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NRHEG Track

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 waterpark). 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.

Clarks Grove Historical Society meeting July 9

The Clarks Grove Historical Society will hold their monthly meeting at the museum at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 11. Donna Haugen will show off breeds of horses. Coffee and snacks to be served afterward.

Soil Water Conservation District Board Meeting July 9

The SWCD will hold its next meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 9. All meetings are at the SWCD Offices, 300 North State Street, Door 4. Anyone can attend.

Ride for Hope Owatonna Eagles Club Saturday, July 11

The Ride for Hope will depart from the Owatonna Eagles Club at 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 11. Motorcycles \$30 single or \$40 double, cars \$40 per load. Planned stops, 50/50 raffles and lunch available for purchase along the way. Eagles Club is located at 141 East Rose St. in Owatonna.

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.

Geneva Cancer Auction Raffle July 25

The Geneva Cancer Auction is holding a raffle for a pallet of beer (98 cases) or \$1,000 at 5 p.m. on Saturday, July 25. Need not be present to win, \$20 per ticket with 500 tickets total sold.

A word from
The Word

The LORD will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O LORD, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands.

Psalm 138:8

Ellendale Days 2026

Ellendale Days brought a lot of smiles to both residents and visitors. In photos, clockwise from top left: Harper Mongeau, Kayleigh Peters and Addie Wagner hold up their Kiddie Tractor Pull trophies; Darren Stadheim wins Best of Show at the Ellendale Car Show; Abby Smith enjoys a dream come true with her mom Glenda Smith (left) by her side; the American Legion leads the Ellendale Parade.

Star Eagle photo by Melanie Piltingsrud

Cabinet installation moves Fire hall closer to completion

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Work on rebuilding and restocking the Ellendale fire hall and city clerk's office took another step forward on Tuesday, June 23, when cabinets provided by the Owatonna Lowe's store at a bargain price were delivered and installed.

NRHEG graduate and Ellendale resident Jesse Blouin and another Lowe's employee helped unload and unwrap the cabinets, then get them inside. They were joined by Tim Ward, a fellow Lowe's employee, and cabinet designer Heather Laney, also from Lowe's.

The trio tackled the mess inside, cutting off plastic wrap and plastic corner protectors. Once those tasks were taken care of, the crew gave the cabinets a quick cleaning and carted them to the brand-new kitchen. Laney took pictures and wrote notes. Jesse Blouin said, "I've lived in Ellendale since 1989 and I've been with Lowe's for

ONE STEP CLOSER - Tim Ward and Jesse Blouin, Ellendale locals, were getting the new cabinets installed at the Ellendale City Clerk's office on Tuesday, June 23.

Star Eagle photo by Ben Revermann

14 years, so it made sense that I would be one of the ones helping out here today." The room the cabinets were being brought to will act as both a kitchen and conference room. A microwave will be delivered later this week.

City clerk Dave Engel said, "We've been waiting on these for a while." He looked down at the brand-new fire hall floor and added, "It will be even nicer to have all of the moving in done and all the loose ends tied up, not just here but over at the clerk's office as well." When the Ellendale fire department received their equipment lockers, there was damage, enough they got money knocked off the final price. Continued Engel, "Yeah, there was some red magenta paint touch up with that as well; they had to bend a few pieces and fix a few things. But it's all good now; everything works. We'll get there."

Friendship Wagon Train benefits Special Olympics

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

Teamsters and riders from as far away as Indiana finished a nine-day journey—taken at a leisurely pace and often on quiet back roads—from Cannon Falls to New Richland with a breakfast the morning of Saturday, June 27.

About 50 people were present in the New Richland community center as wagonmaster Monica Davis, a Byron area resident, presented more than \$30,000 to Lou Ann Kelly from the Twin Cities office of Special Olympics Minnesota. Also accepting the donation was athlete Heather Bell of Mankato, who said Special Olympics gives her "a safe place to be my best." She credited her participation with helping her build leadership and public speaking skills, including the comfort level to get up in front of the group and share her

A wagon train raising funds for Special Olympics finished its June 20 to 27 drive from Cannon Falls to New Richland last week. Top, the train stopped for lunch at Trinity Lutheran Church of Wilton on June 26.

Star Eagle photos by Deb Bently

Parade, car show big hits at Ellendale Days

By MELANIE PILTINGSRUD
Copy Editor

Ellendale Days 2026 began on Friday, June 26 with citywide rummage sales and the Kid Zone, a playground of sweets, miniature golf, and basketball that lasted through Saturday. Between the Ellendale Heritage Society's root beer floats, the porch chop supper at the Community Building, and various food vendors, there were plenty of delicious eatables available. There was music, too; the Dan Stursa Band played from 5 – 8 p.m. in front of the city mural, and from 8 – 11 p.m. Bring Your Mama played at the bar.

Car Show

The weather for Saturday's events at Ellendale Days could have been made to order: sunny and warm with enough breeze to keep everyone cool, even if it did knock down a few signs and plaques.

Saturday's events started out appropriately with Lion's Club members Kathy Wayne, Becky Larson, Cynthia Nelson, and Allie Larson serving coffee and sweet rolls to early birds who rolled up in their vintage cars for the Car Show in the United Methodist Church parking lot.

"We try to get all of our supplies locally," said the volunteers. Groceries came from Lerberg's Foods, and the sweet rolls came from Casey's. Just as the Lion's Club supports the community as they set up their fundraiser, so all the proceeds earned by the Lion's Club also go back into supporting the community.

Jason and Jen Schreiber of 10,000 Custom Designs made the laser engraved plaques to award the victors at the Car Show: wooden tokens for the first 25 car owners to arrive, and engraved slate for the main awards.

Every vehicle on the church parking lot on Saturday had a story attached to it.

Some of the owners have had their vehicles since their youth. Gary Johnson of rural Ellendale, whom readers might recognize as the owner of Johnson Oakside Orchard, has had his '58 Chevrolet Impala for 45 years. If it were a contest though, Ellendale resident Andy Lerberg might hold the trophy for longest retained vehicle; he's held onto his '35 Ford Coupe for 64 years. "I bought it in 1962," said Lerberg. "It was one of those \$150 investments." Lerberg went to college in his Ford Coupe, and dated his wife in it, too. On the windshield of the vehicle is a photograph of him and his late wife, Mary, in the vintage vehicle. "So she still rides along," Lerberg smiled. Does Lerberg have a favorite memory of riding in his Ford Coupe? "They're all good," he said. "It'd be hard to pick a single one out."

Albert Lea residents Dave and Lori Lembke have a forest green 1929 Ford Tudor with a story too. Dave Lembke had one like it when he was 17, but, when the car was stored for a while in someone else's garage, the owner of the garage gave it away without consulting Lembke. Nine years ago, Lembke decided to rebuild his old car from parts. "We've had it out for about four years now," said Lembke.

Malia DeVriendt brought a '62 Corvette Classic clear from Arizona. The car was a Christmas present from her husband, Mike. Although she and her husband live in Arizona, DeVriendt grew

Ellendale continued on 4



FenceLines

by Mark Bernard

Turning Japanese, I really think so

Alas, our late summer weather faded, and the scurs need to fine tune the Weather Eye once again. Has Mother Nature decided to keep the pedal to the metal or downshift for a week? Starting Thursday, mostly sunny with a good chance of evening rain. Highs in the upper 80's and lows in the low 70's. Mostly sunny Friday with a good chance of an evening rain shower. Highs in the mid-80's with lows in the low 70's. Partly sunny on Independence Day with a good chance of rain. Highs in the mid-80's with lows in the low 70's. Sunday, mostly sunny with a slight chance of rain. Highs in the low 80's and lows in the mid-60's. Tuesday, mostly sunny with a good chance of evening showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid-80's and lows in the mid-60's. Mostly sunny on Wednesday with a slight chance of thundershowers. Highs in the mid-80's with lows in the mid-60's. On July 2nd, the sun will set before 9 p.m. for the 1st time since the summer solstice. We start losing daylight at just over one minute per day on July 6th. The normal high for July 4th is 82 and the normal low is 62. The scurs will be waving Old Glory.

