NRHEG
Star Eagle

SERVING THE NEW RICHLAND-HARTLAND-ELLENDALE-GENEVA AREA

No. 44 Vol. CXL $2 Office in New Richland, Minnesota 56072 Thursday, October 29, 2026

Inside:

- 2 - Letter to the Editor
- 3 - Flood research
- 4 - Obituary
- 5 - Election info
- 6 - Sports
- 7 - Rural school
- 10 - Toy drive

Page 7

Rural School

Veterans Day Photos

In observance of Veterans Day November 11, the NRHEG Star Eagle will publish a section dedicated to our defenders of freedom. Area veterans or family members are encouraged to bring in photos of veterans in uniform from all branches of service for inclusion and the recognition they so justly deserve. If you submitted a photo for a previous edition, you simply need to call or email the Star Eagle to have the photo included.

The deadline for photo submission is 4 p.m., Monday, November 2. For questions or more information, please call the Star Eagle office at (507) 463-8112 or e-mail steagle@hickorytech.net.

Sphero Basics at New Richland Public Library Oct. 29

The New Richland Library will hold a Spheros Basics class at 4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 29. Spheros are programmable robotic balls which can be controlled using smartphones. The class will teach participants how to code spheros, and will compete in a tournament. Designed for ages 7 to 12.

Hide and Seek from the New Richland Police Friday, Oct. 30

New Richland is holding a Hide and Seek event for children at City Hall from 7-8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30. There will be a designated area and a list of rules, but everyone is welcome!

New Richland Care Center Flood Relief Burger Basket at the Mill Friday, Oct. 30

Money raised at a Burger Basket meal event at The Mill from 3 to 9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30. Will support repairs and reconstruction at the New Richland Care Center. Cost $10 in advance or $12 at the door. There will also be a wine pull, silent auction and bake sale.

Halloween in Hollywood at George's of Geneva Oct. 31

George's of Geneva will host a Halloween in Hollywood event starting at noon thru 11 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 31. Free kids meal with adult purchase, Halloween kids party, happy hour, games and awards.

Preview to Christmas at Vista Lutheran Church Nov. 5

Vista Lutheran Church will host a presentation in word and music from Gustavus Adolphus College at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5. This is a preview to their annual Christmas in Christ Chapel concert. Refreshments to follow.

A word from The Word

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

ENERGETIC COLOR - The Ellendale Color Run took place on Saturday, Oct. 24, 2026. They had around 200 participants. Star Eagle photo by Ben Revermann

Runners, spectators enjoy Ellendale Color Run

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

A carnival-sized crowd gathered at the NRHEG Schools elementary site in Ellendale to cheer on participants in the NRHEG Color Run on Saturday, Oct. 24. More than 200 participants started the race in conspicuously white shirts ready to be decorated with colored powder as they ran, walked or were pushed in a stroller. Taking first place was Colton Lermen at 7.32, second was Violet Botten with 12.11, and in third Jack Vanhal.

In the parking lot of the school were three fire trucks, an ambulance and the Steele County Sheriff. In fact, sheriff's deputy Jeremy Wiste was helping to block the road to keep traffic separate from those doing the color run. "I like working for these, they're for a good cause," he observed.

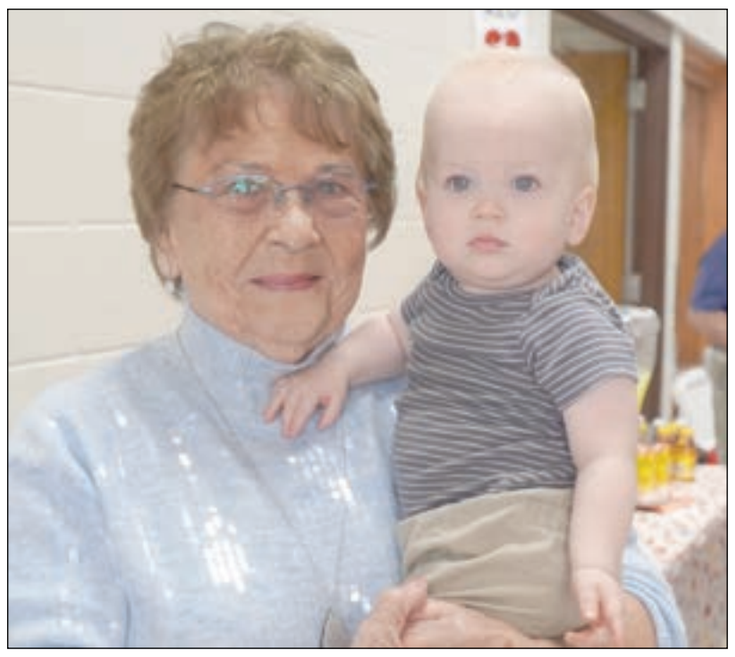
Moe Geo's Events and Catering and Sassy Sota were vendors on hand for those who were hungry or needed a break from the warm October weather.

NRHEG elementary physical education teacher Wendy Schultz was the starter for the race; staffers were stationed at a number of spaced out checkpoints to throw colored powder at the marathoners.

Said Schultz, "Today's fundraiser is for the conclusion of the construction of our All-inclusive playground. We have $13,000 towards the $42,000 final payment needed to finish the third phase, which is rubber matting around the utilities." Currently, the space has wood chips, but the rubber is considered safer and cleaner and comes from recycled materials. She also gave a big thanks to Kayley Camerer, "Who was instrumental in today's planning."

As Schultz concluded with thanks to everyone who was participating, the kids with the most energy were up front of the pack in no time once they started, with the adults moseying in the back, some with bags and some pushing strollers. All appeared to be enjoying the event.

PINK FIRST - Colton Lermen came in first place with a time of 7.32 at the Ellendale Color Run on Saturday, Oct. 24, 2026. Star Eagle photo by Ben Revermann



FOREVER YOUNG - Janice Jensen will turn 90 years old on Oct. 31, and she wanted to show off her youngest relative, Anthony, who is 10 months old, at the Ellendale Community Center on Saturday, Oct. 24. Star Eagle photo by Ben Revermann

Ellendale woman turns 90 this Halloween

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Janice Jensen of Ellendale was born on Oct. 31 of 1936, which means her 90th birthday is coming up, even though, in her words, "I certainly don't feel like I'm 90." Her family threw her a party at the Ellendale Community Center on Saturday, Oct. 24, and she said she was "blown away" by the turnout of over 100 family members. There were so many people, they ran out of tables, leaving some people in attendance standing.

Michael Marcus, son-in-law, was at the door chatting with people who were showing up. He said, "Janice had two boys and two girls. I married the oldest girl."

Bona Jensen, daughter-in-law, was working in the kitchen. She said, "We have ham or turkey sandwiches, chips, a variety of bars and cookies and sweet lemonade." She was unable to elabo-

Birthday continued on 7

Hartland church fundraiser supports in-house improvements

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hartland held its second annual "Roast Beef Sundae"

luncheon fundraiser on Sunday, Oct. 25. The church basement was full of people who seemed eager to eat after the Sunday service. They named this hot lunch menu item after they saw a vendor at the Albert Lea county fair stack a roast beef meal and model it after an ice cream sundae.

Judy Hendrickson was watching the County Store, another feature of the day. Most of her baked goods were sold out by 11:30 a.m., but there were plenty of items for shoppers to choose from. Hendrickson highlighted a collection of handsewn items made by Sue Pederson: "She has dish cloths, scrubbies, hats,

Luncheon continued on 4

EAGER STOMACHS - Arlo Tweeten and Megan Sorensen were discussing how much roast beef they wanted at the Hartland Evangelical Lutheran Church's roast beef sundae luncheon on Sunday, Oct. 25, 2026. Star Eagle photo by Ben Revermann

NEW RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL

Flood issues continue

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff Writer

The Southeast Minnesota Association of Realtors shared with New Richland city council members during their Oct. 12 meeting that Minnesota realtors are donating $70,000 worth of flood aid to help area residents with housing costs incurred because of the Sept. 19 flooding. According to Realtor Association spokesperson Eric Bromwell, households can apply for as much as $1,000 toward qualifying mortgage, rent, or hotel costs. Further information is available in a separate article which appears in this edition.

Mold abatement in the floor of the Care Center will cost about $250,000; insurance will cover up to $10,000.

Shell Johnson, who monitors city wastewater systems for contractor People Service, requested the purchase of two six-inch pumps at a total cost of about $34,000.

The city fire department reports it will need more than $26,000 to be in compliance with safety expectations: it has been three years since firefighter uniforms have been updated. It is supposed to have five sets of turnout gear for each firefighter; a few miscellaneous pieces of equipment are also needed. The October training event was a refresher on farm equipment.

The New Richland Police Department is planning a public relations game of "Hide and Seek" the evening of Oct. 30. The department received $27,000 in routine state aid, and was reimbursed nearly $2,000 for training costs. The department responded to 93 calls in September: 17 traffic stops, two ordinance violations, one animal complaint, 26 directed patrols/lock checks, 12 assisting other agencies and three alarm calls.

Lendt also reported that, after a review of police chief Tanyce Bruegger's job performance, he recommends she receive a pay increase of $1.26 an hour, bringing her to $39.94 an hour.

Xcel Energy was authorized to replace some of its power poles along the 300 block of Second Avenue Southwest. Once work has begun, it is expected to continue for four to six weeks.

The maintenance department reported the dock has been taken out at St. Olaf Lake. Bathrooms for Legion Field and St. Olaf have been shut down for the winter. The Sportsmen's Club arranged to have eight trees planted at St. Olaf Lake Park.

The New Richland Ambulance is currently at 85 Runs. The council approved up to $2,000 so the department can purchase a washer and dryer; ambulance staff had always previously relied on the Care Center to take care of laun-

Council continued on 4

Fence Lines

by Mark Bernard

We may never pass this way again

The scurs and the Weather Eye saw Mother Nature giving us a taste of somewhat wetter fall weather. Will that continue or are we in for smoother sailing? Starting Thursday, mostly sunny with a slight chance of evening rain.

