



■ Inside:

- 2 - Medallion Hunt
- 3 - NRHEG Golf
- 4 - Obituaries
- 4 - Ride for Heroes
- 5 - A Walk for Kenzie Mae
- 7 - Case for carnivores
- 8 - Ellendale Days

■ Page 3



NRHEG Golf

Special Olympics
Friendship Wagon
Train on Thursday,
June 25

The Special Olympics Friendship Wagon Train will travel from Owatonna to Meriden for lunch, then to Waseca on Thursday, June 25. On June 26 they will travel from Waseca to Wilton to New Richland and on June 27, they will hold a special ceremony in New Richland. Souvenir hats and t-shirts will be available to purchase from the wagon train's Peddler Wagon at lunch stops, evening stops, and before they depart town each morning.

Ellendale Days
Community
Celebration
June 25 to 28

The annual Ellendale Days celebration will be from Thursday, June 25 to Sunday, June 28, with a variety of events for all ages. The parade will be June 27 at 4 p.m. Anyone interested in arranging to include a unit in the parade should reach out to ellendaledays@gmail.com.

Sign up for Lutheran
Night at the Twins
through July 1

The 33rd annual Lutheran Night at the Twins event will be Tuesday, August 11 beginning at 6:40 p.m. A bus trip organized by Central Freeborn Lutheran Church is offering a bus ride, home plate view seats, and a chance to help lead the National Anthem for \$65; to lock in the price, register by July 1. Call 507-373-8655 or 507-402-8228 for more information.

Waseca County Horse
Thief Detectives
annual meeting July 4

The Waseca County Horse Thief Detectives will hold their annual meeting starting at 11:30 a.m. through 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 4 at the Northeast Park in Waseca (near the water-park). The club has been meeting annually for 162 years. Bring the family, bring friends, bring a dish to pass around. Questions? Call Scott at 507-995-9832 or email horsedetec-tives.org.

NR-H Cardinal Class
of 1971 Reunion at the
Willows July 18

The NR-H Cardinal Class of 1971 will hold their reunion at the Willows at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 18. RSVP at the class website Alumniclass.com. Call Chuck R. with questions 641-751-0634.

New Richland Farm
and City Days July 17,
18 and 19

A wide variety of events are scheduled in New Richland from July 17 to 19, with elements for all ages. A classic car show, parade and street dance will take place on Saturday. Kid-friendly events on all three days include bingo Friday evening, a carnival and Kid Zone on Saturday, and special activities on Sunday.

A word from
The Word

He that dwelleth
in the secret place
of the most High
shall abide under
the shadow of the
Almighty.

Psalms 91:1



RIDING HOT - The Ride for Heroes motorcycle run departed from the Pour House in Clarks Grove on Saturday, June 20, 2026. The total numbers were 93 motorcycles, two side by sides and two street cars.
Star Eagle photo by Ben Revermann

Ride for Heroes
Ride departs from Pour
House, loud and on schedule

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Ride for Heroes motorcycle run departed from the Pour House in Clarks Grove on Saturday, June 20 at 10:30 a.m. According to Heidi Winger, Ride for Heroes board secretary, "The total numbers for the day were 93 motorcycles, two side-by-side vehicles and two street cars." The auction, which occurred later in the day, raised more than \$1,200 and all proceeds go to local veterans' causes in Freeborn, Mower and Waseca counties. Fifteen minutes before their departure, Albert Lea Mayor Rich Murray was standing out in the dirt parking lot surrounded by guys and gals in leather. He was wearing an American flag t-shirt and laughing, "I'm here because I know some guys who were going to be here today; I wanted to support them and this." He posed for a photo before Jennifer Ordalen sang the National Anthem. The sun was shining and there was not a drop of rain in the forecast. A Clarks Grove Fire Department truck was sitting on the corner ready to lead the cyclers to the start of their journey. Winger said about the route this year, "After the fire truck sees us off, we will head to Northwood, Lake Mills, and Emmons with lunch being served at the Legion. Then we will proceed towards Alden and make our way past Morin Days. Then heading towards Freeborn, Hartland, Manchester, and then back to Clarks Grove at the Pour House. We will have a meal, a live auction, and Brett Feist kicking off with music at 7 p.m." The pulled pork dinner was included with registration for the event. A 4 p.m. auction offered items like gift certificates, very unusual Ducks Unlimited whiskey bottles, candy baskets, picnic sets, snack packs, a brand-new Arctic Cooler, t-shirts, and a charcuterie board. Continued Winger, "This is our third year and we look forward to continuing supporting our local veterans and their families."



WALK FOR GOOD - From left: Jason Lennox, Janelle Tufte, Rachael and Kyera Eustice were kind enough to pose for a photo at A Walk for Kenzie Mae at St. Olaf Lake on Saturday, June 20, 2026.
Star Eagle photo by Ben Revermann

A Walk for Kenzie Mae is poignant remembrance

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Kenzie Mae Leonardo was born June 20, 2014. At age 11, while a sixth-grader, she died at her home in New Richland on Oct. 27, 2025. A Walk for Kenzie Mae took place at the St. Olaf Lake Public Park on Saturday, June 20 at 10 a.m. on behalf of Kenzie Mae Leonardo. More than 430 walkers registered with more showing up all the time. The walk went around the lake and was accompanied by a light wind and couldn't have happened on a more

beautiful day. The sun was shining and there were groups of New Richland and surrounding area residents gathered, lightly chatting under the shade of oak trees. It wasn't hot, not quite 70 degrees. Neighbor's Meats was going to be there once the walk was over to serve lunch. There was also an anonymous donation of 40 lbs. of mac and cheese on the way. Nearby there was a white enclosed trailer with people surrounding it filling 300 balloons with helium for the big release. Courtney Kloczek was there, wear-

ing an orange vest, directing people to parking spaces. "I'm volunteering here today because I'm a friend of the family," said Kloczek. "My son was in the sixth grade with Kenzie Mae, and being here is the right thing to do. We need to raise awareness for youth mental health and provide kids with the help they need and a way to access the help they need. This is our first year doing this and the weather made it a perfect day." On the road leading up to the St. Olaf Public Park, there were yard signs reading things like, "Find joy

in the little things," "It's okay to ask for help," "Talking helps," "Brighter Days are Coming," "You've survived 100 of your hardest days," "One step at a time," "Just give it one more day." They were all positive messages aimed at those who feel like they are being overwhelmed. Amy and Ben Behene of Court Sports in Owatonna, who sold shirts for the walk, also donated. Proceeds went to The Recovery Road Movement-One Arrow Foundation and the mission to raise awareness for youth mental health.

Sheriff summarizes plans for new jail configuration

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

During the June 16 meeting of the Waseca County Board, commissioners heard from the business managers of the three school districts based within the county about a state-wide voter decision scheduled to appear on ballots during the Nov. 3 election. The managers wanted commissioners to be aware of the question and requested their assistance in educating the public. A separate article regarding the issue appears elsewhere in this edition of the Star Eagle. Waseca County Sheriff Jay Dulas shared preliminary information he has been compiling regarding operational changes his office will be making as it transitions from having a local "class 3" facility authorized by the Minnesota Department of Corrections to house inmates 365 days a year to the 72-hour "holding" facility which will be part of the county's new justice center, expected to be under construction beginning this fall and in use by February of 2028.

WASECA COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

Dulas shared he has had many conversations with representatives from various agencies as he works to envision and build a system that will meet the needs of the many groups which work with individuals taken into custody by the sheriff's office and by Waseca, New Richland, and Janesville police departments. He estimates a strong percentage of people arrested will be held only in the 72-hour facility at the justice center, since they might be taken into custody one day, have a court appearance within 24 hours, and then be released on their own recognizance to await further court action. For anyone who must be incarcerated longer than the three days, Dulas told commissioners he expects to work with the Le Sueur County Jail, where the anticipated rate will be \$75 per prisoner per day. For inmates housed at LeSueur County, conversations with corrections personnel,

lawyers, and others can take place either in person or remotely via the internet; many court proceedings can also take place remotely. Dulas pointed out the dynamics of his staff will change dramatically as the new justice center becomes operational. For example, licensed deputies will be needed during business hours to operate the security scanning equipment which will be at the entry to the justice center. He also stated a jailer would need to be on duty full time, even when the holding facility might be empty, since individuals might be arrested and need processing and supervision at any time. He told commissioners staff members have expressed a willingness to be trained in additional tasks; new certifications, for example, would allow jailers to use some of their time to complete paperwork and administrative duties now typically taken care of by dispatchers. This flexibility would be especially helpful, he commented, when dispatch staff is dealing with emergencies or must remain in communication with

callers for extended periods. With proper certification, jailers might also be able to help with transporting individuals to or from LeSueur County, as needed. Commissioners suggested that Dulas might make it a preliminary goal to begin initiating some of the 72-hour practices at the start of 2027. Doing so, they offered, might allow the sheriff's office to make a two-step transition to new procedures and budget elements, rather than all at once at the beginning of 2028. During the June 16 meeting, commissioners also voted to accept a grant from the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation; under the grant, Waseca County Public Health will receive 120 children's books supplied by Capstone Publishing. Public Health Director Sarah Berry explained the books are distributed free of charge by department nurses during their home visits. Getting books into the hands of parents so that they can read to and interact with their children is an essential element of early literacy, Berry elaborated.

