

0487932616

■ Inside:

• 2 - Deb Bently

• 3 - Fields of Faith

• 4 - Potluck dinner

• 5 - Bob Hanson

• 6 - Sports

• 7 - Commissioners

• 10 - Fire safety

■ Page 12

Fire Safety

**Craft Your Own Spellbook at the New Richland Public Library Oct. 16**

Teenagers are welcome to craft their own spellbook at the New Richland Public Library at 2 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 16. Bring a unique spellbook to life, incorporating spooky designs with enchanting craft material. Supplies provided.

**Pajama Story Time at New Richland Public Library Monday, Oct. 20**

Get ready for bedtime with cozy stories, crafts, and activities at New Richland Public Library at 5:30 p.m. Monday, October 20. Kids are encouraged to wear their pajamas. This free event is geared for ages 0-5.

**Waseca Area Caregiver Services Educational Session Tuesday, Oct. 21**

Waseca Area Caregiver Services (WACS) will hold an educational session from 10-11 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 21. Keynote speakers include Pharmacist Dale Rudolf and WACS Executive Director Kelly Boeddeker for a discussion on Understanding Health vs. Wellness vs. Wellbeing as we age.

**New Richland American Legion Auxiliary meeting on Thursday, Oct. 23**

The New Richland American Legion Auxiliary will have their October meeting on Thursday, October 23 at 5:30 p.m. in the New Richland Public Library.

**Farm and City Days for 2026**

The Farm and City Days dates for 2026 are July 17, 18, and 19.

**CredibleMind offers free mental health resources**

All area residents are eligible to use free online access to mental health resources available at MNPrarie’s “Credible-Mind” website. The site offers interactive, evidence-based ways to explore local and national mental well-being resources. Free and anonymous at [www.mnprairie.crediblemind.com](http://www.mnprairie.crediblemind.com)

**Shepherd’s Robe Free store Tuesdays from 1-3 and 5-7 p.m.**

The Shepherd’s Robe free store offers clothing, supplies, and much more for free to all interested parties. The store is located at Vista Covenant Church, 14679 275th Avenue, New Richland.

A word from The Word

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

Isaiah 43:2



Tyler Lendt

# Lendt accepts city manager position

By DEB BENTLY  
Staff Writer

Tyler Lendt, currently the assistant county veterans service officer with Mower County, has accepted the position as New Richland’s city administrator after being offered the position last week.

According to Mike Humpal of the Southern Minnesota Service Cooperative (SMSC), who assisted city staff with the recruitment and interview process, it is likely to be mid- to late November before Lendt will be on staff, since he will need to follow the resignation process with Mower County.

A short biography shared with the Star Eagle summarizes that Lendt also served as the deputy auditor/treasurer for Mower County. He holds a bachelor’s degree in transportation and logistics management and is currently seeking a master’s degree in public administration. Lendt is a U.S. Army veteran who describes himself as bringing a passion for service, organizational development, and process improvement. In addition to his work with Mower County, he has managed large-scale infrastructure projects in the private sector.

During an interview last week, Lendt shared that he is married and has two young daughters ages 1 and 3. He told of having spoken with Tony Martens, former city administrator, saying Martens’ commented about the

character of the town’s citizens and the quality of New Richland’s city personnel. Lendt is excited at the prospect of “building a work family” in the leadership role. He said he believes in “conscious and conscientious leadership.”

“I know I don’t have all the answers,” he said of the challenges the city is facing, “but I look forward to building an atmosphere of teamwork that allows people to contribute their knowledge and expertise.” He mentioned the master’s program he is currently pursuing includes a specific course in grant writing which he is taking to “plug a hole” in his background knowledge for the position.

“There are some major tasks ahead,” Lendt acknowledged. “It’s going to take some difficult conversations to decide on the best process for overcoming those challenges.

“That’s why I believe in building partnerships where people can enjoy making contributions and excel.”

Also among the finalists for the position were Joseph Darter, property manager with the city of Bloomington, Illinois; Nicholas Devens, supervisor of child protection, licensing and intake with Nicollet County, and Jennifer Mocol-Johnson, water and and natural resources manager with Young Environmental Consulting Group of Brooklyn Center.



**RUNNING IN COLOR - The Color Run fundraiser for the Ellendale Inclusive Playground was a huge success — beautiful weather, big smiles, and community spirit. Event organizers express their thanks to all participants and for the support of the inclusive playground. Right, Quinn Vanmaldeghe was the first place winner at the Ellendale Color Run fundraiser on Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025.**



Star Eagle photo by Ben Revermann

# Ellendale Color Run, rainbows everywhere

By BEN REVERMANN  
Staff writer

About 170 people took part in the second annual NRHEG One Mile Color Run, Walk or Stroll which set out from behind the Ellendale elementary building on Saturday, Oct. 11. This fundraiser was for the school’s inclusive playground, which is currently entering phase three in its completion. There were vendors, police, fire and ambulance. So far \$82,000 has been raised and spent. Donations were also being accepted. There was no timing or timers, just first, second and third place with a variety of messy colors on kids. First place was Quinn Vanmaldeghe; second place was Colton Lermon and third place was Collin Misgen. Go

Panthers!!!

Wendy Schultz was the organizer for the run. “Phase one was the ordering of the equipment. Phase two was the installation of what we had. Phase three will finish everything up with the installation of the final piece and whatever ground cover we pick. The Sway Fun Glider is a wheelchair accessory. After that’s installed we’ll just have to settle on either wood chips, or those rubber pieces you get from tires, or we can do a flat rubber surface.” MoeGeo’s Events and Catering was nearby, selling food to those who were hungry; so was the Sassy Soda Co., selling mixed soda-like drinks. There was a line 10 deep for face painting, \$2 for a session with all proceeds going to the play-

ground. Mayor Routh of Hartland was there enjoying a Sassy Soda, “I think this is the cookies and cream one. Tastes better than I thought it would,” he observed.

Volunteer Jean Greenwood was headed to her station at Eighth Avenue. She explained she was station one and would be coating participants in blue. At four other stations along the route, four additional colors would be shared. “When everyone walks past, they get this powder thrown on them,” she explained. “When they get to the end, it’s a colorful nightmare. The kids really seem to enjoy it.”

Three high-schoolers were at the starting line ready to lead the pack. Freshman Colton Lermon said, “I’m here to lead, so no one in

the crowd gets lost. Besides that I want everyone to have fun and I really like it when people support cross country and track and field and there’s cheering.” Next to him was eighth-grader and schoolmate Violette Botten. She said, “I try to train until the end of cross country; the color run lines up perfectly with the end of the season.” Seventh-grader Josie Tufte was also ready to help lead the pack. She said, “It’s a good thing to help people, this is a fun thing, I’m glad so many people showed up.” Once the race was run, the vendors started packing up and people started heading home with one parent telling her two children, “Take off your shirts before you get in the car.”

# Fourth annual Fields of Faith

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

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) held its fourth annual Fields of Faith (FOF) nationwide night out event on Wednesday, Oct. 8 at the NRHEG High School football field, located near the secondary school in New Richland. 59 students attended the event.

The featured speaker of the night was Aidan Sindelir, a graduate from Maple River and now a student at Gustavus planning

to be a teacher.

He was a very inspiring FCA student athlete himself and talked about ways to bring their faith into their athletic life.

Other speakers included Chloe Stork, Faith Phillips, Owen Wayne, Sean Lassahn and Kyera Eustice. The leaders of the night were Chloe Stork and Faith Phillips.

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.



**FAITH- Gustavus student Aidan Sindelir was the featured speaker of the night.**



# FenceLines

by Mark Bernard

## Run me out in the cold rain and snow

Another week of temps well above normal as the scurs and Weather Eye keep crankin’ ‘em out. Is Jack Frost still on hold or does he end our growing season this time? Starting Thursday, partly sunny with a fair chance of forenoon rain. Highs in the mid-70’s with lows in the upper 50’s. Partly sunny on Friday with a fair chance of forenoon rain. Highs in the low 70’s with lows in the upper 40’s. Sunny on Saturday with highs in the mid-60’s and lows in the upper 50’s. Sunday, sunny with highs in the low 60’s and lows in the low 40’s. Tuesday, mostly cloudy with highs in the mid-50’s and lows in the low 40’s. Mostly sunny on Wednesday with highs in the low 50’s and lows in the low 40’s. On the 16th, the sun will rise at 7:30 a.m. CDT. The normal high for October 16th is 59 and the normal low is 37. The scurs trigger finger is getting itchy as we near the end of DST on November 2nd.

With soybean combining largely in the books, farmers focused their attention on corn harvest. Not unexpectedly, at least based on observations over a month ago, earlier maturing corn was disappointing. As mentioned many times in previous columns, anthracnose came to play this year, and those earlier maturing hybrids tend to take the brunt of it. Examining them last week, seeing the blackened stalks and being able to crush them between your thumb and forefinger, it’s a wonder it isn’t worse than it is. Even though we’ve had some extremely windy conditions, the stalks have allowed people to harvest it early and put the corn in the bin. Had we received cold, heavy rains along with that wind, it might’ve been an even more disappointing situation. Luckily, plant breeders have bred the corn to have stalks with a stiffer, thicker rind to help that problem. Trouble is, it doesn’t solve the disease problem. Hybrid ratings for anthracnose stalk rot remain mediocre at best.

