



FenceLines

by Mark Bernard

Looking for peace of mind anywhere

Another week of temps still ranging above normal, although the scurs donned sweaters based on Weather Eye data. Is this the week Jack Frost means business or does he continue dawdling for another spell? Starting Thursday, sunny with highs in the mid-50's and lows in the low 30's. Sunny on Friday with highs in the low 60's and lows in the upper 30's. Mostly sunny on Saturday with highs in the low 60's and lows in the mid-40's. Sunday, partly sunny with a slight chance of showers. Highs in the low 60's and lows in the upper 40's. Mostly cloudy on Monday with a good chance of rain showers. Highs in the low 60's with lows in the low 40's. Tuesday, partly sunny with highs in the low 50's and lows in the upper 30's. Partly sunny on Wednesday with highs in the upper 40's and lows in the upper 30's. On October 26th, we slide below 10 hours and 30 minutes of daylight, roughly where we'll be again come Valentine's Day. The normal high for October 26th is 53 and the normal low is 33. Given that forecast, the scurs will be looking for that extra blankie soon.

Harvest is nearing a conclusion for many this week, if they haven't already finished. The 10-man dryer began operating early this week after sitting idle most of the fall thus far. This has been a common occurrence with area corn dryers as much of the early maturing corn needed very little artificial drying. I know neighbor Jon's dryer has only run during daylight hours. This is a little disheartening as the sound of that dryer knocks me right out when I hit the hay. I've missed a lot of Gunsmoke reruns over the years as a result. Seeing the recent FFA Corn Drive, it was interesting to reminisce about the FFA Corn Drives of my youth. If I remember correctly, with all the dairy operations still in business, there was still some ear corn being donated. It required someone to shovel it into the combine. We also walked to school uphill through the waist deep snow both ways. Ah, the good old days...

Anhydrous ammonia season will soon be upon us. If Monday's rain materializes, it may have to wait a while for soil conditions to be fit in places. Last week's rains served as a reminder that we're not running on 15 hours of daylight with highs every day in the 80's anymore. A forecast changing from a quarter inch of rain to over an inch can put a damper on fieldwork for longer stretches. The soil temps should be nearing the magic 50-degree level soon though and staying there. Fall nitrogen prices have historically been lower than they are in the spring. However, many years of data indicate that spring application of anhydrous ammonia is still the gold standard when it comes to yield. With heavy July and August precipitation this past growing season, in many cases it yielded better than fall applied N, especially when sidedress nitrogen was also part of the equation. Still, it's nice to have some fall N applied in this

latitude. Peace of mind knowing it's on.

And that brings us to the winter that lies ahead. With the announcement that a weak La Nina had developed, forecasters were scrambling to explain some of the potential ramifications. Some of those forecasters include the likes of NOAA, The Farmer's Almanac and The Old Farmer's Almanac, written by old farmers of course. There is some agreement between NOAA and The Farmer's Almanac as far as being a colder and in places snowier winter. For us, NOAA is leaning towards colder than norma temps with even odds of above or below normal snowfall. Normal snowfall here is around 52". The Farmer's Almanac is predicting a harsher version with more snow and cold on a roller coaster. The Old Farmer's Almanac is basically saying a warmer repeat of last winter. Not having to battle ice, snow and below zero on a daily basis would certainly resonate well with livestock operators in particular. I think a lot of us would vote for that.

We broke away Sunday to do some leaf watching in the Studebaker. It had been over a month since the last excursion, so it took a while to get it cleaned up and ready to go. Once that was accomplished, off we went. Aside from the breeze, it was as good as it gets for fall weather. The Silver Hawk purred as we rolled along the byways. The leaves? Still a bit on the uncooperative side until we got to Mankato. While not yet at its peak, the MN River valley color was starting to light up the hillsides. We had high hopes that New Ulm would be even better, but were disappointed. It was still very green yet with only small pockets of color. Back home again, there was a tree in the CREP acreage that had mystified me. It was fire engine red earlier last week, turned orange midweek, and was turning more yellow over the weekend. I had my suspicions, so made a point to check it out. My suspicions were confirmed: it was a chokecherry. The leaves were coming off rapidly too. Blink or come home in the dark and you'll miss it.

Poppy has been busy getting into her fall routine. Some of the dreary fall days like Tuesday lead to long naps on her part and who can blame her? With nothing better to do while we're away, it's not too difficult. I've been trying to keep her little buddies' ear corn feeder stocked, so there's an opportunity for her and the squirrels to get some exercise. Otherwise both parties tend to get fat and lazy. There's not much left in the garden to contend with either, so there's less time being spent there. Eventually there will be a corn shock fashioned from the Indian corn in the front yard. That way Poppy will have a place to sniff for the mice that have mistakenly assumed they have a winter home. More exercise for all parties involved, including the shocker.

See you next week...real good then.

Cannon River Watershed schedules meeting

In November, the Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board (CRWJPB) will meet in person for its quarterly board meeting. The meeting will be on Wednesday, November 5, 2025 at a.m. in the Straight River Room at the Rice County Fairgrounds, 1900 Fairground Drive in Faribault.

The CRWJPB was formed in June of 2020 to implement the

Cannon River Watershed Comprehensive Management Plan and improve local water quality. The CRWJPB represents the members of the Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Organization. Learn more about this organization and its efforts to improve the Cannon River Watershed at <http://www.riceswcd.org/crwjpb>.

The calendar months and their names

Thanks to some reading I've been doing, I've come across the information that indigenous people named the "months" by what happened at the particular time of year. The Hopi of the Southwest call October the "Wind Moon." The Ojibwe of the north call September "Changing Leaves Moon" and October "Falling Leaves Moon." Not surprisingly, June is the "Blossom Moon" and July "Berry Moon."

What is perhaps surprising is that they regarded each year as having 13 months. But really, that discrepancy from the "Gregorian" calendar—the one used to indicate a year with 52 weeks and 12 months—only shows the native American system makes more sense. The earth orbits the sun in 365 days: A full cycle of the moon is 28 days. The answer to 365 divided by 28 is 13. Thus, the native American way of measuring the year is supremely practical. The "Gregorian" way is riddled with politics and glory-seeking.

When the Romans began the calendar which preceded the current one, they divided the year into 10 parts. This is still visible in some of the month names. The prefixes "sept-," "oct-," "nov-," and "dec-" are all based on the Latin words for the numbers seven, eight, nine and ten,



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

even though the months named after them have become numbers nine, ten, eleven and twelve. The first six months were named after Roman gods or customs: Janus, the god of beginnings; Mars, the god of war. February was the time people would undergo a ritual of purification.