School Board
NRHEG

School
Board looks
at funding
from many
angles

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

During their June 15 meeting, members of the NRHEG School Board heard from district business manager Karla Christopherson regarding an anticipated \$600,000 loss to the \$4 million "general fund," a pool of money set aside at the recommendation of various advisement groups as a buffer to meet expenses if sources of income, including money from state and federal agencies, is late or slow in providing promised funding. Christopherson summarized that, as the 2025-26 school year comes to a close as of June 30, the district will have had about \$432,000 more in expenditures than it had in income. In looking at the proposed 2026-27 budget, Christopherson predicts expenditures \$166,000 higher than income. The district's operating budget for 2025-26 was about \$40,000 short of \$14 million. The budget for 2026-27 anticipates about \$18,000 more in expenditures. The shortfalls, it has been explained in various conversations, come about because of numerous intertwining factors that include declining student enrollment which results in less money from the state, as well as programs and services the district is required to provide even though it is not always reimbursed for its costs. The district has a policy that its general fund should be an amount between 22 and 28 percent of its annual operating costs. Though the \$432,000 decrease is the largest in recent history, circumstances described above have led to consistent budget deficits for the last few years. "A declining general fund is something everyone in the district should be worried about," observed board chair Rick Schultz. The group's concerns led to a brief discussion about the steps needed to ask the public for an "operating levy," an increase to property taxes designated specifically for support of the school district. According to information on the Minnesota Department of Education website, of 330 school districts statewide, about 240 are already utilizing this source of funding. Another major item of business on the June 15 agenda was accepting an offer on the property located at 302 Broadway Avenue South. The district purchased the property last fall as a way to deal with the longstanding circumstance that a garage associated with the residential lot extended about 6 feet into school property, reducing the space available at a driveway from the school's newly refurbished parking lot onto Minnesota Highway 30. At that time, re-

School continued on 3



FenceLines

by Mark Bernard

You just might find you get what you need

The scurs are keeping close tabs on the Weather Eye after more gorgeous weather. Does Mother Nature step on the gas or does she continue to freewheel downhill in overdrive? Starting Thursday, mostly sunny with highs in the low 70's and lows in the mid-50's. Partly sunny Friday with a modest chance of a rain shower. Highs in the mid-70's with lows in the upper 50's. Partly sunny on Saturday with a good chance of evening rain. Highs in the low 80's with lows in the low 60's. Sunday, partly sunny with a modest chance of rain. Highs in the upper 80's with lows in the upper 60's. Mostly sunny on Monday with a slight chance of rain. Highs in the upper 80's with lows in the mid-60's. Tuesday, partly sunny with highs in the low 80's and lows in the mid-60's. Mostly sunny on Wednesday July 1st with thundershowers developing. Highs in the mid-80's and lows in the mid-60's. On June 29th our loss of daylight increases to just over a half minute per day. We will have already lost three minutes since the summer solstice on the 21st. The normal high for June 29th is 81 and the normal low is 61. Looks like the scurs will be tweaking with their AC setting once again.

June 29th also ushers in June's Full Moon, which is most commonly known as the Full Strawberry Moon. It is the month noted for this red delicacy, the perfect topping for ice cream, in jam on toast, or eaten right out of the patch or container. Wild strawberries were also a favorite of both the Ojibwe and the Sioux, bestowing the strawberry moniker for this Full Moon as well. There are also other variations for those not into moons named after fruit, such as the River, Rose or Summer Moon. One that fits particularly well at the ranch is The Gardening Moon, aptly named for the many back-breaking hours spent trying to overcome the never ending purslane infestation.

Our growing season continues to impress. Corn is stretching, with much of it waist to chest high, depending on whose waist or chest you're using. Corn growth has slowed, but hasn't stalled by any stretch of the imagination. Corn is V9 - V12. While we aren't as likely to see tassels by July 4th, don't be surprised if they're here a week or so later. One good thing about this cooler stretch of weather is it has bought us a little time in the soil moisture department. Traveling outside the immediate area on Monday, it was noticeably drier and the corn looked like it would welcome a drink. Soybeans are right at that R1 stage in most fields, meaning the use of glufosinate

should be coming to an end for the season. Crops here would benefit from moisture, but so far, we have what we need.

My travels this past week also took me to a small grain meeting by Le Center that I really enjoyed. I truly enjoy seeing small grains on the landscape, partially because I grew up with oats in the rotation and I cut my agronomic teeth right out of college in the Durum Triangle area of North Dakota. Around the local area this year, there are many beautiful fields of small grain. The cooler weather of the past few weeks has been ideal for grain fill, much better than the blast furnace we sometimes encounter in mid-to-late June. Measured precipitation has also played into growers' hands. Diseases such as crown rust and fusarium are less likely to occur under drier conditions. Most of the small grain is short statewide as speaker Jochum Wiersma pointed out. Does that have a negative impact on yield? Not necessarily. The MN state spring wheat yield record was broken in 2017 under the same conditions. Size really doesn't matter.

The Back to the 50's car show came and went for another year. My secretary and copilot took off early Saturday morning and got in the gates before 8:30. We found a great parking spot by the horse barn under a hackberry, although we really didn't need the shade. Temps topped out around 75, a far cry from the 95 just a year earlier. Since the weather was cooler, the crowd was enormous. The streets were full of people, not unlike a comfortable afternoon at the State Fair except one had to remember that both sides of the street were lined with cars no newer than 1964. A lot of beautiful cars, many models which I probably rode in once upon a time. The Studebaker was a hit too. Not many of them around, so they draw attention. Best of all it ran like a dream all the way up and back thanks to my local Studebaker mechanic. Got to see Bemidji Bill too, so my day was complete.

We got the cull ewes loaded up Monday morning and hauled to market that afternoon. Many of these ewes have had issues and, while some still look serviceable, looks can be deceiving. We also finished weaning the remainder of the ewes and lambs at the ranch on Monday. It gets pretty loud for a few days, but there's no reason to keep feeding ewes that aren't milking with lambs that are eight weeks old or older. That's what they make pasture for. Since we did this without any assistance, it took some

Fencelines continued on 7



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

Before you blame the railroad

A while back, the newspaper was contacted by an area reader who wanted us to highlight the condition of area railroad crossings. His implication, of course, is that the crossings are rough, causing many drivers to go looking for the "best" path by swinging wide as they drive over the tracks.

I did some research on the topic, visiting the railroad company's website and speaking informally with a few people who work in road construction.

To provide the quick version first, area drivers may be the ones with the most influence when it comes to improving railroad crossings. At every crossing is a bright blue sign that offers a phone number drivers can call to report an emergency or a problem. I only began noticing them after their presence was pointed out to me, so you may never have noticed them either, but they're there.

Along with the phone number is a specific identification number for that particular crossing. Callers don't have to go through any acrobatics to clarify which location they're providing input about: Just give the I.D. Perhaps the more people railroads hear from regarding the status of certain crossings, the more open they will be to allow-

ing local highway crews to make repairs or upgrades.

Now the somewhat longer version, encouraging you not to express yourself harshly when you make those phone calls.

During my conversations, it was pointed out to me that there are many thousands of railroad crossings on U.S. highways. Railroad companies have easements associated with those crossings which extend out into the roadway on both sides. If a construction agency wants to perform any work within those easements, even on its own road near the railroad tracks, it must get authorization from the railroad company. With so many crossings and so many highway projects going on all the time, planners say they often feel frustrated with how long it takes to get that authorization from the company's national headquarters—if they receive authorization at all.

So it's easy to see why the idea of trying to repair the roadway next to and between railway tracks makes construction planners roll their eyes. They may be dismayed at the condition of the road, but frustrated in their efforts to get timely feedback and paperwork from the nationally based companies which are cautious about allowing the



SIGNS OF REPAIR - Signs like these, colored a reflective blue, appear at every railroad crossing. In speaking with people in the construction field, Deb learned hearing from drivers about the condition of a railroad crossing might help influence railroad companies to allow local agencies to make repairs.

Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

repairs.

I have to admit, as a driver who also frequently swings wide to find the best path across our area's many crossings, my sympathies were with the construction workers as my research began. My thoughts may have been something like, "Why do these huge national corporations have so little concern for everyday folks?"

However, my perusal of the railroad company's information about work done on or near crossings provided another, very important, perspective. To summarize—and pretty certainly to oversimplify—every train represents millions of dollars worth of equipment and cargo. In and around each train are railway employees, as well as everyday folks waiting at crossings and even in nearby buildings. Train companies are cautious about allowing large-scale work near their crossings because a derailment or accident at any one of them could not only endanger many people, it would be expensive on a scale most of us have trouble imagining. During a "worst-case" accident, there

would be many tons of falling materials potentially leaving the rails at dangerous speeds, along with a possible release of hazardous chemicals. Imagine the time and work needed to clean up even if only a few railway cars leave the tracks.

From another angle, the railway wants to be well informed about any work taking place near its tracks, so it can take precautions to keep those workers from being injured. Train traffic might have to be rerouted or delayed.

So as you can tell, as I considered the information railway companies provide online, my perspective broadened. After all, dealing with a rough railway crossing is frustrating and inconvenient, but I can keep doing it a while longer if it means keeping people safe.

So, if you feel it's warranted, go ahead and use the 800 number to let the railway companies know if you believe crossings you drive over are unsatisfactory. But please don't be harsh about it; they're approaching the problem from a much larger perspective than you are.

Farm and City Days medallion hunt

Farm and City Days medallion hunt Clue No. 1

And so the search shall begin, I am in a spot that I can see a lot!

There is just one of me to be found, but other numbers in the search that will help you might be five and two.

Sometimes 2 can surround 1 ... like body guards or growing a pyramid. We do not have to be the same thing but located near each other.

Solid 5 is a good idea. The more you have the better they might work. If they are solid they will not more and if their job is to protect they come in force... bigger the better.

Watching traffic I will be until you find me!

When you find the medallion, bring it to City Hall during business hours. You must turn in the medallion and be wearing a Farm and City Days button to claim the prize. If you are not wearing a button, the prize will be half the regular amount. The medallion must be turned in within 24 hours of finding it. The site is checked regularly. If the medallion is gone and has not been turned in within 24 hours, you forfeit the prize. Make haste to City Hall! If it is a weekend, please message Farm and City Days at: newrichlandfarmcitydays@gmail.com, or message us on Facebook, or leave a note in the drop box at City Hall. Thanks! Good luck!



NEW!

Radel Court is Ellendale's newest maintenance-free apartment living with a modern feel.

- 1 & 2 bedroom open floor units— Now Leasing!
- Spacious kitchen with stainless steel appliances
- Large living area with hardwood style flooring
- Storage closets available • Pet friendly • Off-street parking • Secure access
- Fully furnished social space for large gatherings

All nestled on multiple acres of manicured lawn and woods, adjacent to a city park and conveniently located just off Interstate 35.

NOW LEASING!

RENT SPECIAL AVAILABLE - PLEASE CALL!

6-month, 12-month and 18-month lease terms

For more information, contact Jason at (507)676-8300

**DIVERSIFIED** 1330 State Ave, NW
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SERVICES Owatonna, MN 55060
507-414-8090

Child's History of Waseca County

CHAPTER XII, 1855. The First Election—First candidates in county—List of voters

THE FIRST ELECTION

The general election in those days was held on the second Tuesday in October, I think; at any rate the election that year fell on the 9th of October. There were two voting precincts. The northern half of the county was called "Swavesey," and the southern half "Le Sueur River." There were two polling places—one at the house of J. M. Bliven in Blooming Grove, the other at the farm of Chris Scott, now owned by Mr. Carmody, in Wilton.

I was not present at the "Swavesey" precinct, but was present at the "Le Sueur" precinct election. When the voters came together at Scott's house, there was no ballot box, and one had to be improvised. Finally Mrs. Scott loaned them a cake box. A hole was cut in the cover, so as to admit the ballots, and the election proceeded. The local

candidates were as follows:

County commissioners—Samuel B. Smith, Wm. Allen and Melmer P. Ide.