As I’ve also written, this growing season was a struggle in the garden at the ranch for a lot of the same reason: too much rainfall at inopportune times. With rainfall well above normal in the months of April, June, July and August, it’s a wonder we had anything at all. Harvest has been an unexpected surprise. The frost ended the vine crop season for the most part, although the muskmelons maintained enough of their canopy to continue developing the melons. Should end up with 20 or so once they all ripen. It has meant a steady supply for a few weeks now. Cukes are done with the last of the crop in the fridge. Pumpkins and buttercup squash performed admirably with a couple dozen of each. Jack Be Little pumpkins were prolific as always. They keep showing up as the canopy continues to senesce. The tomatoes too put on a late-season spurt after being a disappointment for much of the summer. There will be more as the

frost really didn’t affect them much. The BLT’s have been outstanding, thanks to the homegrown bacon from our local Studebaker mechanic.

The sheep have been loving the garden as they normally do. Whether it’s overgrown cukes or zucchini, vegetable peelings, rinds, cobs or husks, they’ve come to expect any and all of it. The recent winds have also dumped a plethora of leaves on their side of the pasture fence. You’d never know by looking at it, however. From my vantage point in the oval office in the morning, the ewes can be seen vacuuming up silver maple leaves as quickly as they hit the ground. Pruning some limbs to make backing the trailer less annoying, the sheep went after the leaves like pi-ranhas. Pastures are getting shorter as is the quality of the forage at both the ranch and the kindly neighbor’s. An uptick in the mineral and water being consumed is usually a clue that it’s time to start supplementing their diet with some grain. Of course, it’s always a good idea to make sure they have access to mineral as well as fresh, clean water regardless. All part of animal husbandry 101.

The bird transition from summer into fall and winter continues. We’ve seen several flickers at the ranch and while they generally don’t stick around, there have been some the past couple mild winters, keeping the suet feeder busy. Saturday I saw the first golden-crowned kinglet at the ranch in nearly 40 years. When we had yew and arborvitae bushes on the north side of the house, occasionally we’d spot one hanging out in them. Saturday night when I was grilling on the patio, the neighbor’s corn dryer was running. It’s loud, but it’s just background noise and hasn’t run much this year. Above the din, I heard the familiar sound of a great horned owl. It must’ve been close to be heard over the bin dryer. Sunday was a bit of a letdown. The first junco of the fall was picking at weed seeds along the edge of the driveway. Usually we see them when there’s a skiff of snow on the ground. We don’t need no stinking snow.

Poppy has replaced most of her old coat with a bright, shiny new model for the winter. Amazing the amount of hair one sweeps up and brushes out sometimes. It’s all worth it, however. The time spent feeding her popcorn during a football game flies by and then it’s chore time again. Afterwards she patrols the kitchen, knowing she lives with a couple of klutzes. You might think she’d be extremely overweight, but not the case. She has put on a few pounds, but we keep her active enough playing with her and chasing her squirrels, so that the calories get burned off quickly. Lately I’ve been restocking the ear corn feeder, so there should be more of her little buddies to chase. Doesn’t matter. If there are blue jays or red-bellied woodpeckers feeding on the corn, they’re fair game too.

See you next week...real good then.

## What if driving is its own distraction?

I recently came across a problem of semantics.

Should it be called “distracted driving” if the matter distracting me IS the driving?

I have owned my current vehicle for five years or more, but in all that time, I have never let the fuel gauge touch the “empty” mark—until the other evening. I ran into town on a quick errand that, as many do, turned out not to be so quick. With the irritations of the complication and the satisfaction of overcoming it taken care of, I drove home, allowing myself to forget I meant to purchase fuel.

I was practically at my driveway when I remembered, at which point I decided I would have to wait until my morning run into Waseca—a distance of 10 miles or so—to purchase fuel.

I was “distracted” from the moment I sat in the driver’s seat the next day. It was a case of cyclical considerations. I was quite certain there was plenty of fuel in the car to make it to the gas station without incident. BUT if that wasn’t the case and I ended up stranded along the road, which hapless victim should I call for help? In my head, I speculated about which of my potential helpers was even likely to answer the phone. And then, when the person did, how



## In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

long would it take for assistance to arrive? How would things go at my appointment if I arrived 30 minutes late? Somewhere in there I breathed a sigh of relief that modern cell phones would allow me to call the establishment and explain. Then I thought how embarrassed I would be if I had to admit I had run out of gas. After that, I chastised myself again for being so forgetful the evening before.

I thought back to a time in my childhood when my father, apparently having some sport with us, pointed out to my brothers and me that the fuel gauge was below empty and we were nowhere near a gas station. He continued unfazed with the journey while I, at least, stewed about what would happen. When the car did finally gulp a few times and come to a stop, we kids looked at him in concern. Then he calmly walked to the trunk, fetched a fuel can, and poured its contents into the tank.

I guess what had me thinking about that incident most was that “gulping” sound the car made as it used the last drops of fuel. Would my Chevy make the same sound?

Then I was back reassuring myself I needn’t worry. By this time I was more than halfway to Waseca—surely there was enough fuel in the tank to get to the gas station. BUT, if I did run out, and I didn’t want to admit I had run out of gas, how could I make an excuse for being late to my appointment without actually lying...

The good news is, all that speculation was for nothing; I made it to the gas station without incident. The rush of joy and accomplishment I felt as I saw the gas pumps from about half a block away rivaled the wonder of finding unexpected money in my wallet.

But then I wondered, if I heard that gulping sound right here, would I still make it to the gas pumps?



## Just a Thought...

by Eli Lutgens

## Vacation turned trip back in time

What I thought was a vacation to visit South Dakota’s Badlands, National Parks and the Black Hills turned out to be an emotional trip back in time.

Four years ago I wrote a column about my second-grade teacher, Barb Lewison. A few weeks later, another former teacher, Mary Sack, mailed her the paper and a gift subscription to the Star Eagle.

Three years ago Barb’s husband Phillip, who served as pastor at St. Peter Lutheran Church in New Richland for 32 years, called to renew their subscription. I answered the office phone and, as so often happens when I answer the phone, we got to chatting. Many minutes—maybe an hour—later, Phillip insisted that if I were to ever visit South Dakota, I have a place to stay.

I didn’t forget that phone call (or Mrs. Lewison) and I saved their number and address in my phone.

Saturday night, we had our reunion.

I could tell you all of the incredible details of the splendid 5-day trip which started with an 8-hour drive Tuesday morning and ended Sunday evening at home, but it would all pale in comparison to how enjoyable, rewarding and loving the evening with Barb and Phillip turned out to be.

My friend Madison asked me a couple weeks ago if I was interested in going to South Dakota for a vacation. I didn’t hesitate and said yes. I immediately thought of Mrs. Lewison but didn’t say anything right

away.

I mentioned her once before we left and we agreed to leave the last day and night of our trip open “just in case.”

Friday, staying in Lead, South Dakota, I asked Madi what she thought of seeing them Saturday.

She said absolutely, and even pushed me to call them and insisted we could visit with them anytime, day or night.

So I called their landline phone number around 7 p.m.

They didn’t answer the phone and I’m glad they didn’t. The message on their answering machine can only be described as the most charming and inviting one I’ve ever heard. All the anxiety I had left my body instantly as I heard Phillip’s message, “You’ve reached the Lewisons.... We’re so busy doing nothing we only get half of that done.”

Phillip called me back around 9 p.m. and invited Madi and me to dinner at an excellent restaurant in Hill City, The Alpine Inn. They weren’t wrong, the food was divine. And the company? Even better.

Madi and I arrived early and after we walked in I told Madi none of us really know what each other looks like. I remembered Mrs. Lewison’s hair and I had a mental image in my head but that was a memory from second grade. Turns out, she’s still the same person!

After confirming with Facebook, we located each other quickly.

Many hugs and even more memories were shared.



From left: Phillip and Barb Lewison, Madison Sladek, and Eli Lutgens

Barb told me how she, a South Dakota native, met and married Phillip, a native of Iowa. They met at college and married in their twenties. Their union took them to Wisconsin, Minnesota and eventually New Richland where the couple resided for 32 years, raising their three children, Jenny, Martha, and Matthew. Told they could never have children of their own, the couple adopted two children before Barb became pregnant with their third. A miracle.

Today the 80-year-old couple have four grandchildren.

Phillip told me about his call to the seminary.

One day, while studying for tests, Phillip threw down his books, walked out of the study and told Barb he was going to be a pastor.

Before that, Phillip had only pre-

viously mentioned one time that he felt a calling to shepherd a flock—and that had been when he was in middle school.

Barb took the change in stride. In 2017, after 32 years preaching and 21 years teaching, the couple retired to Barb’s home state. They have called Custar, specifically Boot Hill, home for almost a decade now.

Thank you, Barb and Phillip, for making this an unforgettable vacation. I apologize for any small errors in my story telling as I went off of memory from our conversation. I expect, next week, to share the details of the adventures Madi and I shared beginning with the Black Hills on Tuesday and ending at Wall Drug on Sunday.

## Albert Lea’s third annual Oktoberween

Get ready for a spooktacular time at this year’s Oktoberween, a unique blend of Halloween thrills and Oktoberfest festivities, taking place October 23–26 at the Freeborn County Fairgrounds in Albert Lea. This family-friendly event promises four days of fun, live entertainment, great food, and festive activities for all ages.

Event Dates and Times

Thursday, October 23: 5 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Friday, October 24: 5 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Saturday, October 25: 3 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Sunday, October 26: 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

What to Expect at Oktoberween Live Music: Enjoy performances by Belt Buckles (Thursday 7–9 p.m.), Papa J (Friday 7–9 p.m.), Melissa Schulz (Saturday 3:30–5:30 p.m.), Paga Greezy (Saturday 7–9 p.m.), and Brett Fiest (Sunday 12–2 p.m.).