The recent cooldown is history for the time being. It wasn't all bad as we had racked up enough GDU's earlier so that we're still running ahead of normal. As of last Wednesday at the SROC, we were in a dead heat with last year's pace, roughly 10% ahead of normal. This week should move things along faster and the forecast shows vary seasonal temps for a while as well. That said, we're still on track to see some tassels on early planted, early maturing corn perhaps by the 10th. Regardless, we continue ahead of schedule, and it appears we'll continue to receive moisture near term if the forecasts are correct. Soybeans have moved into R2 in many cases and have made a growth spurt of their own, closing the rows in the 15" - 22" rows and becoming tall enough in the 30" rows, so that riding in them without extra clearance can easily cause some damage. Time to get that last pass of postemerge herbicide on soon.

I was reminiscing of my days living in North Central ND near the Canadian border the other

day. I knew we were still outside diddling around at nearly 11 at night because the sun set so late. I couldn't remember how late it set, so I looked it up. Sure enough, it set at around 9:45 p.m. at its latest point. The daylight hours were 16:09 vs. the 15:28 for Bugtussle on the summer solstice. The building site I lived on was in what they called the Finnish Reservation and came complete with a rustic old sauna, something many of the old Finnish farmsteads had. Monday's weather here reminded me of that, especially when water was dumped on the field rock covering the top of the wood burning sauna stove. Even better was using ice on it in the winter for a slow, even release of heat and humidity. Good times.

Here and now we have plenty of wood to fuel a sauna with. Sadly, at the ranch a couple of big half dead ash trees needed to come down. I haven't counted the growth rings, but they were over 60 years old based on the dates from old photos we have. These two probably weren't suffering from emerald ash borer yet, although there are plenty of ash trees in the area that have. During the earlier heatwave I was riding a field, checking the weed control. I pulled up to some ash trees in a fence line to get out of the sun to make a phone call. When I got there, there was no shade.

The trees were all dead, gone in just a year's time. Fortunately, at the ranch we had replacements already planted.

Taking down those ash trees left a gap-toothed smile in the grove approaching from the south, but there are hackberries, oak and spruce trees ready to take their place.

I keep getting reports from people about false Japanese beetles. I hadn't seen the beetles personally this year until last week while talking to someone by a field. This has been a banner year for them. They generally like lighter textured ground to reproduce and this was nearby. They do fly however and even though their flight is rather stumbling in nature, they get into places they shouldn't. Of course the true Japanese beetles do as well. I encountered those in college when we were harvesting strawberry plots at Becker, MN. They'd get in the coolers full of berries we

Bernard continued on 5

The contemplations of a rainstorm

As anyone who's ever had to carry buckets full of it knows, water is heavy. Online sources inform me a gallon weighs about 8.3 pounds, which means someone with a classic five-gallon bucket is lifting somewhere around 40 pounds, depending on how close they've brought the water to the brim.

Any amount of reading about good old H2O quickly brings you to the conclusion it must be the product of design rather than chance. Perhaps the largest point is that, unlike any other substance, water expands when it freezes, becoming buoyant. If that weren't the case—if, like every other substance, it contracted when it turns solid—each year's ice would become a giant weight that would sink to the bottom of the body of water, killing everything down there as it builds up, robbing the depths of their ability to support life.

The properties of water are a topic we should all take a few minutes to contemplate every now and then, given that it constitutes something like 60 percent of our makeup, and that, if we were deprived of both food and water, we would expire from dehydration long before we would starve.

My recent contemplation was inspired by a rainstorm.

It was about 7:30 a.m. when I



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

heard the thunder. When I looked outside, I could see a wall of rain moving toward my house across the field, blocking out all view of the landscape behind.

I heard a few taps on the windows, then seconds later I could barely see the yard and it sounded as if a cattle drive was taking place on the roof.

As I do nearly every time I feel besieged by a rainstorm, I said to myself in wonder, "The sky held all that water up."

Really, how is that possible? Okay, yes, I understand the science behind it—it's all water vapor, fog, essentially—until atmospheric conditions change and it condenses into its liquid form. But understanding the science doesn't make it any less awe-inspiring.

We're back to the idea that water has to have been designed—what other necessary substances become lighter than air for easy transport? Then, once delivered, become heavy and fluid enough to flow down-

hill and rejoin the water cycle... or even seep through soil and rock to be stored, potentially for millenia, as groundwater?

It happens that, around 8 a.m. when the rain was still going strong, I found it necessary to cross my yard to get to my car.

I want you to know, I own a spectacular "golf" size umbrella. I take genuine delight in walking under it in the rain because it feels as if I am under a portable roof. The water thumps down on it, then runs to the side, leaving enough protected dry space underneath for a small family.

But guess where the umbrella is kept?

I don't share all this to elicit your commiseration. I put a raincoat over my head, walked to the car, and came back to the house with only a few wet spots on my clothing; I wasn't bothered or disturbed. But I was inspired to see something from a new perspective.

In each direction, I walked under the spreading maple tree

that grows in front of my house. As I did, I realized I was ducking rather low to avoid brushing against the wet branches.

And suddenly I was forced to pay attention to something I'd never really thought about before. The weight of the water—the 8.3 pounds per gallon of the accumulated raindrops being held up by each of the thousands of hand-sized leaves—was bowing the branches gently downward. Especially the thin, flexible newer growth near the end was at least a foot closer to the ground than usual.

We're all used to the idea that, at least for a while, we can take shelter under a tree when it's raining because the tree blocks the rain. But that's not really what's happening: the tree is catching the rain and dividing it across—another wonder to think about—the utterly massive surface area of its leaves. Most of the water will eventually find a winding path to the ground, but at least some of it will stay where it is, perhaps providing conveniently delivered hydration for birds or insects. Over time, it will likely take the opportunity to become water vapor again, returning to the air without ever reaching the ground.

No wonder I like rainstorms. They give a person so much to think about.

Happy, belated, Father's Day, Dad

I am more than two months through twice a week physical therapy sessions, which meant it was time to "reaccess" prior to my last session.

During the prior week there was a bit of setback; I hurt myself during one of the exercises.

It was a very simple resistance stretch, but it was enough to trigger my pain back, fiercely, for more than a week.

Two weeks later and I'm feeling close to how I was before I re-aggravated my injury, two bulging discs in my lower back.

It was a little relieving to see there has been some healing and actual improvement. The pain has been here for seven months. I am not brave enough to say I see the end of this journey, but my pain score on the reassessment dropped by six points.

I am still limited to only stretches during physical therapy, no exercises yet, or again until I can do them without pain. Per doctors orders. They didn't seem very happy when, as we finished my exercises that hurt me further, I asked, "How much pain am I supposed to tolerate when I do this at home?"

None was the answer they gave.



Just a Thought...

by Eli Lutgens

My limp is nearly gone. On Father's Day my dad said I was walking 'gingerly.' Sometimes I don't notice; it's just become normal. Speaking of Father's Day, my dad and I spent the evening together, went to dinner and played cribbage.