Register of deeds—Charles Ellison.

Sheriff—Wm. F. Pettit.

Treasurer—David Sanborn.

Surveyor—John W. Park.

Clerk of court—F. Wilbur Fisk.

District attorney—J. M. Bliven.

Judge of probate—Frank B. Davis.

Assessors—David Lindesmith, Charles Thompson and Luke B. Osgood.

Justices of the peace—John Jenkins, of what is now Wilton, and Simeon Smith, of what is now Blooming Grove.

Of the county officers, Mr. Ide and Mr. Bliven resided in Blooming Grove. All the other officers were residents of what is now Steele county, except Mr. Osgood, who lived in what is now Iosco.

It is proper to say here that

what is now Waseca county was then a part of Steele county.

The names of those who voted in the Le Sueur precinct, as I remember them, were as follows:

Barney Gregory, Joseph Bird, Abraham Bird, John White, Martin Krassin, Fred Krassin, Gottlieb Krassin, Sr., Fred Prechel, Gottlieb Prechel, Fred Wobschall, David J. Jenkins, John Jenkins, John G. Greening, Andrew Scott, C. D. Scott, Chris. Scott, James E. Child, Wm. Robbins, George Robbins and H. F. Bierman. — twenty voters in all.

The names of those who resided in the "Swavesey" precinct, as near as I can make out from the records, were as follows:

A. C. Smith, L. B. Osgood, Daniel McDaniels, John H. Wheeler, David Wood, Aaron Hanes, J. W. Hosmer, Michael Johnson, Jonathan Howell, A. J. Bell, S. F. Wyman, Chris. Remund, W. M. Gray, J. M. Bliven, Ole Knutson, Curtis Hatch, M. P. Ide, Simeon Smith, James, John,

Thomas and Jerry Hogan, James and Patrick McCue, Patrick Moonan, George Morrill, John Cunningham and John Rowley.

It is not known to the writer how many of these voted, but there was a "right smart" vote considering the number of people.

The ticket was really non-partisan—Messrs. Pettit and Ellison being non-committal democrats—and all the others abolitionists or republicans. Among the voters in the Le Sueur precinct, there were only two democrats, Andrew and C. D. Scott.

The whole ticket was voted straight, as there was no opposition. So you see we started out harmoniously. It was, in fact, the only election the writer ever attended that was entirely harmonious and unanimous. While the fires of sectional and partisan strife were raging in the eastern states, our then territory was comparatively free from such excitement.

Star Eagle

SERVING THE NEW RICHLAND-HARTLAND-ELLENDALE-GENEVA AREA and the communities of Waseca, Otisco, Hope, Clarks Grove, Matawan, Freeborn and Waldorf

PHONE: 507-463-8112

FAX: 507-463-0504, email: steagle@hickorytech.net

USPS No. 382-040, address: 128 North Broadway

Mail: PO Box 248, New Richland, MN 56072

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

ELI LUTGENS
MELANIE PILTINGSRUD
AMELIA ROESLER
DEB BENTLY
JIM LUTGENS
TERESA ROSACKER
PAYGE ROSACKER

Publisher/Editor
Copy Editor
Editor
Staff Writer
Sports Editor
Advertising Sales
Editorial Assistant

Contributors: Al Batt, Bob Hanson, Mark Bernard, Mark Domeier, Dick Herfindahl, Barb Mrotz, Brenda Dokken, Judy Tweeten, Rachael Jaegar, Tristan Gehring, Ben Revermann, Payge Rosacker, Darin Reese, Rachel Laverink

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

\$57 Per Year, Waseca, Steele, & Freeborn Counties
\$67 State of Minnesota • \$77 Outside Minnesota

Published every Thursday by EJI Publications, Inc., and Periodical Postage paid at the Post Office at New Richland, Minnesota 56072. Entire contents copyright © 2026 EJI Publications, Inc. and respective authors. Opinions expressed in editorials or letters to the editor are those of the individual authors, and do not necessarily represent those of the Star Eagle or EJI Publications, Inc. Letters may be edited for content or length. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to P.O. Box 248, New Richland, MN 56072-0248

Compostings

by Al Batt

Being harebrained,
silly as a hare

ECHOES FROM THE
LOAFERS' CLUB MEET-
ING

You should cut back on the red meat and fried foods.

My aunt just celebrated her 106th birthday.

Did she do it by eating red meat and fried foods?

No, she did it by minding her own business.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S
DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I enjoyed a glass of Adam's ale—plain old water—as I watched fireflies. It was good to see someone using their blinkers. It's June. Time to start preparing for winter. I put the snow shovel away on June 15. I hope that wasn't a rash decision. To some folks, that means making winter reservations in Arizona. When I found myself in Surprise, Arizona, for a day years ago, I wasn't surprised.

You know about the Swiss Army Knife, but do you know about the Minnesota Army Knife? It's equipped with a snow shovel, a roll of duct tape, a windshield squeegee and jumper cables.

MINNESOTA TO
ALASKA

A friend, Dave Olerud of Haines, Alaska, passed away not long ago. I miss his phone calls. Originally from Boyd, Minnesota, Dave got me involved with the American Bald Eagle Foundation in Haines. Dave was the founder of the ABEF. That led to many wonderful visits to Alaska for me. Dave told me I had caught the Alaska virus, which required me to return regularly.

A PINKY SWEAR

A pinky swear is a traditional gesture where two people hook their pinky fingers together to signify that a promise had been made. The pinky finger might be the runt, but it contributes to our grip strength. The pinky toe's primary function is stability and balance, acting as an outrigger during walking and running. It cuts back on the swaying. Because it is on the outside of the foot, the pinky toe is susceptible to stubbing. Stubbing a pinky toe often results in a different kind of a pinky swear.

A WISHING STONE

Folklore says if you find a rock with a white line all the way around it, you have found a wishing stone. The stripe is usually a vein of quartz or calcite. A wishing stone is a stone that some people believe grants a wish or brings good luck. Hold the stone and close your eyes while making your wish. Speak the wish aloud or ponder it quietly in your mind. Carry the stone with you in your pocket or bag as a reminder of your wish. Place it under your pillow to invite dreams and insights related to your wish. I hope you find one and it brings you monumental

good luck.

I'VE LEARNED

The creation of the high-five is credited to Los Angeles Dodgers baseball players Glenn Burke and Dusty Baker in 1977. After Baker had hit a home run, Burke raised his hand in celebration, and Baker instinctively slapped it, creating the iconic celebratory gesture.

The states that spend the biggest share of their household incomes on fast food are Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico and West Virginia. The state spending the least is New Jersey. Iowans spend the 29th largest portion of their incomes and Minnesotans the 44th.

<https://wallethub.com/edu/ates-where-people-spend-the-most-least-on-fast-food/146260>

Southdale Center, which opened in Edina, Minnesota in 1956, was the first fully enclosed, climate-controlled shopping mall in the world.

"Hairbrained" is a common misspelling, but the word is "harebrained," meaning "silly as a hare."

If it had not been for Thomas Edison, we'd be watching TV by candlelight.

BAD JOKES
DEPARTMENT

How do chickens pick their noses? With their chicken fingers.

What rhymes with orange? No, it doesn't.

What is the closest thing to silver? The Lone Ranger's bottom.

NATURE NOTES

A ginormous American robin splashed water out of the bird-bath. A ginormous robin might weigh 3 ounces—less than a deck of cards.

Lemon-yellow goldfinches made me look. A blue-gray gnatcatcher, looking like a miniature mockingbird, produced buzzy, insect-like calls. I listened to a scarlet tanager near the city of Mabel. Or perhaps Mabel was near the scarlet tanager.

Foxtail barley is a common grass of the roadsides, often growing in saline soil. Even though it is considered a weedy species, the flowering spikes are attractive—silky and waving in the slightest breeze. It's known for its distinctive feathery seed heads that resemble a fox's tail.

Great crested flycatchers are known to include a shed snakeskin in their nests. They will use materials with similar characteristics, such as cellophane, plastic wrappers or onion skins. Research suggests the purpose might be to deter predators. A study found that nest boxes with snakeskins were less likely to be disturbed by predators.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"Sometimes being kind allows others to see the goodness in humanity through you. Always be kinder than necessary."—German Kent.

NRHEG Golf Banquet and Awards



AWARDS - Riverview Golf Course held the NRHEG golf banquet and awards Wednesday, June 17. Pictured are golfers that lettered: Back row is Matt Williams, Blake Olson, David Deen, Reid Sandry, Shan Hansen, Alexis Olson, Addison Bauleke. Front row is David Lynne, Charles Tuft, Braxton Arnold, Olivia Wilkenson. Not pictured Tyler Kress, Chase Hanson, Mya Wilson, Hailey Staska

Other notable awards include Team captains award for Shan Hansen, Reid Sandry, Alexis Olson and Olivia Wilkenson. MVPs were Olivia Wilkenson and Reid Sandry. Most improved was Braxton Arnold and Hailey Staska. Most dedicated was awarded to Addison Bauleke. Sportsmanship award went to Reid Sandry and Alexis Olson. All conference honorable mention was Reid Sandry. Not to mention many certificates for academics.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



www.corkeycomics.com

School

from Page 1

peated conversations with the homeowner had not led to a solution, so when the property came up for sale, the district purchased it for roughly \$70,000. During the school year, the garage was removed, creating a more open access between the lot and Highway 30.

During the June 15 meeting, board members officially accepted an offer of \$40,000 to be paid in cash for the property. While board members acknowledged the \$30,000 difference, Schultz pointed out that, given previous discussions with the property owner had been unsuccessful, legal action to compel the removal of the garage would probably have cost at least that amount.

He also referred to the improved access, stating that, "if we prevented even one accident, we made a good investment."

Also during the June 15 meeting, Christopherson summarized a ballot item which will

be decided during the Nov. 3 statewide vote.

She explained that, when Minnesota became a state, lawmakers stipulated in its constitution that land would be put under state control for the sake of helping support schools. She summarized that, at this time, about 2.5 million acres of land are managed by the state Department of Natural Resources. Income from that land is set aside in a fund; interest paid on that fund supports a number of state initiatives, including providing operating money to schools.

The fund, she said, has grown to be larger than lawmakers in the 1800s could have anticipated, and so significant amounts of money are not being distributed thanks to elements of the formula set down in the state constitution. Since changes to the constitution must be authorized by a general vote, this question will be appearing on the November ballot: "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to increase the funding going to all school districts from the permanent school fund, which is a fund that supports school districts without raising individual income or property taxes, effective July 1, 2027?"

