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Phys Ed Awards

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 9. 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.

Band for the Barn at Farmamerica July 25
The Band for the Barn event will take place at Farmamerica from 5-9 p.m. on Saturday, July 25. Enjoy an evening of live music, delicious food and beautiful country views, and it's for a great cause. Bring a lawn chair and some friends, this event is 18+.

Lutheran Night at the Twins event August 11
The 33rd Annual Lutheran Night at the Twins event will depart from behind Hy-Vee in Albert Lea at 3:45 p.m. on Tuesday, August 11. The game is Orioles vs. Twins. There will be activities on the bus, cost is \$65 if paid by July 1. For reservations call Bob or Genie Hanson 507-373-8655 or Bev Indrelie 507-402-8228.

A word from

The Word

As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

Joshua 24:15



BEAUTY IN THE SKY - Fireworks over St. Olaf Lake, organized by Alex Wagner, celebrated the 250th anniversary of Independence Day this year on Saturday, July 4.



Star Eagle photos by Keith Leonardo

St. Olaf Lake sees fireworks, celebration

By MELANIE PILTINGSRUD
Copy Editor
Revelers celebrating the 250th anniversary of Independence Day had a lot of options to see fireworks in surrounding communities, but some people thought the best option was to stay right here: at St. Olaf Lake.

Each year Alex Wagner organizes a fireworks display on beautiful St. Olaf Lake, which lake residents chip in to fund. "It's a lot of planning, a lot of driving," said Wagner, who made three 8-hour round trips to Wisconsin to purchase fireworks for the two displays he planned on subsequent days this year. "Because I can't get everything in one load," he laughs. The first display Wagner plans takes place at his family's house, and is run entirely electronically. It is this event which brought him to the attention of the St. Olaf Lake Association, who asked him to plan a display for St. Olaf Lake in 2017. He's been planning and executing the display, with help from his brother Danny Wagner, ever since.

Wagner says he's been interested in fireworks ever since his dad brought home kids' fountains, spinners, and sparklers when he was little. In fact he was so intrigued that he eventually went to work for Hollywood Pyrotechnics, a company that plans \$50,000 to \$100,000 fireworks displays, and all electronically. Although logistics at the lake require some more hands-on work, for the most part, Wagner continues to use an electronic system to set off his displays. "Instead of lighting a green fuse, I rip all those out and put wires, [...] and hook that up to a remote," said Wagner. From his tablet, Wagner can trigger three separate channels, with four fuses per channel. Whereas the big display companies utilize a system that costs tens of thousands of dollars,

Wagner says, "Mine's a really basic system, a couple hundred dollars." For each event, Wagner researches display possibilities, spending hours watching YouTube videos in the off-season to learn more, and then tries to order ahead, so that he can ensure what he planned will be available to purchase. It takes Wagner about three hours to set up a display, after which the electronic format allows him the freedom to enjoy his favorite part of these events: "Watching people's reactions." It is estimated that there were 20 to 25 boats on the lake during this year's display, with many more people viewing from the shore of the public swimming area, or from their cabins. Local resident Keith Leonardo of the Panther Power House said he was keeping a close eye on storm clouds overhead. "We prayed the storm held out for us," he said, "which it did, unlike for other communities."

"It started a little bit early, because of the weather coming in," said Erin Holland, referring to the 9:45 p.m. start. She was duly impressed with the approximately 17-minute display. "It was very, very good. They did a fantastic job." Leonardo watched the display from one of two pontoons he and his family occupied. "It was a well put-on show," he confirmed, mentioning in particular the grand finale. "They do a great job each year." Does Wagner plan to keep putting on the fireworks display at St. Olaf? "Yes," said Wagner. "That's my home." The commemoration of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the Second Continental Congress has been celebrated with fireworks since 1777. Folks in the NRHEG area are keeping that tradition alive in style, with fireworks reflected on the waters of St. Olaf Lake.



INTEGRATED ACCESS - Waseca County commissioners (from left) Brad Milbrath, Brian Harguth, Brad Krause, DeAnne Malterer, and Doug Christopherson greeted visitors and answered questions about the planned new county justice center during two open house sessions on Tuesday, June 30. Also greeting visitors was Minnesota House District 19B Representative Tom Sexton, who has helped support the project in numerous ways.

Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

Open house offers an open book on new justice center

By DEB BENTLY
Staff writer
Traffic was light for the two open house sessions at the Waseca County Courthouse Annex on June 30 when county commissioners, the county sheriff, facilities director Brian Tomford and county administrator Michael Johnson stood ready to supply information and answer questions about the \$28 million structure due to be constructed at the west side of the historic 1897 county courthouse. Architectural renditions and floor plans showed what the building will look like inside and out. Handouts summarized various aspects of the project, including that the need for an expansion was first discussed in 2003; since then, one document summarized, workspaces in the courthouse and annex, which is across

the street, have been filled and used beyond their intended capacity, with some offices located in spaces not originally intended to be occupied. Another difficulty is that departments whose work is closely interrelated—for example the county attorney and court services—are located where there was room, rather than where they can most efficiently coordinate their work. The new structure will provide integrated access to technology, an aspect of communication, safety, and records retrieval which has become more and more central over recent decades; it will provide a secure entry where people's bags are scanned, and will comply with requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. At this time, specifications for the various aspects of construction have



County commissioner Brad Milbrath shared information about the planned Justice Center construction with open house guest Brad Schnepf during one of two informational sessions held at the Courthouse Annex on Tuesday, June 30.

Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

been shared with contractors; the county is expecting to receive bids about midway through July. Expected construction costs are about \$28,600,000, with an anticipated \$4 million in soft costs and contingency funding. According to materials shared at the open house, the county has been

setting aside funds for a project like this one since 2021, and has \$7 million available. Also supporting the project are \$3 million from a congressionally directed spending award. This means the county will need to bond for about \$23 million for the project.

NEW RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL

New migrant bunkhouse approval

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer
The New Richland city council met the evening of Monday, May 11. For public comments, Mayor Ferguson said it would also include the open discussion regarding the new Bunkhouse Ordinance.

Tyler Lendt, City Administrator said, "On Monday, April 27, 2026, the City Administrator conducted the Maintenance Supervisor's annual review. His performance over the last year has been exemplary, and the City Administrator recommends moving Eric Hendrickson to the next step on the pay table. This has already been budgeted for and will not impact the budget. He was upgraded to \$32.84/hr. Lendt continued, "Due to staffing and scheduling conflicts with Thompson's Sanitation, the City of New Richland was unable to hold the citywide cleanup in the spring, as is traditionally the case. The date that worked for all parties is September 19th, 2026."

The council passed the ordinance establishing standards, licensing, and inspection requirements for bunkhouse housing for migrant agricultural workers and allowing such housing as a conditional use in specified districts for JKR Investment LLC/Melisa Leonardo at 316 North Broadway Ave (old laundromat). This is to house H-2A southern African migrant visa holding workers for an annual cost of \$250. A resolution was passed entering into a construction agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for routine maintenance by the city upon, along, and adjacent to trunk highway No.30 which will result in sidewalks on both sides of the road. The ambulance report from Sarah Sundve requested \$1,484 for a washer/dryer set from Lowe's for the crew to wash ambulance related laundry. They currently wash their linens at the New Richland Care Center, but have to limit themselves to that service during daytime hours. Sundve also requested \$120 for her and another ambulance employee to recertify their CPR instructor license, so they can keep further ambulance employee recertifications in house. The council accepted a \$200 donation on behalf of New Richland Ambulance.

