NRHEG
Star Eagle

SERVING THE NEW RICHLAND-HARTLAND-ELLENDALE-GENEVA AREA

No. 45 Vol. CXL $2 Office in New Richland, Minnesota 56072 Thursday, November 5, 2026

Inside:

- 2 - Eli Lutgens
- 3 - Fields of Faith
- 4 - Obituaries
- 5 - Halloween fun
- 6 - Woods and Water
- 8 - Sports
- 10 - Cookie Crawl

Page 3



Fields of Faith

The Steele County Toys for Tots Program Toy Drive open now through Dec. 10

New, unwrapped toys may be placed in donation boxes through Thursday, Dec. 10. Find a complete list of box locations at the Steele County Toys for Tots website: https://owatonna-mn.toysfortots.org/local-coordinator-sites/lco-sites/donate-toys.aspx Those interested in receiving a toy donation box, call Donation Site Manager Mike at 507-456-0972.

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.

Lions Club Turkey Bingo at Ellendale Community Center Saturday, Nov. 7

The Ellendale Lions Club will hold Turkey Bingo at the Community Center at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 7. Hot dogs, sloppy joes, chips and beverages available for purchase. Cost $20 per card with Hope Butter drawings throughout the night.

The Great Rainbow Party at New Richland Library Nov. 10

The Great Rainbow Party at the New Richland Library will take place at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10.This colorful event is full of prisms, pattern building, color mixing, sorting, and crafting. Geared for ages 3-6.

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.

Papa J at Geneva Bar and Grill Nov. 13

Papa J will play the Geneva Bar and Grill at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13. This two time Emmy award winner plays 80s, 90s and 00s.

A word from The Word

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

1 Peter 2:9



WARTIME REMINISCENCES - Larry Crabtree, left, and Dan Richards have a long list of life experiences in common, including having both been members of the 1967 Ellendale Raiders football team, and having served tours in Vietnam.

Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

Ellendale Veterans tell of shared experiences

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

Geneva veteran Dan Richards believes he survived his service in Vietnam thanks to an astounding coincidence.

"I was sitting in this little airport. I'd just come in country and I was scared as could be what was going to happen to me, when he walks by, cocky as a rooster, swinging his short-timer stick," remembers Dan as he describes seeing his lifelong friend and fellow Ellendale Raider football player walk past.

"I couldn't believe it."

Larry Crabtree had every reason to be in a good mood that day. After a bit over one year in country, he was within hours of catching his freedom bird home. But when he heard his nickname "Hiker" called out and discovered one of his best friends had been drafted, he stayed an extra day to show him the ropes.

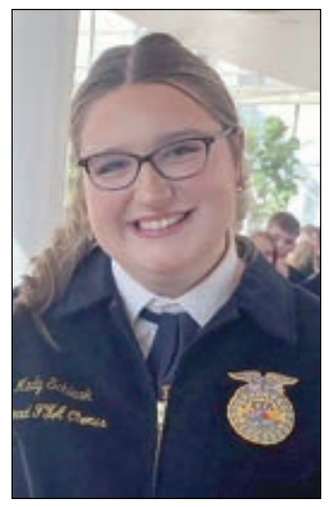
Dan firmly believes the warnings Larry shared–the "everything" about guarding against dangers ranging from leeches to infections to bombs planted by innocent-seeming locals–were a big part of the reason he lived to catch his own freedom bird one year later.

Married to Suzie, the love of his life, and father to a baby only one month old when he arrived in country, going home was what he cared about most.

Larry had ended up in Vietnam after volunteering. The fall after graduating high school and still 18 years old, he and friend Steve Knutson had gone to a local army recruiter and asked whether they were due to be drafted: the answer was yes, within a few months.

"This was before draft numbers," clarifies Dan. "For a while at the start, each county had

Veterans continued on 4



VOCAL DISTINCTION - NRHEG senior Mady Schlaak was the only Minnesota FFA member chosen for the National Convention Choir, which included nearly 80 singers from all around the country. The convention took place Oct. 21 to 24 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Mady Schlaak selected for National Convention FFA choir

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

NRHEG senior class member Mady Schlaak says performing in front of 70,000 people is not as terrifying as it sounds.

Schlaak was one of nearly 80 young singers accepted to the choir formed specially for the 2026 FFA National Convention. The group, she says, consisted of roughly equal numbers of the four choral voices–bass, tenor, alto, and her own level, soprano. She shares that more than 500 FFA members from all over the country submitted auditions. Mady was the only applicant accepted from Minnesota.

In addition to four rigorous days with practices that lasted up to 12 hours, the group performed eight times, sometimes presenting one or two of the numbers they had practiced and twice performing their full repertoire, about 35 minutes of music.

Mady explains that, after she saw the choir's performances during the 2025 national FFA convention, she decided it was something she would like to be part of.

Upon investigation she learned she needed to submit an audition video in July. The taping was to include her singing a two-octave scale, the song "America the Beautiful," and a solo performance of her choosing. She laughs as she admits her determination to produce a video without glitches or mistakes led to about 15 different tries before she was satisfied.

She learned in August that she had been accepted. Copies of the music arrived early in October, along with a request that she practice and become familiar with the numbers prior to Oct. 17, the day choir members were asked to report–four days prior to the Oct. 21 opening day of the convention.

Though Mady had been part of the FFA's Minnesota state convention choir since ninth grade, she says the national group encouraged her to approach her voice and vocal performance from an angle she'd never before encountered.

"It's really impressive what can be accomplished when you've got 78 people who all want to be there, and want to work together to create a high quality performance. We all

Choir continued on 3

New Richland hide and seek is practical fun

More than 40 participate

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

A crowd of around 40 children and about 10 adults gathered outside New Richland City Hall the evening of Friday, Oct. 30 for the game of "hide-and-seek" organized by city police officer Dale DeRaad and staffed by volunteers from New Richland and Waseca County law enforcement agencies.

Waseca Sheriff's Posse members also helped, including ShaLee White and Bailey and Tracy Hodgkins who were supervising outside before the children were released to find their hiding spots. While waiting, participants were shown a map to help be sure they would choose hiding places which were actually part of the area designated for the event. DeRaad warned, "If you guys hide outside the border, we aren't going to be looking for you there." The "hiders" were given directions regarding the public areas where they could conceal themselves. These included the Legion ball field, the space along the railroad tracks between Aspen Avenue and Broadway, and the city park. The southern boundary was the waterway running east and west just north of Hwy. 30.

The game had been announced more than a month in advance; the majority who signed up to take part were children and young adults, with a few parents accompanying their children. Most were dressed in dark colors; many had hoods, hats, or scarves to conceal their faces. A few had even brought "ghillie" suits; the vegetation-like covering of this camouflaged outerwear is meant to blur the outline of the human form while blending into the background. Some kids were dressed as ghosts or goblins.

After about a 15-minute wait time, New Richland officers DeRaad and Joe Johnson and Waseca County Sheriff Deputies James Johannsen, Brayden Berg and Brandon Hermann set out with their flashlights, having decided to follow a standard search grid and apply techniques, which allowed them to use the event as a training exercise as well as a public relations opportunity.

It took more than an hour for the search to be complete. Commented DeRaad, "What I found to be most successful is how creative the children were in their hiding. Several of them surprised the seekers. We would find one person hiding, and another would make a noise right next to the seeker who had not even noticed the one next to them. The participants demonstrated their abilities to use minimal resources to hide very well in a multitude of different environments."

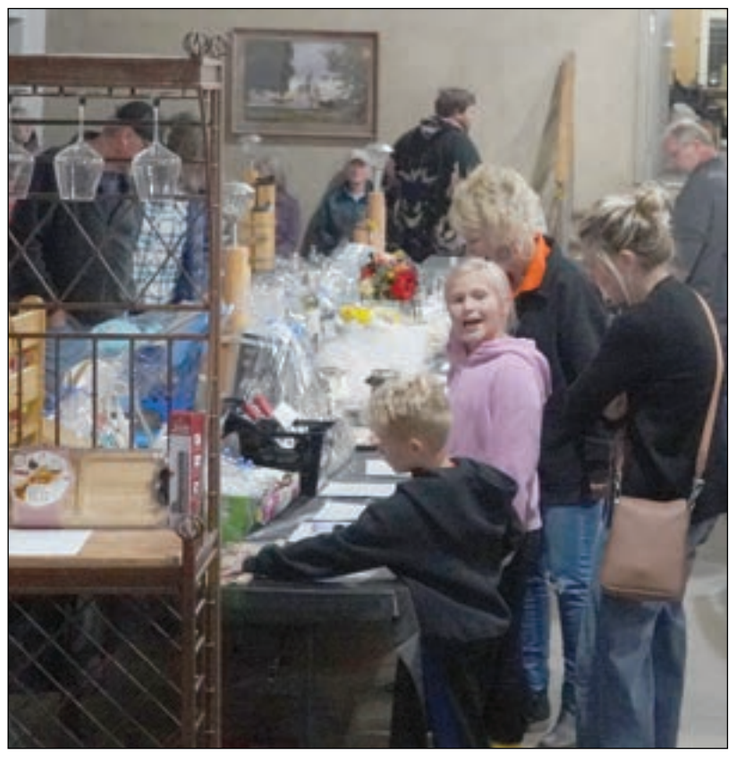
DeRaad expressed particular satisfaction regarding the number of participants who chose to

Hide + Seek continued on 3



EXPERT HIDERS - Isabella Guenther, Nella Myrick, Alexis Guenther, and Ainhoa Myrick were four young women who took part in the Hide and Seek game sponsored by the New Richland Police Department on Friday, Oct. 30, 2026.

Star Eagle photo by Ben Revermann



WELL SUPPORTED - More than 500 guests supported a fundraiser benefitting the New Richland Care Center that took place at Waseca venue The Mill on Friday, Oct. 30, complete with live music, a silent auction, free activities, and more.

Star Eagle photo by Ben Revermann

Care Center Fundraiser at the Mill is first of eight fundraising events

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

A Burger Basket fundraiser for the New Richland Care Center on Friday, Oct. 30 at The Mill in Waseca saw more than 500 visitors and was enthusiastically supported. Complete with music, silent auction, bake sale, wine pull and much more, businesses and community members from a wide area came together to help with the cleanup and reconstruction of the facility, which was severely damaged in September flooding.

Kelly VanMalDeghem and Lindsay Schlaak, two Care Center employees who have been displaced since the center was temporarily closed, were working the doors at the Mill and taking tickets. Said Schlaak, "Our plan as it stands right now is to be back working in the Care Center by April 1. The most recent project in there is they've cleaned out the four bottom feet of drywall; that's all gone. First, they had to dry everything, then the cleaning started. They've been in there off and on, keeping the repairs going." Both ladies expressed excitement at the prospect

Fundraiser continued on 4



Fence Lines

by Mark Bernard

Communication breakdown it's always the same

The scurs and their Weather Eye are awaiting a return to near normal fall weather. Will Jack Frost make a reappearance, or will he stay busy farther north a while yet? Starting Thursday, mostly cloudy with a good chance of a.m. rain. Highs in the upper 40's with lows in the mid-30's. Partly sunny Friday with highs in the mid-40°s and lows in the low 30's. Mostly sunny on Saturday with a slight chance of evening showers. Highs in the upper 40's with lows in the mid-30's. Sunday, mostly sunny with highs in the low 50's and lows in the mid-30's. Partly sunny on Monday with highs in the mid-50's and lows in the upper 30's. Tuesday, mostly sunny with highs in the low 50's and lows in the mid-30's. Partly sunny Wednesday with highs in the mid-50's and lows in the upper 30's. We'll drop to under 10 hours of daylight on November 7, see our loss of daylight slow to under 2 minutes and 30 seconds on the 8th then see the sunrise at 7 a.m. CST on the 9th. The normal high for November 9th is 45, and the normal low is 27. The scurs may delay wearing their long winter gatkes one more week.