If the amendment is approved, Christopher-

son said, NRHEG would receive about \$21,000 more in state funding in 2027 than in 2026.

Board members also carried out a conversation regarding the district's unemployment costs. Prior to 2024, school employees whose contracts did not include summer pay were not eligible for unemployment benefits. After a change to the law, people such as paraprofessionals, food service workers and bus drivers became eligible to apply. Teachers do not receive unemployment; their wages are an annual salary divided out across all 12 months of the year.

At the time the change was implemented, lawmakers set aside about \$135 million to cover the statewide costs to school districts, so that the money would not come from their operating budgets. That fund is meant to continue through the summer of 2027, or until it is exhausted.

Christopherson informed board members that NRHEG employees are expected to receive about \$100,000 in unemployment benefits this summer.



(507) 455-0388

870 32nd Avenue NW
Owatonna, MN 55060

Serving Commercial &
OTR Customers Since 1979

Got
news?

507-463-8112

ARCADIAN
BANK



MORTGAGE

We can help you take the next steps with confidence!

- New Home Purchase
- Refinancing Options
- New Construction or Remodel Projects

Our Mortgage Team is here to talk through your options and find a solution that works for you!



Scan here
to apply online!

1452 W. Main St.
Albert Lea MN 56007
www.arcadian.bank



NMLS 554275



LOCAL SERVICE.
STRONGER TOGETHER.

Your farm. Your future.
Your agency.



Change is
never easy.
We understand. That's why
we're here—local, trusted,
and committed to you.

STABILITY, EXPERIENCE,
PERSONAL SERVICE.
You can count on us.





CALL YOUR LOCAL TEAM TODAY!

ALBERT LEA
507-377-2000

ELLENDALE
507-684-2314

WELLS
507-801-1100

 www.americanainsurance.com

OBITUARIES

Roger Lee Myhre

Roger Lee Myhre, Sr., 78, of Mason City, Iowa, passed away peacefully on Thursday, June 18, 2026.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 27, 2026 at Hogan-Bremer-Moore Colonial Chapel, 126 3rd St. NE, Mason City.

Interment will follow at Memorial Park Cemetery in Mason City.

Visitation will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, June 26, 2026 at Hogan-Bremer-Moore Colonial Chapel and will continue one hour prior to the service on Saturday.

Roger was born on February 13, 1948 in Albert Lea, Minnesota to Carl Joe and Harriet (Rice) Myhre. He graduated from New Richland-Hartland High School and later attended the Pipestone Vocational Program, where he studied mechanics. Following his education, Roger proudly served his country in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War.

Roger was a man who knew what he wanted. The first time he saw Vicki Lewis, he confidently told those around him, "You know that woman? I'm going to marry her." True to his word, Roger was united in marriage to the love of his life, Vicki Louise Lewis, on August 10, 1974.

Together they shared more than 51 wonderful years of marriage, raising three children-Roger Jr., Phillip, and Twyla, and building a life rooted in love, family, hard work, and the simple joys that meant the most.

Throughout his life, Roger was known for his strong work ethic and dependable nature. He worked at Peaster Derby Gas Station, K-Brick Distribution, and most recently North Central International, where he dedicated more than two decades of service before retiring in 2025.

Whether at work or at home, Roger could always be counted on to show up, lend a hand, and do the job right.

Roger enjoyed life's simple pleasures. He could often be found at the casino, on the bowling lanes, watching Major League Baseball, attending car races, or cheering on his favorite teams. A lifelong Minnesota sports fan, Roger faithfully followed the Minnesota Vikings and Minnesota Twins, attending Twins games since 1961. He rarely missed a game and enjoyed following nearly every sport he could find.



Roger Myhre

Above all else, Roger treasured time spent with his family. Whether celebrating milestones, attending sporting events, or simply enjoying one another's company, family was always at the center of his life.

Roger also had a special place in his heart for his beloved dog, Shadow. His love, guidance, and unwavering support will be remembered by those who knew him best.

Roger is survived by his loving wife, Vicki Myhre; his children, Roger (Kelly) Myhre Jr. of Swaledale, Phil (Hanna) Myhre of Mason City, and Twyla (Andrew) Steenblock of Mason City; grandchildren, Clavin (Emma) Myhre, Trenton Roberts, Jacob Myhre, Katelyn Roberts, Mikenzi (Zane) Anderson, Madison Steenblock, Alexis Steenblock, Brian Steenblock, Colten Steenblock, Kameron Steenblock, Raven Steenblock, Ella Steenblock, Addison Sexton, Avery Sexton, and Kinnick Myhre; five great-grandchildren, with one more expected soon; his siblings, Fern Oberg of Waseca, Minnesota, and Barry Jacobson of Albert Lea, Minnesota; brothers- and sisters-in-law, Terri (Frank) Baltierra, Jolene Erickson, and Dale (Brandy) Lewis Jr.; along with many nieces, nephews, extended family members, and dear friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Carl and Harriet Myhre; his parents-in-law, Dale and Phyllis Lewis; his brother-in-law, Barry Oberg; brothers- and sisters-in-law, Tim Lewis, Debbie Ingle, and Cathy (Bill) Craig; and his beloved dog, Shadow.

Hogan-Bremer-Moore Colonial Chapel | 126 3rd St. NE, Mason City, IA 50401 | 641-423-2372 | ColonialChapels.com

Paul H. Arnfelt

Paul passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on June 18, 2026.

Paul will be remembered as a devoted husband, father, grandfather, veteran, businessman, and community leader whose love for Owatonna never wavered. Paul never forgot the people who helped him throughout his life. He valued friendship, loyalty, and community, and was always willing to lend a helping hand when someone needed support. He believed in keeping his word, treating people fairly, and making a positive difference in the lives of others. His deep devotion to his family, generous spirit, and welcoming nature will be deeply missed.

A message from Paul:

"I was born on the family farm on May 20, 1936 as the fourth child of Corbie L. Arnfelt and Esther Sampson Arnfelt. My siblings were Robert, Anthony, Richard, Eileen, and Joanne.

I spent my growing-up years on the family farm and attended the country school for two years before graduating from New Richland High School in 1954. After attending Mankato State College for two years, I entered the U.S. Army. During my service, I was stationed in the states and served in Korea for 18 months, attaining the rank of E-4 before my discharge. In 1959, I moved to Owatonna and worked for Sampson

Dairy. After my stint as a milkman, I owned and operated several businesses in Owatonna:

Paul's Conoco, Arnfelt Real Estate and Insurance, Basic Home Builders, and most recently, Life Style Management.

I met Gail Routh in 1956, and that was the beginning of my great life. We were married on January 8, 1960. She was the love of my life, and together we made many wonderful memories traveling and spending time together. Some of our travels included trips to Alaska, London, Cabo and the 1988 Olympics in Calgary. We enjoyed many years wintering on Sanibel Island, Florida, but Owatonna has always been my home.

Gail and I had three children: a daughter who died at birth, Elizabeth, and a son, Patrick.

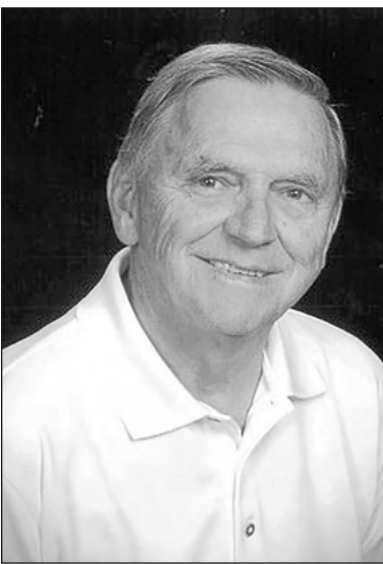
I was fortunate to be involved in many civic and community organizations throughout my life. I served on the Owatonna Charter Commission, Owatonna Planning Commission, Owatonna Safety Council, the local and state Boards of Realtors, and Steele County Free Fair Board, and the Owatonna Foundation. I was one of the founders of Community Bank Owatonna and served on its board for 12 years. I was also a Life Member of the Elks, a member of Minnesota Pheasants, a longtime member of Trinity Lutheran Church, and an active member of the Owatonna Jaycees for 12 years.

To all my family, friends, and business associates, I would like to thank everyone for the love and friendship you have shown my family and me over the past many years. What a great community! So many great experiences.

The friendship and love shown to my family and me in times of joy and happiness, and certainly in times of heartbreak and sadness, is truly the meaning of Owatonna. God bless each and every one of you."

Paul is survived by his daughter, Elizabeth Kienholz, and son-in-law, Kent Kienholz; granddaughter, Allison Peterson and her husband, Aren, and their children, Annie and Greta; granddaughter, Zoe Callen and her husband, Sam, and their son, Miles; daughter-in-law, Jennifer Schwab; sister, Joanne Waddington; sister-in-law, Iona Arnfelt; Gail's siblings, JoAnn Eaton (Steve), Allan Routh, Mark Routh (Brenda), and Kristine Fischer; as well as many nieces, nephews, extended family members, and dear friends. Paul was preceded in death by his parents, Corbie and Esther Arnfelt; infant daughter; son, Patrick Arnfelt; brothers, Robert Arnfelt (Joyce), Richard Arnfelt (Mary Jane), and Anthony Arnfelt; and sister, Eileen Sampson (Joe).

Paul's family extends their heartfelt gratitude to the staff of Ecumen Countryside and Ecumen Hospice for the compassionate and loving care they provided to Paul.



Paul Arnfelt

Visitation was at Michaelson Funeral Home on Wednesday, June 24, 2026, from 4:00PM to 7:00PM and on Thursday from 9:30 a.m. until the start of the service. Funeral services will be held on Thursday, June 25, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church with The Reverend Todd Buegler officiating. Military Honors will be provided by the Steele County Military Funeral Unit. Interment will be in the Forest Hill Cemetery in Owatonna. Memorials are preferred to the Owatonna Foundation, Trinity Lutheran Church, Steele County Free Fair Foundation, Ecumen Countryside or Ecumen Hospice.

Ride for Heroes



The Ride for Heroes departed from the Pour House in Clarks Grove on Saturday, June 20, 2026. Pictured from left: Mike Cottrell, Mayor of Albert Lea, Rich Murray, Heidi Wingler, Taylor Spooner, Al Whiteaker, Harlee Vokon, and Daren Ryy.



Star Eagle photos by Ben Revermann

Patriotic Assembly

This Fourth of July, America is celebrating the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

The Declaration is our founding, sacred document. It sets forth the reasons why we needed to separate from Great Britain, and explains our philosophy of the citizens' rights to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." It asserts that our government derives its power from the consent of the people. This is what we celebrate on July 4th, an assertion of who we

want to be as a country.

