

Flood recovery cleanup volunteer day Oct. 4

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

Local citizens affected by the flood are encouraged to request volunteer help with flood cleanup projects by calling 320-270-3766; volunteers are being invited to come to New Richland on Sunday, Oct 4 beginning at about 8:30 a.m. to provide labor and, when possible, equipment, according to information shared this Monday by city administrator Tyler Lendt.

Requests for assistance will be shared with relief organizations and government agencies, who will sign up using the online tool CrisisCleanup.org. Workers will come ready to help, and—based on the listed requests—bring any useful vehicles or tools at their disposal.

Organizers will select and dispatch volunteers to registered locations based on how well their specifications match the stated needs. For example, groups with trucks will be sent to sites where debris needs to be hauled away.

Area groups or individuals who wish to provide volunteer labor can register themselves using a Google Form at <https://forms.gle/D45iEG3eiryPPhMD6>. The link also appears on the Waseca Exchange Club Facebook page; the Exchange Club is co-sponsoring the event.

Of plans for the day, Lendt commented, “It’s a chance to make a real difference—one driveway, one basement, one family at a time.”

Those with cleanup needs are advised that the volunteers and their equipment are provided at no charge, but there is no guarantee people will be assigned to any specific site.

Property owners are encouraged to register their needs, since the event may not take place if there are not many requests.

Bingo Celebration at Geneva Community Center Oct. 3

The Geneva Community Center will hold a Bingo Celebration with doors open at 6 p.m., bingo at 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3. Door prizes, \$500 jackpot, \$40 per person, cash bar available.

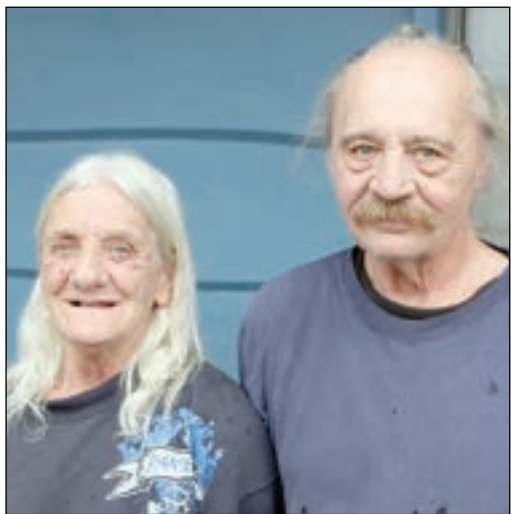
Fall into Winter Style Show at Ellendale Community Center, Tuesday, Oct. 6

Join the Fall into Winter Style Show at the Ellendale Community Center on Tuesday, Oct. 6. Tickets available at Two Dove’s Boutique Courtyard, \$30 for fashion, fun and hors d’oeuvres.

A word from The Word

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11



Jeannie Olson and David Melcher escaped from their apartment through hip-deep water carrying what they could grab in only a few moments. Prior flooding had never reached their home in the apartment building at 240 Third Street Northeast in New Richland, but on Saturday morning, a wall of water suddenly washed against their sliding patio doors and began filling their living space.
Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

Flood victims describe loss, uncertainty

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

Jeannie Olson and David Melcher had lived together in one of four ground-level apartments at Third Street Northeast in New Richland for six years. With a clear view of the town baseball field, they had seen rising water many times, but the closest it had ever come to their apartment building was about 20 feet away.

So around 7 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 19, they were relaxed and unconcerned as they drank their morning coffee and looked at the standing water outside—until they suddenly realized there was a wall of water moving rapidly in their direction. They could see their apartment would be inundated, so they grabbed a few medical items and a couple rather random armloads of clothing.

Even as they reached and grabbed, the water began filling their space, so that, by the time they fled outdoors to their vehicles, the water was up to Jeannie’s hips.

Their two cars were parked outside. Jeannie’s SUV, the taller of the two, already had water above its floorboards, but Dave opened the door anyway.

“I’m glad I did,” he remembers. “Because we saved that car.”

The two got in and drove away, worried whether the engine would die as they pushed through water that seemed two or three feet deep. Behind them, Dave’s car was left standing in water which eventually reached the height of its windows.

They drove to City Hall and spent much of the day there.

“Our shoes were wet, our socks were wet, our pants were wet,” Jeannie describes. Fortunately, local folks were there to help. They were able to go to the Lady Bug thrift shop and acquire some dry things to wear.

That evening, they and a few others whose homes were inaccessible were offered beds at Trinity Lutheran Church. The next day, the food shelf benevolence fund was used to arrange for a few days’ stay at the American Hotel in Waseca for Jeannie, Dave, and a few others

Flood continued on 7

New Richland residents to receive assessment visits

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

New Richland residents can expect front door visits on Thursday, Friday and Saturday of this week, asking them about losses and expenses incurred due to recent flooding.

Representatives from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety’s emergency management division, including commissioners Allison Farole and Bob Jacobson as well as assistant commissioner T. John Cunningham, spoke in New Richland on Sept. 28, expressing admiration for the “neighbors helping neighbors” approach area residents and businesses have shown since the flood.

Farole delivered a message intended for area property owners, letting them know small teams of officials will be going door to door to request information about damages, losses, and expenses incurred because of the flooding.

Their objective is to tally local losses to see whether they meet the threshold—at least \$1 million as well as other determining criteria—to

Assess continued on 12

Flood update lists damages, plans

News that nearly a dozen homes will likely be deemed a total loss, and up to the four foot high mark of the walls of the New Richland Care Center will be gutted and replaced was shared during a press conference outside City Hall Thursday afternoon, Sept. 24, 2026.

Last weekend’s rain totalling roughly nine inches caused severe damage, affecting nearly 80% of homes in New Richland, also resulting in the evacuation of the local care center.

“I want to begin by expressing my deepest gratitude to the residents of the City of New Richland and the State of Minnesota who have come together these past few days,” New Richland City Administrator Tyler Lendt told reporters. “As we continue our cleaning up and rebuilding, we’re also working hard to help New Richland regain a sense of normalcy. It may take time, but every step forward matters.”

After thanking a long list of people, agencies and volunteers, Lendt offered a summary of the town’s status to date, along with a list of intended steps forward.

He stated it will take six to 12 months to carry out repairs at the city’s care center: “We are committed to reopening it as soon as possible,” Lendt said.

Evidently somewhat emotional over the outpouring of assistance and goodwill, a

City continued on 12

2026 Homecoming Royalty



CROWNED - Congratulations to 2026 Homecoming Queen Ariel-Star Anhalt and Homecoming King Ryan Schlaak. Anhalt is the daughter of Anita and Randy Anhalt and Schlaak is the son of Nathan and Lindsey Schlaak.
Star Eagle photos by Eli Lutgens



Dad’s Belgian Waffles

A picture is worth a thousand waffles

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

All Saints Catholic Church in New Richland held its annual all-you-can-eat Dad’s Belgian Waffles breakfast during its 2026 Fall Festival on Sunday, Sept. 27. They saw around 300 guests come through their line. Gretchen Supalla and Linda Timmerman were selling tickets at the door; they totaled up everyone’s bill quickly, so hungry diners didn’t have to wait any longer than necessary to join the line.

With 12 waffle irons in front of him and a wall of syrup to his left, John Morgan, owner of Dad’s Belgian Waffles out of Algona, Iowa for the past 29 years, kept the line mov-



HUNGRY FOR A TASTE - Gretchen Supalla and Linda Timmerman were taking tickets for Betsy Bartsness, Cole, Raegan, and Rowan at the All Saints Catholic Church of New Richland’s all-you-can-eat Belgian Waffle breakfast on Sunday, Sept. 27, 2026.
Star Eagle photo by Ben Revermann

ing and the waffles flowing. In between the waffles and syrup stood volunteers passing out sausage links.

Once diners received their waffles, it became decision time—home-made whipped cream, maple syrup, strawberry syrup, blueberry, boy-

senberry or sugar-free maple? Along with in-house dining in the church basement, there was also a to-go option for which volunteers and guests put together meals for those who were unable to attend. Morgan was asked what his record for total waffles in a day is. After a long pause

Waffles continued on 7



FenceLines

by Mark Bernard

Sunshine came softly a-through my a-window

The scurs had the Weather Eye dialed in for more sunshine than we actually received. Are our weather fortunes about to change or are we back in the soup again? Starting Thursday, mostly cloudy with highs in the low 60's and lows in the mid-40's. Mostly sunny Friday with highs in the low 60's and lows in the mid-40's. Mostly sunny on Saturday with highs in the low 60's and lows in the mid-40's. Sunday, mostly sunny with highs in the upper 50's and lows in the low 40's. Sunny on Monday with highs in the upper 50's and lows in the low 40's. Tuesday, mostly sunny with highs in the upper 60's and lows in the low 40's. Mostly sunny Wednesday with highs in the upper 60's and lows in the mid-40's. Thursday is October 1% already. On October 3rd, our loss of daylight begins to slow to 2 minutes and 58 seconds. On the 5th, we'll see 11 hours and 30 minutes of daylight. The normal high for October 5th is 65, and the normal low is 42. The scurs will be delighted to see the sunshine again. Won't we all?

Farmers should be happy to see this forecast. Until recently, it has been one of the cloudiest stretches in recent memory. While we haven't seen excessively heavy precipitation since the heavy rains on the 18th and 19th, we simply haven't seen much sunshine, had breezes or temperatures to dry things out. We are fortunate to have as much tile drainage in places as we do, but it still takes time for that water to work its way through the system. As of Monday, September 28, our rainfall totals for the month stand at 12.91" in New Richland, 12.55" in Ellendale and 9.52" at the ranch, which is nearly equidistant between the two. Remember when I wrote a few weeks back as we were easing into September that so far indications were that we'd have another drier than normal month, but that could change? We just thought we'd had a lot of rain in July when September said, "Hold my beer." There are some positives to all this rainfall. Some of the wetlands that were left wanting much of the spring and earlier summer have been recharged. This means better waterfowl habitat, especially when it comes to resting and feeding areas for migrating birds. It should also help some of the numerous toads from this year's hatch at the ranch to find places where they can stay moist and dig in for the winter. Damp weather such as we've had also deters the boxelder bug population. So far it doesn't appear to have had much impact on the Asian ladybeetle population as they were out in full force Monday when it warmed up and gave us some glimpses of sunshine. It remains to be seen if they'll be as bad as years past. There was some earlier indication the numbers of the pink colored 12-spotted ladybeetles were on the rise, perhaps taking their place in some situations. They're unlikely to be winter houseguests.

