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Red Raiders

Correction: Regarding last week's New Richland City Council story, a fee schedule was not set up for the dump. It was briefly discussed, but no action was taken. The proposal would have affected only non residents who still chose to use the dump, not residents. The proposal also would have potentially stiffened the penalty for residents who dump illegally.

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.

Vista Covenant 150-year anniversary August 15-16
Vista Covenant Church, located at 14679 275th Ave New Richland, will celebrate 150 years in God's service on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 15 and 16. Games, treats and fellowship will begin at 3 on Saturday with a supper beginning at 5:30. R.S.V.P.s are requested to 507-465-8365 or on the Vista Covenant website. A 10 a.m. service on Sunday will feature the president of the Evangelical Covenant as officiant. Vista invites everyone to the celebrations, and especially encourages former parishioners to attend.

Waldorf Days city celebration August 21 to 23
The town of Waldorf will hold its annual city celebration from Aug. 21 to 23. A parade will begin at 3 p.m. on Saturday. The town's memorial park will be dedicated. Kids Zone, Live music including IV Play, classic car, truck and tractor show, and more. For more information and a schedule visit <https://cityofwaldorf.com/waldorf-days-event/>

Burger and Sweet Corn Feed at Waldorf Community Center Friday, August 21
The Waldorf Fireman's Burger and Sweet Corn Feed is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Friday, August 21, 2026. This event is part of Waldorf Days and will take place at the community center.

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

In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.

Isaiah 30:15



GENERATIONAL TRADITION - In attendance at the outdoor mission festival on Aug. 2 were about 50 people from as many as four generations.
Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

Freedom Mission Festival tradition continues

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

About 50 people gathered in a grove north of Waldorf on Sunday, Aug. 2, for an outdoor "mission festival" which has been a tradition at Immanuel Lutheran Church of Freedom Township for generations. Patterned after gatherings which began in a time before many area congregations had permanent buildings, the day included a morning and afternoon worship service and a potluck meal. Music was provided by a band of about a dozen musicians from as many as four generations.

Officiant for the two services was the Rev. Dr. Richard E. Carter, who first served in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod mission field in Nigeria from 1981 to 1987. He has

also advanced Christian projects in St. Petersburg, Russia; Chennai, India; and Mongolia.

Those in attendance either sat on wooden benches that were provided or brought their own seats.

The message during the morning service focused on the feeding of the 5,000. Rev. Carter pointed out how each incident in the summary includes a lesson to "pay attention to Jesus."

Carter highlighted how Jesus began the meal by praying over the five loaves and two fish, then breaking the food apart and handing it to his disciples, who then delivered it to the crowd.



Rev. Dr. Richard C. Carter wearing a stole given him by a congregation in India.
Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

Mission continued on 3



FUTURE FUN - Members of First Lutheran Church of Waldorf put together a meal served in exchange for free-will donations. At least 100 people attended; funds received are designated for the new all-accessible play equipment being installed at the city park this week. Servers for the meal included (from left) Jean Groskreutz, Sue Kipp, Melinda Flemming, Marlys Nelson, Donny Behrns, Cheryl Dobberstein, Neil Groskreutz and Missy Sorbo.
Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

Waldorf City Park improves, expands

By DEB BENTLY
Staff writer

New all-accessible equipment, including a merry-go-round, swings, see-saw, log crawl tunnel and fire engine and tractor ride-ons, is being installed this week at the Waldorf City Park; installation began on Aug. 4.

With the addition of funds from a fundraiser meal sponsored by First Lutheran Church of Waldorf the evening of July 29, planners and organizers have

Park continued on 4

A boost to the bus

Treasure Island brings supplies to local initiative

By Kay Fate
Steele County Times

It's all about being a good neighbor – even from 60-plus miles away.

Throw in some social responsibility, and you've got hundreds of kids in Steele County prepared for the new school year.

That's just what happened when Treasure Island Resort & Casino learned about the local United Way's "Stuff the Bus" school supply drive.

"Their decision-makers had a meeting, and selected United Way of Steele County to receive donations from Treasure Island staff toward the supply drive," said Neil Lyons, operations coordinator for UWSC.

There was also a check for \$1,000 to purchase additional supplies.

"We really value being good neighbors," said Kristin Edmundson, supervisor of community engagement for TI, "and we really wanted to extend that reach and get a little farther out into the community."

"So we started poking around," she said, spotted the Stuff the Bus program, "and we instantly were like, we want to be able to help the youth of Steele County to be able to be ready to go back to school, have the supplies they need."

Using the "wish list" provided for the drive, the group purchased "as much as we could," Edmundson said.

They stopped in Blooming Prairie

Bus continued on 5



The school supply drive hosted by United Way of Steele County and Community Pathways of Steele County got a nice boost last week when representatives of Treasure Island Resort and Casino's "Island Impact" donated 1,400 items and \$1,000. From left are Neil Lyons and Annette Duncan, of UWSC; Kristin Edmundson, Katie Danhof and Carrie Westland, all with Treasure Island community engagement.
Photo by Kay Fate

Migrant workers fill gap for local farmer

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff Writer

Matt Holland, owner of Holland Agriculture in Ellendale, says he is pleased with his choice to hire 23 workers from South Africa through the H2A Agency of the US Department of Labor. "It's been great so far. These guys work so hard. They've been amazing."