We have been playing cards together most evenings, actually. I call him every night to chat, and lately, for the past few weeks, I've simply invited him to come play cards.

I have started journaling regularly again, as a way to write more.

I have written very little for the newspapers this year, due to my injuries and pain. Some days it makes doing more than what I have to very difficult. But it has been a good week, so I will focus on the positives.

My friend Madi and I are planning our long overdue trip to Yellowstone. We were supposed to go in April, but both she and I suffered back injuries.

Tomorrow we will meet to plan the specifics.

In the meantime, I continue to try to spend as much time with the ones I love as possible. Whenever I am not working, and not working on my own physical and mental health via walking, writing or reading, or any of my other hobbies, I generally spend all other available time with friends and family.

I had lunches recently with Editor Deb Bently and friend Mikhail Rostislavovich. On at least one account, my urges of please do more retired activities and don't work so much, have been heeded. Although I still worry Deb is fooling me when she says things like she's only writing four stories this week and leaving for the cabin. She always finds a way to do more work.

Mikhail, although taking a step back, still works more than nearly

every working person I know. He, too, is retired.

I have listened to a great many of my elders and I have taken their advice. While I am young, I will continue to work hard. However, that was not their advice.

The advice I have heard over and over again is to live my life. Travel. Visit with my loved ones. When people become elderly, it gets harder and harder to travel. Mobility issues and aging are natural and make doing those activities so much more difficult.

As for spending time with loved ones?

Jon Butler, president of FM Bank, and friend, reminded me how important it is to spend time with my dad. "Even those stupid phone calls about something he forgot to tell you," Jon told me. "Answer the phone, every time."

Jon's dad died rather unexpectedly more than a month ago now. When I spoke with him, I asked him to tell me a little about his dad. He did and I'm glad he did.

I told him something I was once told long ago:

Fathers continued on 5



During the Friendship Wagon Train closing celebration on June 27, wagonmaster Monica Davis presented more than \$30,000 to benefit Minnesota Special Olympics, with more funds to follow. Receiving the donation was Lou Ann Kelly of the Special Olympics office, and Special Olympics athlete Heather Bell, Star Eagle photos by Deb Bently

■ Wagon Train

from Page 1

gratitude.

Davis also mentioned that some of the money raised by the wagon train was in the form of pledges which have not yet come in, so significant additional funds will be donated in the near future. "Every penny we raise," she confirmed, "goes to support Special Olympics."

This year is the thirty-eighth

time the Wagon Train has supported the organization. In a separate conversation Davis had mentioned the group is within about \$25,000 of having donated a total of \$1 million.

In addition to presenting their donation, Wagon Train members celebrated the completion of a safe and successful event. Dustin Davis, who took charge of "traffic control" for the drive, commented the group had been remarkably fortunate in terms of weather: Temperatures for all nine days got no higher than the low 80s, and the only time they



Waseca Sleigh and Cutter Festival treasurer Jolene Gunderman, left, accepted a plaque from Friendship Wagon Train Wagonmaster Monica Davis, thanking the Festival for its support of the June 19 to 27 wagon train, which spent its last two nights in Waseca County.

encountered rain was one evening when the group had already finished setting up camp. "If it were for sale, we couldn't have bought better weather than we got," he joked.

Among the celebrations and expressions of gratitude Saturday morning was a plaque presented to the Waseca Sleigh and Cutter Festival acknowledging a \$1,500 donation given toward expenses and in case of emergency expenditures. Festival treasurer Jolene Gunderman accepted the award.

Although not all wagon units

or riders participated for the entire nine-day event, 11 wagons, nearly 30 horses and mules, about 40 teamsters and passengers, and six riders had arrived in New Richland the evening before and camped overnight in an open area not far from the community center.

As they had all along their route, they welcomed members of the public interested in learning about their event, received donations, and offered memorabilia, including T-shirts, hats and keychains for sale at their "peddler's wagon."

NRHEG Star Eagle

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

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Compostings

by Al Batt

Sometimes the world makes sense

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS’ CLUB MEETING

The city says I have seven outstanding parking tickets. Do you really? I don’t know, but it was nice of the city to say that.

DRIVING BY BRUCE’S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I was in Nimrod. I know what you’re thinking. Sometimes the world makes sense—a nimrod in Nimrod. Nimrod is a city in Wadena County and is named after the biblical figure Nimrod, a skillful and mighty hunter. The high school teams in Watersmeet, Michigan, are nicknamed the Nimrods. The name took a detour after a 1948 "Looney Tunes" cartoon in which Daffy Duck called Elmer Fudd a "nimrod." The Nimrod Gnats play baseball there. Dick Stigman pitched for Nimrod and in the majors for seven years (including with the Twins).

Back in medieval times, a friend gave me a Lincoln Continental to drive while he was out of the state for a few months. He wanted me to drive his land yacht occasionally to keep it in prime condition. I didn’t drive it as often as I should have. It was too nice. I was used to driving a junkyard on wheels, the kind that used a windshield wiper as an oil dipstick. Each drive was like running with an egg in each hand. Wrestling the steering wheel of one of those contraptions gave me plenty of upper-body exercise. I tiethed to keep those cars on the road. Discussions with other drivers in the same predicament would begin with, “How many miles do you get to the quart?” I always carried a sandwich with me. It gave me something to do during breakdowns after I’d found a safe landing spot. I remember talking to a neighbor who had an old car that he kept in prime condition. It was an antique. I questioned him, “You mean you drive an old car because you want to?”

FATHER’S DAY

On a day long ago, in a land not far away, I stood beside my father’s grave on a windswept prairie, regretting those things I’d left unsaid, and questions that went unasked. He’d given me his ears and his time. I heard a western meadowlark call from a pasture near the cemetery. It brought precious memories of my wonderful father, the farmer, and of our many talks. I know the bird was proclaiming territory, but sometimes, a bird sings when I need to hear it.

I’VE LEARNED

The states with the highest personal income are Virginia, New York and New Jersey. Minnesota is 8th and Iowa

32nd. West Virginia is the lowest, just behind New Mexico and Mississippi.

<https://wallethub.com/edu/states-where-people-have-the-highest-income/136995>

If you don’t think you’ll like a food, eat it deep-fried.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

My neighbors listened to some loud music last night until they asked me to turn it down.

Alice saw the northern lights but was unimpressed. You might say it was the Aurora boring Alice.

How many soccer players does it take to change a lightbulb? I don’t know, but it’d be quicker if they could use their hands.

NATURE NOTES

A friend, Kim Eckert of Duluth, suggested a general rule of thumb that any meadowlark seen west of a north-south line from the city of Warroad in Roseau County south to the city of Fairmont in Martin County was a western meadowlark. East of this line, however, both the western meadowlark and the eastern meadowlark species are seen.

A group of dragonflies is called a flight, swarm, cluster or wing.

“What do skunks have that no other animal has?” Baby skunks.

A woman on the Pelican Breeze asked why there were more cliff swallow nests on the west side of the highway bridge than on the east side. Concrete bridges and overpasses caused cliff swallows to abandon nesting on loose, crumbly cliffs of sandstone or limestone in favor of firm structures that offered overhangs sheltering the birds from the elements. Their densely packed nests extend over lengthy sections of buildings, dams, culverts and bridges. Cliff swallows require freshwater to construct their gourd-shaped nests, each made of 900–1,200 individual mud pellets collected in their bills. I suspect cliff swallows might build more nests on the west side of a bridge than on the east side due to the direction of the sun’s path and the resulting temperature differences. The west side of a bridge receives more direct sunlight later in the day, which can lead to warmer temperatures overnight. The warmer temperature could benefit a nestling by regulating its body temperature and potentially providing a more comfortable environment. Baby birds lacking feathers are more vulnerable to cold than to heat.