So how did the multi-colored Asian ladybeetle come to be here in the U.S.? While no one is exactly sure, there were releases in CA back in 1916 for aphid control in pecan groves. More releases

were attempted from the 1960's – 1980's. They didn't become established until 1988 in Louisiana. From there they've spread across the US and Canada. While they are voracious feeders on aphids, they also cause a lot of grief not only due to their overwintering habits, but also for their propensity to damage fruit crops such as apples and grapes. In wine grapes they are particularly problematic when they hide inside the grape clusters. When the grapes are crushed, they can give the wine an off flavor known as ladybug taint. Another prime example of why biocontrol insects need to be properly vetted before they're turned loose in our environment.

It has been a bountiful harvest so far at the ranch. Continuing to pick muskmelons and give them away as fast as possible. It was great to fashion an apple crisp on Sunday for the car club picnic. It took some doing as I was out of stick butter and there was no Cool Whip to top it with, requiring a trip to town. After that was accomplished, I set about cutting up the apples. I found way more apple maggot trails in some of the apples than I liked, so many of those wound up over the fence. The sheep aren't very discriminating when it comes to infested produce. Once I got the apples cut up and everything combined in the pan, I set the timer for an hour at 350. The house smelled like heaven afterwards. Best of all, it was still warm when I took it to the picnic and tasted pretty decent, all things considered.

One of the evenings after it had stopped raining, I was getting ready for bed. I'd worked my way towards the bedroom, turning off lights as I went. I also tuned the TV in, so it'd be on when I climbed in the sack. I heard what sounded like a small horse whinnying. I thought maybe Gunsmoke was on, so I didn't think much of it. When they cut to a commercial break, I could still hear it. What the? I listened more intently and could tell it was coming from outside. I leaned my head out of the sliding glass door and heard it plain as day. I couldn't hear any footsteps, and the sound was actually coming from up in the trees. Then the sound changed to trilling and then it came to me: A screech owl! Here I'd almost called my neighbor, the Big Dubya, and accused him of buying a miniature horse for his daughter!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EgWWfB9Ee4&t=42s>

Poppy has been my faithful companion while Mrs. Cheviot has been out east for the past couple weeks. Lots of ball playing along with squirrel, turkey and chipmunk chasing. It's been a wet month, so her outdoor time has been more limited. Getting the lawn mowed so she can use it in its entirety has been a challenge, but we've done the best we could. Sometimes that doesn't make a difference either. Monday afternoon I'd finished off the backyard so she could use that space too. Nope. Let her out for potty and she used the patio instead. Yet more proof that it's her place and we merely live here.

See you next week..real good then.

A suggestion for overcoming a gloomy mood

Just breathe. Deeply. Close your eyes. Draw the air in through your nose and pull it all the way down inside you. Feel your lungs expanding. Sense the extra oxygen reaching your brain, pushing its way in and somehow making it feel as if you are awakening—almost like fresh water reaching a parched landscape.

Keep breathing deeply. Recognize you are completely surrounded by a medium which not only delivers your most fundamental need, but stands ready to lift you up and strengthen your connection to all it touches. If you just breathe it in.

Back in April, I attended a session for regional social workers led by nationally acknowledged consultant Bryan Post. I produced an article which described Post's suggestions for working with children who have undergone trauma, and because of it react to situations in unexpected ways.

The information shared there



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

was valuable and thought-provoking, but it did not include a profound, separate subject that Post addressed.

He said the first—and perhaps even most important—response when we encounter a stressful or difficult situation is to take a deep breath—probably eight or ten of them, actually, to ground ourselves.

Yet what is our instinct when we begin to be frustrated? We breathe shallowly, or even hold our breaths.

After telling the group that holding your breath is one of the worst things you can do when uncertain or emotional, he introduced an unexpected string of ideas.

He pointed out that holding our breath is separating ourselves from consciousness—from an immediate connection with where we are, the people we are with, and even our own life experience.

Consciousness, he said, is life. Life, he went on, is love. And love is God.

By holding our breaths—something we often do automatically and without realizing it—Bryan suggested we are unconsciously initiating a chain reaction that leads in the opposite direction from where we want to be going.

It was a set of associations I would not have arrived at on my own. I was grateful not only for the profound thoughts, but also

the energy and sincerity with which they were delivered. And I was reminded of them when I looked out at the gloomy fog and wetness that was Monday morning's weather.

I went to the trouble of digging out my notes from April because I wanted to be sure to get Bryan's list of associations right. You see, the details had escaped me, leaving me with the much shorter thought that my memory has retained: Breathing is connecting myself to God.

Try it and see whether you agree. Go back to the first paragraphs of this column and follow the instructions; consider having someone read them to you so you can actually follow the steps with your eyes closed.

Perhaps most importantly, though, every now and then remove breathing from the list of "autonomic" functions of your metabolism. Draw in strength. Be conscious of the life-giving medium around you. Fill yourself with love. Strengthen your connection to God.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



www.corkeycomics.com

Tallies of damages may lead to recovery money

A lot of damage was caused due to the flooding this past week in New Richland. Cleanup efforts are still underway all across the city. A team is coming around town on Sunday to talk to folks to get a dollar estimate of damages and also to use this info to apply for funding at the federal level. The groups will go door to door and business to business. Hopefully, folks can get some money to help with their damages.

During the week the kids from the local high school spent many hours on cleanup.

Senator Klobuchar put out a statement this week that the time is now for putting money into infrastructure to fix this. She directed her office to work with the local city and county to find funding to do so. Hopefully the studies that were paid for in order to look for grant money to fix the infrastructure around town will now finally be put to good use.



Just a Thought...

by Eli Lutgens

Talking with local folks, I have heard of at least one business with damages over \$100,000. We do not know the amount of dollars necessary to clean up and fix the care center. More than 80 employees I was told worked in that building.

The entire first floor of the apartments across from Budachs were essentially destroyed.

Ten to 12 houses are deemed a total loss.

Thousands and thousands of dollars of damages to more than 300, maybe even 400 homes in New Richland.

The time is now to fix this problem as permanently as possible.

sible.

I am grateful my home and place of employment were not affected directly. One or two or

three floods ago my Dad's basement flooded for the first time ever. After clearing everything out, he basically left it that way. So he was prepared.

Others were not so lucky.

My final real thoughts on this are that I do expect lasting change to be made. I spoke with multiple county commissioners and have read so, so many news articles. It will take time. I just pray that we don't endure so much damage in the meantime.

Dear Editor.

I struggle with trying to find the right words as I try to write this thank you. There are no amount of words that can truly express the gratitude we all have for the volunteers that showed up during and since the flooding occurred just a week ago here in New Richland.

The result of that flood has been devastating to so many, but the outpouring of support from so many people and surrounding communities has been nothing short of amazing. I saw trucks from Hartland, Waldorf, Waseca, Freeborn, and I am sure there were others as well. The streets were completely lined with cars of volunteers that came to help.

I got the call at 6:45 a.m. that morning, and, by the time I got to Royal Villa, the water was approx-



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send your letters of comment to Star Eagle, P.O. Box 248, New Richland, MN 56072 or email us at steagle@hickorytech.net.

imately three feet from the building. Sandbagging the NR Care Center was too late and they were already evacuating the residents. I talked to City Hall about an opportunity to save Royal Villa. They assessed and sandbagging started in about 30 minutes. By the time they were done, sandbags surrounded the entire building. It was overwhelming, heartbreaking and emotional while watching the football team, high school kids and adult volunteers work so hard in staying ahead of the

rising water around Royal Villa as others helped to evacuate residents from their homes at the Care Center at the same time. As a result of the thirty apartments at Royal Villa, there was no water inside the building. We were just left with over fifty tires, six fifty-gallon drums, a set of steps, a bench from a dugout, two big dumpsters, and lots of debris in our backyard. four days later another crew of volunteers and many kids from the high school showed up and it was all cleaned up. How do you

even begin to thank everyone for their part in helping New Richland?

So, on behalf of the thirty-three tenants of Royal Villa, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all who worked tirelessly to save our building from what could have been. Our hearts go out to ALL those who have lost so much during this devastating flood. Know that our thoughts and prayers are with you as you work towards normalcy.

Again, thank you to the endless list of volunteers. As the saying goes "it takes a village," but in this case, "it took many villages," and they all showed up. I will pick small town life every single day.

Sincerely,
Gail Schmidt
Executive Director
Royal Villa

NRHeg Star Eagle

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

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New Richland DFL gathering includes state auditor candidate

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

A long-scheduled Waseca County Democratic Farmer Labor Party (DFL) gathering in New Richland was able to take place on schedule the evening of Monday, Sept. 21, despite the massive flooding that had occurred over the prior two days.

Held at the residence of Mike and Nancy Rudau, it included state auditor candidate Zack Filipovich, Minnesota Senate candidate for district 23 Angie Hanson and State Representative candidate for district 23A, Joe Staloch. According to host Nancy Rudau, “It’s a chance to meet and greet the candidates. I’ve been a local gal for the past 27 years and have been very active in the DFL for about the same amount of time.”

As attendees arrived, they were invited to donate money toward the New Richland Area Food Shelf’s “benevolence” fund—money used to provide emergency assistance to area residents. The fund has received heavier than usual use because of the recent flooding.

Also in attendance were Julie and Dan Economy, parents of local city councilman Matthew Economy, who was elected in 2024. Said Dan, “It’s a simple backyard gathering for the DFL. We’re here to show our support; we as Democrats look out for our neighbors.”