Food Vendors: Come hungry and enjoy a great variety of local favorites, including Nel’s Diner, Classic Kitchen, Pretzel Wiz, Herfindahl Hens & Hobby, The Candy Shop, and La Michoacana. There will be plenty of good food and sweet treats for everyone to enjoy all weekend long.

Family Fun Daily: Yard games, crafts, a bounce house, bingo, and

the popular Ring Toss run each day, along with Sunset Saddle Club horse rides and Dale’s Train on Saturday and Sunday. Kids can enjoy face painting, pumpkin crafts, and more throughout the weekend.

Special Events: The Castle Danger Tap Takeover happens Friday from 6–8 p.m. Trunk or Treat takes place Sunday from 12:30–2:30 p.m., followed by the Kids Costume Contest at 3 p.m. From 12–2 p.m. on Sunday, kids get free haunted house admission (no hunters or goblins for those two hours)!

Tickets and Admission: Admission is \$5 per person, with kids

under 5 free. Each ticket includes two premium activities, such as Haunted House entry or Archery Tag.

Thank You to Our Sponsors: Oktoberween is made possible by Power 96, AT&T - Prime, Freeborn Mower Electric Co-op, T-Mobile, Cargill, Albert Lea Convention & Visitors Bureau in partnership with City of Albert Lea Recreation, 112 on Broadway, Shear Edge, and the Rugby Association.

For more details, visit [www.Oktoberween.com](http://www.Oktoberween.com) or sign up to volunteer at [www.Oktoberween.com/volunteer](http://www.Oktoberween.com/volunteer)

## 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](mailto: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  
MELANIE PILTINGSRUD  
DEB BENTLY  
JIM LUTGENS  
JESSICA LUTGENS  
TERESA ROSACKER  
PAYGE ROSACKER

Publisher/Editor  
Copy Editor  
Staff Writer  
Sports Editor  
Staff Writer  
Advertising Sales  
Editorial Assistant

Contributors: Al Batt, Bob Hanson, Mark Bernard, Mark Domeier, Dick Herfindahl, Barb Mrotz, Brenda Dokken, Judy Tweeten, Rachael Jaeger, 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 © 2025 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

Having trouble with the circle flies?

**ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING**  
Do you exercise?  
I go to the gym almost every day.  
Really?  
Yes, I almost went to the gym today.

**DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE**  
I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. A disheveled man shuffled by—a poor old sod with lots of creaky parts. I thought he was one scruffy dude until I realized I was looking at a hospital mirror. Inside every hospitalized person is a healthy person wondering what happened. I felt slow afoot, but grateful that medical research had been funded. Before my surgery, the anesthesiologist asked if I'd like to be knocked out with gas or hit over the head with a boat paddle. It was an ether/oar situation. Later, I learned that whether they ripped the adhesive bandages off quickly or slowly depended on my insurance. If Wile E. Coyote made it through his troubles, why couldn't I make it through mine?

I made a corncob pipe with the aid of a buddy. It was a dandy, the best I'd ever owned, but I was only 12. For my youthful adventure, I crafted the homemade pipe from a corncob, hardened by drying, for a bowl, and a hollow piece of elderberry cane as a pipe stem. We didn't have any tobacco and had considered swiping a cigarette from his father's pack, but we worried he had counted them. Curly dock stands 3 feet tall in the ditches, and its rust-brown seed stalks look like tobacco. Behind the barn, we fired up the pipe filled with curly dock seeds by use of a Zippo lighter borrowed from my friend's father. It lit the first time every time. Unfortunately. We each took an unhealthy puff. No fields in the township had ever been as green as we turned. There was a reason Prince Albert didn't take curly dock seeds into the can with him.

**I'VE LEARNED**  
A John Deere X9-1100 combine could harvest 7,000 bushels of corn per hour.  
No matter what the problem was, my father thought a potato could make it better. It was good for what ailed you. He was a you tuber before there was YouTube.  
Yellow jackets, no-see-ums and multicolored Asian lady beetles make eating outside no picnic.

**BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT**  
A Texas sheriff pulled a cowboy over for speeding. The sheriff

gave a long lecture about slowing down and swatted at the flies buzzing around his head as he tried to write the ticket. The cowboy said, "Having trouble with those circle flies, huh?"  
The sheriff frowned and said, "Circle flies? Never heard of them."  
The cowboy grinned. "They're as common as dirt on the ranches around here. They're called circle flies because they're found circling a horse's rear end."  
The sheriff paused and asked, "Wait a minute, are you calling me a horse's rear end?"  
The cowboy said, "Oh no, sir! I'd never disrespect a sheriff that way."  
The sheriff nodded and said, "Glad to hear it," as he went back to completing the citation.  
The cowboy added, "I'd never call you that, but it's impossible to fool them circle flies."  
I am the genie of the lamp and I'll grant you three wishes.  
I want a world without lawyers. Granted. You're done.  
Wait a minute. I still have two more wishes.  
So sue me.

**NATURE NOTES**  
The silver maple is a fast-growing tree. The upper surface of its leaf is bright green, and the lower surface is silvery white. The pale underside gives the tree a "silvery" appearance in a breeze.  
An adult male ruby-throated hummingbird has a metallic ruby-red throat (gorget) and a forked tail with feathers pointed and all dark (no white tips). An adult female has a white throat with an occasional faint tan streaking and a fan-shaped tail with rounded feathers and white tips on the outer three feathers on each side. An immature male looks identical to an adult female, including the white tips to a fan-shaped tail, except he has a noticeably streaked throat. A juvenile female looks similar to an adult female.  
Wireworms are the larvae of several species of click beetles. Click beetles flip into the air with an audible click to right themselves when overturned. Wireworm larvae feed on beans, beets, cabbage, carrots, corn, grasses, lettuce, onion, ornamentals, peas, potatoes and radishes. Wireworms are thin, shiny, jointed, yellow to reddish-brown, 1/4 to 1 1/2 inch long, worm-like larvae resembling mealworms. Adult click beetles don't cause plant damage.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**  
"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"—Martin Luther King Jr. Be kind.



**Bayview Freeborn**  
HUTCHINSON, MINNESOTA



**"We can cross this bridge together"**  
bayviewfuneral@gmail.com

**507-373-4330 • 1415 Hwy. 13 N. • Albert Lea**  
Locally Organized, Owned & Operated since 1939

Fields of Faith



**FELLOWSHIP AND FAITH-** About 60 students attended the fourth annual Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) Fields of Faith even on the night of Wednesday, Oct. 8.



**CELEBRATING WINS-**Members of the Town and Country Garden Club were grateful for the assistance of NRHEG Secondary students and supervising staff during the school's "Community Service Day" this past June. Club members reviewed the summer's accomplishments during their Oct. 6 meeting.

Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

Town and Country Garden Club accomplishments

**By DEB BENTLY**  
Staff Writer  
During their October meeting, members of New Richland's Town and Country Garden Club discussed steps it will take to "clean up" the garden group members' care for a planting area along Highway 30. Two work sessions were planned: one to remove currently dry and dying plants and another to follow after the first hard frost when the heartier plants are also finished for the season.  
A report by group member Barb Finseth listed expenditures and income and incidentally recalled highlights of the year, which included a plant sale held May 17; the planting of the Hwy. 30 garden on the secondary school's "Community Service Day" just prior to the end of the school year in June; group gatherings to weed the garden, which ended up taking place about every two weeks; a planting activity led by club members at the New Richland Care Center; the work of Finseth and others caring for the triangular garden near City Hall; the group's garden tour late in the summer, and a presentation during the September meeting on drying plants.  
There is no cost or obligation to join the organization, which was established in 1965 and has the motto "Educate, Cultivate, Decorate." Anyone interested in joining is invited to attend a club meeting; they take place at 6:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church the first Monday of each month March through June and September through November.  
Individuals are also invited to help with club projects whether they are members or not. Information is available from any club member. Co-presidents are Brenda Berg and Stacy Bethke.

**OCT. 22**  
**5:30 PM @ ARCADIAN BANK**

*Sip, snack, socialize and learn the keys to homeownership.*

Follow our event on 

**Susie Miller**  
Senior Mortgage Lender  
susiem@arcadian.bank  
NMLS #2137037

Onsite Pre-approval available. Attend our event or schedule a meeting with Susie to receive \$500 off your closing costs.\*

\*Must be approved and close loan with Arcadian Bank on or before 6.30.26 to receive \$500 off closing costs.

1452 W. Main Street Albert Lea MN 56007



Food & Drink from



HOME BUYING  
Happy Hour

**"WHAT PEOPLE DO NOT KNOW ABOUT THEIR INSURANCE COVERAGE IS SCARY!"**





**AMERICANA**  
★ INSURANCE GROUP ★  
"We're the 'A' Team"

Get A Review & Find Out If Your Insurance is A Trick Or Treat!

**Albert Lea**  
(507) 377-2000

**Ellendale**  
(507) 684-2314

**Wells**  
(507) 801-1100

www.americaininsurance.com

OBITUARIES

Merlyn “Pete” Amos Thompson

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Merlyn “Pete” Amos Thompson who departed this life peacefully on October 7th, 2025 at the age of 89 at Harbor Chase of Plano, Plano Texas. Merlyn was born on March 10th, 1936 in Ellendale, Steele County, Minnesota to Norris and Luella (Farr) Thompson.

He graduated from Ellendale High School in 1954 and served in the Army stationed at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington D.C. 1958-1960. He was honorably discharged and decorated with the Good Conduct Medal and Marksman.

Merlyn was a dedicated and loving husband to Harriet, loving wife for 66 years. They were married August 14th, 1959 at Ramsey Reformed Church in Titonka, Iowa.