Politics came into it when Julius Caesar decided he was important enough to have a month named after him. Caesar Augustus made the same decision. I guess they were right, since we've continued to use their names—most of us without realizing it—for centuries. Along the way we've injected artificial elements, for example deciding some months are 30 days long, others are 31, and February only 28.

And while one set of humans was caught up in power plays and pretending their petty politics outranked the

sturdy consistency of celestial bodies, another set of humans was observing nature and adjusting their own movements and lifestyles accordingly.

But as I think about it, the names of the months are really only the beginning. Those of us dependent on a printed calendar build a rather rigid framework into our concept of the years and seasons.

The year "starts" on January 1. Spring is due by the date assigned to Easter. Summer belongs in the months of June, July and August. When nature doesn't comply with those deadlines, we express surprise and even displeasure.

The idea of a "spirit moon" at the depth of winter's cold leading to a "bear moon" and then a "sugar moon" while knowing there will be twelve full moons before each repeats itself removes that grid of expectation and

perhaps guides us to simply live with what this current moon brings.

The Ojibwe have a flood tradition in which the great spirit decided to cleanse the earth by covering it in deep water. I am purposely skimming over the details here, so that you will have a reason to go online and read the legend in its entirety. I mention the story only to share one last point pertinent to my topic. In the legend, one tiny bit of earth is recovered at great cost from deep under the water and placed on a turtle's shell, where it grows back into the land humans and many animals need to survive.

The central raised mound of a turtle's shell has thirteen sections. The low rim around the outside has 28 markings. Thus, a turtle's shell could be used as a kind of calendar, with a small stone or other piece moving in turn to each of the 28 marks on the outside rim before another stone or piece could move to the next of the 13 larger sections on the raised center. Even the "calendar" aligns with something natural. It seems impressive to me that someone paid such close attention that they noticed the coincidence and built it into their not-quite-creation story.

South Dakota vacation adventures

Last week I returned from a five-day South Dakota vacation with my friend Madi.

Two years ago I met Madi and within a month she began talking about a vacation to South Dakota. She joked she was going to kidnap me if that's what it took. I was hesitant then, because of the amount of work I was doing. It just wasn't possible to get away, even for a weekend.

This year, when Madi approached me with the idea, in the middle of September, I didn't hesitate; I said yes. We invited three friends, but no one could find the availability. For Madi, she works for me at the game store I own in Austin. She's also in charge of the scheduling. And, to boot, my other employee at the store is our friend whom Madi hired. Unfortunately, we couldn't bring him with us as someone had to stay behind to work the store.

We departed Tuesday morning, October 7 at about 10 a.m.

As Madi pulled up to my apartment, I was just finishing my work for the week's paper. After loading up my bags, we hit the road for the eight-hour plus drive to Lead, which really was just an Interstate 90 road trip as that was the only road we drove on until Lead.

About four hours into the drive, after two stops for food, gas and necessities, we made our first stop in 1880s town, a tourist attraction.

It was an immersive experience walking through history. My favorite part was the saloon, which reminded me of the Western bar from Back to the Future 3. Oh, and they had an old timey spinning teeter-totter that we played on. I felt like a kid again.

About an hour later we came to my favorite views of the trip, the Badlands. The views took my breath away and reminded me how immense the world is.

We spent about three hours driving, climbing rocks and walking trails until it was dark.

A couple hours later, just before 9, we arrived in Lead. After a stop for groceries, we headed to our cabin.

I made dinner as Madi unpacked. Madi is very sweet and surprised me by bringing all of my bags upstairs to my room and also by making my bed for me, all while I cooked. It was very thoughtful of her. I could not have asked for a better person to vacation to



Just a Thought...

by Eli Lutgens

South Dakota with.

Wednesday morning we departed early for Mount Rushmore. Due to the government shutdown, we avoided many national park fees and crowds. Madi tells me the crowd at Mount Rushmore was less than a third of what she's experienced the other three visits she's taken.

We walked a trail to the base of Mount Rushmore, which Madi had not done before. She said it was too strenuous before. I said, let's walk it "backwards" going the opposite direction it suggested. This meant we walked a quarter mile on a paved surface to get to the base.

"Now I can bring my mom here!" Madi exclaimed. Meaning her mom could manage the easier portion of the trail.

After a scenic drive through Custer State Park, which was about four hours of driving, walking and climbing we stopped for lunch in Custer. It was only one of two meals we stopped for on the trip. We both enjoyed fish, followed by bread pudding for dessert. As I ordered, Madi said she wasn't much of a pudding person and would not partake. I explained, (although I had never had it) that it wasn't really pudding.

When the dish arrived, Madi took a bite and exclaimed "Oh, Eli, this is dangerous!"

She enjoyed her half of the sweet treat.

We drove by Crazy Horse next, which I felt was remarkable. The evening concluded at Pactola Lake reserve where we watched the sunset and skipped rocks. I felt like a kid sitting on the shore, skipping rocks as the sun went down. It was perfect.

(Not to mention a group of kids left their clothes, a half drunk beer and an empty pack of cigarettes amongst the shore's rocks.)

Thursday we visited Wyoming's Devil's Tower. A two-ish mile hike around the base was scenic. We stopped numerous times to lay on large

rocks, catch our breath and enjoy the views.

A trip through Spearfish Canyon, a brief hike through a waterfall, shopping in Deadwood and much driving concluded our Thursday. Oh, and homemade soup and burgers (with meat from Madison's farm) was dinner.

Friday we spent at the Reptile Gardens, Bear Country USA, Windcave National Park and finally a natural hot spring in the town of Hot Springs.

All of these parks, except the zoos mentioned above, were all free of charge the entire trip. It was kind of crazy how much money we saved due to the shutdown.

I made dinner again Friday evening. I caramelized onions and bacon into a jam, mixed in tomatoes and ground beef and cheese and made a ground up hot dish type dinner with everything left in our fridge Friday night for dinner. It was delicious.

Saturday we intentionally left open for whatever we didn't get to.

We both slept in a little bit longer for the first time all trip, packed up for Sunday before departing for another hike through Spearfish Canyon.