Highs in the mid-60's with lows in the mid-40's. Mostly cloudy Friday with a good chance of late day rain. Highs in the upper 60's with lows in the mid-50's. Mostly cloudy on Saturday with rain likely. Highs in the low 60's and lows in the upper 40's. Sunday, mostly cloudy with rain. Highs in the low 60's with lows in the upper 40's. Mostly cloudy on Monday with more rain. Highs in the low 60's with lows in the mid-40's. Tuesday, sunny with highs in the mid-50's and lows in the low 40's. Sunny Wednesday with highs in the low 50's and lows in the upper 30's. On October 31st our sunset will occur at 6:05 p.m. November 1st the sun will set at 5:04 p.m. through the magic of government meddling. On the 5th it'll set at 5 p.m. CST. The normal high for November 1st is 49, and the normal low is 30. The scurs await their spooky visitors on the 31st.

Sunday may or may not be the last time we have to change our clocks in the fall. Legislation to change our time to permanent Daylight Saving Time is pending and could make the hassle of changing clocks ahead or back a thing of the past. It has been less of a headache for today's agriculture than it was say 50 or 60 years ago. More dairies across the land meant grumpy cows when their milking schedule was suddenly disrupted. It also meant grumpy farmers when the routine they'd been operating under was abruptly changed. It's still like that at the ranch. The sleepy sheep look at you when they're fed an hour earlier than normal and beller when it's an hour later than normal. Note to our government: Please quit messing with the time. Pass and sign legislation one way or the other ending this folly.

Harvest is nearing an end, and we are likely in a good place. As expected, with corn yields coming in well above expectations, on-farm storage has filled up, causing some to haul corn to elevators and to utilize other alternatives.

Sitting here writing this column in Canada, watching the snow flurries pass by, it's an indication of things to come.

For those of us who lived through the Halloween Blizzard, it heightens the anxiety this time of year to finish any outdoors activities. This has been a storybook growing season for many, and we'll analyze what broke our way to make it happen in future columns and perhaps special edition articles. It was truly unlike any other I've ever experienced and may never see one like it again.

As mentioned, am writing this column off-site, from my fortress of solitude in suburban Flanders, ON. The weather has been pleasant, although it sent warning shots across the bow the past couple mornings. A 29-degree low on October 25th followed by 28° the next morning with snow flurries was a clue. In the meantime it's generally been a treat to enjoy the fauna. The only fly in the ointment has been the boxelder bugs and Asian ladybeetles spotted in the cabin. Ruffed grouse were seen near the end of the driveway, reminding me I'm not in Bugtussle anymore. Their brown and gray coloration made them difficult to pick out. Seeing a snowshoe hare changing into its winter attire was a highlight. The ears turning white along with a white underbelly made me appreciate how animals have adapted to this frequently harsh environment. They don't split wood and stay inside away from predators, folks.

One of the treasured memories of these ventures north has been the meals and company shared with the Canadian neighbors down the lake. This one was no exception with some of the best walleye I've ever eaten, a wonderful salad and homemade French fries. Topped off with homemade apple pie and whipped cream, it simply doesn't get much better than that. The conversation following the meal afterwards was equally delicious. If we were allowed to implement our solutions to the world's problems as formulated, it would be a better place. Our hosts were so accommodating that, even though they had more company coming, they wanted us to stay a little longer. Good thing we did. Their niece filled us in about the potential for Canadian yak production. Where else on the planet could one encounter that kind of information, let alone experience an evening more entertaining or enlightening?

Despite my lengthy absence, upon my return I suspect Poppy will be glad to see me. Hopefully we can return to our routine of watching Adam 12 at bedtime once again. It'll likely involve me falling asleep during the second episode at which time I shut the TV off. The Corgi then repairs to the living room. She must like the white noise created by Barney Miller. There isn't a lot of gunfire or police car sirens, so it's pretty mundane. That or Poppy wants to stay up later and watch The Beverly Hillbillies. Guessing she's a fan of Ellie May's critters.

See you next week... real good then.

Support schools by voting yes

In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

Here's a question for you: "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to increase the funding going to all school districts from the permanent school fund, which is a fund that supports school districts without raising individual income or property taxes, effective July 1, 2027?"

I will be voting yes to the proposed constitutional amendment on Tuesday, and I hope you will be, too. It has already been passed by both Minnesota Houses, and now requires voter approval.

Voting yes will not raise anyone's taxes. Failing to mark the question yes on your ballot is the same as voting against the amendment, since passing it requires approval from a simple majority of people casting votes. I am informed it might be easy to accidentally overlook the question because it appears on the back side of the ballot.

As has been mentioned in a few articles over the past months, if the amendment passes, all schools which receive money from the permanent school fund will receive about $33 more per student beginning with the 2027-28 school year than in 2026-27: from $68 to $101. Districts also receive state funding from other sources, about $7,000 for each student, but as school financial managers will assure you, every little bit helps.

The permanent school fund has been part of Minnesota's constitution since it was first written. Under its terms, income from millions of acres of land in the northern part of the state–mostly timber and mining leases–is managed by the Department of Natural Resources.

State leaders reveal the fund is currently about $2.3 billion and growing by approximately 8 percent each year. Interest and dividends on the fund are distributed according to a system designated in the original state constitution.

There is bipartisan agreement that changing the language would not be detrimental to the value of the fund itself, and that it is contrary to the intended purpose of the fund for any of the interest and other accruals to remain undistributed.

In other words, it seems like a "no-brainer" to vote in support of the initiative. Even if you see few other reasons to go to the polls next Tuesday, I encourage you to head on over and weigh in on at least this one item.

If you want more information, it's easy to find online. I offer the Minnesota Public Radio website and "Vote Yes for Minnesota Students" as resources. The "Vote Yes" website provides estimated dollar amounts which will be going to all 510 school districts which receive support from the fund. According to information posted there, NRHEG, the recipient of about about $52,000 from the fund in 2025, would receive nearly $78,000 in 2027.

Leaves are falling once again

Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl
Outdoors Writer

This past week I have given much thought to moving on to the next season with mixed emotions. It is always sad, to me, to see the end of summer and the time after most of the leaves have left the trees. The falling leaves give some of us a reason to be out in the yard raking and bagging leaves. I look back on the days when burning leaves was a part of the autumn ritual. I always looked forward to spending a fall day raking and burning leaves. The burning of leaves ushered autumn out and began the anticipation of the next season. Notice I didn't spell out the next season, I just hinted at it.

When I think of Halloween, I always think of my Uncle Lloyd. He loved Halloween and would always like it when us kids would stop over for treats. I can remember when our boys were little and we would stop over. Lloyd was not an outdoors kind of guy, but he would have a little campfire made of leaves and twigs going in the yard for roasting hot dogs and marshmallows. I am pretty sure that the hot dogs were cooked black on the outside, but not done in the middle. My grandma and Aunt Alice would have hot chocolate waiting for everyone in the kitchen.

Fall is a time for cleaning up the yard and putting things away for winter. It is also the time for some very good fishing. The "old timers" would always say that the best fall fishing was up to two weeks after the first "Hard" frost. I guess that I am now falling into that category.

Deer hunters invited to share wildlife observations

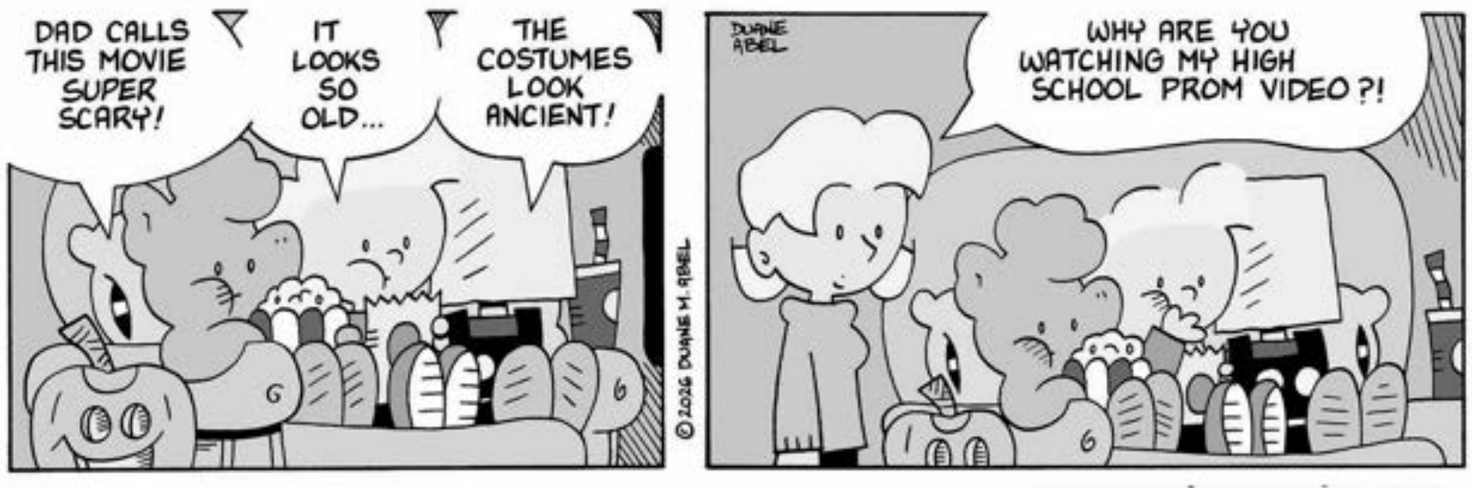
Minnesota deer hunters can use an online log to report wildlife they see while hunting. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources uses the information to supplement its model-generated population estimates, which are an important tool for managing wildlife.

Using a mobile device or computer, deer hunters can enter information about wildlife they see while in the field, including deer, turkey, bear, fisher and other species. Hunters are encouraged to fill out a hunter field log after each hunt, even if no deer are observed. This allows for an accurate estimate of the number of deer observed per hour of field observations, which provides a useful comparison to deer density modeling results. Minnesota DNR's online log will remain open through the end of 2026.