Harvest is nearing the end, although for some, it has dragged on longer than perhaps anticipated. More bushels to haul and on-farm storage reaching capacity sooner than hoped has slowed the process. The recent rain won't expedite it either, as driving semis in the field becomes iffy. It's not so much getting hung up as it is lacking traction once the soil surface becomes too greasy. Drier conditions over the next several weeks would help matters. Before this last rain, fieldwork was performed, mainly primary tillage, high-speed vertical tillage and anhydrous ammonia application. It is amazing how much can be accomplished so quickly with the width of the implements and the speed of travel. We've come a long way from the draft horses and sulky plows of a century ago.

Sparse rainfall in October was a boon for most after the wet September and cooler second half of the month. There were questions about whether it would be safe to drive in the fields after the mid-month dousing many received.

Initially there was some loading and unloading on the road in late September. October rainfall amounted to 1.22" at the ranch, 1.54" in New Richland and 1.79% in Ellendale. October air temperature averaged 9°F above normal, making it the 5th warmest October on record at the SROC in Waseca. The growing season officially ended October 17th with 2970 GDU's, 461 GDU's above normal. This was the third highest GDU accumulation recorded as well.

Overall we were very fortunate the weather turned when it did, resulting in dry crops and dry fields. Otherwise it could've easily turned our storybook growing season into a horror story.

At the ranch, it's been a struggle to keep pace the past several weeks with a new email system installed on the confuser, a new cell phone for each of us and a new to us car. Each has a steep learning curve, especially at first.

Getting the email programs on the confuser to communicate presented challenges, but thanks to the efforts of my computer sleuth, it has performed seamlessly. The cell phone has been more challenging, although it too has yielded to my queries to make it respond satisfactorily. The car has probably presented the greatest challenges. While it is not new, the previous owner's settings and preferences are still lurking. The technology of that era is apparent, although once the instructions are followed, the breakdown in communication melts away.

It has been a nice fall to get things done at the ranch. The leaves continue to come off the trees in a more staggered fashion than usual. Looking at some of the photos saved from past years in my phone, it appears many of the trees aren't following the rules. The burning bushes in the backyard are just starting to color up as opposed to the last week in October in the old time stamped pictures. Silver maples usually are dropping leaves earlier in those photos as well. The leaf drop has been sporadic though, so it's made grinding the leaves up periodically easier. They're also staying moist and supple, so when they land on their side of the fence, they become table fare for the sheep. Add in windy conditions and it makes cleaning them up that much easier.

Poppy continues to enjoy fall as we grind our way towards winter. She likes walking in the crispy leaves, although once they get wet, pooping on the sidewalk becomes more attractive. This is not unusual for low slung dogs like Corgis. We'd like to avoid that, so grinding up leaves takes on an additional level of importance. Early in the month also means preventative measures for fleas, ticks and heartworm. Get out the American cheese, cut the chewables up into pieces, insert the pieces into the balls made from cheese and it's game on. I don't think it's such a process because Poppy dislikes the chewables; it's just that she just likes the cheese. Always a method to her madness.

See you next week...real good then.



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

Trick-or-treat entourage

I was part of a trick-or-treat entourage this Halloween. I can claim I was one member of a group of 13, roughly half of whom were adults supervising as children went from place to place. What we really were was an amorphous, ever-changing mix and remix of groups which adjusted (not always smoothly) as older children moved ahead excitedly and a toddler stopped intermittently to do one of his favorite things, climb the nearest set of stairs.

Of course, a wagon was brought along for the small child to ride in–everyone who's raised a child knows how that went: A person ends up pushing the wagon and carrying (or chasing) the child.

None of this is a complaint, I had grand fun. Thank goodness for cell phones, though, or who knows how long those of us with the car would have been circling to find the folks on foot as the evening was winding down.

I was very impressed by a number of circumstances as my loosely associated crew circulated in the northeast section of Waseca. It was obvious a fair number of homeowners and "trunk or treat" operators had enjoyed themselves as they chose the decor for their many stations. During those times when the amorphous shifts in our groupings left me only in the company of adults, I was grateful for the chance to appreciate the clever themes of the trunk-or-treats and, in some cases, the literally festive decorations at some houses.

Given the price of candy, I was also impressed how generously people handed it out. The various bags and buckets of our group became very full after two hours of dashing at high speed from place to place. The fellow who took the trouble to be sure he had a liquid treat for the adults seemed to have fun surprising them as he handed over a can of hard cider.

Finally, I was astounded at the weather. I took note of one lad dressed in the tank top and shorts of a basketball player, and of numerous girls in elegant-looking short-sleeved dresses and was struck with the realization they were perfectly comfortable in the 60-something temperatures. The members of my group who dressed in warmer costumes–a full-body one similar in shape to a onesie pajama, eventually had to fold the top half down and tie it around her waist using the sleeves. Another member who had a sort of fleece poncho was so warm by the end of the evening, the poncho was wet with his sweat. He was okay though, because he ran so fast from place to place the cape flew out behind him, cooling him underneath.

Because each was helping supervise children, it was the first time in 20 years or so that I was out trick or treating in the company of my three sons while trick or treating. My eldest, who is 6'4" tall, somehow got hold of a flamingo costume in his size; all I have to do is think about his comical strutting, and I find myself laughing–again. If you see me in the next week or so, just say the word "flamingo" and see what happens.





Above, Diana and Steve Welander of Waseca were among the many, many area people who set up a clever, appealing "trunk or treat" display at local church parking lots.

Below, Deb's son decided to dress as a flamingo. Star Eagle photos by Deb Bently

What does a 'perfect day' look like?



Just a Thought...

by Eli Lutgens

I am grateful the political season is behind us.

Election years are generally good for the newspaper, but not my health.

Many advertisements, election notices, questionnaires, all require lots of time, energy and attention to detail. I'm glad it's done.

I told Editor Deb this week that I don't really feel comfortable putting very many health updates into the paper. Folks ask me when they see me how I am doing. And honestly it's just up and down, up and down. It feels disappointing and confusing to communicate that there's some form of pain and discomfort every day, and some days are worse while others are less bad.

Lately I have been seeing a GI (gut) specialist at the Mayo Clinic and she has ordered loads of tests. I was diagnosed with a bacterial overgrowth in my small intestines. Antibiotics helped, but didn't clear it out. After my appointment this past week, the doctor told me we need to figure out what was causing it to persist. She prescribed a stronger antibiotic, ordered more blood tests and more… Let's just call them stomach tests. I left the office feeling pretty hopeless.

Another appointment wasn't available until February. But it will take a couple months for the tests she ordered, regardless.

The latest thing to be optimistic about, however, are the results from my most recent blood test. I have a really high iron count in my blood–roughly twice what is considered normal. This could either be a result of my GI issues or their cause. The Artificial Intelligence gods tell me it is highly likely I have faulty genes that cause my body to hang onto way too much iron. A simple blood test is needed to confirm. If that is the case, it is likely that is what has caused the overgrowth in my insides because bacteria thrive on iron.

I have written explanations for what is wrong with me before and am generally wrong as are the doctors who keep guessing right along with me.

On the bright side, I get to make a really funny joke about this.

What might you consider the most archaic medieval medical practice that no practitioner would consider using in a modern medical facility, but which might work on my condition?

If you guess leeches or bleeding, you would be right. To treat excess iron, "blood-letting" is the treatment. Removing blood removes a couple hundred milliliters of iron at the same time. Treatments are typically spaced one or two weeks apart and continue until numbers are normal, followed by treatments every couple months.

When I was talking to Editor Deb about this, she asked me, "I suppose you can't just donate blood?"

Yes!

That is actually the typical treatment.

Reading about the side effects of excess iron, I experience all of them, minus some of the longer term ones. Oftentimes excess iron is identified in autopsies because of the damage caused to various organs. When the body has excess iron, it stores it in major organs, which is damaging over time.

So I guess I need to be leeched?

Who would have thought?

I don't know if this is actually the answer, as the long list of symptoms I have fall under a few categories of possible factors.

Honestly, I just hope my body will feel normal again at some point in my life before I die.

My back is healing, albeit slowly. I can move around and walk and am exercising again.

In the middle of September I was so low, my back in so much pain, I prayed simply asking for the ability to go on one more walk on a nice day. At nine months of injury time, with it not getting any better, really only worse, I was pretty miserable.

I am grateful that prayer was answered. And I do have faith my stomach/gut issues will be resolved.

The other difficult part of this is being fully reliant on those around me to help with so many parts of my professional life (and honestly personal life at various points). I am incredibly grateful for everyone I employ and everyone in my life. The newspaper staff is truly great.

This past week Dad was out sick and unable to do his job, so I had to fill in on sports. I still cannot take pictures at sporting events because standing that long is incredibly painful.

After sleeping for 15 hours from Friday into Saturday (Extreme fatigue is a side effect of all of my issues.), I watched both NRHEG and Waseca play football games and proceeded to work until roughly 2 a.m. Sunday morning.

Stargazing continued on 7

The People's Tree makes special stop in Albert Lea

Albert Lea, MN – Albert Lea, Minnesota - A piece of holiday history is making its way to Albert Lea. On Thursday, November 12 from 5 to 7 p.m., the community is invited to gather in downtown Albert Lea as the 2026 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree, affectionately known as The People's Tree, makes a special stop on its journey from Idaho to Washington, D.C.

Hosted by the Albert Lea Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Albert Lea-Freeborn County Chamber of Commerce, this free community celebration offers residents and visitors a unique opportunity to take part in a cherished national holiday tradition.

Each year, a Christmas tree is selected from one of America's national forests to be displayed on the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol. This year's tree comes from the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests in Idaho and will travel across the country, making stops in communities along the way before reaching the nation's capital.

During its visit to Albert Lea, the tree will be located at the intersection of Fountain Street and North Broadway Avenue, where attendees can view the tree through the specially designed transport trailer and take photos to commemorate the occasion.

The evening will feature several festive activities for the whole family, including:

Meet Smokey Bear: Stop by for a special appearance and photo opportunity with one of America's most recognizable forest conservation mascots.

Live Music: Enjoy musical entertainment from Freeborn Jazz, bringing festive sounds to downtown Albert Lea.

Food Trucks: Grab a bite to eat from food vendors located in the North Broadway Parking Lot.

Festival of Trees: Visit the Albert Lea Art Center for additional holiday fun and seasonal displays.

Sign the Banner: Leave your mark on the journey by signing the official tour banner and sending your well wishes along with The People's Tree as it continues toward Washington, D.C.

The People's Tree tradition has brought communities together for decades, celebrating the beauty of America's national forests and the shared holiday spirit that connects people across the country. Albert Lea's participation in this year's tour provides a special opportunity to showcase the community's hospitality while taking part in a celebration that reaches far beyond southern Minnesota.

The Albert Lea Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Albert Lea-Freeborn County Chamber of Commerce extend their sincere appreciation to Lou-Rich and Affinity Plus Federal Credit Union for their generous sponsorship of this event. Their support, along with the efforts of community partners and volunteers, helps make this memorable celebration possible.