He said the workers started arriving one by one over the last week of July and into August, but he admits they should have come sooner: "We planted sweet corn early this year. It was ready to harvest by July 20. Usually we don't start harvesting sweet corn till August 1. So, it was a mistake to have these guys arrive as late as they did. I will not make that mistake next year."

Holland operates a farm which manages 10,000 acres of land where field corn, sweet corn, soybeans and peas are grown. Holland Ag provides manure pumping services.

He says he hopes the migrant workers will return next year: "If I had known how great this would all work out, I would've done it five years ago. It has been difficult with hiring lately, we just can't seem to get dependable labor, but we don't have that problem with these guys." The workers have licenses which qualify them to drive farm trucks; they have also been performing general labor on the farm. Their work permits allow them to be in the U.S. through the agricultural season. Holland added, "They get their drivers licenses through the USA Farm Labor agency, so they're all certified and good to go by the time they get to me."

New Richland residents and property owners Keith and Melisa Leonardo, in partnership with Holland Ag, were recently approved by the New Richland city council for bunkhouse housing for migrant agricultural workers.

According to Melisa, the building in question is a former laundromat that had stood empty for some time before the Leonardos purchased it in April of 2025. "It was empty inside and needed some work. We've leased that building to Holland Ag, so the guys they hired from southern Africa have a place to stay. We looked into this. Around southern Minnesota there are 12 other bunkhouses like this. This is really not a new concept. Waseca has done it and a few other local towns; this is really only new to New Richland."

The Leonardos own and manage 11 residential rental and two commercial properties—the Panther Power House Gym and a warehouse on Division Street—within New Richland city limits. Keith reports they have received only positive feedback from neighbors around their property. "The neighbors have been very nice to the migrants. The businesses in town they've visited have all had nice things to say. The men themselves have complimented us on how nice our property has been to stay in; they said it was the nicest they've seen."



FenceLines

by Mark Bernard

I wonder how the old folks are tonight

The scurs received an aftermarket Weather Eye heat control cable from the AMC dealer. Weather improved dramatically. Will it last or does it revert back to hot and steamy? Starting Thursday, sunny with highs in the mid-70's and lows in the low 60's. Sunny Friday with a slight chance of rain. Highs in the low 80's with lows in the low 60's.

Sunny on Saturday with a fair chance of evening rain. Highs in the low 80's with lows in the mid-60's. Sunday, sunny with a fair chance of evening showers. Highs in the low 80's with lows in the mid-60's. Partly sunny on Monday with highs in the low 80's and lows in the mid-60's. Tuesday, mostly cloudy with a good chance of rain. Highs in the mid-80's with lows in the low 60's. Mostly cloudy on Wednesday with more rain. Highs in the upper 70's with lows in the low 60's. On August 6th, we'll see the sunset at 8:30 p.m. CDT. August 9th we start losing daylight at just over two minutes per day. The normal high for August 9th is 80 and the normal low is 60. The scurs will be enjoying a gyro at the Freeborn Co. Fair.

More substantial rain last week across much of the area. If it doesn't get us to the end of the growing season it'll be close. Most received 2" or better, falling much more gently than the last several rainfall events. Then another surprise thundershower falling Tuesday morning. Operators have done their homework, applying fungicide to this year's corn crop in particular. As it turns out, southern rust was detected in an area field on July 30" this past week.

Now, one detection doesn't mean it'll be a problem. In fact the cooler weather may not allow it to develop enough to reduce yield. It also arrived later than last year when it was detected on July 19th. Tar spot is in play yet as it prefers the cooler weather. Still, it should be one less thing to worry about if a reliable fungicide was applied in a timely fashion.

We're starting to notice a subtle transition towards fall in bird activity at the ranch. The chickadees are back and their calls can be heard just about any time. Blue jays are a constant, but they also signal that fall is on the way.

Oriole presence has slowed to almost nothing. No singing contests with the cardinal that keeps us entertained with his vocalizations. There was an adult oriole peering in the bowls on the jelly feeder as the rain was subsiding last week, so I restocked it just in case. Occasionally one can be heard, but none have been spotted at the feeder. Barn swallows at the ranch continue to patrol the yard daily. Plenty of flying biting insects for them to ingest. Migrating swallows continue to gather on area powerlines, telling us that winter is coming whether we like it or not.

The garden has finally started to come online. Zucchini have been bountiful, although they did slow down during the earlier cooler

spell. Same with the cucumbers. Some planting for fall will hopefully be possible if the rainfall cooperates. It should work well where the early garden was such a bust. It's certainly obvious the squirrels did a lot of their planting last fall. There are literally dozens of black walnut and oak trees springing up all over the property, most of them in places where one would rather not have them. Mowing the lawn gets the majority, but there are plenty close to the house and under trees. Have to deal with them up close and personal.

A few weeks ago at the neighbor's pasture, I encountered a plant that had 8-10 monarch caterpillars on it. It had narrow leaves and looked nothing like any milkweed plants I was used to seeing. When I brushed it, the monarch larvae fell off it and played possum underneath. The mosquitoes were eating me for lunch, so I didn't photograph it.