As a skilled photographer, Merlyn spent his entire career capturing monumental memories of individuals, families and schools through his studio business of 55 years, Thompson Photography in Britt, Iowa where they lived until 2014. Merlyn had a particular interest in capturing the images of the Hobos during the Annual Hobo Convention in Britt. The collection is displayed at the Hobo Museum.

His kind and sweet personality was shown throughout his service in the community. He was a proud member of the Lions Club in Britt Iowa and Huntley, Illinois where he retired. Merlyn was an active member of First Lutheran Church in Britt and Shepherd of The Prairie in Huntley, Illinois where he ushered every Sunday. In addition, Merlyn helped start the West Hancock Ambulance Service in Britt on January 1, 1978. You could also spot Merlyn behind the scenes painting and building sets for the Hancock County Little Theatre in Britt and Town Square Players located in Woodstock, Illinois. During



Merlyn Thompson

ing his free time, he loved to go fishing in Minnesota, travel, play cards, dominoes and work outside planting flowers and spending time with family and friends.

Merlyn and Harriet moved to Plano, Texas to be near children in 2024. Merlyn is survived by his wife, Harriet of Plano, TX; children, Brian (Karen) Thompson of Des Moines, IA, Susan (Robert) Falbo of Prosper, TX. There are four grandchildren; Alyssa (Robert) Trimble Ankeny IA, Robert Jr. (Alexa) Falbo Chicago IL, Victoria (Peyton) Lynn Plano TX, and Richard Falbo Prosper TX. Merlyn’s legacy continues with his 5 great grandchildren; Ellie and James Trimble, Brooklyn Falbo, Allie and Annie Lynn. Also surviving is his sister Charlotte Hill and nephews, Mike Hill and Joel (Amy) Hill.

Merlyn’s kindness, generosity, and love for family and friends will forever remain in the hearts of those who knew him. The family will host a small celebration of life at a future time. In lieu of flowers please consider a contribution to Merit Hospice, 8350 N Central Expy Suite M1019, Dallas, TX 75206, Phone number, (214) 368-1154

Sons of Norway, Nortonna welcomes Bill Fried

Please join the Nortonna Lodge 1-638 of the Sons of Norway as we welcome Bill Fried as he presents, “Peter Julius Rosendahl & Ola og Per Who was he? Where did his family come from in Norway? Where did he live? How did Ola og Per start? Why was he popular? Why did he blend Norwegian Ninorsk and English? What were his themes and interest in early 20th century America?”

These are a few of the questions that will be explored on Monday, October 20th, 2025 at the Owatonna VFW, 135 Oakdale Street. Peter’s weekly cartoon appeared in the Decorah Posten and was awaited by many in the upper Midwest Norwegian communities. Many artifacts curated by the Rosendahl family will be available for examination. Giants of the Earth Heritage Center in Spring Grove, MN hosts a permanent exhibit in Peter’s hometown. A farmer, poet, photographer, and iconic second-generation Norwegian immigrant, Peter provides a glimpse into the pioneer life in the Driftless region on the Mississippi.

Bill Fried is the Acting Executive Director of Giants of the Earth Heritage Center in Spring Grove, MN. He is a retired educator, di-

rector of theatre and speech at Spring Grove Public Schools. He has performed for over 50 years in regional theatre productions as well as a singer in many choirs in southeastern Minnesota. He is past president of the Luren Singing Society and the Norwegian Singers Association of America. He currently creates and manages services to multi-age audiences on the immigration experiences of Norwegians immigrating to America. He and his wife Karen live comfortably on the Iowa/Minnesota border just south of Spring Grove. Karen is the granddaughter of Peter Julius Rosendahl.

Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. for a cost of \$10, and the meeting will follow at 7 p.m. This meeting will be our annual “Membership Meeting,” and current members are encouraged to bring guests who may be interested in joining our lodge. In addition, any community member with an interest in joining are welcome to come and learn more about the Sons of Norway organization.

If you are a prospective member interested in attending, please contact Janet Erickson at 507-390-1239.

Youth in Music



STAR SPANGLED BANNER - These NRHEG band members attended a band clinic at the US Bank Stadium during the Youth in Music Marching Championship finals on Oct. 11. They also joined with a large group of fellow musicians to play the Star Spangled Banner. Students walked through the tunnels and out onto the field at the facility.

Clarks Grove holds potluck dinner and final meeting for 2025

By BEN REVERMANN  
Staff writer

There was a very somber and quiet get-together and potluck dinner at the Clarks Grove Historical Society’s Museum on Thursday, Oct. 9. What started at 6 p.m. went until after sundown on this chilly autumn evening.

“Those crockpots were full when I brought them in,” one of the guests said. Another asked, “What did you put in this?” indicating they might want the recipe later. There was a single bucket of KFC’s regular chicken, and a big tray of cookies from Sam’s Club. The rest, two Calico Bean hotdishes-crockpots-, ham sandwich sliders, sweet potato casserole, tater tot hotdish, buns and accompanying butter, and sunflower salad were all homemade. For dessert, there were pumpkin bars and brownies.

Usually for these get-togethers

there is an agenda and a meeting and a presentation, for example last June Dale Peterson, the one-time Freeborn County Fuller Brush Man described some of his experiences. But for tonight, Peterson sat and ate, discussing the news or the museum. One story of note, discussed over Calico and bread was told by Bob Hanson, “For my college dissertation in 1961, we had to cover a business, and I opted for this new sports team, the Washington Senators, which later changed their name to the Minnesota Twins when they moved here. My teacher got me a meeting with certain people affiliated with the team. We were presented with the new hat designs for the team, and on those baseball hats were the letters, MT for Minnesota Twins. We looked at each other and thought, ‘People are going to look at us wearing those hats and think, “empty.” So, they ended up not using that de-



YEARLY GOODBYE - Members of the Clarks Grove Historical Society held their final meeting for the year on Thursday, Oct. 9. The museum will resume regular hours next spring.

sign and went with the letters TC. Years later it occurred to me that I had that hat in my hands and never thought to keep it.” There was a collective gasp in the room as people realized his mistake and agreed with him, making comments like, “That would be worth so much money now.”

There were simply too many cookies on that tray, so that one went back to its owner about a quarter empty, there wasn’t much else left. There was no hurry to leave once the plates were emptied, coffee was poured, and bot-

tles of water were passed out and a story or two more were told.

With the potluck checked off the schedule, the Clarks Grove museum will be closing its doors for the winter, for anyone who wishes to visit they can do so but it has to be by appointment. Kathy Jensen will be the lady to call, and she can be reached at 507-256-8011; she says to be sure and leave a message if she doesn’t answer. Otherwise the simplest course for a visit will be to wait until May, when the doors will be open again for regular hours



TGWE

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

CERTAINTED® CLAIMS SPECIALIST

“Footings to Finish”

GREG WILMES EXTERIORS LLC  
BUILDING CONTRACTOR #BC793885

GREGWILMESROOFING.NET  
GREGWILMESROOFING@GMAIL.COM  
(507) 202-7070

OIL CHANGE SPECIAL

OIL CHANGE SPECIAL

OIL CHANGE SPECIAL

Marthaler Honda

of Albert Lea

HONDA

Cheapest oil change special in town!

\$59.99 for full synthetic with a tire rotation

507-373-2341  
2114 E Main St  
Albert Lea, MN  
marthalerhonda.com

Home of the \$59.99 full synthetic oil change - up to 5 quarts

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

Blood Drive

**GIVING BACK - Dan Stork, helped here by Red Cross technician Jeremy, was among the people who provided 21 units of blood during a Red Cross blood drive in New Richland on Wednesday, Oct. 8. The drive took place at Trinity Lutheran Church because the usual location in the city hall community room was unavailable. One first-time donor was also among the contributors.**

Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

Hartland council sees groundbreaking for new community center

By BEN REVERMANN  
Staff writer

HARTLAND CITY COUNCIL

During their regular meeting the evening of Monday, Oct. 6, members of the Hartland city council discussed the groundbreaking ceremony along Broadway Street for the new community center/firehall which took place around Sept. 22. With plans to finish up by summer 2026, this is a shared effort by Olson Excavation, Bohlen's Plumbing and Heating, Staloch Construction and Reindal Electric.

The owner of Hartland BP convenience store, Bashudev Khanal, requested approval to acquire an off-sale liquor license for his business; he told council members that, if he receives a license, he will create a separate sales area in his location along Hwy. 13. At this time, the only business the town authorized for off-sale is Hartland University, which offers both off- and on-sale. Khanal is remodeling and said now would be a good time to make the addition. Council members said they wanted time to consider the matter and tabled it until the next meeting on Nov. 3. BP has also recently expanded its

selection of produce. Off sale licenses cost \$240 per year.

The city fire department responded to one "billable" fire for the month of September. It was also reported the two fire trucks had their first aid kits updated; and new air tanks, masks and portable air packs. The Hartland Community Center restroom received a lock on the door; it is no longer a public bathroom; residents need a four-digit pin to enter. There is concern that a few water meters around town need to be checked because of inaccurate reading. The third of three letters have been sent out to certain residents requesting that they clean their yards and/or clear away hazards. When the first round of letters was sent, residents were given 30 days to appeal or ask for more time or to argue their case. Since no one contacted the city clerk and the miscellaneous items have not been removed, fines are now being discussed as they are the next step allowed for in city policies.

Letting the entertainment come to us

FACT OR FICTION

...you decide

by Bob Hanson, Emeritus

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

you have figured out I was Robert the groom at my own wedding!!)

We had a wedding dance at "The Terp Ballroom" in Austin, Minnesota with Jules Herman as the orchestra.

The wedding trip was touring Northern Wisconsin and Northern Minnesota and then back to half a house we had rented in Rochester, Minnesota.