Residents and visitors are encouraged to bundle up, bring their family and friends, and join in welcoming The People's Tree to Albert Lea for an evening of holiday cheer, community connection, and a little piece of Christmas history.

Event Details:

Date: Thursday, November 12, 2026

Time: 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Location: Intersection of Fountain Street and North Broadway Avenue, Downtown Albert Lea

Admission: Free and open to the public

For more information and updates on the event, visit ExploreAlbertLea.com or follow the Albert Lea Convention & Visitors Bureau on social media.

NRHEG Star Eagle

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

PHONE: 507-463-8112

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

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

Mail: PO Box 248, New Richland, MN 56072

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

ELI LUTGENS	Publisher
MELANIE PILTINGSRUD	Copy Editor
AMELIA ROESLER	Editor
DEB BENTLY	Staff Writer
JIM LUTGENS	Sports Editor
TERESA ROSACKER	Advertising Sales
PAYGE ROSACKER	Editorial Assistant

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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

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



Compostings

by Al Batt

Finding it impossible not to be humble

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

Each year, I am reminded that there is only one thing that scares me at Halloween.

Which is?

Exactly.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. Mac Davis wrote and sang, "Oh Lord, it's hard to be humble when you're perfect in every way."

I find it impossible not to be humble.

I told stories at an elementary school. My throat became parched and dry. I stooped to get a drink from the water fountain. I bent way down. The fountain was low—built for its regular clientele. For a tall drink of water like me, it was an epic bow to staying hydrated. It was the fountain of youth. Ponce de Leon would have been proud. Except for the part where the first jet of water went up my nose.

IN LOCAL NEWS

I was fortunate to run into Tom Bergeson, who grew up in Hartland, at the historic First National Bank site in Northfield. Tom worked as Public Works Director in Cannon Falls, and upon retiring, became a tour guide extraordinaire at the Northfield Historical Society Museum. He was giving tours on the James–Younger Bank Raid when I encountered him.

Crystal Kay Wenzel Hammer of Geneva had a wonderful childhood growing up in New Richland. She liked school, played in the band, and graduated in 1956. Her hometown residents knew her as Kay. Kay died in September. My heart goes out to her husband Clark and her family.

Leon Schoenrock of New Richland learned of a dead river otter on a road in Waseca County and wondered how common they were. Historically, river otters were found throughout Minnesota, and their dense furs were sought for the fur trade in the early 1800s. Their popularity as furbearers led to their demise across much of Minnesota, and by the late 1800s, they were extirpated from the entire drainage of the Minnesota River from the South Dakota border to Mankato. Otters are common throughout northern Minnesota and are increasing in southern Minnesota. Otters are tireless travelers—ranging as far as 25 miles in a week. Carrol Henderson, who spent 40 years in the DNR's Nongame Wildlife Program, was instrumental in the release of 22 river otters along the upper Minnesota River in 1980-1982. Otters have also been returning to southeastern Minnesota, dispersing southward from northern Minnesota along the Mississippi River. The Iowa DNR began reintroducing otters in 1985, including 23 otters on the Cedar River south of Austin. Those otters have pushed northward into the Austin area, Freeborn County and the Shell Rock Watershed of Minnesota.

I was in Lindstrom one day, and in Easton the next. Lindstrom has a Swedish coffee pot as a landmark. That decommissioned water tower has a fog machine creating simulated steam at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. to mark fika, the midmorning and midafternoon coffee breaks in Sweden. I went to minnesotawatertowers.com and learned that the cone-top water tower in Easton, built in 1911, holds 75,000 gallons. I discovered that one of the water towers in Kasson is the oldest in the state, built in 1895. I checked that site for local cities, all of which were named after their water towers: Hartland's was built in 2016 and holds 75,000 gallons. The Geneva tower's age is unknown, and it has an estimated 100,000 gallons. New Richland's tower's age wasn't available, and its estimated capacity is 75,000 gallons. Ellendale's water tower was constructed in 2000 and contains 150,000 gallons.

Donate your old eyeglasses to the Lions Club and bestride the narrow world like a Colossus.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

If there is a toilet in your dreams, don't use it.

Carpenter ants are just like other ants except rainy days and Mondays always get them down.

Where do geese go on vacation? Honk Konk.

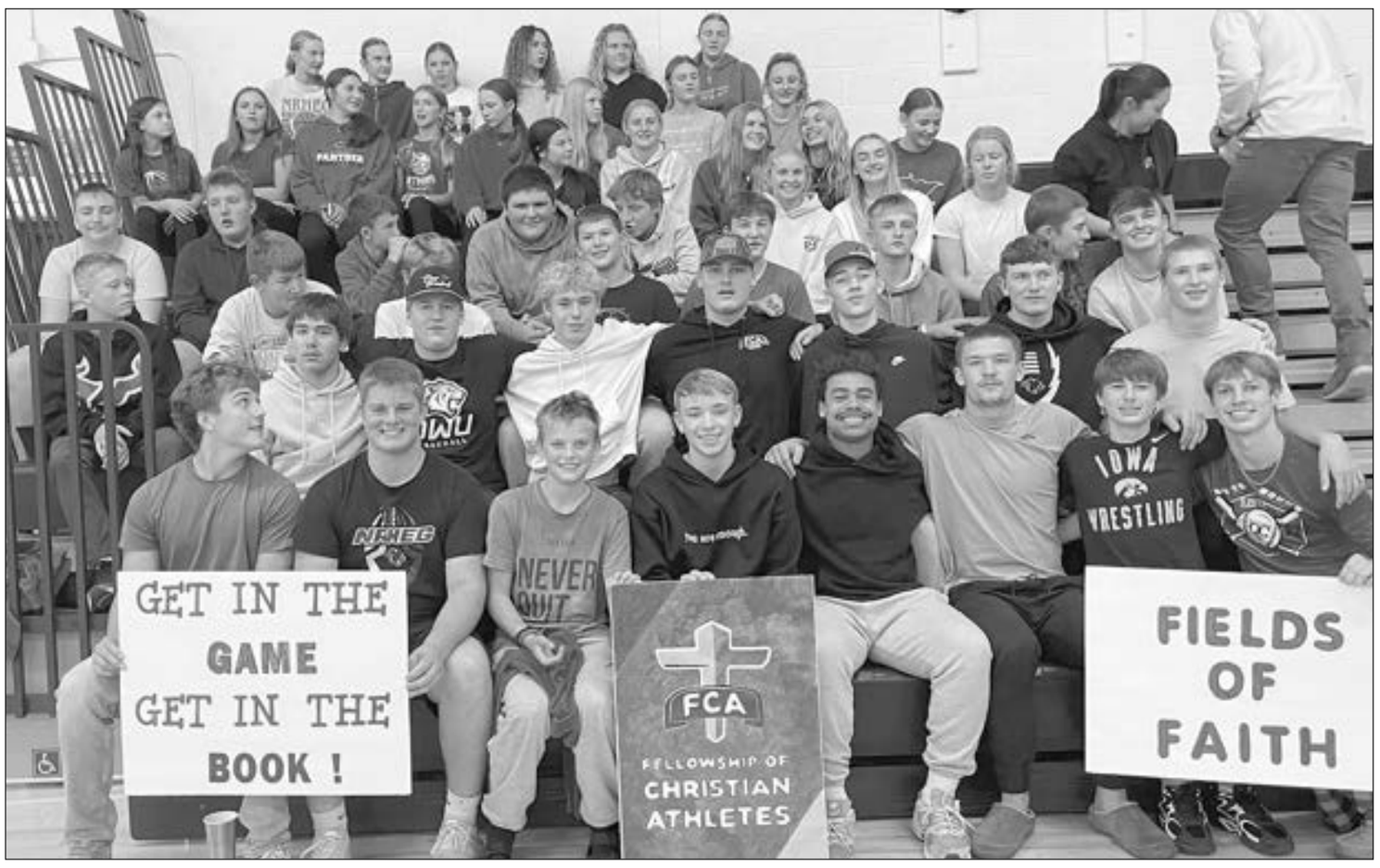
I read a book on installing lightbulbs. It had a great twist at the end.

NATURE NOTES

The multicolored Asian lady beetle is known as the Asian lady beetle, Halloween lady beetle, harlequin ladybird beetle, pumpkin ladybird beetle and Japanese lady beetle. It was introduced in the U.S. in 1916 and in 1964-65 to control pecan aphids; and for biological control in 1978-82. Asian lady beetles were not introduced in Minnesota, but spread here, first documented in 2004. They feed on aphids in soybean fields throughout the growing season. After the beans are harvested and temperatures drop, the beetles look for warm places to spend the winter. They move en masse toward buildings—particularly the sunny, south-facing walls of light-colored structures. Unlike our beloved native ladybugs, these beetles can bite, and they emit a foul-smelling yellow fluid when disturbed. It can be identified by a distinct black M-shaped marking behind the head.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"Guard well within yourself that treasure, kindness. Know how to give without hesitation, how to lose without regret, how to acquire without meanness."—George Sand.



FINDING FAITH - NRHEG students a part of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes gathered on the evening of Oct. 28 for the annual Fields of Faith night. Photos by Judy Tweeten

Fifth annual Fields of Faith

The NRHEG FCA met for the night out event on Oct. 8

The NRHEG Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) held its fifth annual Fields of Faith (FOF) nationwide night out event on Oct. 28 at the NRHEG High School gymnasium, which was moved inside due to weather.

The featured speaker of the night was Andrew Phillips, who shared his faith journey through the eyes of a Christian athlete.

Other speakers included Adam Paulson, the South Central FCA Representative. Fields of Faith was first established in 1954 by Don McClanen, who was frustrated by professional athletes endorsing cigarettes and shaving cream. He wanted to get athletes on board fighting to get the Word of God out there. The Fellowship of Christian Athletes is an international non-profit Christian sports ministry based in Kansas City. The organization operates in 115 countries.







■ Choir

from Page 1

really listened to the directions, we all used the criticism we received to improve.

"From that first practice where we sounded–well, really bad–to the first time we performed, it didn't seem like we were even the same group of singers. We were confident, we had our music fully memorized, and we were ready to give the best of our abilities. I am in awe listening to the tapes."

Thanks to the many demands the week presented, Mady says "I also had to be really aware of my vocal health." She points out that day-long practices can be very taxing, and everyone's voices needed to be in good form for the performances to come.

As the group continued to improve, she says it was thrilling what can be accomplished when a group of skilled singers work to blend their voices, so that the 20 members of each section sounded as if they were one, richly-voiced singer.

"Listening to the tapes," she describes, "I can't pick out my own voice."

Perhaps equally unusual for a soprano–the voice which typically carries the melody in a choir–Mady describes one number in which her group harmonized for the whole song. "That was a learning experience," she says. "It showed me a lot about the ways to use my voice."

When the choir gave its full concert, it was in the Lucas Oil Stadium, where the Indianapolis Colts play. Only half to two thirds of the seats were used, so that audience members were facing the stage, but that still left places for all 73,000 FFA members attending the convention to sit. In addition to performing, Mady and another choir member took on the task of introducing one of the songs, allowing them to quickly introduce themselves, then describe the number they were about to present. Nearly all of them were medleys, Mady adds, each one representing the music typical of an era from the 1930s to the end of the 20th century. One medley was titled, "The Best of Dolly Parton."