For the Fire Department Report, fire had three fire calls and two medical calls. The Police Department Report, read by Tanyce Bruegger, said, "The New Richland Police Department responded to 97 calls for service for April. For April 2026 we had 400 calls, last April we had 519. Ten of those calls were to assist other agencies. Twenty-five were lock check/directed patrol, 27 traffic stops, 5 animal complaints and 4 suspicious circumstances. Most calls requiring additional follow-up have been completed. As always, we remind people to get in touch with us if they have any information regarding any incidents that have occurred in the City of

Council continued on 3



Fence Lines

by Mark Bernard

Is it raining with you?

Another week of real summer weather and the scurs will try to coax the Weather Eye to cool it a tad. Will they be successful or does Mother Nature have other ideas? Starting Thursday, mostly sunny with a slight chance of evening rain. Highs in the low 80's with lows in the low 70's. Mostly sunny Friday with a slight chance of a forenoon rain shower. Highs in the upper 70's with lows in the low 60's. Partly sunny on Saturday with highs in the mid-80's and lows in the mid-60's. Sunday, sunny with highs in the upper 80's and lows in the upper 60's. Sunny on Monday with highs in the low 90's and lows in the mid-60's. Tuesday, partly sunny with highs in the upper 80's and lows in the mid-60's. Partly sunny on Wednesday with highs in the upper 80's and lows in the mid-60's. On July 15th we see our loss in daylight increase to just over one minute and thirty seconds. The normal high for July 15th is 82 and the normal low is 62. The scurs will be noshing on their favorite onion rings at the Waseca Co. Fair.

Last week's rainfall was impressive across most of the area with some receiving 5" or more between several rainfall events. Some of the rain came extremely hard, so runoff and ponding were evident in areas, particularly in soybean fields. It didn't look like the corn even blinked. It remained as deep dark green as it was prior to the rain, and as of Monday, a few tassels were starting to appear here and there. Several more fields have the flag leaf emerged, so it will be a matter of a few days before we see wholesale tasseling, about as predicted a few weeks back. Had we not cooled down in June, we likely would've seen more tassels by now. A lot of the corn seems a little short and that's a good thing. Less leverage for a windstorm to flatten it. The drier early growing season should translate into a deeper root system and a more well anchored plant than we've seen in several years. It also should help to recover much of the mineralized nitrogen moving down in soil profile after these heavier rains. And the rains keep coming for most.

Speaking of nitrate, it is one of the catalysts for iron deficiency chlorosis in soybeans. In areas where soils contain high levels of free calcium carbonate, soybeans take it up and must exchange a nitrate ion with a bicarbonate ion.

Also, nitrate taken up into the plant must be converted to ammonium within the leaves, which increases pH in leaf sap and decreases the rate of reduction of Fe III to Fe II, which is necessary for leaf cells to have usable Fe, hence the yellowing. It disappears rapidly, however, once rainfall moves the concentrated nitrate out of the soybean root zone. There are some fields that bear watching, however. Areas

of some fields can remain yellow and soybean cyst nematode has been found in recent years locally. Most of it has been cyst nematode resistant to the 88788 source of resistance, but there is always a chance we could see resistance to the Peking source. We've used it long enough that it is likely a matter of time.

It looks like the apple crop at the ranch will be another dandy. Both the Haralson and Honeycrisp are loaded once again. That should translate into good pie and good eating apples this fall, barring an unforeseen catastrophe. The Snow Sweet and the pear trees are a little disappointing, however. It's entirely possible that they might've been nipped by a frost back in May when they were flowering. There is some fruit on them, but it tends to be in areas where the trees were more sheltered and under the tree canopy itself where the temperature might've stayed a little warmer. Not surprising after covering and uncovering the peonies and bleeding heart as many times as we did this past spring.

As in past years, the ranch has once again been populated by large numbers of tiny toads. Right now they're a little larger than pencil erasers. When the road ditch stayed dry as it had for much of the spring, I really doubted we'd see very many of the small amphibians. I mowed it at will, not worried about getting stuck as I generally do. Usually when the culvert under the driveway remains full and the ditch stays wet, those are the years we see more of them.

Apparently the June rains were more to their liking. I could still mow the ditch through most of the month, even though we received 5.2" of rain in June. There was still a bottom then. There are some larger toads scattered around as well. One has set up shop in the barn where there is an ample supply of flies. It looks like it's tapped into it. The toad is so fat it's almost round. It's amazing it can even move.

Poppy has her duties fairly well defined as of late. It seems the turkeys have discovered the birdfeeders and must be making it one of their favorite stops. Poppy was settled in for a long nap recently after gazing out the sliding glass window. Suddenly I heard a deep, guttural growl emanating from the Corgi as she sprang to attention. The growling and whining intensified until I looked to see what was causing the commotion. Sure enough, there were two adult turkeys and four poults cleaning up under the birdfeeder. Once the door was opened, it didn't take her long to scramble down the stairs and scare them off. They all flew and cleared the fence, clucking and registering their displeasure. There's no getting by the Corgi alarm system.

See you next week...real good then.



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

Yearly accomplishment requires planning, good weather

I have just come back from my annual Fourth of July sojourn up north, where I get to ride on my husband's coattails while he takes charge of a fireworks show for Veronen's Resort located on Bad Medicine Lake about half an hour from Park Rapids. When guests there learn I am part of the fireworks crew, they thank me profusely for the exciting—and safe—presentations John has put on there for 17 years in a row.

I express my gratitude and answer the often repeated question: Yes, this show will have the fireballs everyone loves. But this is one setting where I am only a helper. In fact, I've taken to calling myself "clerical" because of the time I spend helping prepare for the show. My most important skills are being able to type smoothly and quickly and to create a computer spreadsheet that helps keep track of what features we have for the show and the order they will be used in.

I help with some of the wiring and

other tasks, too, but others are much faster and more flexible than I am, so I tend to be left with some of the putzy jobs.

Because the location where the fireworks are fired from is not far enough away from where the land-based audience sits, this show cannot include the powerful "shells" that are four or more inches in diameter and fly hundreds of feet in the sky. Instead it uses "cakes" and other smaller items, many of which are sold to regular folks at fireworks stores in other states.

The cakes are not legal in Minnesota unless they are part of an authorized display, and to be authorized the show must have at least one licensed pyrotechnician on staff. They also cost much less apiece than the shells do, so what our show lacks in size, it makes up for in quantity, lasting 45 minutes or so and firing numerous products in a timed sequence that choreographs with an energetic music



FIREBALL - Deb helped her husband create an exciting and safe fireworks show at Bad Medicine Lake in northern Minnesota. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

sound track.

It requires planning, preparation, and hours and hours and hours of work. It's also heavily reliant on the weather. Fireworks are unlikely to work properly once they've gotten wet, but they're still a huge explosion risk, becoming a giant, messy liability. The "solution" is not to get them wet, which creates tremendous caution and attentiveness to what the weather will be doing in the hours leading up to shoot time.

Preliminary forecasts around Wednesday had everyone questioning whether a display on Saturday would work out, since rain was supposed to be moving through sporadically all day.

Fortunately, the weather changed

its mind and everything "went off" on schedule. Then, around midnight when everyone else was packing up their chairs and drinks and heading back to their campsite, the pyrotechnician crew had more than an hour's work to do pulling all the equipment back together, piling up the trash, and clearing the area. Like I said—hours and hours and hours of work.

If you would like to see a sample of the high-energy show, Deanna Sinclair, a camper at Veronen's Resort, kindly shared a video she made of the last 90 or so seconds of the show. She gave permission for us to post it on the Facebook pages for the Waseca County Pioneer and the NRHEG Star Eagle. Pop on over and have a look!

