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Sports

Open House at the Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District office Friday, Feb. 20

The Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District will host a Tree Day open house from 7 a.m. through 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20. Community members are invited to stop by, meet staff, and learn about tree planting, care, and local conservation programs. The event is free and open to the public. The SWCD office is in Waseca at 300 N. State Street, Door 4.

Bingo at the Ellendale Community Center Saturday, Feb. 21

The Ellendale Area Heritage Society is holding Casino Bingo at the Community Center at 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21. 20 games and blackout with cash prizes. Food for purchase includes sloppy joes, hot dogs, chips, candy, pop and water.

Sweetheart Bingo Saturday, Feb. 21

The New Richland Ambulance is hosting a Sweetheart Bingo at the New Richland City Hall on Feb. 21 at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$15 for 15 games plus a blackout game. Cash prizes for each game and raffle drawings will happen between games. Proceeds will go to new supplies and equipment.

Community Valentine's Brunch at Cross of Glory Lutheran of Hartland, Sunday, Feb. 22

There will be a Community Valentine's Brunch at the Cross of Glory Lutheran Church from 9:30 a.m. through 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 22. There will be no charge, but free-will donations will be accepted.

Canvas Bag Design at the New Richland Public Library Feb. 26

Transform a canvas bag into a custom tote that reflects you at 4 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 26. Connect with other totes while you add white patterns, intricate illustrations, or inspiring quotes. Ages 13-18.

Winter Farmers Market at FarmAmerica Feb. 28

There will be a winter farmers market at FarmAmerica from 9 a.m. till noon Saturday, Feb. 28. Find locally grown, baked and made while supporting our local producers. FarmAmerica is located at 7167 160th Ave., Waseca.

4-H Bings at the Waldorf Community Center March 8

The Waldorf Poppy Poppet 4-H Club will be holding a Bins Bingo event at the Waldorf Community Center starting at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 8. Exciting prizes and homemade snacks.

A word from The Word

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love, and of self-discipline.

1 Timothy 1:7



About 250 people participated in the New Richland Sportsmen's ice fishing contest the afternoon of Saturday, Feb. 14. The day featured many exciting elements, including a prize for all children 15 and under, temperatures in the high 40s, and drawings for many prizes.

Sportsmen's Club fishing contest draws crowd

About 250 anglers enjoy a comfortable afternoon on St. Olaf Lake for the large contest

By DEB BENTLEY Staff Writer

About 250 people took part in a fishing contest on St. Olaf Lake the afternoon of Saturday, Feb. 14. The event was sponsored by the New Richland and Fountain Lake Sportsmen's Clubs and by Fleet Farm. With over \$2,000 worth of prizes and gifts were given away during the event.

New Richland Lunker and its prizes donated more than \$1,000 to the contest. In this case, Alex Hernandez, 6, from Blooming Prairie, could acquire a lifetime fishing license.

Many local businesses donated t-shirts, gifts, beverages, cookies, and a wide variety of other items. Two large drawings gave away \$500 and \$1,000 prizes. Greater Scholarship of

New Richland won the \$500 pot. Caleb Hagen, the winner of \$1,000, chose to donate his prize to support New Richland resident Miya Tubb, who is undergoing treatment for leukemia.

Owens Motors made the prize for "Biggest Fish" possible by donating \$1,000 to the event. Thanks to their donation, New Richland club leader Lee Mendenhall said the day's event had some of its largest prizes ever: \$500, \$300 and \$200 for the first three places.

The largest fish of the day made its appearance very near the end of the 1.5 hour time span, a 38.5-inch northern pike caught by Trent Thomas of Oshtemo. Alexander Tubb took second with a 12.1 water houn. Alexis Walters pulled in an 11.8 coho salmon to take third place.

Anglers enjoyed a sunny day with temperatures in the low 50s. The ice was 18" thick, but a bit soft on top thanks to melted snow cover.

Casey opens camelina biofuel discussion

By DEB BENTLEY Staff Writer

New Richland city council member and local businessman Jason Casey said he hoped to serve as a catalyst by calling together a meeting of farmers and business operators at the New Richland City Hall the evening of Feb. 11.

About 23 people attended in person and online for an informal discussion of what it might take to finance and support a local biofuel plant to process camelina, a flowering plant native to Minnesota already in use as a "cover crop" and whose seeds can be used in creating aviation fuel.

Based on feedback he has received from others, Casey said his concept would require efforts on two fronts. One would focus on finding finance and resources for building a local plant, which would produce up to eight-figure dollar amounts and up to five years of planning and construction. The other would investigate whether local farmers would be willing to devote 5,000 or more acres to growing camelina all the way to maturity, rather than only for protecting soil.

Blomberg Prairie farmer T.J. Karas shared that he has already

been growing camelina for about 13 years, both as a cover crop over the winter and all the way to harvest. He said he and another area farmer share resources to truck the harvested seed to Fargo, one of a few operating plants in the region.

Karas stated he is able to harvest the seed using his existing combine, but someone the they would need to work their way into spring.

County planning and zoning administrator Tim Wilson attended the meeting virtually. She said the first step toward seeking funding would be a feasibility study which would then be used when applying for possible grants from government or private agencies who wish to support clean energy initiatives.

Casey collected contact information from all present and promised to reach out to them via email with answers to some of their questions and with the dates of any future meetings.

An discussion around down Casey acknowledged it would take time and planning to bring together all in part of his idea. "Even if it doesn't work out to build a plant," he stated, "I would like to see camelina be a new crop for area farmers who want to branch out."



BASEBALL STAR - Owen Wayne signed his Bethany Lutheran College letter of intent with his team near, just before school let out on Thursday, Feb. 12, 2026.

Wayne signs to Bethany Lutheran for baseball

By BEN REVERMANN Staff writer

Owen Wayne, senior student at NRHEG High School, signed on to play baseball for Bethany Lutheran College in a ceremony on Thursday, Feb. 12 in New Richland. The room was full of classmates, teammates and family members who were there to show support.

Dan Stark, Activities Director for NRHEG, said, "This guy has done it all for a very long time. First he was in T-ball, then he bumped up to Quad City, then he moved on to 507 Baseball. I have to tell you, that ISG Field over in Mankato he'll be playing on is incredible. I promise everyone they have a very good pro-gam over there; he's in good hands."

Owen signed his letter of intent with a baseball bat on the table in front of him, his dad Brandon sat on his right, his mother Jodi on the left and one of his sisters, Quinn, sitting at the table on the other side of him. He signed to a round of applause, and once that was done the phones and cameras came out and spectators began snapping photos. He was asked which snapshot he would like to

go in the paper, and he replied after careful consideration, "I want a picture with my team."

Owen's main Jodi mentioned Owen had taken part in Bethany's "Prospect Camp" early this past October. She said he showed his skills with fielding, hitting, and some running. "We got a call about a week later

signed continued on 4

align="right">Signed continued on 4

GENEVA CITY COUNCIL

Council addresses workers, water quality

By BEN REVERMANN Staff Writer

Finding city employees was a major item of discussion during the Geneva city council meeting held the evening of Feb. 16. The City is seeking a full-time individual to manage public works and maintenance. Needed for the summer is a manager for the city pool. The council is also seeking applications for fillips (who must be at least 15 years old), a swim instructor and concessions manager. Interested applicants are asked to reach out to the city clerk at 567-454-3946 for position details and responsibilities, salary range and how to apply.

A recent notice sent to Geneva residents reports that testing reveals a "gross alpha" count higher than the Minnesota Department of Health's maximum standard of 15 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) in the city's water. Online sources explain alpha particles are produced when radioactive substances decay, and are an indicator radioactive elements may be present.

The notice states "results show that the average level of gross alpha was above the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 15 pCi/L. An MCL violation was issued for this system on 1/15/2026. Testing will continue until the violation is resolved. The most recent results were 6.7 pCi/L with an annual average of 17.7 pCi/L."

The notice also states "Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer."

The city affirms that water treatment units which can help mitigate gross alpha count include water softening, reverse osmosis, and distillation, but "It is recommended that those home water treatment units be certified to ensure radium removal. The use of carbon filters is not recommended for removal of radium, as radium may accumulate in the filter over time."

Jim Beckwith, city maintenance man, said city systems did not experience any problems over the cold snap. Two oak trees have been removed and four more were found that need removal. Beckwith reported, "Woodpecker Tree Service said they would remove three trees for \$2,500." Once the trees are gone and the curbs can be cleaned up the council would like the curbs painted.

