

8 0 4 8 7 9 3 2 6 1 6 8

■ Inside:

• 2 - Eli Lutgens

• 4 - Quad City Baseball

• 4 - Obituaries

• 5 - Student honors

• 5 - New initiative

• 6-7 - County Fair

• 10 - Farm and City Days

■ Page 4



Quad Cities Baseball

New Richland Historical Society's 25th Anniversary
Celebrate the New Richland Historical Society's 25th Anniversary during New Richland Farm & City Days!
Saturday, July 18: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sunday, July 19: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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.

Soil Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board Meeting August 13
The SWCD will hold its monthly board meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 13. The meetings will be held in the SWCD offices located at 300 North State Street - Door 4.

Hartland University Bar's 4th Annual Bug Run August 22
The 4th Annual Hartland University Bug Run will have registration at noon, kickstands up at 1 p.m. Saturday, August 22. Six bars on the list with a \$10 entry fee. All proceeds go to A.B.A.T.E. Young Riders Program.

A word from

The Word



As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

Proverbs 27:17

Lady Bug Thrift is ministry

By MELANIE PILTINGSRUD
Copy Editor

For those who work at the Lady Bug Thrift Shop in New Richland, the store is more than just a place to sell merchandise; it's a ministry.

Dave and Paulette Krampitz bought the Lady Bug Thrift Shop from Paulette's mom, Linda Wagner, in January 2025. At just around that same time, the neighboring former drug store-come-craft store came up for sale, and the couple decided to purchase it, reopening a passage between the two shops that had already existed long ago, thus doubling the size of the consignment shop.

At first, Paulette Krampitz was overwhelmed by the sheer volume of items coming into the store on consignment.

"Get used to it," said her mother, unsympathetically. Having owned the store for 12 years, Wagner was completely familiar with the hectic pace.

"I can't get used to it!" Krampitz protested. "I can't handle any more



FAITH - Dave and Paulette Krampitz bought the Lady Bug Thrift Shop in 2025. From left, Paulette Krampitz, Annette Strenge, and Linda Wagner.
Star Eagle photo by Melanie Piltingsrud

of this stuff coming in!"

Krampitz was almost ready to throw in the towel, but true to her faith, she prayed about the situation.

And then Krampitz got in another whole trailer full of vintage merchandise from South Dakota.

Boxes littered the shop when Annette Strenge, one of Krampitz's former classmates, walked in and asked, "Do you need help?" Krampitz needed help, and Strenge wanted to volunteer her time in order to "pay it forward." It was a match made in heaven.

Everyone has their special niche at the shop. Strenge handles the social media side of the business, reporting all of the shop's events on Facebook. "I'm always following them [Krampitz, Wagner, and Brenda Vansyckle] around with a camera," said Strenge, but laments, "I never have it when they're doing something funny!" Wagner researches incoming items on the internet to find out what they commonly sell for, but, due to her years of experience in the business, she knows the value of many items already. "Mom's great," said Krampitz. "She's very knowledgeable in that."

As for Krampitz herself, "I crack the whip," she jokes. But of all her children, Wagner says Krampitz was made for this job. Even before Krampitz took over the shop, Wagner said she could tell when Krampitz had been there to help, because, "Everything was kind of rearranged in cute little displays."

Of course, unloading and marking prices on new merchandise is a big

Lady Bug continued on 3

2026 Waseca County Fair



FFA BARNYARD - NRHEG FFA members (from left) Ellie Clark and Emily DeLaCruz volunteered at the Waseca County Fair FFA Barnyard the afternoon of July 11. Representatives from all three of the county's FFA clubs took turns acquainting young children with various farm animals and the importance of agriculture.
Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

Financing costs considered for construction

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

During their July 7 meeting, members of the Waseca County Board of Commissioners signed a proclamation honoring all individuals from the county who take part in Special Olympics. Named specifically in the proclamation was Jake Lieser, a Waseca athlete who earned two gold medals and one silver during the national level Special Olympics contests held in the Twin Cities during June.

Financing for the construction of the new justice center was a major item of discussion during the commissioners' morning work session. Bruce Kimmel, a senior municipal advisor with Ehlers Municipal Advisory out of Minneapolis, suggested that the county borrow a maximum of about \$25 million in two separate stages as funds are needed to cover the various stages of the construction, due to be underway for the next 1.5 years.

He commented on the county's strong financial standing and its low level of already-existing debt, saying the county is in "a good position" as it seeks agencies willing to "bond" for the financing. He went on to say the

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

county has an AA financial rating, which, on projects of this type, receives a degree of state support that leads to an AAA rating. Ehlers suggested the county is likely to be eligible for interest rates as low as 3.25 percent.

Under Ehlers' suggested time frames, the county will be holding a public hearing early in August regarding borrowing a maximum of \$25 million for the justice center project. With that authorization in place, the county will then call for bids from regional contractors on various elements of the construction, beginning with clearing, shaping and preparing the construction area. The intended time frame has that phase of the work beginning yet this fall.

As discussion of the construction bonds took place, board chair De Malterer summarized some thoughts that commissioners had raised: "In our corner of the world," she told Ehlers, "we like to pay as little interest as possible. We borrow as little money

as we can, and pay it off as quickly as we can: I don't mean just the members of this board, I mean that's how we are in Waseca County."

In other matters of business, commissioners approved a contract for just under \$100,000 with Selly Excavating of LeCenter to replace a 1940s era culvert along County Road 73 about half a mile south of its intersection with Highway 13. Work is scheduled to begin in August.

Commissioners also approved payment of about \$145,000 in "appropriations," amounts paid to a variety of local agencies to support their programs and projects. The county pays out most appropriations in two halves; the first in the summer and the other around the end of the year. With few exceptions and barring any changes in the next few months, the following amounts will be paid to the same agencies again in December. South Central Emergency Medical Services, \$1,250; Historical Society, \$37,500; Waseca Chorale, \$1,250; South Central Minnesota Multi-Housing and Redevelopment Authority, \$762; Clean River Partners, \$125; Southern Minnesota Tourism Association,

\$474; Minnesota Agricultural Interpretive Center-Farmamerica, \$7,500; Waseca Art Council, \$6,500; Waseca Area Senior Citizens, \$2,500; Minnesota Valley Action Council, \$4,500; Open Door Health Center, \$250; Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center, \$7,500; Agricultural Society, \$35,000; Small Business Development Center, \$1,000; Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation, \$2,782; and the Soil and Water Conservation District, \$30,168. The regional agricultural organization GreenSeam receives funds of \$5,000 only once a year.

Public Health Director Sarah Berry requested official county acceptance of a donation of child safety seats to be distributed to county residents with qualifying incomes. She explained the county is receiving four combination and four convertible seats, and is contributing staff time to install the chairs properly and provide training to families. Funding comes from the Minnesota Office of Traffic Safety and is comprised mostly of fines paid by individuals cited for illegal or unsafe transportation of children in motor vehicles.

ELLENDALE CITY COUNCIL

Fire Department approved to buy new truck, tank

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff Writer

The Ellendale city council met in the evening of Thursday, July 9. The Ellendale National Night Out will start at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, August 4. This event is free and everyone is welcome to attend.

Council members approved up to \$93,000 for the purchase of a new fire truck and water tank. Logan Busho gave the fire hall update, reporting that the trucks and gear have been moved to the new hall. He mentioned the department is losing a firefighter who will be moving out of town, but has received an application from an individual interested in joining the crew. The new cabinets have been installed; the radio gear has also been installed and is working. Busho requested \$3,700 for a new set of firefighting gear, just pants and jacket, not boots. He said the department would like to have an open house during fire safety week in October to show off their new hall. More details to follow.

In his city maintenance report, Josh Otto said landscaping at the fire hall, including a new flagpole, is progressing and will be finished when his staff has time. Otto reported special equipment will be needed to remove some walnut trees at the city park; he anticipates a cost of \$600 to rent the equipment. Maintenance also received a quote from Olson Excavating for the Sixth Street South sewer line. Steve James Excavating completed three repairs in sewer lines and one in a water main.

For public comment, local resident Cynthia Nelson asked about the Steele County dumpsters near the railroad tracks. She was told those dumpsters are for Steele County use. She also had questions about the landfill. Josh Otto, Ellendale maintenance, said anyone who needs to use the landfill should contact him.

Andrew Bernau of Hill, Benda, Skov and Bernau presented the 2025 city audit, took questions and said it was a clean audit.

Resler Electric will be installing an outdoor light at the city government building which will also illuminate the flags. New units will be installed when parts are received. It is possible the next council meeting could be in the clerk's office.

Block 1, Lot 1, parcel number 15-114-0101, Crown Ridge and Block 1, Lot 2, parcel number 15-114-0102, also of Crown Ridge are hereby rezoned as R-1 Residential lots. They were previously zoned as R-2. The official zoning map is amended accordingly. R-1

Council continued on 5



FenceLines

by Mark Bernard

Daybreak, daybreak on the land

Tweaking with the Weather Eye did the scurs little good as it only became hotter. Will our conditions moderate or are we in for more heat? Starting Thursday, sunny with highs in the low 90's and lows in the low 70's. Mostly sunny Friday with highs in the low 90's and lows in the low 70's. Sunny on Saturday with highs in the upper 80's and lows in the mid-60's. Sunday, sunny with highs in the mid-80's and lows in the mid-60's. Mostly sunny on Monday with highs in the low 80's and lows in the low 60's. Tuesday, sunny with highs in the low 80's and lows in the low 60's.

Mostly sunny on Wednesday with highs in the mid-80's and lows in the low 60's. On July 20th, we fall below 15 hours of daylight for the first time since May 22nd. The normal high for July 20th is 81 and the normal low is 61. The scurs will be attending the Farm and City Days Car Show after eating flapjacks.

