

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.



The fence surrounding the community pool, which is not being used this year, needs to be adjusted and no trespassing signs installed. Children have been seen entering the pool and fishing there. Somehow, there are fish in the pool.



FenceLines

by Mark Bernard

It's a cruel, cruel summer

The scurs have the Weather Eye continuing to deliver some impressive summer conditions. Does Mother Nature turn the burner back up or does she maintain our excellent sleeping weather? Starting Thursday, partly sunny with highs in the low 70's and lows in the upper 40's. Sunny Friday with a slight chance of p.m. rain. Highs in the mid-70's with lows in the mid-50's. Mostly sunny on Saturday with a fair chance of evening rain. Highs in the upper 70's with lows in the mid-50's. Sunday, the first day of astronomical summer, mostly sunny with a good chance of rain. Highs in the mid-70's with lows in the mid-50's. Mostly cloudy Monday with a slight chance of rain. Highs in the low 70's with lows in the low 50's. Tuesday, partly sunny with a good chance of rain. Highs in the upper 70's with lows in the upper 50's. Mostly sunny on Wednesday with highs in the upper 70's and lows in the upper 50's. On the summer solstice, we'll see a sunrise June 21st at 5:31 a.m. CDT and a sunset at 9 p.m. CDT. Our longest daylight period of the year will last 15 hours 24 minutes and 24 seconds. The normal high for June 21s is 80 and the normal low is 60. The scurs are hoping our story-book growing season doesn't suddenly turn cruel. It can happen.

It certainly has many of us wondering when the other shoe will drop. Talking to many who have traveled around the Midwest and the conclusions are unanimous. We're sitting on one of the nicest looking corn crops in the country here in Southern MN. Sure, there's the odd field that doesn't measure up, but there's usually a reason whether it's corn on corn, poor soil conditions and a later planting date. However, thinking about it, the vast majority, roughly 80% of the corn locally was planted in a four-day window from April 20th - 23rd. It caught the warm temperatures at precisely the right time and hasn't looked back. As of this writing, a lot of the corn is V8 - V10. Soybeans have been making their move as well. It takes a little longer these days, especially since we've cut our planting rates by nearly a third to one half since the 1980's. Some iron deficiency chlorosis here and there, but the rows have started to bush out, and they should move out of it quickly, particularly given some significant rainfall. Flowers on individual soybean plants were noted on Monday in some fields. R1 is just around the corner.

On the subject of rainfall, we were looking at our records to see when the last one-inch rainfall was recorded here in Bugtussle. It was actually back in the first week of March. At the ranch, one has to go back even farther than that. Try mid-August when over 5" fell between the 17th and 18th. That's not so say we're in any grave danger yet, but we certainly will need to see some significant rain to show up post-tassel. The last several years that's exactly what's happened, starting shortly after the 4th of July. Of course, the past two years we really didn't need it to rain due to ample

moisture the preceding several months. Let's just hope it doesn't pull a 2012 where we had a pretty good-looking crop coming and couldn't buy a rain to finish it off. East of I-35 where those late July and August rains fell, yields were phenomenal. A summer like 2022 where we had a dry May and June with bountiful rainfall in July and August would be more our speed.

An old friend (emphasis on old) called me over the weekend about some black bugs that were annoying him and had gone so far as to bite him. I couldn't place them based on the description he gave me, so I requested a picture. After a bit I received the photo and looking at it closely, it was a false Japanese beetle. Every so often we see them and usually it's around drier, sandy soils and drainage ditches. While they're generally not damaging, they are definitely annoying. Their bumbling flight tend to put them on a collision course with a person at inopportune times, getting tangled in your hair, down your shirt or crawling around in your vehicle. There have been more reports of their presence in the area since, so don't be surprised if you come across some.

<https://apps.extension.umn.edu/garden/diagnose/insect/garden/beetles/medium/fjapbeetle.html>

We finally managed to move some sheep over to the kindly neighbors pasture on Sunday the 14th. The weather wasn't boiling hot, so it made the task more bearable. While the sheep weren't entirely cooperative, thanks to some expert help, we got them into the trailer. We always try to make sure that we include some of the same animals that have been in the pasture at least one year before. Most of the lambs are ready to wean, although the Cache Valley virus has delayed the process due to some later than normal lambs. I've never quite figured out why the ewes don't jump at the chance to go someplace where they can ditch the kids that are starting to compete with them at the feed trough. Not to mention a place where you have all you can eat, plenty to drink, and shade with a nice breeze so you can take a nap. Then get up and do it all over again. I think a lot of people would be down with that. Count me in.

Poppy continues her vigilance of the backyard. She's very protective of her turf as the squirrels and bunnies have discovered. There have also been chipmunks spotted again by the granary. While they haven't been seen in the backyard, I suspect that's one of the main reasons she spends a lot of time sniffing at the woodpile. On one of my recent trips home at lunchtime, I spied a wild turkey sauntering around the backyard. After calling Poppy it didn't take her long to chase the intruder, causing it to fly over the electric fence and into the pasture. I have no problem with wild turkeys tooling around in the woods, but when they get into the backyard adjacent to the garden, Houston, we have a problem. And so does Poppy.

See you next week..real good then.



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

Amazed by insects

I have been amazed by two insects over the past few days.

My first moment of amazement came from something that seemed to be a stick about an inch long. But somehow, this "stick" was clinging to the screen on my front door.

It was so convincing that, at one point, three members of my family were standing in a half-circle around it; two of us were using our phones to take photos. For all the world, it looked like a tiny twig that had been broken off at the end. Only upon closer inspection could we see the hair-thin legs clinging to the screen.

I have been impressed by the "information" feature on my iPhone, which has solved a fair number of small mysteries for me. In this case, however, the iPhone refused to provide any feedback—I believe it thought I was asking it to identify a stick and lost patience with me.

Having been so fascinated, I had to look up more information. Most of the sources I found talk about how widespread the buff-tip moth is in Europe, Russia and even Asia. Only in one place did I find mention they are also sometimes found in the U.S.

Turns out the moth attached to my screen was destined to live only a very short time. The internet tells me the adult buff-tip doesn't even

have a mouth. It spends the night looking for a mate and the day in (very effective) hiding. The eggs are laid on the leaves of trees, most preferably birch, oak or willow. When they hatch, the caterpillars eat the tree leaves, often down to the "skeleton" framework.

After 30 to 45 days of eating, probably in October, the caterpillars go to the base of the tree, bury themselves in soil or leaf litter, and turn into shiny brown pupae. They stay that way all winter, emerging in early summer as the short-lived moth.

Frankly, it's all more amazing than I can convey. Consider going online and looking at some videos. There are three or four online entomologists who are very enthusiastic about the buff-tip and have excellent visuals.

My other insect wonder is that we spotted our first fireflies of 2026 in the last couple days.