The Lakeshore Addition report of lots was rejected by the council when it was learned that if they don't vote on it, it will eventually be approved if the council never addresses it. They voted to reject it but that doesn't mean it can't easily be revisited at a later date.

Geneva Celebration, which will take place in 2026, is having a fundraising Bings event at the Community Center on 2

FenceLines

by Mark Bernard

I think it's a shame when I get feeling better when I'm feeling no pain

The stars had the Weather Eye spinning at peak performance. Will Old Man Winter have a say about it, or will he silence someone's next approval? Starting Thursday, partly sunny with a good chance of evening snow. Highs in the low 40s with lows in the mid 20s. Partly sunny Friday with a good chance of late snow. Highs in the low 30s with lows in the upper teens. Snowy on Saturday with highs in the upper 20s with lows around 10. Sunday, mostly sunny with highs in the low 20s with lows in the mid-teens.

Mostly sunny on Monday with highs in the mid-20s and lows in the upper teens. Tuesday, cloudy with light in the mid-20s and lows in the mid-20s. Mostly cloudy on Wednesday with a good chance of rain. Highs in the upper 30s with lows in the low 20s. On February 27, we will have gained two hours since the winter solstice. Sunrise will occur at 7 a.m. CST on that day. The normal high for February 27 is 29 and the normal low is 12. The good news: The stars scored big time on recent Valentine's Day goodness. Even better news: Easter is early this year, on April 7th.

There have been many curious about how deep with our recent warm temperatures. The measurement taken February 16th at the SROC under bare soil measured 27°. Some areas around our yard continued to become more frosty overnight even though the thermometer will show freezing. With some of our crocuses and daffodils on the south side of the house emerging, I was interested to see how far down the ground might be thawed. On the north-facing slope, the frost was only out down about 3" - 4". The flower bed area mentioned in last week's column was 2" - 3" at best. Both gardens on the south-facing slope. The soil surface there is not very muddy, so I'm not inclined to plant anything anytime soon. Covering the emerged spring bulbs to protect them when it cools down will keep me busy. It will be spring and time to plant garden seedlings.

By the time this reaches print, it will likely have cooled down again. Still, it was fun to get a sneak preview of spring while it lasted. The crocus of fish bones a few weekends ago served as a prelude as my conditions deteriorated rapidly. Luckily there were ladies appearing that had been seen for several months. Friday the 15th I spotted humped larks. Their sightings continued to climb during the warm spell. Lumbering teams were looking overhauled as counter platforms rickled around sundown on Valentine's Day. On Sunday, Canada geese were in the sky and small flocks of red-winged blackbirds flew over the ranch in the chickadees sang their springtime "two-hill" song.

Some of the birds that had been missing in recent weeks began to

reappear. A few goldfinches were starting to show more yellow coloration already. The male cardinal hasn't sung yet, but he will, like all other birds.

Morning chores are now happening during warm and nighttime chores finishing up around sundown. It lends credence to the old saying that a farmer works from dawn to dusk. Lumbering season is nearing the halfway point.

Luckily we got some help from some great friends moving cows and lambs on Sunday, so chores became more streamlined. Small jobs are efficiency killers with a divided field of view. Water buckets and clean of hay to larger groups, feeding goes faster and there's less waste. When you're an aging lady, you just think about the latter. Hey, especially small squares, don't just magically appear. It should not become great bedding. The grooming crew has been having fun in the warm weather. They're now going inside and lounge about the round hole freedom in the lot as though they're on some Club Med vacation. The only things missing are the beach umbrellas.

The lambing hasn't exactly been a bed of roses for us at home. Battling with at least two varieties of alone has made life miserable at times. It wasn't a person down to that functioning at full capacity because of illness. When it goes on for so long and others still have it, you almost feel guilty when you start to feel better. Then, late last week I started noticing some tingling on the side of my abdomen and on my back. Sunday night when I showered I saw the telltale signs of what was likely shingles. I'd had it before so not surprised given the circumstances. The doctor's diagnosis coincided with my guess, so a prescription was filled later that afternoon. The capsules were big blue horse pills, reminiscent of some of the winning because we gave the sheep many more. Undoubtedly, it took a pill gun to stuff them down the goats.

The warm conditions were a double-edged sword for Poppy. While the temperatures were nice, it meant the mud was out to full force, especially on the north side of the house. Luckily the south side of the house changed dramatically in just a few days, making it the prime area for poppy as well as squirrel and bunny pounce. The conditions also allowed me to flick the now dry Poppy buns off the patio. Overall however, it's meant more indoor time for Poppy. When Monday evening rolls around though, the heater won't be fired up and there will be crumbs in the form of grain chow down in the bottom prize package. If you want to use a Corgi come unglued, that's your big chance. No barking is allowed, however.

See you next week...real good-bye.

In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

Network of caring in the community

I would like to take a few minutes to acknowledge some good things and the people doing them.

Let me begin by saying how fortunate I feel to be part of a small town community. I acknowledge we are not all angels, but an amazing number of the people I interact with have the good of others as one of their chief interests. I am speaking here about family and near-family who go out of their way to support and assist others. That network of caring is the foundation of our communities, and lays the groundwork for all the other good things we see being done.

I would like to acknowledge Jason Casey of New Richmond who has a group of people looking into the possibility of helping farmers learn more about compost, a small-needed farming plan, as a cash crop. Jason used to be a meeting hall in New Richmond on Feb. 11 that he wants to serve as a catalyst in helping broader people's horizons as well as their bank accounts.

Catania is valued for its high oil content which has the right pro-

netic components to be made into sustainable aviation fuel (SAF). You can read more about the specifics in an article commemorating the event. What I am commending on here is Jason's motive: just to make things better and possibly improve the local economy.

My compliments to Jason for carrying through on a beneficial idea.

I also want to mention the two ice fishing contests that took place in the area on Valentine's Day.

One, held on Clear Lake from noon to 4 p.m. was a kids' contest with fishing holes, bait, and even food and warm beverages provided. A good crowd attended, which must have been gratifying to the Riders of the American Legion, a group with the noble goal of supporting area veterans who chose to sponsor a wholesome event that encouraged children and families to get outdoors and enjoy the lifelong sport of fishing.

The other, sponsored by the New Richmond and Fountain Lake sportsmen's clubs and First Farm, took place on St. Olaf Lake near New Richmond. The crowd there



Waseca County Sheriff Jay Dulles congratulated Abel Heman, 6, after it was announced Abel had won the lifetime fishing license offered at the fishing contest held on St. Olaf Lake near New Richmond on Saturday, Feb. 16.

Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently needed to buy a lifetime fishing license for the lucky winner of a youth prize drawing. An excited young 6-year-old had his hand shaken by County Sheriff Jay Dulles and his picture taken with some of the volunteers helping run the event.

Even two fishing contests "deserved" good weather. It was the two sponsored by these area organizations. It is highly gratifying to me that they had such beautiful weather to carry out their heart-lifting plans.

Second week of Geneva Cancer Auction results

By KATHY PAULSON

The 2026 Geneva Cancer Auction resulted at 7 p.m. Friday night on January 16 at the Geneva Jr. & Co. But before I begin to share information about this weekend, I want to share one more story from the first weekend of the Geneva Cancer Auction.

Eight-year-old Harper Chesney, of Oatona, attended the first weekend of the Cancer Auction along with her parents, Amber and Nate Chesney, and two brothers, Harper's mother, Amber, is currently battling a rare blood cancer, so Amber's mother, Kim Wright, wanted to do what she could to help raise money for cancer research.

Amber donated four tubes of crystals that she had made in the Geneva Cancer Auction. Included in one of the tubes was a picture "This Is Life" and the auctioneer at that time asked Harper if she would walk the picture around the lot so that those in attendance could get a closer

look, and Harper said "Yes." Harper did a great job and helped raise \$125.

The Chesney family were thankful to share how cancer has been affecting their family, as well as very thankful to see so many people who care and are willing to help make a difference in the lives of others during the cancer auction in Geneva. Speaking of others helping to raise money for cancer, I would also like to remind our readers that the Geneva Cancer Auction first began back in 1985, and over the past 42 years a total of \$2,653,000 dollars has been raised from the many different fundraising events held in the Geneva area.