Angie Hanson was the first on the stump: “I have a lot of things I care about, but two major things are school funding and property taxes; they do go together. I’m a special education teacher; this is my twenty-sixth year. I teach in Alden and I love what I do. School funding has gotten worse as a problem. The state is no longer fully funding our schools, 20-

30% of that funding comes from property taxes, which we all agree are way too high. We also don’t have as big of a property tax base as the larger communities, like the Twin Cities do, since we’re a smaller community. So, we get less money for our people, which can lead to declining enrollment, and we want our kids here. I was union president when I taught at Southland. I was on the Albert Lea school board from 2016 to 2020 and served as a local organizing chair for Save Our Hospital. Currently I sit on the Human Rights Commission in Albert Lea, which guarantees people’s rights and dreams.”

Joe Staloch was next to speak: “Angie and I have a lot of the same ground to make up at the capitol. My main focus is opportunities that are close to home, which means getting more funding out of the metro and into greater Minnesota, and into the hands of local leaders. I hope to win Faribault County. I myself grew up in Wells on a hog farm. I received my education at Winona State and spent 10 years working in environmental services and consulting in St. Paul; now I live in Albert Lea working for GigFire. My biggest thing to advocate for in these communities are things like the water treatment facilities. That kind of work needs to be done right now in New Richland. Some of that funding should be federal. We’ll be looking into those options, also state options. Wells’ infrastructure, for example, they have a golf course, a city pool and the state funds are just not cutting it, so please send me up to the capitol.”

The keynote speaker, a clean-cut Zack Filipovich echoed some of Staloch’s statements about emphasizing a local voice. He went on to say “I know



MEET AND GREET - Democratic candidate for Minnesota Senate Angie Hanson, State Auditor candidate Zack Filipovich, and State Representative candidate Joe Staloch spoke at a private DFL fundraiser in New Richland on Monday, Sept. 21, 2026.

Star Eagle photo by Ben Revermann

New Richland is having quite a time of it right now,” and observed the strengths of small towns, including, “coming together in this time of need, local people helping their neighbors.” He said it will be a priority to get funding from the federal and state levels to reroute water and “prevent this type of natural disaster in the future,” observing, “That kind of change takes partnership on the local level, and at the state level. The state auditor oversees \$56 billion in local government spending; they oversee reporting and the audits across the state.” He indicated he is looking forward to working with both Staloch and Hanson.

Filipovich joked that the state auditor’s office is the most exciting part of the Minnesota government, then added, “As an accountant, I get used to talking about really exciting things.” He also acknowledged that, since the get-together started, the temp had dropped a few degrees and was accompanied by a light drizzle. Everyone could feel it.

Looking up at the sky, Filipovich said, “I don’t want to draw this out. I know you’re all busy. I’ve been busy too. Recently, I visited five congressional districts in one day.” He told the group that the tour ended in Sauk Centre during a parade. “It was a lot hotter that day, but there were 50 people with us in that parade and the energy was there.”

He emphasized the importance of effective local governments, saying, “If a citizen calls the fire department, they need them to show up. Same with the police. We need to tell our citizens and neighbors that they have a choice in this election. Make sure your voice is heard, and vote for an actual accountant.”

The three candidates also passed out yard signs, buttons and bumper stickers. Guests were invited to mingle and refreshments were served. Those not prepared to make donations to the New Richland Disaster Response Fund that evening were invited to do so online at www.wasecaareafoundation.org.



Compostings

by Al Batt

Trying to be the land of 20,000 lakes

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS’ CLUB MEETING

I got great news from the IRS in the mail.

Are you getting a refund? No, I’m getting an Audi.

Let me see that letter. You are getting audited.

DRIVING BY BRUCE’S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. “Another day,” I thought. I’d nailed it. It was another day.

My rain gauge drowned as Minnesota tried to become the Land of 20,000 Lakes.

Mother Nature’s cloud storage was full, and we were not properly hydrated, so she gave us a firehose of rain.

The traditional English idiom “It never rains, but it pours” appeared in print as early as 1772. In 1914, the Morton Salt Company adopted the ad slogan, “When it rains, it pours.” My heart went out to those affected by the overly generous supply of water. Nine inches of rain fell in such a short period in New Richland that it seemed like 90 inches. Rising waters flooded houses and businesses. Then they came. They looked like normal

people, but they were exceptional people. Fred Rogers, AKA Mr. Rogers, said, “When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, ‘Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.’” Those helpers in New Richland are a special kind of good. What an amazing difference they made.

THANK YOU!

It cleared up with a dry drizzle. Soon, it was a bright and shiny morning whether or not the sun was shining. It was a bright and shiny morning because of those helpers.

I’VE LEARNED

As a young man, I worked at a smelly turkey processing plant. A coworker wore Vicks VapoRub every day, not because he was ailing, but so he didn’t have to smell anything else. Vicks says it’s the third most recognized scent in the world behind peanut butter and coffee.

I stopped at the Salvation Army Store and the Library Bookstore to visit my old stuff. The good news was that I resisted the temptation to buy back any of my donations.

If you ever get the feeling that everybody knows something that you

Batt continued on 10



SPECIAL VISIT - Representative Tom Sexton, along with Senators Tina Smith and Amy Klobuchar, spoke with Red Cross volunteers at a special meeting to assess damage for the flood that took place in New Richland in Sept. 18 and 19. They discussed possible funding and how to proceed on Friday, Sept. 25, 2026.

Star Eagle photos by Ben Revermann

National, state leaders promise flood aid

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

After the recent flooding that took place overnight in New Richland on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 18 and 19, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith paid a special visit to the drying town. They helped to raise funding and spoke of introducing legislation, both state and federal, to get the people of New Richland continued support and assessment of the damage after storms dumped about 9 inches of rain in less than 12 hours, causing damage to as many as 80 percent of homes in the community and forcing the evacuation of the city-operated care center, an assisted living facility where water eventually

damaged walls up to about 4 feet in height. Politicians and city officials met to share information about the extent of flood damage and discuss possibilities for aid to private citizens as well as both state and federal funding to mitigate future flooding by rerouting water flow. One of the first things Klobuchar spoke about after the meeting was how impressed she is by aid and volunteer efforts extended by local citizens, including members of the NRHEG High School football team who pushed a pontoon boat through the flood water to evacuate some of the residents of the Care Center.

Smith and Klobuchar spent time speaking with Red Cross volunteers; Klobuchar thanked those

present, including Representative Tom Sexton; Assistant Commissioner of Emergency Services for the Minnesota Department of Public Safety John Cunningham; New Richland City Administrator Tyler Lendt and all those who have helped during the flood.

Said Klobuchar, “This town and the way they have come together, there are so many stories like the football team helping.” As she spoke, the NRHEG Homecoming Parade across the street had just finished up. “The Homecoming Parade going on is great; as one of the residents said, they want things to be as normal as possible, considering. Seventy to eighty percent of the homes have been hit by the his-

toric flood, including 36 residents who had to be evacuated from the city-owned Care Center. The first thing in the short term is getting residents help, which includes the Red Cross.

“We also have people from all over the state here that are helping to get people what they need, not just with food, but with cleanup as well. Second is continued damage assessment which will help to access both federal and state funds. To access federal funds, you need to have amounts of at least \$12 million of public infrastructure damage. When the damage isn’t done

Aid continued on 7

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DEATH NOTICES

Joseph “Joe” Solberg Jr.

Joseph "Joe" A. Solberg Jr., age 95, died Friday, Sept. 25, in La Crosse, WI.

A funeral service will be at 11 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 30 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 204 1st Street NW, New Richland, MN 56072. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at Trinity Lutheran.

Services are through Bonnerup Funeral & Cremation Service. A full obituary to follow.



Joseph Solberg Jr.

Drive-thru flu and COVID-19 vaccination clinic

[STEELE COUNTY, MN] – The leaves are changing and cooler temperatures are rolling in, which means respiratory illness season is right around the corner. Mark your calendars for Steele County Public Health’s drive-thru flu and COVID vaccine clinics coming up in October. Please sign up in advance on our website:

https://steelecountymn.gov/departments/public_health/infectious_disease_prevention/covid_and_flu_vaccine_clinics.php

The drive-thru clinics will be held at the following locations:

Bloomington
Friday, October 9, 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. at Bloomington City Hall, 138 Hwy Ave S. *Not a drive-thru

Ellendale
Wednesday, October 7, 1 - 3:30 p.m. at the Ellendale Fire Hall, 507 2nd St S.

Medford
Tuesday, October 6, 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. at Brick Meger Funeral Home, 310 Central Ave E.

Wednesday, October 21, 3:30 – 6:30 p.m. at South Country Health Alliance, 6380 W Frontage Rd

Owatonna
Thursday, October 8, 12:00 - 6:00 p.m. at Steele County Public Health,

635 Florence Ave
Tuesday, October 20, 3:30 – 6:30 p.m. at Health Finders, 134 Southview St. *Not a drive-thru

Thursday, October 22, 12:00 – 5:00 p.m. at Steele County Public Health, 635 Florence Ave

Tuesday, October 27, 12:30 – 3:30 p.m. at Community Pathways, 155 Oakdale St. *Not a drive-thru

Tuesday, October 27, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 609 Lincoln Ave. *Not a drive-thru

Steele County Public Health accepts the following payment methods: Medicare, South Country Health Alliance, Blue Plus, Medical Assistance, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Health Partners, Humana, Medica, Ucare, or cash/check.

Steele County Public Health is dedicated to preventing disease, promoting wellness, and protecting the health of Steele County residents through a variety of services such as family health programs, immunization clinics, and home health care. SCPH also provides resources for radon and water testing, health education, and emergency preparedness to realize its vision of Healthy People in Healthy Communities.

Learn more: https://steelecountymn.gov/public_health

Private well testing

Ensure water safety during flood cleanup

Waseca County Public Health reminds residents to protect their water during flood cleanup and to consider how flooding may have affected private wells. Public Health will offer water testing kits at no cost for residents who had floodwater within 50 feet of a well casing.