More information on the hunter field log is available on the Minnesota DNR website.

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.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letter to the Editor,

I was recently informed that a majority of New Richland residents want Larry Muff to run for mayor. I would highly recommend for a great candidate for mayor even though I don't reside in Waseca County. I had the pleasure to meet him when he was going to bat for my deceased father Paul Stennes with County Commissioners in regards to the 2016 flood that caused my dad a $100,000.00 loss on his farm property due to a berm that was installed on Hwy 13. Dad owned that property since the 1950s with never any issues due to weather. He spent months trying to find out who was responsible for the 4 foot water in his shed. With the help of Larry years later we found the answers through him. He is very knowledgeable on water and would be a great asset to be on board for the flood issues. He is knowledgeable, prompt, assertive and concerned about the town he lives in.

So on the upcoming election be sure you write him in for mayor position. New Richland needs new administration.

Betty Berg
Bricelyn, MN

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GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

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Compostings

by Al Batt

Hoping to smooth my life's path

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

Good morning.

And the rest of the day to you. You look taller.

That's because I got a raise at work.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. Halloween is when old cobwebs become new decorations. I bobbed for apples and got water on my knee. I dressed as a Band-Aid once. That was a hard costume to pull off. My neighbor Crandall wore a Mark Hamill mask. You should have seen the Luke on his face.

Hoping to smooth my life's path, I took a job at a gas station to learn how to do things. I had a short and distinguished career as a pump jockey. It was more short than distinguished. My boss told me my job was never to disgrace the sign. He pointed to the logo of the business. I wasn't as talented as a coworker who claimed to be proficient at using a Slim Jim and hot-wiring cars. Paying with a credit card required me to place a customer's embossed plastic card into a mechanical device called a zip-zap or knuckle buster machine and roll a heavy metal handle across it to imprint the card number and name on a multi-part carbon paper sales form before it was signed.

My strongest point was being good at using GOJO hand cleaner.

I'VE LEARNED

Dr. Lowell Barr of Spring Valley has a 1931 Ford Model A. Lowell's uncle purchased the car new in Nebraska. The Model A began production in 1927. It's 95 years later, and the Barrs have preserved that piece of family history that can still be driven.

The inventor of the couch invented nothing else. He was too busy napping.

The paper towels at the gas pumps are there to wipe the tears away.

When the James-Younger Gang robbed the First National Bank of Northfield on September 7, 1876, they left with a burlap bag containing $26.70 cash.

ASK AL

"What do you think Edward Munch's painting 'The Scream' portrays?" A father who stepped on a Lego brick.

"Why do sharks swim in salt water?" Pepper makes them sneeze.

IN LOCAL NEWS

Our local origami shop kept getting busier. Business was in creasing, but then it folded.

Brace yourself for the upcoming orthodontists' strike. Local geometry teacher missed a school day after spraining his angle.

All Flat Earth Society members must report back to the 8th grade.

Ventriloquist retires after dummy contracts laryngitis.

Local man gives up watching football on TV to spend more time with his family.

Senator Highbottom recommends putting stop signs on interstate highways to slow speeders.

Baking Bad Bakery (formerly Filled of Cream) has rigamarolls, but you will have to go through a lot to get one.

NATURE NOTES

I led a tour to Denali. Alaska is a big place, and traveling around it builds a big appetite. We stopped to eat, grabbing sandwiches and drinks before finding perches outside, because why wouldn't we sit outside? We finished our meals and were walking back to our bus when another tour arrived. They snagged sandwiches and chips, placed them on the outdoor tables, and went to get drinks. I told the leader that someone should stay and guard the food. I'd do that, but I needed to catch a bus. He thought I was goofy and asked who would steal their food. He was right about the goofy part, but when I said, "The gulls," he replied, "The gulls to you too."

I stood by the door of our bus, using my amazing math skills to be sure all 50 of my tour participants boarded. Before I stepped onto the deluxe motor coach, I looked back at the spot where we'd enjoyed a lovely repast. Delicate-appearing gulls named mew gulls (the name has been changed to short-billed gulls) were devouring the sandwiches of that group of tourists. The "mew" part of the name didn't come from its catlike call because it makes nothing that sounds like that. It's derived from "zee meeuw," an old Dutch name for the bird. Gulls are incredibly good at obtaining food. A gull in Florida snatched a partially eaten hot dog from my hand. It did so for my own good.

The name "nighthawk" is a misnomer, since the common nighthawk isn't strictly nocturnal—it's active at dawn and dusk—nor closely related to hawks. They have long tails, forward-swept wings and spectacular aerial maneuverability. It belongs to the nightjar family, and its "hawk" name comes from its resemblance to a small hawk flying and its hawking method of catching insects mid-air.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year."—Ralph Waldo Emerson. Be kind.

Flood victims may be eligible for $1,000 grant toward housing costs

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Eric Bromwell of the Southeast Minnesota Association of Realtors informed city leaders the Minnesota Realtors Association's Relief Foundation has allotted up to $70,000 in grant funding for New Richland residents who experienced extra housing costs due to the September flood. Up to $1,000 per household is available to reimburse city residents for eligible mortgage, rental or hotel costs. Residents must present proof of mortgage or rent payments, a state issued ID and proof of displacement like a hotel receipt, and proof of damages. The applications are reviewed once per week; the deadline to apply is Nov. 11.

Volunteers were available at City Hall from Oct. 20 to 24; the form and further information are still available online.

Qualified applicants can receive this one-time payment if they meet one of the following requirements: 1. Monthly mortgage expense for the primary residence that was damaged by the disaster or; 2. Rental cost due to displacement from the primary residence resulting from the disaster or; 3. Hotel reimbursement due to displacement from the primary residence resulting from the disaster.

This assistance is for housing relief only pertaining to physical property damage. It does not include expenses from power outages, food spoilage, damaged appliances, clothing or equipment. Second mortgages, vehicle purchases, rentals or repair and mileage are also ineligible.

Those looking to apply must be a full-time Waseca county resident. Geneva City Clerk and Home Mortgage Lender for Profinium Bank in Owatonna, Jannell Tufte, was one of the volunteers who was working to assist those coming in to the New Richland City Hall. She said, "We are using local volunteers to give those residents applying comfort in the knowledge that we're not scammers; we live here too!" This is a confidential application.

For those who would like to apply, but missed the New Richland City Hall assisted signup, there is still the chance to acquire the application online at:

https://www.mnrealtor.com/blogs/mnr-news1/2026/10/15/relief-grant-new-richland-flooding

Or send questions to relief@mnrealtors.com. Again the deadline is Nov. 11.

This is thanks to the efforts of the Realtors Relief Foundation, Minnesota Realtors, National Association of Realtors and Southeast Minnesota Realtors.

County continuing flood mitigation research

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

During their Oct. 21 meeting, Waseca County commissioners approved up to $50,000 for an impact study which County Land and Water Resources director Chris Howard said would help "anticipate and address regulatory hurtles" for routing water which currently goes through the town of New Richland to a new channel planned to the south and west.

The project is being planned in anticipation of guarding New Richland properties from a 100-year flood, a standard used industry wide. A 100-year flood is 7.5 inches of rain within a 24-hour period, which is what the city experienced in September.

Because the new channel would take overflow water which currently follows Boot Creek through town and instead deliver it to the creek further west, Howard explained Minnesota law will require the impact study he recommended. Having it done in advance would clarify the overall cost for the construction, he said, while simultaneously helping the application for approval from state agencies move more smoothly.

A major question, Howard said, is whether some sort of water storage would be needed to mitigate the downstream impact--that is, deliver the water more gradually to reduce flooding. This study, to be completed by December, would serve as the "final piece of the puzzle" by ensuring the re-route would satisfy statute, determining whether there's a need for storage, and providing information that would help determine total cost–all necessary both to have the project approved by state agencies, to seek funding from numerous possible sources, and to finalize the new channel's route.

District 1 commissioner Doug Christopherson asked fellow commissioners for their support on the study, saying that–to the best of their knowledge–he and Howard believe it will be the last study needed to allow the project to meet statutory requirements.

In answer to commissioners' questions, Howard said the study would help determine the needed capacity of holding ponds, and whether or not they would have outlet controls. He also said having the needed information in advance would help prevent an awkward situation in which the county sought funding for the project, received it, and then discovered an additional cost.

When commissioners asked whether any consideration had been given to routing water along a different route, specifically one which would deliver part of the water northward to the Le Sueur River, Howard conceded it would be viable to route water in that direction, but would also entail taking water from the Boot Creek watershed into the Le Sueur watershed. It would require excavating roughly 3.5 miles of waterway, and would entail additional applications and approvals.

VOTE FOR SOMEONE WHO:

- Has lived one block from Boot Creek since 1989
- Has monitored each flood event since then.
- Has been pushing hard for New Richland the past 5 years.
- Pushed hard in the Le Sueur 1W1P to get wording and funding options included for New Richland flood issues.
- Was harshly chastised twice by County for my push for New Richland saying it was an Emergency Management Issue. Was Emergency Management controlling the flooding this fall?
- Participated in the first Flood Study, "which New Richland residents were misled about". Identified many red flags. Final one, study was designed for a 100 year flood, which is 7" in 24 hours. I stated New Richland is dealing with 7" in 12 hours, which made the study worthless.
- Was deliberately left out of second study, but called out calculations errors when presented at the Council Meeting. Second study is scrapped.
- County came after me for calling out calculations error.
- Now calling out red flag in third study which is calculated at a 100 year flood again by the same Engineering firm.

VOTE FOR SOMEONE WORKING FOR YOU!

Larry Muff

Write in vote for New Richland Mayor

- If elected Mayor, at the first meeting I will present strategy and steps to address flood issues.
- I have identified 9 points of potential flow restrictions.
- I want more water storage areas and know of grants to use.
- I have identified storm water design problems which is causing back up issues.
- New Richland can't rely or wait for County to solve issues within City Limits.