Between the challenges and accomplishments, Mady says she definitely plans to audition for the national convention choir next year: she will still be eligible even though she will be a college freshman then.

"They reserve a few spots for people they call their 'alumni,' the people in their second year. I will still have to audition, but I believe I have a good chance of being chosen again," she explains.

■ Hide + Seek

from Page 1

take part the evening of Oct. 30. He also commented on how much everyone seemed to enjoy the event: "From beginning to end the participating individuals' happy expressions and stated interest in doing this again next year was exactly what I hoped for. All the seekers really enjoyed this event and found it challenging and fun. Overall, I was glad we could meet and then exceed all expectations.

"The smiling faces and happy demeanors were a sight to behold."

DeRaad said the positive interaction with area youth is highly beneficial, since it allows young people to feel more comfortable about approaching and speaking with law enforcement personnel. It helps community members recognize, "We, as law enforcement, care about them and will listen to them."

The hide-and-seek event joins an annual water balloon fight, the nation-wide "Night to Unite," and community movie nights as times to mingle with law enforcement personnel in a lighthearted setting. DeRaad points out events improve when partnerships are formed with local retail businesses, philanthropic societies and agencies.

After all the children had been found, the New Richland Police Department supplied food and beverages for a pizza party inside City Hall.





OBITUARIES

Gary Miller



Gary Miller

Gary Leroy Miller, age 85 of St. Olaf Lake, New Richland, Minnesota, passed away on October 25, 2026 at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, Minnesota.

He was born on November 9, 1940 at the family home in Van Meter, Iowa. He married Darlene See on August 26, 1972.

Gary worked for many years as a drywaller and framer. He was quite the handyman and could fix and repair just about anything. He was always willing to help people, and was a friend to everyone.

He loved golf, bowling, and playing pool, and he loved the outdoors- water skiing, boating, scuba diving, and living on the lake.

Gary is survived by his wife, Darlene (See) Miller; daughter, Chris Keller; his son, Brian (Dawn) Miller; his brother Albert (Carole) Miller; his grandchildren, Duston Keller, Dylon Keller, Nicole (Travis) Denin, Talor Miller, Brooklin (Justin) Jansen; and six great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Melvin and Mary (Smith) Miller; and his siblings; Shirley Sahuaqui, Rose Scalise, Virginia Vargovich, David Miller, Arthur Miller, Sam Miller, and Frank Sly.

Cremation memorial service will be held on November 14, 2026, 2 p.m. at LeSueur River Lutheran Church, with visitation starting at 1 p.m.

Sherman Richardson



Sherman Richardson

Sherman L. Richardson, age 80, died at his home surrounded by family. Visitation will be Monday, November 9, 2026 at Cross of Glory Lutheran Church in Hartland from 12 p.m.-2 p.m. with a memorial service starting at 2 p.m. Pastor Marcia Pedersen will be officiating, and burial will follow the service at Hartland Cemetery. Please see nasinecfh.com to leave online condolences.

Child's History of Waseca County

Cont. Chapter XV, 1856. Attempted division of county—Circulation of remonstrance—Tramp on foot through Medford, Clinton Falls, Blooming Grove and Woodville.

In the month of December, 1855, I made a trip to Auburn, Iowa, for supplies. In January, 1856, shortly after my return, the settlers in the western part of what was then Steele county learned that Messrs. Cornell, Pettit, Abbott & Co., of Owatonna, were endeavoring to get the territorial legislature, then in session, to divide Steele and Dodge counties so as to make three counties of the two—the same as we now have them.

The county was then very sparsely settled. Probably there were not 1,000 families or voters in all the territory of the three counties. The people of Waseca county were nearly all young farmers, just commencing life, and poor in goods, wares, etc. They did not feel able to support a county government while there were so few to pay taxes. A meeting of the settlers was held and I was selected to visit the people in all parts of the then county to secure signatures to a remonstrance and forward the same to Hon. George A. McLeod, then of Sibley county, our representative in the house, the Hon. Chas. E. Flandreau, then of St. Peter, our member in the council.

We made duplicate remonstrances for the settlers along the LeSueur and had them signed at our meeting. The next day I started for Owatonna and the Straight river settlement. It was a pretty cold day as I learned when I reached Owatonna, the thermometer registering 22 degrees below zero, at 4 o'clock p. m. The next day was intensely cold—so cold that the ordinary thermometer failed in its efforts to keep a correct record and I remained in Owatonna all day.

I soon learned that the people in Owatonna, with only two exceptions, were in favor of the division of the county. This I learned without divulging my mission, and the next day I started down Straight river, calling upon each settler as I proceeded and explaining our opposition to the division. Almost without exception, each farmer signed the remonstrance. At Clinton Falls and Medford, I found active co-operation, and obtained the signatures of all I could see. In one day's canvass I had good strong lists which I forwarded to Messrs. McLeod and Flandreau, accompanied by a private letter from myself and one from Dr. Finch, of Clinton Falls, explaining to them the situation of affairs and the general condition of the people.

I left with the postmaster at Medford a copy of the remonstrance to be signed by those whom I had not seen and to be afterwards forwarded to Mr. Flandreau. I then struck across the country on foot, without road or track of any kind, in search of the Remund and Ide settlement, in what is now Blooming Grove. I had no guide except the government section posts, many of which were covered with snow drifts. It was 12 miles from Clinton Falls to Blooming Grove, then called the Bliven settlement.

■ Veterans

from Page 1

a four-member draft board. They were the ones who decided who would be called up and who wouldn't."

Larry and Knutson were told that, if they volunteered, they could be part of a "buddy" program and could serve their time together. Since they would be going in a few months anyway, they decided to sign on. Crabtree celebrated his nineteenth birthday at home with family on Oct. 1, 1968, and flew to basic training Oct. 7.

Perhaps not surprisingly for those acquainted with Army "snafus," he and Knutson completed basic training together, were chosen for different types of specialty training, and didn't see each other again until after they'd returned to "the World."

Larry was selected to be a radio operator–the one person in a 25-soldier platoon who sent and received crucial information while on patrol. He believes he was selected for the role because he had done well on a sound recognition test he took as he began basic training. The theory, he speculates, is that his good score indicated he would have an aptitude for learning Morse Code.

"I learned Morse Code in training," he describes. "Then I never had any reason to use it again.

"In Vietnam, you learned what you needed to know by living it."

It was commonly known that, when the enemy attacked an American platoon, the radio operator was one of the chief targets.

"They were ingenious," says Larry of VC methods. Taking out the radio operator, he explains, removed the group's connection to the main base. Without communications, the group could not report its position, call in defensive mortar rounds or air attacks, or arrange to have the wounded evacuated.

After a year of surviving not only forays and battles, but also deadly disguised traps, infection-carrying insects, flooding rains and landslides, and the apparent meaninglessness of marching into the jungle to fight a "relentless," often invisible enemy, staying an extra day to help a friend was perhaps more of a sacrifice than most people can recognize.

Fortunately, Dan feels life afforded him some opportunities to pay Larry back.

Dan says new draftees were asked whether there were any roles they might choose to fill during their service. Perhaps because his mother was a nurse, and perhaps because he pictured himself working in a "nice, safe hospital somewhere," he indicated he would like to train as a medic.

What he didn't know at the time is that, along with radio operators, the VC targeted medics. "I think it was about morale," he speculates. "With the medic gone, soldiers knew there would be no one left to keep them alive if they were wounded."

After completing basic and specialty training, most draftees were allowed to go home for one month before being transported to Vietnam.

"I was called in to meet with the commanding officer," he remembers. "I guess I thought I was in trouble, so I was nervous.

Instead, the officer informed him, "You lucked out."

Dan was told that his performance in training had been the best in the group, earning him the chance to learn advanced skills by taking part in special, additional training.

That did not feel like "luck" to him at the time, since rather than going home for a month, he would spend those weeks learning medical and surgical techniques for treating typical battlefield wounds.

In response to Dan's displeasure, the officer predicted, "If you survive Vietnam, you'll thank me for this someday." Dan says he never crossed paths with the officer again, but if he had, the prediction would have come true.

Because of that special training, he was stationed at the hospital on the company's main base. He says he served a role much like the characters in the book, movie and television series M*A*S*H, receiving wounded from the field and performing initial surgeries needed to save their lives and minimize the negative effects of their wounds. The biggest differences, he mentions, are that he treated patients in a multi-floored building and "we didn't act quite so crazy" as the characters in the series.

His life at base was not without dangers or discomforts. The work was complicated and demanding, with people's lives hanging in the balance. He had the assurance of sleeping in the same bed each night ("If you can call it a 'bed'," interjects Larry), but it was in a tent, where the insects, the monsoon rains, and even the leeches could not be kept out.

Along with that, as Larry describes, "No matter where you were, you were in enemy territory."

Dan shakes his head as he remembers a local who used a straight razor to give him a professional quality haircut. That same local was among the enemy casualties one night when the VC cut the defensive fences and came slipping through.

His most vivid illustration of danger, he says, occurred when "I made a mistake one night." He describes that his tent was next to one occupied by two medivac helicopter pilots. They were notified they needed to pick up a wounded soldier, and the medic who usually accompanied them was sick with malaria.

"'Richards,' they shouted. You gotta come with us!" He says he had just served a 15-hour shift and wanted to sleep, but they wouldn't take no for an answer.

"They told me it was a safe mission," Dan recalls. "That there was no way I wouldn't come back safely.

"So I decided to go."

That one ride taught him a great many things.

"Those pilots were crazy, but they were also crazy good," he says of their ability to maneuver at low heights just above jungle treetops. He describes a break-neck pace and a sudden stop above an unknowable landscape.

The gurney holding the wounded soldier, it turned out, had to be lifted from the battle below. In the meantime, the helicopter hovered there taking enemy fire.

"I was dancing around like a monkey," Dan describes. "I was dodging bullets and shrapnel, with no idea which way to jump."

When he set foot on ground back at base, he made a vow he had no trouble keeping: "Never again," he says simply. "Never again."

Both veterans shared their stories while wearing hats bearing the words "Vietnam Veteran."

When asked whether, despite the reputation the Vietnam War carried, they were proud of their service, Dan says, "I wouldn't be wearing this hat if I weren't." He does admit, however, that it took him decades to open up regarding his experiences with anyone other than fellow veterans.

He also comments that he is among very few Vietnam veterans who went on to make use of his Army training and experience. Encouraged by his former employer Harold Wayne, he attended an interview with some surgeons in Albert Lea. Based on what he had done in emergency surgeries, the hospital hired him as a physicians' assistant–a position he held for 44 years, helping with surgeries of all types.

He is pleased that the job allowed him to "pay back" the life-saving day Larry gave him in Vietnam in 1970 by helping with the C-section delivery of two of his children, and with a surgery Larry himself needed later on.

Dan and Suzie have been married 59 years. Dan still remembers the day he disembarked from a plane in the Twin Cities to find out that, despite being a timid driver at the time, Suzie had driven herself and their son to the airport to meet him. "She was the most beautiful sight I'd ever seen," he remembers.

Larry recalls being greeted by his whole family. "They never told me anything about how things were while I was gone," he describes. But words weren't really necessary when Larry's stoical father, who seldom allowed anyone to see his feelings, ignored the hand Larry was offering in greeting and instead clutched him in a powerful hug.

■ Fundraiser

from Page 1

of getting back to work and seeing their residents again.