Pickup on Monday, September 28 through Thursday, October 1 from 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. at Waseca County Public Health, 1000 W Elm Ave, Waseca, MN 56093.

Sample collection should be completed Thursday evening or Friday morning.

Sample drop-off on Friday, October 2, from 8–10 a.m. at Public Health.

Residents who rely on a private well for household water should check their well as soon as possible after flooding. If floodwater reached a well, residents should assume the water is contaminated and should not use it for drinking, cooking, or brushing teeth until tested.

“Floodwater can carry bacteria, sewage, chemicals, and other contaminants into private wells,” said Sara Porter, Public Health Emer-

gency Preparedness Specialist. “Taking precautions, cleaning and disinfecting a flooded well when needed, and testing the water afterward are important steps to protect your household’s health.”

Public Health well testing recommendations

Contact a licensed contractor if floodwater covered or may have entered your well.

Disinfect the well with a contactor or personally using Minnesota Department of Health guidance at Disinfecting Flooded Private Water Wells if floodwater reached your well.

If floodwater didn’t cover, but did come within 50 feet of your well, consider testing.

Test any well that has been cleaned out and/or disinfected for coliform bacteria.

For more information about private-well testing or flood cleanup, contact Sara Porter at 507-560-0093 or sara.porter@lesueur-county.gov. Additional cleanup guidance is available from the Minnesota Department of Health at Clean-up for Home or Business after a Flood.

Ellendale’s Whispering Oaks Place charms residents with Fall Festival

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Whispering Oaks Place assisted living facility in Ellendale held an NRHEG homecoming pre-celebration before dinner on Friday, Sept. 25. This fall-themed festival consisted of snacks, music, yard games and pumpkin painting for a medium-sized crowd.

Barbra Mekenye, the regional director of operations, was helping serve guests while music man Jim Weissgerber sang nearby. He was playing an acoustic guitar and had the beautiful second floor scenery of Ellendale’s fall-turning fields behind him. The song was “Blue Velvet,” and while he sang, Mekenye said, “We’ve been planning this for the past two months. It is our mission here to serve these elderly residents of Ellendale, those who cannot live at home and those on a subsidized income. We held this festival to inform those Ellendale residents who may need a place to go. If they didn’t know about us, or have never been to this building, this would give them an excuse to check us out.” There are close to 30 apartments available at the facility,



MISSION TO SERVE - Residents of Whispering Oaks Place in Ellendale enjoyed a Fall Festival on Friday, Sept. 25, 2026, complete with musical guest Jim Weissgerber.

Star Eagle photo by Ben Revermann

some of which have two bedrooms.

Mark Syvertson, currently a resident of Whispering Oaks Place, said he enjoyed the celebration but that it was close to 5 p.m. and he needed to chill out for a little while. This 1984 graduate was a lover of Aerosmith, especially mid-80s Aerosmith, and he said, “I’ve eaten all the cookies and cupcakes I’m going to eat for the day. I just need to lie down for a little bit.” Before he retired to his room, caregiver Montana Alvarado wished him pleasant dreams. As Syvertson left the room, Weissgerber began playing the song, “Red, Red Wine” by Neil Diamond, some of the residents were singing along with him.

Activities director Kelly Schwartz said,

“It’s wonderful the guests are happy and they enjoyed the snacks.” She kept a watchful eye in case anyone in the group needed help. Mekenye added, “We brought in five different new directors with us. We always have our residents on our minds.

“The building itself has been an Ellendale institution since 2019. In 2024 the owners of Whispering Oaks Place hired Health Dimensions Group to manage the business. According to an online source: “Health Dimensions Group (HDG) is a privately held, women-owned senior care management and consulting organization founded in 2000.”

Staff members say they welcome visits anytime; the building is located at Calverly Court.



Crews working for Great River Energy began removing wooden posts last spring, a project which will now be completed in November instead of October.

Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

Power line upgrade spans 11 miles

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

Thanks to recent flooding, a power line replacement project running east and west just north of New Richland along County Road 8 will now be wrapping up in November rather than its original planned completion in October. The full project spans 11 miles, coming out of Steele County on the east and continuing to County Road 11 on the western end.

Crews working for Great River Energy (GRE) began removing wooden poles last spring, and over the summer gradually replaced them with steel.

According to GRE spokesperson Lori Buffington, the line was first set in 1949. “Over time, there has been wear on the wire and some decay in the wooden poles,” she said. “This line was identified as part of our age and condition program as one that needed to be updated.”

The new transmission wire is larger than the original, Buffington said, and is “better able to support today’s power needs.”

Replacement poles, Buffington shares, are between 65 and 85 feet tall, with another 13 to 15 feet underground. The taller poles can be more widely spaced than the wooden ones they’re replacing; they typically last

80 years or longer.

To transport and plant the poles, work crews needed to cross cropland and completely flattened whatever was growing there. Buffington said farmers are reimbursed for crop loss on the basis of fair market value.

Great River Energy is a not-for-profit wholesale electric cooperative which has more than 5,100 miles of transmission lines in Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin. Said Buffington, “The 26 member distribution cooperatives who own us serve rural and suburban areas of Minnesota from the northeast Arrowhead to the farmland region in the southern portion of the state. “Steele-Waseca Co-op Electric is one of our member-owner cooperatives.”

Buffington shared that GRE has replaced about 80 miles of transmission line each year for the past few years.

She also stated, “Great River Energy has a pole inspection program to help extend the life of the structures to their fullest. Our planning engineers constantly analyze our system to identify what power lines need improvements to help ensure we can continue to provide the reliable electricity that our cooperative communities expect.”

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New Richland Disaster Response Fund established to support efforts

NEW RICHLAND, Minn. – In response to the recent flash flooding that impacted residents, businesses and community infrastructure in New Richland, the New Richland Area Foundation, Waseca Area Foundation and Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) have partnered to establish the New Richland Disaster Response Fund.

The fund will provide support for community and business recovery needs as New Richland works to recover and rebuild following the devastating flooding event. Donations will help address immediate recovery efforts, ensuring resources are available where they are most needed.

Community members, businesses and organizations wishing to contribute to recovery efforts can make donations at www.wasecaareafoundation.org.

"New Richland has always been a resilient community, and we know our residents, businesses and organizations will come together to support one another during this challenging time," said Karla Christopherson, chair of the New Richland Area Foundation and Waseca Area Foundation. "The New Richland Disaster Response Fund provides an opportunity for people near and far to invest directly in our community's recovery and help ensure we emerge stronger from this disaster."

The New Richland Disaster Response Fund will serve as a centralized resource for charitable contributions dedicated to recovery

efforts. Partners will work closely with local leaders and community organizations to identify and address priority needs as recovery efforts continue.

"We are seeing individuals in need of emergency shelter and food, businesses requiring critical equipment to re-open, and uninsured business owners and homeowners unable to cover damage costs. Insurance claims and government support can take months to arrive, leaving households and small businesses in a lurch," said Amy Potter, director of the Waseca Area Foundation. This fund allows us to mobilize support immediately, sending a critical lifeline to those who need it most."

"The impact of natural disasters can extend far beyond the initial event, affecting businesses, families and community institutions for months or even years," said Benya Kraus, President and CEO of Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation. "We are proud to partner with the New Richland Area Foundation and Waseca Area Foundation to create a fund that will help mobilize support and provide resources to aid New Richland's recovery."

The three organizations encourage individuals, businesses and philanthropic partners throughout the region to consider making a contribution to support New Richland's recovery.

To learn more or make a donation, visit www.wasecaareafoundation.org.

Students recognized

South Dakota State announces spring 2026 graduates:

Ethan Bushlack, New Richland, graduated with a Bachelor of Science.

Erin Jacobson, New Richland, graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science.

University of Minnesota Duluth announces graduates for Spring Semester 2026:

Kylee Kruger, Ellendale, Health Care Management B B A.

‘Ask a Trooper’: military license

Question: I am serving in the military and my driver's license is about to expire. I am not sure when I will be able to get it renewed. What are my options?

Answer: As an active duty U.S. military, Peace Corps or foreign service member who had a valid, unexpired Minnesota driver's license or ID when you entered active service, you do not need to renew your license or ID until you separate, no matter how long you serve. This law also applies to your spouse and dependents stationed with you. You do not need to apply for a license or ID in the state you are stationed in unless you plan to change your residency to that state.

You may choose to renew your driver's license or ID while serving. You can renew or apply for a duplicate driver's license or ID by completing an out of state packet if you

are living out of state or country.

For more information visit <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/dvs/license-and-id/class-d-regular-dl/license-id-military-peace-corps-foreign-service-personnel>

After your separation from active service

You will not need to test to renew your Minnesota driver's license if you return and apply within one year of separation. Bring your separation papers with you to apply.

You will have to retake the knowledge test if it has been more than one year since your separation.

You will have to retake the road test if it has been more than five years since your separation.

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota send your questions to Sgt. Troy Christianson at 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester MN.

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NR Benevolence Fund donations



\$4,000 WORTH OF HELP - Four groups associated with the Waseca American Legion Post, including its Auxiliary, Sons of the Legion (SAL), Marchers and Veterans Assistance Fund, each donated \$1,000 to the New Richland Area Food Shelf "benevolence fund," money the food shelf keeps to assist area residents experiencing difficulty.

Pictured here are (from left) New Richland Mayor Janda Ferguson, Food Shelf managers Pam and Larry Goehring, City Council member Josh Warke, SAL representative Mike Sutlief, New Richland City Administrator Tyler Lendt, and Auxiliary treasurer Leann Sutlief.

New Richland’s Kyera Eustice receives scholarship

Saint Paul, Minnesota – September 25, 2026 – With school back in session for 2026-27, St. Paul area Realtors® are proud to have a small part in helping seven Minnesota students pursue their post-secondary education endeavors through scholarships.

Among the scholarship recipients is Kyera Eustice of New Richland who is attending Gustavus Adolphus College for the 2026-27 academic year. Kyera is the granddaughter of Realtors® Kim and Marcia Berg.