Over the course of the January Cancer auction weekends, the Geneva Cancer Auction displays the amount of money that has been raised from the many different fundraising activities held in the Geneva

Auction continued on 7



A recent Facebook post by the Eagles Cancer Telethon page shared this message: "Whitney Hagen was one of the donors here behind the Geneva Cancer Group. At 93 years old he along with his wife LaVonne have touched the hearts and lives of so many. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and the Geneva Cancer Group."

■ Council

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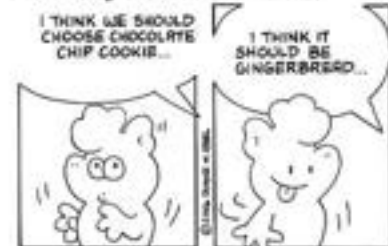
Friday, April 17. This will include a cash bar from George and door prizes, but it needs a signature from Mayor Bailey.

The Twin Lakes Fireman's Relief Association requested a permit

for a meat raffle at George's Bar and Grill.

Dave Schuch, Regional Manager of Southern Minnesota for the Community Economic Development Authority (CEDA), who provides fractionalized economic development services to small communities. He offered his services, such as grant writing, and the council said they would take that under consideration.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



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Compostings

by Al Batt

Wisdom is heavy

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS’ CLUB MEETING
I have the memory of an elephant.
Really?
Yes, I remember seeing an elephant at a fair when I was nine years old.

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS’ CLUB MEETING TOO
Folklore said if a woman saw a robin flying overhead on Valentine’s Day, it meant she would marry a sailor. If she saw a sparrow, she would marry a poor man. If she saw a goldfinch, she would marry a rich person.
That’s utter nonsense.
Don’t you believe in superstitions?
Not even one. Knock on wood.

DRIVING BY BRUCE’S DRIVE
I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. It was a nice day. People noticed. “What a nice day,” they said. Yet the neighborhood was on alert. There’s a belief that nice winter weather means nasty weather is coming. That fostered the opinion that the bitter cold was merely taking a short nap.
All the partakers of my exercise class (it’s rehab therapy) weighed in like boxers before the big fight. Apparently, wisdom is heavy.
Someone had asked me, “What kind of squats do you do in that class?”
“Diddly,” I replied.
The rehab gym installed TVs on its walls. I used a recumbent cross-trainer while watching the Winter Olympics athletes do uncomfortable things.
The Olympics began in 776 B.C. in Olympia, Greece. It was held every four years to honor Zeus, the CEO of the Greek gods. Competitors were naked, and the sole prize for victory was an olive wreath.
I’m not sure what I observed on the TV screen was the genuine Olympics because no one was naked.
I saw aerial ski jumping where skiers launched themselves from a snow ramp like human cannonballs. In the air, they flipped like pancakes, twisted like pretzels, and landed like cats before letting their innards settle.
Then I watched a cross-country ski race, an absurd looking and grueling contest wherein all the participants emerged from one tiny car and attempted to ski uphill while wearing their clown shoes.
The final event of my viewing trifecta was the biathlon, which combined cross-country skiing and firing a .22-caliber rifle. The Summer Olympics biathlon combines shooting pool and sumo

wrestling.
A friend tried a triathlon, which proved he wasn’t good at swimming, cycling or running.
I hoped to snag a gold medal for watching the Olympics while using a NuStep, but we have our own local Winter Olympics. We shuffle along like penguins and are disqualified in the medal competition if we fall on the ice with a thud.
If you’ve remained upright, you are a world-class athlete. Congratulations. See you on the podium.

I’VE LEARNED
If you know who Captain Kangaroo was, your knee hurts.
The one who takes the photos for the menu is not the cook.
I’m renting a time machine next month.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT
I took the airline to court for losing my bags. I lost my case.
If a king sleeps on a king mattress, and a queen sleeps on a queen mattress, what does a prince sleep on? An heir mattress.
My neighbor thinks all politicians should serve two terms—one in office and one in prison.
The woman at the hotel’s desk told me they had no rooms available. I told her my name was “Improvement,” and there’s always room for improvement.
“Do you have any favorite books?”
“Yes, 1984.”
“Wow, that’s a lot of books!”

NATURE NOTES
The DNR reported that the EagleCam pair has been spending more time at the nest, enhancing it by adding grasses and new sticks. This is a sign that they are preparing the nest for egg-laying. Over the coming weeks, you will see more courtship displays between the pair and increasing activity at the nest. In past seasons, EagleCam pairs have laid eggs in mid-February. Watch for an adult sitting in the bowl of the nest and not leaving—that is likely the female and a sign she has laid an egg. Female bald eagles lay one to three eggs over several days and begin incubating the first egg as soon as they lay it. Eagles usually lay their eggs two or three days apart but can lay eggs up to five days apart. The parents share incubation duties. Eagle eggs hatch after 34-39 days of incubation, so if this season follows past years, there should be signs of a chick in the nest as early as mid-March. Check it out at mndnr.gov/eaglecam.

MEETING ADJOURNED
“Kind hearts are the gardens. Kind thoughts are the roots. Kind words are the blossoms. Kind deeds are the fruits.”—Kirpal Singh







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Waldorf considering power generator

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

During their meeting the evening of Monday, Feb. 9, members of the Waldorf city council discussed the possibility of purchasing a generator to supply power to city hall when other sources of electricity become unavailable. On Jan. 21, power was out for the town of Waldorf for about four hours; during that time, the city fire department could not leave the building because the electric door wouldn’t open. That, and since city hall is the emergency management center for the town, prompted the city council’s interest.
Council members learned the eagle statue for the Veterans’ Memorial has not arrived yet. There are \$100 engraved bricks available for the Veterans’ Memorial walkway. Those interested can contact Charles Barnes (763) 286-2246 charles.barnes@barnecat.com.
Council members passed a resolution signing the city of Waldorf on to the Waseca County All-Hazard Mitigation plan, a step needed to be eligible for any Federal Emergency Management Agency reimbursement.
City maintenance inspected three trees within city limits which were regarded as being

potentially hazardous. Only one was determined to be a nuisance and will be taken care of. Dan McGanon’s dead tree was most likely due to construction and does not need to be removed.
Sheriff Dulas requested a map to properly address security during the Waldorf Days musical performance; Waldorf Days will be August 21 to 23 this year. One council member suggested asking for the Sheriff’s posse, which would also help with underage consumption policing and crowd control.
Council members learned the city will now be paying 72.5 cents per mile to those who have approval to use their private vehicles for city business. The rate

is 2.5 cents more than last year, and is based on the recently increased Internal Revenue Service federal reimbursement rate.
The next Park Committee meeting will take place on Thursday, Feb. 19, at 6:30 at the Waldorf community center, everyone is encouraged to join.
Ron Fischer from maintenance reported, “Everything’s been cleaned up” regarding the creamery. He also fixed some loose bolts on some playground equipment council member Missy Sorbo had pointed out.
The water and sewer summary stated nearly \$2,300 in water bills for city residents remained unpaid.

County listening session addresses hunting change

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

A group of about 50 hunting enthusiasts shared their input regarding a change in Minnesota deer hunting regulations for the 2026 season during a “listening session” with county commissioners the evening of Feb. 5.
During the 2025 legislative session, an 84-year-old rule restricting deer hunters to using only shotguns in the southern half of the state was overridden. The law now allows “all legal shotguns and rifles” to be used anywhere in the state—unless an individual county chooses to retain the shotgun-only restriction.
At the time the session was scheduled, commissioners had been told their decision was needed by March 1 if they wanted the county’s status listed in state publications summarizing deer hunting regulations for the 2026 deer season. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) had let it be known its officers would only be enforcing regulations included in that publication.
Only shortly before the Feb. 5 meeting, the DNR extended that

deadline to May 5.
An introductory slide show produced by county administrator Michael Johnson summarized an array of information regarding the long-standing regulation. Although many interpreted the shotgun-only practice to be related to safety because of the firearm’s shorter range, the DNR has released statements that it was related only to “herd management”—that because shotguns are somewhat less accurate, restricting hunting to their use would reduce the number of deer harvested. The DNR has stated it has no objection to the change, since deer populations across the state have reached levels which no longer require protection.
Johnson shared that the DNR did not initiate the new regulations, but that numerous lobbying organizations had approached legislators asking for the change. The DNR, he said, has taken a “neutral stance” when counties have asked for input regarding their local regulations. The department has requested, though,

that counties provide “all or nothing” decisions—either the statewide standard or shotgun only—without any locally selected specifications.
Commissioners pointed out during the meeting that if they issue no local regulation, the county will automatically fall under the statewide rule, and thus “no decision is also a decision.”
During some introductory statements, board chair De Malterer told those in attendance, “We are here tonight to listen and to learn. We know there are many thoughts and feelings surrounding this issue, so we are here to listen to what you have to say.”
Thirteen people shared statements during the one-hour session: all but two indicated support for allowing rifles.
Tony Hanson of Waseca suggested that allowing rifles would be helpful when introducing young hunters to the sport, and in encouraging older hunters to continue since rifles do not have kickback and are not as loud as shotguns. Chad Groskreutz of Vivian Township commented he is in agreement with a change that will encourage youth.