Near that was the bake sale, manned by Cheryl Herbst, another Care Center employee. "I had a baking day yesterday. I made banana bread, pumpkin muffins, pumpkin bars, and lemon poppy seed muffins, then donated all of it," she shared. Herbst pointed to the wide array of baked items provided by others: "All of these things have been brought in over the course of the morning. Everyone has been so generous."

For the silent auction, setup for all the donated items began around 10 a.m., and there were a lot of them. The Care Center vendors did a lot of the gathering. Care Center administrator Bob Johansson and Janet Hunt did a lot of the organizing. Said Hunt, "Everything has been donated, volunteers are giving their time. The Mill donated this space. The hot dogs and burgers were donated by Conger Meats in Conger and Owatonna HyVee. Mrs. Gerry's donated the macaroni salad and the coleslaw. Albert Lea Kwik Trip on Bridge Street donated the buns and some of the chips." Johansson added, "Old Dutch Potato Chips are on their way right now with 500 bags of chips to add to it." He was overseeing two firearms, the Legacy 12-Gauge Pointer that was the prize for the raffle, and the 22 Golden Boy, before he said, "The silent auction stuff has been gathered from Wisconsin, Iowa and from all over southern Minnesota." Places like Wuerflien Chevrolet GMC, Oak Park Place, Weberg Construction, Steve's Meat Market, Moments Hospice, Walleye Direct, Jensen's Plumbing and Heating, Tito's, Hartland Evangelical Lutheran, Muddy Paws Saloon, Nagels Nursery, Floors 4-U, Help Care Clinic, Bauman's Geneva, Condon Farms, Trinity Lutheran, Tranquil Touch Massage Therapy, Kwik Trip, Drummers, Barefoot Lane, Barnyard Treasures, Viracon, Snell Autowash, All Saints Catholic Church, Ducks Unlimited, 4 Season's, St. Croix Hospice, Darrick's Auto, Dennis Steffel Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Services, Prairie Grace Hospice, Napa of Albert Lea, RJ's on 5th Ave, Adora Home Care, Looks Unlimited, Rhino Auto Detailing, Souba's Green House, Fashionable Farm Girl, Torey's, Burn's Sales and Service, Katey's Krafty Korner, Traditions of Montgomery, Simplicity Photography, New Richland Liquor, Schlaak Trucking, Two Dove's, and Red Clay Strays.

People who wish to donate toward repairs at the New Richland Care Center can visit floodrelief4nrcc@gmail.com or call 507-415-8382.

USED BOOKSTORE
RECYCLE YOUR BOOKS WITH US
507-455-3440
eatonsbooks@q.com
Mon-Fri 10-5 Sat 10-3:30
602 North Cedar Ave Owatonna MN 55060

OLSON EXCAVATING
Hartland MN
GPS Controlled Drain Tile Installation
Open Ditch Clean Cut
Backhoe/Dozer/Skidloader
Concrete And Tree Removal
Rock, Gravel, & Dirt Hauling
Chainsawing & Stump Grinding
Snow Removal & Sanding
Brandon Flatness, Owner » shop 507-845-2440 cell 507-383-2008


GWE GREG WILMES EXTERIORS
COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL
NEW CONSTRUCTION • REMODELING
- SHINGLES, STEEL, RUBBER ROOFING
- VINYL, STEEL, & CEMENT BOARD SIDING
- WINDOWS & DOORS: INSULATION, SHEETROCK
- ALL FLOORING: CONCRETE, PATIOS, DECKS
- SEAMLESS GUTTERS & GUTTER PROTECTION SYSTEMS
- CERTAINTEED® CLAIMS SPECIALIST

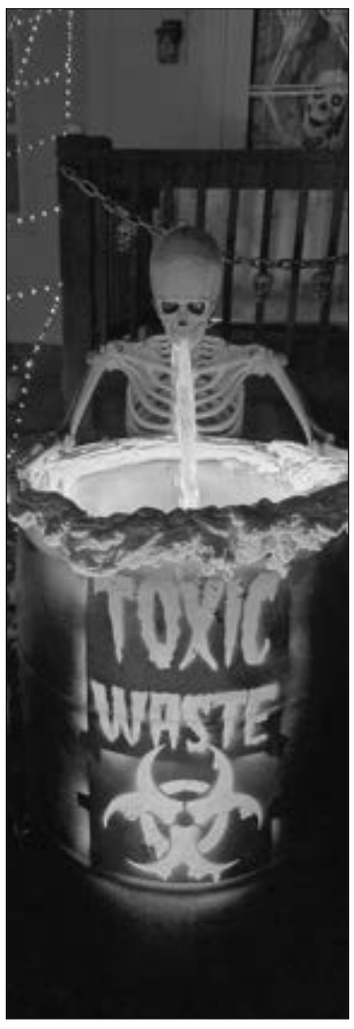
"Footings to Finish"
GREG WILMES EXTERIORS LLC
BUILDING CONTRACTOR #BC793885
GREGWILMESROOFING.NET
GREGWILMESROOFING@GMAIL.COM
(507) 202-7070

LERBERG'S
CAR WASH & COIN LAUNDRY
Touchless Wash and Self Serve
Full line of cardio, free weights, power racks, dumbbells, barbells, & circuit training machines!
FITNESS CENTER & TANNING
24 HOURS
507-684-2471
118 5th Avenue West
Ellendale, MN 56026

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

BONNERUP
FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES
Albert Lea • New Richland • Ellendale
217 West Division Street • New Richland, MN 56072
Phone: (507) 465-8015 • www.BonnerupFuneralService.com

New Richland Halloween Decorating Contest













Halloween Fun for Mrs. Lassahn's Class















OLSON EXCAVATING
Hartland MN
GPS Controlled
Drain Tile Installation
Open Ditch Clean Cut
Backhoe/Dozer/Skidloader
Concrete And Tree Removal
Rock, Gravel, & Dirt Hauling
Chainsawing & Stump Grinding
Snow Removal & Sanding
Brandon Flatness, Owner » shop 507-845-2440 cell 507-383-2008

Bohlen Plumbing & Heating
TRANE
It's Hard To Stop A Trane.
324 N Broadway • New Richland 507-465-8376
Rick 507-402-6766 • James 507-475-2430

Less Than Excited About A Trip To The Dentist?
Relax. It's Main Street Dental.
Locally Owned
Main Street Dental Clinics
comfortable dentistry
NEW RICHLAND • (507) 463-0502
132 North Broadway
www.mainstreetdentalclinics.com

ARO ACCOUNTING
Accountants • Accounting Services • Bookkeeping
Allyson Olson
cell 507-391-3738
32718 State Highway 13, Hartland
(507) 845-2763

JANIKE SEEDS
PIONEER. BRAND · SEEDS
CORTEVA agriscience
LAYNE JANIKE
121 3RD ST NE
NEW RICHLAND, MN 56072
(507) 995-6627
layne.janike@plantpioneer.com

L&D Ag Service
Hartland, MN
SINCE 1981
408 Broadway St,
Hartland, MN, 56042
(507) 845-2100
LD-AG.com
L&D Ag Service specializes in the design, manufacturing, sale, and installation of fertilizer and chemical application equipment for Agriculture.

LOOKING BACK

25 years ago

- A resident of New Richland on South Broadway, Guy LeBlanc, received appointment to the New Richland City Council, Monday evening. LeBlanc will fill the open position by the resignation of Kermit Kalke.

- Lindsey B. Covey has been commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air force after completing the Air Force ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) program, and graduating with a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota, Duluth.

- The NRHEG eighth grade football team finished the season 10-4. “This was outstanding for a team of 27 members,” Coach Jeff Reese said. They defeated Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton 36-0; Waterville-Elysian-Morisstown 6-0; New Ulm 18-12; Mankato East Black 18-6; Mankato East Gold 18-6; Owatonna 22-20; Faribault Bethlehem Academy 20-6; Waseca 32-8; and Blooming Prairie 18-6.

50 years ago

- A Conference of twelve young people took place at the Trinity Lutheran Church on Sunday, October 31, 1976. Since that Sunday was also Reformation Day, the theme for the service was “This I Believe…” In an impressive service, attended by 394 worshippers, each confirmed and took part in the message of the morning by reading a statement of their own personal faith, based on a portion of the Apostle’s Creed.

- Time insurance Company has named the Al Batt Insurance Agency of Hartland as the top income disability producer in southern Minnesota over this past year.

- Mr. and Mrs. David Proehl announce the arrival of a baby daughter, Suzanne Vlera, who was born on October 4, 1976. Suzanne has one brother, Jerry.

- Benjamin Francis Bushlack, son of Gary and Mary Beth Bushlack of New Richland was baptized at St. Casimer’s Catholic Church, Wells, Saturday, October 16 with Rev. Harold Mountain officiating.

75 years ago

- Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Betchwars, 2801 Girard Ave. So., announce the engagement of their daughter, Rosemary E., to Lawrence L. F. Engel of Hoven, S. D. Miss Betchwars is a senior at the University of Minnesota. Mr. Engel is now serving with the United States Marine Corps.

- Genevieve Frisk, New Richland, Waseca county 4-H health contest titlist, receives mention in the November issue of “Everybody’s Health” the state of Christmas Seal magazine. It is currently being distributed to some 10,000 Minnesota subscribers.

- Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Jessen, living west of New Richland, became the parents of a daughter, weighing 8 pounds, 3 ounces, born at the Wells hospital Tuesday, November 27. Besides the new arrival, Mr. and Mrs. Jessen are parents of a son and one other daughter.

Looking back at past winters



Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl
Outdoors Writer

This is the time of year when I am usually in limbo waiting for the hard water season, which is usually right around the corner.

Some folks are still having good luck fishing in our area lakes. I am having all that I can do to get my boat ready for storage. I also have a few other things to do to get ready for winter. It is easy to say, but I am physically not able to do the things that I once did.

In a better light, I can still do a lot of things that I have always done. I can still drive to the cabin and enjoy some quality time close to nature. This will give me something to look forward to over the next few months. I have been reluctant to face the fact of the coming winter, not because I don’t embrace the season, but because I am not as mobile as I once was. My sons and grandkids would never mention my name in the same sentence as the word running, and ice is not my friend when walking.

I have always embraced the first snowfall of winter, and I also enjoy watching the birds at the feeders during the winter months. I have the feeders ready and waiting for the birds to show up again.

When I coached hockey, I would get excited for winter because of the season ahead. When my sons were in hockey, I worked nights at Wilson’s for part of their time in the sport. I would come home after work and hear the sound of pucks banging off of the boards at Academy Park. This sound brings back fond memories and still gives me a warm feeling whenever I hear it.

Deer harvest numbers available online

People who are interested in deer harvest data can find preliminary data for 2026 and final past year harvest information on the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources’ deer reports and statistics web page (https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/mammals/deer/management/statistics.html). The current numbers are updated twice each week on Monday and Thursday. The page also features an interactive map and graph.

In Minnesota, archery deer season began Sept. 19 and continues through Thursday, Dec. 31. The statewide firearms deer season begins Saturday, Nov. 7, with various closing dates depending on a hunter’s deer permit area. Muzzleloader season begins Saturday, Nov. 28, and continues through Sunday, Dec. 13.

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.

IN BRIEF

Eighth Annual Designer Purse Bingo and Silent Auction Geneva Community Center Friday, Nov. 14

The Eighth annual Designer Purse Bingo and Silent Auction at the Geneva Community Center will open doors at noon, bingo starts at 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14. Food and adult beverages available.