We decided to apply for the shortest marriage on record with Ripleys. They sent a nice polite letter back stating we had a very interesting story but it wasn't a legal wedding so it didn't qualify.

Once we got settled in, Genie decided to apply for work at the Mayo Clinic. In those days all work applica-

tions were done manually so Genie filled out the job application as a registered nurse looking for work. (Genie's first name is Gene spelled just like a boy.) A few days later she got a nice letter in the mail from the Mayo personnel Department thanking her for the application but at this time they were not hiring any male nurses. Genie is a gutsy person, so she took the letter with her back to the personnel department and asked to speak to the person that signed the letter. (This was on a Friday) He looked at the letter- looked at Genie and replied "Oh, my god, can you start Monday?" Thus Genie got her first job as a registered nurse.

September 28, 2025 was our wed-

ding anniversary of 62 years. For about 50 years we have taken a vacation to the Big Horn Mountains above Sheridan, Wyoming staying at Arrowhead Lodge. We would leave Albert Lea early am Labor Day, stay the first night at Wall Drug, Wall, South Dakota, leave early the next morning, arriving at Arrowhead Lodge by 5 pm Their time staying for a week going back to Albert Lea the same way we came.

Because of my sciatica we decided rather than go to entertainment we would let entertainment come to us this year.

How could we get the entertainment to come to us? The answer was "The chicken therapy cabin" in Albert Lea. (Besides, it was good therapy for our mind and body.) To be continued 10-23-25.

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

Compiled by BRENDA DOKKEN (10/2/25)

**HAYRIDE TO BEAVER LAKE** — Ellendale school picnics were traditionally celebrated at Beaver Lake even as far back as 1910 or 1912 as shown in this photograph. Ed Johnson, Irving's father, provided the team and wagon for the three mile trip.

Standing at the front corner by the horses is Martin Ellingson. Next to Martin is Irving Johnson, whose father was the driver and shown in the rear row toward the front. Next to the girls in the front row is Cecil Campbell. Cecil was the long time editor of the Ellendale Eagle and his widow.

Ruth still lives in Ellendale. In the back row and at the rear of the wagon is Ed Little, who is standing next to the tall man in the dark suit. Ed left Ellendale in 1920 and settled in Oregon, but he never lost interest in his hometown. He gave Art Lerberg this picture.

We hope you enjoy this picture and perhaps you will find someone you know.

Beaver Lake has been popular for picnics, swimming and fishing for many years. Baseball diamonds, refreshment stands, dance halls, roller skating rinks have at one time or another been located in the Beaver Lake Park.

USED BOOKSTORE

507-455-3440  
eatonsbooks@q.com  
Mon-Fri 10-5 Sat 10-3:30  
602 North Cedar Ave Owatonna MN 55060

507-874-3863 • 507-473-0345

ZED by Duane M. Abel

www.corkeycomics.com

LERBERG'S

CAR WASH & COIN LAUNDRY

Touchless Wash and Self Serve

FITNESS CENTER & TANNING

Full line of cardio, free weights, power racks, dumbbells, barbells, & circuit training machines!

24 HOURS

507-684-2471  
118 5th Avenue West  
Ellendale, MN 56026

LOGIX<sup>®</sup>

INSULATED CONCRETE FORMS

Your Local Distributor

EAGLE CONCRETE

DIVISION OF WASECA SAND & GRAVEL, INC.

13113-315th Ave. • Waseca, MN 56093

507-835-5150

Also Available: Concrete pumping, rebar, ready mix concrete, landscape rock.

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

**Bloomington**  
(507) 583-2141  
405 Main St E,  
Bloomington 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

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@nasinecch.com

OLSON EXCAVATING

- \* 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



**ACTION AT THE NET —** The NRHEG volleyball team was victorious in a nonconference match at Waseca last Tuesday. At left, the Panthers' Nora Flatness spikes as the Bluejays' Savanna Vagts and Bry'asia Mayberry go for the block. At right, NRHEG's Chloe Stork tips while Waseca's Remy Murphy defends.

Star Eagle photos by Jim Lutgens

# A successful week for volleyball Panthers

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School volleyball team started last week with a sweep at Maple River. It was a sign of things to come. The Panthers continued to pile up the wins, starting with Monday's 3-0 triumph at Maple River, where the Panthers prevailed 25-21, 25-23 and 27-25. NRHEG won despite not playing its best. "It was not our cleanest and/or best quality volleyball, but we pushed through momentum shifts to win in three straight sets," said NRHEG head coach Bethany Tennis. Senior setter Addy Stadheim moved the ball across the net and had 29 set assists on

the night. Individual totals for the Panthers: Gabby Schlaak 10K, 9D, 1SA, 2B; Camryn VanMaldeghem 5K, 6D, 2B; Anika Ladlie 4K, 6D, 1SA, 3B; Nora Flatness 1K 2D; Quinn VanMaldeghem 2K, 7D, 1A, 3B; Stadheim 4K, 9D, 29SA, 1B; Chloe Stork 2K, 2D, 6B; Chloe Riewer 10D, 2SA. The next night, the Panthers made the short trip to Waseca, where they made it a short match, winning 3-0 by scores of 25-12, 25-8, 25-18. It was Dig Pink Night for the Bluejays, to celebrate and honor those who have fought, are fighting, or have been affected by cancer in some capacity within their life.

"We continue to be flexible with lineup adjustments and different looks on both offense and defense." — **Coach Bethany Tennis**

"The girls took three sets with a commanding presence," said Tennis. "We continue to be flexible with lineup adjustments and different looks both on offense and defense. Individually: Schlaak 10K, 7D, 1SA; C.VanMaldeghem 5K, 5D, 2A; Ladlie 2K, 2B; Flatness 1K, 2B; Q.VanMaldeghem 3K,

4D, 1A, 4B; Kyera Eustice 1K; Kayden Warke 1A; Stadheim 1K, 3D, 20SA, 1A, 1B; Stork 1K, 1A, 1B; Meela Budach 1K; Kylie Olson 1B; Riewer 7D, 3SA. The Panthers celebrated Senior Night Friday with a 3-0 victory over Randolph, winning 25-18, 25-18, 25-10. According to Tennis, the Panthers show-

cased great energy and teamwork from start to finish. "Our offense was balanced and creative by making sure our attacks were unpredictable," said Tennis, whose team improved its record to 19-6 overall and 7-2 in the Gopher Conference. Individually for the Panthers: Schlaak 9K, 7D, 1B; C.VanMaldeghem 7K, 3D, 1SA, 2B; Ladlie 2K, 2D, 2A, 3B; Flatness 1A, 1B; Q.VanMaldeghem 3K, 4D, 1A, 4B; Eustice 1K; Stadheim 2K, 25 SA; Stork 2K, 5A, 4B; Riewer 4D, 2SA.

# Panthers win big at Medford

**By JIM LUTGENS**  
Sports Editor

The NRHEG High School football team trekked to Medford last Thursday in search of a victory. The Panthers got one. NRHEG dominated the game from start to finish, blowing out the Tigers 56-28.

"It was a really good win for the boys to get us back on track," said NRHEG head coach Marc Kruger. The scoring came from everywhere with two kickoff return touchdowns, a fumble return touchdown, and multiple great drives on offense. "The defense played great, created turnovers, and made big stops," said Kruger. The Panthers pounced early, scoring on a 16-yard pass from Brooks Gilliland to Calvin Nissen and an 81-yard kickoff return by Nissen, who also scored on an 11-yard pass in the third quarter. Nissen nabbed his third scoring pass of the night in the third period, after Tyler Piepho returned a kickoff 70 yards for a touchdown. Lewison rushed for a game-high 125 yards on 10 carries. Gilliland completed six of 16 passes for 146 yards and one interception. Nissen caught three passes for 91 yards. Brouwers led the defense with 10 tackles and a sack. The Panthers concluded the regular season Wednesday, Oct. 15 at home against United South Central.

|                                                                       |       |    |      |   |      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----|------|---|------|
| NRHEG 56, MEDFORD 28                                                  |       |    |      |   |      |
| NRHEG                                                                 | 14    | 21 | 21   | 0 | — 56 |
| MED                                                                   | 8     | 6  | 8    | 6 | — 28 |
| <b>First Quarter</b>                                                  |       |    |      |   |      |
| NRHEG — Nissen 16 pass from B.Gilliland (two-point conversion failed) |       |    |      |   |      |
| NRHEG — Brouwers 45 fumble return (Nissen run)                        |       |    |      |   |      |
| MED — 8 run (two-point conversion good)                               |       |    |      |   |      |
| <b>Second Quarter</b>                                                 |       |    |      |   |      |
| NRHEG — Lewison 3 pass from B.Gilliland (Wyrum kick)                  |       |    |      |   |      |
| MED — 22 run (two-point conversion failed)                            |       |    |      |   |      |
| NRHEG — Nissen 81 kickoff return (Wyrum kick)                         |       |    |      |   |      |
| NRHEG — Nissen 11 pass from B.Gilliland (Wyrum kick)                  |       |    |      |   |      |
| <b>Third Quarter</b>                                                  |       |    |      |   |      |
| NRHEG — Piepho 70 kickoff return (Wyrum kick)                         |       |    |      |   |      |
| NRHEG — Nissen 64 pass from B.Gilliland (Wyrum kick)                  |       |    |      |   |      |
| NRHEG — 50 run (Wyrum kick)                                           |       |    |      |   |      |
| <b>Fourth Quarter</b>                                                 |       |    |      |   |      |
| MED — 9 pass (two-point conversion failed)                            |       |    |      |   |      |
|                                                                       |       |    |      |   |      |
|                                                                       | NRHEG |    | MED  |   |      |
| Total plays                                                           | 42    |    | 56   |   |      |
| First downs                                                           | 13    |    | 16   |   |      |
| Rushing Yds.                                                          | 141   |    | 271  |   |      |
| Passing Yds.                                                          | 146   |    | 28   |   |      |
| Total Yards                                                           | 287   |    | 299  |   |      |
| Third Down                                                            | 2-6   |    | 1-10 |   |      |
| Fourth Down                                                           | 0-2   |    | 1-1  |   |      |
| Fumbles lost                                                          | 2     |    | 4    |   |      |
| Penalties                                                             | 4-85  |    | 2-10 |   |      |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                             |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                |  |
| RUSHING — NRHEG: Lewison 10-125; R.Schlaak 5-14; M.Gilliland 3-10; Nissen 2-3; Piepho 1 —4; B.Gilliland 1 —7; MED: Team 43-271                                                                              |  |
| PASSING — NRHEG: B.Gilliland 6-16, 146, 4TD, 1int.; MED: 3-9, 28, 1TD, 1int.                                                                                                                                |  |
| RECEIVING — NRHEG: Nissen 3-91; R.Schlaak 2-52; Lewison 1-3; MED: Team 3-28                                                                                                                                 |  |
| NRHEG Defense — Brouwers 10T, 1S; Larson 5T, 1A; Conroy 3T; Weller 3T; Beauvais 3T, 1int.; Bartlett 2T; D.Schlaak 2T; Baumann 1T; M.Gilliland 1T; O.Schlaak 1T; Hanson 1T; Degen 1T; Hanna 1T; R.Schlaak 1S |  |