For this reason, local folks will meet at the park and volunteers (young and old) will each read a part of the Declaration for people assembled.

Details

Rally: A public reading of the Declaration of Independence

When: June 26 at 5 p.m.

Where: New Denmark Park (410 Bridge Ave., Albert Lea, Minn.) By the mermaid.

Contact: Mary Hinnenkamp

Ph: 507-320-8676

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

JENSEN'S PLUMBING, HEATING & COOLING Serving Southern Minnesota for over 45 years! 104 CENTRAL AVE N GENEVA, MN 507-256-4712	Insurance from the Best! TROY THOMPSON AGENCY, INC. 1330 W. Main, Albert Lea, MN 507-377-2852 fax 507-377-3301 troythompsonagency@gmail.com	Hope CREAMERY 9043 SW 37th Ave. • Hope, MN 507-684-2019	ELEMENTIC CONCRETE Your local distributor EAGLE CONCRETE Division of Waseca Sand & Gravel 13113 315th Ave., Waseca MN 507-835-5150 Also available: Ready Mix Concrete, Rebar, Landscape Rock	Bohler Plumbing & Heating TRANE It's Hard To Stop A Trane. 324 N Broadway • New Richland 507-465-8376 Rick 507-402-6766 • James 507-475-2430	ARO ACCOUNTING Allyson Olson cell 507-391-3738 allyson@araccounting.com Two locations to serve you 217 East Elm Ave., Waseca 507-391-3738 32718 State Hwy 13, Hartland 507-845-2763
Holland Auction Holland & Associates Ellendale, MN Tracy Holland #7405002 MSAA NAA 507-456-5128 www.hollandauction.com	Bayview Freeborn FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES 1415 Hwy 13N Albert Lea, MN 56007 bayviewfuneral@gmail.com 507-373-4330 Locally Organized, Owned & Operated since 1939	INSURE CAREFULLY, DREAM FEARLESSLY. CALL (507) 835-2770 FOR A NO-OBLIGATION FREE QUOTE. Matthew R. Petsinger Agency, LLC Matthew Petsinger, Agent Waseca, MN team@petsingeragency.com mrapagencyllc.com	JK ROUTH CONTRACTING, LLC Wick Buildings Jesse Routh 507-383-7892 jrouthbod@yahoo.com	PANTHER POWERHOUSE 24-Hour Gym Access New Member signup by appointment 114 Broadway Ave. N. Call or text (507)330-2345 Facebook address : https://www.facebook.com/PantherPowerHouseFitness	Red Leaf Cafe Open Monday-Friday 6am-2pm 104 Broadway Ave. S. • Downtown New Richland 507-465-8000

A Walk for Kenzie Mae



Star Eagle photos by Ben Revermann



TGWE
GREG WILMES
EXTERIORS

COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL
NEW CONSTRUCTION • REMODELING

- SHINGLES, STEEL, RUBBER ROOFING
- VINYL, STEEL, & CEMENT BOARD SIDING
- WINDOWS & DOORS: INSULATION, SHEETROCK
- ALL FLOORING: CONCRETE, PATIOS, DECKS
- SEAMLESS GUTTERS & GUTTER PROTECTION SYSTEMS
- CERTAINTED® CLAIMS SPECIALIST

"Footings to Finish"

GREG WILMES EXTERIORS LLC
BUILDING CONTRACTOR #BC793885

GREGWILMESROOFING.NET
GREGWILMESROOFING@GMAIL.COM
(507) 202-7070

OIL CHANGE SPECIAL
OIL CHANGE SPECIAL
OIL CHANGE SPECIAL

Marthaler Honda
of Albert Lea

HONDA

Cheapest oil change special in town!

\$59.99
for full synthetic with a tire rotation

507-373-2341
2114 E Main St
Albert Lea, MN
marthalerhonda.com

Home of the \$59.99 full synthetic oil change - up to 5 quarts

HAPPY 65TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
on June 30th
RAY & EVON KRUEGER



Love You Mom & Dad & Grandma & Grandpa!
- Micki, Rick, Jan, Terry, Cody, Emily, Brady & Lyndi



Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl
Outdoors Writer

Cooler weather has brought some good fishing

The cool weather has been a welcome nicety. I don't do well with hot and humid.

The fishing around the area has been pretty darned good if you ask my brother-in-law, Lynn. He has been catching fish all spring and summer. Walleye, northern, crappie. He has been doing a job. He should think about changing his name to Babe Winkleman, but alas, that name has already been taken.

I really can't remember when the fishing in our area has been this good. I am not talking about just Fountain and Albert Lea Lakes, but also the lakes in the surrounding area. State Line, Pickerel, St. Olaf and Beaver all seem to have been producing fish.

I have been dealing with a few health issues that have prevented me from exploring the many avenues of opportunity that are available.

I hope to get up north in the next week or so. I will have to limit my fishing to shore fishing for the time being. That is alright with me. Just being up north is my cure-all when it comes to my state of mind. Watching the sun rise and set and listening to

the loons and trumpeter swans is food for the soul.

My tackle boxes are idling in the basement just waiting for a chance to contribute. The fishing poles are lined up, ready for action.

At the cabin, I can be a little more active by necessity, because there are things that will need to be done.

Until next time: Find Fourth of July weekend fun at Minnesota state parks and recreation areas. Minnesota state parks and recreation areas are great places to celebrate the Fourth of July holiday. Whether you're looking for a day trip or a full weekend enjoying nature, there is something everyone can enjoy.

"Most Minnesotans live within 30 miles of one of our 73 state parks and recreation areas, and we encourage everyone to spend time outdoors during Fourth of July weekend," said Ann Pierce, director of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Parks and Trails Division. "Visitors can relax, connect with nature and celebrate the holiday in a peaceful setting."

For those seeking a quieter celebra-



Shown here are pictures showing some of the reasons that being up north is so special to Dick.

tion, parks and recreation areas could be the perfect fit, since the use of fireworks is prohibited in these areas.

DNR's Park Finder tool can help everyone find locations offering desired recreational opportunities.

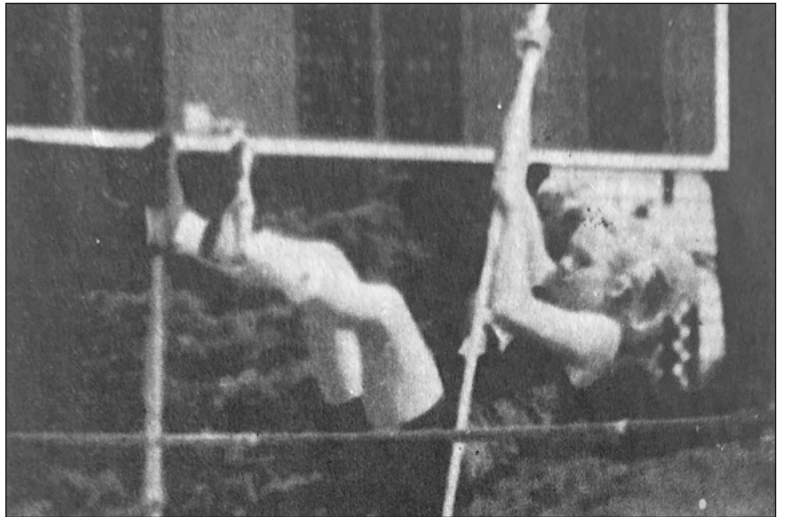
Please take the time to remember our troops that are serving now and those that have served before them. They are the reason that we have all of the Freedoms that we enjoy today.

LOOKING BACK

25 years ago

- A check for \$2,000 was presented to Jeff Reese by Sharon Parpart, Sprint representative from Chaska. The \$2,000 will be applied to the outstanding balance of the baseball field lights. Jeff has worked hard on making the lights a reality. Donations to the light fund will continue to be welcome until the debt is paid for in full.

- Katie Dobberstein, daughter of Ralph and Cheryl Dobberstein of New Richland, has been awarded a Sather Presidential, a Southwest State University Mentoring and a Foundation Distinguished Student Scholarship for the 2001-2002 academic year. The scholarships were presented to Dobberstein by Laren Baker, dean of the College of Arts, Letters and Sciences, ad interim.



- Kalisha Anthony set two new records in the pole vault during the Sub-Section 5A championship tournament at Wells. She vaulted 10' to place first. This is the new subsection record as well as a new Panther record. Kalisha was the Section 2A Meet champion with a vault of 9'5". She placed 12th in the Minnesota State competition at 9'6".

- Kayla Bruegger and Matthew Black announce their engagement and forthcoming marriage. Kayla is the daughter of Audrey Bruegger of New Richland and Ronald Bruegger of Minnesota Lake. Kayla graduated in 1997 from Maple River High School. She is employed by Minnesota Park Incorporated. Matthew is the son of Randy and Brenda Black of rural Amboy and the late Gail Black. He graduated from Maple River High School in 1996 and is employed by John Corey Trucking.

50 years ago

- Janice Olson and Jean Olson are looking over a copy of the New Richland Star's Diamond Jubilee edition following the formation of a New Richland Centennial meeting held at the New Richland City Hall, Tuesday night. They were selected as co-chairmen of the Centennial Steering Committee. They are looking for all kinds of suggestions and comments for activities during the Centennial celebration.

- Quiram's Bakery Quities have jumped off a two-game lead in the New Richland Women's Softball League, by winning two games from the State Bank of New Richland, each by one run.

- Norman Ribbe has been named District Manager for the Minneapolis Star and Tribune in the Benson, Minnesota area. Norman is a 1970 graduate of New Richland -Hartland High School.

75 years ago

- A daughter, Kristin Karen, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Arnfelt of Waseca Sunday, July 15 at the Memorial Hospital. The baby weighed eight pounds, one ounce and is the Arnfelts' first child.

- William Anderson, son of Walter Anderson, former New Richland baseball player and son of L. M. Anderson, was graduated with honors from the Lincoln high school, Tacoma, Walsh. Willam ranked fifth in a class of 502 students and won a scholarship from a college in Cambridge, Mass.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

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

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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)

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

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

VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Brian 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 - 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 - 10:30 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
Hollandale, Minnesota
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

FAMILY OF FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH
101 East Park Avenue
Hollandale, Minnesota
An EagleBrook viewing church.

Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Coffee Fellowship; 9:20 a.m. Worship/Kids Church
Familyoffaithhollandalemn.org
fitchhollandale@gmail.com

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.