MEETING ADJOURNED

“Judge nothing, you will be happy. Forgive everything, you will be happier. Love everything, you will be happiest.”—Sri Chinmoy.

New Richland pushes for contractor compliance

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

In an effort to fix an accidental oversight, the Star Eagle will post summaries of uncovered New Richland city council meetings on a weekly basis until all have been covered. The events below took place at the April 13 meeting.

New Richland city administrator Tyler Lendt and city maintenance worker Eric Hendrickson reported they have been keeping a close eye on the progress of the work in the water treatment plant. A contractor was paid \$9,121.33 toward a contract specifying up to \$27,364 worth of work, but as of September 2025, no progress had been made on the project. When the contractor approached the city for another payment, it was denied. A deadline was set for some work to be completed by March 18, 2026, but the deadline was missed. The council is considering which actions will be taken next.

Fidium Fiber Internet is requesting a one-year moratorium on permitting their service drops. They are offering the city \$5,000 to offset the labor cost. According to an online source, “A moratorium on service drop permitting is a temporary halt or restriction on issuing permits for new service drops — the electrical connections from a utility to a customer’s property —

NEW RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL

in a specific area. It is a type of development moratorium used by municipalities to pause certain uses or activities while they assess whether to allow them.”

A Pump Maintenance Agreement with Midwest Pump Works was signed which requests \$1,310.00 per inspection on eight city water system pumps for a total of \$10,480.

A hearing will take place to discuss establishing standards, licensing and inspection requirements for bunkhouse housing for migrant workers for conditional use in specified districts. The hearing was scheduled for the May meeting.

Sarah Sundve for the New Richland Ambulance report said, “We have received the loading system for the new cots.” The New Richland ambulance has had 21 runs so far this year.

Chad Neitzel, Fire Chief for the city fire department, said, “For March there were two medical calls and one fire call. The training activity was an LP burn.”

Tanyce Bruegger of the city police department reported, “We responded to 122 calls for service for the month of March. Our county

wide Bike Rodeo will take place on Thursday, May 7 at the Waseca Fairgrounds. We’ll be teaching kids proper bike safety and how to fit a helmet properly. There will be free food, music and prizes.”

Bob Johannsen read the Care Center Report, “We continue to look for LPN/RN for evenings and overnights. Our roster has improved. We typically have 5 to 8 shifts open for CNAs per week, with 14 to 16 open nursing slots per week. Our current staff have been covering extra shifts to help eliminate agency use. We do have two more nurses coming in April. One will be part-time, the other full-time.” Johannsen said anyone wishing to apply to work at the city care center can visit <https://new-richlandcarecenter.com/>.

Eric Hendrickson presented the maintenance utility report: “On March 13, we had a big tree on Fourth Street South that knocked down power lines and it’s been cleaned up. Arnolds came to fix the Kubota [tractor] on March 18; there was debris in the fuel line that plugged up the orifices. This year we plowed snow nine times, had Timm’s trucking move snow from Main Street four times, and the maintenance department moved snow on Main Street three times. We burned the dump on March 26. We blew a tire out on

the blue truck; Mike’s repair put a new tire on and said he would recommend both sides be replaced because of safety; the tires were 30 years old.”

The council held lengthy discussions with Matthew Petsinger regarding a new five-year contract regarding Radio Link’s 5-year exit from the New Richland water tower. This issue will be decided at the May council meeting.

The council accepted an economic development authority (EDA) grant on behalf of New Richland Liquor.

City administrator Lendt requested a raise on behalf of deputy clerk Heather Christensen.

Lendt also mentioned that the city mural has undergone weather related degradation. It received \$5,500 in repairs last year; he requested up to \$10,000 for continued repairs this year. He told council members he would like to start a student painting and design contest. The council requested a specific dollar amount and bids from more than one painter before designating funds.

Lendt will attend a free seminar hosted by Minnesota Rural Water on financing community projects. The seminar is scheduled for April 23 at the Nisswa Community Center with a hotel room totaling \$80.82.

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!

Clue No. 2

Old and new, big and small, temporary and permanent ... Sometimes old buildings are replaced with new!

Sometimes big things are replaced with smaller things! Or maybe small hometown things are replaced with big corporation things.

Sometimes we use something

temporary verse the permanent item!

As for direction, if you are standing in the center of the intersection I am off to the North-west.

Oh and I almost forgot to mention I am hanging out super close to something that almost looks like 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 hast to City Hall! If it is a weekend, please message Farm and City Days at: newrichlandfarmandcitydays@gmail.com, or message us on Facebook, or leave a note in the drop box at City Hall. Thanks! Good luck!

Variety, energy draw crowds to Elysian event

By DEB BENTLY
Staff writer

According to event leader Pat Nusbaum, the City of Elysian’s Fourth of July Celebration set for Wednesday, July 1 to Sunday, July 5 brings in as many as 20,000 visitors while always keeping its small-town hospitality.

Nusbaum mentions a group of golf cart owners, including herself, who provide transportation to help facilitate the parade and to help pedestrians return to their cars afterward. She also points out the whole five days are planned to provide something for everyone.

The parade, set for 2 p.m. Saturday, July 4, draws the largest crowd. With more than 100 units of many different types, it’s always a hit. Nusbaum mentions this year it will be followed by an arm wrestling contest in the event’s “big tent,” and the very popular dance featuring the Johnny Holm band beginning at 9 p.m.

“There are a lot of groups who make a point of getting together for that, almost like a miniature reunion,” observes Nusbaum regarding the dance. “Joy Ride” sober cab service is available from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. A dance in the fire hall from 8:30 to 12:30 the evening of July 3 will feature the band Smokescreen; it, too, will offer a sober cab service.

“For the kids, we have things all weekend long,” she continues with enthusiasm. She names face painting, balloons, a fishing contest, turtle races, and kids’ bingo. Both the regular and boat parades are a chance for the whole family to sit together and enjoy each others’ company. The Sunday afternoon

“Water Wars” are also a family spectacle, she points out.

Fireworks over the lake will be Friday, July 3 this year, beginning about 10 p.m.

“It’s a whole lot of fun, whoever you are and whatever your reason for coming,” comments Nusbaum. “We hope people will look over our schedule and see everything we have to offer.

“When they do, we’re confident they’ll find a reason to be in Elysian over the Fourth.”



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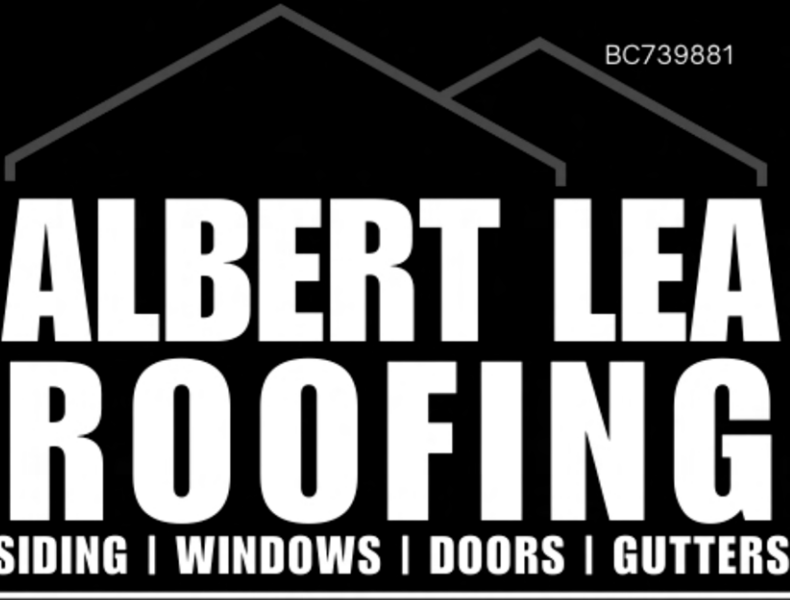
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Finstad in the Field: hosting, congratulations and the House floor

Hosting the Acting Secretary of Labor in Rochester

On Monday, I hosted the Acting Secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor Keith Sonderling in Rochester to meet some of Minnesota's workforce leaders. We first visited the Mayo Clinic to tour their facilities and discuss both workforce challenges and successes in the healthcare sector. We also got an up-close look at one of their state-of-the-art patient rooms to see how they're reimagining the patient experience through technological innovation.