**DIGGING DEEP —** NRHEG cross country runners Colton Lermon, left, and Violette Botten, right, stride out at last Tuesday's No Frills Invitational hosted by United South Central at Oak View Golf Course. The NRHEG girls finished third among four teams. The boys did not field a full squad.

Photos by Larry Nydegger

# NRHEG girls take 3rd at No Frills meet

"I was very pleased to see the younger runners have really strong performance." — **Coach Larry Nydegger**

of 19:45.64 for 5000 meters. Others: Jodie Tufte 16th 25:15.92 Violette Botten 20th 27:04.4 Rylie Cromwell 23rd 27:54.68 Holly Bartness 25th 28:24.21

Amelia Duryee 27th 29:50.97 Tiffany Jewison 28th 31:01.46 Jacob Karl took third in the boys' 5000-meter race in 18:11.23. Colton Lermon was 18th with a time of 21:27.85.

"There was cooler weather, and no bugs!" said NRHEG coach Larry Nydegger. "This is a fun meet to attend since it is a precursor to the upcoming conference meet. We will be setting all of these teams in Hayfield next week. Julieann and Jacob continue to place at or near the top, and I was very pleased to see the younger runners have really strong performances today."



A large screener was brought onsite at the Waseca County Recycling Center last week to perform the final step before compost produced on site is ready for sale. Area residents can now purchase the material for use in gardens, raised beds, flower pots and landscaping at a price of \$25 a ton or about one cent per pound. Amounts of material purchased at a time can range from bucketloads to trailers full. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

# Compost site offering first sales

**By DEB BENTLY**  
News Editor

Built in 2023 thanks to a grant, the Waseca County compost site located south of Waseca along Highway 13 is now offering compost for sale. Recycling supervisor Tammie Bramer clarifies the recycling center has had compost available for purchase since 2021, but this is the first time material from the 4.5 acre area visible along the highway has been available for purchase.

The price is \$25 a ton, which works out to about a penny a pound.

“People can buy it by the trailer load, a pickup full, or a five-gallon bucket,” describes Bramer. “It all depends on how they want to use it.” She mentions households sometimes purchase it to fill raised garden beds.

Bramer does not market the material as “dirt” because, although it has most of the same properties and may be even richer than typical soil in certain microbes and nutrients, it is not the black dirt someone might purchase from a landscaper. It can, however, be used in all the same ways. To dispel some misconceptions she has heard, Bramer reports the compost does not have any unpleasant smell and is not “mulch,” which is typically used for covering large areas of open ground.

Compost produced at a different location on county property has been for sale since 2021; Bramer tells of having purchased some herself for porch pots. She says the largest single customer has likely been the city of Waseca, which used truckloads of it when landscaping the city dog park and other locations.

That seems fitting given the city regularly brings truckloads of leaves and yard waste to deposit at the site. Though compost can become dirt-like in only a few months under optimal circumstances, Bramer seems pleased with the two-year turnaround.

To keep the product as “clean” as possible, Bramer mentions the county accepts only “yard waste.” She names grass clippings, fallen leaves, and end-of-season garden plants as comprising most of the raw material. All waste is to be deposited in the compost site following instructions from the recycling center staff. If large bags are used to deliver the material, the bags must be emptied out and discarded elsewhere, not left on the “wind-row”—the long line of material with open space around it—on the field. Any sticks must be smaller than a person’s pinky finger. Food products are not to be added, except for any aging vegetables that might come along with garden waste.

Once material has begun the process of decomposing, it is turned periodically using large equipment in use at the recycling center. Gradually, the material becomes dirt-like.

The final step, which occurred late in September, is to “screen” the compost. A large piece of equipment called a “screener” was rented from Timm’s Trucking of Morristown. The company also supplied an operator and a large loader for collecting the material, loading it into the screener, and removing the various stacks of material.

Bramer explains larger-sized waste was returned to the wind-row; material with the consistency of soil has been placed at the northwest corner of the compost acreage ready for customer pickup. People may purchase as much as they wish, she says; recycling center staff will help with any purchase, including using an on-site Bobcat to help load it into vehicles or containers.

Anyone wishing to make a purchase should stop at the center of first; vehicles or containers are weighed empty, then weighed after being filled to determine how much material has been loaded.

## 3rd graders receive dictionaries



**DICTIONARY DELIVERY** - The two classes of third-graders at the NRHEG Elementary School received their dictionaries from the local Ellendale Lions Club. This is the eighteenth year the club has been giving dictionaries to each third-grader for their own personal use. School staff members say the students are always excited to get them and explore all the information they can find in the dictionary..

# County proclaims 4-H observation

**By DEB BENTLY**  
News Editor

During the most recent meeting of the Waseca County board of commissioners, a report summarizing activity in the Waseca County 4-H program provided a list of events the local Extension office has administered over the past 12 months. After hearing from 4-H participant Alexis Myers and local 4-H youth development coordinator Amy Nelson, board members gladly approved a proclamation acknowledging that National 4-H Week from Oct. 5 to 11 was also being observed locally.

Nelson’s summary included an “immersive Summer Animal Science overnight trip, which focused on biosecurity, sustainable agriculture, and meat and dairy production; a group of 35 youth and 10 adult volunteers taking part in a pizza-making workshop at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm, and a new “Crochet Club.” More than 30 community members, businesses and



**OBSERVATION** - County Commissioners signed a proclamation declaring 4-H Week in Waseca County. Pictured at the center are 4-H participant Alexis Myers and University of Minnesota Extension educator Amy Nelson, along with commissioners (from left) Brian Harguth, Brad Milbrath, Brad Krause, De Malterer and Doug Christopherson..

Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

4-H alumni donated funds to create a Waseca County 4-H Legacy Fund; 4-H Ambassadors handed out almost 150 free trees courtesy of an organization called “Neighborhood Forest” during an Earth Day celebration in April.

Nelson also mentioned 4-H participants submitted more than 1,300 entries during the Waseca County Fair, a growth of 12 percent over 2024. She placed a value of more than \$28,000 on the value of service hours put in by 4-H volunteers during the fair.

The county’s proclamation names both na-

tional and local accomplishments by the 4-H organization, including that it has offices in every city and town in the country, employs 3,500 professional leaders and draws contributions from 600,000 volunteers.

For the week-long observance, the organization has adopted the theme, “Beyond Ready,” meaning to send the message that 4-H is working to build a ready generation in a world of change and to equip young people with skills for the future while meeting them where they are today.

# Sheriff’s office to receive “encrypted” radios

**By DEB BENTLY**  
News Editor

During the Oct. 7 meeting of the Waseca County board of commissioners, county sheriff Jay Dulas described his department as having become something of an “island” because most regional law enforcement agencies are already using the types of federally required portable radios capable of “encryption.”

With this type of equipment, he explained, communications among department members can no longer be monitored using scanners and other devices which pick up unprotected radio transmissions. Dulas mentioned that, because curiosity seekers monitoring such transmissions could no longer hear staff exchanges from surrounding counties, larger numbers have begun arriving at Waseca County scenes.

## WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

After saying he had researched options extensively, Dulas requested approval to spend \$319,000 to replace the 54 portable radios his office is currently responsible for, and to purchase suitable chargers, holsters and other accessories. Dulas reported there are 15 deputies who will keep their radios with them full time. Radios will also be kept ready to be used by jailers, dispatchers, Sheriff’s Posse members, and emergency management services. Two will be set aside as “backup” should any of the others be out of service.

He defended the purchase of 54 radios, saying all of them contribute to smooth communication among responders when there is a

large-scale event, or during community celebrations such as the county fair.

Dulas said radios currently in use with the department are about seven years old and are “aging out” of usefulness; repairs are no longer a possibility, since replacement parts are not being produced.

Money has been being set aside for the eventual purchase since 2017, the sheriff reported, so more than \$217,000 is already covered; the remaining money is available in funds designated by the state for supporting the 9-1-1 emergency call line.

Commissioners approved the expenditure. Dulas estimated it would be a month or more before the equipment would be delivered and in operation.