Last week's rainfall events seemed a bit excessive at the time, but in retrospect, we may be glad we got them. They left a mark in some of the soybean fields, but the corn soldiered on with wholesale tasseling. The color remained a lush dark green from the road and didn't disappoint once in the fields either. Disease pressure remains light as of this writing anyway. Not to say it can't change, but conditions are not favorable for an outbreak of tar spot and the southern rust that had everyone in a tizzy last year remains well to our south. We've lacked the large amount of Gulf moisture that brought it here last year, so keeping an eye on it and spraying fungicide when it is warranted rather than when it fits the checklist remains a solid management plan. Conditions for development of white mold in soybeans also remains unfavorable. Hot and dry doth not a white mold outbreak make.

Many weather aficionados continue to call for a dry finish to July. With the heat dome hovering over the top of much of the Midwest, it's been hard to argue with that. There is potential relief in sight, however, with a cooler late July and early August called for by several weather outlets, one of them being NWS. Also leaning below normal temperature-wise on their last three-month prognostication with even chances of above or below normal precip. That is due to be updated soon, so we'll see how confident they were with their original guess. As mentioned, there are areas of the country that weren't blessed as we were earlier with precip, and those chickens could come home to roost before this is all said and done, particularly if rainfall continues to be limited and high temperatures persist.

It has been an interesting summer watching the projects unfolding east of town. Last fall when I heard they were replacing all the power poles on the Lake Road this summer, I wasn't real impressed. After seeing what happened to some of the trees on the building sites along the way, I was even less impressed. When spring and summer arrived, I feared the road would be fraught with delays as traffic would be halted. I was pleasantly surprised. Work continued steadily and there were seldom delays. Before I knew it the

poles were all in place. The county tiling project has also been interesting to watch and also caused little to slow traffic, except perhaps for the gawkers. Who would've thought we'd have a gawker slowdown near Bugtussle?

The birds are beginning to wind down their nesting for the season. The robins appear to be fledging some of their second brood and the orioles appear to be moving on, leaving their young behind. It's been a little different since the weather turned hot and we no longer open the windows at night. It was pretty common to hear the robins start singing away at daybreak. As we've moved into July, that's declined significantly. There seems to be a change overall in the behavior at the feeders as well. Too many unwanted guest house sparrows have ruined the experience, so I've let the sunflower feeders run dry for a while in hopes that they will go elsewhere. Fat chance.

Coming off of a drier than normal May, I was confident that this might be a summer without mosquitoes. After all, the two years prior they had been ferocious. It started raining with more frequency in mid-June and suddenly a few of the biting insects started appearing. Heavier rains the last half of June and early July provided excellent opportunities for the females to lay their eggs. The warm temperatures only expedited the process. Now it's become impossible to be in the backyard shade before they come looking for a person. Likewise mowing lawn or just heading to the barn to do chores. I've been bitten so many times I feel like a pin-cushion. I find it much easier to sit inside in the AC and scratch my mosquito bites.

Poppy hasn't enjoyed the heat or the mosquitoes either. She's content to stay in the AC as much as possible, only going out when it's absolutely necessary to do her business. Even then, sometimes you have to pry her loose because she's settled and doesn't want to be disturbed. There are always squirrels or turkeys to be chased of course. Once that task is complete, she'll sleep on the back porch sometimes. If that happens during midday, it usually doesn't take much coaxing to get Poppy to come back inside where the temps are in the low-to-mid 70's. I don't think we'd get any argument from her if we decided to spray the backyard, especially when the little bum is fast asleep on her couch.

See you next week...real good then.



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

It was hard to step away from 'summer's biggest party'

My congratulations to the Waseca County Fair committee for a delightful five days filled with entertainment, education, networking, and fun—many of them all at once.

I spent more time at the fair in 2026 than I had in recent years; somehow it seemed I just couldn't leave. Each time I thought of going, I came across yet another thing I wanted to experience or try.

Looking over the schedule way back in June, I had quickly decided I wanted to write a news article about So-Hot Glass Blowers, who were set up on "Oak Island," and gave demonstrations each day from 12:30 to 6:30. You could tell those two artisans love what they do, and really enjoyed explaining the 4,000 year old craft of glass blowing to everyone who would listen.

I also enjoyed the free ag related

mini golf game, which was open to all folks interested in some "tee time." The area offered occasional challenges for young golfers, asking them to get their golf balls to the cups using pool noodles, spatulas, and even the wrong end of the golf club held like a pool cue.

The Tractor Trivia game was also a delight, asking volunteer contestants about various elements of agriculture, while also having a lot of fun and giving away a lot of small prizes. It was great fun to see the green lawn tractor pulling the "trivia trailer" to other locations on the fairgrounds as well. Proprietors Arlene and Carlos Correa Jr. were friendly and patient. Their backdrop painting of a hay mow added a lot of character to their contests.

Naturally, the historical society's demonstrations, the FFA Barnyard, and walks through the 4-H barns and the



Deb finally witnessed a Monarch chrysalis this summer on a wooden support pole. Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

commercial displays are an absolute must at the fair.

My thanks to the safety officers who kept their eyes on things; by chance I got to see their interventions twice—once to help the ambulance get around stopped traffic to enter the grounds and be present at the grandstand show, and once when a wandering fair patron got a bit unruly.

While "summer's best party" may sound like a boast to people who weren't there, I think the Waseca County Fair earned its self-proclaimed title.

I also have to share my excitement about finally laying my eyes on a Monarch chrysalis this summer. I make it a habit to watch for them, usually checking milkweed plants for any signs that caterpillars have been munching on their leaves.

This year the first one I laid eyes on was not on a plant, but had apparently

eaten its fill on one, then wandered a couple feet away to a wooden support pole to fasten on and begin the process of metamorphosis. Monarch butterflies are beautiful, so I guess it's appropriate that the monarch chrysalis looks like a small luxury structure. It has a smooth, nearly shiny finish highlighted by luminescent gold-colored accents.

Having created its "housing," the caterpillar inside is making the kind of change we humans have used as inspiration for millennia—from a plump, wormlike thing to an elegant creature with bright colors, symmetry, and the freedom of the air. The internet tells me the change will take somewhere between 9 and 14 days; the warmer the weather, the more quickly the process tends to go. Thinking of the hot days at the fair, I can't help joking that the caterpillars in a chrysalis this month will set records for their emergence.

A memorable final sermon at Wilton Church

As I sat in church Sunday morning the bells of Wilton Church rang, and to me, felt as if they were doing so for the final time. Saturday evening Deb invited me to join her for Pastor Larry Sipe's final service in Wilton. His actual last service for the parishes will be Sunday at First Lutheran in Waldorf. For more than a decade, Pastor Sipe has served the Wilton Parish. He is moving on to Immanuel Lutheran Church and School in Plainview at the end of the month.

Pastor Sipe was the first regular pastor I listened to following the closure of the First Congregational Church in New Richland. The only church I have ever called home. Pastor Pamela was the only pastor I really knew before Sipe.

His sermons helped support and strengthen my faith journey. I appreciated the thoughts he shared, and I enjoyed the services. The music, the Bible verses, the company in church, all of it. As I did with the First Congregational, I wish I had attended more regularly. Sometimes a person doesn't know how good something is until it is gone. Other times, in my case, I was aware, but did not properly prioritize it in my life.

Pastor Sipe was teary eyed only once during Sunday's service. His sermon felt longer than others, but in a good way. He talked of sowing good seed, and using proper judgment. His interpretation of the parable of the sower was different from others I have heard. The point was rather simple: sow the seed of God's love liberally so that when it falls on suitable soil it can grow. Since you have no way of knowing which hearts the seed will take root in, put it in every heart.

My friend Mikhail and I continued with another regular lunch this week and part of the conversation diverted to faith and life and such. He asked me how I could be so confident in my life, how I can believe so strongly that my business decisions will work. I was really puzzled by the question.

I credited my faith and lifelong dedication to the businesses which I run. Newspapers have surrounded me my entire life. Collectibles and cards, since the age of four. (I do own a game store.) My dad bought and sold sports memorabilia, cards, collectibles, etc. to help



Just a Thought...

by Eli Lutgens

supplement his income during my youth. He was a single father of three. From the time I opened Yu-Gi-Oh cards at the age of four, my dad had me "sleeving" (putting in protective cases) and taking care of them. I own those cards to this day. They are proudly displayed at my game store.

But really, I told Mikhail, God likes to yell in my general direction whenever I need to do something in life. It isn't always yelling, but the message is clear nonetheless.

When I was 15 or 16, I overheard our production manager at the time, Reed Waller, tell my mother that he could not put the newspaper together in my dad's absence the next time Dad was in the hospital and unable to do so. At that time I decided I would have to do it next time Dad got sick.

Well that happened when I was 19 years old. I was not asked to do it, but I knew it was my responsibility. Without telling anyone what I was planning, I waited until everyone went home that Friday evening and proceeded to spend the entire weekend putting together a newspaper. I needed to do it well enough that no one could argue I wasn't the right man for the job.

Three years later when my dad, in a fit of anger, offered to sell me the business, I accepted on the spot. At that time, I had been doing all the work of running the business for a year; my only frustration was always having to explain and justify my decisions to my dad. We had just finished having an argument about the Star Eagle's budget—a set of important planning and operational guidelines my dad had never created while he ran the place. He said if there was money in the account, he could pay himself. That was what the argument was about. I had money budgeted for everything, including all of his bills. We could not afford to write him the check he wanted at that time. This didn't make him happy, so he told

me if I knew better then I should buy the place from him.