Afterwards we stopped in Deadwood one last time. This time, however, we made it in time while the visitors center was open. The nice lady behind the counter asked how much time we had. I said two hours. She circled on the map where we should go,



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Waseca County to host flu shot clinic at NRHEG

Waseca County Public Health is announcing an upcoming Influenza (Flu-Shot) Vaccine Clinic to provide vital seasonal protection to the community. The clinic will take place on Wednesday, October 29, 2025 from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. It will be held at the NRHEG High School in the cafeteria/lower commons area. Getting a flu shot is the best way to prevent the flu and its serious complications, protecting not only yourself, but also your family and community members, especially those at high risk. Waseca County

Public Health encourages all residents, six months and older, to get vaccinated before flu activity increases. Influenza Vaccine Clinic Details • What: Flu-Shot Vaccine Clinic • When: Wednesday, October 29, 2025, 3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. • Where: NRHEG High School (Cafeteria/Lower Commons) For questions regarding eligibility, insurance coverage, or general information, please contact Waseca County Public Health during regular business hours at 507-835-0685.

Compostings

by Al Batt

Old age is a thing

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

The traffic was terrible this morning. It was backed up for miles, and every driver was honking a horn.

What caused that?

I couldn't tell. They were all behind me.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. It's the beginning of the heated car seat season. As farm equipment rushed around to counteract its fear of rusting, I recalled speaking at a thing in McAllen, Texas. Lyle "Rocky" Bergner, a former teacher, coach and ex-Marine, was wintering in the Lower Rio Grande Valley due to his fear of rusting, and told me he'd planned to attend my talk. That was until he learned the tickets were \$150 each. He told me he'd heard enough from me when he'd taught and coached me.

My family had an outhouse. We were recyclers before we knew recycling was a thing. Sears, Monkey Wards, Penney's and Herter's catalogs found a second use as toilet paper. Using catalogs wasn't without peril. I still get nervous when I walk past a box of staples in an office supply store.

I'VE LEARNED

I was in Florida on a hot, nervous day. I could tell by the trees. Sweaty palms.

During a recent surgery, I did all my own stunts.

I talked to Nancy and Linda, and we bemoaned the lack of young girls named Nancy and Linda. There aren't many little boys named Al, either. Parents fear they'd become known as Artificial Intelligence (AI).

A MarketBeat survey (<https://www.marketbeat.com/originals/which-national-chains-do-people-wish-were-in-their-state/>) found that what Minnesotans most wanted to see in the Gopher State was an In-N-Out Burger. The second most desired brand was Bojangles, followed by a desire to bring an H-E-B grocery store to Minnesota. Iowans would most like Shake Shack to open in their state.

My fear of tsunamis comes in waves.

Muffins spelled backward is what we do when they come out of the oven.

When you open the fridge and no light escapes, it's time to clean it.

Interested is interesting.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

If I die before you, I want you to marry Rupert.

What? I thought you hated Rupert?

I do.

"Which tomato smells the most?" A Roma.

Old age is a thing. Last night I was in bed for 20 minutes when I heard the pizza guy cough. Then I remembered I'd gone into my bedroom to get my wallet.

NATURE NOTES

The Grasshopper Plague occurred in 1873-1877, beginning when southwestern Minnesota farmers saw what looked like a snowstorm coming from the west. There was a roar of grasshopper wings. In 1876, grasshoppers destroyed 500,000 acres of wheat, oats, corn and barley in 40 counties. Scientists called them Rocky Mountain locusts. Farmers destroyed grasshopper eggs, beat grasshoppers with flails, dragged heavy ropes through their fields, plowed and burned fields, raised chickens to eat the grasshoppers, dug ditches they hoped grasshoppers couldn't traverse and filled those ditches with coal tar and set them on fire, hoping the smoke might discourage them. Farmers made hopper dozers of sheet metal covered in coal tar or molasses, which they dragged through the fields. County governments made efforts to rid the state of grasshoppers, but were less prepared to help people experiencing poverty than were cities. The state provided small sums of state-funded relief, but focused its efforts on encouraging charitable giving. Governor John S. Pillsbury didn't call for state-funded relief for farmers, believing poverty was a fact of life and providing relief would make farmers dependent on the state. Pillsbury focused efforts on eradicating the grasshoppers, which included a bounty measure requiring every able-bodied man in affected counties to destroy grasshopper eggs one day a week for five straight weeks. In the summer of 1877, the grasshoppers left. An April snowstorm damaged their eggs, but many attributed the end of the plague to divine intervention, since Pillsbury had proclaimed April 26 a day of prayer. The grasshopper plagues left a mark on Minnesota culture, inspiring fiction like Laura Ingalls Wilder's "On the Banks of Plum Creek" and Ole Edvart Rølvaag's "Giants in the Earth." The Rocky Mountain locust species is evidently extinct, as the last recorded sighting of a live specimen was in 1902 in Canada.

Research from West Texas showed cattle prefer to graze where prairie dogs live, refuting persistent beliefs. Prairie dogs prevent larger plants from encroaching on grasslands by nibbling on woody shrubs, their constant digging aerates the soil, and their scat returns nutrients to the ground.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"The time is always right to do what is right."—Martin Luther King, Jr. Be kind.



STATE VISIT - Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon (center) visited with about 50 local community members and leaders regarding election processes and business registration in Minnesota. He spoke at the Waseca County Annex the afternoon of Wednesday, Oct. 8. His visit was coordinated by the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism and by the Waseca Area Foundation. Shown here are organization members (from left) Jay Bulfer, Robin Dulas, Amy Potter, Steve Simon, Mikhail Rostislavovich, Penny Vought and Ann Staloch.

Secretary of State Simon visits Waseca County

By ANN STALOCH

Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon visited Waseca County on Tuesday afternoon as part of his ongoing statewide tour of all 87 counties. The event, held at the Waseca County Annex, was co-hosted by the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce's Legislative Committee, and the Waseca Area Foundation gathered almost 50 attendees.

The program opened with remarks from Mikhail Rostislavovich, President of the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism and Chair of its Legislative Committee, who welcomed attendees and emphasized the state's civic strength.

"Minnesota consistently leads the nation in voter participation, and that's not an accident," said Rostislavovich. "It's the product of engaged citizens, strong local partners, and steady leadership at every level." Amy Potter, Executive Director of the Waseca Area Foundation, followed by thanking the Chamber and County for their partnership. "The goal is to bring people together to be informed and engaged," she said.