Paid for by Larry Muff

Phone scams tend to make promises and threats, and they even can pretend to be grandchildren. Don't answer calls that you are not familiar with, even if they appear to be local..

- Beware of "send money to get money" request
- Don't give personal information to unfamiliar callers
- When in doubt, hang up and call the business yourself

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LOOKING BACK

25 years ago

- New owners of Verns Repair building on North Broadway in New Richland are Jared Prestegard (left) and Steve Skalicky. The new shop will be known as J & S Auto Center. Jared recently graduated from auto technology training in Chicago. At Owatonna, Steve has worked as an auto technician for the past few years.

- Lacey Lindeland, a Maple River High School sophomore, brought home the top ribbon this year in the Minnesota State Fair steer competition. The Lindeland name has been on many awards handed out at the State Fair steer competitions during the past four decades. This year Lacey brought home a championship ribbon for the first time. It is something that her father, uncles and three older siblings did not accomplish over the years in competition.

- Josh and Laura Witts of Pemberton are the parents of a daughter born Friday, September 28, 2001. Kaylee Christine, as she has been named, weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces and was 21 ½ inches in length.

- The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva girls cross country team tied for the first place with Blooming Prairie at the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton invitational Thursday. Each team scored 28. A sixth runner tie breaker won the top spot for Panthers. April Bayerkohler ran 18:18 to place second.

50 years ago

- Rich Westland, a 6'1" 200 lb. Sophomore from New Richland, plays offensive guard for the Concordia College varsity football team. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Westland of New Richland. Concordia Cobbers are entering their eighth season with head coach Jim Christopherson. A member of the Minn. Inter-collegiate Athletic Conference, they finished out the last season with a 4-5 record.

- The New Richland-Hartland Cross Country Team will enter the Regional meet at the Eastwood Golf Course at Rochester, Thursday at 2:30 p.m. Other teams in the area entered are Austin Pacelli and Kenyon.

- The New Richland-Hartland Girls Volleyball team won the Gopher Conference championship Tuesday night when they defeated Waterville-Elysian, 2-0. Their record is 12-0. Game scores were 18-2 and 18-9. The entire squad had an opportunity to play and played well, according to Coach Ann Goudy. Now they enter District Tourney play Thursday, November 4, so it is important that they keep winning.

- Daniel Chase Branstner, who was born June 15, arrived from Korea, October 8 to be with his mom and dad. Dennis and Kathy Branstner. He weighs 10 pounds, 8 ounces and is already gaining weight.

75 years ago

- It's official now. An Albert Lean, Orville J. Johntson, has been confirmed as editor of "The Watch on the Rhine," an official publication of the Society of the Third Infantry Division of the U.S. Army. As editor of the official publication, Johnston will be a member of the executive committee of the society.

■ Council

from Page 1

dry.

Also as part of his report to the council, Lendt commented the community response to the storm was "incredible, both locally and statewide." He stated work regarding the water reroute is ongoing, and investigations are underway as to how the city's underwater infrastructure can be improved. Ground penetrating radar was conducted on Monday, October 12, and a culvert inspector was out on Thursday, October 8.

Lendt commented on the strong turnout for cleaning at the Care Center and more curbside cleanup on Sept. 23. Residents are still encouraged to sign up on CrisisCleanup.org if they need assistance. New Richland is nearing the end of the 30-day state-of-emergency extension, and information is being relayed in too many directions for programs to mention. Part of the emergency declarations is an accounting of all the damage public entities suffered.

OBITUARIES

David Winegar

David Allen Winegar passed away on October 19, 2026 at the age of 74.

David's life was dedicated to his family. As his four sons grew up, he enjoyed helping coach them in various sports and being involved in their activities. He took pride in supporting his sons as they learned, competed, and grew, creating memories they will carry with them throughout their lives.

David cherished his family and friends, treating his friends like family. He loved spending time with the people who meant the most to him, whether sharing stories, enjoying a good laugh, or making memories together. He especially enjoyed hunting, fishing, golfing, and bowling with family and friends, finding happiness in the time spent together as much as in the activities themselves. David also enjoyed spending his winters in Fort Myers, Florida. Wherever he was, the friendships he built and the time he shared with those he loved were an important part of his life.

David dedicated much of his life to dentistry, serving the community of McGregor, Minnesota, from 1982 until 2021. For nearly four decades, he cared for his patients and built lasting relationships throughout the community.

Beyond his dental practice, David was committed to serving his community. He was a longtime member of the McGregor School Board, where he contributed to the education and future of local students. He was also a longtime member of the McGregor Lions Club, giving his time and support to an organization dedicated to serving others. His years of professional and community service reflected his lasting connection to McGregor and the people who called it home.

David was preceded in death by his father, Dale Winegar, and his mother, Catherine Winegar. He is survived by his four sons, Daniel, Joseph, Michael, and Steven; his eight grandchildren, Max, Odin, Eli, William, Grace, Charles, Octavia, and Raphael; his siblings, Patricia Kingston, Dennis Winegar, Terry Winegar, Carol Winegar, and Sally Hentges; and his many nieces and nephews.

David's passing leaves a space that can never truly be filled. His dedication to his profession, his commitment to the McGregor community, and his love for family and friends will remain a lasting part of his legacy. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, former patients, fellow community members, fellow Lions, and all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

David's life was marked by his years of service, his involvement in his sons' lives, and the time he shared with family and friends. The memories he leaves behind will continue to be cherished by all who knew and loved him.

May he rest in peace, forever remembered and never forgotten.

Celebration of Life

Family and friends are invited to gather to celebrate David's life, share stories, and remember the many memories he leaves behind.

Date: Friday, October 30, 2026

Time: 2–5 p.m.

Location: McGregor Community Center

41442 State Hwy 65

McGregor, MN 55760

Memorial Donations

The family kindly requests no gifts, monetary gifts to the family, or flowers.

Those wishing to honor David's memory may make a donation to either the McGregor Area Scholarship Foundation or the McGregor Lions Club.

McGregor Area Scholarship Foundation

Phone: 218-768-3339

McGregor Lions Club

41442 State Hwy 65

McGregor, MN 55760

The family appreciates your kindness, support, and remembrance of David during this difficult time.

David Winegar

■ Luncheon

from Page 1

Hartland Evangelical Lutheran Church held its roast beef sundae luncheon on Sunday, Oct. 25, 2026. Kitchen volunteers pictured from left: Craig Bell, Sara Bakken, Lanell Akemann, Judy Tweeten, Tammi and Ronda Staloch, and Jennifer Bye. Star Eagle photo by Ben Revermann

and scarves." She also mentioned, "We also have homemade almond joys, peanut nut rolls, pumpkin bread, fresh bread, apple turnovers, apple pies, buns, Chex Mix ["trash mix" as it was labeled], caramels, turtles, cookies, jams, jellies, and salsas. We have just about everything you can think of made from the home."

Inside the kitchen, volunteers were filling plates as fast as people could take them, Lanell Akemann said, "We're doing this fundraiser today for two main reasons. First is to finish the dining room ceiling which is almost done. Then we're going to fix the upstairs Altar Guild closet. Any money left over goes right back to the church."

Lyndon Pedersen was one of those who was clearing and cleaning the tables after the guests were finished eating. Assisting him was his son Karl, who looked to be 8 years old. Karl was asked how many plates he had cleared by 11:45 a.m. He gave this question serious thought before he answered, "I have cleared 15, no 16 plates so far this morning. I like being a helper."

Jan Kalbow, one of the Hartland Workout Girls, had just finished up the last bite on her plate when she stopped the Pioneer to say how much her friend Lavonne likes to read. She was debating eating one of the many bars and cookies left out on all the tables for dessert. It is believed she ate the chocolate peanut butter bar, but she said secretively, "A lady never tells." She shared that she and her friends attended the sundae luncheon last year as well, and if there is another next year, "We'll be there, too."

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Area candidates respond to Star Eagle Survey

Ellingson

Bill Ellingson, running for a seat on Geneva City Council

- Your area of residence and members of your family in the same household:

My wife is Sara, and I have 4 children. Twin 17 year olds, a 12 year old, and a 9 year old.

- How long have you lived in the area?

We moved to Geneva about 4 years ago.

- What is your occupation or profession?

I am a Petroleum Driver for Wayne Transports.

- What positions or offices have you served which help you feel prepared for the office you seek?

I have served on church boards since I was 21 years old. I have helped set budgets, dealt with tough issues and have led training sessions to help others understand issues.

- What are some personal traits or experiences which act or will act as strengths for you in this office?

I don't take disputes personally. If a hard issue needs to be worked through, I am not afraid of dealing with it, as it is just business. I can get along with people who don't agree with me.

- What do you regard as some of the most important tasks or concerns the office will be, or should be, handling in the near future?

I think we have a lot of little issues that need some addressing. We need to make sure our city infrastructure is kept in good order, that the town is kept up, and we address properties that need city intervention.

- What observations or impressions would you like to share?

Geneva is a wonderful place to live. I want to do everything I can to continue this way of life.

The NRHEG Star Eagle sent questionnaires to various area candidates asking for their responses to a set of straightforward questions. Their responses will appear when they are submitted.

Gary Spatenka, one of two candidates for District 1 Steele County Commissioner

- Your area of residence and members of your family in the same household:

Steele County, Lemond township. Household of one.

- How long have you lived in the area?

63 years in Steele County

- What is your occupation or profession?

I own Gary's Auto-Truck Body

- What positions or offices have you served which help you feel prepared for the office you seek?

I am the Chairman of the Steele County Planning and Zoning Board, I have been on the Board for 8 years. I have also owned Riverview Campground in Owatonna, I was a High School volleyball coach in Owatonna for 16 years and I helped start the Junior Olympics Volleyball program in Owatonna. I have owned my auto body repair facility for the last 36 years; my shop is the oldest independent shop in Steele County.

- What are some personal traits or experiences which act or will act as strengths for you in this office?