So I did.

Now I don't know if that was God yelling at me, but it felt pretty loud at the time. The next two examples I have felt even more obvious to me.

Before starting a newspaper in Waseca, my two best friends Kyle and Anastasiia asked me to help them start a newspaper in Austin. After lots and lots of work, they told me they weren't willing to do the work necessary to run a newspaper. During that process I had done a lot of groundwork to start a paper. Using that experience, plus the knowledge gained from helping my mother start her newspaper, the Janesville Journal, I decided to start the Waseca County Pioneer. During this entire process, my dad was by my side, insisting we start a newspaper in Waseca. If he said it once, he said it 100 times.

He was right.

When I acquired the game store, it happened only after I decided I wasn't going to purchase it from my two best friends, Kyle and Anastasiia. They had already closed and re-opened the store and it wasn't doing well. I had agreed to purchase the store from Kyle but decided it was too much work. Kyle and I kept talking because we were friends.

We didn't speak about me purchasing the store again. About a month later, Kyle decided he wasn't going to close the store regardless whether it made money or not. It was too important to the community.

Really, I think he was just going to keep it open for me. The game store, an island of misfit toys as some have called it, is really a gathering place for nerds who have no one else and nowhere else to share their hobbies.

It was during this conversation that Kyle declared (and I quote), "Eli, you can just have the thing."

He said he was serious.

I wasn't willing to invest any money to purchase the game store as it felt like a frivolous investment in a project that would be fruitless financially. But "just having" the store felt risk free.

And that was how I ended up fulfilling another childhood dream.

We moved the entire store, all of its inventory and shelves, in one day. Not one person other than my best friend Jake and our one employee volunteered to help us move. I was so busy with the newspapers at the time, after looking at a calendar, I determined that the first Saturday in April 2024, was the only day I could dedicate to moving and setting up in our new location.

That day felt like something out of a movie. We started packing up to move and before an hour had passed, half a dozen people, many of whom I didn't even know, were helping move the store. Within two hours, I was no longer moving anything, I was directing volunteers and riding in the back of a

Faith continued on 4

NRHeg Star Eagle

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

PHONE: 507-463-8112

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

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

Mail: PO Box 248, New Richland, MN 56072

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

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

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

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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

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



AG LENDING TEAM:
Mike Budach, Adam Legred, Michael Yocom,
Jackie Henke & Ashton Voigt

Growing Your Success!

Local Ag Lending
Expertise!



ARCADIAN
BANK

Albert Lea - Hartland - Freeborn

www.arcadian.bank





Compostings

by Al Batt

A wayfaring storyteller

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS’ CLUB MEETING
I bought an encyclopedia. A set of encyclopedias?
No, I bought one volume at a garage sale. Let me know if you need to know anything from rabbits to the Ryukyu Islands.

DRIVING BY BRUCE’S DRIVE
I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I was wearing my “A Bigfoot saw me” T-shirt. At least, I think that’s what it was. It was a blurry T-shirt. Our cat never sets a paw outside. She is strictly an indoor cat, but she enjoys the outdoors without all its perils. She watches from a window. One of her regular viewing opportunities is a chipmunk that visits our deck. The cat’s whiskers dance, and she meows a silent meow. If she could talk human, I think she’d be saying, “Newman.” Newman was the iconic postal worker and Jerry Seinfeld’s eccentric arch-nemesis in the TV sitcom “Seinfeld.”
I bowl once every two many years. The last time I rolled a heavy ball toward ten pins coming at me in a triangular formation, I talked to a fellow who was about to turn 90. He told me he still enjoyed watching people bowl. His favorites were the bad bowlers. The more gutter balls they threw, the more he liked them. That was because he had been a “pin boy” in his youth. He worked in a sunken pit behind the lane, where he had to dodge flying pins to reset bowling pins manually, clear fallen pins, and return bowling balls. Gutter balls made his job easier.
We shared a meal because we shared a first name. We placed our order. He ordered a sweet roll for dessert. The server brought the roll first. He used a fork and a knife to eat it. I asked him if he always ate his dessert first. He replied, “Whenever I can. You never know.”

I’VE LEARNED
There is only one “i” in “um-pire.”
Data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey of August 2021–August 2023 showed 32% of adults age 20 and older consumed fast food on a given day.
Alaskans spend the highest share of their income on health-care of all the states. Utah spent the least. Iowa is the 34th highest, and Minnesota 42nd.
<https://wallethub.com/edu/state-where-people-spend-the-most-least-on-health-care/144534>

A WAYFARING STORYTELLER
I was in the southwestern Iowa city of Stanton, which has a 95-foot-tall water tower featuring a

unique cup-and-saucer design that replaced the 125-foot-high Swedish coffee pot, which was a 50,000-gallon (640,000 cups of coffee) ode to the town’s Swedish roots. It also honored Stanton native Virginia Christine, known as “Mrs. Olson” from the Folgers coffee ads. The new cup-and-saucer water tower is a 150,000-gallon (2.4 million cups of coffee). The Stanton Historical Society moved the old coffee pot water tower to its grounds.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT
I do CrossFit. I cross my fingers and hope my clothes fit.
Which letter is silent in the word “scent,” the s or the c?
How do you spell “orange”? The fruit or the color?
If you fall asleep while reading old magazines, you’ll wake up with back issues.
I ate a kid’s meal at McDonald’s. It really upset his mother.

NATURE NOTES
Jewelweeds (spotted touch-me-nots) bloom from July through September. Moisture beads on its leaves and glistens like jewels in the sun. A favorite of hummingbirds, it has trumpet-shaped flowers and seed capsules that explode when touched. The watery sap of jewelweed is reputed to help soothe rashes from poison ivy and stinging nettle.
It’s a good day when I spot a crab spider on a wildflower. They are white or yellow with two pink or red slashes along their sides. They can change their color, a process that can take several days, and are easiest to find on pink flowers. Crab spiders get their name from their crablike appearance and their ability to walk sideways. They are passive hunters that wait motionless for insects to come within their grasp. I’ve heard that to mate without being eaten, the male must tie up the female with silk. After mating, the female breaks the restraints. I’ve read that the male covers the female loosely with strands of silk, which is a part of courtship referred to as a bridal veil. The latter is the true story.
I watched a thirteen-lined ground squirrel (striped gopher or squinny) scurry across the sizzling pavement. The midday sun might have been giving the little animal a hotfoot. Ground squirrels run with their tails straight out. Chipmunks run with tails held upright.
A friend threatens to go Carl Spackler on the raccoons putting a crimp in his bird feeding. Carl Spackler was the golf course groundskeeper who dynamited gophers in the movie “Caddyshack.”

MEETING ADJOURNED
Be kind. We all share the same air.

Equipment care, tree removal for Farm & City Days

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 June 8 meeting.

During their regularly scheduled June 8 meeting, New Richland maintenance supervisor Eric Hendrickson told city council members he would like to see two dead trees currently standing in the city park removed by Farm and City Days for safety and aesthetic reasons. The council agreed, approving the expenditure of up to \$3,000 for the service. Eric Kilen was present to discuss trees planted in the City Right of Way during public comment; the council took this issue into consideration.
Council members also approved up to \$5,000 for parts needed to bring all three AC motor pumps at the city wastewater plant up to acceptable operating condition. Shell Johnson of Wastewater Operation and Maintenance also shared that city administrator Tyler Lendt had visited the plant to gain a stronger understanding of certain maintenance procedures. She also reported The organization Peopleservice had held its June 4 quarterly safety meeting at the New Richland plant; the meetings rotate among all the

member facilities throughout the year.
The council adopted an updated bunkhouse fee schedule. The Conditional Use Permit for 316 Broadway Ave North/Bunkhouse was approved.
Administrator Lendt reported that Radio Link Internet has not made any attempts to remove their equipment from the city water tower. If Radio Link does not remove it, the city may become liable and have to remove it themselves. Eventually the equipment will become abandoned property. If the city wants to bill Radio Link for the removal, it is advised that billing a company that is filing for bankruptcy will produce poor results, and if the equipment is damaged during removal, they open themselves up to a lawsuit.
Council members gave a first reading of a proposed amendment regarding fences within city limits. Under the proposed change, residents will be required to meet specifications before they will be issued a required permit to construct a new fence.
Also given a first reading was a proposed ordinance change expanding rules regarding golf cart use within the city to begin covering “motorized golf cart, utility task vehicles, and mini truck use.” Under the change, no residents can drive “off road” vehicles in town without

a permit which can be obtained by meeting required specifications. This item will be put under vote at the July 13 monthly council meeting.
During the ambulance report, Sarah Sundve updated council members regarding ongoing projects. She said she is also continuing to find new ways to get people involved with volunteering; she plans to include a flyer with residents’ monthly water bills.
The fire department reported four fire calls and two medical calls. For training they practiced new techniques and technology to cut cars and gain entry.
The New Richland Police Department responded to 109 calls for service in May. The total calls through May 2026 is 509. The total calls through May 2025 was 656. There were 27 lock checks/directed patrols, 30 traffic stops, 15 assisting other agencies, three suspicious circumstances, four animal complaints, and three ordinance violations. City police chief Tannyyce Bruegger reported the water balloon battle at the school on May 29 had a great turnout. She stated her thanks to the city fire department for bringing two trucks to act as giant sprinklers for the kids to run through and to NRHEG Community Ed for assisting and providing water toys for the small children.
City Care Center manager Bob Johanssen shared in his report that re-

ferrals in April were 70; 19 were accepted, six admitted. A resident was found drinking rubbing alcohol in the restroom, was sent to hospital/no injury, but has since been removed to another care center. Another resident was found consuming a THC bar which was brought in by a friend. The resident was ill afterward, but recovered the next day. Please do not bring in or subject the residents to THC products.”
For completed maintenance projects, the water hydrant on North Elm was repaired; at St. Olaf Lake public park, everything is ready for summer; two game cameras have been put out at the city compost area for security.
Council members also discussed the bleachers at the baseball field which are aging. In some cases the wood of the seats has become soft. The council decided to wait till the end of this summer before deciding between repairing the current bleachers with new wood and paint or acquiring new equipment.
A tree fell on the picnic shelter at Legion Field, leaving considerable damage. The shelter sat on a concrete slab that is undamaged. The council decided to have the shelter removed for safety, then decide what to replace it with later.
The following regular city council meeting was on Monday, July 13, 2026.