We also met with directors, managers, and engineers at Kerry's Rochester site. Kerry is a prime example of the top-notch science and innovation happening in Minnesota's First District, creating ingredients for our food, beverage, and pharmaceutical industries. Thanks for having us!

The Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce also hosted a roundtable discussion with numerous workforce and labor leaders from across Minnesota's First District. The discussion covered both successes and challenges of Minnesota's industries and economy, while also highlighting the importance of collaboration between labor leaders, employers, policymakers, educators, and community organizations.

To end the day, we joined McNeilus Steel in Dodge Center to tour their facilities. As a family-owned steel distributor and fabricator, McNeilus Steel has been a major private employer for the area since 1948. I appreciated the firsthand look at their operation and hearing their insights on southern Minnesota's workforce and manufacturing industry.

As a Member of Congress, I value important conversations like the ones we had on

Monday with the men and women on the front lines of our local workforce. Thank you, Acting Secretary Sonderling, for taking the day to see what makes Minnesota's First District one-of-a-kind!

PASSED: The SBA Artificial Intelligence Utilization Act

This week, I was proud to see my legislation, the SBA Artificial Intelligence Utilization Act, pass in the U.S. House of Representatives. I introduced this bill alongside Congressman George Latimer (NY-16), which would require the Small Business Administration (SBA) Administrator to submit an annual report to Congress on the agency's use of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning.

As technology evolves, we have a responsibility in Congress to ensure our government agencies are using AI responsibly to benefit

the people these agencies serve. I'm grateful for my colleagues' support of this legislation.

Celebrating America's 250th Birthday with USDA

This morning, I had the honor of joining USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins to celebrate America's 250th birthday and kick off the Great American State Fair's Land and Prosperity Day. From family farmers to critical water infrastructure to hospitals and emergency services, USDA works every day to support our rural communities. I am committed to working with Secretary Rollins and this administration to leave our backyard better for future generations.

The House Floor This Week

PASSED – H.R. 6644, the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act, develops voluntary best practices and targeted grants to modernize zoning, streamline housing permitting and

affordable housing development, reduce manufactured housing regulatory costs, and improve community banks' ability to provide key financial services.

PASSED – S. 629, the Emergency Conservation Program Improvement Act of 2025, revises the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) and the Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) to expand eligibility for payments to agricultural producers and owners of forest land impacted by natural disasters.

PASSED – H.R. 7401, the Small Business Lending Fraud Prevention Act, requires SBA employees who review or approve SBA loans to certify in writing that they do not have any conflict of interest when reviewing and approving loans and will disclose any conflict of interest that may come up after the certification of a loan is made.

■ Ellendale from Page 1

up in Michigan and Mike is from Ellendale, so both are Midwesterners at heart; the couple loves to spend summers at their cabin on Beaver Lake.

Car Show Winners

Committee's Choice: Al Lee for his 1969 Plymouth GTX

People's Choice: Shelly Mendenhall for her 1976 Chevrolet Monte Carlo

Best in show Darren Stadheim for his 1955 Chevrolet 3100

Beanbag Tournament

While cars were displayed at United Methodist, there was a lot going on downtown as well.

Individuals also converged on Ellendale for the Cooper's Nation Beanbag Tournament. Contestants brought their skills and threw beanbags across 3rd Street South for hours. This is one event that puts Ellendale on the map; players are known to come from as far away as Rochester and Mankato.

Craft and Vendor Show

Just in front of the city mural, Ellendale Heritage Society members Jo Lerberg, Lloyd Kaplan, and Dan Nelson sold bricks and root beer floats to raise funds for what the city calls the Gathering Place Plaza.

With the mural overhead and the city garden arranged by Cynthia Nelson on the opposite side, the Gathering Place Plaza already looks like an inviting spot. Sonic Concrete poured the concrete. Engraved bricks, which have already been ordered from Bricks R Us in Miami, Fla., will complete the sidewalk, and benches purchased from Barco Products in Wis., will welcome visitors to take a rest and enjoy the view.

The city made good use of the Gathering Place on Friday evening, as the Dan Stursa Band played there, while an enthusiastic crowd mingled and danced in the street.

At the Craft and Vendor Show, which took place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., there were some new faces, as well as some who have graced Ellendale with their wares before.

Carmen Christensen of Clarks Grove brought CC's Crafting Corner, a custom quilting business. Christensen sews quite a selection of quilted items, but one of her specialties is T-shirt quilts, a great way to preserve old T-shirts with too much nostalgia to part with.

Christensen also filled in for Sally Walker of Geneva, whose She Shed made an appearance at Ellendale Days, even though she couldn't be there. Visitors enthused over Walker's She Shed, an adorably decorated trailer, built for Walker by her husband for the purpose of displaying and retailing the up-cycled items she has a genius for creating.

Maryanne Higgins and Amy Lowery came from Owatonna to represent the Steel County Historical Society with a display of leaflets that advertised upcoming history-related events.

Aubree Nienoord works just down the street in Ellendale at Americana Insurance. She brought a table to the Craft and Vendor Show to get in on the fun and advertise the insurance company.

Tim and Ashley Boehme are newcomers to Ellendale as well as to the Craft and Vendor scene; Ashley Boehme started making treats for their now 8-month-old puppy Izzy only a few months ago because she thought she'd rather make than purchase puppy treats. It didn't take Boehme long to decide she'd like to make the treats available to others. Thus, Izzy's Treats was born, with a variety of dog treats to delight our four legged friends.

Stewartville's Jennifer and Zach Dulek of Dulek Designs displayed their handmade earrings and crafts, and even had a display of earrings made from jewelry salvaged from a wedding dress.

Rachel Ingalls introduced the community to Red Aspen, a company started in Boise, Idaho that specializes in fingernail care and decoration.

Besides being a pre-school school teacher, Sheila Steele of Albert Lea has been an Avon representative for eight years. She says it's challenging to keep up with Avon during the school year, but this is what she does during the summers.

Abby Smith, originally from Owatonna and now living in Austin, is a newcomer to the Ellendale Days Craft and Vendor Show. She came with her own Barleyberry Boutique, a selection of hand-selected clothing items that she buys wholesale and then sells at events. Smith started her business, a dream come true for her, in September of last year.

Abby Urschitz of Albert Lea brought Abby and Kay's Treats to Ellendale with her cake pops, chocolate chip cookies and other baked goods. This was her second show to date.

Tina Gilbert of Freeborn has been to the Ellendale Craft and Vendor Show before with T's Sweet Treats and More, for which she makes canned foods, soup mixes, and baked goods. With all of the handmade items Gilbert makes, it's a full-time job.