Nightly cribbage bouts continue



Just a Thought...

by Eli Lutgens

The nightly cribbage games with my father continue. Lately we have nearly split our games, with the slight edge going my way. Over the weekend my father thanked me for not bragging about beating him in my column.

Thursday evening, he got to the table a few minutes before me. When I walked up, he had the newspaper open to my column. His eyes were red. He thanked me for the Father's Day gift.

Saturday night, Dad didn't answer the phone as he usually does during my ride home in the evening. So I stopped in to check on him. The front door was locked and the new key (My dad recently got a new door handle) did not work. So I went in the side door.

"Hello?" My dad said from the basement.

"I could have been anyone, come to rob the place," I answered.

Dad didn't know where his phone was. I wish my generation could imitate that disconnection from technology that my dad so absentmindedly has. People, younger generations more, I observe, are too connected to their phones.

When we started playing, I made a point to look at our score tally. Dad said he wished we had kept track year-by-year, instead of one long running tally.

The running game ledger had my dad up by 72 games at the start of the night. With a total of 752 games played between the two of us. In the notebook, Dad found a quote with a date from 2016. I figure we must have started keeping track around then, which, coincidentally, was the year I graduated. Dad and I have played many, many more games than that. He taught me to play when I was only 10 years old. His dad taught him to play even younger than that.

In total, my dad tallied 62 "skunks" to my 39. A skunk, in cribbage, occurs when a player wins by more than 30 points, the equivalent to a "street."

Cribbage is played to 121 points; the

first to get that many points wins. Each "street" is 30 points. It is simply a way to measure the amount of points scored throughout the game, such as football has quarters and baseball has innings.

At the office, where we have kept track this year, I am up 14 wins. Dad has registered eight skunks to my two.

Notably a skunk is worth two wins. Between the two score sheets, subtracting the extra tally win from a skunk, Dad and I estimate he's only up about 45 wins over the past decade of games played.

Notably, over that time, I am the only one of us to register a "double skunk." I beat my dad one time by more than 60 points. In my lifetime of cribbage games, which total thousands of games, I have only ever seen two double skunks. I was the winner on both counts. The other came against family friend, "Buddy," aka Waseca native Terry Bortle.

During that same day of losing, Buddy said a famous quote that lives in infamy in our household. Leading 120- 114, Buddy exhaled and said, "Boy, I needed that one."

I proceeded to peg two points on each of his first three cards played, and one for a "go" to score the game winning 121st point, before he could count his hand. The player who is not dealing counts their points first. To peg seven points without Buddy getting any is incredibly unlikely and rare. Buddy was not having a good day that day. At that time we used to "cut" before every game to see who deals. In that stretch, Buddy lost 17 games and 17 cuts in a row.

After that day forward, Buddy and I

played a lot more ping pong.

I intended to write about my 4th of July. This year I spent the first half playing in a card tournament at my store. It ended in a 4-way tie for first, with me in the tie. After that, I spent the evening with my best-friend, Jake. We watched four boxing matches while I worked on the newspaper. During the final fight of the night, the official called the match in the 12th and final round. Jake and the announcers were upset. One of the TV commentators said it was the worst call he had ever seen.

Jake and the announcers were wrong. The fighter who was knocked down for a second time, both during the first 30 seconds of the final round, was exhausted and done. I think the official saved this man from serious, potential damage.

The two fighters were both friends and Ohio natives (The fight was in Cleveland.) and had sparred together

for years. The 33-year old, the loser in the fight, had never fought a 12-round fight before. After round seven, the younger fighter, 22 years old, took control and dominated. I don't think it was necessary for him to risk hurting his friend when the fight, from my perspective, was already done.

Yes, the part of me that wants to see a good ending, the animalistic side of me, would have probably enjoyed seeing the fight end without intervention. But the human, compassionate and logical side of me commends the official for stepping in. And like the New Richland baseball team which lost 3-2 in the Conference Championship game, the losing boxer will live the rest of his life, knowing he was good enough to win a championship. (He had clearly won the first six rounds of the fight. However, he lost the final six frames, and the match and the title.)

Maybe this is a good comparison to my dad and my cribbage matches. He is the older veteran who can no longer keep up with the young buck.

"I refuse to let adversity and past failures define who I am." - Mike Tyson

"I consider myself blessed. I consider you blessed. We've all been blessed with God-given talents. Mine just happens to be beating people up." — Sugar Ray Leonard



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Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Vacation Bible School July 14-16 for kids entering PreK-6th grade

Vista Covenant and St. Peter Lutheran of NR and Otisco churches will be hosting Surprise Party VBS at Vista. It will be a fun filled week with music, skits, Bible stories, crafts and more as we explore some of the parties Jesus attended and learn about the unexpected grace of Jesus. Register by going to the Facebook page or calling either of the two host churches.



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

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Compostings

by Al Batt

You have too many photos on your phone

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
Weasel thinks he's royalty. What gave him that idea? He ate at a Burger King, drank a Royal Crown Cola, went on a Princess Cruise, bought Duke's Mayonnaise, and ate at a Dairy Queen in just two weeks.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE
I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. Most people around me had those "Been there, done that" expressions, but others ran the gamut from boredom to panic. I heard uncontrolled sobbing as I made my way through the TSA line at the airport. I reckoned it was coming from the spirits of Orville and Wilbur Wright, the brothers credited with flying the first successful airplane. They were crying to see what their invention had given rise to. It could have been worse. They could have invented the leaf blower. Once I had cleared security, I was hiking around the Atlanta airport when a couple walking ahead of me had some travel papers drop from their satchel. I picked them up, caught up with them, and said, "I think you dropped these." They didn't thank me, but the man said, "You're not from Alabama, are you?" I had no idea what that meant—and I was OK with that.

A ROUNDABOUT TO TIMBUKTU
A friend told me she needed to see her doctor. The fly in the ointment was that the physician had moved his office. She discovered there were three roundabouts on the road to the new location. She took the wrong exit and ended up in Timbuktu. I told her that was a lucky break. Timbuktu is beautiful at this time of the year. I guessed. I've not been there. She was on time for her appointment because she'd left enough wiggle room, but she didn't enjoy being honked at by drivers who knew where they were going. Those other people were happy to have a reason to honk, toot or beep their horns. I can't remember the last time I honked my horn at another living being.

AT THE POLITE COFFEE SHOP
Everyone says, "Hot enough for you?" I said, "Do the uncomfortable temperatures meet your approval?" I loitered while waiting for my wife to get a cup of coffee. A kind woman asked, "Are you in line?" I replied, "I'm not, sorry." I apologized for not being in line.

I'VE LEARNED
Store eggs with the pointed end down. The combined auto insurance and fuel costs as a share of household income is highest in Louisiana, followed by Mississippi and Florida. Residents of New Hampshire pay the lowest, slightly lower than in Massachusetts. Iowa is the 30th lowest, and

Minnesota 38th.
<https://www.moneygeek.com/insurance/auto/gas-and-car-insurance-cost-burden-by-state/>
You have too many photos on your phone.
Jerry "The Beaver" Mathers, the star of "Leave It to Beaver," was born in Sioux City, Iowa.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT
At a man's funeral, his widow asked if anyone would like to say a word.
It was a literal crowd, so the first guy stood up and said, "Plethora."
The widow said, "Thank you. That means a lot."
The next person said, "Earth."
The widow replied, "Thank you. That means the world to me."
The next fellow said, "Watering hole."
The widow responded, "Thank you. I know you meant well."
Another individual uttered, "Bargain."
The widow countered with, "Thank you. That means a great deal."
A man added, "Worcestershire."
The widow said, "Thank you. I know that was hard for you to say."
The final speaker said, "Defibrillator!"
"Thanks. It's what he would have wanted," said the deceased's wife.