Being on the Steele County Planning and Zoning Board, I have worked with the commissioners and interact with them on things that are going through the Planning and Zoning, such as CUP (conditional use permits) IUP (intern use permits) and if they have questions on the action of the Planning and Zoning, I work with them to answer why we as a Board made recommendations on permits. So I feel, with me being active already with the commissioners, I feel I would be a good fit joining them on the County Commissioner board.

Spatenka

- What do you regard as some of the most important tasks or concerns the office will be, or should be, handling in the near future?

Right now the Data Centers are a big thing going on all over the state/nation, and we have to be ready as a county to have a plan together, if they are looking at building in Steele County. Right now we have an ordinance that doesn't allow building on farm/agricultural, until it sits idle with no crop on it for 5 years, so if you can't build a house on that land, how can we allow Data Centers to be built on that same land?

- What additional observations or impressions would you like to share?

We have some beautiful acreages in the county to build on, and people are frustrated by not being able to build on land they pay taxes on. We built a new High School and everyone had a property tax increase from it, so let's get building and bringing the property taxes down by allowing more homes being built on wooded areas, and CRP land that is coming out of the programs.

Justin Ohnstad, one of two candidates for Steele County District 1 commissioner

- Your area of residence and members of your family in the same household:

Deerfield Township, Steele County 5

- How long have you lived in the area?

I've been a Steele county resident my entire life.

- What is your occupation or profession?

I have a real estate business in the city of Owatonna.

Ohnstad

- What positions or offices have you served which help you feel prepared for the office you seek?

I've been involved for years within the board of directors of my realtor association, as well as multiple community clubs and events.

- What are some personal traits or experiences which act or will act as strengths for you in this office?

Through my 18 years as a real estate professional in the community, I have learned how to problem solve more effectively. I have learned how to communicate and accomplish goals within the needs of my clients. Which transcends very well into government leadership.

- What do you regard as some of the most important tasks or concerns the office will be, or should be, handling in the near future?

Ultimately, being able to listen and gather the information from the people of the county to bring it forward and be a voice and provide action to get things done that are needed.

- What additional observations or impressions would you like to share?

I'm grateful for the opportunity to campaign and look forward to serving the community in the county that means so much to me.

Joe Staloch, running for Minnesota House of Representatives, District 23A

Staloch

- Your area of residence and members of your family in the same household:

I live with my longtime partner and our cats. Her three grown children are also part of my family.

- How long have you lived in the area?

I grew up on our family's hog farm outside Wells and graduated from United South Central High School. After college and working elsewhere, I returned about eight years ago and now live in Albert Lea.

- What is your occupation or profession?

I work in broadband network design and mapping for Gigfire

- What positions or offices have you served which help you feel prepared for the office you seek?

I've worked in restaurants, environmental consulting, public health, retail, and now broadband network design. That varied work experience has introduced me to people from many backgrounds and given me a broader understanding of the challenges employees, businesses, and communities face. I think that perspective would be valuable at the Capitol.

- What are some personal traits or experiences which act or will act as strengths for you in this office?

Curiosity, persistence, and a willingness to listen are strengths I would bring to office. I like learning how things work and asking questions when something doesn't make sense. I also recognize that people who deal with an issue every day often see things that someone writing a policy might miss and vice versa.

My varied work experience has taught me to get along with different people and consider perspectives beyond my own. I'm comfortable saying when I don't know something, doing the homework, and changing my mind when there's good reason to.

- What do you regard as some of the most important tasks or concerns the office will be, or should be, handling in the near future?

A top priority is securing state support for overdue infrastructure improvements, including Albert Lea's water treatment plant and New Richland's stormwater drainage system, which has failed repeatedly. Albert Lea is attracting new businesses, but infrastructure capacity could limit future growth.

Rural healthcare access, housing, and stronger state funding for schools and local governments also need attention. Affordability and the long-term viability of our communities should guide these decisions so families can find opportunity here.

- What additional observations or impressions would you like to share?

Since returning home, I've seen both the opportunities in southern Minnesota and the challenges holding our communities back. There's interest in attracting businesses and helping our towns grow, but that takes reliable infrastructure, available housing, and access to healthcare. Those basics need more attention at the Capitol. Our communities have a lot to offer, and the state government should be a dependable partner in helping them move forward.

If that's what you're looking for, vote Joe Staloch on or before November 3!

Rick Rottman, one of three candidates running for Mayor of New Richland

- How long have you lived in the area?

5 years

- What is your occupation or profession?

Retired

- What positions or offices have you served which help you feel prepared for the office you seek?

I am proud of a lifetime dedicated to service, leadership and giving back to others. I served 23 years in the military between the U.S Army and Army National Guard, which taught me the importance of teamwork, discipline, accountability and putting the mission first. In the community I have served as Commander of American Legion Post 75, VFW Commander and VFW District Secretary. These roles have allowed me to support fellow veterans, work with others toward common goals and contribute to organizations that are important to our community.

- What are some personal traits or experiences which act or will act as strengths for you in this office?

I believe the experiences listed above have taught me how to listen, make responsible decisions, work through challenges, and bring people together. If elected mayor, I would bring that same commitment to serving the residents of New Richland. My goal would be to listen to the community, be responsible with taxpayer dollars, communicate openly and work collaboratively to keep New Richland a good place to live, work and raise a family.

- What do you regard as some of the most important tasks or concerns the office will be, or should be, handling in the near future?

I believe one of the biggest and most important issues facing New Richland and its residents is finding a long-term solution to our flooding problem both recently and in the past. The flooding has affected families, homes, businesses and the entire community. Residents deserve to know that we are doing everything we reasonably can to reduce the risk of this happening again. We need to explore grants and other financial assistance at all levels of government, so that the cost does not fall entirely on taxpayers. We also need a clear plan, realistic timelines and regular communication with residents about the progress.

Another important priority is bringing business and economic opportunities to New Richland. We need to support the businesses we already have while making our community attractive to new businesses, investments and possible job creation.

- What additional observations or impressions would you like to share?

My approach would be to listen to residents, work cooperatively with the CIty Council and community partners, pursue outside funding and make decisions based on sound information and the long-term interests of New Richland. I want to help a community where people feel secure raising families, operating businesses and planning for the future.

Brandy Jacobson, one of three candidates running for two open seats on the New Richland City Council

- Your area of residence and members of your family in the same household:

Kaleb Jacobson, 2 Children: Krewden (7) & Bearren (2)

- How long have you lived in the area?

I moved to New Richland over 15 years ago when I met my husband, who is a New Richland native.

- What is your occupation or profession?

I have worked at Viracon for 12 years as a Graphic Designer / Digital Distinctions Specialist.

- What positions or offices have you served which help you feel prepared for the office you seek?

In 2024, I had the opportunity to serve on the City Council for a few months. Although my time in office was cut short, the experience taught me a great deal about local government, the responsibilities of serving the public, and the importance of making decisions that benefit our community. I truly enjoyed my time on the council, and it left me feeling that I still have more to contribute to the community I love.

- What are some personal traits or experiences which act or will act as strengths for you in this office?

I have always believed in being an active community member and stepping up when help is needed. I grew up volunteering in my hometown and currently I serve as Treasurer on the Farm & City Days committee. A strong community is built by people who get involved, listen to others, and work together toward common goals. My previous experience, combined with my commitment to our community, has prepared me to serve with dedication, an open mind, and a genuine desire to make a positive difference.

- What do you regard as some of the most important tasks or concerns the office will be, or should be, handling in the near future?

We need to focus on three key priorities to strengthen our community. First, we must address flooding by implementing short-term solutions to protect residents and minimize damage while working toward a permanent fix. Second, we need to review the city budget and identify responsible adjustments to ensure taxpayer dollars are spent wisely while supporting residents, families, and local businesses. Third, our parks need attention and investment. Improving maintenance, updating playgrounds, and adding family-friendly amenities would enhance residents' quality of life while attracting visitors and encouraging them to spend time and money in our community.

- What additional observations or impressions would you like to share?

I believe good leadership starts with listening, being willing to ask questions, and making decisions based on what is best for the community as a whole. I may not have all the answers, but I am willing to put in the work, have honest conversations, and look for practical solutions. I care about this community and want to help ensure we are building a stronger future for the people who call it home.

IN BRIEF

Blood Drive at New Richland City Hall Wednesday, Nov. 11

A Red Cross blood drive will be from 1 to 6 p.m. at the New Richland City Hall on North Broadway, Wednesday, Nov. 11. Donors can sign up in advance online or simply walk in.

Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board Meeting Nov. 12

The SWCD will be holding its monthly board meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 12. The meetings will be held in the SWCD offices located at 300 North State Street - Door 4.

Ellendale Community Celebration Nov. 21

Ellendale businesses and organizations will be at the Ellendale Community Center from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. showing opportunities and options which make Ellendale a great place to live, work and raise a family. Free ice cream and apple cider, with live music. Lerberg's Rib Fest will have one rack of ribs and one side available for $20.

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Panthers upend USC 40-8 to wrap up regular season

NRHEG draws No. 3 seed in Section 1A tournament

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva head football coach Devin Lockerby was not impressed with the first half of last Wednesday's regular-season finale at United South Central.

But he had no problem with the way it finished.

The Panthers, up 10-8 at halftime, put up 30 unanswered points in the second half and rolled to a 40-8 victory.

"It was not a great start to the game," said Lockerby. "But we came out in the second half and played to our standard. Now it is playoff time and just trying to get one more game each week for the seniors and this team. I'm excited for the week of work ahead."

The Panthers put up the lone points in the first quarter, on a 34-yard touchdown run by Sean Lassahn and a safety, with the Rebels answering in the second quarter.

Brock Holland threw a rare pass for a 27-yard touchdown in the third quarter, and Lassahn added two scores before A.J. Deen hauled in a 19-yard scoring pass from Brooks Gilliland.

Lassahn, a senior, surpassed the 200-yard mark for the second straight game, rushing 26 times for 232 yards. Gilliland was 9-for-17 passing for 131 yards.