Christi Hill of Ellendale and Vicki Kress of Geneva are sisters who decided only just before Ellendale Days to set up a table with their elegant planted arrangements. Their business is so new, they haven't thought of a title yet. Their enthusiasm for their products shows in their thriving plants.

Another newcomer to the Craft and Vendor scene was an Owatonna resident who created the franchise Made by a Witch: Spiritual Creations of Owatonna, and who makes sun catchers, plaques, pendulums, witch wall décor, and "crow bags," a popular grab bag item that features shiny trinkets.

Matt and Jenny King from near the Twin Cities brought King Creations, a business that presents Jenny King's handmade jewelry to local communities.

Abbie Victors was there with Blooms PermaLinX, a business that provides permanent bracelets and anklets.

Among the food vendors at Ellendale Days was the Steele County Dairy Association, which sold cooling malts to the masses. Chloe Garten of Medford was their representing this year's dairy princesses. Currently working at Birchwood Cottages in Owatonna, Garten plans to use her Dairy Princess scholarship to become a pediatric nurse. Also helping with the malt stand were Bob and Linda Noble, both of whom have served as bus drivers for over 50 years.

Kids Zone

There were, of course, treats for the kids too. At the Kids Zone this year was The Sugar Shack. If the kids ran out of energy playing, they could always fuel up again with cotton candy at The Sugar Shack, brought to the community by Juan and Alicia Lazaro of Albert Lea.

Nearby, the kids could burn off all that energy playing basketball, navigating bounce houses, or trying their luck at miniature golf, brought by Scott Limberg of Limberg Productions in Owatonna.

Parade

At 4 p.m. the Ellendale Parade brought the community out en masse. This year's parade was comprised mostly of area emergency services vehicles and personnel. It's debatable whether it was more fun to watch the parade, or to watch the kids diving for the candy that was thrown onto the street.

Kiddie Tractor Pull

At 5 p.m. was the Kiddie Tractor Pull. Quite a crowd gathered on 2nd Street to watch the 4 – 11 year olds compete. Among the winners were:

4-year-olds

3rd place Addie Wagner
2nd place Kayleigh Peters
1st place Harper Mongeau

5-year-olds

3rd place Raegan Bartness
2nd place Henry Riskedahl
1st place Judson Partlow

6-year-olds

3rd place Graham LeBlanc
2nd place Wyatt Morgan

1st place Landon Filley
7-year-olds
3rd place Briella McCouan
2nd place Liam Peters
1st place Brynlee Clawson
8-year-olds
3rd place Collin Hulloper
2nd place Colson Bartsch
1st place Lola Partlow
9-year-olds
3rd place Makayla Louks
2nd place Dekker Thompson
1st place Avin Wolters
10-year-olds
3rd place Domingo Huerta
2nd place Jackson Buenger
1st place Olivia Kurth
11-year-olds
3rd place Olivia Johnson
2nd place Adam Davis
1st place Lydia Louks

The Kiddie Tractor Pull was sponsored by the Ellendale Fire Department, represented on Saturday evening by Kyle Powers, Rick Johnson, and David Modder.

Luke Kurth of Utica, Minn., although not a newcomer to the Kiddie Tractor Pull, is new to owning the business. He bought all the equipment this year for what he titles LS Pedal Pulls. He says his son, Shawn, who was helping on Saturday evening, is really excited about the new venture. Kurth's daughter, Olivia, was also a big help; she handed out all the awards.

The last event to wrap up the evening was the Fireman's Street Dance featuring the Travis Thamer Band.

Sunday's Events

Sunday's events at Ellendale Days were somewhat complicated by bad weather. A thunderstorm darkened the skies early in the morning, threatening to put a damper on the day's events, but Ellendale must have been born under a lucky star. By 10 a.m. the wind had dried out the park enough that the area churches were still able to have their community church service in the park and serve lunch.

Lion's Club Pancake Breakfast

Between the Car Show and the Lion's Club Pancake Breakfast, United Methodist Church in Ellendale was quite the hub of activity over the weekend. On Sunday, volunteers Brenda Dokken and Becky Lassahn accepted the \$12 entry fee for adults (Children 5 and under ate for free.), while several more Lion's Club members were busy in the kitchen. According to his fellow volunteers,

Pete Paulson had poured at least 640 pancakes onto the griddle since 8 a.m., which, if not an exact number, is at least a reflection of the popularity of this year's event. Jeff Wayne referred to himself as Paulson's "assistant and chief dish washer." Between the mountains of dishes and serving guests, Cynthia Nelson, Becky Larson, and Theresa Pederson also stayed busy behind counter, while Dan Nelson manned the beverage counter as guests stopped by for coffee. Several tables in the large dining room were still well filled with attendees as the clock neared closing time at 1 p.m.

Big Boys Tractor Pull

The Big Boys Tractor Pull pulled a late and a little bit muddy start at 11 a.m. at the community bus garage. Tony Foster and hie fiancée Megin Bell organized the event, as they have for the last three years. Some of the equipment Foster rented from a provider in Milaca, Minn. The rest was donated locally. Lokken Excavating & Drainage donated the use of a rolling packer tractor and skid loader. Volunteers Joe Louks and Derek Lee ran the equipment to level the path after each tractor run. Father and son, John and Johnny Kraling, helped with paperwork or anything that needed doing, and as usual, Jerry Victora of Power 96 fame announced for the event, assisted by Allison Mullenberg and Amy Louks.

Mullenberg opened the event singing the National Anthem as enthusiasts came from a wide swath to attend the event, bringing tractors from Cannon Falls, Clairont, Glenville, Kenyon, Manorville, Montgomery, Medford, Rockville, Waseca, etc.

One intrepid individual even came from the Netherlands and took an exhibition ride on a John Deere 730. Peter Holland arrived in the U.S. on Monday to celebrate his uncle Bill Holland's 90th birthday. The report is that he'd never driven a tractor before. Asked what he thought of it, his response was an enthusiastic, "It was great!" Holland flies back to the Netherlands on Friday.

There were four jackpot categories during the event, but only three winners, as Thad Sonsdahl went home with the two \$500 wins. He also won a third category: the 6500 Farm Stock.

Jackpot Winners

Farm Stock 5500 3 MPH \$500 – Thad Sonsdahl, Medford
Open 5500 15 MPH \$300 – Chad

Vlasak, Montgomery Sportsman 6500 7 MPH \$300 – Karl Larish, Kenyon
Farm Stock 7500 3 MPH \$500 – Thad Sonsdahl, Medford

While the game was afoot, the ever-present Lion's Club volunteers served food and beverages in the bus garage. Hot dogs, bratwursts, and sloppy joes were available, as well as chips, doughnuts from Casey's, and sweet rolls made by members of the Lion's Club. Kathy Wayne and Mayor Scott Groth manned the booth. They were busy for a long time, still serving food by 5 p.m.

It takes the hard work and dedication of many individuals to organize and launch Ellendale Days each year and to see that everything runs smoothly. Doing much of the proverbial heavy lifting among these volunteer individuals are members of the Ellendale Days Committee. Allison Mullenberg is the Ellendale Days coordinator, along with fellow committee members Courtney McGowan and Kaitlyn McGowan. For the Tractor Pull alone, the Ellendale Days Committee donated \$1,600 more than competitors paid to participate. Per Mullenberg, the committee chose to foot the bill for certain events this year from its own fund, because they felt that area businesses and donors had been tapped out for the community's 125th anniversary the year before; they didn't want to exhaust the community's good will. The Ellendale Days Committee also sees to it that the City of Ellendale isn't burdened with the cost of Ellendale Days, as any money garnered from participants in the Craft and Vendor Show is donated back to the City to pay for electricity needed for the events.