NATURE NOTES
The minimum temperature for honeybee flight is 54°. The optimum temperature for flight activity is 72-77°, but activity continues up to about 100° before declining. The University of Maine Cooperative Extension found that bumblebees fly in adverse weather conditions: temperatures lower than 55°, light rain, cloudy or foggy conditions, wind speeds higher than 15 mph, and poor light conditions.
Wild parsnip is an invasive plant that could cause painful skin burns when its sap comes into contact with skin exposed to sunlight. It's a member of the carrot family with yellow, flat-topped flower clusters. It thrives in open, disturbed areas like roadsides and pastures.
Opossums don't spend lengthy periods hanging by their tails or sleep while hanging by their tails. It's a common misconception perpetuated in cartoons. Their tails aren't strong enough to support their weight for more than a moment. Young opossums could hang in there, but not for long, because they don't have the muscle structure necessary to hold the position. Opossums can use their prehensile tails like a fifth limb to aid in climbing trees and other structures, or for carrying bedding materials.

MEETING ADJOURNED
"Never lose a chance of saying a kind word."—William Makepeace Thackeray.

NRHEG Inclusive Playground Project



The NRHEG Elementary School recently posted on Facebook, "We are incredibly grateful to Bent Tree North Wind Farm and Alliant Energy for their generous \$6,000 donation to the NRHEG Inclusive Playground Project at our Elementary School, which helps bring this project one step closer to reality! Thank you to Jerry Demmer, Bent Tree North Wind Farm Local Representative, and Marcus Galante, Sr. Renewables Development Specialist with Alliant Energy, for taking the time to visit our playground site, learn about the project, and see firsthand the impact this inclusive space will have on our students, families, and community. A special thank you also goes to Courtney Lenz of Good Steward Consulting, who learned about our project through a newspaper article and helped connect us with this incredible opportunity. We appreciate her advocacy and support throughout this process. We would also like to recognize Wendy Schultz for her dedication and countless hours of service on the NRHEG Inclusive Playground Committee. Her passion, persistence, and leadership have played a major role in helping move this project forward and making this dream a reality for our students and community. Creating an inclusive playground is a significant investment, but one that will provide meaningful opportunities for all children to play, learn, and grow together. We are thankful for the partners, advocates, and volunteers who share our vision and are helping make this project a reality." Left to Right: Wendy Schultz – NRHEG Inclusive Playground Committee Member, Jerry Demmer – Bent Tree North Wind Farm Local Representative, Marcus Galante – Sr. Renewables Development Specialist, Alliant Energy

New Richland donates 18 pints

New Richland area donors and volunteers made it possible for the Red Cross to collect 18 pints of blood on July 2 during a quarterly blood drive held in the New Richland Community Center. Donations will be used to help patients in need of a transfusion. Red Cross policy is to provide blood to local people in need of it first, and if nearby needs are met to sometimes send blood products elsewhere in the country. The next quarterly drive is set for Sept. 2. It is already possible to schedule an appointment to donate during that event using the Red Cross donation app.

Council

from Page 1

New Richland or surrounding areas." She also said the end of year water balloon fight at NRHEG will take place on May 29.

The Care Center Report, read by Bob Johannsen, Care Center Administrator, "Celebrating National Nursing Home Week this May 11th throughout the 15th. Music, games, food and fun throughout the week."

The People Service Report was read by Shell Johnson, who said they got the new regulator/filter for the diaphragm pump at the wastewater treatment plant, but it still needs a service call because it's not running correctly. She also ordered new manhole cover plugs for the older manholes with holes; there are three that will be installed Thursday. She requested \$1,500 for a metal detector from Utility Logics and requested \$3,200 for two chlorine sensors for the wastewater treatment plant.

Eric Hendrickson, Maintenance and Utility Supervisor, said they flushed fire hydrants on April 16 and burned the dump April 30, put

sand down at the beach and turned the water on at the Legion Field. The storm sewer was blocked on Broadway and 2nd by a case of empty beverages which also flooded the street. Affordable jetting came to clear the blockage. Caren Fence came to look at the fencing at the Baseball field and Softball field, which was pushed up from frost, and maintenance is waiting to hear back. The ropes and the raft have been put out at the park. Thein Well did their annual check of the wells; both were the same as last year. Maintenance planted 130 shrubs on South Elm to eliminate erosion and block the snow. W.W. Blacktop patched and milled 1st St NW. The water at St. Olaf public park will be turned on soon.

An attorney was present on behalf of Daniel Petsinger, business owner of Radio Link. As was City Attorney Jason Moran. Petsinger has Radio Link internet equipment installed on the city water tower and the council

would like that removed. City Attorney Moran presented Petsinger with a suitable equipment removal contract, who countered with his own version of the same contract. City Attorney Moran recommended the council not sign the Petsinger version because of confusing wording.

One item under discussion was if Petsinger wants to climb the New Richland water tower, he must show proof of insurance in case there's an accident, so the city isn't liable. Petsinger's lawyer directed the council to a Minnesota website and did not provide proof of insurance, but said he could take a screen shot of a website that is run by the State of Minnesota. The council is concerned because they don't have proof the equipment that is currently on the tower is insured.

The council pointed out that these items, and the wording of the contract, were supposed to be cleared up before today's council meeting, as was ordered in the April council

meeting. The council said they were finished discussing this and voted. Radio Link has 60 days to remove their equipment from the tower.

John Hanson, Waseca High School teacher since 1991 and lifetime local, spoke about the Waseca Historical tour. Begun as a county project by including Waseca Senior High School students in a social studies class, it has been expanded and broadened with information from a variety of sources to let visitors know about the history, shopping, parks, restaurants, churches and unique features in Waseca County and its communities. There are interactive maps, narration, pictures, videos and GPS mapping and guides. With a total of 12 tours this app can be found in the Google play store at Explore Waseca County. New Richland does not have a recorded portion of the tour. It is the only town in Waseca county that does not, but Hanson hopes to have that updated soon.

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OBITUARIES

Dayna Besser

Dayna M. (Stenzel) Besser, age 55 of Owatonna, MN passed away peacefully Monday, June 29, 2026 at Prairie Senior Cottages in Owatonna surrounded by her family. A visitation was held on Friday, July 3, 2026 from 3 p.m.-7 p.m. at Nasinec Funeral Home in Wells, MN. Please see nasinecfh.com to leave online condolences.

Dayna Marie was born July 13, 1970 to Maynard and Syvilla (Mills) Stenzel in Wells, MN. She graduated from Alden High School in 1988 before pe- rusing her passion for art and design at Brown College; where she earned her degree in graphic design in 1993.

On December 21, 1996, she married Christopher (Chris) Besser. Together they welcomed two daughters: Mikayla born February of 1998 and Morgan born November of 2002. Family was the center of Dayna’s world. She rarely missed a horse show, cheerleading event, band concert or basketball game for her daughters. She was their biggest supporter and took immense pride in every accomplishment, no matter how big or small.

Dayna had a remarkable gift for making people feel welcome. She never met a stranger and could strike up a conversation with anyone she met. She cherished lifelong friendships. She found joy in life’s simple pleasures, in crafting, thrift- ing, listening to rock music, travel- ing to multiple states and spend- ing time with the people she loved the most. Whether sur- rounded by family or friends,



Dayna Besser

Dayna’s life was filled with laughter, love and countless memories which will continue to bring comfort to those who knew her.