Recently I went back and found the plant or one like it. It had milky juice in it and when I looked it up, it was whorled milkweed. Then it clicked. Several years earlier I'd seen a patch in the middle of the pasture when I was chopping thistles with the tractor. It was in bloom and was very fragrant. It was an absolute magnet for bees and all sorts of butterflies including monarchs, so I didn't chop it. Didn't know what it was then. I do now.

Another rather impromptu car club outing at an assisted living in Owatonna in the Studebaker. We'd been led to believe that there'd only be a few cars from the Vista's noted Swedish astronomer's collection and whoever else from the club happened to show up. Much to our surprise, it turned out to be a car show with about 35 cars from all over, including our car club. No big deal. Regardless, the old folks are always so appreciative when they can see the cars and visit with people they've known. It was fun to sit in the shade and gab with other collectors too until it was time to go home. Another tank of gas was procured before leaving town, so we're ready for the next big adventure.

Poppy continues to be a handful when it comes to taking her heartworm and flea and tick medicine. She used to chew them up and swallow them like treats, but now it takes some trickery. Using my trusty as seen on TV Ginsu knife, I've discovered that slicing each chewable into several pieces and placing them inside a ball fashioned from a piece of American cheese makes them go down easily. It takes a while, but it beats struggling with her to get the meds down her gizzard. Finally, I've discovered a use for American cheese. Now, if you placed the medicine in a ball of real Swiss cheese, I might even eat it. Should help take care of any worms and keep the fleas away.

See you next week...real good then.

How do you prove it's not magic?

I love the pieces of shaped glass that bend light and create rainbows.

One can never learn enough about light: It seems perfectly appropriate that God created it first.

Science tells us that even at its inconceivable speed of 186,000 miles per second, light takes a bit more than eight minutes to reach us from the sun.

And while I trust those facts and the math needed to determine them, here's the thing: At the scale experienced in everyday life, a speed of 186,000 miles per second is instantaneous. The earth is 24,000 miles around at its widest. If it were possible to steer a beam of light on a chosen course, a laser beam I pointed at something nearby could travel around the earth nearly eight times and still strike its target in less than a second.

Regarding the distances between bodies in space, since the



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

sun is always pouring out light, it's not as if we have to wait eight extra minutes until our illumination arrives. It's always travelling in our direction.

I bring all this up because, as I sat down to write this column on Sunday morning, there were two perfect circles of light, each less than two inches across, dancing on the window.

Some of the light that had left the sun about eight minutes before struck a crystal I have hanging outside, turned a sudden corner, found itself projected onto the window and screen, and began sliding in gentle circles.

Recognizing the science be-

hind it all did not disturb the allure and fascination I felt as I watched those two circles move and bounce, like two cheerful little fairies begging me to come outside and play.

As I watched them, I knew many things. I knew they would only be there a few minutes. After all, the sun is in constant motion and the angle of light hitting my crystal to make that particular bend in its path was changing as I watched. I knew I could not touch or hold the tiny, shining phenomena.

I knew they were lifting my heart, inspiring contemplation, and bringing a spontaneous

smile to my lips. They felt like a tenderly delivered gift.

All the science I know doesn't undo that.

The term "coincidence" is made up of root words that simply indicate a number of things happened at the same time. It does not say "it can't be magic."

A whole set of natural and explainable circumstances created the two circles of light. I saw them, was taken by surprise, and became delighted by their symmetry and the quality of their motion. I had the time and inclination to watch, enjoy, and genuinely consider them.

So yes, it was "coincidence." It was also beautiful, uplifting, and an inspiration to contemplate God's handiwork. And now, by coincidence and using the magic of the written word, you've had a few moments of contemplation as well.

Painful loss: I am not on vacation

I was supposed to be on vacation this week.

At 28-years old I'm not supposed to have this much pain.

I threw out my back picking up a frying pan last Tuesday. Despite taking care not to bend at the back, bending with my knees, the motion of picking it up with my arms caused my lower back to slip out again. It still hadn't recovered from the previous injuries going back to January.

I'm mad, in pain and out \$1,500 in non-refundable Air BNB costs. My friend Madi and I, after much discussion, decided we would go to Wisconsin and Indiana. We intended to visit a handful of monasteries. Madi hadn't stopped talking about her desire to visit said places for months. It felt like a no-brainer when I suggested the idea.

We spent hours researching where to stay and found two unbelievably nice places at decent prices. The plan was to visit the monasteries along with the National Park in Indiana, and any other scenic places, museums, parks, etc.

I encouraged Madi to go without me after my efforts to try and 'heal quickly,' were unsuccessful. I did not leave my couch Tuesday or Thursday except for acupuncture and chiropractor appointments.

When I still couldn't manage to walk for more than five minutes without having to stop due to pain on Saturday, I decided it wasn't a good idea. The drive to the game store that day, was painful enough. I couldn't imagine six hours in the car on Monday.

Madi decided she would do the first leg of the trip and arrived safely Monday evening. She sent me photos and we spoke on the phone for about an hour during



Just a Thought...

by Eli Lutgens

her drive. The monastery was beautiful, but the cabin we rented, Madi tells me, 'was filled with freaky African and Indian masks.' She also inserted a crying 'emoji face.'