Ellendale Days wouldn't happen without the Ellendale Lion's Club, whose volunteers were everywhere this weekend. And it's not only that they seem to have an inexhaustible willingness to serve food to the hungry masses. The Lion's Club also provides the insurance necessary for each event, without which Ellendale Days would be a considerably more costly event for the community.

Although the Star Eagle is certain there were many volunteers not mentioned in this article, we extend a special thank you to them as no summer would be complete without the heart-felt feeling for community represented in Ellendale Days.



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‘Ask a Trooper’: trailer width

Question: I bought a boat and the width is 10 feet wide. How can I legally haul it to different lakes?

Answer: The maximum length cannot exceed the width of 8 feet 6 inches. This is the maximum dimension that may be operated on Minnesota roadways without a special permit. The maximum height is 13 feet 6 inches. If you exceed the height or width, then you would have to apply for an oversize permit. For a boat you can buy an annual permit, which is approximately \$60.00.

A few trailer safety tips:

- Make sure the pulling unit of the trailer has the towing capacity to pull the trailer safely.
- Check the trailer tires for proper tire pressure and the conditions of the tires. If the trailer has not been used recently, check the tread and for any cracking on the side walls.
- Make sure you have the proper ball size required for the trailer.

Be sure the safety chains are connected and all the lights are working properly.

- Adjust your mirrors so you can see behind the trailer when towing it.
- Adjust your trailer brakes according to the load. For example, if you're towing a heavy boat, you would need to increase the brake press compared to pulling an empty boat trailer.

You can avoid a ticket - and a crash - if you simply buckle up, drive at safe speeds, pay attention and always drive sober. Help us drive Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths.

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota, send your questions to Sgt. Troy Christianson - Minnesota State Patrol at 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester MN 55901-5848. You can also email him at: Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us.

■ Bernard from Page 2

hauled back to campus. Had to fish them out before eating. Finding a Japanese beetle in your strawberries and ice cream was icky. Years later, on Crop Tour Japanese beetles were thick in OH and IN. I didn't think much of it until I got back home to MN to find a couple of stowaways in the dirty clothes in my suitcase. More good times.

The birds at the ranch are enjoying another stellar summer. We're seeing a lot of the fledglings showing up at feeders and with their parents who are showing them the ropes. Probably the cutest are the young downy woodpeckers that call until their parents fly to the feeder to bring them back a sunflower seed. There are always the young orioles that come to the jelly feeder sounding like they're totally lost. We haven't noticed any young yet, but we've had rose-breasted

grosbeaks that hung around this summer. That doesn't always happen, but they are always welcome visitors. They add color and voices to the chorus that starts around 4:30 a.m.

Poppy has been busy ridding the backyard of unwanted visitors. The latest was a crow that happened by. It wasn't long and it was on the wing again. Tuesday morning saw a return of the wild turkey. Poppy became extremely agitated and, once I looked out the window, it became apparent why. Open the sliding glass door and one mad Corgi meaning business headed straight for the turkey. Over the fence it flew. When Poppy's not busy with that, she "helps" in the garden. She likes to taste test things. The oddest one I've seen was the radishes I'd pulled and put in a small pile on the edge of the garden. When I'd finished weeding for the night I went to pick them up. There was one half eaten radish and another one left up in the yard. Guess who?

See you next week...real good then.

■ Fathers from Page 2

“Your dad is the only man who will ever want to see you do better than himself.”

Jon had never heard that before and agreed. I think I even heard a couple smiles through the phone call. Intermixed, of course, with some grief. We never stop grieving the ones we love.

My final note is from another conversation with a friend.

I mentioned how it's sad and sometimes necessary to grieve for people before they actually die. Whether someone is dying from a disease or has simply given way to addiction or some other vice that they can't escape. Sometimes we mourn people before their time on this Earth is actually done.

I spoke of an example and my friend said I was grieving a person who no longer existed in the form

I knew them or wished I had known them.

I then spoke about my father.

There is no mourning or grieving for my dad before his eventual death. I talk to him every day and ask him to play cards nearly every evening. There is no amount of time that I can spend with him that will ever be enough.

My dad tells me the same stories he has for years, still with enthusiasm. His stories make me smile every time. I ask him questions he's answered many times about his life, childhood, parents, grandparents, work, etc. My goal is to leave no stone unturned. And despite that, I'm sure, whenever my dad does pass away, hopefully many, many years from now, that there will still be a question or two that I kick myself for not talking to my dad about.

This was my long winded way of thanking my dad for being such a strong part of my life.

Happy Father's Day, Dad.



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Front: Rylie Cromwell, Peyton Frye, Elleie Clark, Vivienne Schlaak, Julieann Wobbrock, Scarlett Chance
Back: Chloe Riewer, Holly Bartness, Anika Ladlie, Sierra Fish, Violette Botten



Devlin McWilliams, Colton Lermon, Oliver Froslan, Abram Chance

End of season track for NRHEG 2026

Thank you to the parents who followed us to competitions in all kinds of weather! This was one of the more windy and chilly seasons that I can remember. But throughout the season the kids put forth the effort and worked to improve their performances at each meet.

Coaching staff:
Larry Nydegger and Kim Schlaak: Co-head coaches.
Bailey Madden: Pole vault
Eric Olson : Throws
Theresa Buendorf: High jump

Boys Team:
Highlights:
Kasey Jewison running the 3200m for the first time at sub-sections and finishing top 10 in the section.
Devlin McWilliams setting a personal best time in the 3200m run in all but one meet.
Hudson Chrz making tremendous improvement in the 110 hurdles as a Rookie!

Rookie of the year (Most points by 1st year member): Hudson Chrz
Most Improved (Most points from the previous year): Kasey Jewison
Most Valuable Track Athlete (Most points in running events): Jacob Karl

Most Valuable Field Athlete (Most points in field events): Noah Weller
Most Valuable Track and Field Athlete: Brendan Schmidt
Panther Award (Commitment to the sport and positive attitude): Devlin McWilliams
Captain's Award: Wyatt Tuttle, Gavin Lewison, Jacob Karl

All conference –
Conference HM: Brendan Schmidt, Hudson Chrz
Conference Sportsmanship: Jacob Karl
Academic Spotlight: (3.0 - 3.49 GPA)
Academic All-Conference: (3.5 GPA or better)
MSHSL Academic All-State Silver award: (Team with 3.5 - 3.74 GPA)
Letter winners:
Jacob Karl, Brendan Schmidt, Nathan Hager, Noah Weller, Kasey Jewison, Colton Lermon

Girls Team:
Highlights:
Gabby, Chloe, Julieann consistently finishing near the top of the field in their events.
Younger athletes gained valuable experience throughout the season.
Holly competing in every running event over the course of her career.