Perhaps what I like most about fireflies is the link they create between generations. Now a grandmother myself, I remember my own grandparents helping me spot these luminescent wonders. It doesn't matter how old you are; I think the spontaneous flashing in the grass is something that stops all of us in our tracks and makes us look.

Since I was researching the buff-tip moth, I looked up some infor-



BUFF-TIP MOTH - A moth like these latched itself to Deb's screen door one evening last week. About 1 inch long, it looked exactly like a small, broken stick.

mation about fireflies. As richly as I have always appreciated them, learning more only heightened my fascination.

So, as we all know, the flashing lights are the fireflies' way of finding mates. Starting about now, females lay up to 500 eggs in moist soil or tree litter. These hatch about a month later and begin feeding on slugs, worms and other soft-bodied victims.

One online source compares this larval form to "tiny trilobites," with six legs and segmented backs. The larvae can live up to two years, meaning they can overwinter twice; when ready to metamorphose, they may be three quarters of an inch long. In complete contrast to my sentimental feelings about the adults, the larvae manage to eat creatures quite a bit larger than themselves because they inject a paralyzing toxin into them, then

feed on their liquefied organs.

When they have reached maturity, presumably after surviving their second winter, the larvae bury themselves in wet soil or under tree bark, then take about two weeks to completely change form and become adult fireflies, destined to live somewhere between one and four weeks.

I don't know about you, but learning all that gives me rich appreciation that, perhaps as much as two years ago, a female firefly laid her eggs in my yard. And all that time, unknown to me, a fascinating drama has been taking place in the grassy places around my home. Tiny "trilobites" have been stalking and capturing prey to survive and grow, then burying themselves for the winter; some of them have beaten the odds and survived, creating the summer delight of watching and appreciating fireflies.

Child's History of Waseca County

Cont. CHAPTER XI, 1855. Death of Henry Howell—First settlers in Blooming Grove, Janesville, and Byron.

TOWNSHIP OF BYRON

Jeremy Davis and family were among the 1855 settlers and made the first claim in the town of Byron, settling on the northwest quarter of section 34, where they lived until the death of Mr. Davis, which occurred September 13, 1863.

Daniel C. Davis, son of Jeremy, came with his father in 1855. Having just reached his majority, he also took a claim and became a permanent resident of the township. He took a homestead on

sections 28 and 33 after the homestead law took effect. He was married July 18, 1861, to Miss Frances Parvin, daughter of Mr. B. Parvin, who settled in the county in 1860.

(I have thus given the names, as far as I have been able to remember, or learn, of all those who settled in the county prior to the year 1856. That I have forgotten some names and incidents in fifty years is altogether possible and quite probable.

There were, however, some experiences peculiar to that first year's settlement which will never be forgotten by those who passed the winter of 1855-6 in this county.

In writing this history, I shall endeavor to pres-

ent the facts, as nearly as possible, in the order of their occurrence; and I know nothing that can be more interesting to future generations of our children, or to the living, than a truthful record of the real dangers and hardships then encountered by the men and women that have made it possible for the present thousands of people in the county to live in the midst of plenty, and with all the advantages of advanced civilization about them.

In my next chapter I shall give some sketches of life in Waseca county during the fall of 1855 and the winter of 1855-6. —The Author.)

Residents encouraged to find, review vaccination records

The Le Sueur-Waseca Community Health Board (LWCHB) is asking residents to locate and review their vaccine records. Having correct records can help protect yourself, your family, and your community. It can also help prevent unnecessary or repeat shots, make doctor visits easier, and make sure important vaccines are not missed.

Vaccines are the best way to protect against illnesses like measles, whooping cough, and chicken pox that are becoming more common in Minnesota. Knowing if you are protected during an outbreak can help you make safe and informed decisions.

"We encourage everyone to

take a few minutes to review their records and make sure the information is complete and correct. Vaccine records are important during emergencies, outbreaks, and back-to-school season," said Public Health Emergency Preparedness Specialist Sara Porter.

People born before 2002 or who got vaccines in another state may have missing information in Minnesota's immunization system. Residents should:

- Ask a healthcare provider for your vaccine history
- Check records from previous hospitals, clinics, schools, or employers
- Review your information in the Minnesota Immunization In-

formation Connection (MIIC)

Residents can view their vaccine records online through Docket at mn.app.dockethealth.com or by downloading the Docket app on their device. Call your county public health department or visit the Minnesota Department of

Health website for help.

For questions, please contact Sara Porter at 507-357-8509 or sara.porter@lesueurcounty.gov or Le Sueur County Public Health at 507-387-8246 or Waseca County Public Health at 507-8350685.

Open Your Heart to the Hungry and Homeless

Area Food Shelf of New Richland announces 17th annual summer challenge

New Richland, MN - Open Your Heart to the Hungry and Homeless is excited to announce the launch of the 17th annual Open Your Heart Summer Challenge grant. This grant opportunity provides participating food shelves in Minnesota with a matched grant proportional to the food shelves' fundraising activities throughout the month of July.

Last year Minnesota food shelves reported more than 9 million visits, setting a new record. The persistent economic difficulties brought on by rising food costs and the impact of immigration enforcement have driven record high demand at food shelves. OYH's Summer Challenge aims to raise the critical funds needed to feed our neighbors.

When school is out, food shelf demand peaks, and at the same time, food shelf donations dip to their lowest. OYH's Summer Challenge bridges this gap by increasing awareness of local food shelves and harnessing the power of collective giving by providing matching grant opportunities, so that households have the support they need during the hungriest months of the year.

By leveraging the Open Your Heart Summer Challenge grant, food shelves across Minnesota typically raise over \$2 million in local fundraising in the month of July. In 2025, 83 food shelves across the state of Minnesota participated in OYH's Summer Challenge. Together, raising \$2.4 million dollars to keep shelves stocked

and Minnesotan's fed.

The Challenge grant presents a matching fund opportunity for food shelves, including Area Food Shelf of New Richland, allowing them to maximize their local fundraising efforts in July. The distribution of funds from this grant is based on the total funds raised by each participating food shelf in July and the number of food shelves involved, with grants ranging from a minimum of \$150 to a maximum of \$4,000. This year the Summer Challenge and the World Cup overlap, so the theme for this year's campaign is "Kicking Hunger Together."

Jessica Mathias, Executive Director at Open Your Heart for the Hungry and Homeless, said, "Across Minne-

sota, some of the most meaningful efforts to combat food insecurity are led by small, volunteer-driven organizations. These groups often operate without the resources of a dedicated fundraising team or a wide donor base, yet their work is vital to our communities. Through the Open Your Heart Summer Challenge, our goal is to bring the community together to strengthen and support local food pantries. This initiative empowers them to restock their shelves with fresh and frozen food, ensuring they can meet the needs of their neighbors during this demanding season."

Since 1986, Open Your Heart has targeted millions of dollars to strategically fight hunger in Minnesota. For more information visit www.oyh.org.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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Compostings

by Al Batt

Not mature enough
to drink coffee

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS’ CLUB MEETING

My nephew borrowed my lawn mower and made a lot of money.