Secretary Simon began his remarks by noting that this is his ninth tour of all 87 counties since first taking office, a tradition he says keeps him grounded in the perspectives of Minnesotans.

"The best ideas don't come from St.

Paul," he said. "They come from local communities like Waseca."

Simon highlighted that Minnesota once again led the nation in voter turnout during the 2024 elections, including the highest voter participation among young voters 18 to 29 years old. Regarding Minnesota's turnout compared to that in other states, Simon summarized, "In Olympic terms, we're always on the medal stand, usually gold or silver," Simon said, smiling.

"Minnesotans take voting seriously, and that's something we should all be proud of."

He credited the state's success to "good laws and a good culture of voting," pointing to same-day registration, available since 1973, and the ability to vote from home as key reasons for Minnesota's consistent voter engagement.

Addressing national concerns about election security, Simon emphasized that, while his office oversees systems and procedures, it does not count votes. "We never lay a finger on anyone's ballot," he said. "That happens locally, in counties, cities, and townships. It's your friends and neighbors doing the counting, and that's by design."

He also explained the safeguards in place for absentee voting, including requirements for personal identifica-

tion numbers and witness signatures. "We've built a system with multiple layers of verification," he said.

Simon invited community groups, nonprofits, and chambers of commerce to partner with his office in spreading nonpartisan election information through customized toolkits and outreach materials. "We rely on trusted local voices to help Minnesotans know where, when, and how to vote," he said. "It's simple information, but it makes all the difference."

In addition to overseeing elections, Simon noted that the majority of his office's work involves business services, including managing filings, registrations, and public business records. He discussed the Minnesota Business Snapshot, an optional five-question survey that allows businesses to self-identify characteristics such as being veteran-owned, woman-owned, or minority-owned. The database, he said, helps communities and chambers better understand and support local entrepreneurs.

Simon also described new legislation taking effect in January 2026 to combat business filing fraud, empowering the Secretary of State's office to remove false filings and restore rightful business ownership without requiring business owners to take legal action.

During a question-and-answer session moderated by Dr. Jay Bulfer, questions ranged from blockchain-based voting to noncitizen eligibility verification and federal data requests. Simon said that while online voting may one day be possible, current technology does not yet meet security standards. He also discussed Minnesota's refusal to share private voter data with the U.S. Department of Justice without legal justification, noting that several other states have taken similar stands.

When asked about Minnesota's business climate, Simon confirmed that business filings are at an all-time high, though his office cannot directly track relocations. "We're seeing record numbers of new filings," he said. "That's a strong signal of entrepreneurial energy in the state." Simon ended the discussion by inviting ongoing dialogue with Minnesotans. "This is my favorite part of the job, meeting with people face-to-face," he said. "If you ever have a question, criticism, or idea, email me directly. I read every message myself."

The event closed with applause from the audience, reflecting appreciation for the open exchange of ideas and reaffirming Waseca County's commitment to both civic engagement and election integrity.

Geneva street construction nears completion

By BEN REVERMANN

Staff writer

During their regular meeting the evening of Tuesday, Oct. 14, members of the Geneva city council voted to increase retirement payment amounts for city firefighters from \$800 to \$1,000 a year.

A contract for Thompson Sanitation from January 2026 through December 2031 was approved; fees for each garbage can are \$11.75 per month, but the lump sum for Geneva is \$2,400 per city-wide pickup, with a two-percent increase in years two, four and six. The Midco online services con-

GENEVA CITY COUNCIL

tract was also renewed.

Donna and Dan Kuntz raised the issue of a city-owned pipe that has been draining into their yard pushing an entire five-gallon bucket's worth of sand into their yard daily when it rains. Maintenance said the pipe was installed in the 1950s and will need Empire Pipe Services out of Mankato to assess the situation. Lonnie and Theresa Bartsch raised the problem of a sewer pipe that is not draining; maintenance staff reported this will also need to be

looked into by Empire. Drew Weber, city lawyer, suggested there are grants that might cover some of the cost. Jeff and Nancy Titus would like to put a small shed on their property; council members expressed gratitude that they had checked, but revealed that, because the shed will not be a permanent structure, a permit is not needed.

Stacy Kubiawicz shared information regarding the upcoming celebration of Geneva's 175-year anniversary. An open house meeting in September addressed raising funds for the celebration in 2030. Council members said the

city will provide portable sanitation facilities and trash cans, and will do what it can to help with fundraising.

Drew Weber provided updates on work done along Main Street and other areas from Aug. 22 through Oct. 3. This included casting adjustments, asphalt mining, patching and pavement, turf restoration and signing and striping crosswalks. He stated any work not completed by winter will resume in spring; this will include any spring thaw cracks in the pavement and their repair. There

Council continued on 5



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Woods and Water

by **ian dahl**
Outdoors Writer

Fall has created some great memories

Since we have had our cabin “up north” I have experienced some great memories with my family. When my grandsons were young, we would go up over MEA week. This gave them a chance to hunt waterfowl and grouse. If the weather was warm enough, we could also do a little fishing.

Since fishing was my main interest, I would stay in the cabin and feed the fire while they ventured out on the lake to do a little waterfowl hunting. There is nothing like coming into a warm Cabin after being out in the cold fall weather for a couple of hours. When the boys headed out to hunt, I would wait until I heard gunshots or the sound of the outboard motor starting up before starting breakfast.

Hot coffee and a hot breakfast taste mighty good when there is snow on the ground and cold temperatures are there to greet you when you step outdoors.

One thing about duck and grouse hunting, Trevor would al-

ways clean the birds; he is good at it and I appreciated not having to be involved.

My grandson, Dylan, came up with me a few times over MEA week. His main goal was to do a little fall fishing. He and I had some pretty good luck in the fall fishing for northerns, which is what we mainly seek out in the fall. You may also be treated to a nice bass and an occasional walleye in the process.

Dylan and I mostly troll or cast in the fall, so there is really no jigging involved. We have had good luck in past years by trolling deep running baits in late summer and early fall. Later in the fall, we would run stick baits, spinner baits and bucktails along weed edges.

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.



MEMORIES - Shown here are some pictures of my son, Brian and me with Brian's two sons, my grandsons, Taylor, left, and Trevor, right.
Star Eagle photo by Dick Herfindahl

LOOKING BACK

25 years ago

- Last week Gail Johnson of New Richland (right) took over the duties of administrator at Royal Villa in New Richland. Janice Kulla, who served for nearly five years in the position, explained the office responsibilities to Gail. Janice is now making her home in an apartment in Waseca.