■ Lady Bug from Page 1

job that everyone at the shop helps with. It starts with appointments that occur for three months straight, at which approximately three families a day come to the shop to drop off boxes of items they want to sell.
With 250-plus consigners, Krampitz says “We have no idea what’s coming in each box.”
The Lady Bug receives items from individuals as far off as the Twin Cities’ suburbs and Wisconsin, some of whom have been dealing with the Lady Bug for decades.
“Some consignment stores in the Twin Cities take a higher percentage,” said Strenge, “and [...] some people like to support a smaller town, too, and that’s one way they can do that: by bringing their stuff here.”
In fact, so many people want to consign that the shop has a waiting list of people who want to sell items via consignment. The shop simply doesn’t have enough space to house everyone’s merchandise. “We’d have to buy the whole block,” said Krampitz.
The shop also receives donations from individuals who want to see the shop stay in business. “They like what we’re doing,” said Krampitz.
Ministry
Wagner sums up what makes the Lady Bug special: “It’s not just a store; it’s also a ministry.”
At times, those who come to shop are already carrying a heavy load when they enter – some issue or problem for which they need a listening ear. “They’ll talk about it,” said Wagner. “They’ll get some spiritual support.”
“We’ve given away many Bibles,” Krampitz adds. “We’ve prayed over people. We’ve ministered to them.”

All three talk about The Wedding Dress in capital letters as an episode of divine synchronicity at the shop. A lady had explained to Krampitz that her daughter didn’t get married and wanted to donate her wedding dress to the shop. No wedding dress appeared, and Krampitz forgot all about it until the following season when a young woman was in the shop looking for a wedding dress, or even just something that could be used as a wedding dress, while her mother, who wasn’t even looking for it, just happened to find something perfect for mother-of-the-bride. In walked the lady who had previously talked of donating a wedding dress. Krampitz didn’t even make the connection. All she thought was, “I don’t take wedding dresses!” thinking it would open a can of worms with all sorts of people wanting to sell wedding or prom dresses. But, struck by a sudden inspiration, Krampitz said, “What size is that wedding dress?” She looked at the bride-to-be. It was her size. Krampitz told her, “I think you better go try this dress on.”
The wedding dress fit to a T. The young lady came out of the dressing room beaming. “It didn’t need any alterations or anything!” Krampitz narrated.
When the young lady asked how much it would cost, Krampitz said, “It’s yours! It was donated; it was meant for you to have.”
The wedding dress isn’t the only clothing item at the Lady Bug that has fulfilled a need. Sometimes the New Richland Food Shelf sends people to the Lady Bug who are new in town. “And then we’ll help them out if they need clothes or certain things, and then we’ll help them shop,” said Krampitz.
Another aspect of the Lady Bug’s ministry occurs during the changeover from one season to the next.

“It’s not about money; it’s about helping people.” — Paulette Krampitz

Each season, workers at the Lady Bug box up what doesn’t sell. They donate all of the unsold merchandise to First Baptist Church in Clarks Grove. The Baptist church then holds rummage sales to raise money in support of a children’s home in North Central Honduras, something they have been doing since 2011. “They have literally raised thousands and thousands of dollars,” said Wagner.
“And they depend on the Lady Bug,” Strenge chimed in; although individuals also donate to the Baptist church, the Lady Bug is the church’s main merchandise contributor.
One such changeover is coming up quickly; August 1 will be the Lady Bug’s last day open this season. The Lady Bug is currently offering 50% off on all clothing and shoes, and 25% off of everything else. During Farm & City Days, all clothing and shoe items will be \$2 each, and all other merchandise in the store will be 50% off. During the last week of July, the Lady Bug’s box and bag sale will begin, at which customers can fill a box or bag with

any merchandise for \$10.
For the final day of the season on August 1, Krampitz plans to have the youth group from Christian Assembly Church in Waseca help at the shop. All proceeds earned the final day will be donated to the youth group’s wider organization. Also anyone who desires can donate extra to the youth organization.
“It’s not about money; it’s about helping people,” Krampitz summarizes.
Speaking of helping, Krampitz laughingly relates, “We’re really good about helping [customers] fill up their bags and boxes. The more we get out, the less we have to bag up and give to the church. But they [the church] still end up with a lot.”
Meanwhile, the ladies hint that for Farm & City Days, they’ll be helping people have a good time; they have fun things brewing for the yearly festivities, but aren’t disclosing anything other than that they’ll have a 1939 Chevy in the parade: “It’s black and red, just like a lady bug,” said Krampitz.

Bayview Freeborn
FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES

“We can cross this bridge together”
bayviewfuneral@gmail.com

507-373-4330 • 1415 Hwy. 13 N. • Albert Lea
Locally Organized, Owned & Operated since 1939

ALBERT LEA ROOFING
SIDING | WINDOWS | DOORS | GUTTERS

EXTERIORS... IT'S WHAT WE DO!

507.391.3108 ALBERTLEAROOFING.COM

THIS IUS FLYING SERVICE

FLY IT ON!
507-383-9157
WELLS AIRPORT

OBITUARIES

Wayne Rudolph

Dr. Wayne Alan Rudolph, age 95, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family, on June 13, 2026 in New Braunfels, Texas. He was born on October 10, 1930 in Waseca, Minnesota to Herbert J. And Bernice Stafford Rudolph.

Wayne was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, educator, and lifelong learner. He believed deeply in the power of education to change lives and spent his career helping others grow, succeed and reach their potential. Known for his intelligence, integrity, quiet humility and unwavering work ethic, Wayne approached every endeavor with purpose and determination. He led by example, treating others with kindness, respect and fairness and he left a lasting impression on those fortunate enough to know him.

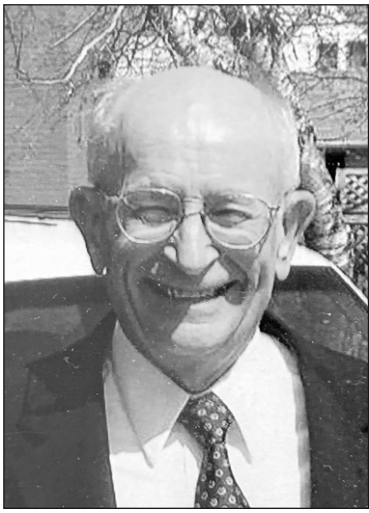
On June 20, 1953, Wayne married the love of his life, Blanche Claudine Sammons in Red Jacket, West Virginia. Their 73-year marriage was built on love, faith, partnership, and an enduring commitment to each other. Together they raised two children, Warren Alan and Pamela Kay, creating a family that remained the center of Wayne's life.

Wayne proudly served his country in the United States Air Force before beginning his lifelong career in education.

Wayne earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Mankato State Teachers College in Mankato, Minnesota in 1955, a Master of Arts degree at the University of Minnesota in 1961 and a Doctorate of Education degree from the University of Iowa in 1968.

His distinguished career in education began as a history and typing teacher in Tracy, Minnesota. He later served as principal in Janesville and Zumbrota, Minnesota and Superintendent of Schools in Elmore, Minnesota and ultimately became the first Director of Research and Development at Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Throughout his career, he was respected as an innovative leader who believed every community deserved strong schools and opportunities for lifelong learning.

After retiring from Iowa Western, Wayne built an independent accounting firm, continuing to serve others



Wayne Rudolph

until his permanent retirement in 2005.

After he and Claudine moved to New Braunfels, Wayne continued his desire to help others. Through his involvement in community issues, he became a respected member of the city by working on behalf of its citizens and to help make the community a better place.

While Wayne's accomplishments were many, his greatest pride was his family and he never failed to put them first.

Wayne is survived by his beloved wife of 73 years, Claudine; his son Warren Rudolph of Lincoln, Nebraska; his daughter Pamela Kay Rudolph-Walke of New Braunfels, Texas; grandchildren Matthew Wayne Rudolph of Lincoln, Nebraska and Lindsay Marie Pietro (Matthew) of Yarmouth Port, Massachusetts; and his five great-grandchildren, Grace Marie Rudolph, twins Preston Alan and Sophia Louise Rudolph of Lincoln, Nebraska, Elyse Marie Pietro and Sloane Evelyn Pietro of Yarmouth Port, Massachusetts.

Graveside services will be held on Sunday, August 9, 2026 at 1 p.m. at Woodville Cemetery in Waseca, Minnesota.

There will be a celebration of life in New Braunfels on Monday, August 3, 2026 from 4-7 p.m. at Peace Lutheran Church 1147 So. Walnut Ave for family, friends and members of the community to come pay their respects to this remarkable man whose wisdom, generosity, dedication and quiet strength touched countless lives. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

Dsofuneral.com

Betty Anderson

Betty Jean Anderson, 87, of Blooming Prairie, died peacefully on Friday, July 10, 2026 at her home that she loved so dearly.