He mowed a lot of lawns, huh?

No, he sold my mower.

DRIVING BY BRUCE’S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. The neighbors’ rooster crowed. In many traditions, the crowing of a rooster at dawn signifies victory over darkness and the triumph of light. In some cultures, it’s believed evil spirits flee at its sound. I enjoyed a glass of Adam’s ale—plain old water—as I’d watched fireflies the night before. It was good to see someone using their blinkers. Each day is a new road. My thoughts tend toward the bittersweet when I see the orphan lilacs, left behind after the people and houses had left. Their blooming season is too short. So was the company of the people.

I’m not mature enough to drink coffee, but I might need to take it up. I’ve had late nights recently, thanks to being entertained by a family of eastern screech-owls in the yard. They are the cutest little things—all feathers and eyes. They are about the size of a 12-ounce pop can. It’s called “pop” here. I hear it called soda or soft drink, and on my first visit to the Deep South, I was asked what kind of coke I wanted. I asked the server what kind she had. The waitress told me she had Coca-Cola, Dr Pepper and root beer.

When I was a child, the nearest town was Bath. It had a population of two or three, depending on which day of the week you counted the people. It had a school once, but everyone became too smart and they had to close it. It had a Catholic Church, a cemetery, a creamery and a general store where a boy could play checkers. Bath was known locally as Poptown. Why? Because you could get pop there. I reckon we could get pop anywhere. Pop wasn’t an important thing in our household. My parents drank storytelling coffee, milk and water. The kids drank mostly milk and water. We also slurped down nectar procured from the traveling Watkins man, Tang and, of course, Kool-Aid. None any better for us than pop.

QUICKSAND

A listener to my radio show asked if there is quicksand here? I watched jungle and cowboy movies where quicksand dispatched people. I didn’t worry about diseases or accidents because I knew quicksand

would get me. Quicksand exists in Minnesota and Iowa. It’s not the life-threatening, bottomless pit depicted in films, but a natural phenomenon occurring when loose sand is saturated with water and agitated by upward-flowing groundwater. You’re likely to encounter it along the muddy, sandy banks of major waterways in areas that have underground springs. Areas with high water tables—spring-water quarries or marshes—can host quicksand. Don’t panic. Quicksand has a higher density than the human body, making it impossible to sink completely. The dangers would be exposure, dehydration or exhaustion from struggling to free yourself from being stuck in quicksand.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

I won \$10 million in the lottery and donated a quarter of it to charity. I don’t know what I’ll do with the other \$9,999,999.75.

When the yoga teacher quit, it left me in a difficult position.

NATURE NOTES

I find awe in the company of a gray catbird. It joins me at dawn, jazz singing outside my bedroom window. Catbirds actively sing before sunrise and after sunset. They mimic other birds but add their own interpretations. Their songs are long, but would be even longer if they played guitars. Catbirds are friendly birds that visit feeders to eat grape jelly, suet, sunflower hearts and raisins. I don’t need a field guide to identify a catbird. I have a feel guide to help me enjoy my sidekick.

Birdsfoot trefoil blankets the roadsides. It’s a legume identified by its low-growing, small yellow pea-shaped flowers and seed pods resembling a bird’s foot.

A red-eyed vireo sang, “Look at me...Way up high...Over here...In a tree...Here I am...In a tree...Where are you? Can’t see me.” It sounds as if the bird is counting the leaves on the tree or asking questions and then answering them. In 1948, Music Digest estimated that Bing Crosby’s recordings filled more than half of the weekly hours allocated to recorded radio music in America. The red-eyed vireo is trying to match that. Its marathon singing has earned it the nickname of the “preacher bird.”

Skippers look like something between butterflies and moths. They are small butterflies that visit flowers and, when perched, evoke the shape of a fighter jet.

MEETING ADJOURNED

A kind word costs us nothing, but it might be worth a fortune to another.

Ellendale council election filing opens soon

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The City of Ellendale held its monthly city council meeting the evening of Thursday, June 11. Council members were reminded that filing for election to the city council is open from July 14 to 18. Any members of the public who wish to run for office, and any leaders whose terms expire in 2026, must file during that window to be placed on the Nov. 3 ballot.

Filing takes place in the city clerk’s office. The terms of Mayor Scott Groth and council members Charles Berg and Jon Asplund end on Dec. 31.

There will be a public hearing for rezoning of R-2 lots to R-1 in Crown Ridge at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 9. Everyone is invited to attend.

ELLENDALE CITY COUNCIL

The National Night Out this year will be Tuesday, August 4. The “Night Out” is a nationwide movement to schedule events which allow children to interact with law enforcement, emergency medical staff, and firefighters.

The city’s contract with Empire Pipe Services of Mankato has been renewed. Council members were informed the five-year, nearly \$66,000 arrangement is very similar to the one which just expired. Empire Pipe Services uses cameras and specialized equipment to inspect and clean city water pipes.

Michelle Quandt, executive director of Camp Companion, gave a presentation on what her

organization can do for feral cats in the Ellendale area. The company traps, neuters, microchips and returns the cats, preventing another generation from being born and becoming a nuisance. Quandt said her company covers half the cost of managing the cats. The council took this under consideration.

Logan Busho from the fire department requested an enclosed trailer for \$12,500 for fire equipment. He also reported that about \$4,500 of new equipment will be needed to be sure two new fire-fighters have safety gear. The gambling fund for May covered \$4,000 towards the trailer.

Josh Otto from maintenance said the area around the northwest side of the new firehall needs landscaping, which includes a retaining wall. The council suggested Otto himself try to do the landscaping for \$4,200.

There were codification violation notices for Eighth Ave East, Fourth Ave West and Sixth Ave East.

There was a resolution accepting a \$5,000 appropriation from the Steele County economic development authority (EDA) to be used in supporting the city ambulance. The council also accepted a donation from the Ellendale Lions Club for replacing trash bins in the city and city parks. It also accepted a \$3,000 donation from the Ellendale Fire Relief Association.

Mayor Groth suggested three portable toilets should be made available for the upcoming Fourth of July Celebration—two regular and one accessible.

Driving old cars through the United States

Genie and I drive older cars. Hers is a 2006 HHR Chevrolet and mine is a 2012 HHR Chevrolet. The HHR Chevrolets have been very good cars as far as we are concerned. Both vehicles get 25-30 miles per gallon of gas with a lower than new vehicle insurance premium.

Would we recommend the Chevrolet car? Based on our experience - the answer is most certainly “yes.”

In our drives through the United States and Canada, we have noticed the color trend of new cars is red, black or white being the majority color. To us the most beautiful car is the Kia. For the same reason it looks like a space machine. (We are both convinced the car must have, I repeat must have, a person behind the wheel!)