- Jessica Marie Waldron, the daughter of Joey and Lana Pick Waldron of Big Lake, Minnesota, was born September 18, 2000. The little miss weighed 8 lb, 5 oz. Maternal grandmother is Marie Pick of Waldorf. Paternal grandparents are Jane and Virgil Waldron of Buffalo, Minnesota.



- This Tower and Catholic church was built in Sexbierum, Holland in the year 1096, three quarters of a mile from the North Sea. In the year 1100 a Norwegian fleet came ashore and destroyed the whole town except 2 houses and the tower and church, which still remain in use. Sexbierum is the village where Ed DeJong and his family lived.



50 years ago



- Mrs. Gordon (Carole Wenzel) Schroeder cuts the ribbon at the dedication of the restored Clinton Falls township bridge, Sunday, October 12. Assisting her is Steele County Commissioner Dusty Rhodes.



- Brad Walstrom, left, is pictured accepting a \$25 savings bond from Tom Donovan, manager of Richland Coop Service. Brad's Essay on Cooperatives was chosen as the best in the contest run by Richland Coop Service, in which FFA members wrote essays. Brad is a junior at the high school and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Walstrom of New Richland.

The New Richland-Hartland Cardinal football team shut out the Janesville Bears, 21-0 last Wednesday night to retain the “Gold Brick” trophy in their annual contest. In the beginning of the third period, the Cardinals staged a 62-yard drive down field, climaxed by a 32-yard run around right end into the end zone by Rod Smith. The kick by Adryn Peterson for the conversation point was good and the Cards led 7-0. Rod Smith led all rushing for the Cards with 101 yards for 10 carries and Getskow tossed six passes with two completions for 69 yards and a touchdown.

- A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Jessen of rural New Richland, Thursday, October 16 at St. Joseph's Hospital, Mankato. The husky little fellow weighed 8 lb, 5 1/2 oz at birth and has been named Brian Paul.

75 years ago

- Harold Berg has purchased the farm known as the Wm. Verplank farm located about two miles east on Highway 30 from highway 13 of Mr. and Mrs. A. Theodore Nelson of Albert Lea this week.

- Leonard R. Burmeister and Miss Hilda E. Brinkmann of Little Fork in Northern Minnesota were quietly married Wednesday, November 8, at 2:30 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, International Falls. Rev. R. O. Evans officiated at the double ring ceremony. The bride was given in marriage by her sister, Mrs. Melvin Lee, who also served as her sister's bridesmaid and the groom was attended by Mr. Lee.

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)

LESEUR 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 newsletter 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

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 Cirksema, Pastor
Sunday - Summer Service time is 9:30 a.m. Worship; 9:15 a.m. Sunday school. (No summer Sunday school)
Worship is at 10:30 a.m. 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

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CUTE OR SCARY? - Based on the decorating that's taken place so far, voters will have to make some decisions about their personal stance: is cute and kid-oriented the way to go, or unsettling and frightening? Voting for New Richland's Halloween decorating contest will be open from Oct. 20 to 23 on the city's Facebook page or by contacting City Hall.

Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

Council

from Page 3

sidered a high traffic area, meaning both pedestrians and vehicles. Weber also announced the project came in \$26,907.83 under budget. He stated Third Street Northeast is completed, and First Avenue repairs are about half completed. Banners for the new city light poles were also discussed; a precaution was raised that it might be a good idea to order a test banner and try it out before ordering a full set to avoid acquiring many pieces that will be of no use.

Three nuisance letters have been sent to three addresses, two along main street and one on 5th Street NE addressing cluttered front yards. Both along main

street have complied; the 5th Street address has not complied or responded. This issue is currently being addressed with a possible fine.

Joe Reese let the fire trucks park in his business for two months while the road area in front of the fire department was completed. The council agreed to send him a check for \$1,000, paid out of the Fire Fund in Nov. The current maintenance man is looking into retiring; the council would like to put together a job description committee under quorum, so they can post the job opening when the time comes. The ash trees around town are dying, there are grants for this, but the council would like to wait for the list of 2026 grants and see what's available because the 2025 DNR grants aren't sufficient.

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- It is capable of relieving the financial burden for family members.
- It can make it easier for those we love.

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Checking into the Chicken Therapy Cabin

Continued from 10-16-25.
We checked into the Chicken Therapy Cabin about 3 p.m. Sunday, September 28, 2025. (Our sixty-second wedding anniversary, staying three nights.)

The therapy cabin is located on the outskirts of Albert Lea. The main feature is 10 chickens to entertain you from early morning til just before dark when they are locked in their coop, being let out early the next morning.

The coop has nests for the chickens to lay eggs in for the cabin dweller to use. All ten chickens are hens, no roosters as the roosters don't lay eggs and they crow at sun up.

It was a beautiful, on the warm side afternoon with no rain forecast for the near future. Along about 6 p.m. the chickens seemed nervous and headed for their chicken coop to be locked in for the night.

We were confused until a big, brown hawk swooped down. When the hawk spotted Genie and me, he changed course and flew away. We then locked the 10 chickens in until the next morning.



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

FACT OR FICTION

...you decide

by Bob Hanson, Emeritus

Just before dark we sat on the deck of the cabin to watch birds come in at the bird feeders for the last seed and drink of the day. (Chick-A-Dees, Nut Hatch, Blue Jays, Finch, Wood Peckers, Pygmy Nuthatch, plus a few we couldn't identify.)

Just at dark we heard a rooster pheasant cackle, plus coyotes howl. I counted at least seven different howls.

Genie and I had a light supper, looked at the moon and stars retiring early just like the chickens. Remember, this is "Chicken Therapy!!"

We never heard anything til the next morning- just my snoring per Genie!!

Monday morning we let the chickens out about 8 a.m. The chickens followed us to the deck

of the cabin where we watched them.

The chickens clucked, strutted, scratched and talked to us in their language chickenese the rest of the day. It was most relaxing.

About 6 p.m., the chickens seemed nervous and headed for their chicken coop. A hawk swooped down just over our heads. Genie and I flapped our arms and the hawk kept flying by. We think it was a Coopers Hawk.

The chickens thanked us in their chickenese language as we let them in their coop for the night.

Monday evening was just like the previous evening. The rooster pheasant crowed, the coyotes howled, and lots of birds at the bird feeder.