She is preceded in death by her parents; her former husband Chris Besser; her great-nephew, Jeremiah Meza; father-in-law Kenneth Besser; uncles Roger Mills, Tommy Mills and Vern Olson.

Dayna is survived by her daughters: Mikayla Besser of New Richland and Morgan (Devin) Stankiewicz of Janesville; siblings: Dawn (Gary) Strohman of Makinen, MN, Jar- rod (Kelly) Stenzel of Rose- mount, MN, Donna (Darryl) Chamberlin of Sarasota, FL and Jason (Stacy) Stenzel of Waseca, MN; two aunts: Janice Olson of New Richland, MN and Kay (Tom) Sherratt of Le Sueur, MN; uncle: Howard (Pat) Stenzel of Blaine, MN; and many nieces, nephews and their families.

Raymond Loberg

Raymond E. “Ray” Loberg passed away peacefully, Sun- day, June 28, 2026 at the St. John’s Lutheran retirement and care facility in Albert Lea where he had resided since Au- gust 2024. He was 93.

Ray was born August 20, 1932 to Harold and Cora (Rickheim) Loberg, and was the youngest of their four chil- dren. He and Doris Jones met in the 1940’s when the Geneva Elementary School students transferred to Ellendale High School. They were married on her birthday, February 3, 1952. They had been married 66 years when Doris passed away in September 2018.

Ray was a man of integrity and was never a stranger to hard work. He was a farmer at heart. He grew up working on his family’s farm west of El- lendale and then owned and operated his farm east of El- lendale for more than 60 years. He also worked full-time at Queen Stove, aka, Scotsman, aka Lou-Rich until he retired after 38 years. Providing for his family and the successful operation of his farm were the source of his drive and his sat- isfaction. Upon retirement, he enjoyed collecting and restor- ing old tractors and farm equipment. Health issues forced him to slow down, but he did not stop caring for his beloved farm until age 91



Raymond Loberg

when he moved to Albert Lea. He loved sharing his memories as much as his family loved hearing them.

Ray was baptized and con- firmed at the Ellendale Lu- theran Church and later became a member of Com- munity Lutheran Church in Geneva.

Ray and Doris had three children, Nanci (Jim) Tuggle, Cindy Smolinski, and Rick (Ginny), all of whom attended Ellendale-Geneva Elementary and High Schools like their parents.

Preceded in death by Doris and his siblings, Ray is sur- vived by his children, six grandchildren and nine great- grandchildren. A celebration to memorialize his life and its im- pact on all of them is being planned for a later date.

Child’s History of Waseca County

CHAPTER XIII, 1855. Prep- arations for winter—Hauling provisions from Iowa. Trip made to Auburn, Iowa, by the author—December 19, 1855 on the prairie all night—One man frozen to death—A cold Christmas.

While a few of the earliest set- tlers in 1855 had raised enough vegetables for their winter supply of food, not one of them had produced a supply of wheat, and every family was compelled to haul flour and other supplies from distant points, the nearest flour mill being over one hun- dred miles distant. Most of the flour was obtained from Auburn, Iowa, a small town on Turkey river.

Among those who were wise enough to prepare for winter be- fore winter commenced were the Krassins. Having completed their home preparations for winter, they started with several teams and wagons for Iowa. Jus- tina, afterwards Mrs. Child, ac- companied her brothers as cook.

They went by way of Owatonna and Austin, and thence southeast to Auburn, where they found an abundant supply of flour and other articles. They returned after an absence of three weeks, heavily loaded with provisions. As they made the trip in Oc- tober—the golden month of the year—when Minnesota is clothed in the beauteous gar- ments of Indian summer, they enjoyed a pleasant and profitable journey. Their return furnished the settlement with valuable in- formation as to the road to take to reach Auburn, the prices to be paid for flour, pork, groceries, etc.

But most of the settlers had stables to build, cabins to finish up and other fall work to do, so that it was winter before they could get started on the trip to “Egypt for corn.”

A journey of one hundred or one thousand miles to-day, in railroad passenger coaches, is a very easy undertaking, but a journey of one hundred miles or more across a country where ca-

bins are few and far between, through storms of rain or sleet or snow-blizzards, camping out on the bleak prairie at night, with nothing to charm either the ear or the eye save the howling blasts of winter or the more demoniac howling of prairie wolves as, coward-like, they re- connoiter your position and con- dition—such a journey may be somewhat romantic to read about, but it is not so very en- chanting to those who have made a trial of it. The experi- ences of all those who made the journey that winter were very similar, no doubt, and the writer gives his own and those of the few others he has been able to get as samples.

JAMES E. CHILD’S STORY

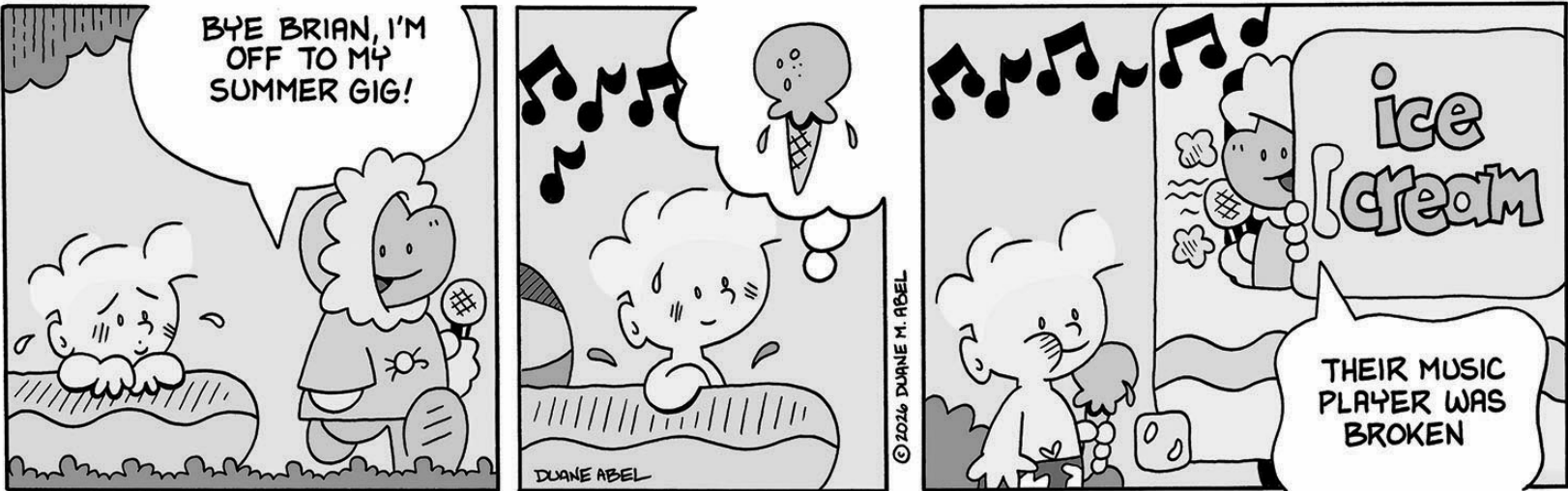
During the first days of De- cember, 1855, having engaged two pair of oxen and a wagon of the brothers John and David J. Jenkins, I made preparations for a journey into Iowa. John Jen- kins furnished the money (about \$150.00); I was to put in my labor and skill, get a load of pro-

visions and groceries, bring them into the settlement and sell them; each of us was to share equally in the profits, if any.

Editorial Note - Upon rum- maging through the vast library of contents here at the Star Eagle, I stumbled across a very old blue book titled, “Child’s History of Waseca County Min- nesota for Fifty Years, 1854- 1904.”