In growing old as a Norwegian Veteran; I’ve seen a lot of changes, for example; most families living in town have a pet or two; it used



FACT OR FICTION

...you decide

by Bob Hanson, Emeritus

“If you repeat what you have read here, it may be used against you.”

to be only the family living outside of town had a pet. The pet was almost always a dog. Now, the pet dog or cat numbers are almost the same.

There wasn’t a license needed to have a pet; now a license is needed to have a pet in town—in some cases a license is needed if you have a pet while living on a lake or in a township.

Of course the pet must have certain shots in some locations. According to where the license is issued.

It used to be Coors Beer was only for sale in certain western

states and not in Minnesota; now it’s for sale in Minnesota.

(The well-known Schlitz Beer is no longer being brewed.) I bought a six pack for memories!!

How about all the changes in baseball over the last 25 years? The use of electronics to help an umpire is unreal.

When was the last time you compared what the ball player used to play in as part of his equipment versus the same equipment 20 years ago? Unreal!!

Did you know the definition of a baseball fan has changed to?? A person with the ability to sit 500

feet from home plate and see better than an umpire standing five feet from it.

As long as I’m comparing, why not compare wearing apparel now today versus about 30 years ago. This is really mind boggling.

It seems the present day youth are imitating the wearing of many of their parents and grandparents styles.

In summary comparison, I’m concerned about the use of drugs, the importance of God and church involvement in their lives going the wrong way.

A letter to the editor as to your thoughts on my summary would be most welcome.

— — —

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

Steele County hosts Family Fun Day June 23

[STEELE COUNTY, MN] – Steele County Public Health (SCPH) is excited to announce the return of its second annual Family Fun Day, taking place Tuesday, June 23, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Manthey Park (225 24th St NE).

Family Fun Day was created in 2025 to give families a welcoming, hands-on way to learn about the wide range of services SCPH provides. These include breast-feeding support, family home visiting, the Follow Along Program, the Women, Infants, and Children

(WIC) nutrition program, immunizations, car seat education, and many other programs that support family health and development.

This year, SCPH is expanding the event by partnering with community organizations across Steele County. More than 20 interactive tables will offer activities designed to help families explore local resources and discover new ways to support their children’s growth and well-being. In addition to these activities, our

Amazing Newborn Clinic will be taking place right in the park as well.

Each attending family will receive a bingo card and a goodie bag to guide them through the activities and programs. The event will feature a variety of family-friendly activities, including but not limited to face painting, baby footprint keepsakes, music, bubbles, crafts, books, light snacks, and prize drawings.

This event is free and designed for families with children who are

birth to age five, though all families are welcome.

Steele County Public Health is dedicated to preventing disease, promoting wellness, and protecting the health of Steele County residents through a variety of services, such as family health programs, immunization clinics, and home health care. SCPH also provides resources for radon and water testing, health education, and emergency preparedness to realize its vision of Healthy People in Healthy Communities.

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Kenneth Olson

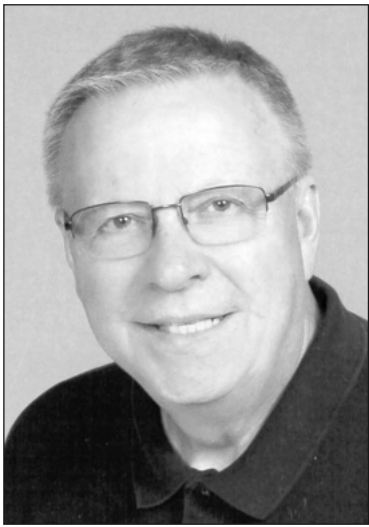
Kenneth Alton Olson, age 78, passed away peacefully at his home in Waseca on Sunday, June 14, 2026.

Ken was born on May 1, 1948, in Albert Lea, Minnesota, to Oliver and Ethel (Pirk) Olson. He graduated from Freeborn High School in 1966. He proudly served his country in the United States Navy from 1966-1969. Ken attended Brown Institute in Minneapolis following his military service where he earned his FCC certification as an electronic technician.

Ken and Peggy Rae Dreke were united in marriage on June 25th, 1971 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Fairmont. They made their first home in Nebraska before moving to Waseca where Ken worked at E.F. Johnson for almost 30 years. He joined SPX in 2001 where he worked until he retired. Ken and Peg were married for almost 55 years, a life filled with faith, family and service to others.

Ken was known for his strong work ethic and ability to fix just about anything. He enjoyed fixing up houses for rental property and helping family and friends with whatever needed to be done. A social, positive and caring man Ken was known for handing out compliments, sharing a smile and lending a helping hand whenever needed. Ken will be remembered for his generous heart, positive outlook, tireless work ethic and the love he shared with everyone around him. His kindness, humor, and willingness to help others left a lasting impact on everyone who knew him. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

A faithful member of Christ the King Lutheran Church, Ken enjoyed helping Peggy with her altar guild duties and odd jobs around the church. His willingness to



Kenneth Olson

serve others was evident in every aspect of his life.

Ken's greatest joy was his family. He was a devoted husband, loving father and proud grandfather who treasured every moment spent with those he loved.

Ken is survived by his beloved wife, Peggy Olson of Waseca; daughters, Laura (Jeff) Zimmerman of Waseca and Carrie (Kyle) Holmen of Owatonna; six cherished grandchildren, Joe (Savannah Flugum), Bethany, Ashley, Gavin, Samantha (Logan Britton) and Molly; brother, Darwyn (Donna) Olson of Hartland; sister, Colleen (Luvern) Lyle of Lyle. He was preceded in death by his parents, Oliver and Ethel Olson.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to Christ the King Lutheran Church.

Visitation for Ken will be held from 4 – 7 PM on Friday, June 19, 2026 at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Waseca. Visitation will continue for one hour prior to the service at the church.

Funeral service will be at 11:00 AM on Saturday, June 20, 2026 at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Waseca.

GigFire Internet, formerly LTD Broadcasting, will be moving its broadcasting equipment into Waldorf free of charge, following the vote by the council to approve. According to Mayor Wilkening, "They can be here tomorrow if we let them." Council members also wanted city residents to know Bevcomm, which has installed buried fiber lines in the area, may also be an option.

come to a close in 2026.

In New Richland, the terms of Mayor Janda Ferguson and city council members Jody Wynnemer and Jason Casey end this year.

In Waldorf, the terms of Mayor Rob Wilkening and council member Missy Sorbo end in 2026. The council will also need someone to fill the seat of member Carrie Ferch, who died while in office.

■ Church

from Page 1

arated. The once-vibrant congregation was struggling, and now it needed a minister.

God and the grocer

Enter Ross Sletten, owner of the 125-year-old grocery store in Ellendale. He bought Lerberg's Foods in 2007.

He grew up in a house kitty-corner from the church, teaching and leading music for Sunday school when his children were young.

"I've always been a strong Christian, and I have always felt very close to the Lord," Sletten said.