We had a light dinner, even eggs from the chickens!! We looked at the moon and stars retiring early. (Readers, remember this is chicken therapy.)

Tuesday was the same as Monday. Up early, talked to the chickens. (Genie and I can now make small talk in chickenese.) The hawk checked the situation out. We put the chickens in the chicken coop, listened to the after-dark sounds, looked at the moon and stars, and retired early. Thanked the owner for the great place. Thanked God for his earth creation.

Is it possible for an old Norwegian to have severe pain caused by a kidney stone after he enjoyed three days at the chicken therapy cabin in Albert Lea??

The answer is most certainly yes!!

P.s. This is Genie, "I can now also speak Chickenese!!"

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.

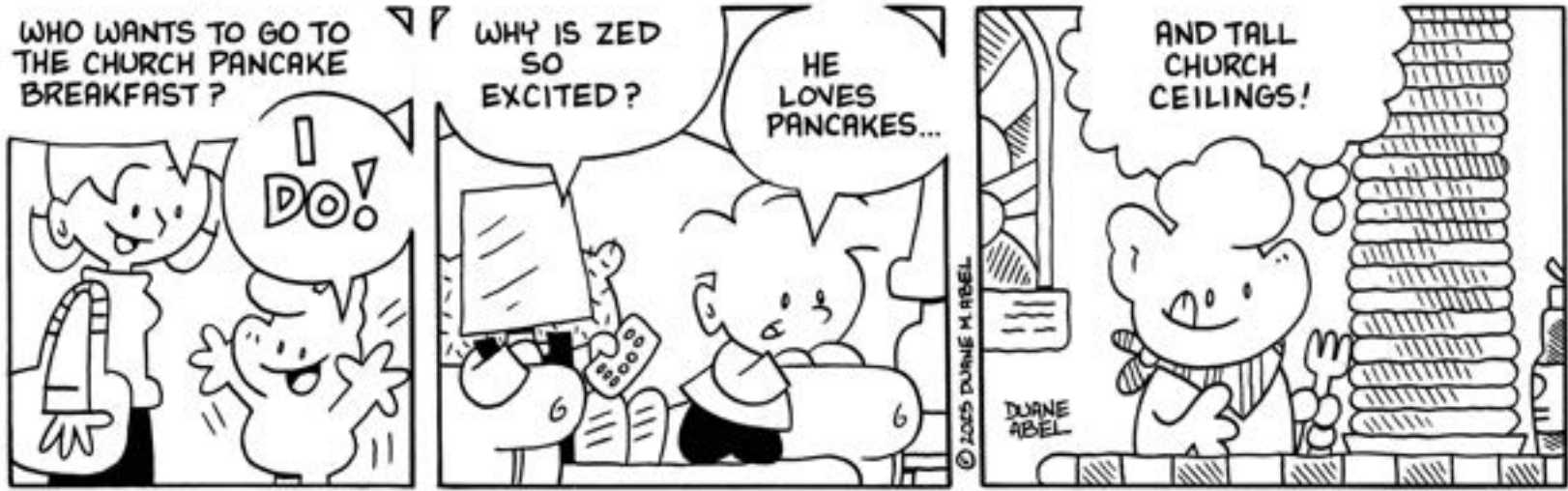
HERITAGE BITS



Compiled by BRENDA DOKKEN (10/2/25)

This photo was taken on the roof of the Anderson Bros. Meat Market (presently owned by Rachel Lee) in the fall of 1923 when the Carl and Christine Anderson family came from Denmark to relatives in Ellendale. Pictured are: (l. to r.) Eagle, Gunnar, Frank, Einar, Nels, Bergitthe (who married McFarland), child standing in front is Ethel (who married Hoff), and Carl, holding nine month old Gunhild (who married Kenneth Hojberg).

ZED by Duane M. Abel



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ACTION AT THE NET — Shown in action during NRHEG’s victory at Waseca last week are, from left, Gabby Schlaak, Camryn VanMaldeghem and Chloe Riewer. Star Eagle photos by Jim Lutgens

NRHEG spikers fall at Triton, end regular season 19-7

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School volleyball team wrapped up the regular season against Triton at Dodge Center last Tuesday.

It was a battle from start to finish but the Cobras came away with a 3-0 sweep, with set scores of 25-21, 25-23 and 25-21.

"Despite losing in three straight sets, the Panthers played hard and battled through some adversity," said NRHEG head coach Bethany Tennis. "It was a competitive match full of rallies and scrappy plays on both

sides of the net."

Senior outside hitter Camryn VanMaldeghem led the NRHEG stats for the night with eight kills, 11 digs, two aces and three blocks.

"The Panthers needed to anticipate and get set a second faster than what was happening, as well as improve our serve receive," said Tennis. "We want to make sure we are doing our best so that setter Addy Stadheim can utilize her options across the net. The Panthers look ahead to

"The Panthers look ahead to the playoffs with high hopes and determination to play their best volleyball." — NRHEG coach Bethany Tennis

playoffs with high hopes and determination to play their best volleyball."

Individually for the Panthers at Triton: Gabby Schlaak 4K, 7D, 1SA, 1A;

C.VanMaldeghem 8K, 11D, 1SA, 2A, 3B; Anika Ladlie 4K, 6D, 1A, 3B; Quinn VanMaldeghem 2K, 8D, 2A, 4B; Stadheim 3K, 10D, 16SA, 1B; Chloe Stork 2K, 2D,

1SA, 4B; Chloe Riewer 14D, 2SA.

The Panthers, who finished the regular season with a record of 19-7, drew the No. 7 seed in Section 1A and will host No. 10 Lyle/Austin Pacelli Thursday, Oct. 23 at 7 p.m. The winner plays Tuesday, Oct. 28 at 6 p.m. against No. 2 Mabel-Canton, No. 15 Houston or No. 18 Schaeffer Academy at the Rochester Mayo Civic Center. The semifinals are Thursday, Oct. 30 at 7:30 p.m. at RMCC, and the championship is Saturday, Nov. 1 at noon at RMCC.



TOUGH NIGHT — At left, NRHEG’s Chase Johannsen works for extra yards during the Panthers’ 20-0 loss to United South Central in last Wednesday’s regular-season finale. At right, the Panthers’ Wyatt Larson tackles a USC ball carrier in the backfield. Star Eagle photos by Jim Lutgens



Panthers blanked by United South Central

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Points were tough to come by for the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School football team in last Wednesday’s regular-season finale, resulting in a 20-0 victory for United South Central.