A number of speakers observed that the deer population is apparently rising, leading to more vehicle accidents involving the animals and to related economic costs including repairs and insurance, so harvesting more animals would be beneficial.
One speaker seemed reassured that the statewide law continues to allow shotguns for those who prefer them. Another mentioned that, from the perspective of hunting as a sport, he prefers the extra challenges imposed by shotguns. In referring to the longer range offered by rifles, he stated those hunting on open fields can “sit in a deer stand and have a clear line of sight to any deer within 100 acres.”
Comments from board chair Malterer had made it clear no decision would be made during the meeting, and that “any decision is not based only on information from constituents.” She said the board would continue receiving information from numerous sources and work toward making its decision before the newly announced May 5 deadline.

Ellendale fire hall work on schedule

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

During their meeting the evening of Thursday, Feb. 11, the members of the Ellendale city council approved spending \$8,500 for new, repositionable lockers and \$900 for two new helmets for the city fire department. Construction on the town’s new fire hall is reportedly on schedule; sheet rock is currently being installed. Fire department members also described an upcoming practice exercise, a March 21 controlled house burn near Hope alongside the Bloom-

ing Prairie fire department.
City maintenance leader Josh Otto reported a leak from the well head of the city’s south well would be fixed the following week. Otto was also commended for his assistance in Hollandale; the town had six water main breaks in six days because of a gap in pipe insulation in the water tower which caused major freezing. But Hollandale has since gotten its water back in no small part thanks to Otto.

A city codification violation on Eighth Avenue East is waiting for law enforcement to deliver the complaint. On Sixth Avenue East, a March 5 hearing date has been set.
Wigham Trucking Street Sweeping was approved for \$1,895 for future services this coming summer.
The city arranged for its 2026 audit to be carried out by the law office of Hill, Benda, Skov & Bernau. A resolution was passed accepting donation money from the Ellendale Joint Ambulance for third and fourth quarter 2025

was passed. A new “internal control policy” was passed with the intent of giving the city clerk more flexibility when working with bank payment control. The council accepted a \$100 donation to the fire department from the Reese family, and authorized a donation of money from the Ellendale Fire Relief Association.
Mayor Groth stated he would like to remind every Ellendale business of the Town Hall style meeting set for Monday, March 2, saying, “This is a great way to have your voice heard.”





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Students achieve academic recognition

Winona State University Dean's List for Fall 2025
Violet Blazek, Geneva Parker Bunn, Hartland Matthew Mueller, Ellendale Anna Peterson Torri Vaale, Ellendale

South Dakota State University dean's list
Maia Bartelt of New Richland, College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences
Kia Buendorf of New Richland, College of Education and Human Sciences
Erin Jacobson of New Richland, College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences
Ayla Smith-Holcomb of Waldorf, College of Education and Human Sciences

Ridgewater College Dean's List
Alden Dobberstein, New Richland

Iowa State University Dean's List
Hallie Schultz, Architecture, New Richland

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Dean's List
Rachel Horejsi, Ellendale, College of Arts and Sciences

Alexandria Technical & Community College Dean's List
Elyse Bucholz of Waldorf

Riverland Community College is pleased to announce the 2025 Fall president's and dean's lists:

Ellendale, MN
Holly Bartness, Dean's List
Josephine Bell, Dean's List
Melina Bell, President's List
Madison Bogue, Dean's List
Mariah Christ, Dean's List
Samuel Christensen, Dean's List
Emilee Dalbec, Dean's List
Kaitlyn Dobberstein, President's List
Matthew Greeley, Dean's List
Brody Johnson, Dean's List
Paige Knudson, Dean's List
Tyler Kress, Dean's List
Wyatt Larson, President's List
Tyler Martin, Dean's List

Devon Nelton, President's List
Hannah Parks, President's List
Cody Reistad, President's List
Adalyn Stadheim, Dean's List

Geneva, MN
Jack Bartlett, President's List
Finnegan Baumann, President's List
Kiyah Mikesell, Dean's List
Levi Morstad, President's List

Hartland, MN
Brooks Gilliland, President's List
Jozie Klimmek, Dean's List
Caralee Koopal, President's List

New Richland, MN
Hazel Botten, Dean's List
Meela Budach, Dean's List
Amelia Duryee, President's List
Sierra Fish, Dean's List
Christian Huntington-Cully, Dean's List
Molly Johnson, Dean's List
Alexis Loken, President's List
Ryan Schlaak, Dean's List
Grace Starman, Dean's List
Aspyn Stenzel, President's List

Waldorf, MN
Chloe Stork, President's List
Tatum Thibodeau, Dean's List

University of Minnesota Duluth Announces Dean's List
Ellendale, MN
Sierra Misgen, Education & Human Service Pro, Exercise Rehab Sci.
McKenzie Mueller, Education & Human Service Pro, Exercise Rehab Sci.
Susan Smith, Education & Human Service Pro, Psychology

New Richland, MN
Eden Eads, Col of Arts, Hum & Soc Sci, Pre Studio Ar

St. Olaf College Dean's List
Ellendale, MN
Cora Harpel, English and Creative Writing, Jack and Kari Harpel



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‘Minnesota nice’: snow plow caravan

For a change this column will start out with “Odd’s and End’s” followed by weather related items. Do you know where in Albert Lea you can purchase BaBa Ghannoush?? Try the new grocery store called Aldies.

If you plan on honoring a special valentine person with valentine candy, I suggest “Lindor chocolate truffles candy.”

Genie and I were reminiscing about changes in Albert Lea the last 5 years: for example the tearing down of the Broadway Theater. The moving of the July fourth fireworks.

The various locations of the Albert Lea Chamber of Commerce etc.

This has been a tough winter. The most unusual thing is we don't have much snow on the ground.

In describing the local cold temperature one weatherman said: It was so cold the bird's poop was frozen before it hit the ground!!

During one of the snow storm blizzards a bunch of cars got be-



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

FACT OR FICTION

...you decide

by Bob Hanson, Emeritus

hind a snow plow on I35 North bound. The caravan followed the snow plow into Casey's in Ellendale. The snow plow driver waited for those who wanted to use the bathroom, get food or beverages etc.

The snow plow driver called another snow plow driver headed north. The caravan followed north bound. To me, this was a classic illustration of “Minnesota nice.”

Genie and I had this happen to us in going from Denver Colorado South bound and ending staying in Raton, New Mexico overnight. (We followed the caravan for about 50 miles.) We stayed in one of the last rooms in Raton. (The

National Rifle Association opened their headquarters outside of Raton for stranded motorists.)

An interesting thing was the snow plow driver pulled into a rest stop so those in the caravan could use the facility. (There was a lot of yellow snow as the caravan of about 70 vehicles left!!

Do you know where the capital of catfishing is? Floodwood, Minnesota is the answer per highway signs coming into town.

Apparent;y sasquatch lives in the area because there are lots of life-like signs letting you know to watch out for them. (I compared the signs to the horse and buggy amish signs to remind you of traf-

fic on the road.)

The following was the schedule of two octogenarians on Sunday February first 2026. To nine thirty church coffee hour hosting and cleaning up afterwards leaving church about 11 am. Valentine cards were put on a table for attendees to sign and later mailed just before valentines day.

Home to read the Sunday paper followed by a great nap.

About 3:15 pm to the bremseth benefit at the Moose Club in Albert Lea.

A sightseeing trip to Big Island State Park in Albert Lea. We saw deer, turkeys and one eagle.

Lights out at 11 pm.

And now you know the secret of helping your body to live to be an octogenarian.