"When I was probably five or six years old, my parents would have company over, and I decided that's when I would have my church service – when I had a congregation," he said. "I used to do that, and everybody thought it was cute ... until it was time for offering, and then it wasn't so sweet anymore," he laughed.

It was the start of a life of service.

Sletten was a member of Children of the Light, a group of high school-age kids from Ellendale and Geneva who toured southern Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa, singing Christian music.

They were successful enough to record an album in 1981, traveling to Cookhouse Recording Studios in Minneapolis, which is no small thing; the studio hosted a 16-year-old Prince in 1975, laying the foundation for his legendary career.

Despite his faith and his voice, Sletten earned a college degree in sales, marketing and management, working in grocery stores until buying the one in his hometown.

He still attended First Lutheran Church there, too, and watched with dismay as family after family left. His devotion to Ellendale's history didn't stop with Lerberg's.

"Since June, I've pretty much been filling that role," Sletten said of the empty pulpit.

A lifelong faith had landed him in the sights of people who needed him. "People from the congregation would tell me, 'I think you missed your calling.' Eventually, people started asking me, 'Is this something you would consider?'"

"This is something I wanted to do my entire life," he said, tears filling his eyes.

Perfect timing

He loved being a lay pastor – a baptized, non-ordained member of a congregation who assumes spiritual and administrative leadership roles within a church.

The members loved it, too, providing positive feedback about his services.

"But I'm 63 years old," Sletten said, "and my plan has always been to retire at age 65. Hopefully, I'll have a successor at the store, because I'd like to see that continue."

Scott Swanson is president of

the First Lutheran Church Council. He approached Sletten "a few times" to ask if the grocer would be the minister.

It was time for Sletten to seriously consider the opportunity.

The church offered to pay for his seminary work.

"A lot of prayer went into it, and a lot of thought," Sletten said.

There was also something that felt like ... divine intervention.

In September 2025, he was diagnosed with leukemia; his final chemotherapy treatment was Dec. 26. About six weeks later, he had a bone marrow biopsy.

"I sat down with my oncologist after that, and he looked at me and said, 'Ross, I have good news. You're in complete remission.' And it was like, 'wow,' you know? How can I not do this?"

So in the fall, Sletten will enroll in the Masters Institute Seminary in White Bear Lake, a two-year program.

"Fortunately, everything is online, so I'm able to do it in my own time when it works for me," he said of the coursework. "It sounds like it's going to take about two days a week – so two full days, then I'm the grocery guy the rest of the days – except for Sunday, of course."

The timing was perfect. Two years until retirement; two years of seminary; and a wide-open future.

Getting guidance

The church has joined the Lutheran Congregations and Missions for Christ, which encourages churches to do exactly what the Ellendale folks did – promote somebody from within the congregation.

"They really believe that somebody that knows people personally in the congregation might have an easier time pastoring a church," Sletten said – and staying there.

The church council did its diligence, Swanson said, and learned a lot of lessons from the process, including the wisdom of rules that were in place.

Still, he said, "it's all spirit-led, so one of the lessons you learn is, it's about prayer. God wants you to pray. God wants you to talk to him."

The church council also talked to a lot of people within the congregation, with "thoughtful, prayerful conversations ... and the benefits of all those things came together with Ross and (his wife) Michelle deciding to make that commitment," Swanson said.

The church is "a staple in the community to begin with," he said, "and it just seems to have a natural fit. It is an absolute joy to be here on Sundays and to have Ross's personality come through – it's been a really great experience."

Bringing them back

On Mother's Day, there were about 125 people in church, a far cry from the dwindling numbers just a year before.

That day, the Sunday school students had a program; the service

"This is something I've wanted to do my entire life." — Ross Sletten,

First Lutheran Lay Pastor

was followed by a Mother's Day brunch and the dedication of the town's first Lending Library – similar to a "Free Little Library" program.

"We had parents and grandparents here, and when I got up front, I didn't realize the church was that full," Sletten said. "I turned around to greet the congregation and was like, whoa."

He and Swanson heap praise upon Wendy Shultz, who has revived the children's education program.

"Our Sunday school has just exploded," Sletten said.

The previous declining church attendance means families were going elsewhere, obviously taking their children with them.

Shultz and her husband Marty had left, too – despite being the fifth generation of Shultzes to bring their families to the church.

The couple instead attended church with their adult children, or tried new churches. Nothing felt like home, Wendy Shultz said.

One Sunday last September, as they drove past the church, "I just thought, 'I wonder how they're doing in there.' So I parked and snuck up to the balcony," during church service, she said.

"I peeked over the railing and saw two kids, and it about broke my heart."

By then, Sletten had taken over the pulpit; he, the organist and Swanson's wife Suzanne spotted Shultz – and cornered her.

There weren't any children in Sunday school, they told Shultz, who had "spent my whole life being in Sunday school" before leaving the church.

Would she please come back?

It had been three years, but Shultz went to the church classrooms and found her former curriculum.

"I pieced it together and made copies," she said, "and told them, 'I'll get you going and get you through a Christmas program.' It felt like my baby, you know?"

A couple of weeks later, Sunday school began again.

"I think I had, like, five kids," she said. "Then word got out, and the very next Sunday" she needed more room.

"My whole goal was to have them do something every month," Shultz said, "whether it's singing, or a program."

Kids bring adults, she said, while receiving their own faith foundation.

"If you ask (adults) where their faith started, nine times out of 10 they'll say, 'I think it started in Sunday school when I had to dress up like a shepherd for a Christmas program,' or something like that. That's what I want the kids to have."

So does Sletten.

"It's so good to see that the numbers are back up again," he said, "because that Sunday school is tomorrow's congregation."

There were 26 children in Sunday school on Mother's Day.

Allowing the gifts

The key to the church's recovery, Swanson said, was simple: "We went back to allowing people to share their gifts. Everybody has a gift, has something special, and we had lost that."

The church had become "an environment where that wasn't encouraged, but when we changed things, the whole attitude of the church changed," he said. "You feel the spirit more often in here ... allowing folks to do what they love to do just naturally attracts other people."

"And that's their ministry," Sletten added, "when they can share their gifts."

It's the work of many members that brought the church back, he said, "and it's all part of the recipe for making a successful loaf of bread here in our church."

They see it after church services, as well, when everyone heads downstairs for brunch – every week.

Becky Lassahn's gift to the church is to organize a team that provides egg bake, fruit, pastries and more to feed the crowd.

The Sunday school rooms are also downstairs, so the children can share that day's crafts or projects with all of the adults – something they all enjoy, Swanson said.

The kids' lesson of sharing is now the church's legacy: Their "noisy offering" from throughout the year was used to buy books for the lending library – which looks suspiciously like the church itself.

The church is back to participating in the community Lenten services, which was "another really big thing," Swanson said, because the collection is donated to the Ellendale Area Food Shelf.