The seven 2026 student scholarship recipients are Maria Drompp, Kyera Eustice, Jayda Francis, Ellie Ganske, Mary Jensen, Julia Moser and Makenna Willy. Each student received a \$2,000 scholarship for their future education endeavors.

The students – all children or grandchildren of Saint Paul Area Association of REALTORS® (SPAAR) members – were selected based on their applications, which showcased their extracurricular activities, honors and career goals, along with an essay about home from a personal experience or perspective, and recommendations. This year's recipients were selected from a strong pool of nearly three dozen applicants.

The annual scholarships are made possible by the Saint Paul Area Association of REALTORS®' (SPAAR) Charitable Foundation, which has provided nearly \$125,000 in student scholarships since 2012.

REALTORS® Charitable Foundation works to improve the quality of life within communities where SPAAR members live and work.



Kyera Eustice is the granddaughter of Realtors Kim and Marcia Berg. She will be attending Gustavus Adolphus College for the 2026-27 school year.

NRHEG sets preliminary 5.58 percent levy increase

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

During their Sept. 21 meeting, members of the NRHEG school board approved a preliminary property tax levy increase of 5.58 percent, about \$135,000 more than was collected in 2026. Of the district's \$14 million 2026-27 operating budget, about \$2.5 million is expected to come from property taxes.

Area residents who want to know more about the district's finances are invited to attend a "Truth in Taxation" meeting set for 6 p.m. Dec. 21 at the secondary school media center in New Richland. A final levy amount will be set in December; its amount can be lower than the 5.58 percent increase, but it cannot be higher.

Board members approved the \$58,000 purchase and installation of two commercial-grade "Combi" ovens to replace aging units at the New Richland kitchen. In his summary, district superintendent Michael Meihak told board members funds for the purchase would be from the food service account.

Anticipated maintenance for boiler systems at both the New Richland and Ellendale sites was also addressed. Board members were asked to give advance authority to Meihak to make purchasing decisions based on information expected to be delivered prior to the October board meeting, in case quick action is called for. It was explained that at least \$7,000 will be needed to increase the percentage of glycol in the New Richland system; testing will reveal whether the fluids in both heating systems have aged to a point where their full contents, more than 25,000 gallons each, should be removed, the system flushed, and then refilled. Costs for that process could be as high as \$95,000 per system.



Because September is school board recognition month, board members were presented with certificates acknowledging their service. Board members were also asked to summarize the reasons they chose to run for election, along with accomplishments they take pride in.

Board chair Rick Schultz has been with the school board for 21 years; his term will end this December and he has not filed for reelection. Schultz shared that his own daughter was very young when the district made the decision to consolidate elementary classrooms formerly maintained at both sites to being only in Ellendale. He, and other parents, had strong reservations about the extra time and bus transfers young children would need to navigate when being transported from the western side of the district.

Despite the uncertainties, he stated, the process was completed, and has been highly beneficial for the district.

Generally speaking, board members named their service as a way to give back to the community, and to support the children and staff at the schools.

A summary read by Schultz provided the results of an annual evaluation of Meihak's job performance, which took place in closed session during the August meeting. The summary stated board members found his work in the areas of communication, providing a safe and welcoming environment, managing budgets and resources and promoting growth all meet or exceed their expectations.

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HOMECOMING HEROES — At left, the Panthers' Eli Hendrickson (26) and Jack Bartlett (25) combine to wrap up a Lewiston-Altura ball carrier during NRHEG's 32-0 win last Friday. In the middle, Noah Weller (70) sacks the quarterback. At right, Ryan Schlaak hauls in a first-quarter pass. The Panthers improved to 3-1. Photos by Jim Lutgens

Panthers humble Cardinals for Homecoming

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

It wasn't a routine week for New Richland and, in particularly, the NRHEG High School football team. Last week's scheduled home game was finally played Monday after two postponements, with football players helping with the community's clean-up efforts from extensive rain and flooding.

It meant the Panthers had only three days to prepare for Friday night's Homecoming game against Lewiston-Altura.

Not to worry.

The Panthers had plenty of fun Friday while rolling to a 32-0 victory in New Richland.

"It was a great win across the board," said Panthers head coach Devin Lockerby. "It is great to see the community come out and support the team on such a big

Lassahn runs for 175 yards as NRHEG rolls 32-0 after three days of preparation

"It was a great win across the board."
— NRHEG coach Devin Lockerby

Homecoming night. The players did a great job on a short week getting their bodies and minds ready for the game."

The Panthers were never threatened, with the defense allowing only 67 total yards and five first downs. The Cardinals amassed only 29 rushing yards.

After forcing a quick punt on the game's opening possession, the Panthers wasted no time lighting up the scoreboard.

Brooks Gilliland found Ryan Schlaak wide open and hit him with a pass on the Panthers' first play. Two Sean Lassahn runs later it was 6-0. A two-point conversion try was unsuccessful.

Lassahn, running in a style reminiscent of the Vikings' Adrian Peterson, tacked on touchdown runs of four and 50 yards in the second quarter, and ran for a two-point conversion to make it 20-0.

The Panthers threatened to add

more points before halftime, driving deep in to Cardinal territory before a pass fell incomplete in the end zone.

After a scoreless third quarter, Lassahn scored from one yard out in the fourth and Calvin Nissen hauled in a 51-yard pass from Gilliland, who finished 12-for-20 passing for 196 yards. Nissen caught five passes for 90 yards while Lassahn had a big night rushing with 175 yards on 22 carries.

Ryan Schlaak led the defense with seven tackles.

The win improved the Panthers to 3-1 while the Cardinals fell to 0-5.

"We're halfway done with the regular season," said Coach Lockerby. "I'm so excited to see what we can do in the second half."

The Panthers play at Redwood Valley this Friday at 7 p.m.

NRHEG 32, Lewiston-Altura 0				
LA	0	0	0	0 — 0
NRHEG	6	14	0	12 — 32
First Quarter				
NRHEG — Lassahn run (two-point conversion failed)				
Second Quarter				
NRHEG — Lassahn 4 run (two-point conversion failed)				
NRHEG — Lassahn 50 run (Lassahn run)				
Third Quarter				
No scoring				
Fourth Quarter				
NRHEG — Lassahn 1 run (two-point conversion failed)				
NRHEG — Nissen 51 pass from B.Gilliland (kick failed)				
	NRHEG		LA	
Plays	52		35	
First downs	16		5	
Rushing	178		29	

Passing	20-23	14-27
Passing Yards	202	38
Passing TDs, int.	6-0	1-1
Total Yds.	414	67
Third down	2-7	1-8
Fourth down	2-5	0-1
Turnovers	1	2
Fumbles lost	0	2
Penalties	3-15	1-5
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS		
RUSHING — NRHEG: Lassahn 22-175; R.Schlaak 1-5; B.Gilliland 2 --2; LA: Wenzel 9-24; Rest of team 16-14		
PASSING — NRHEG: B.Gilliland 12-20, 196; Wyrum 1-1, 6; LA: 4-8, 29		
RECEIVING — NRHEG: Nissen 5-90; R.Schlaak 2-42; Piepho 1-6; Rest of team 5-64; LA: Team 4-29		
NRHEG Defense — R.Schlaak 7T; Bartlett 5T; Baumann 4T; Piepho 2T; Holland 2T; D.Schlaak 2T; Hanna 2T; Schmidt 1T; O.Schlaak 1T; Hendrickson 1T; Rest of team 8T		



EXTRA EFFORT — The Panthers' Jovey Knudson (80) and Ezra Boerner (1) go up for a block as Hayfield's Jalei Tank spikes. Photo by Jim Lutgens

NRHEG volleyball squad drops oh-so-close contests

Panthers edged 3-2 by Hayfield, Blooming Prairie

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School volleyball team was hopeful in its Homecoming match with Hayfield last Thursday.

It was decided by the slimmest of margins.

After winning the first set 25-22, the Panthers dropped the next two 25-13 and 26-24, before knotting it 2-2 with a 25-20 victory in the fourth set. The fifth and deciding set was one by the visiting Vikings, 17-15.

"The Panthers battled hard against Hayfield in our Homecoming match, coming up just short in a competitive five-set match," said Panthers head coach Bethany Tennis. "We didn't get the outcome we were hoping for, but there were many positives to take away from the match."

Tennis said that, defensively, the Panthers made some important adjustments throughout the match.

"That allowed us to become more competitive and keep ourselves in points," said Tennis.

Sophomore libero Aubrey Hendrickson had a season-high 27 digs. Senior outside hitter Anika Ladlie added to her defensive totals with 23 digs.

"Moving forward, we need to continue developing our offensive attack," said Tennis. "We need to be more aggressive and consistent when attacking the ball over the net. Overall, I was proud of the effort and determination that we showed tonight. We were right there and gave ourselves a chance to win."

Full Panther statistics: Ezra Boerner 8 kills, 17 digs, 1 set assist, 1 block, 1 service ace; Izley Boerner 12D, 1SA, 1A; Clara Buendorf 1K, 4B; Hendrickson 27D; Jovey Knudson 6D, 2B; Ladlie 14K, 23D, 3B, 1A; Brooklyn Sommer 15D, 19SA, 1B, 2A; Emmy Stadheim 5K, 6D; Clara Stenzel 3D.

Two nights earlier, the Panthers dropped another 3-2 heartbreaker at Blooming Prairie. Set scores were 18-25, 25-11, 25-22, 25-21 and 15-8.

"It was an intense matchup," said Tennis, who explained that the Panthers started strong but struggled with consistency.

Sommer tallied a season-best 29 set assists.

"We have worked through some growing pains throughout the early stage of the season," said Tennis. "We hope to stay consistent on serve receive and utilize good game sense to help us stay unpredictable on offense."

NRHEG statistics: Ezra Boerner 7K, 10D, 1B, 1A; Izley Boerner 1A; Buendorf 3K 1D, 3B; Hendrickson 12D, 1SA, 1A; Knudson 3K, 2D, 2B, 2A; Ladlie 15K, 15D, 5B; Joey Rossing 1D; Sommer 9D, 29SA, 2A; Stadheim 4K; Stenzel 3D.