County Engineer Jim Kollar was given board approval to

spend \$21,000 in county funds toward a state-required update of the county’s highway safety plan. The amount constitutes 20 percent of the anticipated \$105,000 cost; the remainder will be paid by state and federal agencies.

The plan currently in use was prepared in 2012. Kollar stated statistics and recommendations in the document are frequently used when applying for construction and improvement grants. Aside from paying its share of the cost and allowing access to current information, Kollar mentioned the county will have relatively little input as the updated plan is created. A consulting engineer will analyze pertinent data and supply recommendations. He estimated it will be a year or more before the finished plan is in place.



### WHAT!

YOU'RE ALL SOLD OUT of

## Star Eagle

DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN TO YOU!

Have the STAR EAGLE delivered *right to your doorstep every week!* No more worries about missing all the latest local news and features. **Subscribe today!**



STAR EAGLE  
PO Box 248  
New Richland, MN 56072

**Send me 1 year of THE STAR! Enclosed is:**

☐ **\$57** (Waseca, Freeborn, Steele Co's) ☐ **\$77** (outside MN)

☐ **\$67** (rest of Minnesota)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

# ‘Ask a Trooper’: Pavement markings

**Question:** can you explain what the lines on the highways and streets indicate? I feel like a lot of people can’t figure it out. Thanks.

**Answer:** Pavement markings direct and regulate traffic.

White lines separate lanes of traffic traveling in the same direction.

\* White dashes: You can change lanes where this marking is present.

\* Shorter and thicker white dashes: The lane is ending.

\* Solid white line: You should

not change lanes. Solid white lines also mark crosswalks, stop lines at intersections, parking stalls and the edges of a roadway.

\* Double solid white lines: You must not change lanes.

\* Solid white line with bicycle insignia: This is for bicycle or electric-assist bicycle traffic only.

\* If you are on a bicycle, you must travel in the same direction as adjacent traffic.

Yellow lines separate traffic moving in opposite directions.

\* Solid yellow line: You must not pass. Passing in a no-passing zone is illegal.

\* Yellow dashes: You may pass.

\* Mixed lines (solid and dashes): A solid yellow line may appear on one side of the roadway while a line of dashes appears on the other side. You must obey the marking in your lane of traffic.

\* Double solid yellow lines: You must not pass, regardless of which side of the line you are driving. You can avoid a ticket — and a

crash — if you simply buckle up, drive at safe speeds, pay attention and always drive sober. Help us drive Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths.

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



## Woods and Water

by Dick Herfindahl  
Outdoors Writer

# Fall colors are finally here

I have some very fond memories of fall fishing. Sometimes the fishing isn't the best but, in the fall, it is really hit and miss. If you can find the fish, they will be hungrily fattening up for winter. When the lakes turn over the oxygen levels are the same at every depth. This means that the Fish can be at any depth as they follow the baitfish.

I have had some pretty good luck when fishing in the fall and I have also really had to work for any success I would have. Not being an Al Linder, I have always been willing to try whatever it takes to put some fish in the boat.

I do not think that there is a better time to be on the lake than in the fall. The sun can feel much warmer in the fall, which can be a good thing on a chilly fall day.

I am pretty sure that using minnows, if you can find them, is the ticket in fall. I watched a guide from Northern Minnesota on a podcast, and he said that this is a great time to catch walleyes. He said that he likes to double hook his minnows and that is why he uses a jig with a long shank. Makes sense to me. The

first person that taught me about double hooking a minnow was my mother. She was the one person that taught me so many little fishing tricks that I have practiced my whole life. As I grew older, my Uncle Ben was also an influence.

There have been times in the fall when it has been brutal. Reaching into a minnow bucket for a fresh minnow can make your hand go numb in a hurry. There is nothing more frustrating than having to put another jig on and then clipping the wrong piece of line when your fingers are cold. I hate to admit it, but I have done that more times than I would like to remember.

Trolling the shoreline on a crisp, sunny fall day is like you are in a painting as you move along the shoreline anticipating that bite. I don't think a person ever forgets the feeling of a strike when you are trolling.

Please show your support for our troops who are now deployed. These service men and women are making that sacrifice so that we may have the many freedoms that we enjoy today.



**ON THE HOOK** - Shown here are some pictures taken at a lake not far from our cabin. It was a beautiful, cool sunny day and the fish were cooperating. Star Eagle photo by Dick Herfindahl

## 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  
Interim Pastor Trish Reedstrom  
Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee  
Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting  
Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting (first Wednesday)

**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 - 9 a.m. Worship  
Sunday School 10 a.m.  
Adult Bible Study 10 a.m.

\* \* \*  
**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 vary 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 confirmation during summer)

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

\* \* \*  
**CENTRAL FREEBORN LUTHERAN 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 COMMUNITY 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 Dave Klawiter  
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 President  
Waseca, Minnesota  
www.lds.org

\* \* \*  
Sunday - 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School  
Wednesday - 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages 12-18

\* \* \*  
**NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE STAR EAGLE.**

## LOOKING BACK

25 years ago



- New Administrator Sue Johnson is no stranger to the New Richland Care Center. She worked as a nurse at the Center in 1979. Since that time she has gone back to school twice, becoming a registered nurse, the first time and receiving a bachelor's degree in health care administration, the second. Most recently she was assistant administrator at St. Johns in Albert Lea.

- Mindy Starby is enjoying her position as athletic director at the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School - and teaching six hours of Elementary physical education at the varsity basketball team this winter. According to Mindy, being an athletic director was one of her dreams.

- Albert Lea Medical Center, part of Mayo Health System, recently awarded two \$500 scholarships to students in the service area who are currently enrolled in an accredited college or technical school and pursuing a career in healthcare. Recipients of the scholarships are Amy Nygaard, Albert Lea, who is enrolled in medical school at the University of Minnesota, Duluth, and Nicole Christensen, Ellendale, who is pursuing a nursing degree at St. Olaf College.

- The Panther ninth grade girls volleyball team defeated Alden-Conger 2-1, Tuesday, September 19 at Alden. Team scores were 15-19, 12-15 and 15-8. Coach Jill Schlaak noted that the girls played some good volleyball. Betsy Waldhauser served for nine points and had one kill and a tip kill. Kalisha Anthony served up six points and managed an assist kill and a tip kill.



50 years ago



- Robert Wenzel, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Wenzel and George Jessen, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. James Jessen, check a counter line. The two freshmen members of the New Richland FFA chapter took first in the District XIV Contour Line contest last week. They did exceptionally well with a score of 1.4" off. Second was the Blooming Prairie team with 1.7" off.

- New Richland Municipal Liquor Store shows the largest volume of sales of any of the municipal liquor stores within the area and exceeds the state net income average. According to a report received from Robert W. Mattson, state auditor, the volume of sales for New Richland was \$160,834.00 for 1974. Direct cost in the sales was \$100,420.00 and a gross profit of \$60,414.00.



- Marlene Tappe and Judy Tollefson are pictured here presenting Inger Nordby, New Richland-Hartland's AFS student with a Cardinal Letter jacket. The jacket was a gift from the student body at New Richland-Hartland High School.

- Terence Lee Kent of Route 2 New Richland is among 4,177 students attending Bemidji State University this fall, according to President Dr. R.D. Decker. The University, which had an on-campus headcount of 4,062 last fall, has seen that number rise to 4,177 for the current quarter. The increase of 115 represents a 2.8 percent enrollment boost.

75 years ago

- Arrival of barber fixtures is all that is holding up the opening of Sid Fossum's barber shop in the hotel building. They've been shipped and when they are installed he'll open up. May be the first of next week.

- Their second daughter, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Joyce Heckes of Albert Lea, at the Naeve hospital Saturday, November 4. Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Heckes are the paternal grandparents.

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

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

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

**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

**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  
thompsonsantiation.com

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

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

DATE OF MORTGAGE: December 31, 2008

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$84,599.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Jon D. Junkers, a single person and Dennise S. Junkers, a married person

MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on January 2, 2009 as Document Number 278084 in the Office of the County Recorder of Waseca County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE:

Assigned to: Nationstar Mortgage LLC by assignment recorded on April 4, 2025 as Document Number A339803 in the Office of the County Recorder of Waseca County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The S 1/2 of Lot 5, Block 3, Winona and St. Peter Land Company Addition to the City of Waseca, according to the Plat thereof on file and of record in the Office of the County Recorder in and for Waseca County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 313 4TH STREET 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: \$51,285.34

TRANSACTION AGENT: None

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Nationstar

Mortgage LLC

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17.704.0270

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None

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: November 20, 2025 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

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: September 24, 2025

NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE 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 (25-0992-FC01)

**THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. Published in the Star Eagle on Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and Nov. 6, 2025**

**10,000 small businesses**

You Built Your Business. We'll Help You Grow It.

Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses is a no-cost, 12-week business education program designed to help small business owners gain practical skills and access capital. For more than 15 years, our training program has helped entrepreneurs across the country — including here in Minnesota — grow their businesses and create jobs.

Apply now for Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses in Minnesota.

Learn more and apply at [GS.com/10KSB-Minnesota](https://GS.com/10KSB-Minnesota)  
Contact us at [bsc.10ksb@bismarckstate.edu](mailto:bsc.10ksb@bismarckstate.edu)

**Donate Your Vehicle**

Call (833) 937-2593 to donate your car, truck, boat, RV, and more today!

- Support Veteran Nonprofits.
- Free Pickup & Towing.
- Top Tax Deduction.

**Donate Your Vehicle Today 833-937-2593**  
[www.veterancardonations.org/dnt25](http://www.veterancardonations.org/dnt25)

While we appreciate every donation, in some cases, we find that we are unable to accept certain vehicles, watercraft, and/or recreational vehicles due to the prohibitive costs of acquisition. If you have any questions, please give us a call at (833) 937-2593.