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

HERITAGE BITS



In this picture are the members of a class in the School District 86, four miles northeast of Ellendale. Year unknown. First row is Alice Deml (Mrs. Bill Holland), Angeline Olson, Carol Larson (Mrs. Lee Shultz) and Deloris Bedney. Second row is Donald Bedney, Kenneth Alben, Deloris Cress (Mrs. Daisy Wilker), Myrtle Olson and Kenneth Larson. Third row is Richard Jensen, Barbara Webb (Mrs. Joyce Verplank), Irene Kaplan, Robert Bedney, Virginia Webb (Mrs. Robert Busho) and their teacher Bernice Thompson Sorenson. (2/19/26)

Broadband hookups to begin March 1

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

An update presented during the Feb. 3 county board meeting revealed that homeowners will begin being connected to the newly laid internet fiber optic cable network in the southern part of the county beginning March 1; it is expected about eight connections will take place each day, weather permitting, with a total of more than 600 connections to be

made.

A listing of services and prices offered by internet provider Bevcomm is available at Bevcomm.net.

Information was also shared regarding what can be done for people who are relatively near the installation area, but not within it.

Steve Kraus, who served in an advisory capacity as Waseca County applied for and eventually received about \$7.5 million in grants through the state office of

broadband development, summarized the “broadband line extension program” offered by the same department. He explained individuals can apply to have an extension laid to networks within one or two miles of their location. For those whose application is selected, the office of broadband development will cover the cost of the extension up to \$25,000.

Conversation during the summary suggested that property owners are more likely to receive

the extension if a cluster of applications in an area makes it more financially practical to extend the line. Anyone interested in learning more about the line extension program can visit the state office of broadband development website at <https://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/extension/>. The line extension application is also available on the county website.

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NRHEG girls rout Vikings for overall conference crown

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The NRHEG girls' basketball team did more than just shine Saturday night.

The Panthers dominated.

NRHEG captured the outright Gopher Conference championship, mowing down Hayfield 78-35 for their 23rd consecutive victory.

The Panthers started strong and never looked back, hitting a barrage of three-point baskets, taking a 10-0 lead while building it to 41-17 at halftime. They finished the season 13-0 in conference play. The Vikings were never really in the game.

"It was great to see the girls show up strong on a big stage," said Panthers head coach Onika Peterson. "Our defense was solid, along with our rebounding. We hit eight threes in the first half, which set a tempo and allowed us to hop out to a 41-17 lead."

Cameron VanMaldeghem came up big with 40 points and her twin sister, Quinn, again led the team with 11 rebounds.

NRHEG individual totals: Gabby Schlaak 7 points, 4 rebounds, 4 steals, 1 assist; Ezra Boerner 7P, 4R, 4S; Q.VanMaldeghem 7P, 11R, 6S, 5A, 1 blocked shot; Clara Buendorf 9P, 2R, 3S, 2A; Kenley Gehrke 1R; C.VanMaldeghem 40P, 7R, 8S, 3A; Savannah Farr 2P; Chloe Stork 6P, 2R, 1S; Emelia Stadheim 1A.

The Panthers overwhelmed Alden-Conger/Glenville-Emmons 76-29 Friday at Alden. They led 51-9 at halftime, allowing Peterson to substitute freely in the second half.

Individually: Schlaak 18P, 2R, 4S, 1A; Boerner 12P, 3R, 1S, 4A; Q.VanMaldeghem 17R, 8S, 5A; Buendorf 13P, 3R, 1S; Gehrke 1R; C.VanMaldeghem 33P, 7R, 7S, 1A; Farr 1R, 2S; Stork 2R, 2S, 3A; Stadheim 1R.

"We had a lot of kids contributing tonight," said Peterson "We hopped out to a quick first half jump with Schlaak hitting four 3's, Boerner hitting two 3's, Camryn

"It was great so see the girls show up strong on a big stage."
— NRHEG coach Onika Peterson

VanMaldeghem hitting two 3's, and Buendorf having one. The girls were in control the whole game. We shot the ball and rebounded well against a couple of nice sized Alden-Conger kids."

The Panthers took their 21-game winning streak and No. 2 Class AA state ranking to St. Clair last Tuesday and came home with a 79-49 victory.

NRHEG led 38-27 at halftime.

"It was a great team win," said Coach Peterson. "We had a lot of kids contributing tonight on the offense side of the ball. Defensively we were solid. We adjusted to where their shooters were, and were big on the boards. The season is starting to dwindle down."

Camryn VanMaldeghem had a big game with 32 points while Quinn VanMaldeghem pulled down an impressive 19 rebounds.

Individually for the Panthers: Schlaak 8P, 3R, 2S, 2A; Boerner 7P, 1R, 1S; Q.VanMaldeghem 11P, 19R, 4A, 4S; Buendorf 5P, 4R, 3S, 2A; C.VanMaldeghem 32P, 8R, 5A; Farr 2R; Stork 14P, 7R, 1S, 1A; Stadheim 2P, 1A; Aubrey Hendrickson 1S.

"We seed this weekend," said Coach Peterson. "Playoffs are just around the corner, and we host Sleepy Eye St. Mary's on Thursday, Feb. 19. It will be another fun test to see how our team competes against a great St. Mary's team."The Panthers overwhelmed Alden-Conger/Glenville-Emmons 76-29 Friday at Alden. They led 51-9 at halftime, allowing Peterson to substitute freely in the second half.

Individually: Schlaak 18P, 2R, 4S,



SEASON SWEEP — The NRHEG girls' basketball team overwhelmed Hayfield 78-35 at New Richland Saturday to claim the outright Gopher Conference championship. Above, the Panthers' Quinn VanMaldeghem (4) passes the ball in transition while Hayfield's Kalei Tank (12) give chase. The Panthers' Ezra Boerner (2) trails the play. Below left, the Panthers' Gabby Schlaak takes it to the hoop. Below right, Camryn VanMaldeghem sets up for a three-point shot.

Photos by Jim Lutgens



1A; Boerner 12P, 3R, 1S, 4A; Q.VanMaldeghem 17R, 8S, 5A; Buendorf 13P, 3R, 1S; Kenley Gehrke 1R; C.VanMaldeghem 33P, 7R, 7S, 1A; Savannah Farr 1R, 2S; Stork 2R, 2S, 3A; Stadheim 1R.

"We had a lot of kids contributing tonight," said Peterson "We hopped out to a quick first half jump with Gabby Schlaak hitting four 3's, Ezra Boerner hitting two 3's, Camryn VanMaldeghem hitting two 3's, and Clara Buendorf having 1. The girls

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1R, 1S; Q.VanMaldeghem 11P, 19R, 4A, 4S; Buendorf 5P, 4R, 3S, 2A; C.VanMaldeghem 32P, 8R, 5A; Farr 2R; Stork 14P, 7R, 1S, 1A; Emelia Stadheim 2P, 1A; Aubrey Hendrickson 1S.

The Panthers face Sleepy-Eye St. Mary's at 7 tonight in New Richland.

The section tournament starts Feb. 23.



NON-CONFERENCE TRIUMPH — At left, , Brock Holland of the NRHEG boys' basketball team drives to the hoop during Friday's big 94-51 victory over Alden Conger. In the middle, the Panthers' Brooks Gilliland dribbles in the lane. At right, NRHEG's Fynn Baumann goes up for two.

Photos by Jim Lutgens



NRHEG boys' basketball team wins 1 of 3

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The Panthers hosted Alden-Conger/Glenville-Emmons Friday in a section matchup and won going away, 94-51.

After a somewhat slow start, as the NRHEG boys tried to find their groove, the visitors managed to keep it close as the Panthers started to score some points and settled in to a 37-28 haltime lead.

"We talked about some defensive adjustments at the half," explained Coach Schmidt. "And the boys set a goal to keep the Knights under 50

for the night."

The Panthers came out on fire in the second half, and they raced to 57 second-half points.

"I couldn't be more heppy with the way the guys played on both ends of the court," said Schmidt, who was pleased with his team's effort.

Five NRHEG scorers reached double figures and grabbed six or more rebounds.

"The guys did a tremendous job attacking the basket," said Schmidt. Gilliland led the way with 19 points, six rebounds and five assists. "He did a great job taking over in

the second half and getting layups whenever he wanted," said Schmidt.

Olson had another big night, knocking down 17 points (including three 3-pointers). Nissen started slowly but ended with 16 points and 5 assists.

Holland came off the bench to add 13 points and 9 rebounds. Brendan Schmidt had a good all-around game with 10 points, 7 rebounds, 3 assists, and 3 steals and a block.

A.J. Deen and Reid Sandry each chipped in 6 points, with A.J. grabbing another 9 rebounds. Fynn Baumann added 5 points, and did a great job on the defensive end again. Sean Lassahn

rounded out the scoring with 2 points.