Panthers' home cross country meet moved to Blooming Prairie

Perfect conditions lead to many season bests

Recent heavy rains didn't just affect the town of New Richland.

Riverview Golf Course was also flooded.

It meant Tuesday, Sept. 22nd's planned home cross country meet was moved to Blooming Prairie.

Mankato Loyola/St. Clair/Cleveland won the girls' division with 27 points, followed by Blooming Prairie with 51, Maple River 75, JWP/WEM 93 and Randolph 138. The Panthers did not field a full squad.

Julieann Wobbrock led the NRHEG girls, finishing fourth overall in 19:40, her best time of the season. Violette Botten was 39th in 25:34, Rylie Cromwell 39th with a time of 27:07.

Loyola/St. Clair/Cleveland won the boys' side with 32 points. Following were Blooming Prairie with 71,

Tri-City United 86, JWP/WEM 90, United South Central 135, Maple River 137 and Randolph 156.

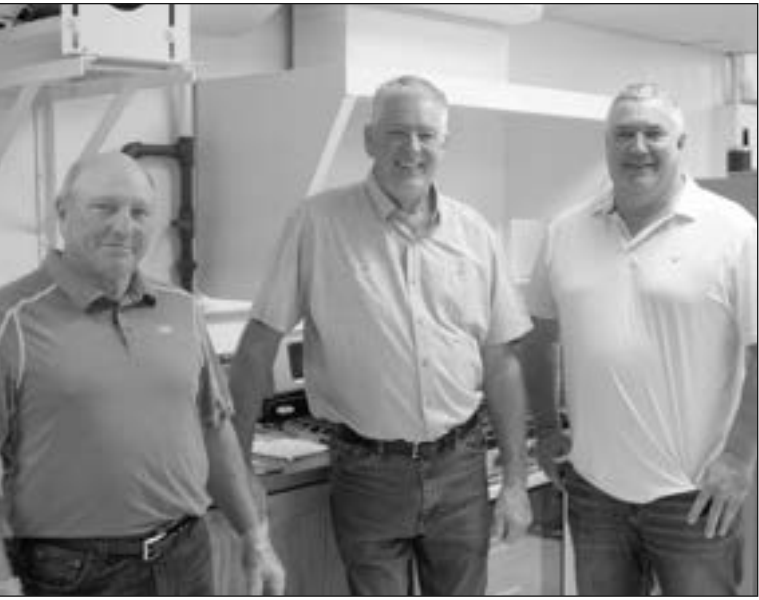
First across the finish line for the Panthers was Kasey Jewison in second place with a season-best time of 17:40. Colton Lermon was 35th in 20:28 and Devlin McWilliams 52nd in 22:38.

"The weather and course made for some very fast times for all runners tonight," said NRHEG head coach Larry Nydegger. "Many runners registered their best times of the season. It is nice to see the hard work and dedication pay off as this season progresses. Also, a very big thank you to Blooming Prairie for allowing us to use their home course to host the meet."

The Panthers will be at Janesville next week for the Pie and Cookie meet.



SEASON BESTS — Julieann Wobbrock, left, and Kasey Jewison registered season-best times at Blooming Prairie last week. Photos by Larry Nydegger



TREATED - All Saints Church of New Richland held its all-you-can-eat Belgian Waffle breakfast on Sunday, Sept. 27, 2026. These three volunteered in the kitchen, pictured from left: Burton Berg, Rick Bohlen, and Rick Schultz.
Star Eagle photo by Ben Revermann

■ Waffles

from Page 1

child was asked what boysenberry syrup tasted like and he said, “If you take a raspberry and mix it in a blender with a melon.”

Church members report that the annual breakfast started around 1985 as a turkey dinner which later changed to a pulled pork dinner, and then eventually became the Dad’s Belgian Waffle breakfast. Morgan, the waffle caterer, brought everything with him except for the juice, milk and coffee; the fall festival committee brought that.

Churchgoers upstairs were treated to a quilt display during the 8 a.m. service. Said Supalla, “The Women of All Saints and a

few from Sacred Heart draped their quilts over the pews, so everyone could see them.”

Outside was a children’s activity area offering gourd and pumpkin painting, corn hole games and soccer. In a grassy open area was the silent auction. On the auction block for the day was a wide variety of items including plate sets, homemade quilts, a soup kettle with various soups inside, Casey’s Pizza certificates, a mini fridge with accompanying beer, a meat raffle from Neighbor’s Meats, and more. Next to that was the Country Store, selling produce, baked goods, candy and some thrift items.

Anyone interested in booking Dad’s Belgian Waffles for an event can contact Morgan at waffles@netamumail.com or call 515-295-9403.

■ Aid

from Page 3

across multiple counties, it can be difficult to reach that number. The state funding can kick in at 75 percent of public infrastructure damage, which includes the long-term care facility. There is another source of federal funding which is rarely given for individual homes, but when it’s this localized, there’s a possibility of getting money for homeowners for whatever their insurance doesn’t cover.

“We are urging New Richland residents to allow assessments of their homes to show the more intense numbers of local damage.” She went on to discuss fixing the problem long-term. Since this happened because of the current ditch configuration, “There are experts, and plans have been made, but we need to seek immediate help federally and on the statewide level.”

Senator Smith was next to speak. She added, “Over and over again in Minnesota people run into trouble. There was this problem and this terrible flood and everyone came to help. Now it’s on our shoulders to make sure we’re doing what we can to help to get this community the support it needs. When I go back to Washington on Monday, my staff will be working directly with Klobuchar’s team to figure out how to further help this community recover from this disaster. The current ditches that

exist here do not have the capacity to deal with this level of water.”John Cunningham said his heart went out to all those affected by the flooding and that he was working to speed up the recovery. “We will be out and looking to gather information. Please, all residents, remember to hang on to your receipts. We want this story out there—and everyone watch out for scammers.”

Representative Tom Sexton said, “On behalf of Rep. Finstad, I would like to say we’re going to cut through the bureaucracy. We’re going to get a bill moving through the house tonight. I’m sure the senators will jump on that, get the funding so we can start work on the ditch design that’s already present to make sure this doesn’t happen again.”

A question posed during the press conference regarded how state laws have been, in some ways, an obstacle to rerouting water flow. Waseca County Commissioner Doug Christopherson replied, “Along with ditches going through town, we have state statutes regarding how we deal with ditches. That’s not common across the nation, so when we’re applying for this federal litigation money, they are not familiar with that. So, we’re using a ditch attorney to work with the federal applications. Yes, it’s more steps and more hurdles, but we’re working through that.” Christopherson commended the senators for showing up and thanked them for their promises of help on the federal level.



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Elijah J. Lutgens
Star Eagle Publisher
9/30/26

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (All

■ Flood

from Page 1

who were uncertain where they could go.

When they spoke with the Star Eagle on Thursday evening, the two were at a loss as to how they might move forward.

“We’re both on Social Security,” described Dave. “We’ll never be able to come up with the deposit and the first and last month’s rent like they always want for an apartment.”

“We don’t have any furniture,” observed Jeannie. “We don’t have much clothes, or blankets or all the things you need for a house.”

“I don’t even have hope anymore.”

The two have been back to their apartment since the water receded: the landlord had asked that their ruined possessions be removed, so that large-scale cleanup and repairs could begin.

They speak with gratitude of NRHEG high school students who were released from their classes to come help.

“The landlord wouldn’t let them come inside,” Jeannie describes, “but they stood in a line outside and they passed everything along from hand to hand until it was all set out on the curb to be taken away.” Items removed included furniture, wet clothing and towels, dishes, food from the refrigerator—all the everyday things people take for granted.

Some dishes from the cupboard which the water had not reached were salvageable, Jeannie mentioned, but the pots and pans, silverware, and other items at waist height and below were filthy and frightening, and seemed unsafe to keep. The entire apartment stank of dirty water and decay.

“The whole thing is going to have to be completely redone,” Jeannie observed.

Along with their difficult financial situation, Jeannie, 62, and Dave, 71, feel ill-equipped to create new lives for themselves. Dave is a two-time cancer survivor and has a pacemaker.

Besides that, both shake their heads at some of the decisions they made in those last few minutes before fleeing their apartment. “We made some stupid choices,” comments Jeannie, pointing to the pajama pants she is wearing in combination with a sweat shirt.

All the important papers agencies tend to ask for—her birth certificate, her husband’s death certificate, her social security papers—all became mush in the flood.

Dave, a veteran of the Vietnam war, regrets the loss of his “boot camp book” from 55 years ago. He says it was a small booklet with pic-

“We don’t have much clothes, or blankets or all the things you need for a house. I don’t even have hope anymore.”

— Jeannie Olson

tures and a list of names of those who attended boot camp together. “There’s no way to ever get that back,” he says, remembering the last time he saw it, it was floating.

Both say they have not been themselves since being washed from their home. Shock was followed by stress and worry, but the sense of shock remains.

“We’re still not thinking right,”

comments Dave. “None of it seems real.”

“I’m biting people’s heads off,” Jeannie says of her temper. “I just don’t have much patience.”

Dave says he feels out of place in his own skin. “I don’t feel quite right, like myself,” he describes.

Both wonder if they will ever feel all right again. “I can’t see any way to fix this,” says Jeannie.

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2026 NRHEG Homecoming



Star Eagle photos by Deb Bently and Kim Meyer

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Star Eagle photos by Wendy Schultz and Kim Meyer

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Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl
Outdoors Writer

Navigating my way through life

As I get older, I realize that there are certain things that are beyond my control. Most of them are age related, but there is an occasional bump in the road that falls under self-inflicted. The self-inflicted ones are usually related to being in a hurry and forgetting important details. One such thing that I am guilty of is making a list, forgetting said list on the kitchen table and heading to the store without it. I have done that a few times over in the last few years, but I keep telling myself that I am getting better. I sometimes wonder if I am getting more proficient at it, or if I am remembering it more often.