Ryan Schlaak led the defense, getting in on 15 tackles.

The Panthers, 5-3, drew the No. 3 seed in Section 1A. After first-round bye, the Panthers played Tuesday, Oct. 27 at Fillmore Central, with the section championship Friday, Nov. 6 at 7 p.m. at Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School.

NRHEG 40, United South Central 8

NRHEG	10	0	14	16 — 40
USC	0	8	0	0 — 8

First Quarter

NRHEG — Lassahn 34 run (two-point conversion successful)

NRHEG — Safety

Second Quarter

USC – 35 Run (Peterson run)

Third Quarter

NRHEG — 27 pass from Brock Holland (two-point conversion failed

NRHEG — Lassahn 6 run (Lassahn run)

Fourth Quarter

NRHEG — Lassahn 54 pass from B.Gilliland (Lassahn run)

NRHEG — Deen 19 pass from B.Gilliland (Lassahn run)

	NRHEG	USC
Plays	50	58
First downs	16	11
Rushing	246	191
Passing Yards	158	6
Total Yds.	404	197
Third down	2-8	3-10
Fourth down	3-5	0-2
Turnovers	2	1
Fumbles lost	1	0
Penalties	4-28	9-65

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING — NRHEG: Lassahn 26-232; Quade 1-10; B.Gilliland 2-4; USC: Peterson 7-64; Grems 1-17; Rest of team 35-110

PASSING — NRHEG: B.Gilliland 9-17, 131; Holland 1-1, 27; USC: 2-6, 6

RECEVING — NRHEG: Deen 2-21; Holland 1-9; Lassahn 1-6; Rest of team 6-122; LA: Team 2-6

NRHEG Defense — R.Schlaak 15T; Lassahn 8T; W.Hendrickson 3T; Baumann 6T; Bartlett 3T; D.Schlaak 2T; E.Hendrickson 2T; Piepho 2T; Seedorf 1T; Schroht 4T; Hanna 1T; Holland 2T; Rest of team 11T, 1 safety, 1 interception

AWAITING THE CALL — NRHEG football captains Brooks Gilliland (4), Ryan Schlaak (2), Sean Lassahn (6) and Fynn Bauman (45) await the results of the opening coin flip prior to the USC game last Wednesday.

Jewison takes 1st, Wobbrock second in conference CC

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School cross country teams competed in Medford for the Gopher Conference Championships on Tuesday, Oct. 20.

Julieann Wobbrock continued to pace the Panther girls, taking second in the 5,000-meter race with a time of 20:22. It earned her first team all-conference honors.

Violette Botten received all-conference honorable mention for her 18th-place finish in 27:16. Rylie Cromwell finished 25th in 31:45.

Blooming Prairie won the girls' team title. No other schools had enough entries for a five-runner team score.

The Panthers' Kasey Jewison won the boys' race, earning Runner of the Year honors while touring the course in 18:04.

Following for the NRHEG boys were Colton Lermon, 26th, 21:40; Devlin McWilliams, 32nd, 23:10; Jordy Klocek, 41st, 26:11; and Jacob Klaras, 47th, 32:17.

Blooming Prairie captured the boys' team championship with 48 points, followed by JWP/WEM with 53, United South Central 80, Randolph 112, Medford 112 and NRHEG 127. "Julieann made a valiant attempt at defending her conference title, coming up short by seven seconds to a very talented Hayfield runner, Hadley Doman," said NRHEG head coach Larry Nydegger. "Violette had a very strong run, earning honorable mention in the process."

Jewison took command of his race after the first mile and gave a convincing performance, crossing the line more than 40 seconds ahead of last year's champion from JWP/WEM, Wyatt Jans.

> "What a wonderful way to wrap up the regular season!"
> — Coach Nydegger

"What a wonderful wrap up to the regular season!" said Nydegger. "The boys' team finally had the numbers to score as a team! Jordy and Jacob stepped up to the challenge of running varsity in their first conference meet."

The Panthers competed in USC's No Frills meet Tuesday, Oct. 13, along with Medford and JWP/WEM.

On the boys' side, NRHEG had its first meet of the season competing as a full-scoring team, with Klocek and Klaras competing on the varsity squad for the first time, bringing the team up to the five runners needed to score.

Jewison finished 2nd (17:54), Lermon 14th (20:41), McWilliams 20th (22:16), Klocek 26th (32:54) and Klaras 27th (34:58).

For the girls Wobbrock took first place (20:39), Botten seventh (25:41) Cromwell 10th (28:05 .)

"This was a very relaxing meet," said Coach Nydegger. "Nice weather made for good running conditions. I was very happy to see Jordy and Jacob make their debut on the varsity team!"

The runners travel to Norwood-Young America on October 29 to participate in the Section 2A meet for a chance to advance to the state meet.

CROSS COUNTRY — The 2026 NRHEG cross country teams. From left: Coach Larry Nydegger, Violette Botten, Rylie Cromwell, Julieann Wobbrock, Devlin McWilliams, Colton Lermon, Jacob Klaras, Kasey Jewison, Jordy Klocek and Marvin Tolzman.

TOP FINISHERS — Julieann Wobbrock, left, and Kasey Jewison, right, paced the Panthers in last week's Gopher Conference meet at Medford. Wobbrock finished second, Jewison first.

DIGGING IT — NRHEG's Aubrey Hendrickson goes low for a dig during the Panthers' 3-1 victory over Waseca last Monday. Photo by Jim Lutgens

NRHEG spikers top Kingsland 3-0 in Section 1A tournament

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School volleyball team, seeded 15th in Section 1A, was victorious in the section play-in match last Thursday, defeating 17th-seeded Kingsland 3-0 in New Richland.

The final tally in favor of the Panthers was 25-18, 25-18 and 25-22.

Anika Ladlie led the offense with 18 kills, and junior setter Brooklyn Sommer registered a season-high 30 set assists.

Full NRHEG statistics: Ezra Boerner two kills, one dig, one assist, two blocks; Izley Boerner six digs, two ace serves; Clara Buendorf one kill, one block; Sierra Fish one dig, one block; Aubrey Hendrickson nine digs, one set assist; Jovey Knudson three kills, one dig, one block, one ace; Ladlie 18 kills, six digs, one assist, three blocks, one ace; Sommer six digs, 30 set assists, two blocks, one ace; Emmy Stadheim 10 kills, two digs, two aces; Ciara Stenzel five digs.

In the final match of the regular season, the Panthers hosted a tough Triton crew last Tuesday and fell 3-0 in New Richland, with set scores of 25-18, 25-20, 25-8.

Hendrickson led the NRHEG defense with 14 digs while Knudson and Ladlie led the Panthers offensively.

Individually for NRHEG: Ezra Boerner two kills, two digs; Izley Boerner eight digs; Buendorf one kill, one block; Gia Cazares one kill; Hendrickson 14 kills, one set assist; Knudson three kills, three blocks; Ladlie five kills, three digs, two blocks; Sommer three digs, 10 set assists, two blocks; Stadheim one kill, one ace; Stenzel two digs.

The Panthers picked up a win Monday, Oct. 19, defeating nonconference foe Waseca 3-1 in New Richland. After dropping the first set 27-25, the Panthers went on to win 25-12, 25-13 and 25-11.

The Panthers racked up 11 aces on the night while Ladlie led the offense with 10 kills.

Full statistics for NRHEG; Ezra Boerner six kills, four digs, one block, one ace; Izley Boerner three digs, one ace; Buendorf two kills, one dig, one ace; Cazares one dig; Fish two kills, Hendrickson 10 digs, one set assist, three aces; Knudson three kills, one dig, two blocks; Ladlie 10 kills, four digs, two blocks, one ace; Sommer three digs, 22 set assists, two aces; Stadheim two kills, three digs, two aces; Stenzel two digs.

The section victory advanced the Panthers to face No. 2 seed Kenyon-Wanamingo Monday, Oct. 26. Their next loss ends their season.

Area candidates answer survey questions continued

Pat Theuer, one of six candidates running for five open seats for the NRHEG School Board

- Your area of residence and members of your family in the same household:

My husband Mike and I currently farm in the district and I have lived outside of Ellendale for 47 years. I have 4 grown children who graduated from NRHEG and have 4 grandchildren who currently attend NRHEG.

- What is your occupation or profession?

I was employed by the district for 24 years and retired in 2021

- What positions or offices have you served which help you feel prepared for the office you seek?

I was first elected to the board in 2022 and am running for re-election. There was and still is much to learn and do with being a school board member. Four years has gone by quite quickly and I honestly feel as if I am not done contributing to the district and the community. I am proud of the fact that as a board we have been able to govern effectively and efficiently through these trying times where budget concerns always loom. It has been a wonderful experience working with all of the board members the past 4 years and we have worked hard to keep our district moving forward. We have great students, wonderful staff and very supportive communities within our district. I would like to do my part to help our district continue to thrive.

- What are some personal traits or experiences which act or will act as strengths for you in this office?

Having been a board member that past 4 years has been a learning curve for sure! There are so many things to consider in regard to the running of the district. I have enjoyed the opportunity to learn new things through the Minnesota School Board Association as well as from fellow board members. Administration in our district has been wonderful to work with. I was fortunate to come on board with some background knowledge in school operations. I take my work pretty seriously and I do my homework in advance of the meetings. I feel I am a good listener and I am willing to do what is right for the district. Good communication and collaboration are very important to me.

- What do you regard as some of the most important tasks or concerns the office will be, or should be, handling in the near future?

School funding and budgets will always be in the forefront. Enrollments are declining which means less student dollars. With the implementation of the Read Act, student achievement should be monitored closely. Teacher recruitment and retention and the shortage of substitute teachers are a concern. We need to make sure teachers and staff feel supported when they choose to work at NRHEG. Another current issue is how we will use Artificial Intelligence (AI). We will need an explicit framework as to how our district, especially our students, will be able to access and use this technology safely as a tool to enrich their own thinking- not replace it.