I wish I had more positive events to write about in life this week. I have an appointment on Tuesday to see my primary care provider to refer me to a specialist for my GI issues, aka, my left side pain. With the help of Ken at Heartland Healthcare, I have found a solution that helps me get through the day without too much discomfort.

I have a call in to see a clinic in Mankato for my back. Mayo kicked me out of physical therapy and said I left voluntarily. I begged them, twice, in person to schedule me for more appointments because I was scared I would re-injure myself. They told me I need to be re-evaluated and the lady in scheduling didn't believe me when I told her I had already been evaluated a second time to extend my therapy. I was assured three or four times, by two different staff members, in person, that scheduling would reach out to me to schedule more appointments. They didn't. If they had, it would still have taken three weeks to get back in their 'rotation.' My last physical therapy day was July 7th. I re-injured myself exactly three weeks later on the 28th. I still wouldn't have likely gotten back into physical therapy unless they had actually called me that first week to

schedule.

After a half dozen phone calls with Mayo last week, I got an appointment for a third evaluation. That isn't for another two weeks and then it will still be at least two weeks after that to be back in physical therapy. I am hoping I can be seen sooner in Mankato.

I don't understand why the people I keep asking for help from in the medical field don't help. They offer a potential idea for what might be wrong, and when that isn't correct, I have been abandoned. I felt defeated this week, all the while in lots and lots of pain.

I know my story is not unique. Many folks have had issues. To the readers who have suggested potential ideas and paths forward, I wish I had just called those phone numbers and seen those providers sooner. My faith in the healthcare system had not been as eroded as it is now. I expected to find help faster.

Locally, Ken has been great. Michelle at Swanson Acupuncture has been very good, along with the folks at Growing Roots. They're the only ones who I have seen actually do everything in

their power to help. Really, it's one lady in scheduling in Albert Lea who doesn't want to do her job. Three different times I had to beg her to do her job and she didn't want to. Once was to get a phone number because the people who were supposed to call to schedule my injection, didn't. The next time she lied to my face when I arrived late for an appointment. I asked her to please see if there was an opening or cancellation. She pretended to look at her computer and told me no. The next moment my physical therapist walked out and said she was really glad to see me. She then said the patient ahead of me cancelled, so she could see me. So as much complaining as I have done, it's really just that one person who I have had bad interactions with at Mayo Clinic in Albert Lea. Everyone else, truly, has been very kind.

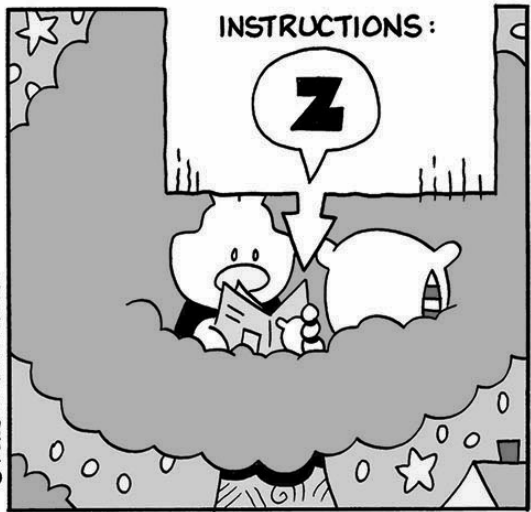
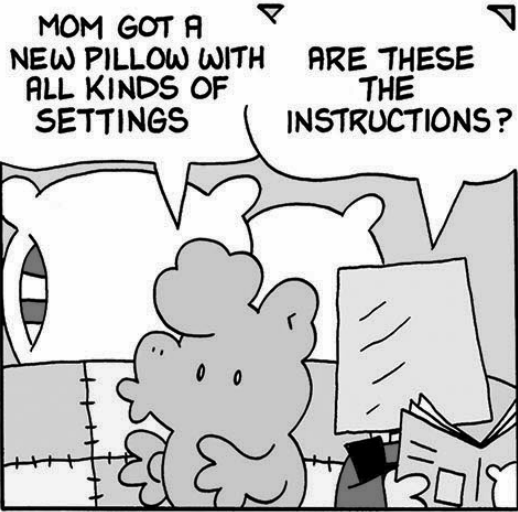
On a lighter note, I got my butt kicked in cribbage this week. Dad won 12 games and I only won six. It started really bad for me as I fell down seven games to one before winning five of the next six to pull within two on the week. But Dad skunked me three times this week and pulled away.

This week's cribbage tally's updated from last week total:

Dad 484 wins, 73 skunks
Eli 430 wins, 44 skunks, 1 double skunk

2026 totals, Eli 93 wins, 5 skunks, Dad 71 wins, 12 skunks

ZED by Duane M. Abel



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

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Compostings

by Al Batt

Say the nice thing

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
How's your telemarketing job going?
I quit.
How come?
It wasn't my true calling.
DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I was a major piece of the day's puzzle. I stopped at a cemetery to put things in perspective. A couple meandered through the cemetery looking for one name but finding many. The woman stopped at one gravestone and said, "So that's why I don't see him around."

Afterwards, I stopped at the Farmers Market. Great people and great produce are found there. There was a good-sized table holding nothing but beets. One customer bought them all. I supposed beet pickles were going to be made. The vinegary beets in my school lunches were canned and disliked. They were served sliced, cold and pickled. The beet juice frequently bled into neighboring foods, turning them pink. I didn't find that charming. Beets weren't high on children's culinary preferences, but the school didn't skip a beat.