Betty was born March 8, 1939 in Owatonna, the daughter of Hubert and Adeline (Boettcher) Jiroushek. She was a 1957 graduate of Ellendale High School. Betty was united in marriage to Duwayne C. Anderson on July 5, 1959 at First Lutheran Church in Ellendale.

Through the years, Betty was employed as a secretary at Ellendale High School, a teller at First National Bank, Owatonna Tool Company, Bixby Inn, and over twenty years at Jerry's Other Place in Aus-

tin.

Betty was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna. She enjoyed flowers, sewing, and baking, especially bars and muffins. Betty was also a very avid MN Twins fan and enjoyed playing cards with close friends.

Betty is survived by her son, Craig Anderson of Blooming Prairie, and his girlfriend, Krisann Nelson of Kenyon; sister, Janice (Dale) Waage of rural Ellendale; three nephews, Brian, Lee and Bruce Waage; two great nieces, Jessica and Allison Waage; brothers-in-law and sister-in-law, Max and Marlene Jensen of Albert Lea (sons, David Peterson, Mike Peterson, and Jeff Jensen) and Tony Anderson of Al-

bert Lea (sons, Brad and Eric Anderson); also other family and best friend, Mary Lou Deml of Owatonna.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Duwayne, in 1993.

Memorial Service will be held 11 a.m., Saturday, July 18, 2026 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church. Interment will be in First Lutheran Cemetery in Ellendale. Memorials are preferred to Trinity Lutheran Church or St. Croix Hospice. Arrangements are with Michaelson Funeral Home in Owatonna. Please visit www.michaelsonfuneral.com to leave a condolence for Betty's family.



Betty Anderson



11A Team - Back Row - Andy Van Hal, Axel Schlaak, Asa Bethke, Rafe Kundson, Chase Simon, Gadiel Cazares, Kelli Van Hal, Front Row - Griffin Pederson, Jack Van Hal, Brantley Braaten, Hugh Courtney, Auen Greighten, Ian Wilson Photo by Kelli Van Hal



13AA Team - Back Row - Brandon Thibodeau, Adler Bethke, Tate Michaels, Trevor Gilliland, Asa Wilson, Bo Holland, Collin Misgen, John Misgen. Front Row - Blake Braaten, Parker Simon, Reed Budach, Riffen Jacobson, John Thibodeau, Nick Budach Photo by Joe Venny

Two Quad Cities baseball teams earn state berths

Two Quad Cities Baseball teams punched their tickets to the State Tournaments during local tournaments held June 5-7.

The Quad Cities 11A team competed in the 11A Burnsville Invitational and finished a perfect 4-0 on the weekend. The team opened with

a 14-6 victory over Chanhasen Storm 11A Grey, followed with a 12-4 win against Bloomington Bandits 11A Red and a 13-4 victory over VAA Apple Valley Eagles 11A. Quad Cities capped off the tournament with a 10-6 win over New Prague 11A in the championship game.

The Quad Cities 13AA team competed in the 13AA tournament and posted a 3-0-1 record. The team defeated Waconia 10-0 in its opener, played Byron to a 6-6 tie, and earned an 11-1 win over Waconia before edging Byron 10-9 in the 13AA championship game.

The state tournaments will take place later this summer, where both teams will compete against top teams from across Minnesota.

Congratulations to the players and coaches on this outstanding accomplishment, and best of luck at state.

Faith

from Page 2

pickup or on top of a 100-pound display case being rolled down Austin's Main Street, accompanied by many people I had never met before.

My friend Mark spent the entire day saying, "It is not possible to move the store in a day."

"There is no way you're going to get all of this moved."

After we arrived at the new location his litany changed to, "There's no way you're going to get these lights to work."

Jared was going to school to be an electrician.

He got the lights to work.

Mark changed to saying, "There's no way all of this is getting done today."

Before it was dark, we had a table set up in the front with people I had never met before playing cards. That day I saw the final sale at Kyle's register and first sale at Play It Forward Games.

We moved an entire game store in one day and did not even close the store to do so.

Mikhail asked me why I can be so

confident. During our previous lunch I had told him my favorite bible verse, which I believe serves as an answer.

First John 5:14 says "This is the confidence we have in approaching God that if we ask anything according to His will, he hears us."

I just have faith that everything will be okay. If I weren't supposed to own a game store or run the newspapers, they would have failed.

As Pastor Sipe said in church Sunday, farmers in ancient times had to throw their seed down before learning whether the soil was good beneath it.

I am grateful for good soil.

Thank you, Pastor Sipe, for your years of service, I wish you nothing but the best as you move forward.

"But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown." — Matthew 13:23

Cribbage score update

Three games were played this week, with Dad taking home the series advantage two to one.

Lifetime tally (since 2016): Dad 458, 70 skunks; Eli 406, 41 skunks, 1 double skunk

2026 totals. Eli 69, two skunks, Dad, 47, 8 skunks

TGWEI
GREG WILMES
EXTERIORS

COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL
NEW CONSTRUCTION • REMODELING

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

"Footings to Finish"

GREG WILMES EXTERIORS LLC
BUILDING CONTRACTOR #BC793885

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

LERBERG'S

CAR WASH & COIN LAUNDRY

Touchless Wash and Self Serve

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

FITNESS CENTER & TANNING

24 HOURS

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

Advanced Funeral Planning

Andrew Schwarz
Licensed Preplanning Consultant

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

BONNERUP
FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES
Albert Lea • New Richland • Ellendale

217 West Division Street • New Richland, MN 56072
Phone: (507) 465-8015 • www.BonnerupFuneralService.com

Klobuchar urges USPS to reverse plan that will slow mail delivery

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar called on the United States Postal Service (USPS) to abandon its Regional Transportation Optimization (RTO) plan in a letter to Postmaster General David Steiner. The RTO plan would lower service standards and eliminate end-of-day mail collection, slowing mail delivery and disrupting mail service.

“The Postal Service’s Regional Transportation Optimization (RTO) plan lowers service standards and eliminates end-of-day mail collection at most of the nation’s post offices, particularly in rural areas,” wrote Klobuchar. “In January 2025, the Postal Regulatory Commission issued an advisory opinion raising serious concerns about the plan’s negative impacts while slowing mail delivery and failing to save costs. Despite the advisory opinion and opposition from postal workers and customers, USPS has continued to implement the policy which has resulted in disrupted service for customers in Minnesota and across the country.”

Klobuchar continued: “Minnesotans rely on the Postal Service to receive paychecks, business mail, Social Security benefits, and medications that they rely on for their health and livelihoods. The U.S. Postal Service is the only delivery service that reaches every address in the nation, making it a critical connection for many Minnesotans as well as the businesses and other organizations that serve them. In addition, as I have previously described, many local newspapers rely on the Postal Service to reach their subscribers, providing Minnesotans with information not only to find out the weather forecast or who won the big high school sports game, but also to keep them well-informed about local issues and hold local government officials accountable. That is why it is crucial that the Postal Service remains a reliable and affordable delivery service for Minnesotans.”

Read the full letter to the U.S. Postal Service below.

Dear Mr. Steiner:

I write to express concern about the impacts of the United States Postal Service’s (USPS) recent policy changes and their impacts

on Minnesotans’ mail service.

The Postal Service’s Regional Transportation Optimization (RTO) plan lowers service standards and eliminates end-of-day mail collection at most of the nation’s post offices, particularly in rural areas. In January 2025, the Postal Regulatory Commission issued an advisory opinion raising serious concerns about the plan’s negative impacts while slowing mail delivery and failing to save costs. Despite the advisory opinion and opposition from postal workers and customers, USPS has continued to implement the policy which has resulted in disrupted service for customers in Minnesota and across the country.

Minnesotans rely on the Postal Service to receive paychecks, business mail, Social Security benefits, and medications that they rely on for their health and livelihoods. The U.S. Postal Service is the only delivery service that reaches every address in the nation, making it a critical connection for many Minnesotans as well as the businesses and other organizations that serve them. In addition, as I have previously described, many local newspapers rely on the Postal Service to reach their subscribers, providing Minnesotans with information not only to find out the weather forecast or who won the big high school sports game, but also to keep them well-informed about local issues and hold local government officials accountable. That is why it is crucial that the Postal Service remains a reliable and affordable delivery service for Minnesotans.

Continuing to carry out the Regional Transportation Optimization plan — on top of other policy changes and rate hikes in recent years — will instead mean that it will take longer for these postal customers to send and receive their mail. The United States Postal Service should be working to improve service, rather than lowering standards.

Minnesotans depend on the United States Postal Service every day. I urge you to reverse implementation of the RTO plan and ensure that the Postal Service is a viable, affordable delivery service for residents in Minnesota and across the country.

■ Council from Page 1

simply means it is primarily for single-family detached homes on larger lots. It promotes low-density neighborhoods with more space between homes.

A representative from Camp Companion animal control out of Rochester was present at a recent council meeting and offered the agency’s services to combat the numerous stray cats in Ellendale. The council discussed the problem and decided to give Camp Companion a one-year trial

run. The plan is to capture the cats, spay or neuter them, and return them to Ellendale.

Two new letters of violation will be sent to two addresses on Radel Ct. The 8th Ave. East violation has until August 1 to abate their issue. The 4th Ave. West violation agreed to clean up their property, including weeds and overgrowth. The overgrowth has been addressed, but nothing else. The 6th Ave. East violation was given until August 1 to complete house repairs, including the porch and roof. If they are not able to complete repairs in the allotted time, the city will do it and will charge their property taxes to be reimbursed.

Big Brothers Big Sisters launches new initiative

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Minnesota (BBBS) is turning up the energy this summer with the launch of its Sound of Summer campaign. This initiative is designed to celebrate mentorship and encourage meaningful connections while emphasizing the urgent need for more volunteer mentors.