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.

First Lutheran Church of Ellendale fundraiser Sunday, Nov. 22

The First Lutheran Church of Ellendale will hold a fundraiser from 5-7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22. This is a turkey dinner and pie auction, proceeds go toward Sunday school and the youth program.

Wild Game Feed at Geneva Grill and Bar Saturday, Dec. 5

There will be a Wild Game Feed at the Geneva Bar and Grill starting at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 5. Alligator, pheasant, duck, frog legs, goose, fish, venison and wild turkey. Questions call 507-256-7278.

Soil Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board Meeting Thursday, Dec. 10

The SWCD will be holding its monthly board meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 10. The meetings will be held in the SWCD offices located at 300 North State Street - Door 4.

Winter Farmers Market at Farmamerica Saturday, Dec. 12

Winter Farmers Market events will be from 8 a.m. to noon at Farmamerica’s indoor visitor center on many Saturdays through March. Consider shopping from local bakers, picklemakers, and crafters on Dec. 12.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
* * *
ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Otisco, Minnesota
Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
* * *
TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Peg Marose
* * *
LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kordahl
* * *
VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kordahl
* * *
VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Brian Schanil Pastor
* * *
CROSS OF GLORY LUTHERAN
Hartland, Minnesota
Rev. Marcia Pedersen
* * *
WEST FREEBORN LUTHERAN
Hartland, Minnesota
Rev. Marcia Pedersen
* * *
HARTLAND EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
Hartland, Minnesota
Pastor Phillip K. Lepak
* * *
MANCHESTER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
Manchester, Minnesota
Pastor Phillip K. Lepak
* * *
ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Father Glenn Frerichs
* * *
COMMUNITY LUTHERAN
Geneva, Minnesota
Pastor Leandra Anderson
* * *
SIMPLY CHURCH
105 Second Street North East
Geneva, Minnesota
Todd Lundgren, Pastor
* * *
VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH
Ellendale, Minnesota
Pastor David Modder
* * *
FIRST LUTHERAN LCMC
Ellendale, Minnesota
Lay Pastor Ross Sletten
* * *
ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST
Ellendale, Minnesota
Randy Cirksena, Pastor
* * *
CENTRAL FREEBORN LUTHERAN CHURCH
Pastor Matt Griggs
* * *
EAST FREEBORN LUTHERAN
Pastor Matt Griggs
* * *
ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS
Hollandale, Minnesota
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
* * *
FAMILY OF FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH
101 East Park Avenue
Hollandale, Minnesota
* * *
ZION LUTHERAN, ELCA
Rural Ellendale
Deacon Billie Jo Wicks
* * *
ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN, ELCA
Meriden, Minnesota
Deacon Billie Jo Wicks
* * *
PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN
Lemond Township
Pastor Gena Parker
* * *
FIRST LUTHERAN, LCMC
Hope, Minnesota
Pastor Sandy Miller
* * *
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Clarks Grove, Minnesota
Pastor James Cameron
* * *
HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH of LITOMYSL
Father Peter Schuster
* * *
FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod
Waldorf, Minnesota
Rev. Larry Sipe, pastor
* * *
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
Minnesota Lake, Minnesota
Rev. Larry Sipe, pastor
* * *
ST. PAUL UNITED
Minnesota Lake, Minnesota
Interim Pastor
* * *
PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Minnesota Lake, Minnesota
Interim Pastor
* * *
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Freedom Township
Rev. Larry Sipe
* * *
ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Pastor Ava Adams-Morris
Waldorf, Minnesota
* * *
ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC
Waldorf, Minnesota
* * *
TRINITY LUTHERAN
Wilton Township
Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor
* * *
THE CHURCH of JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
Brad Donner, Branch President
Waseca, Minnesota
www.lds.org
* * *
NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE STAR EAGLE.

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

Star Eagle is for sale at these locations:
CLARKS GROVE - Gopher Stop
ELLENDALE - Lerberg’s Foods • Casey’s
WASECA - Kwik Trip • Kwik Trip North • Casey’s
NEW RICHLAND - Wagner Foods • Casey’s
GENEVA - Geneva Bar & Grill
HARTLAND - BP Gas Station
HOPE - Krause Feeds & Supplies
And At The Star Eagle Office

ANTIQUES OF THE MIDWEST LLC
Located South of Wells • 57534 110th St.
HOURS: Tues – Sat 9:30 – 4:30, Sun & Mon by Chance or Appt
For more info, call: 507-456-3699
TO WELLS MN 22 | I-90 WEST TO BLUE EARTH | I-90 EAST TO ALBERT LEA | CO RD. 16 | 1/4 mi.
FEATURING A WIDE VARIETY OF GENUINE ANTIQUES OFFERED BY MULTIPLE DEALERS!

NASINEC Funeral Home & Crematory
New in 2022, one-level facility
On-site crematory
Pre-need insurance agent
Dedicated staff including two full-time morticians
everything you need!
789 Business Park Drive Wells, MN 56097
507-553-3124 • info@nasinecfh.com

STEVE JAMES EXCAVATING D&M CONSTRUCTION
ELYSIAN, OWATONNA, WASECA & WATERVILLE
507-451-3080
SteveJamesExcavating.com
Offering Commercial & Residential Services
• Excavation
• Site Development
• Site Utilities
• Basement Digging
• Trucks & Hauling
• Landscape Supplies
• Rock, Sand, Gravel & Dirt
• Demolition
• Water & Waterline Repair
• Jetting, Camera & Locating
• Septic Services
• Snow Plowing

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

www.mainstreetdentalclinics.com
Main Street Dental Clinics
comfortable dentistry
Less than excited about your visit to the dentist? Relax. It’s Main Street Dental.
Rochester (507) 536-7700 3110 Wellner Dr NE, Rochester, MN 55906
Mankato (507) 720-0250 287 St Andrews Dr #100, Mankato, MN 56001
Blooming Prairie (507) 583-2141 405 Main St E, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
Owatonna (507) 455-1000 1170 E Frontage Rd, Owatonna, MN 55060
New Richland (507) 463-0502 132 Broadway Ave N, New Richland, MN 56072

Steve’s Meat Market EST 1973
Award Winning Home-Cured Meat Products
Ellendale, MN 56026
PH: 507-684-2331
FAX: 507-684-3109

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

Bayview Freeborn FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES
1415 Hwy 13N
Albert Lea, MN 56007
bayviewfuneral@gmail.com
507-373-4330
Locally Organized, Owned & Operated since 1939

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

NEW RICHLAND CARE CENTER
Exceptional care by and for Exceptional People!
(507) 465-3292
312 1st Street NE, New Richland, MN

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

agro-economics inc
MARK BERNARD
Crop Consultant
(507) 461-1775
121 3rd St. N.E.
New Richland, MN 56072
CERTIFIED CROP ADVISER

TS THOMPSON SANITATION, INC.
LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
ROLLOFFS • RECYCLING
Clarks Grove Office:
108 N. Independence Ave.
Clarks Grove, MN 56016
Phone: 507-256-4370
thompsonsanitation.com

Historic downtown Albert Lea invites you to the Big Buck Hunt shopping opener

Albert Lea, Minnesota - Ready, aim, shop! Historic Downtown Albert Lea is inviting bargain hunters and holiday shoppers to take their shot at great deals and exciting prizes during the 2026 Big Buck Hunt, taking place Friday, November 6, and Saturday, November 7, throughout downtown Albert Lea.

Coinciding with Minnesota's deer hunting opener weekend, the Big Buck Hunt brings a playful twist to holiday shopping as participating downtown businesses offer special promotions, games, refreshments, and opportunities to win prizes. Whether you're hunting for the perfect holiday gift or simply looking for an excuse to explore downtown, this two-day event has something for everyone.

Here's How It Works:

Shoppers are encouraged to visit participating businesses and draw a card at the counter. Draw a HIT, and your name will be entered for a chance to win the Big Buck Prize Bundle, featuring goodies from local retailers. Draw a MISS? No worries! Head to another participating store and try your luck again. Along the way, shoppers can enjoy in-store specials, refreshments, and other activities offered by downtown businesses.

Participating Locations Include:

- Union Home Mortgage
- Leuthold's
- 112 on Broadway
- Mom's Bread Co.
- Ignite Nutrition
- Between Friends Boutique
- EverJune
- The Gilded Pinecone
- Plymouth Shoe Store
- Daisy Blue Naturals
- The Locker Room by 10K Designs
- Cento Wood-fire Pizzeria and Cafe
- Stadheim Jewelers
- Homestead Boutique

Adding to the weekend's festivities, the Big Buck Hunt will also coincide with the Cookie Crawl on Saturday, November 7, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The holiday-themed event invites participants to collect cookies, enjoy festive drinks and activities, and explore downtown businesses, offering even more reasons to spend the weekend shopping locally.

With the holiday shopping season just around the corner, the Big Buck Hunt provides a fun opportunity to discover unique gifts, take advantage of special offers, and support the locally owned businesses that help make Historic Downtown Albert Lea a vibrant shopping destination.

Whether you're heading out for deer opener or staying in town to hunt for bargains, Historic Downtown Albert Lea invites everyone to take their shot at the Big Buck Hunt and enjoy a weekend filled with shopping, prizes, and community fun!

Event Details:

Dates: Friday, November 6, and Saturday, November 7, 2026

Time: During participating businesses' regular operating hours (hours vary)

Location: Historic Downtown Albert Lea

Admission: No purchase necessary to participate

For additional information and event updates, follow Historic Downtown Albert Lea on Facebook.

NRHEG Elementary School VIPs



NRHEG Elementary School's week 8 Panther VIPs! The school recently posted on their Facebook, "Congratulations to our Panthers of the Week! We are proud of these students for showing Panther Pride and being great examples for others."



Insurance confusion prevent breast cancer screenings?

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and by now most of us have heard the message: early detection saves lives.

Yet knowing you should schedule a mammogram and actually making the appointment are often two different things.

For many people, the barrier isn't a lack of awareness. It's uncertainty.

Will my insurance cover it? What happens if they find something? What if I live far from a screening center? What if the follow-up tests are expensive?

Those concerns are more common than many people realize.

According to a 2025 report from the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), more than 1 million women are estimated to delay recommended follow-up breast cancer testing because of affordability concerns, while approximately 378,000 women may skip future mammograms out of fear of the costs associated with additional testing after an abnormal result. The report also found that more than 70% of commercially insured patients faced out-of-pocket costs for follow-up diagnostic testing such as diagnostic mammograms, ultrasounds, MRIs, or biopsies.

No one should delay a potentially lifesaving screening because they're worried about their wallet. Understanding how health insurance works can help remove some of that uncertainty and allow you to focus on what matters most: your health.

Will My Health Insurance Cover a Mammogram?

For many people, the answer is yes.

Most health plans are required to cover recommended preventive breast cancer screenings without cost-sharing when certain guidelines are met. In many cases, that means a routine screening mammogram may be covered without a copay, coinsurance, or deductible when received through an in-network provider.

While many people are familiar with recommendations that begin screening at age 40, the age at which screening should begin can vary based on your personal risk factors and the recommendations you and your healthcare provider decide to follow.

Insurance coverage is associated with higher mammography rates. According to the Susan G. Komen Foundation, among women ages 50 to 74, only 50% of uninsured women reported having a mammogram within the previous two years, compared with 83% of women with private health insurance.

Still, coverage rules can vary based on your health plan, your age, your personal risk factors, and whether the service is considered preventive or diagnostic.