Individual totals: A.J.Deen 6P, 9R, 1A, 1B; Olson 17P, 1R, 2S; Nissen 16P, 3R, 5A, 3S; Gilliland 19P, 6R, 4A, 1S; Baumann - 5 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist; B.Schmidt 10P, 7R, 3A, 3S, 1B; David Deen 1R; Holland 13P, 9R, 2A, 1S; Reid Sandry 6P, 2R; Lassahn 2P, 2R; Levi Whiteside 1A.

The Panthers started the week Tuesday at a strong 17-3 Madelia team and lost 107-66.

"We took on a very good Blackhawks team that is currently third in our section," said Coach

Schmidt.

Led by an extremely talented sophomore guard and a 6-foot-7 center, Madelia made things tough - especially on their home court.

"Both those guys create matchup nightmares, and this game was no exception," said Schmidt.

The Panthers also hurt themselves with turnovers on an otherwise good offensive night.

Defense was tougher.

"We had zero answers to anything they did," said Schmidt, whose team played in a tough environment on Madelia's Senior Night.

Nissen led the Panthers with 14

points, with Olson netting 14, A.J. Deen and Lassahn eight each. Gilliland added seven.

NRHEG totals: A.J.Deen 8P, 2R, 2A; Olson 13P, 1R, 1A; Nissen 14P, 2R, 4A, 1S; Gilliland 7P, 2R, 1A, 1S; Baumann 4P, 1R, 1S; B.Schmidt 1R, 5A, 2S; Holland 4P, 6R, 2A; Lassahn 8P, 1A; Whiteside 3P, 3R, 2A; David Deen 3P; Sandry 1R; Jewison 2P, 1R, 1A, 1S.

The Panthers play Friday at 7 p.m. at Waterville-Elysian-Morristown.

LOOKING BACK

25 years ago



- This New Richmond-Richland-Chandele-Genova Knowledge Bowl team earned first place out of 53 teams at the 19th Annual Blue Earth Area Biennial Invitational last week. Members of the team are pictured here from the left: Grant, Paul Doyle, sister, Megan Tapp, Darren Howell and Matt Xavier. A Fairmont team was second and Blue Earth Area finished in third place. The Knowledge Bowl Coach at NRHIE is Mary Kink.

- Army National Guard Pvt. James Branch has graduated from basic infantry training at Fort Benning, Columbus, Georgia. Air Force Airman 1st Class Mandy Hancock has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

- One of the most exciting games that any New Richmond-Richland-Chandele-Genova athletic team has played this year was the girls' basketball game 29-31 win in the contest with Waverly-Elyton - Meritown Monday night here.

50 years ago



- Working-Working-Working, but not to relax like Grandma does but to make money for the New Richmond recreation field and FHA activities, it turned out better than expected, when their efforts brought in \$1,500.48.

- Edward C. Frederick, Ph.D., at the University of Minnesota Council for Coordinating Education in Agriculture.

- Randy Meyer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Meyer, New Richmond, was named to the Honors List for fall quarter at Golden Valley Lutheran College. To be on the Honors List a student must have a scholastic grade point average between 3.0 and 3.49, which means not less than a B average.

75 years ago

- Patricia Jean Quam, weighing 15 pounds and 2 1/2 yrs. arrived at 5:14 a.m. Monday, March 12 at the Memorial Hospital, Waseca. She will make her home with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Quam, northeast of New Richmond. She is their first child.

- Cemetery operators of District No. 8, Land O' Lakes Cemetery, Inc., won the Veterans Trophy for the second consecutive year at the 75th annual meeting of Land O' Lakes Cemetery, Inc., Minneapolis, held March 7-9.

Ag Summit

By AL BART

It was the 26th Annual Ag Summit that took place at Wedgwood Cove in Albert Lea on Feb. 5.

The audience comprised people who had been blood brothers at blood sisters with a firm implement after a wrench had hit its grip, resulting in skinned knuckles for the rest.

Why do farmers attend meetings? Here are six essentials:

1. To network with peers and to socialize with other producers and experts.
2. To learn.
3. To improve profitability.
4. To solve a problem.

The meeting is held in the winter to avoid planting and harvesting times, and the meeting is at a pleasant location with ample and easy parking.

6. A meal is served.

How did the Ag Summit do on these requirements? As my late friend Lynn Lee would answer, "One hundred percent."

A continental breakfast started the day followed by the introduction of Tom Senneker, CFC, AFIS, CFAA, Agency Director of American Insurance Group. Tom's presentation was "American Insurance Product Statistics, Trends, & Averages: A look at American Insurance Group from a whole." In 2023, Tom was named Minnesota Agent of the Year by the Big 5, a professional trade association for independent insurance agents. That's a big deal from the Big 5.

The statistics Tom highlighted were based on the Group's business and showed the 10-Year APH (Actual Production History) is 201.35 bushels per acre for corn and 56 bushels per acre for soybeans. The trends indicated that farmers receive a higher price every one of two years when they sell the crop right out of the field.

Liz Ludwig from the Freshman County FFA (Farm Service Agency) offers gave an informative talk on various deadlines that are looming. Deadlines are always looming.

Pauline Van Norden, the Associate Director Economic Center for Farm Financial Management at the University of Minnesota presented "From Field to Finance: Navigating Farm Finances and Crop Production Costs." She said farm profitability is based on: Production, marketing, cost control, capital management, a willingness to change, and it is about base line, not home run. The bottom line is as to why some farmers are more profitable than others is that small improvements equal profit gains. Minnesota is projected to see a decline in net farm income in 2024.

"Business & Farm Extension: Why and what type of entity should a farmer consider if any?" was the



The Annual Ag Summit took place at Wedgwood Cove in Albert Lea on Feb. 5. It included presentations, breakfast, and a gathering of farmers. Star Eagle photo by Dale Steffy.

Group & Member of American Insurance Group Financial Partnership Group presented "Land as Your Legacy: What do you start when it comes to planning the future of your farm?"

This information which needed to be discussed, on a limited basis, presentation. One can't be too precise at one time. I remember when my mother told me that. It was a painful thing to hear at the tender age of 27 years. She should have waited until I was more mature before telling me.

I know from experience that I have done a wonderful job of explaining how a transition plan helps. It preserves a family's legacy. It provides an orderly transition of ownership and management. It provides financial basics. It turns illiquid assets into cash for taxes and expenses. It preserves the value created by a farm. It is imperative that important family conversations about the future of a farm are initiated. These questions need to be answered and discussed with family members to get a sense of what steps to take for a successful transition.

There were a proper number of breaks. Any Ag Summit worth its salt knows the importance of properly timed breaks that include refreshments. Without suitable breaks, 10 minutes can seem like 10 hours.

It was a treat for me to be involved with such a fine day spent in the company of my folks. I have a great job.

No two years are the same. No two days are the same. Perhaps 2026 will be the year that the weather will be perfect in every way.

Even if it is not, I know the farmers will carry on.

After lunch, Julie Hancock, CLU, ChFC, CLTC, Beneficial Advisor for South Insurance

Identify Frosty for a share of \$1,500

It's time again for the annual Waseca Slough and Center Identify Frosty event. Continue reading for week two's clues.

Who is Frosty?

Identify Frosty and win some cash! Prize money totaling \$1,500.00 is waiting to be won.

Frosty is a Waseca County resident chosen to be an ambassador for the Waseca Slough & Center Festival. Follow the clues and guess FROSTY's name.

The grand prize is \$100.00. If you are at the official unmasking at the Waseca VFW @ 8:30 p.m., on Friday, Feb. 27, 2026, you will win an additional \$50.00. The first four guesses from Janesville, New Richmond and Waseca will be \$150.00, and if you are at the unmasking,

you will win an additional \$50.00. Only five names will be drawn for \$150 - attendance at the unmasking is not necessary.

Contest rules/Chairs are published by the Waseca County Pioneer, NRHIE Star Eagle, Facebook, and Waseca County News, Waseca Chamber of Commerce, KOMZKRUE radio, Waseca Slough & Center Festival.

2. One guess allowed each week.
3. Each entry must have name and complete address of person making the guess. Entries without complete information are not valid.
4. Entries must live in Waseca County and be over 18 years of age.
5. If there are multiple correct

guesses, a drawing will be made to determine the winner.

