offs and considerations of using either management strategy. Will also look at the option of using a bi-annual replacement system, and how to make replacement decisions based on the cattle cycle.

Speaker: Dr. Eric Mousel, Cow Calf Management Extension Educator

March 14: Bull Breeding Soundness Exams & Bull Health

Topics to be discussed: Overview of bull Breeding Soundness Exams (BSE) and when they should be done prior to the breeding season, how many bulls are needed based on the number of females they will be breeding, bull vaccine protocols, and other year-round bull management considerations.

Speaker: Dr. Joe Armstrong DVM, Cattle Production Systems Extension Educator

Feb. 21: Buying the Bull – How to Make Smart Decisions on Sale Day

Topics to be discussed: How to balance the use of EPDs, GE-EPDs, performance data, ratios, indices, pedigree, and phenotype to determine which bulls to purchase or which A.I. sires to use in your herd. Navigate through all the different types of data and learn which is most important to use based on your program objectives.

Speaker: Melissa Runck, Pipestone and Murray Counties Extension Educator

Feb. 28: Breeding Costs – Artificial Insemination versus Natural Service

Topics to be discussed: Compare and contrast the different expenses associated with incorporating Artificial Insemination (A.I.) in the herd versus using bulls for natural service. Overview of most

commonly used synchronization protocols will be discussed, as well as best management practices to maintain a tight calving window and improve reproductive efficiency in the herd.

Speaker: Dr. Joe Armstrong DVM, Cattle Production Systems Extension Educator

Pre-registration is required. Please register online at z.umn.edu/BeefGenetics. You will receive a Zoom link after registration is completed. You only have to register once and you will be registered for all subsequent webinars. If you are unable to attend the live sessions, you will receive the recordings for all the sessions via email at the end of the series. Any questions, contact: Brenda Miller at nels4220@umn.edu.



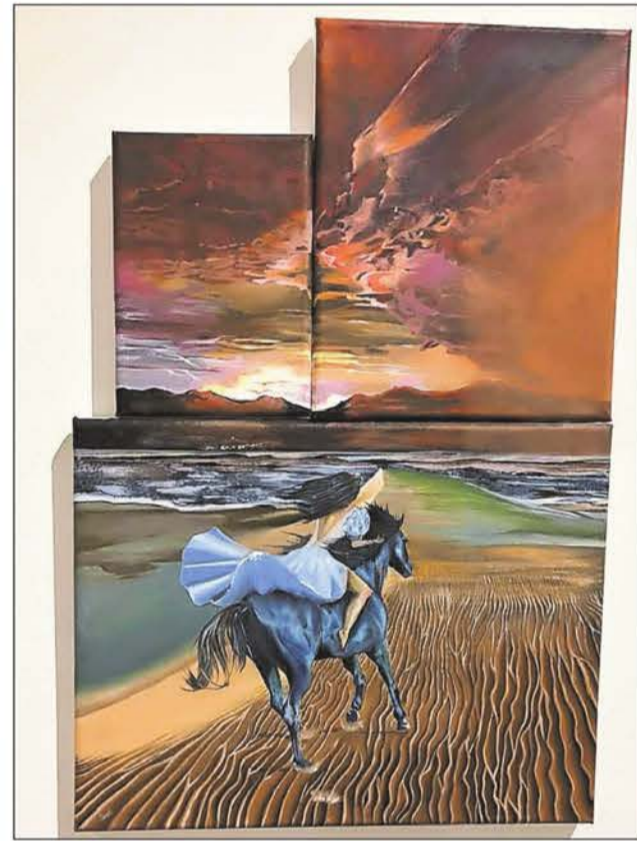
Elizabeth Vierkant / Perham Focus



Elizabeth Vierkant / Perham Focus

Dana Arenivar, 18, is a junior at Perham High School. Her painting, "Compañero (companion)," shown below, earned an Honorable Mention.

Amanda Jorgenson, 15, is a sophomore at Perham High School. Her pottery piece, "Set of Daisies," shown below, won an Honorable Mention.



Contributed / Dana Arenivar / Perham Focus



Contributed / Amanda Jorgenson / Perham Focus

ART

From Page 1

walk, if there's a flower garden someplace, I'll look at them. When I do art, it's a lot of nature and flowers."

Those interests shine through in the different pieces she creates, including her daisy pottery and a painting she recently made of a bee.

While she enjoys all forms of art, she's particularly drawn toward working with clay, particularly because of the medium's fluidity. She found this passion in clay and ceramics work in her high school, where one of her first projects was to make a stamp. She decided to make a flower.

"I thought it (the flower) was really cute," Jorgenson said. "So I thought, 'Oh, I'll just keep making flowers.' I don't know how many I cut out."

Her honored piece, "A

"It was really cool ... I was, like, sitting there shaking. And then they called my name, and everybody from our school was cheering me on."

AMANDA JORGENSON, ON WINNING HONORABLE MENTION AT THE ART-A-FAIR

"Set of Daisies," is a blue pottery set decorated with many of the flowers she spent time cutting out.

While Jorgenson doesn't plan to pursue art as a career, she hopes to do it on the side as a hobby for the rest of her life.

"I think (the art I make) would be kind of cool in the future to look back on and think, 'Yeah, I did that.'"

Both Jorgenson and Arenivar said they had an amazing experience at the art show.