- What additional observations or impressions would you like to share?

I am so very thankful for the opportunity the community has given me to be an NRHEG Board member. These are trying times for everyone. I feel very positive about where our district is at and what the future holds. I would still like to be a part of that- supporting our students, staff and working with our communities whose support is so invaluable.

Casey Roeker, running for Soil and Water, District 3

- Your area of residence and members of your family in the same household:

Wife: Natalie Children: Hadley, Presley & Nash

- How long have you lived in the area?

I have lived in SW Waseca Co for 18 years

- What is your occupation or profession?

I have worked at the Southern Research & Outreach Center for 21 years

- What positions or offices have you served which help you feel prepared for the office you seek?

I am running for Soil and Water Conservation District 3 because I believe protecting our soil, water, and natural resources is important for the future of Waseca County. Although I have not previously served in an elected or appointed position, I see this as a great opportunity to learn, listen to community members, and make a positive contribution. I am willing to ask questions, work with others, and help support responsible conservation practices for future generations.

- What are some personal traits or experiences which act or will act as strengths for you in this office?

I believe my strengths are my willingness to learn, listen to others, and work toward practical solutions. I am open-minded, dependable, and committed to making thoughtful decisions that benefit our community. Although I have not served in a public office before, I see this as an opportunity to grow, gain knowledge, and contribute to protecting our soil, water, and natural resources for future generations. I believe being willing to listen, ask questions, and work collaboratively is important to serving Waseca County well.

- What do you regard as some of the most important tasks or concerns the office will be, or should be, handling in the near future?

I believe some of the most important priorities are supporting our local farmers, protecting soil health, and finding practical ways to conserve our natural resources. Healthy soil is essential to productive farmland and the long-term success of agriculture in Waseca County. I believe it is important to work with farmers and landowners to encourage conservation practices that reduce erosion, improve water quality, and keep our land productive for future generations. I would also like to see landowners have access to information and resources that help make conservation affordable and effective. I may be new to serving in this role, but I am willing to listen, learn, and work with others to find common-sense solutions that benefit our farmers, our communities, and our environment.

- What additional observations or impressions would you like to share?

I believe Waseca County's land and water resources are some of our most valuable assets, and it is important that we take care of them for future generations. Our local farmers and landowners play an important role in conservation, and I believe working together and sharing ideas can make a real difference. I am new to this type of public service, but I am willing to listen, learn, and bring an open mind to the position. I believe that practical, common-sense solutions that respect our agricultural community while protecting our natural resources are important to the future of Waseca County.

■ Birthday

from Page 1

rate further because so many people showed up and she needed to restock the food tables. Behind the food table was a life size cardboard cutout of the birthday girl herself as a teenager in a yellow dress. Janice directed as many people to look at it as possible. She said she loved having it there.

Max and Marleen Jensen from Albert Lea were sitting at a long table, finishing their plates, and Max said, "I'm her second cousin. We didn't have to travel too far, but it's nice to see everyone."

Janice's granddaughter, Kyra, who is about to turn 20 years old, remarkably has the same birthdate as her grandmother, also on Oct. 31.

Janice, who doesn't look like she's a day over 65, was energetic and on her feet greeting every person who walked through the door. Her great-grandson Drew went to fetch his little brother, because he was the youngest member of her family present. Anthony, who is only 10 months old and from Winona, was nice and well behaved enough to take a photo with his great-grandma. Janice said she was amazed with the attendance, "This is wonderful, everyone from my family is here, nieces and nephews, grandkids, my great grandkids, my children as well." She had to think for a moment when she asked who had traveled the furthest, "The furthest away anyone has traveled to get here would be from Missouri. I couldn't have asked for a better day, perfect weather, surrounded by family. I love it!"

Memories of rural school by Nadine (Olson) Strenge

The Steele County School District #70, commonly known as Berlin School. Row 1: Kenneth Johnson, Elroy Utpadel, Dale Strenge, Lorraine Jasinski, Nadine Olson, Janice Muri. Row 2: Roberta Styer (She is half hidden behind her brother whose name is unknown.) Duane Wilert, Lorraine Olson, Alvina Hagen, Roger Smith, Philip Evenson. Row 3: Delmer Trandem, Maynard Muri, Donna Johnson, Helen Muri, Betty Edwardson, LaVonne Hagen, Bernice Olson, Betty Trandem. Row 4: Unknown, unknown, Jerome Lee, unknown.

I was born in 1936 and in the above photo I was in first grade. My teachers were:

1st grade teacher was Miss Oriet Lee, and she was perhaps the one taking the picture.

2nd Grade: Miss Oriet Lee became Mrs Oriet (Lee) Johnson.

3rd grade: Mrs. Marie Palan (Felix)

4th grade Mrs. Sylvia Stadheim (Orvin)

5th grade: Mrs. Alene Grunwald (Ray)

6th and 7th grade: Miss Bonnie Amley

8th grade: I started school in Ellendale and rode the bus.

Once rural students completed 8 grades, there was a special ceremony at Owatonna, the Steele County Seat, where we received our diplomas. After completing 8 grades, reaching the age of 16 and with a parent's consent, the student could choose to be finished with their formal education. Myself, my older brother and sisters went on to "Higher education" in Ellendale and rode the bus. A couple of the bus drivers I remember were Garet Cain and Eldo Utpadel (my classmate, Elroy's father). Some of the students on the bus routes were rowdy, but ours were not.

In 1952-52 school district #70 closed, the students were consolidated to a central school, and the building was sold to Hugh Kenny and used as a family residence. After his death it was sold and continued as a private dwelling until it was destroyed by a tornado in 2010 and replaced with a traditional house.

Next door to the school was the creamery where the farmers would bring the cream from their dairy herds, and where we would get water for drinking and washing our hands. This duty was done daily by the older school boys. The creamery building also had an upstairs auditorium where once a year, Thanksgiving or Christmas, the students would put on entertainment for the district members. It would be a "Full house" and the younger students would "say a piece" from memory and perhaps sing a simple song. The older students would perform a skit, also from memory. There are two skits that I remember we performed, "Bertha brings home the bacon" and "who salted the soup." The stage had a curtain that could be rolled up and down between performances. Backstage there were two huge, round, cement "things." Now I think they were water tanks.

The creamery would hold its annual meeting there, and on these occasions, the students would sing a song. One year we sang the "Minnesota Rouser," but substituted "Berlin Creamery" for Minnesota. After that there would be food-perhaps a potluck. The buttermaker would make his special coffee for the events in a cream or milk can by using steam heat.

Of course, the school had a playground. On the north side there were swings and teeter-totters for the smaller students, but no slides because as one of the fathers said, "The children would wear out the seat of their pants on them." On the south side was the ball diamond for the older students. Once in a while a ball would break a window in the schoolhouse, but we never heard any complaints about it. We pretty much made our own rules such as: "a tie went in favor of the runner," or "half a strike counts as a whole strike." At the end of the school year, we would go 1 11/2 miles west of the "Ruth" School District and play a ballgame against them. The home team usually won. The "Ruth" district was named because it was the last name of the farmer who owned the land. Being of Norwegian heritage, local people pronounced it the "Root" School. The next year the game would be held at Berlin School. Both buildings are now gone. But the memories of a more simple time are still there - or are they just remembered as the times being more simple? I am sure our parents had their struggles as well as we do.

Thank you, Nadine, for sharing your memories.

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NOTICE

Summit Township Board Meeting
Monday, November 2
7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall

Andy Jewison
Summit Township Clerk

Byron Township

Notice of

General Election

Tuesday, November 3, 2026

Polls Open:

7 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Voting Location:

New Richland Township Hall,

117 Division St. E., New Richland, MN

Loren Schoenrock, Township Clerk

CITY OF NEW RICHLAND

NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that the City of New Richland will hold a General Election on **Tuesday, November 3rd**.

The election will take place at:

New Richland City Hall

203 Broadway Ave N

New Richland, Minnesota

Polls will be open from

7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

BERLIN TOWNSHIP

NOTICE OF OF ELECTION

TUESDAY, November 3, 2026

Polls Open:
7:00 am – 8:00 pm

Voting Location:
Ellendale Community Building
507 2nd St. South, Ellendale

Marylin Johnson
Berlin Township Clerk

City of Clarks Grove

Notice of

General Election

Tuesday, November 3, 2026

Polls Open:

7 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Voting Location:

101 North Independence Avenue

Clarks Grove, MN

Kathy Jensen, City Clerk

City of Geneva

Notice of

General Election

Tuesday, November 3, 2026

Polls Open:

7 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Voting Location:

Geneva Community Center, Geneva, MN

To be voted on

Council Member Candidates (2):

William "Bill" Ellingson

Tyler Peterson

Jacob A. Jensen

City Questions:

Sunday Liquor Sales Ballot Question:
Shall the City of Geneva, Minnesota be authorized to issue licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquor on Sundays?

City of Hartland

NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION

The voters of the City of Hartland in the County of Freeborn, State of Minnesota:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:

That a General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026

Voting in the General Election will take place at the Hartland Community Center.

The polls will be Open at 7:00 A.M. and will Close at 8:00 P.M.

Offices to be filled: Mayor and two council members

Karen Flatness
Hartland City Clerk

Summit Township

Notice of

General Election

Tuesday, November 3, 2026

Polls Open:

7 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Voting Location:

Summit Township Hall

Andrew Jewison,

Summit Township Clerk

Bath Township

Notice of

General Election

Tuesday, November 3, 2026

Polls Open:

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Voting Location:

Bath Township Hall

29737 762nd Ave.