After thumbing through the first several pages it was deter- mined this book was too interest- ing to go back on the shelf. So, it was used as a stand for a com- puter monitor. Several months later, after finding a more suit- able stand, I opened the book to show a reader who stopped into the office. After reading about the Horse Thief Detective Asso- ciation, I made the decision that this piece of history should not be lost to time. Since then the Star Eagle has included, “a little bit of this and a little bit of that,” from the book.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



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HERITAGE BITS



Grand Army of the Republic picnic at the park circa 1890. Photo by New Richland Area Historical Society. (7/9/26)

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Stay safe outdoors

Protect yourself from Lyme Disease and tick bites



KNOW THE SIGNS - Sometimes, a rash that looks like a bullseye appears around the tick bite in the case of Lyme disease. Other symptoms could include a fever, headache and feeling very tired.

This summer, more people are heading out to parks, trails, and lakes. Many may return home with unwanted hitchhikers like ticks. Lyme disease and other tick illnesses are on the rise.

Warmer weather means more outdoor activities, which give these tiny bugs more chances to bite people and pets.

Ticks love to hang out in tall grass and wooded areas. They can carry bacteria that cause Lyme disease, a serious illness that can harm your joints, heart, and nervous system. While ticks are most active during warm months, they can

come out anytime the temperature is above freezing.

Lyme disease often starts with a fever, headache, and feeling very tired. Sometimes, a rash that looks like a bullseye appears around the bite. If caught early, it can be treated easily. If left untreated, it can lead to bigger health problems later. Fortunately, you can prevent Lyme disease with a few easy steps.

Quick Tips to Prevent Tick Bites: Wear long sleeves and pants in grassy or wooded areas; use a repellent that contains DEET or permethrin; stick to marked paths and

stay away from tall brush; use tweezers to pull the tick straight out.

"Time outdoors is great for our health, but so is staying safe," said Josh Ramaker, Community Health Supervisor. "Taking just a few simple steps can lower your risk of tick bites and Lyme disease."

If you find a tick on your skin, remove it right away. If you start to feel sick or notice a strange rash, call your doctor. For more information, visit [CDC.Gov/Lyme](https://www.cdc.gov/lyme) or contact Josh Ramaker at 507-560-0102 or josh.ramaker@lesueur-county.gov.

Briggs retires after more than 17 years leading Steele-Waseca Electric

By Karen M. Jorgensen
Steele County Times

When Syd Briggs retires on June 30, he will have spent 17-1/2 years as the general manager of Steele Waseca Cooperative Electric (SWCE) in Owatonna. The company is a member-owned electric utility cooperative serving the surrounding area and providing electricity and energy management programs to its members.

It provides electric service to rural areas in Steele, Waseca and Rice counties as well as portions of several others.

Briggs said he is originally from Texas, growing up in Del Rio. His retirement from Steele-Waseca, he said, is almost 35 years to the day from July 1, 1991, when he started work at the Rio Grande Electric Cooperative in Brackettville, Texas. Besides Texas, Briggs said he also worked at Southwest Arkansas Electric.

His path to Owatonna from Texas and Arkansas was really quite simple, he said. "My daughter married a guy from Minnesota," he said, and then his son had a job opportunity in the state. And since he had grandchildren in the state, it just made sense.

He said he has grown to love Minnesota and plans to stay in Owatonna after he retires. He loves having four seasons, he said, and can put up with the cold because the "summers are amazing."

In his last column as general manager in the company newsletter for customers, he even admitted that he had the opportunity to try lutefisk for the first time after he arrived here and "believe it or not, I became a fan. It needed a lot of butter, salt and pepper, but I began to look forward to lutefisk suppers at the end of each year."

He has seen numerous changes over the years, he said, as the need for electricity has increased.

Steele-Waseca, he said, gets its electricity from Great River Energy. When he came to Owatonna, he said, almost 90% of that electricity was generated from coal and gas. Today, he said, the numbers have changed from 90% coal and gas to 50% renewables. Great River, he said, has sold its coal plant and he said he expects they will be 100% carbon free by the mid-2030s. "That's a big change," he said.

Coal can be more reliable, he said, but it is good to be moving away from it and reducing the carbon emissions.

Whether the electricity is sourced from coal or renewables, the electricity produced all goes to the electric grid and is directed to where it is needed.

Briggs said he sees a future where most of the



Syd Briggs

members will be buying electric vehicles. Already everyone is using more electricity than in the past and data centers will play a big role in future demand.

Great River and its partners such as Steele-Waseca have plans dealing with an increase in data centers.

If a data center uses more energy than Great River can supply, he said, they will make the decision that the center has to have their own service to generate electricity.

"We have provisions, so no one can make our bills (to customers) go up," he said.

Data centers are needed, he added, even by the electric company. Steele-Waseca has equipment where meters call in when an area is out of power, for example.

Weather predictions come from data centers and use AI, he said.

AI and data centers are now just a part of life.

Great River, he said, is pro-active and has already been making plans to meet the new demands for electricity.

Steele-Waseca has been considering a consolidation with neighboring Goodhue County Cooperative Electric Association. With Brygg's retirement, SWCE will be sharing Goodhue General Manager Kelly Hovel starting July 1. Hovel has 18 years of experience at Goodhue and has already been taking part in meetings and activities at Steele-Waseca.

NRHEG Physical Education Awards



First Grade Physical Education Grade level award winners are Leo Van Hal Best Team Member, Enid Frosian Sportsmanship Award, Atlas Koch and Kenzley Olson Most Improved Runners Award



Second Grade physical Education Grade level award winners are Maci Rothmeier Most Improved Runner, Kenzley Hagen Sportsmanship Award, Lincoln Misgen Best Team Member and Amos Bethke Most Improved Runner



Second grade Panther Fitness Award Winners for 2026 are Oliver Petsinger, Rylie Jensen and Nash Roecker