A friend said beets have an earthy taste. A polite way of saying they taste like dirt. I've sipped beet juice, after being told it had a sweet and earthy flavor, and it did—like wet dirt. I've eaten a red soup called borscht. It had beets, cabbage, potatoes, onions and carrots in a broth with a dollop of sour cream on top. It was mighty good.

BUYING THE FARM TWICE
A friend gave me letters sent to a local banker in 1926. One letter confirmed that a farmer had paid off his mortgage. It was brimming with glad tidings. Not long after that, the correspondence shifted to sadness in a report of that farmer's death. He had bought the farm shortly after buying the farm.

I'VE LEARNED
Never play Twister with an octopus.
Frankenstein's monster was a people person.
If someone asks, "Do you know what your problem is?" There's no need to answer. They will tell you.
North Carolina has the highest rate of venomous snake bites per capita of any state..

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT
A weasel goes into a bar. The bartender says, "Interesting. I've never served a weasel before. What can I get you?" "Pop" goes the weasel.
I struggle with Roman numerals until I get to 159. Then it just CLIX.
MEETING ADJOURNED
Say the nice thing.

You never appreciate what you have until it's gone. Toilet paper is a good example.

NATURE NOTES
"Sometimes", said Pooh, "the smallest things take up the most room in your heart." I enjoy watching butterflies flutter past me on their meandering routes. Cabbage white butterflies, which aren't uncommon in my yard, flew here and there. They are native to Europe and Asia, and are an introduced species in the U.S. Their caterpillars feed on members of the cabbage or mustard family.

American white pelicans are fish herders. They hunt by herding fish into shallow water and taking part in a feeding frenzy, rather than diving like brown pelicans. White pelicans often fish together in groups, coordinating their movements by forming lines and driving fish toward the shore or other pelicans. They dip their bills into the water to catch fish in their throat pouches. Contrary to cartoon portrayals and common misconceptions, pelicans do not carry food in their bill pouches. They use their bills to scoop up food but swallow their catch before flying off. Pelicans feed their chicks by regurgitating partially digested fish from their gular pouches into the chicks' mouths or onto the ground. Yum! As the chicks grow older, they learn to reach directly into the parents' throat pouches to retrieve a meal. American white pelicans and double-crested cormorants frequently swim together and sometimes forage together. They do hunt at different depths—pelicans are surface-feeders and cormorants are divers and deep-feeders. Two pelican species are native to the United States: the American white pelican is commonly found inland and in fresh-water habitats, and the brown pelican is primarily found along coastal areas, including beaches, lagoons and islands.

On warm, humid nights, the phenomenon known as "heat lightning" is commonly observed. The sky flickers with light, even on a clear night with a starry sky. No sound goes with the flash, although if you're listening to an AM radio, you will hear crackles of static when you see a flash. What we see is the light from a distant thunderstorm at a distance too far for the sound of the thunder to be heard. Thunder's sound rarely travels over 10 miles. The term "heat lightning" comes from the fact that it's most often seen on warm, humid nights during July and August, causing an association with sultry temperatures. The light from an intense thunderstorm can be seen as far away as 100 miles.

MEETING ADJOURNED
Say the nice thing.

American Legion Donates to Red Raiders



RED RAIDERS SUPPORT - New Richland American Legion made a donation to the New Richland American Legion Baseball team. Pictured here: Bodie Newgard, Tucker Flatness, Levi Whiteside, Rick Rottman, Owen Schlaak, AJ Deen, Tyler Piepho, Dakota Schlaak, Brooks Gilliland, Alec Wyrum, Brock Holland, Shane Service, Aiden Routh, Denny Dinneen, Jack Pfeffer

Feeling proud to be an American

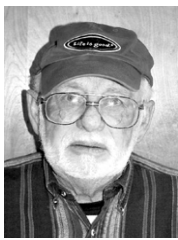
Sometimes your fellow human beings can make you proud to be an American!!

One such event occurred this summer in Albert Lea at the Freeborn County Fairgrounds.

The decision was made to remove all the Dutch elm trees along the fairgrounds border on Bridge Street in Albert Lea. The trees were cut down and hauled away. Why was this done ? It was to prevent Dutch Elm disease. (Who picked up the tab for this?? I don't know.)

After the trees were cut down and the stumps removed, the fairgrounds looked very barren.

In our driving by and looking at



FACT OR FICTION

...you decide

by Bob Hanson, Emeritus

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

the fence posts in a line, Genie and I hoped for a solution to improve the appearance.

AHA! A lightbulb idea was to line the fence with OLD GLORY flags, but how to pay for all of this??

A group of locals put their money up front to solve the cash shortage.

The group of locals formed and called themselves "Patriots for Jesus." Once the group realized how big a project this was financially, they made that old saying "we'll get it done" and they did just that. Now for your help- yes you!! "financially."

The mailing address is: Matt Benda

1811 Broadway Ave S.E.
Albert Lea, MN 56007
Make your check out to "Patriots for Jesus."

That's my story and this old Norwegian is very pleased to be a resident of Albert Lea, Minnesota!!

Please pat your back as you say, "I'm proud to be an American!!"