STEVE JAMES EXCAVATING
D-M CONSTRUCTION
ELYSIAN, OWATONNA, WASECA & WATERVILLE
507-451-3080
SteveJamesExcavating.com

- Excavation
- Site Development
- Site Utilities
- Basement Digging
- Trucks & Hauling
- Landscape Supplies
- Rock, Sand, Gravel & Dirt
- Demolition
- Water & Waterline Repair
- Jetting, Camera & Locating
- Septic Services
- Snow Plowing

Offering Commercial & Residential Services

www.mainstreetdentalclinics.com

Main Street Dental Clinics
comfortable dentistry

Less than excited about your visit to the dentist? Relax. It's Main Street Dental.

Rochester (507) 536-7700 3110 Wellner Dr NE, Rochester, MN 55906	Mankato (507) 720-0250 287 St Andrews Dr #100, Mankato, MN 56001	Blooming Prairie (507) 583-2141 405 Main St E, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917	Owatonna (507) 455-1000 1170 E Frontage Rd, Owatonna, MN 55060	New Richland (507) 463-0502 132 Broadway Ave N, New Richland, MN 56072
---	---	--	---	---

Steve's Meat Market
EST 1973
Award Winning Home-Cured Meat Products

Ellendale, MN 56026

PH: 507-684-2331
FAX: 507-684-3109

Your local family-owned store for Fresh Produce & Quality Meats, friendly service & great prices!

Wagner Foods

Mon-Sat: 8 am - 8 pm
Sun: 9 am - 5 pm

(507) 463-3717
120 South Broadway
New Richland, MN

newrichlandgrocery.com

Bayview Freeborn
FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES

1415 Hwy 13N
Albert Lea, MN 56007
bayviewfuneral@gmail.com
507-373-4330

Locally Organized, Owned & Operated since 1939

JANIKE SEEDS
PIONEER BRAND SEEDS
CORTEVA

LAYNE JANIKE

(507) 995-6627
layne.janike@plantpioneer.com

NEW RICHLAND CARE CENTER

Exceptional care by and for Exceptional People!

(507) 465-3292

312 1st Street NE, New Richland, MN

L&D Ag Service
Hartland, MN

408 Broadway St,
Hartland, MN, 56042
(507) 845-2100
LD-AG.com

agro-economics inc.

MARK BERNARD
Crop Consultant
(507) 461-1775

121 3rd St. N.E.
New Richland,
MN 56072

TS
THOMPSON SANITATION, INC.

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
ROLLOFFS • RECYCLING

Clarks Grove Office:
108 N. Independence Ave.
Clarks Grove, MN 56016
Phone: 507-256-4370
thompsonsantiation.com

RUSS NELSON MOTOR SHOP

Electric Motor Repair and Replacement

601 Dutton Drive
Ellendale, MN
507-473-0513
russnelson1941@gmail.com

Statewide ballot item to benefit schools

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

“Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to increase the funding going to all school districts from the permanent school fund, which is a fund that supports school districts without raising individual income or property taxes, effective July 1, 2027?”

Minnesota voters will find this question on their ballots in November. Skipping the question is equivalent to voting against it, since if the amendment is going to pass, it must be approved by at least 51 percent of voters.

Business managers from the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton, New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva and Waseca school districts appeared before the Waseca County Board of Commissioners during their June 16 meeting in order to “get the word out” regarding the benefits of the proposed constitutional amendment.

The Minnesota School Boards Association states the change would increase statewide yearly per-pupil distributions from approx-

imately \$68 to \$96 at no cost to taxpayers.

According to information shared by school business managers, JWP would anticipate a \$17,000 increase; NRHEG \$21,000; and Waseca \$46,000.

According to online information shared by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the DNR is the “trustee” for about 2.1 million acres of School Trust Lands; any income derived from various activity on those lands, including leasing of mineral rights, harvesting timber, and leasing use of the land, is set aside toward supporting schools. Legislative sources explain the money provides a significant portion of the annual funding paid to school districts based on the number of students who attend.

District leaders requested the commissioners’ assistance in helping voters understand their yes votes will not increase anyone’s tax burden, but will be of significant benefit to education. All present expressed a willingness to work together toward informing members of the public about the amendment.

Local students earn spring accolades

South Dakota State spring 2026 Dean’s List:
Lauren Cowell of Ellendale, SDSU’s College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences
Erin Peterson of Hartland, SDSU’s College of Nursing
Kia Buendorf of New Richland, SDSU’s College of Education and Human Sciences
Erin Jacobson of New Richland, SDSU’s College of Ag, Food and Environmental Sciences

Marquette University’s Milwaukee, Wisconsin spring 2026 Dean’s List:
Laura Deml, Bachelor of Science, Nursing Ellendale, MN
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Spring Dean’s list:
Rachel Horejsi, Ellendale, College of Arts and Sciences

University of Wisconsin-Madison students have earned notable awards and fellowships this academic year:
Karrin Sackett, Ellendale, Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Hilldale Undergraduate/Faculty Research Fellowship

North Dakota State University scholarship winner:
Evelyn Nydegger, daughter of Larry and Michele Nydegger of Ellendale, Minnesota. Achievers Transfer Award. Nydegger will attend NDSU in the fall and major in radiological sciences.

Riverland Community College 2026 Spring Dean’s list:

Ellendale
Samuel Christensen
Kaitlyn Dobberstein
Marylin Johnson
Tyler Martin
Hannah Parks

Geneva
Rachel Rembao
Hartland
Faith Hall
Caylee Bakken

New Richland
Autumn Baseman
Hazel Botten
Sierra Fish
Molly Johnson
Alexis Loken
Khloe Nelson
Ryan Schlaak
Grace Starman

Riverland Community College 2026 Spring President’s list:

Ellendale
Melina Bell
Madison Bogue
Mariah Christ
Cayla Conroy
Matthew Greeley
Jozlyn Johnson
Wyatt Larson
Devon Nelton
Cody Reistad

Geneva
Jack Bartlett
Finnegan Baumann
Kiyah Mikesell
Levi Morstad

Editorial: The case for carnivores

By MELANIE PILTINGSRUD
Copy Editor

Last week I read in the NRHEG Star Eagle that the city of Ellendale is considering sterilizing (and micro-chipping) all of the stray cats in their community. While I can well believe that stray cats could be viewed as a “nuisance,” I wondered whether this would turn into a case of getting what you asked for and regretting it.

Soon after I moved back to the New Richland area, I saw an orange cat slink out of the woods in our yard. It was a stray cat that no one wanted, and that is perhaps not so strange. Having grown up in the wild, the cat would never be happy loafing around indoors on a sofa, or chasing trinkets with bells across a carpet. But I grew up with outdoor cats. As a child I spent hours coaxing “feral” cats out of hiding. I soon had this one eating kitty food on the porch. Naturally, he didn’t trust anyone else. I encouraged my husband to feed him, so the cat wouldn’t split and run every time he opened the front door.

My toddler was terrified of the cat, which I learned one wintry day when I went to throw out the remains of a melon in the woods. I thought Logan would follow me, but he hung back, afraid to follow. He was also too scared to go back up on the porch. I could only surmise that it was because the cat was there. When I returned from my short jaunt to the woods, I found him with his back against the side of the house, crying. The situation resolved itself with familiarity.

Of course, the cat wandered. Once, my family and I had walked to the end of the driveway when I saw the cat, perhaps a quarter mile off, wandering toward some other farmyard beyond. I called to him. He turned on a dime, walking back as though he had never thought of leaving.

He liked the company. Daily, he took up residence on the picture windowsill to watch what the humans were doing. He loved it if someone came out on the porch to pet him.

The cat had seen better days. He wouldn’t tolerate being picked up, although he loved attention. At times his fur was matted when he returned from his wanderings, and at some point in his life, he’d lost his fangs.

I didn’t realize then that, all the time I was taking care of him, he was taking care of me. I’d started gardening shortly after we moved. Logan looked at the seed catalog, and begged for red potatoes, rainbow carrots, and popcorn. I never thought of rabbits, mice, or raccoons attacking my plants or produce. They didn’t.

One evening, the cat brought me a present. I opened the screen door, shrieked and let it slam to again. Right in front of the screen door was a rabbit head, neatly arranged to face the door, the body oozing blood nearby. When I’d gotten over my surprise, I assured the cat that he

could keep the rabbit. He pulled it off the porch into the milkweed patch and ate it himself.

Ever since I’ve wondered how he overpowered the rabbit without any fangs. He didn’t let his handicap stop him.

The cat graced our lives for a couple of years. Even my son learned to love him. It lasted until one evening when I noticed the cat had returned from a lengthier excursion. I went out the back door where he stood shivering, emaciated, clearly sick, his fur covered in sticky poison from nose to tail that he’d ingested in trying to clean it off. There was nothing I could do for him. He was too far gone. I fetched a towel to keep him warm, and sat on the ground in my bathrobe. I couldn’t pick him up; in his condition it would have been excruciating. I couldn’t take him indoors to warm him; that would have terrified him. All I could do was keep him company.

And the next day, somehow, I had to explain to my three-year-old why the orange cat was never coming back.

Ever since that day, gardening has become a ridiculous challenge. I’ve used up rolls of fencing, and still the rabbits find something to destroy, including my son’s flowers, the mice eat my tomatoes, and the raccoons, squirrels, and skunks make short work of any corn I try to grow. It becomes a choice between setting traps that I absolutely do not want in my garden or littering the landscape with bullet casings, all to do some-

thing the cat accomplished mostly by his sheer presence.

Cats, which were once commonplace when I was a child, have now taken on the exotic quality of a Big Foot sighting; everyone runs to the window to see before it disappears.

I’ve written this journey down memory lane not as a memoir, but to make a point. Like the wolves of Yellowstone National Park, whose presence was so vital that it rebalanced the once sick ecosystem and changed the course of the Yellowstone River, the four-footed, carnivorous predators, the cats, coyotes, and foxes that wander our alleys, woods, and fields, are unreasonably maligned. If we destroy them, or otherwise banish them from our midst, we are creating a bigger problem. Most people can’t seem to despise predator animals enough, but, if there’s one thing reading the news has taught me, it’s that there’s usually another side to the story. This is the other side of the story. Somehow, in the security of obtaining all our food from the grocery store, we have forgotten the vital role that these creatures played in our lives; they kept prey animals in check, and even raccoons give them a wide berth. About the time when we tire of hearing skittering in the walls, when skunks live under the porch, raccoons raid the trash cans, and squirrels dig up the planters, we may remember why we once happily shared the space with carnivorous predators.