Another week closer to closing up the cabin for the season. It is always something that I do not look forward to. I look forward to the opening, but the closing of it, not so much. I will have to say goodbye to the critters for the winter and hopefully they survive another snowy one. I hope for a

lot of snow because the lakes around our area of the north are really low this year.

We have been lucky in our area to have some rain. New Richland has experienced devastating rainfall this year and my thoughts and prayers are with those who have suffered loss of homes and other material things. Luckily no lives were lost in this catastrophe. The area around Albert Lea has had plenty of rain, but not of that magnitude.

I am curious as to where we are with the final phase of the dredging. I have not seen or heard anything about it after the funding got approved. I guess that I don't take the initiative to get out and check it out.

Until next time: I have heard from reliable sources that there are plenty of fish being caught in our area lakes this fall. It sounds like a smorgasbord of fishing as to what is being caught. Fountain Lake has been giving up



Shown here is a picture taken of Dick's cabin in the winter by a former neighbor on January 28th of 2018.

some nice crappie along with bass, northern and walleye. The channel by Frank Hall Park has started to give up some nice perch. I know that when it gets closer to ice-over the jumbos will make their presence known.

With this in mind, there is still time to wet a line and take advantage of the fishing in our area, lakes and streams.

DNR News: Aerial seeding is one of several reforestation activities that take place on state-managed land in fall.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has completed aerial seeding via helicopter to disperse jack pine, white pine, tamarack and black spruce seeds on DNR-

managed forests. The flights are part of the DNR's typical reforestation work and are necessary to reach remote or otherwise difficult-to-access areas like bogs. The DNR also uses aerial seeding to spread seed on sites where circumstances might prevent species from regenerating naturally.

This month, the DNR dispersed seeds on just over 500 acres across 14 sites. Seeds are mixed with a clay carrier, loaded into a hopper, then distributed evenly over each site from a height just above any surrounding trees.

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.

Child's History of Waseca County

Chapter XIV, 1855-6. Town site booming—Wilton village platted by Cornell and Abbott of Owatonna, and John and D. J. Jenkins and Child of Waseca County—Claim-jumping—House body torn down—Many settlers arrested and taken to Owatonna—Land suits at Winona—War on the LeSueur—Buildings torn down in Wilton.

The first year's settlement did not pass without a town-site boom in this county. Speculators were abroad then as now. In October, 1855, A. B. Cornell and John H. Abbott, then of Owatonna, came to the settlement and prevailed upon D. J. and John Jenkins and the writer to join with them in platting a town site. Mr. Abbott was a surveyor and the parties proceeded to survey and plat the village of Wilton, the first-born city of the county. It soon became evident to John Jenkins and me that A. B. Cornell, the moving genius of the firm, intended to get persons to come on from various places and

take possession of all the land in the vicinity, and that, too, without regard to the rights of others. D. J. Jenkins sided with Cornell and Abbott, and it was quite evident that they proposed to jump claims if they could not get what they wanted in any other way. John Jenkins and I withdrew shortly after the survey was made, and men from Owatonna took our places.

D. J. Jenkins built, that fall, the first house on the new town plat, or, rather, adjoining it, and it was expected then that, like Jonah's gourd, it would grow to almost a city in a day. But, unfortunately, the prime movers of the enterprise so managed their affairs that the settlers of the surrounding country, even up to the boundary line of the village plat, refused to countenance the building of the new city. As evidence of the feeling that existed at the time, a few facts will be given, which, though not very creditable, perhaps, will show the extent to which men will sometimes pro-

ceed when thrown together promiscuously beyond the controlling influences of courts and law. In the latter part of January, 1856, the Owatonna proprietors of the Wilton plat hired some fellows to jump the claims of four settlers—Robert and Hugh McDougall and George and Bill Robbins—who had settled along the river, just east of the village plat. The claim jumpers commenced the erection of houses on these lands, and set up counter claims to them on the ground, as they said, that those young men had claimed more than 160 acres each, that they were foreign born and had not declared their intentions of becoming citizens prior to their settlement. The former of these charges was false, the latter true. The men had not declared their intentions to become citizens simply because there was no court nearer than Mankato, and also because they expected to do so as soon as they could get to the land office at Winona.

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LOOKING BACK

25 years ago
- All Saints Catholic Church of New Richland joined other churches and organizations in the National Day of Prayer and Remembrance on Friday, September 14 for the victims of the terrorist attack on America that took place on Tuesday, September 11, 2001.



- Members of the LeSueur River Lutheran Church congregation will celebrate the 140th anniversary of its organization on Sunday, September 30. Through the years the church has advanced from a log structure to this structure with a steeple of 125 feet.

- Trap shooting has begun at the New Richland area Sportsman Club. Dave Harris of Hartland leads the five top shooters in 200 rounds.

- Mellisa Cummins had 12 blocks for Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton as the Bulldogs defeated Alden Conger 17-15, 15-4, 15-9 in a Gopher Conference volleyball match at Alden. Three of Cummins blocks were aces. She also had 5 kills. Jenna Ziemke had 10 kills and 8 blocks with 3 aces. She also had four ace services. Katie Von-Holtum had 15 assists.

50 years ago
- Mrs. Phil Marquardt was crowned Young Farm Wife of the year at the annual Waseca County Farm Bureau meeting, Saturday evening, September 25 at the First National Bank Community room in Waseca.

- Mandy LaVonne Possin, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Possin, R. 3, New Richland, was baptized at Evangelical United Methodist Church, September 5, with the Rev. Luther Pennington officiating. Sponsors were Paul and Patricia Miller of Waseca.

75 years ago
- Mr. and Mrs. James Christenson of Owatonna became the parents of their second daughter, born at the Owatonna hospital Tuesday, October 23, and weighing 8 pounds. They have a son, Jimmy, attending school.

- Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Abraham had their infant son, Kenneth Floyd, baptized at Sioux City, Iowa, Sunday. Attending sponsors were Clarence Abraham of New Richland and Mrs. George Abraham of Joice, Iowa.

■ Batt from Page 3

don't, you're right.

I've been telling stories at a good number of senior living communities. I never leave one without feeling enhanced and enlightened.

I've discovered that the word "nothing" is a palindrome. Backwards it spells "gnihton," which also means nothing.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

Due to the economy, the actor Vin Diesel changed his name to Vin Regular Unloaded.

A city cut coroners by eliminating one of its two medical examiners.

Naming a town is easy—just go with the name that is on the water tower.

Picasso's home was burgled and he was asked to draw pictures of the suspects. The police searched for a goat and two bullheads.

NATURE NOTES

LaVonne Kalke of New Richland asked why there are so few birds in her yard in early fall. The multicolored Asian lady beetles ate them all. That's not true. I kid because I love. Many birds follow their food and migrate. The populations of insect-reliant species like warblers, vireos and flycatchers have been reduced. Many songbirds migrate at night to avoid predators and take advantage of cooler, calmer air. Some species of birds that migrate during the day include pelicans, hawks, falcons, hummingbirds, swifts and swallows. Natural food sources like berries, seeds and late-season insects are abundant, so birds don't need to rely on feeders. Resident birds become less vocal with no need to attract a mate or defend a territory. Hardy birds like chickadees, juncos, goldfinches, cardinals, blue jays, nuthatches and woodpeckers will become more active at feeders as the weather gets colder.

Many birds around the world are starting their days earlier than ever, because of unnaturally bright skies caused by light pollution. They vocalize about 20 minutes earlier in the morning and stop vocalizing about 30 minutes later in the evening, according to Neil Gilbert, a wildlife ecologist with Oklahoma State University. Gilbert and Brent Pease of Southern Illinois University analyzed millions of recordings of bird-song to determine their findings.

I was invited to the Governor's Pheasant Hunting Opener. I appreciated being invited, but I'll be hunting with a camera. I delight in taking photos of nature's stunners.

A wild turkey's snood is the fleshy flap that dangles down over the beak, and the wattle is the loose skin that hangs under the chin.

Thank you for listening and watching KMSU Radio and KEYC TV.

MEETING ADJOURNED

One of my favorite writers died recently—Annie Dillard. She wrote this: "We are here to bring to consciousness the beauty and power that are around us and to praise the people who are here with us."

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STATE OF MINNESOTA-
COUNTY OF WASECA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT-
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

Estate of
Robert Allen Jensen,
Decedent
Court File No. 81-PR-26-679

NOTICE AND ORDER
FOR HEARING ON
PETITION FOR DESCENT
OF PROPERTY

A Petition for Determination of Descent has been filed with this Court. The Petition represents that the Decedent died more than three years ago, leaving property in Minnesota and requests the probate of Decedent's last Will (if any), and the descent of such property be determined and assigned by this Court to the persons entitled to the property.

Any objections to the Petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper, and no objections are filed or raised, the Petition may be granted.

IT IS ORDERED and Notice is further given, that the Petition will be heard on November 18, 2026 at 9:45 a.m. via zoom, by this Court at 307 N. State Street, Waseca, Minnesota. See Notice of Remote Hearing

Notice shall be given to all interested persons (Minn. Stat. § 524.1-

401) and persons who have filed a demand for notice pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-204.

Notice shall be given by publishing this Notice and Order as provided by law and by mailing a copy of this Notice and Order at least 14 days prior to the hearing date.

BY THE COURT
Judge of District Court
/s/Carol M.Hanks
Shannon M. Asselin
Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner
Mark R. Carver
Einhaus, Mattison, Carver & Haberman, P.A. 202 N. Cedar Ave.Owatonna, Minnesota, 55060
Attorney License No: 0276133
Telephone: (507) 451-3580
FAX: (507) 451-3532
Email:
carver@owatonnaattorneys.com

(Published in the NRHEG STAR EAGLE on September 24 and October 1, 2026.

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FULL-TIME PUBLIC WORKS/MAINTENANCE POSITION

The City of Clarks Grove is accepting applications for a full-time position in the Public Works/Maintenance Department. This position performs skilled maintenance work involving the operations of the Public Works Department including streets, water, storm sewer, wastewater, and the water and wastewater systems and facilities, buildings and other related duties as required.