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	Saturday, June 27		2:30 pm		Wheels of Agriculture “Trivia Tractor” (traveling the grounds)
9 am-12 pm	Creative Arts Entry		2:30 pm		Magic Joe (Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)
	Sunday, June 28		3:30 pm		Wheels of Agriculture (Oak island)
5-7 pm	Creative Arts Entry		4-6 pm		Blue Dirt Road (Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)
	Sunday, July		5 pm		Wheels of Agriculture “Trivia Tractor” (traveling the grounds)
5-7 pm	Creative Arts Entry - * ote: All te tiles are due in by Sunday at pm		5-8 pm		Melissa Schulz-Musician (Food Court)
	onday, July		6 pm		Wheels of Agriculture (Oak Island)
9 am	4-H Horse Show		6 pm		id Power Pedal Pull (In front of Creative Arts Building)
	uesday, July 7		6:30 pm		Magic Joe (Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)
7 am-5 pm	Creative Arts Entry		6 pm		Beef Show
5 pm	Creative Arts Entries Building Closed Judging Begins				S nduro Auto ompact ar Race (Grandstand)
	Wednesday, July 8		8:30 pm		Gen Juke o (Beer Garden)
All Day	Antique Tractor Display				Friday, July 10
8 am	4-H Rabbit Show		All Day		Antique Tractor Display
10 am	4-H Building Opens		8 am		4-H Swine Show
10:30-11:30 am	ids Scavenger Hunt (Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)		10:30-11:30 am		ids Scavenger Hunt (Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)
11 am	Food Vendors Open		11 am		Indoor Booths Open
11 am	Indoor Booths Open		11 am		Food Vendors Open
12-8 pm	Agri Golf		11:00 am		The Donner Party-Musicians (Food Court)
12-9 pm	Family Quiet Zone-located on the north side of Bldg. #8		12 pm		4-H Dairy Show (new time)
12:30 pm	4-H Poultry Show		12-8 pm		Agri-Golf
12:30-6:30 pm	So Hot Glass Blowing LIVE!!		12-9 pm		Family Quiet Zone-located on the north side of Bldg. #8
4:30 pm	Local Veterans Official Fair Opening Ceremony lace to be determined		12:30-6:30 pm		So Hot Glass Blowing LIVE!!
5 pm	Carnival Rides Begin		1 pm		Carnival Rides Begin
5-8 pm	Indigo Moon (Food Court)		1 pm		Wheels of Agriculture (Oak Island)
6 pm	4-H Sheep Show		2 pm		Beads and Bracelets (Bldg. 4)
7 pm	id est R nduro Auto Race (Grandstand)		2:30 pm		Wheels of Agriculture “Trivia Tractor” (traveling the grounds)
8:30 pm	lay (Beer Garden)		2:30 pm		Wheels of Agriculture (Oak Island)
	ursday, July		5 pm-8 pm		The Paul Stewart Band (Food Court)
	K DS DA !		6 pm		Wheels of Agriculture (Oak Island)
All Day	Antique Tractor Display		pm		Demolition Der y (Grandstand)
8 am	4-H Dairy Goat Show (new time)		8:30 pm		Skit o Fonic (Beer Garden)
10:30-11:30 am	ids Scavenger Hunt (Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)				Saturday, July 11
11 am	Indoor Booths Open		All Day		Antique Tractor Display
11 am	Food Vendors Open		8:30am		Market Livestock Auction (Judging Arena)
12 pm	Rotary Meets at the Fair (Bldg. 4)		10:30-11:30 am		Family Scavenger Hunt (Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)
11 am	4-H Meat Goat Show (new time)		11 am		Indoor Booths Open
12-12:40 pm	Magic Joe (Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)		11 am		Food Vendors Open
12- pm	Kids Day Acti ities on ak sland		11:30 am		Open Class Dairy Show
12-8 pm	Agri Golf		11 am-1:30 pm		High School Jazz Combo (Food Court)
12-9 pm	Family Quiet Zone-located on the north side of Bldg. #8		12 pm		Carnival Rides Begin
12:30-6:30 pm	So Hot Glass Blowing LIVE!!		12:30-6:30 pm		So Hot Glass Blowing LIVE!!
1 pm	Carnival Rides Begin		12-8 pm		Agri Golf
1 pm	Wheels of Agriculture (Oak Island)				
2 pm	Beads and Bracelets (Bldg. 4)				

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a eca n y ree air en ched le c n		
Saturday, July 11 (cont.)		
12-9 pm	Family Quiet Zone-located on the north side of Bldg. #8	3:30 pmFreddie Justice (Hypnotist Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)
1 pm	Wheels of Agriculture Show (Oak Island)	4 pm4-H Parade of Champions
2 pm	Beads and Bracelets (Bldg. 4)	5 pmLivestock Barns Close
2:30 pm	Wheels of Agriculture “Trivia Tractor” (traveling the grounds)	6 pmCommercial Buildings Close
2:30 pm	Puzzles & Pizza (Bldg. 4)	6-8 pmOpen Class Entries Released
3:30 pm	Wheels of Agriculture (Oak Island)	7 pmCarnival Rides Close
5 pm	Wheels of Agriculture “Trivia Tractor” (traveling the grounds)	7 pmFood Vendors Close
5-8 pm	Whiskey Whiskers (Food Court)	*Schedule Subject to Change <i>*A complete schedule of 4-H Livestock Shows and Events can be found at https://z.umn.edu/2026CountyFairSchedule or scan the QR code.</i>
5:30 pm	Freddie Justice Hypnotist (Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)	
6 pm	Wheels of Agriculture Show (Oak Island)	
7:00 pm	Great Frontier Bull Riding “Dirt Kickin’ Wicked Good!”-Grandstand	
8:30 pm	SHAG (Beer Garden)	
Sunday, July 12		
All Day	Antique Tractor Show	
10-11 am	Non-Denominational Church Service- Hosted by Faith United Methodist Church (Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)	
10 am-5pm	Agri Golf	
10:30-11:30 am	Family Scavenger Hunt (Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)	
10:30 am-4:30pm	So Hot Glass Blowing LIVE!!	
11 am	Food Vendors Open	
11 am	Indoor Booths Open	
11 am	Wheels of Agriculture Show (Oak Island)	
11 am-1:30 pm	iPolka Band & Pie (Bldg. #4)	
11:30 am	Cornhole Tournament Registration (Beer Garden)	
12 pm	Carnival Rides Begin	
12 pm	Wheels of Agriculture “Trivia Tractor” (traveling the grounds)	
12 pm	Freddie Justice (Hypnotist Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)	
12-4 pm	Auto & Cycle Show-n-Shine-8th Ave NE	
	12-1 pm Registration	
12-6 pm	Family Quiet Zone-located on the north side of Bldg. #8	
12:30 pm	Cornhole Tournament (Beer Garden)	
1 pm	Wheels of Agriculture Show	
1:30 pm	“Just Friends” Gospel Group (Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)	
2 pm	Wheels of Agriculture “Trivia Tractor” (traveling the grounds)	
2:30	Super Bingo (Bldg. 4)	
3 pm	Wheels of Agriculture Show (Oak Island)	

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LOOKING BACK

25 years ago



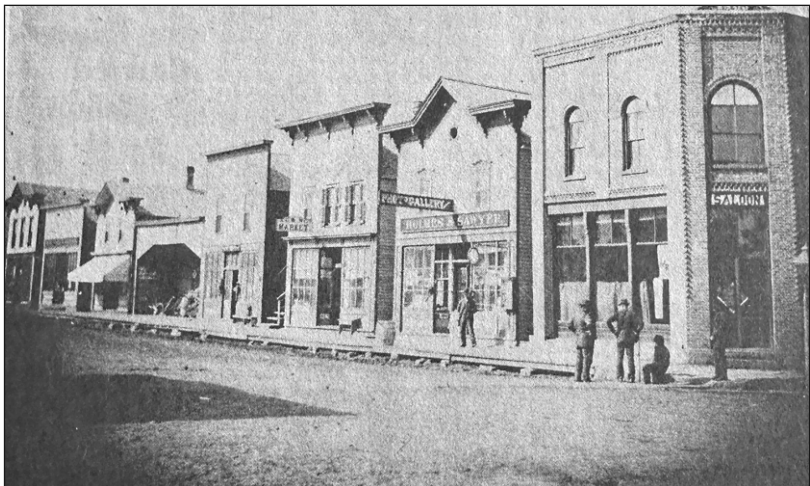
- It was an interesting experience and a lot of fun for these girls at Girls State June 10-16. Megan Tappe (left) and Lacey Peterson were sponsored by the New Richland American Legion Andrew Borgen Post 75 Auxiliary. They were among 443 girls on the campus of Bethel College in St. Paul learning more about city, county and state government.

- Brian Oftedahl has joined the United States Army under the Delayed Entry Program. Oftedahl will report for basic training at Fort Still, Lawton, Oklahoma. His parents are Dean Oftedahl of Pemberton and Ruth Oftedahl of Blue Earth.

- Kyree Wobbrock, age 13, daughter of Joyce and Dan Wobbrock of New Richland, Minnesota, has been selected as a state finalist

in the MISS MINNESOTA AMERICAN COED PAGEANT to be held on July 27, 28 and 29 at the City Center Marriott Hotel in Minneapolis.

50 years ago



- The LeSueur River Lutheran Church congregation will celebrate the one-hundredth anniversary of the dedication of its church building on Sunday morning, July 18.