Fencelines

from Page 2

thought and planning to pull it off. Suffice it to say you have to be smarter than the sheep, which doesn’t take much. You also have to have cat-like reflexes, which let’s me out. It helps that some of the show ewes in our flock are used to being trailered

from place to place. Get them headed in the right direction seeing an open trailer swing gate and they’re in it.

Poppy was busy keeping an eye out for her wild turkeys last week. Much to her chagrin, none showed up. That didn’t stop her from keeping the bunnies and squirrels in line. It helps keep them out of the garden and other places they shouldn’t be. It’s been good sleeping weather recently for people. Likewise for Corgis. If there’s a breeze coming in the window, the corner of the bed works perfectly.

Poppy’s not a TV watching dog like Ruby was, but she still has her moments. I couldn’t figure out why she was barking periodically Monday night after chores. Mrs. Cheviot had left to get some groceries, and the TV was on in the other room. I wasn’t watching it and heard her bark periodically. Odd. When I went to check I noticed there was a game show on. Every time someone answered a question correctly, a bell would sound very close in pitch to the doorbell. Barking ensued, so mystery solved. See you next week...real good then.

NASINEC

Funeral Home & Crematory



- New in 2022, one-level facility
- On-site crematory
- Pre-need insurance agent

789 Business Park Drive Wells, MN 56097
507-553-3124 • info@nasinecfh.com

- Dedicated staff including two full-time morticians
- everything you need!

USED BOOKSTORE

RECYCLE YOUR BOOKS WITH US

507-455-3440
eatonsbooks@q.com
Mon-Fri 10-5 Sat 10-3:30
602 North Cedar Ave Owatonna MN 55060

Advanced Funeral Planning



Andrew Schwarz
Licensed Preplanning Consultant

- It is a sincere act of love.
- It relieves the burden of making arrangements at a most difficult time, enabling family & friends to better support each other's sorrows.
- It provides comfort to the family that final wishes are respected.
- It allows the funeral to focus on the living who are left to deal with their grief and loss.
- It is capable of relieving the financial burden for family members.
- It can make it easier for those we love.



BONNERUP
FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES
Albert Lea • New Richland • Ellendale
217 West Division Street • New Richland, MN 56072
Phone: (507) 465-8015 • www.BonnerupFuneralService.com

LERBERG'S

CAR WASH & COIN LAUNDRY

Full line of cardio, free weights, power racks, dumbbells, barbells, & circuit training machines!

24 HOURS

Touchless Wash and Self Serve

FITNESS CENTER & TANNING

507-684-2471
118 5th Avenue West
Ellendale, MN 56026

Thank You!

Taste of the Farm

Thank you to the over 550 attendees and numerous sponsoring businesses, organizations, and volunteers!

Ag Partners
Bin Pro Dumpster Rental
Boss Supply of Janesville
Burns Sales & Service
Compeer Financial – Mark Scharf
Corn Country Seed–Tyler Huber
Crystal Valley
Deml Ford
Farm Bureau Financial Services- Ben Schlaak
FM Bank
Guardian Energy
Huey Seed Farm
Hy-Vee
Janesville Tire
Keen Bank
Kemps
Kibble Equipment
KOWZ / KRUE / KFOW Radio
Lakes Gas Co.
Lindner Liquor / Boxcar Bar
Minnesota Beef Council
Minnwest Bank
Morgan’s Meat Market
United Prairie Bank
WASECA AREA FOUNDATION
Waseca CERT

Waseca Chamber of Commerce
Waseca County American Dairy Association
Waseca County Corn & Soybean Growers
Waseca County Free Fair
Waseca County Pork Producers
Waseca County Sheriff’s Office
Waseca FFA
Waseca 4-H
Waseca Fire Department
Waseca Sand & Gravel / Eagle Concrete

....and more! We apologize if any sponsors or volunteers were inadvertently missed.



Ellendale Days 2026

Friday, June 26

- Kids Zone: mini golf, bounce house, basketball
- City-wide rummage sales
- Food vendors open in the afternoon
- 4:30-8:00 PM:** Ellendale Heritage Society root beer floats
- 5:00-7:00 PM:** Pork chop supper at the Community Building
- 5:00-8:00 PM:** Dan Stursa Band by the mural
- 8:00-11:00 PM:** Band at the bar: Bring Your Mama

Saturday, June 27

- Kids Zone open, TBA times
- City-wide rummage sales
- Food vendors open
- 8:00 AM-1:00 PM:** Ellendale Lions food stand at car show
- 9:00 AM-1:00 PM:** Car show at United Methodist Church lot
- 10:00 AM-2:00 PM:** Craft and vendor show on 2nd St.
- 10:00 AM-7:00 PM:** Root beer floats by the mural
- 10:00 AM until done:** Coopers Nation bean bags on 3rd by bar
- 4:00 PM:** Grande Parade
- 5:00 PM:** Kiddie tractor pull on 2nd Street
- 8:00 PM-12:00 AM:** Ellendale Fireman's Street Dance featuring The Travis Thamert Band

Sunday, June 28

- 8:00 AM-1:00 PM:** Ellendale Lions pan-cake breakfast at UMC
- 9:00 AM:** Ellendale Lions food stand at tractor pull
- 10:00 AM:** Big Boys Tractor Pull, bus garage lot, Sign up: 9:00 AM
- 10:00 AM:** Community church service in the park

Tesch Service
321 Elm Ave W, Waseca, MN
Call Us! (507) 835-4610
teschservice@mediacommbb.net

Budack's IMPLEMENT, INC.
Ag Equipment & Napa Auto Parts
Family owned since 1966!!
229 3rd St NE
New Richland, MN
(507) 465-3237

George's & Geneva
SUPPER CLUB
Join us for unforgettable dining experiences!
116 Central Ave N, Geneva, MN
(507) 256-4501
georgesofgeneva.org

MINNWEST BANK
Commercial, agricultural and personal banking
102 South Main St
Waldorf, MN 56091
PH: (507) 239-2166
FX: (507) 239-2249
WALDORF FDIC

Titan^{pro}
SEED • CHEMICAL • INSURANCE
CHAD JOHNSON
Ellendale, MN
507-391-2757
Call me, your local dealer, & find out about our diverse seed line & chemical programs for this year's harvest!

Whispering Oak Place
ASSISTED LIVING & MEMORY CARE
903 CALVERLY COURT
ELLENDALE, MN 56026
PHONE: 507-684-3026
WHISPERINGOAKPLACE.COM

LERBERG'S
CAR WASH & COIN LAUNDRY
Touchless Wash and Self Serve
Full line of cardio, free weights, power racks, dumbbells, barbells, & circuit training machines!
FITNESS CENTER & TANNING
24 HOURS
507-684-2471
118 5th Avenue West
Ellendale, MN 56026

NEW RICHLAND LIQUOR CO.
EST 2024
507-465-3552
102 Broadway Ave N,
New Richland, MN 56072

Main Street Dental Clinics
Less than excited about your visit to the dentist?
Relax. It's Main Street Dental.
www.mainstreetdentalclinics.com
Rochester (507) 556-7799 3110 Wellner Dr NE
Mankato (507) 720-9250 287 St Andrews Dr #100
Blooming Prairie (507) 585-2141 405 Main St E
Owatonna (507) 455-1000 1170 E Frontage Rd
New Richland (507) 463-0502 132 Broadway Ave N

Floors 4-U
No matter your flooring needs, we've got the expertise to handle the job, 4 U!
302 5th Ave W,
Ellendale, MN
(507) 684-3351
floors4u2007@gmail.com

Bohlen Plumbing & Heating
TRANE
It's Hard To Stop A Trane.
324 N Broadway • New Richland 507-465-8576
Rick 507-402-6766 • James 507-475-2450

Insurance from the Best!
TROY THOMPSON
AGENCY, INC.
Troy Thompson LUTCF
1330 W. Main, Albert Lea, MN
Ph: 507-377-2852 F: 507-377-3301
troythompsonagency.com

OLSON EXCAVATING
Brandon Flatness, Owner
Hartland MN
shop 507-845-2440 cell 507-383-2008

Your local family-owned store for Fresh Produce & Quality Meats, friendly service & great prices!
Wagner Foods
Mon-Sat: 8 am - 8 pm
Sun: 9 am - 5 pm
(507) 463-3717
120 South Broadway
New Richland, MN
newrichlandgrocery.com

JANIKE SEEDS
PIONEER BRANDS • BEGON
CORTEVA
LAYNE JANIKE
(507) 995-6627
layne.janike@plantpioneer.com

We PICK UP cars and trucks. We CLEAN UP property. We PAY for metals... and HAUL IT ALL.
misgen
800-358-4902 www.misgen.com
Used Car and Truck Parts • U-Pull and Full-Service
8-5 M-F, Closed Saturday & Sunday 12855 SW 72nd Ave., Ellendale, MN

KRAUSE FEEDS & SUPPLIES
9352 SW 37th Ave,
Hope, MN, 56046
(507) 451-3043
kfshope@outlook.com

L&D Ag Service
Hartland, MN
408 Broadway St,
Hartland, MN, 56042
(507) 845-2100
LD-AG.com

Johnson
APARTMENTS

507-456-9514

Operating in
Waseca, Steele,
Freeborn
Counties

johnsonrents.com

Royal Villa Apartments has
a one-bedroom apartment
for rent. We are an income-
based, clean, healthy, quiet
place, with activities avail-
able for those looking for a
place to call home. Se-
cured building access and
security system. Utilities
included in rent.
Satellite TV and
Wifi available.
Call 507-463-8515 or email
hrranr@hickorytech.net to
request an application.

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.

Find us on:
facebook®

NRHEG Star Eagle
@newrichlandstar · Newspaper

https://www.facebook.com/newrichlandstar

MN Tech Services

RELIABLE TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS
YOU CAN TRUST

Fast, professional technology help for home and business.

SERVICES
Computer Repair • Networks • Virus Removal
Software Setup • On-Site & Remote Support

Joe McMahon
IT Support Specialist
(507)-460-3911

MN Tech Services

http://www.mntechservices.com

NOTICE OF FILING
HARTLAND TOWNSHIP

Notice is hereby given that a General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, for the purpose of electing candidates to fill the offices listed below:

Supervisor (1) - four (4) year term

Clerk - four (4) year term

The filing period opens at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, and closes at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 28, 2026. Affidavits of Candidacy must be filed during the above filing period at the office of the Hartland Township Clerk located at 71622 325 St., Hartland, Minnesota.

The filing fee for candidacy is \$2.00.