With more than 300 local youth waiting for a caring mentor, BBBS is inviting community members to say yes to making a difference. The Sound of Summer campaign blends the excitement of music and summer festivals with simple, memorable activities that help current mentoring matches build stronger relationships while inspiring new volunteers to get involved.

Anyone who signs up to become a Big by August 31 will be entered to win the Ultimate Summer VIP Pack, a curated prize bundle featuring summer activity passes, BBBS swag, and exclusive items designed to help new matches kick off their mentoring journey with fun and connection.

Current Bigs and Littles will also participate in the Sound of Summer experience by completing a themed

summer setlist challenge and engaging in a variety of activities, including attending local events, sharing music-inspired moments, and participating in creative community-based challenges throughout the season.

Matches are encouraged to share their summer moments on social media using #SoundOfSummer and #BBBSMN, helping spread awareness of the need for mentors while celebrating the joy of connection.

To learn more about becoming a Big or to sign up by August 31 for a chance to win the Ultimate Summer

VIP Pack, visit bbbsmn.org or call 507-451-5922.

Big Brothers Big Sisters’ Mission is to create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth. For over 50 years, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Minnesota has been serving children and youth in Steele, Rice, Waseca, Dodge, Olmsted, and Blue Earth Counties. To learn more about getting involved, visit their website bbbsmn.org, Facebook page, or call 507-451-5922.

Child’s History of Waseca County

Cont. CHAPTER XIII. 1855. Preparations 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.

I started from the settlement December 5th, and proceeded to Owatonna, where I remained two days to get the oxen shod. Uncle Jo, Wilson, the rough, kind-hearted blacksmith, of that place, did the job. On the 8th I took the wagon track leading to Austin. There were two or three cabins some five or six miles south of Owatonna, a quarter of a mile from the road, and, after passing them, there were no other habitations to be seen until the Vaughn settlement, near the place now called Lansing, was reached. Before reaching this settlement, night came on, and the

darkness, if it could not be felt like that of Egypt in the days of Pharaoh, was near enough to it to prevent a prudent man from trying to travel in a strange country. Camping for the night was the next best thing and I put up in a thicket of red oaks.

I built a rousing big fire, warmed up the baked pork and beans, toasted the frozen bread, thawed out the doughnuts, made a cup of tea, ate a hearty supper and smoked the pipe of peace with all the then visible world. I had on the wagon about a quarter of a ton of hay (it was necessary in those days to carry along food for both man and beast), so that the cattle had plenty to eat and the driver had plenty to sleep on under the wagon. In such a place, on such a night, under such circumstances, even a young man naturally becomes philosophical and looks upon his own life as one of the greatest mys-

teries of a mysterious and, as yet, incomprehensible universe, the beginning and ending of which is called God, the Father of all.

Solitary and alone with the patient oxen, I threw myself upon a pile of hay, wrapped in an Indian blanket, and must have gone to sleep early in the evening. In the night I awoke to find that a drizzling rain storm had set in from the northeast. I put some more wood on the fire and again went to sleep. About an hour before daylight, I was aroused by a prairie wolf concert that was being held in the immediate vicinity and probably for my benefit. Appreciating the compliment of the serenade, I stirred the embers of the camp-fire, put on more wood and soon had a cheerful blaze, notwithstanding the dampness. Those wolves, like some people, seemed to prefer darkness to light, for they left at once.

As soon as it was light enough to see the road, travel was again resumed. As the day advanced, the storm increased, and, by three o’clock p.m., rain and sleet were falling fast. I passed through the village of Austin about noon that day, where I took dinner. Austin then boasted one store, one tavern, one blacksmith shop and several pioneer cabins. After leaving Austin it was found very difficult to keep the right track, owing to the numerous wood roads leading in various directions. Unhappily for me, I selected the wrong track, and, about four o’clock in the afternoon, found myself a mile off the road, but at a comfortable log house, where I stayed over night. About the time I reached here, the rain changed to snow. The next morning the ground was covered with three or four inches of snow, and more was still falling.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



www.corkeycomics.com

Local students earn academic honors

St. Olaf College 2026 spring Dean’s list:

Cora Harpel, Ellendale, English, Creative Writing

University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) Dean’s List Spring Semester 2026:

Sierra Misgen, Ellendale, sophomore, Education & Human Service Pro, Exercise Rehab Sci

McKenzie Mueller, Ellendale, senior, Education & Human Service Pro, Exercise Rehab Sci

Eden Eads, New Richland, freshman, Col of Arts, Hum & Soc Sci, Studio Art

Saint Mary’s University in Winona’s spring 2026 Dean’s List:

Matthew Mueller, Ellendale, Bachelor of Science Exercise and Rehabilitative Science Magna Cum Laude

Katie Root, Ellendale, Bachelor of Science Nursing

Torri Vaale, Ellendale, Bachelor of

Science-Teaching Elementary Education Summa Cum Laude

Anna Peterson, Hartland, Bachelor of Science Nursing Cum Laude

Normandale Community College 2026 Graduates List:

Kayla Meyer, Ellendale, Associate of Science, Criminal Justice Transfer Pathway

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire 2025-26 graduates:

Rachel Horejsi, Ellendale, Arts and Sciences, BS, Biology

Minnesota State University, Mankato Dean’s list for 2026 spring semester:

Ellendale

Anton Domeier

Levin Kitzer

Brenna Sommer

Geneva

Shelby Johnston

Hartland

Faith Nielsen

New Richland

Julia Churchill

Cole Hutchens

BreAnn Jacobson

Addison Loken

Chloe Riewer

Taylor Schmidt

Rielly Weitzel

Katy Zimmerman

USED BOOKSTORE

RECYCLE YOUR BOOKS WITH US

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

507-874-3863 • 507-473-0345

OLSON EXCAVATING

- * GPS Controlled
- * Drain Tile Installation
- * Open Ditch Clean Cut
- * Backhoe/Dozer/Skidloader
- * Concrete And Tree Removal
- * Rock, Gravel, & Dirt Hauling
- * Chainsawing & Stump Grinding
- * Snow Removal & Sanding

Brandon Flatness, Owner » shop 507-845-2440 cell 507-383-2008

NASINEC

Funeral Home & Crematory

- * New in 2022, one-level facility
- * On-site crematory
- * Pre-need insurance agent
- * Dedicated staff including two full-time morticians
- * everything you need!

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

LOCAL SERVICE. STRONGER TOGETHER.

Your farm. Your future. Your agency.

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

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

AMERICANA

★ INSURANCE GROUP ★

We’re the “A” Team

CALL YOUR LOCAL TEAM TODAY!

ALBERT LEA
507-377-2000

ELLENDALE
507-684-2314

WELLS
507-801-1100

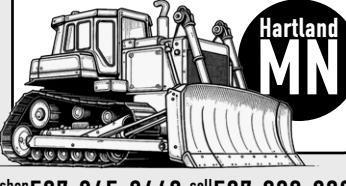
www.americaininsurance.com

Waseca County Free Fair, July 8-12



Star Eagle photos by Deb Bently and Ben Revermann

OLSON EXCAVATING
Brandon Flatness, Owner



Hartland MN

shop 507-845-2440 cell 507-383-2008

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

Wagner Foods

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

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

JANIKE SEEDS
PIONEER BRAND SEEDS
CORTeva

LAYNE JANIKE

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

KRAUSE FEEDS & SUPPLIES

9352 SW 37th Ave,
Hope, MN, 56046

(507) 451-3043
kfshope@outlook.com

L&D Ag Service
Hartland, MN

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

Boklen Plumbing & Heating



It's Hard To Stop A Trane.

324 N Broadway • New Richland 507-465-8376
Rick 507-402-6766 • James 507-475-2450

Waseca County Free Fair, July 8-12



Star Eagle photos by Deb Bently and Ben Revermann

MINNWEST BANK

Commercial, agricultural and personal banking

102 South Main St
Waldorf, MN 56091
PH: (507) 239-2166
FX: (507) 239-2249

WALDORF

Budack's
IMPLEMENT, INC.

Ag Equipment & Napa Auto Parts
Family owned since 1966!!

229 3rd St NE
New Richland, MN
(507) 465-3237

Tesch
Service

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

ARO ACCOUNTING

Allyson Olson
cell 507-391-3738
allyson@aroaccounting.com

32718 State Hwy 13, Hartland
507-845-2763

New Richland
Auto Repair, LLC

"For All Your Auto Repair Needs"

ISAAC KOESTAD
For All Your Auto Repair Needs ASE - Call Us

246 3RD ST. NE • NEW RICHLAND • 463-3261

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

www.mainstreetdentalclinics.com

Rochester
(507) 536-7700
3110 Wellner Dr. NE

Mankato
(507) 728-0250
287 So. Andrews
Dr. #100

Bloomington
(507) 585-2141
405 Main St. E

Owatonna
(507) 455-1000
1170 E Frontage Rd

New Richland
(507) 463-0802
132 Broadway Ave N



NICE CATCH - Shown here are some pictures of a trip Dick's grandson Trevor, his Grandma Jean and Dick took to the cabin back in 2008. One of the pictures is of Trevor holding the northern after he netted it for his grandma. Another is a basket of crappie that they caught on a different lake.



Star Eagle photos by Dick Herfindahl

You can never have too much tackle

I have seemed to have started my last few columns mentioning the weather and the only comment this time is "HOT." Enough said!

As I may have mentioned before, I am not a hot weather guy. After spending over three years in south-east Asia, you would think I could handle the heat better. Air conditioning is now my close friend.

I know that I am wasting a lot of fishing time by avoiding the outdoors and the heat, but I hope to make up for it as the summer moves on.