To see the exhibit in full, visit the MSUM



Contributed / Dana Arenivar / Perham Focus
A painting by Dana Arenivar, entitled "Reflected Lights."

School of Art's Facebook page or go to the MSUM School of Art Art-A-Fair page.



Forum News Service file photo
Two new electric vehicle charging stations will soon be installed at Landmark Liquors in Perham.

COUNCIL

From Page 1

project includes storm sewer, curb and gutter reconstruction and street improvements from County Highway 51 to Pine Lane Drive. Apex Engineering Group associate Jade Berube noted the city will pay for portions of the project along with residential and industrial assessments. The total project cost is \$425,000.

► Approved a tax

reduction to BHH Partners for energy efficiency projects at the HUB.

► Adopted a resolution in support of local authority on housing projects and opposing laws that inhibit local elected officials from supporting community needs. The resolution states the city supports housing solutions specific to each community.

► Approved a parks master plan with Jillian Reiner. The project cost is not to exceed \$30,550.

OFFICE HOURS

The Perham Focus office is open Monday-Wednesday 8:30am-5pm. Staff may be reached via phone and email on Thursday and Friday.

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PACC

From Page 1

The new HVAC system is about the size of a garage, and is located at the back of the center.

“It’s a major upgrade,” Shebeck said, mentioning that warmer air temperature is especially important for elderly pool users. “For their health reasons, they have to have it regulated — if it’s too cold when they get out of the pool, and you have fibromyalgia or something like that, your joints lock up. And then what’s the point of being in the water?”

The pool will close again from March to May for some finalization and a construction walk-through.

At the front of the PACC, a new therapy pool is being added; that’ll be one of the last projects to open. The area will have separate locker rooms and there will be an additional fee to use it, Shebeck explained. People will be able to sign up for times to use the 94-to-96-degree pool, and the pool will also be used by Perham Health patients for water modality therapy.

Improvements to the front entrance and parking lot will begin in April. This interior space was designed with input from the community, and once complete, there will be a centralized desk area with a fireplace, additional fitness spaces and locker rooms.

The center will also offer additional adventure and child care options for kids and families, including not only the new playland but also a new climbing wall, child watch program, and after school program. The playland will include a series of slides, monkey bars, noodles and netted areas to climb around on. There will also be a separate toddler area. The three-story structure is planned to open at the end of summer or early fall.

“It’s something Perham has definitely wanted for a while,” Shebeck noted of the playland. Community and member surveys showed the playland as the third most-requested item. “Ours is multicolored and multi-everything, but it was designed so that it wouldn’t go in five years and look like it’s outdated.”

The after school program will be available to members’ kids ages 8 to 12. The child watch area, where parents can drop off their children while working out, will be available for an additional monthly fee. Shebeck said there will be several designated



Photos by Rebecca Mitchell / Perham Focus

The new locker room hallway at the Perham Area Community Center. The locker rooms and new pool opened in November 2021.



The fitness studio will be open to adults, and will have weight machines.



The Perham Area Community Center’s back gym and track area is construction central right now, as new padding, a new ceiling, lighting and HVAC system are all being added, and the whole space is being repainted. The area is expected to open soon, in early March.

care hours throughout the day.

The back gym — or construction central, at the time of this writing in mid-February — will host all the same activities as before, but with better lighting along the track for

improved visibility during roller skating nights. The gym and track are planned to open in early March.

A temporary back entrance will open in April while the front entrance is being remodeled.

After construction is complete, the PACC will offer 24/7 access to most areas, except for the playland and child watch areas, which will have additional security.

The upstairs portion of the addition brought



The exterior of the Perham Area Community Center is currently being painted in black sealant in preparation for the addition of paneling and insulation. The front entrance will be closed for construction starting in April.

changes to the cardio area and added a stretching space. New cardio equipment arrived in March 2020 and was added to the existing fitness area; in April, the new, full cardio area will open.

“It’s nice having the child watch and the playland and all of the features, but if we don’t do a great job at the fitness side of it, then this place doesn’t exist,” Shebeck said. “Ninety-five percent of the members here are members because of the fitness area, so if we didn’t have the fitness area, we’re not having a community center.”

There will be fitness areas on both levels of the PACC, with a free weight area downstairs and cardio and fitness studio upstairs.

“We put a lot of time and energy into that,” Shebeck said of the fitness area design. Those areas were the number one requested item from community and member surveys: “The fitness took a lot more effort (than the playland) because you’re trying to get equipment that covers a cross-section of people.” Throughout the

center, windows will bring in natural light to brighten the rooms and enhance interior features. The cardio area will have window views of Fox Street, looking toward the HUB. New bathrooms, a spin studio and fitness area for the after school program will also be upstairs.

Shebeck said the PACC project hasn’t run into many pandemic-related materials shortages or shipping delays, as many other projects across the country have faced. Steel has been back-logged, and that’s used in the PACC’s exterior insulation and entryway projects (the center is being insulated from the outside). Otherwise, things have gone pretty smoothly.

“We’re lucky,” Shebeck said, adding that while other projects “had all kinds of delays trying to get equipment and get materials, we really haven’t had a lot of that because they (Hammers Construction, the general contractor) pre-ordered everything.”

For construction updates, visit the PACC website at perhamarea.com/members/communitycenter.net/pacc-remodel/.

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