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

Mission

from Page 1

"Imagine their surprise as they broke the bread, handed it away, and discovered they still had bread to hand to the next person," Carter said.

In much the same way today, he extrapolated, believers are delivered the good news with the expectation they will deliver it to others. Though we may be hesitant to take on the task, Carter suggested, we are likely to find ourselves surprised and delighted with what happens when we pass our faith along.

The potluck meal was a generous buffet that included inviting salads and entrees, with a spread of homemade pies and desserts.



COMMUNITY MUSIC - Above, a band of about a dozen musicians accompanied the mission festival service. Instruments ranged from the flute to tubas. Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

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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.

On the 14th I drove into Auburn and bought my load, consisting of flour, pork, butter and groceries. I returned to the Yankee's to stay over night and to buy some seed corn.

The 15th was so stormy and cold that I delayed a day. On the 16th I again started. Everything went well enough until afternoon, when the forward bolster of the wagon broke and I was compelled to put up with a farmer, unload the wagon and make a new bolster. Fortunately I struck the right house—the home of a carpenter. Although the father was not at home, he had some grown up boys from whom I obtained the use of tools to make the necessary repairs. It took all the next day to get ready for another start, and most of the day it snowed.

On the 18th I started quite early. The weather was clear but cold, and the road hard to travel. I got as far as the Brink house that day, and as the snow was about a foot deep, and hauling a wagon and breaking the roads were laborious, I accepted a fair offer for a portion of

the load that night.

It was rather late on the morning of the 19th of December, my twenty-second birthday, when I started from the Brink house to cross that eighteen miles of uninhabited prairie. In climbing the hill on the west side of the Cedar, the wagon slid out of the track and the off hind wheel caught in a small tree, which had to be cut down. The oxen had become discouraged and I was unable to get them to haul the load to the top of the hill. I was in for a tug. I had to unload and carry ten hundred pounds of that flour about two rods to the top of the hill on my shoulders. It was noon by the time I had reached the top of the hill and had reloaded, and it was eighteen miles to the house of my Norwegian friends on the west side of the prairie. Not a track had been made since the last fall of snow, across the prairie, and it was a question whether to proceed that day or wait till morning. I finally concluded to proceed. The snow was drifted in many places and progress was decidedly slow. To add to the discomfort of the situation, a storm of wind and fine, hard snow set in from the northwest about the middle of the afternoon; when darkness settled down on the prairie, I was only a little more than half way across it, with little prospect of proceeding much further that night.

‘Ask a Trooper’: tinted windows

Question: I'm seeing more and more vehicles in Minnesota with dark tinted windows. I thought there was a law prohibiting dark tinted windows on both the driver and passenger windows but back windows can be dark. Unless the laws changed and I didn't know. Thank you

Answer: In Minnesota, you can have your windows tinted to a light transmittance of 50 percent, but not less. Light transmittance is the amount of light that is required to pass through both the window and the tint film. Before any tint material is applied to your windows, a vehicle comes from the factory with tint already inside the glass material. No window comes from the factory at 100 percent light transmittance. My experience has been that most vehicles are already at 75 percent before any modifications.

No vehicle can have ANY tint to the front windshield.

Passenger cars are limited to 50

percent on all side and rear windows.

Pickups, vans, and SUVs are limited to 50 percent on the front side windows.

Pickups, vans, and SUVs are not limited on the rear side and rear windows. (Can be less than 50 percent behind the front seat).

Squad cars, limousines, and vehicles used to transport human remains by a funeral establishment are not limited on the side and rear windows.

More people are getting prescriptions from doctors to have window tint darker than 50 percent. If people have any type of medical conditions which are affected by the sun, they are allowed to have window tint darker than 50 percent. The proper document will need to be in the vehicle to show law enforcement upon request. The document will need to specifically state the minimum percentage that light transmittance may be reduced to satisfy the prescription or medical needs of the patient.

outdoors. She also wants to acknowledge the many grants the city has received toward the project. They include Taylor Family Farms Foundation, \$25,000; Waseca Area Foundation Rosenau Legacy of Angels Fund, \$5,000; MinnWest Bank, \$5,000; Waldorf Fire Department, \$10,000; Crystal Valley Cooperative, \$2,000; Thrivent, \$1,500; Waldorf First Lutheran Church \$661.20; Bollig Engineering, \$150; and St. Joseph's Catholic Church of Waldorf, \$2,500.

■ Park from Page 1

received more than \$67,000 in donations. Fundraising efforts will continue until the goal of \$123,000 is reached.