Before scheduling a mammogram, consider asking:

Is the screening provider in-network?

Is the mammogram considered preventive care under my plan?

Is a referral required?

What happens if additional testing is needed?

Are 3D mammograms covered?

What happens if additional testing is needed?

A quick call to your health plan or a visit to your member portal can often answer these questions before your appointment.

What If I Live Far From a Hospital or Imaging Center?

For some people, the challenge isn't insurance coverage. It's access.

Research continues to show that women living in rural communities are less likely to be up to date on breast cancer screenings than women living in urban areas. Factors such as transportation, distance to healthcare facilities, and limited access to providers can all play a role.

That's why mobile mammography services have become increasingly important.

Mobile mammography units bring screening services directly into communities, helping reduce barriers that might otherwise prevent people from getting screened.

A recent study found that women who use mobile mammography services are more likely to come from rural and lower-income communities where access to traditional imaging centers may be limited..

If you're considering a mobile mammogram, don't automatically assume your insurance won't cover it. Coverage is often tied to the service and provider rather than the building where the screening takes place. Before scheduling, check with both the provider and your health plan to confirm coverage and network participation.

For some women, the nearest mammogram may not be at a hospital. It may be a mobile screening unit visiting a community center, church parking lot, workplace, health fair, or neighborhood event.

What About Men?

Although breast cancer is much less common in men, it can happen.

That possibility is often overlooked because many people associate breast cancer exclusively with women.

Men who notice changes such as a lump, swelling, skin changes, or nipple discharge should discuss those symptoms with their healthcare provider.

Coverage for routine breast cancer screening differs for men and women. However, medically necessary diagnostic testing may be covered when ordered by a healthcare provider to evaluate symptoms or concerns. Medicare, for example, covers diagnostic mammography for men when medically necessary.

The important takeaway is simple: breast health matters for everyone.

What Happens If Something Is Found?

This is often the question people fear most.

It's important to remember that being called back for additional imaging does not automatically mean cancer has been found. Additional testing after a screening mammogram is relatively common and often leads to non-cancerous findings.

If additional testing or treatment is needed, health insurance can play an important role throughout the journey.

Depending on your diagnosis and treatment plan, coverage may include:

Diagnostic imaging

Biopsies

Specialist visits

Surgery

Radiation therapy

Chemotherapy

Prescription medications

Follow-up and monitoring care

Most health plans provide coverage for medically necessary cancer treatment, although deductibles, copays, coinsurance, and out-of-pocket maximums differ from plan to plan.

If you're facing treatment, don't hesitate to ask questions about your benefits and available support programs.

The Costs Many People Don't Think About

Medical bills aren't always the only financial challenge associated with cancer treatment.

A diagnosis can affect many aspects of daily life, including:

Transportation to appointments

Fuel costs and parking fees

Lodging if treatment is far from home

Time away from work

Child care

Meal expenses

Household support during recovery

Depending on your circumstances, assistance may be available through health plans, employers, nonprofit organizations, healthcare providers, or community support programs. Asking about available resources can be just as important as understanding your medical coverage.

The Bottom Line

Breast cancer screening saves lives, but confusion about insurance coverage, costs, and access continues to keep some people from getting screened.

The reality is that many mammograms are covered as preventive care, mobile screening options may be available in underserved areas, and health plans often provide support that people don't realize exists.

This Breast Cancer Awareness Month, take a few minutes to understand your benefits and learn what screening options are available to youKnowing what to expect may help remove one more barrier between you and an important preventive screening.

■ Stargazing

from Page 2

I still get out of my house to see folks. I love people too much to stay inside, no matter how tired I am. But for anyone wondering how I spend my time, oftentimes it is devoted to steps meant to avoid pain.

I believe in trying to have "perfect" days. No, it isn't actually possible, but I try to make the most of every single day.

My "perfect" days include: faith, family, purpose and physical activity.

Every day I spend time with my father.

Every day I speak with people I care about.

Every day I work.

Every day I move my body.

Every day I do little things that bring me joy.

I try to be intentional. There are so many people I love and care about. When I think of them, and I am not too tired, and sometimes even when I am, I reach out via text message or phone call.

This week I called Dave Zika. I sometimes joke that people speak telepathically. I called him about an hour after he stopped at the office. (I had no idea he had stopped.)

We chatted for 30 minutes or so. The conversation, the connection, made me forget about every single one of my pains for that entire time. Those are types of relationships I try to cultivate. When I can connect with a person, I work to make them a part of my life. I feel really fortunate that I am blessed to be surrounded by such great people.

Finally, I really do look at things on the bright side. For one thing, these stomach issues have caused me to eat a much fresher, healthier diet, rather than choosing what happens to be handy or convenient, which is typically not healthy.

If it were not for these terrible pains, I do not know if I would have ever delegated work the way I have. Of course I had the plan to do so, but it was my nature to do things myself because that was less anxiety provoking than asking others or employing others to do the tasks.

To recap my past few weeks; they have been filled with election coverage, meetings, good conversation, so many doctor appointments and quite a bit of rest.

Cribbage

Dad and I played cribbage in person on his birthday, otherwise all games have been online, which I do not keep score of. However, he does. Notably, I double skunked him last month. Unlike in person, where Dad skunks me almost 2-1, in the online game, I have skunked him almost three times as frequently. Growing up he always said his dad's cribbage board was lucky. It seems to hold true.

Before I put scores below, I must tell a story.

Buddy, Terry Bortle, family friend, came down to visit when I was around the age of 12. We played cribbage that evening and I must have won nine of 10 games. Every hand, it seemed, was a dozen points. It still makes me smile thinking back to that night. The board's luck seems to be a family thing.

Our updated scores for the year follow:

Eli 181 wins, 17 skunks, Dad 152 wins, 27 skunks.

Lifetime

Dad 565, 88 skunks, Eli 518 wins, 56 skunks, 1 double skunk.



RUNNING - At the Section meet in Norwood Young America on Thursday, October 29, Julieann Wobbrock finished 4th and qualified for the state meet.



PODIUM - Julieann Wobbrock stands with her award after qualifying for the 2026 state tournament. Her next meet will be November 7 at Majestic Oaks Golf Club in Ham Lake.

Next stop, the state tournament

Wobbrock extends running season

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

The NRHEG Panther Cross-Country team competed at the Class 2A Section meet in Norwood Young America on Thursday, October 29.

"It was a great day," coach Larry Nydegger said. "Julieann Wobbrock once again qualified to participate in the State Cross-Country.

"I am extremely proud of the effort that all of these runners put forth today," Nydegger continued. "To see so many personal best times at the end of the season means that all the hard work paid off. It was nice to see the boys' team score as a full team again. And for Kasey to get so close to making it to the state meet was fun to watch."

Up next is the State meet on November 7 at the Majestic Oaks Golf Club in Ham Lake.

Girls results:

Julieann Wobbrock 4th (19:29) Season Best

Violette Botten 75th (24:56) Personal Best

Rylie Cromwell 96th (27:57)

Boys results:

Kasey Jewison 14th (17:09) Personal Best

Colton Lermon 68th (19:49) PB

Devlin McWilliams 108th (21:42) PB

Marvin Tolzman 122nd (24:24) PB

Jordy Klocek 123rd (24:47) BP

Jacob Klaras 1236th (29:58) PB

Panthers humbled in semi-finals

Season ends with 28-6 loss

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

The Panthers' season came to an end in the section 1A semifinals to the hands of Fillmore-Central 28-6, Saturday on the road.

The Panthers were down 7-6 early with a chance to take the lead. Fourth down conversions by Sean Lassahn and Ryan Schlaak were both part of a 17 play, 78-yard drive that stalled out on the Falcon 2-yard line after a fade pass was knocked down.

The Panthers had two more good drives that fell short in the game.

At the end of the half, trailing 21-6, the Panthers took over on their own 29-yard line. Big pass plays to Senior Brendan Schmidt and Al-exander Deen moved the Panthers up the field. A penalty negated a pass that would have had the Panthers at first and goal. Instead a final pass of the half from the Falcon 32-yard line was intercepted to end the half.

If the Panthers had converted a few more fourth downs or turned redzone trips into scores, the game would have looked differently.

To start the second half, the Panthers turned the ball over on downs around the 50-yard line after being unable to convert 3rd and 2 and 4th and 1 plays.

An interception by Deen, returned 35-yard to their own 40-yard line set up the Panthers final, best drive of the day.

Passes to Nissen for 14 yards, a 15-yard penalty and a 16-yard run from Lassahn set up the Panthers on the Falcon six-yard line. A four-yard gain was called back for holding, pushing the Panthers back to the 16-yard line. A short pass to Schlaak on 4th down gave the ball back to the Falcons with 1 minute left in the 3rd quarter.

The Falcons would then possess the ball until there were only four minutes remaining in the game, going 94 yards before scoring a touchdown to ice the contest.

Senior Brooks Gilliland completed 21 of 34 passes for 164 yards with two interceptions. Lassahn ran the ball 18 times for 68 yards, with 45 of those yards coming on the Panthers 2nd quarter drive that stalled inside the 10-yard line.

The Panthers finish their season 5-4.

Playing their final game in a Panther uniform were seniors: Ryan Schlaak, Brooks Gilliland, Brendan Schmidt, Alexander Deen, Jack Bartlett, Finnegan Baumann and Shane Service.

"I am proud of those Seniors and how they led the team every game," head Coach Devin Lockerby said after the game.

"Hard fought game. We needed to convert a couple of plays that hurt us. Proud of the team for their work this year. Proud to be Panther."

Find us on: facebook®
NRHEG Star Eagle
@newrichlandstar · Newspaper
https://www.facebook.com/newrichlandstar



Junior Ezra Boerner spikes the ball during a match against Waseca last week. Photo by Jim Lutgens

Spikers' season ends in Kenyon

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

The NRHEG Volleyball team saw its season come to an end in three sets against Kenyon Wanamingo.

Seeded 15th in the section 1A tournament, the girls lost 25-8, 25-15 and 25-13. The final record for the Panthers is 8-18.

Individually for the Panthers:

Ezra Boerner three kills, two digs, four blocks, one ace; Izley Boerner four digs; Clara Buendorf one kill; four blocks; Gia Cazares one kill; Sierra Fish one kill, one block; Aubrey Hendrickson 10 digs; Jovey Knudson one dig, three blocks, one ace; Anika Ladlie five kills, two digs, four blocks; Joey Rossing one dig; Brooklyn Sommer two kills, one dig, 10 assists, one block; Emmy Stadheim one dig; Ciara Stenzel four digs.

SUBSCRIBE NOW!
to the Star Eagle ... YOUR area newspaper
... to receive ALL the news, ALL the sports, ALL the events for the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva area!
NRHEG Star Eagle
PO BOX 248 • New Richland, MN 56072
Send me 1 year of the STAR EAGLE! Enclosed is:
☐ $57 (Waseca, Freeborn, Steele counties)
☐ $67 (rest of MN) ☐ $77 (outside MN)
Name_____
Address_____
City _____ State _____ Zip_____
Don't miss out on what's going on in your school and your area! Be a subscriber and Receive the NRHEG Star Eagle every week, wherever you are!