6. If there are no correct guesses, a drawing will be made from all entries received.

7. Entries must be received before 3:00 p.m. February 27, 2026.
8. Submit entries to:
a. WASECA: Submit entry at Waseca Manor, 111 South Street, Waseca, MN 56093, or via mail.
b. JANESVILLE: Mail or drop off at Waseca Manor; mark your entry as Janesville.
c. NEW RICHLAND: Drop off at NRHIE STAR EAGLE NEWS; or mail to Waseca Manor - mark your entry as New Richmond.

Frosty sponsors: (Waseca - Brad Connors; Domino's; LaBash Place; Medicines; Lake Shore Inn; and

Xcel Energy. Please thank these sponsors for supporting the 26th Annual Frosty Contest!

Friday: Week 3 Clue
The tradition has been found But Frosty clues continue Who have you determined? The guess is within you

With the MV heat wave
Frosty may have been around Sloughing in the sun or possibly Judging sweeping the frozen ground

Nights and Weekends can be spent
here or there, cheering on plays Watching grandchildhood on the air and mat Reliving their glory days

Auction

from Page 2

area over the course of the year which are then included in the grand total. This includes the Mini Auction in April, which raised \$2,399. The Wild Game Food which raised \$29,000. The Purple Bingo event, \$7,434. The Pancake Breakfast raised \$2,137. The Geneva Cancer Golf event is \$2,400. The Youth & Ranch Rodeo event, plus two additional donations raised over \$10,000. The "Pill of Best" raised \$9,500. The Babana Hair Cutting Event raised \$1,490. The Geneva Cancer Auction Raffle raised \$4,000.

It was interesting to note that a total of 2,860 tickets were sold for the 2026 Geneva Cancer Raffle this year and before the winners

names were announced at 8:00 on Saturday night all of the tickets had been sold. As well as from the two weekends of Cancer Auctions in January.

A separate figure for the amount of money raised from the auction is not available because the amount raised from the many fundraisers held during the year, as well as all the donations that are received during the Geneva Cancer Auction, as well as the raffle that takes place.

The Geneva Cancer Committee did present a total of \$115,000 to the 2026 Eagles Cancer Telethon in January this year.

Also on display was money donated to the memory of Mary Elmer - \$1,250. from the LaVoy Elmer Family. Warren Torgerson - \$100, from his wife, Steve Albrecht - \$100. from Linda Lindon. Larry Hagen - \$30. from Fred & Sandy Anderson.

As well as from local businesses

and groups including: Maple Island Park Association - \$5,000 from the sale of "Pill Tale" in Geneva over the past year. The Senior Court Social, which is where Whitney & La June Hagen now live, raised \$100.

NRHIE Student Council - \$185. Megan Auto Parts, \$200. Glenville American Legion Post 254, \$1,500. Wincham Sport Bar & Grill, \$1,000. Albert Lea Moose Club, \$1,000.

Along these lines, I would like to remind our readers that all of these events take a great number of people who work before, during, and after the events to be able to donate that amount of money for Cancer Research. Included in that list of people is the Geneva Cancer Auction Committee who help make the Cancer Auction so successful, which goes on to help a great number of other people who have had to fight cancer in their lives.

The Geneva Cancer Auction Committee includes: Whitney and Leanne Hagen, Greg Hagen, Keith & Ruth Hagen, Janis and Tim Hagen, Brian Hagen Lemus, Brenna Hagen Torgerson, Beth Kochenberger, Judy Christensen, Vicki Mangers, Chelsea Hanson, Brandon & Tessa Enstrom, Diane Wilfert, Kathy Weisbach, Karen Quam, Joann Quam, Kate Quam and they are thankful for all the support that

is given to the many different events held over the course of the year to raise money.

There are also people who are not on the committee that help make the auction the success that it is. Those are the people who pick up donations before the auction is held, the auctioneers that volunteer their time, all the people, business and organizations that bring in donations for the auction, as well as the many great people who attend the auction and purchase the many great items up for bid. I guess that old adage, "It Takes a Village" is most certainly true of our town of Geneva, and the surrounding areas.

The 2026 Geneva Cancer Auction is a total of 26 items, or groups of items, in January but they did not get to every item that had been put up for bid or even again a Mini Cancer Auction will be held. The 2026 Mini Cancer Auction will be on March 28th, starting at noon, which is a week before Easter this year, instead of the first Saturday in April, as it has been in years past.

The annual pancake breakfast will be held at the Geneva Bar & Grill on Sunday, March 29th from 8:00 am and it is hoped that the great people of our area will put their events on their calendar and will turn out to support these upcoming fundraisers.

Sweetheart Bingo

Feb. 21st @ 7:00 p.m.

at the New Richmond City Hall

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

125 for 25 games plus a blackout game.

Cash prizes for each game and raffle drawings between games.

Hosted by New Richmond Ambulance

Responsible for all costs including refreshments.

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Are you in?!



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Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl
Outdoors Writer

Reflections on growing older

When I think back at the years that brought me to the present time, I am grateful that I have reached the age of 80. It is not without a few scares and some health concerns, but here I am. I try to appreciate what I have; my two sons, and daughters-in-law, my grandkids, their significant others and my great grandkids. They make up a great family that I am oh so very proud of. My family makes me so very, very proud.

I plan on spending more time at the cabin this coming summer. I will be enjoying nature and the surrounding area's many critters, birds and the beauty of the forest that surrounds me. It can be as simple as a ray of sunlight peeking through the trees, or the smell of the pine trees in the surrounding forest.

I plan on doing some more fishing this year. Fishing with my sons, granddaughters and grandsons is always special to me. In looking back over the years, I have

been truly blessed to have had the opportunity to spend so much time outdoors with my grandkids. The excitement that they expressed when catching a fish and having them run up the hill from the lake beaming with excitement when showing me their latest catch.

When it came time to clean the fish they all wanted to help. The day that I let them clean their first fish made me very proud. The first attempt isn't always perfect, but a little positive reinforcement goes a long way to keep them wanting to try again.

When it came to cleaning north-erns they asked if I would clean them because AI knew how to get the bones out. This was one time when they were probably out-smarting grandpa by getting me to clean those fish. I didn't mind, and eventually they wanted to learn how to do it. Grandsons Trevor and Dylan were determined to take the bones out while Taylor and Grant were satisfied with hav- ing grandpa do it.



The important part is that they were interested in fishing and I taught them the value of not wast- ing what nature has given us. I know that all four of my grand- sons have a great appreciation of nature. These young men will be carrying on for the future gener- ations.

Until next time: We should al- ways do our best to teach our youth the appreciation of the out- doors. Fishing and hunting are part of our heritage, and our youth are the future of preserving the out- doors. Taking a kid fishing or hunting is a great way to pass it on.

Please take the time to re- member our troops that are serv- ing now and those that have served before them. They are the reason that we have all of the Freedoms that we enjoy today.



Attend the Church of your Choice!

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship
Wednesday - 5:15 p.m. Supper; 6 p.m. Bible Study

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Otisco, Minnesota
Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Mary Iverson
Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Wor-ship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee
Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting
Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confir- mation; 7 p.m. Council meeting (first Wednesday)

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

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

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

CROSS OF GLORY LUTHERAN
Hartland, Minnesota
Rev. Marcia Pedersen
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship
Tuesday - Council meeting

(First Tuesday)
WEST FREEBORN LUTHERAN
Hartland, Minnesota
Rev. Marcia Pedersen
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship
Monday - Council meeting (First Monday of the month)
Friday - Quilting meets 9:00 a.m. twice a month, see news- letter for dates.

HARTLAND EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
Hartland, Minnesota
Pastor Phillip K. Lepak
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship

MANCHESTER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
Manchester, Minnesota
Pastor Phillip K. Lepak
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Father Glenn Frerichs
Friday - 10 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays p.m. Mass
Sunday - Mass at 8 a.m.