"It brings the churches together in that regard," he said, "and that's been another piece that has been missing."

That ministry, in addition to the lending library, is "teaching the kids about being involved in doing things with the community, and being hands-on," Swanson said.

For his part, the future minister sees the plan.

"I look back at everything that's happened to me in my life, and I think that God has just had a plan for me," Sletten said. "He's just been walking beside me and guiding me while all this stuff is happening."

"Now he's saying, it's time. Now's the time."

■ Council

from Page 1

front of the community center, they decided they want more information about state level expectations; specifically, they wanted to know whether there are any penalties for those cities not flying the new flag.

■ Elections

from Page 1

Daren Arndt, Jeremy Conrath and James Ebertowski have terms ending in 2026.

In Janesville, the terms of Interim Mayor Andy Ahlman and city council member Ivan Maas

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Waldorf Blood Drive



CARRYING TRADITION - Carol Raimann, assisted by Red Cross phlebotomist Cindy Wright, was among the donors at a Red Cross blood drive at the Waldorf Community Center on Tuesday, June 9. Organizer Deb Bezdicek is carrying on with the tradition started by her mother Bev Janike of holding two blood drives each year, one in June and another in December. During this most recent drive, 42 donors provided 48 pints of blood, some of them by a process which removes white blood cells and so counts as a 2-pint donation.
Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

HERITAGE BITS



In this picture is Wayne Broecker (middle) who taught ag in New Richland for several years. The boy on the left is Odean Johnson and the man on the right is his father, Virgel Johnson. Photo by New Richland Area Historical Society. (06/18/2026)

Finstad in the Field: Calling for Walz, Ellison resignation

The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform released a report this week exposing that Governor Tim Walz, Attorney General Keith Ellison, and other senior Minnesota state officials had been aware of the widespread fraud in our state's federally funded social programs for years and failed to address it. According to the report, they ignored whistleblowers, dismissed warnings from employees, and repeatedly failed to act.

As a result of their inaction, billions of taxpayer dollars were diverted to fraudsters instead of helping Minnesotans in need. I led my fellow Minnesota Congressional Republicans in sending a letter to Governor Walz and Attorney General Ellison expressing our concerns and urging them to resign. The leaders who have put our federally funded assistance programs at risk must be held accountable, and my colleagues and I will continue working to restore confidence and public trust in our elected officials.

Coming Together for Charity

One of my favorite traditions on Capitol Hill is the Congressional Baseball Game. It's an honor to be a part of such a long-standing tradition that brings folks together, both on and off the field. This year's game raised a record-breaking \$3.2 million for those in need. I had a blast being on the field with my fellow representatives in support of a great cause.

Supporting Local Businesses

This week, I had the opportunity to speak at two "fly-in" events focused on supporting our small, local businesses both in Minnesota and across the country. On Tuesday, I joined members of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) for their Annual Fly-In to discuss the issues that matter most to our Main Streets. As a member of the House Committee on Small Business, and a member of NFIB myself, I appreciated this opportunity to share my experiences as a business owner and how it shapes my work in Congress.

On Wednesday, I joined the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce to discuss ways we can work together to promote job growth, strengthen innovation, and drive our local economies. I always appreciate these opportunities to speak with those making a difference back home.

Meeting With Minnesota Industry Leaders

It was great to connect with industry leaders from across southern Minnesota in Washington,

D.C. this week! I first joined representatives from Dairyland Power Cooperative to hear more about their energy projects across southeast Minnesota.

I also met with members of Minnesota Associated Builders and Contractors to discuss the work they do to support the construction industry and promote economic development across southern Minnesota.

I recently helped introduce the Build American Efficiency Act to streamline Build America, Buy America compliance for our home builders and manufacturers. I appreciated meeting with MacLean Power Systems Mankato to discuss the importance of investing in American infrastructure and how we can improve the process for businesses like theirs to source American materials.

Members of the Minnesota Broadcasters Association also stopped by to discuss the future of sports broadcasting, ways to bring more streaming services to Minnesotans, and expanding opportunities in the industry for the next generation. Thanks for meeting with me!

Farm Bill Spotlight

Access to capital is key to the success of farmers in Minnesota's First District and across the country. I led legislation in the 2026 Farm Bill to expand the EZGuarantee Loan Program through the USDA, expediting approval times for certain guaranteed loans. This helps ensure farmers, ranchers, and rural communities receive timely access to the credit they need.

The House Floor This Week

PASSED – H. Res. 1335, condemning actors seeking to defraud the United States Government, and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that government-wide fraud and improper payment prevention reforms will meaningfully improve the financial prosperity of the United States, and that Federal program eligibility should be verified before payment.

PASSED – S. 2, the Secure America Act, provides funding through FY29 for U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

PASSED – H.R. 7892, the No Aid for Ghost Students Act, ensures student aid goes to those in need and not fraudsters by establishing a federal student aid fraud detection system to identify suspicious student aid applications and requires schools to verify flagged applications before any money is disbursed to bad actors.



QUALITY ENTERTAINMENT - Discover Waseca Tourism awarded a grant to the Waseca County Free Fair to support the free stage entertainment for the 2026 fair. The free stage provides fairgoers with access to quality entertainment at no additional cost.

Tourism awards \$2,500 grant to support Free Stage

WASECA, Minn. — Discover Waseca Tourism awards a \$2,500 grant to the Waseca County Free Fair to support free stage entertainment during the 2026 fair, scheduled for July 8–12, 2026.

For generations, the Waseca County Free Fair has been one of Southern Minnesota's premier summer attractions, drawing thousands of visitors to Waseca County for five days of entertainment, agriculture, food, exhibits, and family-friendly activities. The Free Stage provides fairgoers with access to quality entertainment at no additional cost, helping create an enjoyable experience for residents and visitors alike.

The grant was approved through the Discover Waseca Tourism Grants Program, which supports events and initiatives that enhance Waseca's appeal as a destination and contribute to the local visitor economy.

"The Waseca County Free Fair is one of our community's signature events and a tremendous driver of tourism for our area," said Mikhail Rostislavovich, President of Discover Waseca Tourism. "Every year, thousands of people visit Waseca to enjoy the fair's attractions, exhibits, food, and entertainment. By helping support the Free Stage, we are investing in an experience that is accessible to everyone while showcasing the hospitality and community spirit that make Waseca a destination worth visiting."

The Tourism Grants Committee recognized the significant impact the fair has on local businesses, lodging establishments, restaurants, and attractions throughout the county.

"The Waseca County Free Fair is more than a community tradition, it is an important tourism asset that attracts visitors from across the region," said Diane Beckmann, Chair of the Discover Waseca Tourism Grants Committee. "The committee was pleased to support the Free Stage because it enhances the overall fair experience and helps ensure that quality entertainment remains available to all fairgoers at no additional cost."