When I visit the next time, I will not take my boat out by myself. I don't trust my balance, and although



Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl
Outdoors Writer

I enjoy being out in the boat by myself, cranking the boat on the trailer would probably be my biggest challenge.

When I do get up to the cabin, I know I will feel like I am back in my comfort zone. I want to be on the lake

in early morning when the sun comes up. That is actually my favorite part of the day to fish. Getting on the lake as the sun rises over the treetops is probably the best feeling I can have.

When I look at all of the tackle that I have, I don't know if I have enough

time to use it all. I still get excited when I see a new "must have" lure that comes on the market. I have actually convinced myself to walk away when I see one at a bait shop.

Until next time: I definitely want to visit the cabin in a week or two. I need to be there to fill the bird feeders, mow the yard and enjoy some quality time there. If I do fish, I will do some shore fishing.

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.

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)

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

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

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

CROSS OF GLORY LUTHERAN
Hartland, Minnesota
Rev. Marcia Pedersen
Sunday - 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 - 8:30 a.m. Worship
FM Transmitter is used for those wanting to listen through their car radios at FM 89.3

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LOOKING BACK

25 years ago

- Shelly and Carla Bishop hosted a gathering at the Hubble House in Mantorville on Friday evening, June 29 in honor of their parents, Barry and Sharon Bishop, on their 25th wedding Anniversary, which was Tuesday, July 3.

- Stacey Sundve, daughter of Steve Sundve and Gwen Sundve of Albert Lea, was named to the second semester 2000-01 dean's list at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota at Winona.

- New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva seventh grade girls team will play Minnewaska in the first round of the Pac-setter Minnesota Invitational Basketball Tournament at the Whitney Center in St. Cloud on Sunday, July 7.

50 years ago



- Sonja Swanson of rural Mapleton was all smiles as she proudly displays her catch. Mrs. Swanson boated this 15 lb. ½ oz. muskellunge at the Pine Point Resort near Walker, Minnesota. Mrs. Swanson now joins the family with its many muskie trophies.

- Mr. and Mrs. George Norman of Austin and Mr. and Mrs. Lester Schlaak of rural New Richland announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their children, Maryann Katherine Norman and Eugene Donald Schlaak. An October 2nd wedding is being planned.

75 years ago

- A son born Saturday night at the Memorial Hospital, Waseca, brings the Kenneth Crawford family to two sons and a daughter.

- Meredee Mae, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Williams, of Owatonna, was baptized at Trinity Lutheran church of Owatonna Sunday morning by Pastor Olin K. Fjilstad. Dr. and Mrs. E. H. Smith of Eagle Bend attended as sponsors and were among the guests entertained at dinner at the Williams home.

Get your news in the Star Eagle
e-mail steagle@hickorytech.net

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

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

Offering Commercial & Residential Services

www.mainstreetdentalclinics.com

Main Street Dental Clinics
comfortable dentistry

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

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

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

Ellendale, MN 56026

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

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

Wagner Foods

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

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

newrichlandgrocery.com

Bayview Freeborn
FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES

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

Locally Organized, Owned & Operated since 1939

JANIKE SEEDS
PIONEER BRAND SEEDS
CORTEVA

LAYNE JANIKE

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

NEW RICHLAND CARE CENTER

Exceptional care by and for Exceptional People!

(507) 465-3292

312 1st Street NE, New Richland, MN

L&D Ag Service
Hartland, MN

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

agro-economics inc.

MARK BERNARD
Crop Consultant
(507) 461-1775

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

TS
THOMPSON SANITATION, INC.

LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
ROLLOFFS • RECYCLING

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

RUSS NELSON MOTOR SHOP

Electric Motor Repair and Replacement

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

Story Idea?
507-463-8112



Residential • Lakeshore • Multi-Family
Rural Properties • Farmland

Edina Realty
MLS Kim & Marcia Berg
REALTORS®

Buying or Selling
CALL US TODAY!
507-456-0816
kimberg.edinarealty.com

Star Eagle
is for sale
at these
locations:



CLARKS GROVE - Gopher Stop
ELLENDALE - Casey's
Lerberg's
GENEVA - Geneva Bar & Grill
HARTLAND - BP Gas Station
NEW RICHLAND - Wagner Foods
Casey's
WASECA - Casey's
Kwik Trip
Kwik Trip North
HOPE - Krause Feeds & Supplies

**And At The Star
Eagle Office**

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

SELL YOUR HOUSE FAST FOR CASH
No Repairs. No Showings. DONE this week!

" Selling my home with Liz Buys Houses was a
game-changer! "

-Michael Beck

We work fast and are ready to help with your sale when you are. Call
today to see if our fast cash offer aligns with your home sale needs!

CALL 1-844-978-0683

Not for mobile homes, not for homes listed on the market



The family of Gerri Lienke wants to acknowledge all the support we've received since we lost Gerri, who was such a big piece of our world. She was not only a wife, mother and grandmother, but clearly a dear friend who touched many lives, as is evident by the many people who continue to show up. Your support has meant a lot, and we want to take a moment to note how much it is appreciated...and thank you.

With Thanks,
Dave
Kim, Shannon, Bridget, Bill

Johnson
APARTMENTS
507-456-9514
Operating in
Waseca, Steele,
Freeborn
Counties
johnsonrents.com

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

Otisco St. Peter Lutheran Church

**Ice
Cream
Social**



Sunday, July 19th

Serving Begins at 4 p.m.

Barbecue • Ham Sandwiches • Potato Salad • Calico Beans
Pie • Ice Cream • Coffee • Lemonade

Tents will be provided for shade - Freewill
offering, proceeds go to church maintenance

FARM & CITY DAYS
\$5.00 NEW RICHLAND, MN \$5.00

July 17, 18 and 19

GET YOUR FARM & CITY DAYS BUTTONS

Wagner Foods Neighbor's Meats The Ladybug	NR State Bank Main Street Dental First Impressions NR Library	New Richland Farm & Home Supply Red Leaf Nancy Jane's Bakery	New Richland City Hall NR Liquor Co. The Willows
---	--	---	---

\$5 Buttons can be purchased at many New Richland Businesses. The Button will allow you discounted breakfast on Saturday, free admission to the Street Dance & a chance to win cash prizes! Buttons will not be sold at the Pancake Breakfast or Dance, so get your buttons early! Prizes at participating merchants!

\$5



MCAN
MINNESOTA
NEWSPAPER
ASSOCIATION

Minnesota Classified Advertising Network



WANTED TO BUY

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

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

SERVICES

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

YAHUAH'S WORDS
WAS JESUS HISTORICAL?
Who invented Christianity? Why were the gospels written in Greek, not Hebrew? To know, watch the online DVD "Caesar's Messiah." Awaken! 218/533-6029

MISCELLANEOUS

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

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

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

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

MISCELLANEOUS

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

Classified Advertising That is EASY

The Minnesota Classified Advertising Network

Make an impact with your advertising dollar with classified advertising that reaches over 1MILLION READERS



Your newspaper representative can provide complete details or you can call MNA: 612/332-8844

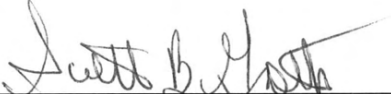
ORDINANCE 2026-01

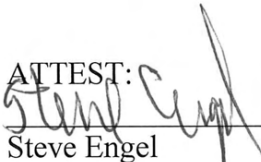
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF THE ELLENDALE CITY CODE

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELLENDALE DOES ORDAIN:

- Block 1, Lot 1, Crown Ridge Addition No. 2, Parcel No. 15-114-0101, shall be and hereby is rezoned as R-1 Residential.
- Block 1, Lot 2, Crown Ridge Addition No. 2, Parcel No. 15-114-0102, shall be and hereby is rezoned as R-1 Residential.
- The Official Zoning Map, as referenced by Ellendale City Code Section 152.050, shall be and hereby is amended accordingly.
- This Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon its passage and publication.

ADOPTED this 9th day of July, 2026, by the City Council of the City of Ellendale.

By: 
Scott Groth
Mayor

ATTEST: 
Steve Engel
City Clerk

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY



JENSEN'S
PLUMBING, HEATING & COOLING

Serving Southern Minnesota for over 45 years!

104 CENTRAL AVE N
GENEVA, MN
507-256-4712

Insurance from the Best!



TROY THOMPSON
AGENCY, INC.

1330 W. Main, Albert Lea, MN
507-377-2852 fax 507-377-3301
troythompsonagency@gmail.com

Hope
CREAMERY

9043 SW 37th Ave. • Hope, MN
507-684-2019



ELEMENTICE
LOCK BRANDS

Your local distributor
EAGLE CONCRETE
Division of Waseca Sand & Gravel
13113 315th Ave, Waseca MN
507-835-5150
Also available:
Ready Mix Concrete, Rebar,
Landscape Rock

Bohlen
Plumbing & Heating



It's Hard To Stop A Trane.

324 N Broadway • New Richland 507-465-8376
Rick 507-402-6766 • James 507-475-2450

ARO ACCOUNTING

Allyson Olson
cell 507-391-3738
allyson@aroaccounting.com

Two locations to serve you
217 East Elm Ave, Waseca
507-391-3738
32718 State Hwy 13, Hartland
507-845-2763

Holland Auction
Holland & Associates
Ellendale, MN
Tracy Holland
#7405002
MSAA NAA
507-456-5128
www.hollandauction.com

Bayview Freeborn
FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES



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

Locally Organized, Owned
& Operated since 1939

INSURE CAREFULLY.
DREAM FEARLESSLY.

CALL (507) 835-2770 FOR A
NO-OBLIGATION FREE QUOTE.