City council member Missy Sorbo has worked extensively with the project, and says she believes the whole community will find the updated park an inviting place to spend time

3rd Grade Fitness Awards 2026



PANTHER FITNESS - Jace Wenzel, Everett Viktora, Steven Kehne, Bentley Reese, Easton Isder, Collin Eustice, Oaklyn Arnold, Bree Holland, Charolette Wear, Kenley Tolzman, Ellie Olson, Katiana Rethmeyer



3RD GRADE TRACK AND FIELD - Back row: Hannah Busch, Elsie Degen, Dekker Thompson, Collin Eustice, Eason Isder, Dallas Hanson, Max Iverson, Olivia Pederson, Collin Jellum, Dash Gullickson
Middle row: Everett Viktora, Katiana Rethmeyer, Bree Holland, Charolette Wear, Brynlee Pederson, Steven Kehne, Cole Joecks, Josiyah Popp, Danika Wilkerson, Kenley Tolzman
Front Row: Knox Johnson, Lydia Holland, Oaklyn Arnold, Cruz Reyes, Ellie Olson, Caleb Spinler

4th Grade Fitness Awards 2026



PANTHER FITNESS - Mya Misgen, Leia Guerrero, Edward Simmons, Drake Hanson, Benji Possin, Alex VanHal, Kaison Perkins, River Wayne, Reid Leonardo



4TH GRADE TRACK AND FIELD - Back row: Kaila Johnson, Bexleigh Moen, Kyra Miranda, Drake Hanson, Benji Possin, Kane Hummel, Cooper Hanson, Emma Brunsen, James Lewer,
Middle row: Faye Bartsch, Mya Misgen, Geneva Jurgensen, Reid Leonardo, Alex VanHal, Kaison Perkins, Edward Simmons, River Wayne, Nolan Bartsch, Jacob Dobberstein
Front row: Naomi Wakefield, Hadley Schlaak, Lei Guerrero, Aaliyah Johnson, Mila Rothmeier, Lucas Kennedy, Rylan Neitzel, Casey Hallman

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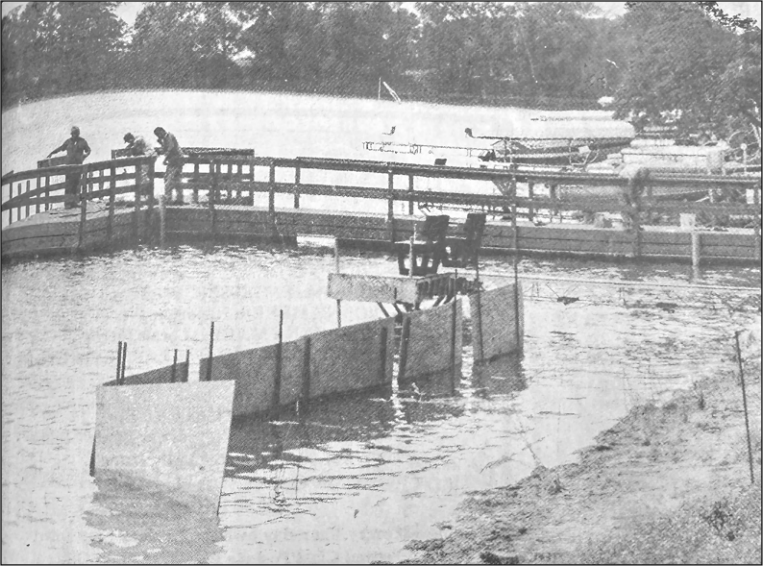
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LOOKING BACK

25 years ago



- Members of the Department of Natural Resources assembled a fishing pier to the west of the swimming area at St. Olaf Lake on Tuesday, July 17. When the assembly was completed a boat was used to float it over in the area east of the beach.

- Emily Bartusek, an outstanding Albert Lea track star, qualified for three events, in the Junior Olympics national track and field meet July 24-29 at California State, Sacramento. She placed first in the 400 meters in: 58.1; second in the 200 in: 26.2 and third in the triple jump at 33'3".

50 years ago

- In spite of the dry weather the past month, the town and Country Garden Club's Flower Shower held at the City Hall, Saturday in connection with Farm and City Day, here, was a success. A record crowd of over 450 persons registered, enjoyed the show and were served lunch. Over-all champion of the show was Mrs. Glen Bethke, Sr. with an arrangement featuring an antique. Door prizes were won by Mrs. Howard Jorgenson, Mrs. David Possin and Mildred Pofahl.

-Rita Miller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Miller, R.R.2, Box 99, New Richland, has been accepted as a member of the freshman class at The College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, Minnesota.

75 years ago

- Mr. and Mrs. Orland Lee of Albert Lea became the parents of their first child, a son, born at the Naeve hospital Friday, August 24. The baby weighed 7 ½ pounds and has received the name Robert Eugene.



Shown here is a picture of a sunrise on the lake by Dick's cabin. The other is of Bello Lake, which is located just a few miles east of their cabin.



Woods and Water

Outdoors Writer

Hot weather has an effect on wildlife

The temperatures have been more like I remember August being with warm sunny days and cooler nights. I have to say that these temperatures are something that I can handle.

On the first of August we celebrated our son, Brad's, 50th Birthday. I can still see him walking into the kitchen and telling me that I had the frying pan handle sticking out in front of the stove. He remembered what he was taught in the school room about safety around the house and he was keeping a watchful eye on me and my safety habits. Each time that I cook something on the stove, I still remember his safety tips with a little smile on my face.

I still haven't made my second trip to the cabin, but I am sure that it will be taking place very soon. I keep re-arranging my tackle boxes in anticipation of the journey. My grandson, Trevor, has satisfied my urge to get out on some area lakes a few times this summer, which I greatly appreciate.