"It was an interesting spot," said Panthers head coach Marc Kruger. "Because no matter what, we are playing USC again now on Tuesday. We knew going in that whoever won would get the No. 4 seed and the home game."

The Rebels won by winning the battle up front, rushing for 239 yards while holding the Panthers to two. For the night, USC held a 257-99 edge in total yards, racking up 14 first downs to seven for the Panthers.

USC got on the board with a 20-yard touchdown run in the first quarter, tacking on a two-point conversion.

The Rebels scored on two short touchdown runs in the second quarter to go up 20-0 at halftime.

Panther quarterback Brooks Gilliland completed 10 of 25 passes

for 97 yards with three interceptions.

Calvin Nissen had five pass receptions for 48 yards.

Gavin Lewison was the Panthers’ leading rusher with 12 yards on seven carries.

Jordan Brouwers led the NRHEG defense with 10 tackles and an assist. Ryan Schlaak had nine tackles and an assist, Wyatt Larson seven tackles and one assist.

"The Rebels are a big, tough team, and they did a great job of controlling the clock," said Kruger. "We did not capitalize well enough on our chances on offense. We will go try again and Tuesday, look at what went well and what we did not, and fix it."

USC 20, NRHEG 0					
USC	8	12	0	0	— 20
NRHEG	0	0	0	0	— 0
First Quarter					
USC	— 20 run (two-point conversion good)				
Second Quarter					
USC	— Peterson 3 run (two-point conversion failed)				
USC	— 1 run (two-point conversion failed)				



STRATEGY SESSION — NRHEG quarterback Brooks Gilliland, left, consults with coach Marc Kruger about a play call in the second half last Wednesday. Star Eagle photo by Jim Lutgens

Third Quarter			INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS		
No scoring			RUSHING — NRHEG: Lewison 7-12; Nissen 1-1; R.Schlaak 1 — 4; B.Gilliland 3 — 7; USC: Peterson 17-50; Kayser 1-2; Rest of team 34-187		
Fourth Quarter			PASSING — NRHEG: B.Gilliland 10-25, 97.3 int.; USC: Team 2-5, 18		
No scoring			RECEIVING — NRHEG: Nissen 5-48; R.Schlaak 1-28; Johannsen 2-11; Lewison 1-10; USC: Team 2-18		
			NRHEG Defense — Brouwers 10T, 1A; R.Schlaak 9T, 1A; Larson 7T, 1A; Conroy 5T; Deen 4T, 2A; Nissen 2T, 2A; Selover 2T; D.Schlaak 2T; Baumann 1T; Hanna 1T, 2A; Meyering 1T; Bartlett 1T; Johannsen 1A; M.Gilliland 1A		
Total plays	45	63			
First downs	7	14			
Rushing Yds.	2	239			
Passing Yds.	97	18			
Total Yards	99	257			
Third Down	2-10	4-13			
Fourth Down	1-4	4-6			
Fumbles lost	0	1			
Penalties	5-45	5-76			



FIRST-PLACE PACE — NRHEG’S Julieanne Wobbrock, left, pulled away from the field to finish first in last week’s Gopher Conference meet. Photo by Larry Nydegger

Wobbrock 1st, Karl 2nd in conference meet

It was not quantity that set the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School cross country teams apart in last week’s Gopher Conference meet at The Oaks Golf Club in Hayfield.

It was quality.

The Panthers captured the gold medal in the girls’ race and the silver in the boys’, with the girls taking third among four teams and the NRHEG boys not having a full squad.

Blooming Prairie won the girls’ meet with 24 points, followed by WEM/JWP at 41, NRHEG 71 and Medford 102.

Leading the way in the girls’ 5000-meter race was NRHEG freshman Julieann Wobbrock, who crossed the finish line in 19:17.2, more than 10 seconds ahead of the runner-up.

Following for the Panthers: Josie Tufte, 17th, 23:50.1; Holly Bartness, 25th, 26:31.1; Violette Botten, 26th, 26:35.2; Rylie Cromwell, 28th, 26:56.0; Amelia Duryee, 34th, 29:03.1; and Tiffany Jewison, 38th, 31:20.5.

"The weather conditions were not ideal, but the cold and the rain did not deter the runners from having a great day of competition," said NRHEG coach Larry Nydegger. "The girls’ race quickly became a three-runner challenge between Julieann, Hadley Doman of Hayfield and Gloria Hernandez of Blooming Prairie, with the three runners finishing within 20 seconds of each other. I am so pleased that our Lady Panthers battled for every position to get

our best team score of the season. To see Julieann, Josie, Violette and Rylie get their personal best times and Holly to get her season best was very exciting!"

Placing first among varsity boys was the team from WEM/JWP with 57 points, followed by Blooming Prairie with 65, Randolph 66, Triton 82, Medford 101 and Hayfield 127.

Finishing second overall for the boys was NRHEG senior Jacob Karl, who clocked 17:33.2 for 5000 meters. Wyatt Jans, a junior from WEM/JWP, won the race with a time of 17:25.2.

Also placing for the Panther boys was Colton Lermon, who finished 31st in 21:29.7. There were 51 varsity boys competing.

"The boys’ race was also a battle from the start with runners from Randolph, WEM/JWP, NRHEG and Medford getting out at a quick pace," said Nydegger. "It turned into a rematch of 2024’s conference championship, with just over a mile to go, Jacob and Wyatt Jans (WEM/JWP) broke away from the field and had one of the more exciting finishes of the season, with Wyatt getting the first-place position this time around. It would have been fun to see Jacob repeat as champion, but wow, what a race!"

The Panthers run Thursday, Oct. 23 in the Section 2A meet at Norwood-Young America’s Baylor Park. The top two teams, and the top six individuals not on the first two squads, advance to state.

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 Dennis 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

by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is twelve (12) months from the date of sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on November 20, 2026.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL

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

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

Dated: 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

NOTICE

Berlin Township Board Meeting

Monday, November 3, 2025

7:00 p.m. in the Ellendale Comm. Bldg.

(in the Board Room)

Helen Schmidt, Berlin Township Clerk

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

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

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Honoring First Responders



This amazing piece of art was made for the New Richland First Responders by John Hatcher, called "Wall of Fire." New Richland Police Chief Tanyce Bruegger and acting city administrator Heather Christensen presented the art to the city council at their meeting on Oct. 13. This was aluminum sand-cast in the U.S.A. and has an industrial baked on powder finish hammered look. The sculpture is the artist's depiction of a firefighter's silhouette within a wall of flames in a deteriorating block building. There is also a spot in the back base of the silhouette to set a battery powered flickering light that gives the effect of a burning fire showing through and around the Wall of Fire. This will now be displayed in the council chambers in the City Hall.