Minimum qualifications include a high school diploma or GED; a valid Class B (CDL) Minnesota Driver's license or the ability to obtain within 30 days; Class D water and Class D wastewater license, or the ability to obtain; and the ability to report to an emergency call within 30 minutes. Starting wage and benefits are based on certifications and experience. Applications may be obtained at the City Office at 103 North Independence Avenue, Clarks Grove, MN 56016 (507-256-8011) or on the City's website at cityofclarksgrovern.com. Applications and resume' must be received in the City Office or by mail to City of Clarks Grove, PO Box 248, Clarks Grove, MN no later than 2 p.m. October 9, 2026. Job description is also available on the city website or by contacting the clerk's office.

NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2168
New Richland, Minnesota

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the general election has been called and will be held in and for Independent School District No. 2168, New Richland, State of Minnesota, on Tuesday, the 3rd day of November, 2026, for the purpose of electing four school board members for four year terms. The ballot shall provide as follows:

To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this: 

School Board Member 4 Year Term
Vote for Up to Four

- ☐ Amy Ihrke
☐ Troy Buendorf
☐ Pat Theuer
☐ Nick Budach
☐ John Misgen
☐ Justin Schlaak
- ☐ _____
write-in, if any

The polling places for this election and the precincts served by those polling places will be as follows:

WASECA COUNTY
Wilton Township
Otisco Township
Byron Township
New Richland Township
City of New Richland

31353 West Wilton River Road, Waseca, MN 56093
13243 290th Avenue, Waseca, MN 56093
117 Division Street East, New Richland, MN 56072
117 Division Street East, New Richland, MN 56072
203 North Broadway, New Richland, MN 56072

FREEBORN COUNTY
Bath Township

City of Freeborn
Freeborn Township
City of Geneva

Mail Ballot Precinct/Freeborn County Government Center/
411 Broadway Ave S, Albert Lea, MN 56007
402 Park Street, Freeborn, MN 56032
402 Park Street, Freeborn, MN 56032
Mail Ballot Precinct/Freeborn County Government Center/
411 Broadway Ave S, Albert Lea, MN 56007
405 1st Avenue South East, Geneva, MN 56035
407 Broadway Street South, Hartland, MN 56042
407 Broadway Street South, Hartland, MN 56042

STEELE COUNTY
Berlin Township
City of Ellendale
Lemond Township
Somerset Township
Summit Township

Ellendale Community Center, 507 2nd Street South East, Ellendale, MN 55026
Ellendale Community Center, 507 2nd Street South East, Ellendale, MN 55026
Lemond Town Hall, 7423 South West 74th Avenue, Ellendale, MN 55026
Steele County Trail Assn, 9028 South West 37th Avenue, Hope, MN 56046
Summit Town Hall, 1380 East Highway 30, Ellendale, MN 55026

Any eligible voter residing in the school district may vote at said election at the polling place designated above for the precinct in which he or she resides. The polls for said election will open at 7:00 o'clock a.m. and will close at 8:00 o'clock p.m. on the date of said election.

A voter must be registered to vote to be eligible to vote in this election. An unregistered individual may register to vote at the polling place on Election Day.

Dated: August 7, 2026

BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD


/s/ Terri Engel, School District Clerk
Loren Schoenrath
acting as School District Clerk

NOTICE

Summit Township Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 6, 2026
7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall

Andy Jewison
Summit Township Clerk

NOTICE

Berlin Township Board Meeting
Tuesday October 13, 2025
7:00 p.m. in the Ellendale Comm. Bldg.
(in the Board Room)

Marilyn Johnson, Berlin Township Clerk

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Volunteers needed Oct. 4 for New Richland Disaster Clean-Up Day

NEW RICHLAND, Minn. — The City of New Richland and the Waseca Exchange Club are joining forces to coordinate a community-wide New Richland Disaster Clean-Up Day on Sunday, October 4, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Volunteers from Waseca County and surrounding communities are encouraged to lend a hand as residents and businesses continue recovering from the recent flooding.

Volunteers are welcome to serve for the entire day or for whatever portion of the day their schedules allow. Whether someone can give two hours or eight, organizers say every set of helping hands will make a difference. Area Churches and other organizations are welcome to bring groups of people to help out.

“We are incredibly grateful for the people who have already stepped forward and for everyone who is willing to come help our community,” said Ty Lendt, New Richland City Administrator. “There is a tremendous amount of work to be done, and we will gladly welcome as many volunteers as we can get. Every person who gives their time helps a family, a business owner or a neighbor take another step toward recovery.”

All volunteers are asked to register before arriving. The registration link can be found on the Facebook pages of the City of New Richland and the Waseca Exchange Club. Mikhail Rostislavovich and Ann Staloch from the Waseca Exchange Club, stated, “Being able to help our neighbors in New Richland with some coordination efforts is a needed way to serve our county community.”

On October 4, volunteers will report first to the New Richland Fire Department, where they will check in, sign required waivers and receive a volunteer wristband before being directed to an assigned work site. Volunteers should not report directly to individual homes or businesses.

The registration and check-in process is an important part of the recovery effort. It allows organizers to know who is working in the community, match volunteers and equipment with appropriate needs, and help protect both volunteers and the residents and business owners receiving assistance.

Because much of the work will take place in areas affected by flooding, volunteers should arrive dressed appropriately for wet, muddy and dirty conditions and wear sturdy footwear and clothing suitable for physical clean-up work.

The coordinated registration system is also being used for more than physical volunteers. Individuals, businesses, churches and organizations wishing to help can use the registration process to offer meals for volunteers, equipment or other resources. Organizers are coordinating meals, so volunteers working throughout the community can be fed and resources can be distributed where they are needed most.

Those wishing to make a monetary donation to support recovery efforts will be directed to the Waseca Area Foundation, helping ensure financial contributions are handled through an established local organization.

The City of New Richland and Waseca Exchange Club are working together to create a coordinated response that gets help where it is needed while protecting the people who are giving assistance and those whose properties have been affected.

New Richland Disaster Clean-Up Day
Sunday, October 4
8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Volunteer Check-In: New Richland Fire Department
Volunteers should register in advance through the link available on the City of New Richland and Waseca Exchange Club Facebook pages.

Elementary marathon is positive experience

By **WENDY SCHULTZ**
NRHEG phy ed teacher

The 2026 NRHEG Elementary Homecoming Grade-Level Marathon was a huge success! Students from Bridges through fifth grade participated, with approximately 325 kids taking part in the fun.

The goal of the marathon was simple: try your best and have fun! The run is an enjoyable Homecoming tradition that gives our elementary students a chance to celebrate and be part of the excitement. The race winners also earned the exciting opportunity to ride on the Marathon Winners Homecoming float.

Each grade level ran a distance appropriate for their age: Bridges (pre-kindergarten), approximately 0.10 mile; Kindergarten and first grade,



AND THEY'RE OFF! - Third grade boys take off to start the 2026 NRHEG Elementary Homecoming Marathon.
Photo by Wendy Schultz

approximately 0.20 mile; second through fifth grade, approximately 0.50 mile.

The race kicked off with the Bridges class running together. For the remaining grade levels, all of the boys ran first, followed by all of the girls.

We felt incredibly fortunate to have members of the cross country team lead and trail each race. The high-schoolers were very encouraging to all of the elementary students, cheering them on and helping make the event a positive experience for everyone. Many teachers shared

high praise for the cross country team and the encouragement they showed throughout the races.

Winners of the 2026 grade-level marathons are Bridges, Kennedy Pederson, Chase Christensen; kindergarten, Lainey Perkins, Connor Holland; first grade, Ava Wagner, Rhys Christensen; second grade, June Braaten, Arlo Wacholz; third grade, Rylee Jensen, Knox Pederson; fourth grade, Ellie Olson, Easton Isder; fifth grade, Mya Misgen and Alex VanHal.

■ Assess

from Page 1

receive a major disaster declaration from the president of the U.S. Such a declaration would allow the area to receive federal assistance.

Farole said survey teams could be recognized because there will be at least three of them; all will be wearing embroidered shirts with the logo of the agency they are from; and they will not ask to enter anyone’s home, but will stay outside as they address their questions.

For those not at home when teams come knocking, she said, door hangers will be left behind

asking residents to supply the information online.

Farole encouraged people to speak with the teams and respond to the door hangers, and to do so promptly, so that disaster assistance could be arranged for as quickly as possible.

“We want to collect and review the data, so we can identify the full impact of the disaster,” Farole stated.

Farole also reported that residents should watch for an upcoming disaster assistance center—a physical location where people can get help connecting with services and resources and receive guidance about steps they can take to replace important documents or find out more about insurance coverage.

■ City

from Page 1

teary-eyed Lendt concluded his statements, expressing gratitude to “every single person” for “helping us move forward,” before fielding questions from the media.

Lendt said the city is committed to working with county, state, and federal governments to secure funding to help mitigate future flooding problems. He emphasized the cost to mitigate flooding risks is 10 times the annual city budget.

What can people looking to help do? The following supplies are needed:

- Cleaning supplies, including masks and gloves
- Mold remediation cleaners, bleach, disinfectant

At this time, the city cannot accept donations of clothing.

Donations can be dropped off at New Richland City Hall, 203 Broadway Ave. N. New Richland, MN.

Lendt added that state Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management officials informed him they have requested Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) cooperation for a joint preliminary damage assessment, one of the steps needed for possible federal assistance funding. More information is expected next week on that collaboration.

For more information about New Richland or on-going developments, please go to the city’s website, or follow the city on Facebook.

The Waseca Area Foundation has set up a donation fund to support New Richland Residents. Donations can be made through their website. Checks can be made out to: New Richland Area Foundation (note flood relief) and sent to 501 E Elm Ave, Waseca, MN 56093.



In Memory of Russell Anderson

October 4, 1933 - March 21, 2019



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sad, we miss you
in our happiest
moments, because
you should've
been there.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DAD

We love and miss you
Caron, Wendi, Kerry, & Julie