Stop cleaning-out your gutters this season

Get a FREE full gutter inspection and estimate: **1-877-627-0238**

**EXPIRES: 11/30/2025**

**15% OFF + 10% LeafFilter®**

**AN ADDITIONAL Discount For Seniors + Military**

Get a FREE full gutter inspection and estimate: **1-877-627-0238**

Promo: 285

\*See Representative for full warranty details. \*Promotional offer includes 15% off plus an additional 10% off for qualified veterans and/or seniors. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. †Subject to credit approval. Call for details. AR 366920923, AZ R0C 344027, CA 1035795, CT HIC 0671520, FL CRO96678, IA C172730, ID RCE-51604, LA 559544, MA 176447, MD MHC111225, MI 262300173, 262300318, 262300328, 262300329, 262300330, 262300331, MN IR731804, MT 226192, ND 47304, NE 50145-22, 50145-23, NJ 130409953900, NM 408693, NV 86990, NY H-19114, H-52229, OR 218294, PA 179643, 069383, RI GC-41354, TN 10981, UT 10783658-5501, VA 2705169445, WA LEAFENW8220, WV WV056912.

**Got news?**  
507-463-8112

**Johnson APARTMENTS**  
507-456-9514  
Operating in Waseca, Steele, Freeborn Counties  
[johnsonrents.com](http://johnsonrents.com)

PowerOn Midwest is a series of new electric transmission projects anchored by a 765 kV backbone transmission line being developed by Great River Energy, ITC Midwest, Otter Tail Power Company and Xcel Energy. The projects will connect eastern South Dakota, southern Minnesota and the broader region, enhancing grid reliability in the Upper Midwest to meet growing and changing energy needs in the coming decades.

**Join us any time at one of our open house meetings—no formal presentations.**

| Date                        | Time                         | Location                                                            |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b> Monday, Nov. 10    | 10 am – 12 pm                | Windom Community Center, 1750 Cottonwood Lake Dr., Windom, MN 56101 |
| <b>2</b> Monday, Nov. 10    | 4 pm – 6 pm                  | Knights of Columbus, 920 East 10th St., Fairmont, Minnesota 56031   |
| <b>3</b> Tuesday, Nov. 11   | 10 am – 12 pm                | Naseic Event Center, 789 Business Park Dr., Wells, MN 56097         |
| <b>4</b> Tuesday, Nov. 11   | 4 pm – 6 pm                  | Wedgewood Cove, 2200 W 9th St., Albert Lea, MN 56007                |
| <b>5</b> Wednesday, Nov. 12 | 10 am – 12 pm<br>4 pm – 6 pm | Events by Saker, 401 8th St. SE, Kasson, MN 55944                   |
| <b>6</b> Thursday, Nov. 13  | 10 am – 12 pm                | Hormel Nature Center, 1304 21st St. NE, Austin, MN 55912            |
| <b>7</b> Thursday, Nov. 13  | 4 pm – 6 pm                  | Zumbrota VFW, 21 E 1st St., Zumbrota, MN 55992                      |
| <b>8</b> Friday, Nov. 14    | 9 am – 11 am                 | Grand 02 Event Center, 32057 64th Ave., Cannon Falls, MN 55009      |

\* For additional dates and locations please visit [PowerOnMidwest.com](http://PowerOnMidwest.com)

**CONTACT US**

PowerOnMidwest.com  
[Connect@PowerOnMidwest.com](mailto:Connect@PowerOnMidwest.com)  
888.283.4678

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](mailto:troythompsonagency@gmail.com)

**Hope CREAMERY**

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

**POOLEY'S**  
SCRAP IRON & RECYCLING

WE BUY ALL TYPES OF METAL

NEW RICHLAND 13984 215th Avenue, New Richland, MN  
Phone: (507) 465-3789 Fax: (507) 465-3258

FAIRMONT 620 N. Main Street Fairmont, MN  
Phone: (507) 238-4391 Fax: (507) 238-1355

**Bohler Plumbing & Heating**

TRANE

It's Hard To Stop A Boher!

524 N Broadway • New Richland 507-465-8376

Rick 507-402-6706 • James 507-475-2450

**ARO/ACCOUNTING**

Allyson Olson  
cell 507-391-3738  
[allyson@aroaccounting.com](mailto: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**

**507-456-5128**  
[www.hollandauction.com](http://www.hollandauction.com)

**Bayview Freeborn**  
FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES

1415 Hwy 13N  
Albert Lea, MN 56007  
[bayviewfuneral@gmail.com](mailto: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.

Matthew R. Petsinger Agency, LLC  
Matthew Petsinger, Agent  
Waseca, MN  
[teampetsinger@amfam.com](mailto:teampetsinger@amfam.com)  
[mrapagencyllc.com](http://mrapagencyllc.com)

**JK ROUTH CONTRACTING, LLC**

**Wick Buildings**

Jesse Routh  
507-383-7892  
[jrouthbod@yahoo.com](mailto:jrouthbod@yahoo.com)

**PANTHER POWERHOUSE**

24-Hour Gym Access  
New Member sign-up 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 8am-2pm

104 Broadway Ave. S. • Downtown New Richland  
**507-465-8000**

# Child’s History of Waseca County

Continuing Chapter II, 1854-5: First White Settlement – Mr. A. G. Sutlief and Family – Journey from Dodge County, Wis. – Judge Green’s Narrative – Judge Lost and Prepared for Death – Sutlief’s Return – Big Boot Creek – Crossing the Mississippi on Ice

“From that place we proceeded to Beaver lake, just east of New Richland, crossing its outlet where the road now runs. Here we saw an Indian and tried to get some idea from him what course to take to reach the Minnesota River, but failed to secure any correct information. Crossing some of the rivulets that unite to form the Le Sueur river and following along down that stream, we forded it near where the village of St. Mary was afterwards built. We wandered on, we knew not whither, until we struck Minnesota lake. Here we stayed two days and looked for signs. At last, about three miles west of the lake, we found a freshly-made Indian trail going southwest. We concluded that the Indians had gone on a hunting expedition and that they had congregated at the Minnesota river, starting en masse from there. Not knowing anything better to do, we took this trail back and struck Mankato July 4th, 1854.

Mankato then consisted of one family, who kept a log boarding house, and one man, who presided over a saloon made of small poles. No other evidence of civilization (?) met our gaze. From this point we proceeded to Sutlief’s claim which he made about six miles west of St. Peter, remaining with him one day. We then followed the trail down the Minnesota river to St. Paul, which was at that time little more than an Indian trading post, not as large as St. Anthony then was, and Minneapolis had not yet been spoken of. Here we boarded a steamer for La Crosse, from which point we took our way homeward by our own conveyance.

At the time of this trip, the prairies were covered with luxuriant grasses from three and a half to four feet high. Deer and elk roved at will, several large herds coming within our view. After leaving Potter’s house, before mentioned, we saw no other house until our arrival in Mankato.

I made no definite location on this trip, but concluded to return to the vicinity of the Straight or Le Sueur river, with my family, and then make my location. G. W. GREEN”

The following August judge Green returned with his family and settled at Owatonna, as will more fully appear in these annals.

Mr. Sutlief had been staying only a few days on his claim, near St. Peter, when he ac-

cepted an offer of \$100 for his “right of possession.” He then returned to Mankato, where he left his family and stock, and sought a new location “far from the haunts of busy men.” After much traveling and a thorough inspection of a large extent of country, he selected a portion of section 32, town of Wilton, as his future home. The most of his family still reside there. He arrived at this claim with his family and stock early in August, and at once broke about two acres of prairie. He then set about building a “shanty” for himself and family, and providing shelter for his cattle and sheep. It was a work of some magnitude to prepare for winter, but his energy and industry with the efficient aid of his worthy wife, overcame all obstacles, and, in a few weeks, he was ready to return to Wisconsin with his wife and children to remain during the winter. But before starting for Wisconsin with his family, he planned to go to La Crosse to get a supply of provisions for Luther Barrett, a hunter and trapper, who was to stay on the claim and feed and care for the sheep and cattle until Sutlief’s return the following January.

On his trip to La Crosse, he met Judge Green, on Ashland prairie, who, with his family, eleven men, seven ox teams and wagons, and eighty head of cattle, mostly cows and young stock, left Beaver Dam, Wis., August 12th. Judge Green, having more supplies than he could easily haul, mr. Sutlief concluded to return with him. Arriving at Straight river, where Owatonna is now located, they found that stream so swollen with recent copious rains that they could not cross it with their heavy loads. Here they found A. B. Cornell and family, the first settlers of Steele county, and here they pitched their tents and took counsel with each other.

Editorial Note - Upon rummaging through the vast library of contents here, I stumbled across a very old blue book titled, “Child’s History of Waseca County Minnesota for Fifty Years, 1854-1904.”

After thumbing through the first several pages it was determined this book was too interesting to go back on the shelf. So, it was used as a stand for a computer monitor. Several months later, after finding a more suitable stand, I opened the book to show a reader who stopped into the office. After reading about the Horse Thief Detective Association, I made the decision that this piece of history should not be lost to time. Since then the Pioneer and Star Eagle has included, “a little bit of this and a little bit of that,” from the book.

Eli Lutgens



## Fire Safety



Mrs. Lassahn’s 2nd grade class at NRHEG visited the Ellendale Fire Station to learn about fire safety.

## Roadside cleanup



Students from the NRHEG Secondary School spent some time Oct. 8 helping keep the community beautiful by taking part in a roadside cleanup.