Rookie of the year: Lauren Johnson
Most Improved: Violette Botten
Most Valuable Track Athlete: Julieann Wobbrock
Most Valuable Field Athlete: Gabby Schlaak
Most Valuable Track and Field Athlete: Chloe Riewer
Panther Award: Holly Bartness
Captain's Award: Holly, Chloe, Gabby, Scarlett

All-Conference –
Conference HM: Chloe Riewer, Julieann Wobbrock
Conference Sportsmanship: Clara Buendorf
Academic Spotlight: (3.0 - 3.49 GPA)
Academic All-Conference: (3.5 GPA or better)
Academic All-State: (9-12th grade, GPA 3.6+ and Performance Standards): Gabby Schlaak, Julieann Wobbrock

MSHSL Academic All-State Gold award: (Team with 3.75+ GPA)
Letter Winners: Holly Bartness, Chloe Riewer, Gabby Schlaak, Alex Barnes, Clara Buendorf, Anika Ladlie, Gia Cazares, Scarlett Chance, Ellie Clark, Ella Jeno, Julieann Wobbrock, Peyton Frye, Lauren Johnson, Vivienne Schlaak



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Ellendale Days 2026



Photos by Deb Bently & Melanie Piltingsrud

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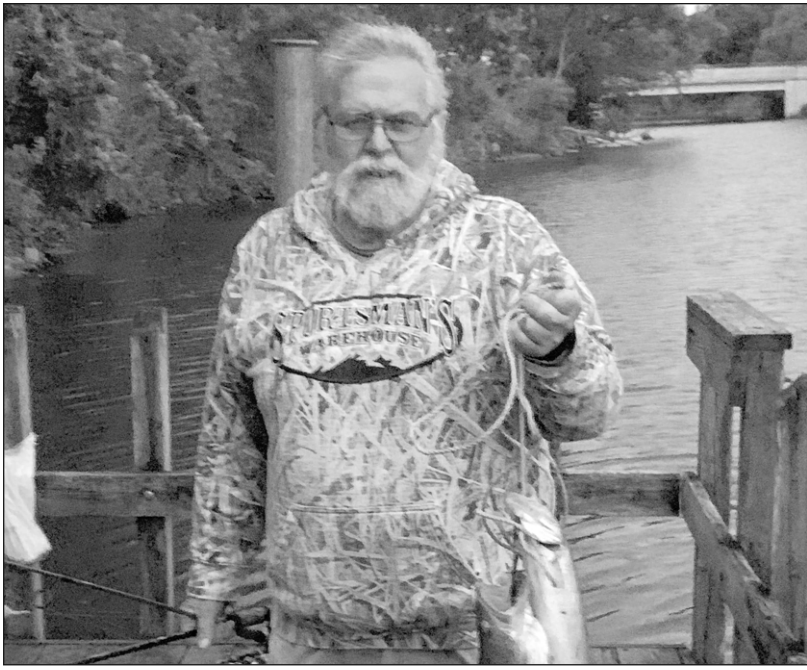
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REELING THEM IN - Shown here is Dick's brother-in-law, Lynn Johnson, with a nice stringer of walleye that he caught in the channel by Frank Hall Park. Another is of Dick's grandson Trevor with a nice walleye that he caught on an area lake.



You don't have to go far to catch fish

We have finally gotten some rain this past weekend. I am not sure if it is enough to help, but it may make the yards a little greener. Our cool-down has once again been replaced by the summer heat.

My planned trip to the cabin took a slight detour. I had a problem with a leg that I injured a few weeks ago. Us old guys don't seem to heal very quickly like in the past.

I have been keeping busy filling the bird feeders and watching the numerous birds that visit the feeders. From time to time.

There are not as many species of birds here as at the cabin, but I will take what I can get. I switched to safflower seeds to keep the blackbirds and starlings at bay. It made a differ-



Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl
Outdoors Writer

ence, because I have not seen any for quite some time.

When I think back to my childhood days playing at the bridge, I have fond memories of those times. The other day as I was driving on Bridge, I felt a little sad as I went past the creek where I spent much of my childhood playing and exploring nature and catching tadpoles, minnows and small fish. The water was

barely visible from the road because it had gone from a stream to a trickle. It actually made me feel sad to see that viable part of nature in danger of drying up completely.

Camping can actually be inexpensive

Whether you're looking for that perfect spot to pitch a tent, a cozy yurt or camper cabin, or accommodations for a large group, you can be

sure you'll find it in a Minnesota state park or recreation area. Many even offer year-round camping and lodging! You can also seek out a few state forest campsites for free. These sites are free on a first-come basis and can be used for up to 14 days.

I have seen a few of these campsites over the years. There are at least three on Spider Lake, which I have frequented many times over the years. There are many of these sites sprinkled throughout the Chippewa National Forest. These are rustic sites with limited toilet facilities.

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

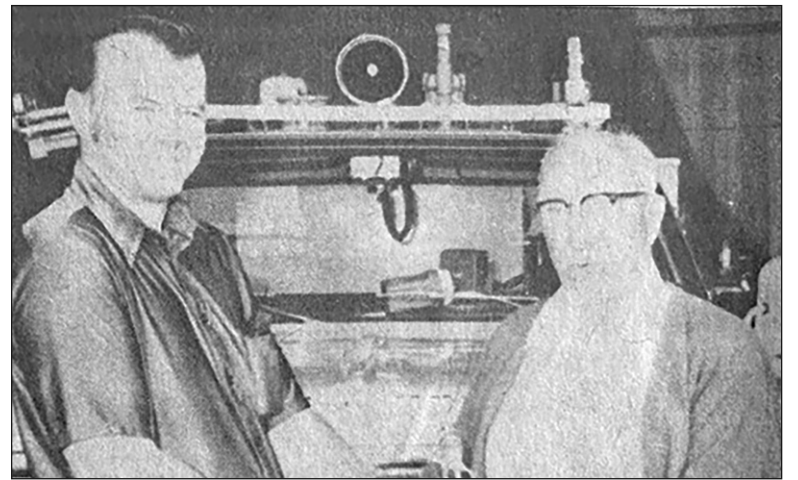
25 years ago

- A photo entered in a contest by Marlene Supalla of Hartland of her husband, Harold, was published in a book published by The International Library of Photography. Marlene is holding the book titled America at the Millennium in her right hand and a plaque that is inscribed with her name and certification that her photo "At Dusk" was published.

- The following area students were named to the spring semester Dean's List at Winona State University: Stacey Crabtree of New Richland; Cody Kramer and Katie Landsteiner, both of Mapleton; Jolene Stanke of Janesville; Micheal Beckmann, Sarah Ostrowski and Lisa Schultz, all of Wells.



50 years ago



- Waldorf Fire Chief Mark McDonough is pictured with the trophy his volunteer fire department won in competition at the Southern Minnesota Firemen's Tournament in Wells, Sunday. Congratulating him is Mayor Robert Marpe, a retired volunteer fireman.

- A first time event was held in Jackson, June 20. It was the Minnesota Junior Purebred Heifer Classic. This show involved young people from all over the state showing their cattle on the state level in the Charolais, Polled Hereford and Shorthorn breeds. Winners were: Charolais- Keith Blankens of Holland, Grand Champion and James L. Volz of Elmore, Reserve Champion; Polled Hereford- Ewald Bros of Waldorf, Grand Champion and Janet Michaelson of Crookston, Reserve Champion. Shorthorn- Ewald Bros of Waldorf, Grand Champion and Murila McMartin of Stockton, Reserve Champion.

75 years ago

- Mr. and Mrs. Walter Michaelis are the happy parents of their first son, born at the Memorial hospital, Waseca, Wednesday, July 25. Mr. and Mrs. Michaelis have two daughters, JoAnn and Genelle.

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 - 9:00 a.m. Worship
Tuesday - Council meeting (First Tuesday)

WEST FREEBORN LUTHERAN
Hartland, Minnesota
Rev. Marcia Pedersen
Sunday - 10:30 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 Cirkse, 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
Hollendale, Minnesota
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

FAMILY OF FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH
101 East Park Avenue
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Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Coffee Fellowship; 9:20 a.m. Worship/Kids Church
Familyoffaithhollendalemn.org
fitchhollendale@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
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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.

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