Matthew R. Petsinger Agency, LLC
Matthew Petsinger, Agent
Waseca, MN
teampetsinger@amfam.com
mrapagencyllc.com

JK ROUTH CONTRACTING, LLC



Wick Buildings
Jesse Routh
507-383-7892
jrouthbod@yahoo.com

PANTHER POWERHOUSE
24-Hour Gym Access
New Member signup by appointment
114 Broadway Ave. N.
Call or text (507)330-2345
Facebook address:
https://www.facebook.com/PantherPowerHouseFitness

Red Leaf Cafe
Open Monday-Friday
6am-2pm



104 Broadway Ave. S. • Downtown New Richland
507-465-8000

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

New Richland Auto Repair

Isaac Kofstad
OWNER
246 Third Street N.E.
New Richland, MN 56072
1-507-463-3261

NEW RICHLAND CARE CENTER
Exceptional Care in New Richland, Minnesota since 1975. We can help.
(507) 465-3292
312 1st Street NE, New Richland, MN

CFS
CENTRAL FARM SERVICE
Trusted Service. Cooperative Value.
cfscoop.com

ARO ACCOUNTING
Allyson Olson
cell 507-391-3738
allyson@aroaccounting.com
32718 State Hwy 13, Hartland
507-845-2763

TIMM'S TRUCKING & EXCAVATING
Pulverized Black Dirt - Boulders - Colored Wood Mulch - Decorative Rock
Excavating - Site Preparation - Final Grade - Basements - Demolition Work
Septic Design & Install - Bobcat Work - Mini Excavator Work - Ag Lime Spreading
507.685.2222 | www.timmstrucking.com
24366 Holland Ave | Morristown, MN 55052

Farm & City Days
July 17th, 18th & 19th

Farm & City Days Buttons are \$5. Available for Purchase at Many NR Businesses.
Get your Button Early. A Chance to Win Cash Prizes.

FRIDAY

4:30pm - Gone: Potato Bake & Root Beer Floats @ City Hall
-Sponsored by Lions Club

5:00pm - 10:00pm: Truck Show @ Hwy 30 at Craft Mall
-Sponsored by Craft Mall

6:00pm: Teen Bean Bag Tournament @ S Broadway Ave - Registration at 5:30pm - \$20 per Team

6:00pm - 8:00pm: VR Experience @ Broadway Ave - FREE

6:30pm: Commercial Club BINGO @ The Steeple - \$10 for 10 Games

7:00pm: Bean Bag Tournament @ NR Liquor Co
-Sponsored by NRLC

7:00am - 10:00am: NR Fire Dept. Pancake Breakfast @ NR Fire Hall - \$8 or \$5 with Button
-Sponsored by NR Fire Department

7:00am - 10:00am: Live Music-Jim Kozaan @ NR Fire Hall
-Sponsored by State Bank of NR

7:00am - 10:00am: St. Peter Lutheran Church Bake Sale @ NR Fire Hall
-Sponsored by St. Peter Lutheran Church

8:00am: Panther Power House Fun Run @ City Park - \$25 Registration
-Sponsored by Panther Power House

9:00am: Grand Marshall Announcement @ NR Fire Hall at Pancake Breakfast

9:00am - 1:00pm: Classic Car Show @ N Broadway Ave - Register Day of at 8:00am
-Sponsored by NR Community

9:00am - 2:00pm: Top 25 Antique Tractor Show @ 1st Street NW - Register Same Day

9:00pm - 2:00pm: Truck Show @ Hwy 30 - Craft Mall
-Sponsored by Craft Mall

10:00am: D&S Pedal Tractor Pull @ 1st Street NE - Ages 4-11 - Register Day of at 9:30am - Parents Must Accompany
-Sponsored by Thompson Auto Body, NR Auto Repair, Midwest Repairables

10:00am - 3:00pm: STREET FAIR @ S Broadway Ave
- Friends of the Library: Book Sale
- Little Makers: Puppet Workshop
- Dad's Good Stuff
- New Richland Hardware & Supply
- TRACK'D RC Entertainment: Remote Control Races
- NR Area Historical Society Display: Celebrating 25 years!
- The LadyBug
- St. Olaf Brewing Company: Taste Testing
- Vendors and Pop-Up Shops

11:00am - 3:00pm: KID ZONE @ City Park - \$10 Per Kid
- Bounce House Playland
- Face Painting
- Rock Climbing
- Monkey Trampolines
- Giant Inflatable Slide
- Kiddie Horse Races
- Sponsored by NR Fire Department

11:00am: Chicken Plop @ City Park
-Sponsored by Neighbor's Meats

12:00pm: Kids Grilling Contest @ S Broadway Ave - Teams of 4 People - Register Now
-Sponsored by Neighbor's Meats

1:30pm: Dino Lab @ Library - FREE
-Sponsored by Friends of Library

2:00pm - 5:00pm: The Steeple Open House @ Ash Ave N - FREE

2:30pm - 4:30pm: Caricatures by Casey @ N Broadway Ave - FREE

3:30pm: Adult Relay Tricycle Race @ N Broadway Ave in Front of NRLC - \$25 Registration Fee - 50/50 Fundraiser for Farm & City Days

***** 5:00 pm: FARM & CITY DAYS PARADE *****

8:00pm - 12:00am: Street Dance: AZBY @ N Broadway Ave - 21 & OLDER ONLY - \$10 Admission - Free w/ Button
-Sponsored by NRLC

8:00pm - 12:00am: Street Dance: AZBY - Family / Teen Area @ N Broadway Ave in Front of Main St Dental - \$10 Admission - Free w/ Button
-15 & Younger are FREE but Needs Parental Supervision
- Yard Games, Drinks, Snacks will be Provided

SATURDAY

10:00am: Community Worship Service @ City Park - Bring Your Own Lawn Chairs
-Sponsored by NR Area Ministerial

11:00am: Red Leaf Cafe Lunch @ City Park - Shredded Beef Sandwich, Calico Beans, Coleslaw, Chips & Cookie
-Sponsored by Red Leaf Cafe

11:00am - 2:00pm: NR Area Historical Society Display @ Washburn Hotel(NR Area Food Shelf)
-Sponsored by NR Area Historical Society

11:00am - 1:00pm: Chalk Drawing Contest @ N Broadway Ave - Prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd Place - FREE

11:00am - 1:00pm: Rock Painting @ N Broadway Ave - FREE

12:00pm: NR Fire Dept Water Wars @ N Broadway Ave in Front of Stage - FREE
-Sponsored by NR Fire Department

1:00pm - 2:00pm: Foam Party @ N Broadway Ave - FREE

SUNDAY

All Events Subject to Change.

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

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

THOMPSON BODY SHOP
MITCH & MIKE THOMSON
Vehicle lockouts & windshield replacement available!
(507) 465-8228
Hours: M-F 9am-5pm
315 3rd St NE
New Richland, MN 56072

Main Street Dental Clinics
Less than excited about your visit to the dentist?
Relax. It's Main Street Dental.
www.mainstreetdentalclinics.com
Rochester (507) 536-7700 3110 Wellner Dr NE
Mankato (507) 720-0250 287 S Andrews Dr #100
Blooming Prairie (507) 583-2141 405 Main St E
Owatonna (507) 455-1000 1170 E Frontage Rd
New Richland (507) 463-0502 132 Broadway Ave N

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

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

Thank you to these businesses for sponsoring!

Mike's REPAIR
(507) 455-0388
870 32nd Avenue NW
Owatonna, MN 55060
Serving Commercial & OTR Customers Since 1979

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

LERBERG'S FOODS
Quality Meat • Bountiful Produce
Frozen Favorites • Grocery Goods
Health & Beauty • Much More!
MON-SAT..... 8 am - 6 pm
SUN..... 10 am - 1 pm
VISIT US! 507-684-2472
120 5th Avenue West
Ellendale, MN 56026

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

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

We PICK UP cars and trucks. We CLEAN UP property. We PAY for metals... and HAUL IT ALL.
misgen
800-358-4902 www.misgen.com
Used Car and Truck Parts • U-Pull and Full-Service
8-5 M-F, Closed Saturday & Sunday 12985 SW 72nd Ave., Ellendale, MN

STATE BANK OF NEW RICHLAND
We are an independent & locally owned bank proudly serving our community since 1898!
103 N Broadway • P.O. Box 68
New Richland, MN 56072
Phone: (507) 465-3218
Fax: (507) 465-8118
24H Phone Banking: (507) 465-3373
Web: sbnr.biz • Email: info@sbnr.biz

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

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

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

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

Bohler Plumbing & Heating
TRANE
It's Hard To Stop A Trane.
324 N Broadway • New Richland 507-465-8376
Rick 507-402-6766 • James 507-475-2450

Bayview Freeborn
FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES
"We can cross this bridge together"
bayviewfuneral@gmail.com
507-373-4330 • 1415 Hwy. 13 N. • Albert Lea
Locally Organized, Owned & Operated since 1939

Tesch Service Center
Family-Owned Automotive Repair
• wheel alignments
• brake services
• suspension repairs
• towing & more!
Call us today!
321 Elm Ave W, Waseca, MN
Call Us! (507) 835-4610
teschservice@mediacommbb.net

TNT BODY SHOP, LLC
Auto & Truck Collision Repair
TnT Body Shop
30877 MN-13
Hartland, MN 56042
(507) 845-2400
tntbodyshop.com
Hours Mon-Fri: 8A - 5P
Saturday: By Appt
Sunday: Closed
Services Collision Repair
Factory Matched
Paint Services
Frame Alignments
Frame Straightening
Towing Services
Paintless Dent Repair
Car Rental Service