■ Mayo from Page 1

shortage of labor and delivery services which is hitting rural areas the hardest. The Minnesota Department of Health said since 2024 there have been three labor and delivery unit closures — Mayo clinic's birthing centers in Fairmont and New Prague, and Essentia Health's unit in Fosston. Last month, Mayo also announced it was closing six of its rural clinics in southeastern Minnesota.

Katy Kozhimannil studies rural maternity care as a public health professor at the University of Minnesota. She said it's hard to know at this point exactly how Owatonna patients will be affected by this change. But her research shows that, as rural communities lose hospital-based obstetric services, there's an increase in the rate of out-of-hospital births and pre-term birth.

"Local access to childbirth care and to services and support for pregnant patients is really, really important to communities, and any changes to that need to be considered with a lot of care and attention," Kozhimannil said.

Allina said they are working on plans to cover potential service gaps when Mayo's coverage ends on Nov. 17. That will likely include Owatonna Hospital diverting patients who are in labor to other hospitals as of Nov. 17, until a viable long-term solution is in place. It's unclear how long that will take.

Allina officials said they will be working with other area hospitals, such as Faribault Medical Center 15 miles away, to ensure continuity of care for patients. Allina has no primary or specialty care clinics in Owatonna, except for a rehabilitation institute.

Mayo said expectant mothers will continue to receive prenatal and postpartum care from their MCHS teams in Owatonna, and that providers will work directly with each patient to review their birth plan and discuss delivery options. It's unclear where Mayo will refer its patients for labor and delivery. Mayo operates clinics that offer this service in Austin and

Rochester — both about 45 minutes away.

Jessop said there's still a lot of confusion in the community, and he's concerned that patients will experience gaps in care. He and the city council, along with the Chamber of Commerce, penned letters in opposition to the change last week. They plan to discuss it at the city council meeting Tuesday.

He said the city has been intentionally recruiting more and more people to Owatonna and has a goal of growing their population to 30,000 by 2030. This feels like a step back.

"It's completely detrimental to every effort we've made over the last several years to draw people to Owatonna and to show them what a fabulous place this is to live and to raise your family," Jessop said. "That's what brought me back to Owatonna. That's what's kept me in Owatonna, and now, all of a sudden, a part of that is gone."

Chamber of Commerce CEO Brad Meier said he's particularly concerned with how this could hurt the local economy. In recent years they've invested in new businesses and industry to revitalize the city, including reconstructing the downtown area and building a new high school.

He's hopeful Allina and Mayo can come up with a solution to continue offering labor and delivery services in town.

But U of M expert Kozhimannil warned that the logistics of building up new labor and delivery coverage could get complicated. Though Allina has some labor and delivery nurses, they will need other support and adequate clinic staffing levels and enough revenue coming in to cover the costs.

And she said she's concerned, based on her research, that these changes will affect prenatal care in Owatonna, at least for the time being.

"They spend the time in their prenatal visits talking about the logistics of where they need to go to give birth and what things can be performed locally as opposed to addressing the clinical aspects of the pregnancy. The psychological burden and stress as well as the logistics, can be really challenging for people."

NRHEG FFA



The NRHEG FFA spent Oct. 15 at the Region VII Livestock contests. The General Livestock team took 1st place over 24 other teams. Paige Johnson led the team and all other judges to take the top spot in the region as an individual. Abbie Viktora was 6th individually and Olivia Johnson took 9th in the region. Gus Bethke and Lauren Wakefield topped off this excellent varsity finish by placing 12th and 29th respectfully out of over 100 participants. The team will now move onto the State Livestock event at the convention next spring.

Not to be outdone, the JV team also finished in 1st place led by Mady Schlaak in 4th individually. She was joined by Mitchell Viktora in 10th, Aiden Louks in 13th, Charles Buenger in 14th, and Adler Bethke in 17th.

The Dairy Judging team also had a good day finishing 12th despite having three first time judges on the team. The were led by eighth grader, Cali Nelson who was 25th in the region.



NR Police sponsor community game

According to organizing officer Drew DeRaad, more than 40 children and a few adults have signed up for a game of "hide-and-seek" set for 7 p.m. the evening of Thursday, Oct. 30 in New Richland. He explains participants will meet at city hall, where they will hear the rules of the game, including that hiding spaces must be located only in specified public areas.

After a designated wait time, participating officers, including interested volunteers from a number of other area agencies, will go searching, using only their flashlights as tools. DeRaad expects the game to

last about an hour. Afterwards, participants will be given a Halloween treat bag.

DeRaad goes on to note that similar events have been held around the country, and that members of law enforcement are persistently looking for ways to build positive relationships with community members. He mentions area residents have also requested opportunities for interaction between law enforcement and area youth. Participants who have signed up for the evening, he shares, are from the NRHEG area, Owatonna, and Albert Lea; nearly all are youths of

varying ages with a few adults, some of whom are accompanying their own children.

He says both the young participants and other officers have expressed excitement as the event approaches. "We all think it's going to be a lot of fun," he comments. "The best part is we will be able to interact with everyone in a positive way. It will even test our abilities in finding others. We enjoy a good challenge, and we especially like the idea of a good training experience while we have fun with those involved."



Drew DeRaad

'Ask a Trooper': Turn lanes and traffic

Question: In your last article you wrote about "pavement markings." Could you talk about "turn lanes" as I think there are quite a few people who get confused by this?

Answer: Turn lanes near intersections separate left-turning or right-turning traffic from through traffic.

White arrows, sometimes accompanied by the word "only," indicate that drivers must stay within a designated lane while turning onto the cross street. If your vehicle is in this

type of lane, you must turn.

Some turn lanes have multiple arrows, allowing you to turn left or right, or to go straight. To discourage drivers from changing lanes near an intersection, turn lanes are separated from through traffic lanes by solid white lines.

A center lane between lanes of traffic traveling in opposite directions may be designated for left turns only. This type of lane is marked by parallel solid and dashed

yellow lines. These lines are sometimes accompanied by white arrows on the pavement. Vehicles traveling in either direction can use these lanes to make left turns onto another roadway or a driveway.

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