With free admission, family-friendly activities, agricultural exhibits, live entertainment, and special events throughout the week, the Waseca County Free Fair continues to serve as one of the region's most anticipated summer celebrations. Discover Waseca Tourism is proud to partner with organizations that create memorable experiences for residents and visitors while promoting Waseca County as a vibrant place to live, work, and visit.

For more information about the Waseca County Free Fair, visit the fair's website or attend this year's fair from July 8–12, 2026.

Pesticide applicator field day recertification

ST. PAUL, MN — The University of Minnesota Extension Pesticide Safety and Environmental Education (PSEE) program is offering field days for pesticide applicator recertification.

This class will offer outdoor, hands-on recertification training for both private and commercial/non-commercial (CNC) pesticide applicators. Private pesticide applicators who need to recertify in 2027 can attend a field day this summer, eliminating the need to attend a workshop or take the exam in January or February 2027. Class cost is \$100 for

private pesticide applicators, \$145 for CNC applicators with categories A & C, and \$190 for CNC applicators with categories A, C, & H. These workshops will be held at the Waseca UMN Research and Outreach Center on July 16 and the Lamberton UMN Research and Outreach Center on August 13 starting at 7:30 a.m. CNC applicators register at z.umn.edu/pseeachworkshops. Private applicators register at z.umn.edu/ppatFieldDays. Contact PSEE, psee-programs@umn.edu, with any questions.

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Shown here are some pictures of Dick's family camping trips from years ago and a couple of the more recent ones. One is of his two granddaughters in the background with their uncle Brian in the foreground.



The weather outside is delightful right now

The weather has turned into a tolerable summer comfort zone. I can remember when it didn't get overly hot until the middle of July and stayed that way until the end of August.

I can remember going down to my cousin Richard's family farm in June and staying for a week or two. We always had fun, whether it was playing in the creek, exploring the woods on the south end of their property or playing in the hay loft. The hay loft part would sometimes get us in trouble if we broke any bales of hay. His sisters were younger than us, but sometimes they would join us.

Once I got over the idea that I would be there for two weeks, I settled in and enjoyed it. Sometimes you see a doctor on the internet giving advice that would keep a person



Woods and Water

y i Her ndahl
Outdoors Writer

healthier. Over the years health experts have attacked everything from red meat, eggs, coffee and even cold water. Yes, cold water. They said that cold water is not healthy for you. Now I grew up playing outside most of my childhood, and, when it was hot out, a kid would get thirsty, so the old garden hose was the drinking fountain. You let it run for a couple of minutes and the water was cold and delicious. Whenever I visited my

uncle's farm, which was the Winjum family farm, they also had a well pump with the trusty old tin cup hanging by it.

Getting back to the Holt family farm, they had a well pump by the barn with a tin cup hanging off of it. When you turned on the pump, the water that came out was clear and ice cold. There are many times when I take a drink of water at home, I think of that well water and of how re-

freshing it was.

I am now 80 years old and as far as I can tell, drinking all of that well water and water out of the hose never had an effect on me. Those were the "good old days" when simple things would keep a person satisfied.

Until next time: Our family spent many years camping, fishing and just enjoying the outdoors. The campfire was always the center of attention in the evening. We would sit around the campfire in the evening, roasting hot dogs, making smore's and telling stories. I have to wonder if smore's are still the center of attention at campsites these days.

Please take the time to remember our troops that are serving now and those that have served before them. They are the reason that we have all of the Freedoms that we enjoy today.

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

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

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

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

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

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

CROSS OF GLORY LUTHERAN
Hartland, Minnesota
Rev. Marcia Pedersen
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship
Tuesday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship
Wednesday - 5:15 p.m. Supper; 6 p.m. Bible Study

Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship
Tuesday - Council meeting (First Tuesday)

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

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

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

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

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

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

VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH
Ellendale, Minnesota
Pastor David Modder
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 10

a.m. Kids church
Check the website for additional updates
www.vibrantlifeag.com

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

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

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

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

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

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ZION LUTHERAN, ELCA
Rural Ellendale
Deacon Billie Jo Wicks
Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LOOKING BACK

25 years ago

- During the Memorial Day service at Central park here, wreaths were placed at the base of the World War II Memorial. Standing at attention here are Ann Jessen, Andrew Borgen Post #75 auxiliary president and Chris Hagen. The memorial displays all of the names of all of the New Richland area men who gave their lives during the war.

- Stacey Titus of Ellendale was named to the Honors List at Rasmussen College, Mankato. To qualify she obtained a 4.0 grade point average.

- Kalisha Anthony will be competing in the pole vault state field event on Saturday, June 9. Kalisha is holding awards she received at the Panther Spring Athletic Banquet Monday evening. Her awards are the 2001 Gopher All Conference and Most Valuable Player in track events.



50 years ago

- Mitchell T. Abraham, son of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Abraham of New Richland, was elected an associate justice to the Minnesota State Supreme Court at Boys State at St. John's University, Collegeville, last week. Mitchell, a student at the New Richland-Hartland Public schools, was sponsored by the Andrew Borgen Post 75 of the American Legion, New Richland.



- Three young men were confirmed at Immanuel Lutheran Church of Freedom Township, April 25, by Rev. Stanley Rosenau. They are pictured here with the pastor, from left to right: Brian Meyer, Wade Jorgenson, Pastor Rosenau and Bradley Meyer.

- Daniel Lyngaard, son of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Lyngaard of New Richland, was among the students of the University of Wisconsin-Madison who won honors recognition for outstanding work in his studies.

75 years ago

- Mr. and Mrs. Bert Root announce the engagement of their daughter, Patsy Fern to Cpl. Levi Bartz of Camp Roberts, California, son of Mrs. Ted Lueck of Waseca. The date of the wedding has not been set.

- Mr. and Mrs. John W. Zwiebel of New Richland are the parents of a son, their first child, born at the Naeve hospital, Albert Lea, Wednesday, July 11, weighing seven pounds, one and a half ounces. Mr. and Mrs. Zwiebel are employed as teachers in the New Richland Public Schools..

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

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

DATE OF MORTGAGE: October 25, 2022

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$201,286.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Rhett Warmsbecker, an unmarried man

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for American Pacific Mortgage Corporation

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on October 27, 2022 as Document Number A331902 in the Office of the County Recorder of Waseca County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: U.S. Bank National Association by assignment recorded on December 30, 2025 as Document Number A342247 in the Office of the County Recorder of Waseca County,

Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 2, in R. P. Ward’s Subdivision (B) of the NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 18, Township 107 North, Range 22 West, Waseca County, Minnesota PIN# 175900190.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 804 5TH ST SW, WASECA, MN 56093

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

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$204,111.64

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: American Pacific Mortgage Corporation

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: U.S. Bank National Association

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17.590.0190

TRANSACTION AGENT’S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 1002793-0006824944-6

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or

any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.

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

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: June 04, 2026 at 10:00 AM.

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

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

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on December 4, 2026.

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

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

Dated: April 07, 2026

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.