The DNR has been investigating some fish kills in some Minnesota lakes due to the extended heat wave that we incurred during a large part of the summer. I can remember a few years ago when some northerns were found floating in Fountain Lake in the west bay of Edgewater Park. This kill was unofficially attributed to the heat. I can remember when I was a youth who enjoyed fishing on the shores of Fountain Lake and some springs the dead fish lined the shores after a freeze out. This was way before aerators and dredging. We have come a long ways from the days when the city workers

would load the dead fish into trucks and haul them away to be disposed of.

Until next time: The Minnesota DNR is hosting visits to some WMAs across the state. I am including the one in the Rochester area, which is the one closest to our area. If you are interested in others, visit the DNR website for other events and locations.

August 20, 2026, 4-7 p.m., Rock Dell WMA (Rochester area)

Celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Wildlife Management Area system and join us for a unique, drive through tour of Rock Dell WMA showcasing how these lands are restored, protected, and managed for wildlife habitat. Along the route, you'll stop at several stations, learning about the importance and history of WMAs in Minnesota, highlighting habitat projects, including prairie and oak savanna restoration, methods of transitioning land from agricultural fields to prairie, and discovering the equipment, tools and techniques used by land managers. Participants will take home a stronger connection to these wild lands as well as 75th anniversary giveaways.

Tour starts at the North parking lot off Olmsted County Rd 3 SW (church parking lot) and ends at the South service road off Olmsted County Rd 3 SW. Dress for the weather; all activity stations are outside.

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

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Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship

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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)

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New Richland, Minnesota
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Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting

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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

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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
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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
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Todd Lundgren, Pastor
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Bible Study; 10:30 a.m. Worship

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Pastor David Modder
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 10

a.m. Kids church
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FIRST LUTHERAN LCMC
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Lay Pastor Ross Sletten
Saturday - 8am Men's Bible Study
Sunday - 9am Worship
Monday - 7pm Call to prayer
Wednesday - 9:30am Bible Study; 6pm Confirmation

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

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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
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Sunday — 10:45 a.m. Worship

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Baseball Spotlight



LEGION PLAYOFF TEAM - Back Row: Todd Piepho, Levi Whiteside, Memphis Schlaak, Mack Gilliland, Dakota Schlaak, Brock Holland, AJ Deen, Bodie Newgard, Brooks Gilliland and Aaron Gilliland. Front Row: Carter Martens, Calvin Nissen, Sean Lassahn, Owen Schlaak, Tyler Piepho, Shane Service and Justin Schlaak (not pictured Ryan Schlaak)



New Richland Red Raiders see milestone season

The 2026 season marked an exciting milestone for Red Raiders New Richland Post 75 Legion Baseball, as the program fielded both Senior and Junior Legion teams for the first time. The season showcased the continued growth of baseball in the community and highlighted a promising future for the program.

The Junior Legion team finished the summer with a 3-8-1 record while continuing to develop throughout the season. The team earned key victories over Hayfield and St. Charles and played in the Rochester and St. Charles tournaments.

The Senior Legion team finished with a 7-6 record, earning notable wins over Blooming Prairie, Adams, and Lewiston-Altura. The Senior Legion finished 2nd in the St. Charles tournament and played

in the Rochester tournament.

The Senior Legion team qualified for the league playoffs as the No. 6 seed out of 11 teams. In the opening round, Post 75 hosted Blooming Prairie and earned an impressive 8-2 victory to advance to the double-elimination bracket. The team's postseason run ended after a pair of hard-fought one-run losses, falling 6-5 to Caledonia and 5-4 to La Crescent.

With the successful launch of both Junior and Senior Legion teams, the 2026 season laid a strong foundation for the future of Red Raiders baseball. The growth of the program, along with the commitment of its players, coaches, families, and community supporters, points to a bright future for baseball in New Richland for years to come.



11A TEAM - The Quad Cities 11A baseball team competed in the MBT State Tournament in Chanhassen on July 17-19, finishing with a 2-2 record. The team placed second in its pool after earning wins over Prior Lake White (6-4) and Roseville Red (5-2), while falling to Chanhassen (3-1). Advancing to the 20-team championship bracket, Quad Cities battled Minnetonka Blue in a hard-fought game before ending its tournament run with an 18-10 loss. The players represented the Quad Cities program with great effort and sportsmanship throughout the weekend against some of the top teams in the state.

On the team is Axel Schlaak, Brantley Braaten, Ian Wilson, Chase Simon, Asa Bethke, Auen Greighten, Hugh Courtney, Rafe Kundson, Jack Van Hal, Gadiel Cazares, Griffin Pederson.



13AA TEAM - The Quad Cities 13AA baseball team competed in the MBT State Tournament in Lakeville on July 17-19, turning in an impressive performance to finish tied for fifth place in the tournament. Quad Cities placed second in its pool after earning victories over Apple Valley (14-12) and the Irondale Knights (11-5), while falling to Wayzata Gold (10-5). Advancing to the 20-team championship bracket, Quad Cities won its first two bracket games. The team opened bracket play with a 13-5 victory over Prior Lake Gold before edging league rival Chatfield 9-8 in a thrilling matchup to advance to the final eight.

In the quarterfinals, Quad Cities battled Rogers in another closely contested game but came up just short, falling 14-12. The strong tournament run earned the Quad Cities 13AA team a tie for fifth place in the state tournament, capping off an outstanding weekend of baseball against some of Minnesota's top competition.

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

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