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN
Geneva, Minnesota
Pastor Leandra Anderson
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship (times very for holidays)
Monday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting

SIMPLY CHURCH
105 Second Street North East
Geneva, Minnesota
Todd Lundgren, Pastor
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Bible Study; 10:30 a.m. Worship

VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH
Ellendale, Minnesota
Pastor David Modder
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 10 a.m. Kids church
Check the website for additional updates
www.vibrantlifeag.com

FIRST LUTHERAN, AFLC
Ellendale, Minnesota
Pastor Kyle Smith
Saturday - 8 a.m. Men's Bible Study
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship
Monday - 7 p.m. Call to prayer
Wednesday - 9:30 a.m. Bible Study; 6 p.m. Confirmation; 7-9 p.m. Youth Group (No confir- mation during summer)

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

CENTRAL FREEBORN LU- THERAN CHURCH
Pastor Matt Griggs
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship
FM Transmitter is used for those wanting to listen through their car radios at FM 90.7

EAST FREEBORN LUTHERAN
Pastor Matt Griggs
Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship
FM Transmitter is used for those wanting to listen through their car radios at FM 89.3

FAMILY OF FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH
Hollandale, Minnesota
Rev. Neal Ooms
Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship; 9:20 Worship and kids church (now an eagle brook viewing church)

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

FAMILY OF FAITH COM- MUNITY CHURCH
Rev. Neal Ooms
101 East Park Avenue
Hollandale, Minnesota
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Worship; 10:45 a.m. Sunday School

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTI- FICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CON- GREGATION TO THE STAR EAGLE.



Here are some pictures of my grandsons, Dylan, Trevor, Grant and Taylor eating by the campfire. Another is of Trevor teaching Dylan and Taylor how to clean fish. There is also a picture of young Trevor and Taylor showing off a nice catch from our lake, and also a picture of Trevor holding the first perch that he caught in our lake. He earned \$5 from Grandpa for the fish. He cleaned the fish after the picture was taken.

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE SALE

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

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

DATE OF MORTGAGE: October 14,
2022

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF
MORTGAGE: \$205,623.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Colton C. Eustice, a
married man

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

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING:
Recorded on February 8, 2023 as
Document Number A332886 in the
Office of the County Recorder of
Waseca County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE:
Assigned to: Amerihome Mortgage
Company, LLC by assignment recorded
on April 25, 2024 as Document Number
A336738 in the Office of the County
Recorder of Waseca County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF
PROPERTY: The North One Half of
Lots (11) and Twelve (12), Block Nine
(9), First Addition to the Village, now
City of Waseca, Minnesota, according
to the map or plat thereof on file and of
record in the office of the Register of
Deeds in and for Waseca County,
Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY:
201 6TH ST SE, WASECA, MN 56093

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

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE
DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE
DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$233,270.73

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage
Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

NAME OF MORTGAGE
ORIGINATOR: American Portfolio
Mortgage Corporation

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER:
Amerihome Mortgage Company, LLC

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION
NUMBER: 17.276.1140

TRANSACTION AGENT'S
MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION
NUMBER: 1003336-0000078258-4

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

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

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: April 23,
2026 at 10:00 AM.

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

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

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE
PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is
reinstated or the property redeemed, or
unless the time for redemption is
reduced by judicial order, you must
vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on
October 23, 2026.

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

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

Dated: February 12, 2026

AMERIHOME MORTGAGE
COMPANY, LLC
Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.

By: /s/
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Alexa Marsh, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(25-1337-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION
FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.
Published in the NRHEG Star Eagle
on Feb. 19, 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26

OTISCO TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING,
ELECTION OF OFFICERS & BOARD OF CANVASS MEETING

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Otisco Township,
County of Waseca, State of Minnesota, that the Annual Election of
Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday,
March 10, 2026. The Annual Meeting will commence at 8:00pm to
conduct all necessary business prescribed by law. In case of inclement
weather, the meeting and election may be postponed until the third
Tuesday in March.

The Election Polls will be open from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm at which time
the voters will elect:

One Supervisor – term of three years

One Clerk – term of 2 years

The Annual Election and Meeting will be held at:

Otisco Township
Otisco, MN, 56093

The Board of Canvass will meet at 8:00pm to certify the official Election
results.

Jenae Peterson
Otisco Town Clerk

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ST. MARY TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING,
ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND

ELECTINO OF OFFICERS

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of St. Mary
Township, County of Waseca, State of Minnesota that the
Annual Election of Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be
held on Tuesday March 10th, 2026. The Annual Meeting will
commence at 8:05 p.m. to conduct all necessary business
prescribed by law.

In case of inclement weather, the meeting and election will be
postponed to the third Tuesday of March.

The election poll hours will be from 5 p.m. until 8p.m., at which
time the voters will elect:

One Supervisor - three-year term

One Clerk - two-year term

The Annual Election and Meeting will be held at St. Mary Town
Hall

Art Byron

Clerk, St. Mary Township

NEW RICHLAND TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING,
ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND
BOARD OF CANVAS METTING

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of New Richland
Township, County of Waseca, State of Minnesota that the
Annual Election of Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be
held on Tuesday March 10th, 2026. In case of inclement
weather, the meeting and election will be postponed to the
third Tuesday of March.

The election poll hours will be from 5pm until 8pm., at which
time the voters will elect:

One Supervisor for a three-year term

One Clerk for a two-year term

The Board of Canvas will meet at 8:05pm to certify the official
results.

The Annual Meeting will begin at 8:15pm

Rob Hutchens, Clerk

New Richland Township

Got news?
507-463-8112



203 N. Broadway Ave - PO Box 57
New Richland, Minnesota 56072
Tel (507) 465-3514 - Fax (507) 465-3375
www.newrichlandmn.gov

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of New
Richland, Minnesota, will hold a public hearing on: February 23, 2026 at 5:30 P.M., at New
Richland City Hall Council Chambers, 203 N Broadway Ave, New Richland, MN 56072.

Purpose of Hearing:

To consider a request for **rezoning** of the following described property: 213 N Broadway
Ave, New Richland, MN 56072, and the city-owned parcel of land behind said property,
running along the railroad tracks. **Parcel Number(s):** 151000300 + 151000260

Current Zoning: C2 (151000300) + R1 (151000260)

Proposed Zoning: C1

Legal Description: Available at City Hall

Applicant: Michael and Jessica Nash

All interested persons are invited to attend and be heard. Written comments may be
submitted prior to the hearing to:

City Administrator, Tyler T Lendt, at New Richland City Hall

Additional Information:

A copy of the application and supporting documents are available for public inspection at
City Hall during regular business hours.

Dated this February 11, 2026

Tyler T Lendt
City Administrator

Published in the NRHEG Star Eagle on February 19, 2026

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507-465-8000

Sportsmen's Club Fishing Contest Feb. 14



New Richland Area Sportsmen's Club member Jerry Riberson looks on as Cooper Danberry, 12, (back) from Janesville and brothers Huston, 7, (center) and Greyson Hagen, 5, of New Richland, have a look at some of the prizes offered to children under 15 during the St. Olaf Lake fishing contest.



Trent Thurnau with the first-place fish from the New Richland Sportsmen's Club ice fishing contest on Feb. 14. This northern was 30.5 inches long. (Submitted photo)



Abel Hernandez, 5, from Blooming Prairie, was the winner of the Shiloh fishing license, worth more than \$400. Abel is pictured here with Sportsmen's Club members Dave Dunnette and Jerry Riberson. Money for the prize was donated by New Richland Liquor and its customers. The large drawing of the fish has the names of individuals who donated \$25 each toward the prize.



The three largest fish caught during the contest were a 30-inch northern pike caught by Trent Thurnau (left) of Owatonna; a 12.1 ounce bass caught by Alexander Talbert (center); and an 11.6 ounce bass caught by Alexis Wolters. First place received \$500; second place \$350; and third place \$200. Money for the prizes was donated by Owatonna Motors.



Leon Luna, 10, of Owatonna, shows off the ice fishing pole he received as one of the prizes given to children 15 and under who attended Saturday's ice fishing contest.



Elliot Ranzberger, 3, and Alex LaBarron came from Austin to take part in the fishing contest.



Calden Jensen, 5, and his dad Brandon, from Medford, waited to see what luck would bring them during the ice fishing contest.



Aiden Ulrich, 6, of Owatonna was warm enough—at least for a while—without boots. The sun was shining and the temperature was in the 50s, for an unusual day of fishing in February.

Star Eagle photos by Deb Beatty



Dude, a poodle, enjoyed his time on the ice with Kristi O'Brien and Jason Anderson.



Tatum Stieglbauer, age 3, found the conditions on the ice ideal for his toy truck.

New Richland Area Sportsmen's Club

Fish Fry for Trees

Free Will Offering
New Richland City Hall
Friday, Feb. 27, 5 p.m. until gone
Takeouts welcome

Funds raised will support replacing
dying trees at St. Olaf Lake Park:
23 have already been removed.

Trees can be donated in honor of loved ones or special accomplishments.
Find out more at the fish fry, or by calling 507-475-1444.