By: /s/ *N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.* Samuel R. Coleman, Esq. Alexa Marsh, Esq. Attorneys for Mortgagee 25 Dale Street North St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 209-9760 (26-0124-FC01)

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

NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the mortgage foreclosure sale referred to in the foregoing Notice of Mortgage Foreclosure Sale has been postponed to:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: July 23, 2026 at 10:00 AM

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

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on January 25, 2027.

Dated: June 08, 2026

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.

By: /s/ N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq. Samuel R. Coleman, Esq. *Alexa Marsh, Esq.* 25 Dale Street North St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 209-9760 (26-0124-FC01)

NOTICE

Summit Township Board Meeting

Thursday, July 2, 2026

7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall

Andy Jewison

Summit Township Clerk

Public Notice

This is to notify you that NRHEG Public School #2168 will be accepting quotes for dairy products for the 2026-2027 school year. The Board of Education will review all quotes at its regular meeting scheduled for Monday, July 20th, 2026.

Please submit your quote to Sara Meihak, Food Service Director, 306 Ash Ave South, New Richland, MN, 56072, by 11 am Monday, July 10th, 2026.

Got news?

507-463-8112

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of Ellendale, Minnesota, will hold a public hearing on July 9, 2026, at 6:30 pm at the Ellendale Community Hall, 507 2nd Street South, Ellendale, Minnesota to accept public comment on consideration to rezone property located within the city. The proposed rezoning is described as follows:

Parcel ID No.	Property Owner & Property Address	Current Zoning Classification	Proposed Zoning Classification
15-114-0101	Lonnie L. & Teri M. Korman 802 Rose Drive	R-2	R-1
15-114-0102	Lonnie L. & Teri M. Korman 804 Rose Drive	R-2	R-1

Such persons who desire to submit public comment regarding the proposed rezoning will be heard at the hearing.

Dated: June 12, 2026

Steve Engel
Steve Engel, City Clerk/Treasurer
City of Ellendale

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Student Spotlight

26

GABBY

Schlaak

6- VOLLEYBALL

4- BASKETBAL

6- TRACK AND FIELD

1- NHS

2- DECA

2- STUCO

4- FCA

2-STUDENT

AMBASSADORS

1- FCCLA

1- YEARBOOK

2- SALT

1- FLAG FOOTBALL

Sport/Activities: Volleyball, Basketball, Track and Field, National Honor Society, DECA, Student Council, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Student Ambassadors, FCCLA, Yearbook, SALT Leadership, Flag Football **Grade:** Senior **What do you like most about participating in the activities that you are involved in?** The people and staying active. **What motivates you to do your best?** My family because they always push me to do my best and myself by believing I am capable of more than I believe in myself and pushing to be my best athlete and person. **Who is your role model and why?** My biggest role models are my parents; they have always worked incredibly hard to support our family and create the life we live today. I would also say my cousins, brothers, and uncles as well, always seeing who's best at what has helped me grow competitively. **What advice would you give to other students, especially students in elementary and middle school?** Never give up. Never quit anything. Just keep pushing though. Try your best all the time and be the best person you could be. **What makes you a good teammate for the sport/activity you're involved in?** I feel like I push my teammate and myself to push hard in practice and games. Keeping everyone accountable to create good teams is always my goal.

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KYLIE

Olson

5- BASKETBALL

5- VOLLEYBALL

5- YEARBOOK

4- TRACK

5- KNOWLEDGE

BOWL

3- STUDENT

COUNCIL

3- STUDENT

AMBASSADORS

2- FCA

1- FCCLA

1-SOFTBALL

1- NHS

STUDENT

SPOTLIGHT OF

THE MONTH

Sport/Activities: Basketball, Volleyball, Track and Field, Student Council, Student Ambassadors, FCA, FCCLA, National Honor Society, yearbook, Knowledge Bowl, Softball **Grade:** Junior **What do you like most about participating in the activities that you are involved in?** I love participating in my activities because they help me grow as a person, build confidence, develop teamwork and leadership skills, and allow me to pursue my passions while making meaningful connections with others. **What motivates you to do your best?** Before my injury, the only thing that made me do my best is my family and teammates. Now, I am the person that motivates myself. I am trying harder and getting stronger for the things that I want to do. Even though there are more bad days than good days, I will try my hardest and get where I need to be, with the support of my friends, coaches, teachers, and most importantly, my family. **Who is your role model and why?** My biggest role models are my parents because they taught me the value of hard work, kindness, and never giving up. Their love, sacrifices, and support inspire me to become a better person every day. Love you, mom and dad. **What advice would you give to other students?** My advice to other students is to always try your best, be kind to others, and never be afraid to ask questions or try new things. Enjoy learning, stay positive, and remember that mistakes help you grow and become stronger. **What makes you a good teammate for the sport/activity you're involved in?** I am a good teammate because I encourage others to work hard, stay positive, and do your best, even when days are hard for myself. I try my best to support all of my team/teams in any activity they are involved in. I listen, cooperate well with others, and help create a fun and respectful environment for everyone.

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EZRA

Boerner

4- VOLLEYBALL

4- BASKETBALL

4- SOFTBALL

4- 4'H

4- SUNSET SADDLE CLUB

3- BAND

2 STUDENT COUNCIL

2- FCA

2- STUDENT

AMBASSADORDS

1-FCCLA

1- KNOWLEDGE BOWL

1- FFA

1- FLAG FOOTBALL

Sport/Activities: Volleyball, Basketball, Softball, Flag Football, Student Council, FCA, Student Ambassadors, FCCLA, Knowledge Bowl, Band, FFA, 4-H, Sunset Saddle Club **Grade:** Sophomore **What do you like most about participating in the activities that you are involved in?** I really enjoy getting to spend more time with my friends, making memories, having fun doing what I love, and improving my skills. I also love how all of my teammates push me to my full potential to help me become a better player and person. **What motivates you to do your best?** Something that motivates me most, is wanting to be better for my team. I always put in my best effort to help out the team in any way possible. Another big motivator is not wanting to fail. I would like to be able to play to my full potential all the time, so the only way I can do that is to keep practicing, and learning from my "failures," instead of letting them discourage me. **Who is your role model and why?** My biggest role model is probably my sister, Izley. She is such a strong person and always puts so much work into whatever she's doing. She has also had to overcome so many setbacks with her ACL, but she still came out on top and is doing amazing! **What advice would you give to other students?** I believe that something every kid needs to hear while trying to improve on their sport, or anything really, is to not be embarrassed. Although it can be hard sometimes, you are never going to get better if you let the embarrassment take over. Sports are games of mistakes, so you're bound to mess up, but instead of feeling embarrassed about it, you have to take that experience and learn from it instead. **What makes you a good teammate for the sport/activity you're involved in?** I am responsible, kind and hardworking. I try to help others out when able and I put the team before myself. Even when things get down I try to rise above and get the job done.

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