Allen Batt
Hartland Township Clerk

NOTICE OF FILING DATES FOR ELECTION TO THE SCHOOL BOARD
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.2168
NRHEG PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the period for filing affidavits of candidacy for the office of school board member of Independent School District No.2168 shall begin on July 14, 2026, and shall close at 5:00 o'clock p.m. on July 28, 2026.

The general election shall be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026. At that election, four (4) members will be elected to the School Board for terms of four (4) years each.

Affidavits of Candidacy are available from the school district clerk, 306 Ash Ave South, New Richland, MN. The filing fee for this office is \$2. A candidate for this office must be an eligible voter, must be 21 years of age or more on assuming office, must have been a resident of the school district from which the candidate seeks election for thirty (30) days before the general election, and must have no other affidavit on file for any other office at the same primary or next ensuing general election.

The affidavits of candidacy must be filed in the office of the school district clerk and the filing fee paid prior to 5:00 o'clock p.m. on July 28, 2026.

Dated: June 18, 2026

BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
Terri Engel
School District Clerk

Filings for
Hartland City Council

To Be Filled at the November General Election

Will Open
Tuesday, July 14th, 2026 at 8:00 am

And Close
Tuesday, July 28th, 2026 at 5:00 pm

Filings for the Office of Mayor for 2 years
and
Filings for the Offices of Two Council Members for 4 Year Terms

Filings will be accepted at the City Clerk’s Office. The fee for filing is \$2.00.

Karen Flatness
Hartland City Clerk

NOTICE OF FILING
City of Geneva, Minnesota

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that filing for the office of City Council Member for the City of Geneva, Minnesota, will open on July 14, 2026, and close at 5:00 p.m. on July 28, 2026.

The following positions are open for election:

- Two (2) City Council Member positions
- Each for a term of four (4) years

Affidavits of Candidacy shall be filed with the City Clerk. A filing fee of \$2.00 is required at the time of filing.

Eligible candidates must be:

- At least 21 years of age
- An eligible voter
- A resident of the City of Geneva for at least 30 days before the election

The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026.

For additional information, please contact:
Jannell Tufte, City Clerk
City of Geneva
Email: cityofgeneva1@gmail.com
Phone: 507-456-5946

MINNESOTA
NEWSPAPER
ASSOCIATION

MN CAN

Minnesota Classified Advertising Network

Statewide Classifieds

WANTED TO BUY

WANTED:
ALL 1970S MOTORCYCLES
Running or not. Titled or not. Will pick up. Cash in exchange. Sell now before prices fall. Call Dan at 612/720-2142

WE BUY HOUSES
for cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 844/978-0683

SERVICES

REPAIRING OR
REPLACING APPLIANCES
and home systems like heating and cooling can be costly. A home warranty plan can help. Start saving and get 30% off any plan today. Workman-ship Guarantee included. Terms apply. Call Cinch Home Services 855/887-4521

MISCELLANEOUS

END YOUR TAX WORRIES TODAY
Let us make your tax problem our priority. Scared, stuck with high tax amounts? Our A+ tax professionals can help. Call for a FREE consultation. Call Priority Tax now 855/634-3517

DON'T LET THE STAIRS
LIMIT YOUR MOBILITY!
Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! 866/852-5506

SAFE STEP
North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warran-ty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1,600 off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 833/966-3882

MISCELLANEOUS

SATELLITE TV + INTERNET!
Get Dish! Free install, free HD-DVR upgrade, 80,000 on-demand movies, plus limited time up to \$600 In gift cards. Call today! 855/562-4309

CHOOSE EARTHLINK FIBER
Internet for speeds up to 5 Gigs, no data caps, no throttling. Prices starting at \$54.95. Plus, a \$100 gift card when you make the switch. Call 844/453-6983

YAHUAH'S WORDS

DAVID RULES YISRAEL FOREVER
(Jer. 30:9; Ezk. 37:25; Hos. 3:4,5)! True! "Jesus rules Yisrael forever" (Lk. 1:32,33) Lie! Christianity lies! Al-mighty Yahuah never lies! 218/533-6029

Your ad here!
Only \$279 to reach a statewide audience of 1.3 million readers!!! 612-332-8844

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

City of New Richland

203 Broadway Ave N, New Richland, MN 56072

June 15, 2026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of New Richland, Minnesota, will hold a public hearing on July 13, 2026, at 6:30 PM at 203 Broadway Ave N, New Richland, MN 56072, to consider the adoption of Ordinance No. 26-02, entitled:

“AN ORDINANCE ENACTING A CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE CITY OF NEW RICHLAND, REVISING, AMENDING, RESTATING, CODIFYING AND COMPILING CERTAIN EXISTING GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE CITY AND REPEALING A PRIOR CODE.”

The purpose of this ordinance is to repeal the existing code of ordinances and replace them with a re-organized set of ordinances in an improved format.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of New Richland, Minnesota, will hold a public hearing on July 13, 2026, at 6:30 PM at 203 Broadway Ave N, New Richland, MN 56072, to consider the adoption of Ordinance No. 26-04, entitled:

“AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY CODE BY ADOPTING REGULATIONS FOR FENCES”

The purpose of this ordinance is to include language about where full height fences may be constructed, and establishes fencing requirements for swimming pools.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of New Richland, Minnesota, will hold a public hearing on July 13, 2026, at 6:30 PM at 203 Broadway Ave N, New Richland, MN 56072, to consider the adoption of Ordinance No. 26-04, entitled:

“OPERATION REQUIREMENTS FOR RECREATIONAL VEHICLES ORDINANCE.”

The purpose of this ordinance is to better define recreational vehicles in the City of New Richland, clarify where they may be operated, and establish safety standards.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of New Richland, Minnesota, will hold a public hearing on July 13, 2026, at 6:30 PM at 203 Broadway Ave N, New Richland, MN 56072, to consider the adoption of Ordinance No. 26-04, entitled:

“AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE 640.02: ‘MOTORIZED GOLF CART USE’ AND ADOPTING AND REPLACING IT WITH: ‘MOTORIZED GOLF CART, UTILITY TASK VEHICLES, AND MINI TRUCK USE’ IN ITS PLACE”

The purpose of this ordinance is to expand the list of authorized vehicles in the City of New Richland, strengthen permitting requirements, and empower residents to establish private access trails. Additionally, it enhances the penalty for improper use of these vehicles.

All interested persons are invited to attend and will be given an opportunity to be heard. Written comments may be submitted in advance to Tyler Lendt, City Administrator, 203 Broadway Ave N, New Richland, MN 56072, or tlendt@newrichlandmn.gov, and must be received by May 6, 2026

A full copy of the proposed ordinance is available for public inspection at City Hall during regular business hours and on newrichlandmn.gov.

Dated: June 15, 2026

By Order of the City Council

Tyler T Lendt, City Administrator

(507)-465-3514

2026 Elysian 4th OF JULY

WEDNESDAY JULY 1

Miss Elysian & Princess of the Lakes Pageant
6:30 pm Fire Hall

Contact: Shannon Kuball 507-838-5741 shannonkuball@bevcomm.net

THURSDAY JULY 2

Fire Dept Bingo
6 pm under the Tent

Elysian Fire Dept Silent Auction

July 2 @ 6pm - July 5 @ noon

Auction items can be dropped off at Elysian City Hall Mon-Fri 8am-4:30pm

THIRSTY BEAVER

8:30 pm -12:30 am Live music by Misguided

FRIDAY JULY 3

Legion Chicken Feed (UNTIL GONE)
5 pm American Legion Post 311

Fire Fighter's Dance "Smokescreen" \$5 Admission
8:30 pm - 12:30 am under the Tent

No outside beverages permitted! Joy Ride available 10pm-2am

!!FIREWORKS!!

Shot from Lake Tustin Park(closed)

Sunset 10 pm

SATURDAY JULY 4

Medallion Hunts (2) \$100 each
1st clue posted at 10 am on Tent power pole.
A new set of clues will be posted after 1st Medallion is found

Face Painting & Balloons

11 am - 2 pm under Tent
by Making Faces Mankato

Genealogy Center (On the Hill)

11 am - 2 pm Talk with Abe Lincoln
lesueurcountyhistory.org

Elysian Area Library & Heritage Center
A Display/ Exhibit will be at the Library
through the Month of July

**FOOD VENDORS
& BEER GARDEN**



CONT. SATURDAY JULY 4

39th Annual Bob Childs Turtle Races

12:30 pm under Tent
(registration at noon Bring your own turtle)

GRAND PARADE

2 PM MAIN STREET

Arm Wrestling

under Tent Following Grand Parade

Chamber Dance "Johnny Holm Band"

\$10.00 Admission 9 pm - 12:30 am under the Tent

No outside beverages permitted! Joy Ride available 10pm-2am

SUNDAY JULY 5

Pancake Breakfast by Chris Cakes

8 am - 12 noon Fire Hall To go boxes available

Flea Market

8 am - 2pm Main Street Sidewalks

Info: Tasha 507-995-0687

31st Annual Car Show

Car, Truck, Rat Rod, Motorcycle & Tractor

8 am - 1:30 pm on Main Street

Registration & check-in by Nu-Chek-Prep

Top 20 Awards, 1:30 pm in front of Nu-Chek-Prep

Info: Jeanne Zwart 507-267-4231

Bean Bag Tournament

11 am under the tent, Registration 10 am

Info 952-484-0015

Lake Francis Boat Parade

11 am starts east end of lake

Contact: Mark Sybilrud 507-271-9530

Prizes for top 3 boats & 3 pontoons

1ST \$500, 2nd \$300, 3rd \$100

Sponsors: Wade & Carla Becker

Kid's Fishing Contest

Registration opens @ 11 for Ages 2-12 Lake Francis Park

Ages 2-6 Fish 11:30 am - 11:55 am

Ages 7-12 Fish 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm

Bait + Lunch, Trophies & Prizes awarded

Sponsors: Lake Area Women, Elysian Fire Dept Relief Assoc., JT's Hooked Up

Bait & Tackle, North Elysian Silver Lakers & MN Southern Lakes Angling & Spearing

Cribbage Tournament "In honor of Marti Zimprich"

1 pm Main Street Venue Bring your own board!

Kid's Bingo

2:30 pm in the fire hall

Fire Dept Water Wars

2pm Main Street/ Fire Dept

Featuring EFD & visiting Fire departments, Top 3 Trophies

Sponsored by Elysian Area Chamber in cooperation with the City of Elysian - www.elysianmn.com

Elysian 4th of July Celebration

Plan on JOYRIDE for your
FREE sober ride home!

Rides provided by: Affordable Party Bus, Inc.

10:00pm - 2:00am

(last pick up is at 1:45am)

within 15 mile radius of Elysian

Pick up at the Elysian Fire Hall