Clarks Grove, MN

Lisa Dunn

Bath Township Clerk

City of Ellendale

Notice of

General Election

Tuesday, November 3, 2026

Polls Open:

7 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Voting Location:

Ellendale Community Center

507 2nd Street South, Ellendale, MN

To be voted on

Mayor Candidate:

Scott Groth

Council Member Candidates:

Jon S. Asplund

Charles W. Berg

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: October 25, 2022

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $201,286.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Rhett Warmsbecker, an unmarried man

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for American Pacific Mortgage Corporation

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on October 27, 2022 as Document Number A331902 in the Office of the County Recorder of Waseca County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: U.S. Bank National Association by assignment recorded on December 30, 2025 as Document Number A342247 in the Office of the County Recorder of Waseca County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 2, in R. P. Ward`s Subdivision (B) of the NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 18, Township 107 North, Range 22 West, Waseca County, Minnesota
PIN# 175900190.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 804 5TH ST SW, WASECA, MN 56093

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Waseca County, Minnesota.

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $232,067.55

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: American Pacific Mortgage Corporation

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: U.S. Bank National Association

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17.590.0190

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 1002793-0006824944-6

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: December 17, 2026 at 10:00 AM.

PLACE OF SALE: Waseca County Sheriff's Office, 122 3rd Ave. NW, Waseca, MN 56093.

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on June 17, 2027.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: October 21, 2026

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.
By: /s/
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Alexa Marsh, Esq.
Cassondra McLey, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(26-0124-FC02)

Federal law may require reporting to the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network for certain purchases of residential property by entities or trusts. A successful third party bidder may be required to provide ownership and identifying information as a condition to completing the transfer.

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. Published in the NRHEG Star Eagle on October 29, November 5, 12, 19, 26 and December 3, 2026

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY WASECA

DISTRICT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
PROBATE DIVISION
Court File No.: 81-PR-26-669

Estate of Boyd Richard Lewer, deceased

AMENDED NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS (WITHOUT A WILL)

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

Notice is hereby given that an application for informal appointment of personal representative has been filed with the Probate Registrar. No will has been presented for probate. The application has been granted.

Notice is also given that the Probate Registrar has informally appointed Patricia Ann Lewer at 27798 128th ST, New Richland MN 56072 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent. Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as Personal Representative, or may object to the appointment of the Personal Representative. Unless objections are filed pursuant to Minn. Stat. $ 524.3-607, and the court otherwise orders, the Personal Representative has full power to administer the Estate, including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease or distribute real estate.

Notice is also given that, subject to Minn. Stat. $ 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four (4) months after the date of this Notice, or the claims will be barred.

2026.09.16

BY THE COURT

Dated: 09/16/2026, 12:07:03 P.M.
/s/Carol M. Hanks
Judge of District Court
Shannon Asselin
Court Administrator
Cassie Norell, Probate Registrar

Self-Represented Litigant:
Patricia Ann Lewer
27798 128th St.
New Richland, MN, 56072
Published in the Star Eagle October 22 and 29, 2026

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SEALED BID REAL ESTATE AND EQUIPMENT AUCTION
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19
SEALED BID DEADLINE 4:00 PM CT
FOUR GRAIN FACILITIES IN CLAREMONT, KASSON, OSTRANDER AND WYKOFF, MN
***PLUS* - TWO IDLE COMMERCIAL FACILITIES IN DODGE CENTER AND OSTRANDER, MN, PROPERTIES ARE OWNED AND OPERATED BY CHS INC.**
INSPECTIONS: TRACT 1: Oct. 29 and Nov. 12, 9:00am-11:00pm • **TRACT 2:** Oct. 29 and Nov. 12, 11:30am-1:30pm
TRACT 6: Oct. 29 and Nov. 12, 3:00pm-5:00pm • **TRACT 3, 5, 7: BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**
Terms: 6% Buyer Premium. 2% Broker Participation. www.grainelevatorauction.com. Tyler Maas MN Auction License#55-12003.
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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Division of School Finance
400 NE Stinson Blvd.
Minneapolis, MN 55413

District Revenues and Expenditures Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 and FY 2027

ED-00110-49

General Information: Minnesota Statutes 2025, section 123B.10, requires that every school board shall publish the subject data of this report.

District Name: NRHEG PUBLIC SCHOOLS — District Number: 2168

Fund	FY 2026 Beginning Fund Balances	FY 2026 Actual Revenues and Transfers In	FY 2026 Actual Expenditures and Transfers Out	June 30, 2026 Actual Fund Balances	FY 2027 Budget Revenues and Transfers In	FY 2027 Budget Expenditures and Transfers Out	June 30, 2027 Projected Fund Balances
General Fund/Restricted	$ 305,684	$ 1,622,580	$ 1,801,069	$ 127,195	$ 1,360,929	$ 1,481,894	$ 6,230
General Fund/Other	$ 4,123,409	$ 9,309,469	$ 9,563,931	$ 3,868,947	$ 9,632,397	$ 9,757,914	$ 3,743,430
Food Service Fund	$ 213,483	$ 891,488	$ 824,628	$ 280,343	$ 885,594	$ 857,397	$ 308,540
Community Service Fund	$ 195,842	$ 591,775	$ 615,964	$ 171,653	$ 578,579	$ 575,884	$ 174,348
Building Construction Fund	$ 151,655	$ 332	$ 151,985	$ 2	$ -	$ -	$ 2
Debt Service Fund	$ 187,347	$ 1,354,255	$ 1,285,868	$ 255,734	$ 1,346,559	$ 1,297,420	$ 304,873
Trust Fund	$ 116,378	$ 3,828	$ 1,000	$ 119,206	$ 3,800	$ 4,000	$ 119,006
Internal Service Fund	$ -			$ -			$ -
* OPEB Revocable Trust Fund	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
OPEB Irrevocable Trust Fund	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
OPEB Debt Service Fund	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total - All Funds	$ 5,293,798	$ 13,773,727	$ 14,244,445	$ 4,823,080	$ 13,807,858	$ 13,974,509	$ 4,656,429

Long-Term Debt	
Outstanding July 1, 2025	$ 13,443,431
Plus: New Issues	$ 379,347
Less: Redemeed Issues	$ 1,008,688
Outstanding June 30, 2026	$ 12,814,090
Short-Term Debt	
Certificates of Indebtedness	$ -
Other Short-Term Indebtedness	$ -

Current Statutory Operating Debt per Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.81

Amount of General Fund Deficit, if any, in excess of 2.5% of expenditures 06/30/2026	$ -

Cost per student - Average Daily Membership (ADM) 06/30/2026

Total Operating Expenditures	$ 12,287,685.56
FY 2026 Total ADM Served + Tuitioned Out ADM + Adjusted Extended ADM	744.84
FY 2026 Operating Cost per ADM	$ 16,497.08

The complete budget may be inspected upon request to the superintendent.

Comments:
The 2025-26 information has been audited. The 2026-27 budget reflects the most current approved information available at this time. Please visit our school website for additional finance information. NRHEG.k12.mn.us. The complete budget may be inspected upon requet from the Superintendent.

* Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)

Toy Drive starts for 2026 Steele County Toys for Tots

The Steele County Toys for Tots Program has kicked off its annual Toy Drive for the season. Volunteers have been busy delivering Toy Collection boxes to more than 50 participating businesses in Steele County.

New, unwrapped toys may be placed in the boxes through Thursday, Dec. 10. For a full list of Steele County Toys for Tots Toy Donation Sites check the Steele County Toys for Tots website: https://owatonna-mn.toysfortots.org/local-coordinator-sites/lco-sites/donate-toys.aspx

If you are interested in receiving a toy donation box and becoming a Steele County Toys for Tots Donation Site please contact Mike, Toys for Tots Donation Site Manager at 507-456-0972.

In case you missed it, applications to apply for toys is now available online! Applicants can now fill out and submit registration for toys directly on the Steele County Toys for Tots website. Please note that paper applications will no longer be accepted, only online submissions will be accepted.

Applications are available online on the Steele County Toys for Tots website https://owatonna-mn.toysfortots.org. Please go to the Request a Toy tab at the top of the website navigation bar. Click on the application and fill-out all of the required fields. If you wish to use a language other than English, scroll to the bottom of the form and click on 'language' and select your preferred language. After submitting your application online, you will receive an email that your request has been received. Applicants will receive a notification in early December about their assigned date and pick-up time to select toys.

Applicants are encouraged to fill-out the online application early to give volunteers time to sort toys and do their best to fulfill each family's request. Late applications will be accepted between Dec. 1-15, 2026.

For those needing a computer or internet access to reach the Steele County Toys for Tots website, to fill-out an application, the Owatonna and Blooming Prairie Public Libraries provide free computer usage and open public Wi-Fi.

Parents/Guardians and children must live in Steele County. Children must be 16 and younger as of Dec. 31, 2026, and kindergarten and older must be attending school or home schooled. The application must be completed by the parents or guardians.

Toys for Tots of Steele County has been in existence for more than 40 years. It operates within the national U.S. Marine Corp Reserve Toys for Tots program, which began in 1947. Its objective is to collect and distribute NEW and UNWRAPPED toys to Steele County needy children at Christmas. Cash and gift cards received are used to purchase toys as per directives from our national organization.

For more information about Steele County Toys for Tots visit the website http://owatonna-mn.toysfortots.org or go to the Steele County Toys for Tots Facebook page for updates.

'Ask a Trooper': Sharing a road with farm equipment

Question: I know the harvest is going on. Can you give some information on sharing the roads with each other?

Answer: Good suggestion on a great topic.

◦ Farm equipment is allowed on Minnesota roads, too. During planting and harvest seasons, drivers should expect to encounter tractors, combines, grain wagons and other large equipment on rural roads and highways.

◦ Farm equipment moves differently from passenger vehicles. It is often wide, heavy and slow to accelerate, maneuver and stop. Some equipment may cross the center line or make wide turns.

◦ Rear-end crashes are a major concern. Crash data shows that many crashes involving farm equipment happen when another vehicle strikes it from behind. Drivers need to recognize equipment early and adjust their speed.

◦ Passing requires patience. Never pass until you have a clear view of the road ahead, enough room to complete the pass and confirmation that it is legal and safe to do so.

◦ Everyone has a role in road safety. Drivers should stay alert and give equipment room, while farm equipment operators should use required lights and visibility markings and follow all traffic laws that apply to them.

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

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