



MN South Lake Region

Life *Enterprise*

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Thursday, August 4, 2022
Volume 145, No. 31
\$1.75

Local news 24/7 at lifeenterprisemnnews.com

Yeehaw! There's a new business in Morrystown Cedar Ridge Ranch offers riding lessons

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Since her first time riding a horse at the age of eight, Tricia Melchert knew that someday she wanted to own her own business where she could share her passion for horses with others.

That someday came in May 2022 when Melchert, with the support of her husband, Daniel, opened Cedar Ridge Ranch at her family's farm in North Morrystown.

Melchert offers horseback riding lessons for children and adults of all riding abilities.

"It has been a dream of mine for as long as I can remember," she shared.

"Growing up, I attended horse camps and took lessons... I just loved being around horses and riding, but it wasn't until college that I bought my first horse."

Melchert grew up in Rochester and pursued her passion for horses by studying Animal Science at the University of Wisconsin, River Falls. Her degree in Equine Management has helped guide her path to opening her own riding business. She also has an extensive background teaching youth and adult riders in multiple environments, including helping run horseback riding camps, teaching gaming and western pleat-



Tricia Melchert of North Morrystown (pictured) opened Cedar Ridge Ranch at her family's farm in May 2022 and now offering private horse-riding lessons.

sure, leading trail rides, and driving a draft horse team for public events.

For enjoyment, Melchert does pleasure riding and

continues to dabble in barrel racing, but her biggest joy is sharing her passion for horses with her four kids.

"We just got back from the

fair where my older kids participated in a few of the horse events," she shared. "They did a great job... It's fun to watch them enjoying some-

thing I enjoy so much."

Currently, Melchert has four horses—Jack, Charlie, Joe, and Scout—that she uses

Ranch to 2



Whitehurst

Whitehurst reflects on two decades at WEM

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The opportunity to become a superintendent in a smaller community was something which really appealed to Joel Whitehurst, who had started his educational career in 1987.

Now 35 years later, 20 of those in the local Waterville-Elysian-Morrystown School District, Whitehurst has passed the torch to Ryan Jensen.

Looking back, ending up in the WEM School District as the superintendent was something which Whitehurst probably wouldn't have imagined happening.

For years, Waterville was a central meeting location for Whitehurst and his high school buddies. He

Whitehurst to 2

Primary election to decide county commissioner and U.S. Rep. vacancy

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Local voters will have a chance to select two candidates for Le Sueur County 4th District Commissioner race and vote for the U.S. Representative District 1 vacancy during the Tuesday, August 9 special primary election.

Four individuals are running for the commissioner seat, which has been filled for the last 10 years by Lance Wetzel. Wetzel, along with Le Center residents Nathan Hintz, Bob Emmers, and David Priesler will be on the primary ballot. The top two vote getters will be placed on the November 8 general election ballot.

Le Sueur County District 4 includes the cities of Kilkenny, Le Center, and Waterville and Cordova, Kilkenny, and Waterville Townships.

The other special election race will be for the U.S. Representative District 1 office which will fill the office which had been held by Jim Hagedorn, who passed away earlier this year.

Twenty candidates filed for this office and there was a May 24 primary held, which trimmed the 20 candidates down to four.

The four are Haroun McClellan (Grassroots-Legalize Cannabis Party), Richard B. Reisdorf (Legal Marijuana Now Party), Brad Finstad (Republican Party), and Jeff Ettinger (DFL Party).

The winner of this special election will fill the vacancy in term expiring January 3, 2023.

This is where things get a bit confusing for Le Sueur County residents. After spending many years in Congressional District 1, starting with the November election, Le Sueur County residents and a portion of Rice County residents will now be included in Congressional District 2.

District 2 will include all of Dakota County, all of Le Sueur County, all of Scott County, portions of Washington County, and a handful of townships and cities in Rice County including Morrystown Township, the City of Morrystown, Lonsdale, Dundas, Northfield, and Shieldsville Township.

The candidates for Congressional District 2 will be Angie Craig (DFL), Tyler Kistner (Rep), and Paula Overby (Legal Marijuana Now Party)

The final portion of the ballot will be a vote for one political party only for Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, and Attorney General.

Four commissioner candidates vying for spot on General Election ballot

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The four candidates running for the Le Sueur County 4th District Commissioner position were asked questions about their family, their government experience, reasons for running, and immediate needs of the county heading into the Tuesday, August 9 Primary Election.

Voters in Waterville, Waterville township, Kilkenny, Kilkenny Township, and Le Center will trim the candidates to two who will then be placed on the Nov. 8 General Election ballot.

Here are the responses of the candidates:

Name: Lance W. Wetzel
Family: Wife - Jeni, Son - Landen (16), Son - Keegan



Wetzel



Priesler



Emmers



Hintz

(14), and daughter - Kinsley (4)

Occupation: Tri-City United School District-Maintenance/Custodian/Boiler Operator

Past government experience: Mayor of Le Center from 2007 to 2013; Le Sueur County Commissioner District 4- 2014 to present - Currently Vice Board

Chair; Le Center Area Fire Department- From January 2000 to present - Currently 2nd Assistant Chief; South Central EMS Board from 2014 to present- Currently Board Chair; South Central Emergency Communications Board from 2014 to present - Currently Vice Board Chair; Minnesota Valley Coalition of Governments from 2007

to present - Currently Board Chair; and Statewide Emergency Communication Board Strategic Board Member.

Reasons for running: I am running for re-election because I truly enjoy the job. I do my best to listen and communicate to find the best solution for everyone involved. I enjoy and respect

Commissioner to 7

Indians, Morries advance to Regions

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After a long weekend battling the elements, both the Waterville Indians and Morrystown Morries amateur baseball teams have advanced to the Region 6C Playoffs.

These two teams have advanced to Regions four straight years. Both advanced to Class C State in 2019, with Waterville placing second at Regions and Morrystown placing third.

Waterville defeated Wells for the third time this season Sunday, July 31 for the

13-60 League Tournament Championship, downing the Wildcats, 13-3 in seven innings.

Morrystown knocked off Janesville, 11-2 on Saturday, July 30 to advance to Regions. In a seeding game Sunday, Minnesota Lake defeated the Morries, 6-1.

The top four teams from the 13-60 League and the River Valley League will make up the 8-team Region 6C Tourney. Waterville will host four games on Saturday, Aug. 6 and four more on August 7. The final four games will be played in Belle Plaine Saturday, Aug. 13. The top

three teams will advance to the Class C State Tournament, which will be held in Dundas, Faribault, and Miesville.

Morrystown will start the Regions with an 11 a.m. game Saturday, August 6 against No. 1 seed Jordan. Waterville, the No. 2 overall seed, will play St. Peter at 7 p.m. Saturday. Both teams will play Sunday, August 7 regardless of how they do in the opening round. Morrystown will play at 11 a.m. if they lose to Jordan or 4:30 p.m. if they defeat the Brewers. Waterville will play at 1:30 p.m. if they lose or 7 p.m. if they defeat St. Peter.



8 0 4 8 7 9 3 5 3 4 4 7

22nd Annual
Adults \$7
Kids (8 & Under) FREE
Beverage Included
Burger or Sandwich & Chips \$3.00
Proceeds benefit area Community Programs

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT CORN FEED

Saturday, Aug. 6 • 12-6

American Legion, Morrystown
Silent Auction
Door Prizes
Ol' Country Boys 7 pm
Sponsored by Morrystown SAL Squadron #149