- This photograph of New Richland was taken in the early 1900's or late 1890's by A. R. Berge, who was a professional photographer. Mr. Berge's business is located second from the right, in what is now the Village Cafe. The Saloon is the first building to your right. It was built in 1893.

- Dawn I. Nelson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Nelson of rural New Richland, has accepted an offer of admissions and plans to enroll at Golden Valley Lutheran College this fall. Dawn is a 1976 graduate of New Richland-Hartland High School.

75 years ago

- Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Hokanson, living northeast of New Richland, are the parents of a daughter, born to them at Memorial hospital, Waseca Saturday, July 28.

- Garfield Hanson of Lemond and Miss Luella Klinger of Waseca were married Wednesday noon, August 1, with wedding reception at 1:30 in the church parlors.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

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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

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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 Role 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 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 89.3

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

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

FAMILY OF FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH
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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

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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
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Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Study

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Rev. Larry Sipe, pastor
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

ST. PAUL UNITED
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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

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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.



Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl
Outdoors Writer

Being creative was part of growing up

We have finally gotten a substantial amount of rain in our area. The old saying "when it rains, it pours" definitely has held true. Enough said about the weather.

As I look back over the years, I sometimes reflect on my time growing up north of town and of the many experiences growing up. I sometimes think about the summer days when a kid had to use his imagination for entertainment. Us neighborhood kids would get together to play baseball, football or games like kick the can, anti-I-over or tag. Tag and hide-and-seek were usually reserved for nighttime. Growing up when we did, we had no cell phones and didn't use the phone much and if we did, we had to ask permission.

If we wanted to organize a baseball game or football game, we had to plan in-person, visiting the neighborhood kids to make the plans. Word of mouth was our networking, and it seemed to serve the purpose quite well.

Most of us had our own version of a soap box cart. They were quite crude, but they worked. One of the kids had an official soap box cart that his dad had built for him. That was a Cadillac compared to my cart. I had made mine with an old 2x12, some axles from an old wagon and wagon wheels. I had drilled a hole in the base board in the front and put the front wheels on a 2x4 with a hole drilled through the middle and the 2x12, and a bolt and washers holding the steering wheel together. I had an old clothesline rope attached to each side. If you went down a steep hill and hit something, the steering would make a quick turn and it could crunch your ankle if you weren't paying attention.

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

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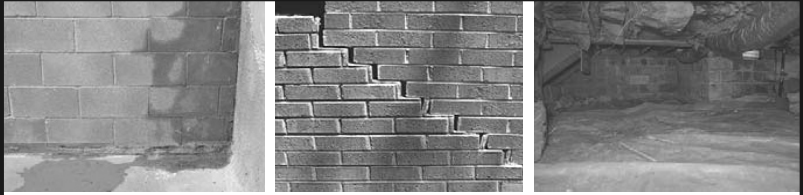
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Devlin McWilliams, Annabelle Waknitz, and Julieann Wobbrock pose on a London Street.



Jordan Brouwers proves he climbed a hill to reach the royal palace in Lichtenstein.



Tour guide Sara shows off the London Eye.



A group of girls join tour guide Sara in Munich.



The group gathers in front of the Eiffel Tower.

A warm reception in Europe

By Mark Domeier

Though the streets in many parts of Europe are narrow, a number of students from NRHEG widened their cultural experiences on a recent trip to that continent.

NRHEG social studies teacher Theresa Buendorf organized a trip through EF Tours, and 24 total people joined as they traveled across England, France, Switzerland, Lichtenstein, and Germany. The group had been anticipating this ten-day trip for almost two years before leaving on June 21.

Upon arriving at Heathrow Airport outside London, the group met their tour guide, Sara, and also got a quick lesson in how the British sometimes pronounce words differently, as Sara informed them she wouldn't normally answer to the American pronunciation of her name, but that it should be spoken as if it were said Saw-rah. During the trip, there were many learning moments as students took lifts instead of elevators and ate chips instead of fries. The folks from Minnesota also combined with groups from Houston and Dallas for the remainder of the trip.

While they were walking around London, the crew got to see history happening as they strolled near 10 Downing Street just as the British Prime Minister was resigning; everyone could see the large crowd for the press conference. In addition to walking and seeing such sights as St. Paul's Cathedral, Buckingham Palace, and Big Ben, they also had a bus tour with a local guide to give them the backstory of many of the historical places. During the evening hours, many of the travelers rode the London Eye, seeing the city from a great height.

The tour group took the Eurostar train to Paris and arrived just in time for all-time high temperatures. The two days in Paris had highs of 108 and 104 degrees, but the Minnesotans dealt with the heat with great aplomb (and lots of water). There were many highlights to see in Paris,

including the Arc de Triomphe, the Eiffel Tower, and Notre-Dame Cathedral.

They also got to take part in an art class where all the participants attempted to replicate one of Claude Monet's famous "Water Lilies" paintings. Everyone had a good time, and they were able to bring home their creations. Luckily, the studio was air conditioned!

The second day in France also included a trip to Versailles to see the palace where Louis XIV and other royalty held court. The gardens out back were exquisite, but the group was lucky to get through the tour before the site closed down due to the extreme temperatures. Much gelato and ice cream was consumed during the hot parts of each day! Upon returning to Paris, the evening was spent on a cruise down the Seine River.

The group traveled by bus to Zurich, Switzerland, and spent time in the Lucerne region. As the heat followed them, the tour group fought it off on a beautiful morning as they rode up to the top of Mount Pilatus. The views were indescribable as many of the group hiked up stairways to the very top of the mountain.

They could see Lake Lucerne and, after descending, got a cruise on that gorgeous lake, gazing upon the clear, crisp water. Upon arriving in the city of Lucerne, they spent time walking around during a music festival, with bands playing all across the city. There was a famous lion monument to see along with many ancient churches.

Before leaving Switzerland, ev-

everyone got a tour of the Lindt chocolate factory, with an audio tour of the history and making of chocolate. There were also stations to taste different types of chocolate and to take samples of various Lindt flavors. Nobody went away hungry from that location!

Before arriving in Germany, the group stopped in the tiny country of Lichtenstein for lunch and some exploration of one of the few countries that still relies on a monarchy to make decisions. Some students even climbed up to get a view of the castle before getting back on the road to arrive in Munich.

A trip to the Dachau concentration camp was a heavy experience for many. There was a museum with artifacts from both the prisoners and the Nazis who held them. People could walk through the barracks and see the crematorium where so many prisoners lost their lives. It was the first concentration camp established by the Nazis and an important historical site.

A tour of Munich showed many historical buildings, even where Arnold Schwarzenegger stayed when he was a young bodybuilder. Munich also had many large churches, and visitors could visit a traditional beer hall that served incredible German cuisine. In fact, across the entire trip, students were exposed to food that originated from each country.

Arriving back in Minnesota on June 30, the group was exhausted but had now broadened their knowledge of world cultures beyond the small widths of those narrow streets their bus careened down.

In addition to Theresa Buendorf and chaperones Kari Buendorf and Mark Domeier, others going on the trip included Clara Buendorf, Eva Buendorf, Julieann Wobbrock, Kylie

Olson, Ivy O'Rourke, Olivia Bungum, Kia Buendorf, Danica Boyes, Amerlia Duryee, Krymzen Rose, Annabelle Waknitz, Sierra Fish, Hope Mikesell, Michelle Domeier,

Dorothy Brouwers, Jordan Brouwers, Jocelyn Heyer, Hudson Chrz, Shan Hanson, Aiden Merritt, and Devlin McWilliams.



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