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.
Maas companies inc 507.285.1444 www.grainelevatorauction.com

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

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



EXPIRES: 11/30/2026
AN ADDITIONAL
25% OFF + 10%
LeafFilter*
Discount For Seniors + Military

Get a **FREE** full gutter inspection and estimate: Promo: 285 **1-888-755-5761**

*Promotional offer includes 25% off plus an additional 10% off for qualified veterans and/or seniors. Cannot be combined with other offers. See representative for full warranty details. DC 420223000087, AZ ROC 344027, AR 0366920926, CA 1035795, CT HIC.0671520, FL CBC056678, ID RCE-51604, IA C127230, LA 559544, MD MHIC164488, MA 213292, MI 262300331, MI 262300330, MI 262300329, MI 262300328, MI 262300318, MI 262300173, MN IR2025-810524, MT 266192, NE 50145-24, NV 0086990, NJ 13VH13285000, NM 408693, ND 47304, OR 218294, PA PA179643, RI GC-41354, TN 10981, UT 10783658-5501, VT 174.0000871, VA 2705169445, WA LEAFFLH763PG, WV WV056912, WI 537-DCFRR

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

MCAN
Minnesota Classified Advertising Network

MCAN Statewide Classifieds

WANTED TO BUY

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

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

SERVICES

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

MISCELLANEOUS

NO MORE CLEANING OUT GUTTERS
Guaranteed! LeafFilter is backed by a no-clog guarantee and lifetime transferrable warranty. Call today 888/755-5761 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Get 15% off your entire order. Plus, Military & Seniors get an additional 10% off. Limited time only. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details.

Statewide Advertising ONLY $279 Call Today! 612/332-8844

MISCELLANEOUS

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

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

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



SUBSCRIBE NOW!
to the Star Eagle ... YOUR area newspaper

... to receive ALL the news, ALL the sports, ALL the events for the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva area!

NRHEG Star Eagle

PO BOX 248 • New Richland, MN 56072

Send me 1 year of the* STAR EAGLE! *Enclosed is:

☐ $57 (Waseca, Freeborn, Steele counties)
☐ $67 (rest of MN) ☐ $77 (outside MN)

Name_____
Address_____
_____
City _____ State _____ Zip_____

Don't miss out on what's going on in your school and your area! Be a subscriber and Receive the

NRHEG Star Eagle

every week, wherever you are!



BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

JENSEN'S PLUMBING, HEATING & COOLING
Serving Southern Minnesota for over 45 years!
104 CENTRAL AVE N
GENEVA, MN
507-256-4712

Insurance from the Best!
TROY THOMPSON AGENCY, INC.
1330 W. Main, Albert Lea, MN
507-377-2852 fax 507-377-3301
troythompsonagency@gmail.com

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

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

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

ARO ACCOUNTING
Allyson Olson
cell 507-391-3738
allyson@aroaccounting.com
Two locations to serve you
217 East Elm Ave, Waseca
507-391-3738
32718 State Hwy 13, Hartland
507-845-2763

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

Bayview Freeborn FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES
1415 Hwy 13N
Albert Lea, MN 56007
bayviewfuneral@gmail.com
507-373-4330
Locally Organized, Owned & Operated since 1939

INSURE CAREFULLY, DREAM FEARLESSLY.
CALL (507) 835-2770 FOR A NO-OBLIGATION FREE QUOTE.
AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE
American Family Mutual Insurance Company, S.I. & its Operating Companies, 6000 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53783 ©2015 006441 – Rev. 5/23 – 22773682
Matthew R. Petsinger Agency, LLC
Matthew Petsinger, Agent
Waseca, MN
teampetsinger@amfam.com
mrpagencyllc.com

JK ROUTH CONTRACTING, LLC
Wick Buildings
Jesse Routh
507-383-7892
jrouthbod@yahoo.com

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

Red Leaf Cafe
Open Monday-Friday 6am-2pm
104 Broadway Ave. S. • Downtown New Richland
507-465-8000

Sweet treats and holiday cheer await at Downtown Albert Lea's Cookie Crawl

Albert Lea, Minnesota - The holiday season is getting a little sweeter in downtown Albert Lea! On Saturday, November 7, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Albert Lea Convention & Visitors Bureau and Albert Lea Freeborn County Chamber of Commerce invites residents and visitors to enjoy an afternoon of festive treats, holiday shopping, and seasonal fun during the first ever Cookie Crawl.

This holiday themed event brings together participating downtown businesses and local cottage bakers for a sweet celebration filled with cookies, drinks, creative activities, and opportunities to explore the unique shops that make downtown Albert Lea special.

For $30, participants will receive a Cookie Crawl passport and a gingerbread shaped box to collect 11 cookies throughout the event. Passport sales begin November 2, and they can be purchased at the Chamber/CVB office.

While cookies are at the heart of the celebration, not every stop will feature a cottage baker or cookie distribution. Some businesses will welcome local bakers offering homemade treats, while others will provide festive drinks, opportunities to decorate cookie boxes, or other holiday themed activities. Together, these experiences will create a fun and interactive way to explore downtown while enjoying the spirit of the season.

As participants make their way through the Cookie Crawl, they will also have the opportunity to enter for a chance to win a gift basket filled with goodies from local retailers, adding a little extra excitement to an already sweet day.

Beyond the treats and activities, the Cookie Crawl encourages shoppers to explore downtown businesses, discover unique gifts, and get an early start to their holiday shopping. The event also coincides with the Big Buck Hunt shopping event, taking place November 6-7, giving residents and visitors even more opportunities to find great deals, support local retailers, and enjoy a weekend of shopping and holiday festivities throughout Historic Downtown Albert Lea.

Event Details:

Date: Saturday, November 7, 2026
Time: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Location: Downtown Albert Lea
Passport Cost: $30

Hearing to address changes to county tobacco retail laws

The Waseca County Board of Commissioners will be considering revisions to Tobacco Retailer Ordinance #73 that governs the regulation of tobacco related products. Minnesota Statutes 2025, section 461.19, subdivision 3 requires that the governing body provide notice to the public prior to the meeting. A public hearing regarding the changes has been scheduled during the Board's Dec. 1 meeting, which will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the East Annex building, 300 N. State Street in Waseca.

Proposed Tobacco Retailer Ordinance revisions include increasing retailers' annual license fee; capping the number of licensed retailers; prohibiting sales of tobacco products in pharmacies; increasing fines and penalties for ordinance violations; adding a minimum clerk age; prohibiting the sale of "loosies," flavored products, and delivery sales; changing the local code so it meets State Statute for minimum sales of age 21; making coupons and price promotions unredeemable within the county; increasing the number of annual compliance checks at businesses; increasing cigar packaging and pricing; adding proximity restrictions between retailers and youth-oriented facilities; and updating tobacco language and definitions.

Anyone with questions about the proposed ordinance changes or the process, is invited to contact Samara Plotz at 507-308-8746 or samara.plotz@wasecacounty.gov.

'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.

NRHEG Students Explore Careers at Mayo Civic Center







CAREER LEARNING - NRHEG Secondary School recently posted on their Facebook on Oct. 20, "10th and 11th grade students went to the Mayo Civic Center to explore careers at Mayo Clinic. Students learned about Engineering in healthcare, Phlebotomy, Child Life Specialist, Nursing, Audiology, Respiratory Therapist and so much more."

Minnesota Realtors secures $70k disaster relief grant

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (October 20, 2026) — Minnesota Realtors® (MNR) has secured a $70,000 grant from the REALTORS® Relief Foundation (RRF) to support homeowners and displaced renters affected by the catastrophic flooding that struck the city of New Richland in Waseca County, on September 19, 2026.

Approximately nine inches of torrential rain fell in a matter of hours, overwhelming the drainage system in the city of about 1,200 people. Floodwaters surged through neighborhoods, filled homes, and forced evacuations. Officials estimate 70-80% of the city's homes suffered damage; roads throughout the community were closed, and the City of New Richland declared a state of emergency as it began coordinating recovery with county, state and federal partners.

This REALTORS® relief fund will provide qualifying homeowners and renters with direct financial assistance of up to $1,000 per household to help address immediate recovery needs, including temporary housing, cleanup and property damage.

"When a community as close-knit as New Richland is hit this hard, our job is to show up and stay with them through the recovery," said Josh McFall, CEO of Minnesota Realtors®. "Thanks to the REALTORS® Relief Foundation and our partners at Southeast Minnesota REALTORS®, we will put real dollars directly into the hands of the households that need them most, so they can start putting their homes and lives back together."

State and Local REALTOR® Partnership Ensures Aid Will Reach Those in Need

MNR is partnering with Southeast Minnesota REALTORS® (SEMR) — the local REALTOR® association serving the affected area - to ensure funds reach qualifying households effectively. Eric Brownlow, SEMR's Chief Executive Officer, and a group of local REALTORS®, are working on the front lines with impacted families alongside New Richland city officials. They will play a central role in connecting families to the application process.

"New Richland is a small town where everyone knows their neighbors, and right now a lot of those neighbors are hurting," said Eric Brownlow, CEO of Southeast Minnesota REALTORS®. "Our members live and work in these communities, and we're proud to stand alongside MNR to make sure every family affected by this flood knows this help is available and can get it quickly."

Who Qualifies

Assistance is limited to an applicant's primary residence stemming from the Waseca County flooding on September 19 - secondary homes do not qualify. Eligible individuals include:

◦ Homeowners who pay a monthly mortgage and experienced physical property damage to their primary residence from the flood

◦ Homeowners who own their primary residence outright and experienced physical property damage from the flood

◦ Homeowners or renters who have entered into a new lease or lease agreement due to displacement from their primary residence because of the flood

◦ Renters who were evacuated from their primary residence and incurred hotel or Airbnb expenses because of the flood

Note: Power outages without physical property damage, and renters who experienced damage but were not displaced, do not qualify for this relief fund.

How to Apply

◦ Applications are available on the MNR website.

◦ Submit applications by email to: relief@mnrealtor.com

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis; the deadline to apply is November 11, 2026.

◦ Must include all required supporting documentation, such as photo ID, proof of residence and proof of damage.

◦ SEMR and MNR staff can help guide applicants through the process

About the REALTORS® Relief Foundation

This grant was made possible by the REALTORS® Relief Foundation (RRF), a nonprofit dedicated to providing housing-related assistance to disaster victims nationwide. Since its founding, RRF has provided millions of dollars in aid to families recovering from hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, floods and other disasters. Learn more and support RRF at https://rrf.realtor/.

About Southeast Minnesota REALTORS®

The Southeast Minnesota REALTORS® (SEMR) is the leading regional advocate and provider of information services and research on the real estate industry for brokers, real estate professionals and the public. SEMR serves an 11-county area in southeast Minnesota, which includes the cities of Albert Lea, Austin, Owatonna, Rochester, and Winona.

Southeast Minnesota REALTORS® ~ Making Minnesota Home.

About Minnesota REALTORS®

Minnesota Realtors® (MNR) is a statewide trade association that leads, supports, and elevates our 21,500 REALTOR® members by focusing on advocacy and professional services.

RUSS NELSON MOTOR SHOP
Electric Motor Repair and Replacement
601 Dutton Drive
Ellendale, MN
507-473-0513
russnelson1941@gmail.com

Star Eagle is for sale at these locations:
CLARKS GROVE - Gopher Stop
ELLENDALE - Casey's
Lerberg's
GENEVA - Geneva Bar & Grill
HARTLAND - BP Gas Station
NEW RICHLAND - Wagner Foods
Casey's
WASECA - Casey's
Kwik Trip
Kwik Trip North
HOPE - Krause Feeds & Supplies
And At The Star Eagle Office
Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

