



FenceLines

by Mark Bernard

Our house is a very fine house

More nearly ideal fall weather last week as the scurs dial in the Weather Eye to see what's in store this go round. Does Jack Frost return or is he off on sabbatical again? Starting Thursday, partly sunny with highs in the low 50's and lows in the low 30's. Partly sunny on Halloween Friday with highs in the mid-40's and lows in the low 30's. Mostly cloudy on Saturday with highs in the upper 40's and lows in the low 30's. Sunday, partly sunny with a modest chance of showers. Highs in the low 50's with lows in the mid-30's. Sunday, partly sunny on Monday with a slight chance of rain showers. Highs in the upper 40's with lows in the low 30's. Tuesday, sunny with highs in the low 50's and lows in the low 30's. Daylight Saving Time officially ends for the year on Sunday the 2nd. Sunset will occur at 4:59 CST on the 4th. The normal high for November 4th is 48 and the normal low is 29. The scurs will be noshing Halloween treats as they set their clocks back an hour at 2 a.m. Sunday morning.

November 5th ushers in our next Full Moon, known as the Full Beaver Moon. The beavers will work feverishly to construct their dams that provide not only shelter, but food for the winter as well in the form of hardwood trees. It was also at this time that Native Americans and fur traders would begin trapping these large rodents for the warm coats and hats that could be made from the pelts. Rivers and streams remained open during the month of November making the task easier before the heavy snow made travel more difficult. The Ojibwe knew this as the Freezing Moon while the Sioux knew it as The Moon of Falling Leaves or the Moon when Winter Begins. At the ranch, it usually goes by the Moon of Draining Hoses. Carrying water to livestock is overrated.

Most finished harvesting corn and have gone after the last of the green soybeans surrounding the drowned out spots. Most have since moved their focus on fall tillage and fertilizer applications. So far the anhydrous appears to be going on well and soil temperatures have cooperated. Tillage also appears to be satisfactory despite the dabs of rain Mother Nature keeps dis-hing up. So far we've avoided the multiple-inch rainfall events and, with a few more weeks of that, it should be all done but the shouting. Quite the growing season it has been. The SROC in Waseca broke the growing season record for GDU's at 3003, breaking the record from 115 years of record keeping. Trust me, that's about what would be expected points well to our south.

At the ranch, we bottomed out at 27 on both the morning of the 24th and the 24th. Most tender foliage showed the impact as did the rooftops and windshields. It looks official. Still, there were sensitive plants in places that were relatively untouched. The cannas in the backyard looked none the worse for wear as did the four o'clocks. Of course, there are no hummingbirds or sphinx moths to feed on them either, so it really doesn't matter. I dug the cannas in the main bed and cleaned the bulbs up as best I could. They're on the drying racks set up earlier for the onions, so if we get some rain as was forecast, it should clean them up even more. It should also allow the four washtubs full of bulbs to dry and harden off before their long winter slumber

in the heated garage.

Last weekend was one of preparation for the colder months ahead. Time to get equipment ready to grind up leaves and to clean barns after that. Along with that this year, we're anticipating a major change with our water system, namely moving the pressure tank into the basement and filling in the old well pit. While not perhaps necessary, it still brings some major peace of mind when the winds are howling and temps plummet well below zero. It will mean the end of placing bales over the well pit and pumping the water from rain and snowmelt out if it periodically. Getting ready for the procedure meant getting a lot of things done, including cutting and digging the cannas as mentioned above, pumping the water out of the pit, moving rocks and debris, as well as covering the pit in the meantime, so whoever moves the tank won't have to swim to do it.

It doesn't seem possible, but looking at the calendar year, we moved to the ranch 40 years ago in October. My how the time has flown and the place has changed. Had a black Lab named Patti that stayed in the old barn inside her doghouse at night. The barn was beyond fixing and was replaced with a 40' x 72' shed. A straight line wind took it out in May of '96, so it was replaced that same year. Many of the trees have come down as well, some due to storms, the REC removing them, or when we added on in '08. We have planted far more trees than we've lost. Adding them up, I lost track somewhere over 50. I count them all when mowing the lawn. The soil has been very productive with the areas we've gardened producing bumper crops of vegetables. Soil tests taken in those areas would tend to indicate a lengthy livestock history. That history continues to this day.

Looking at the original house, there are almost as many additions as the White House. The original small garage would hold a Plymouth Horizon, a Chevy Luv and not much else. The attached garage as part of the west wing will hold a lot more vehicles and junk. The cistern under the kitchen crawl-space speaks to a time before electricity. The rainwater collected was likely for bathing and laundry. Also likely there was a windmill in the yard pumping water into the cistern there that gravity flowed water to the livestock on the north side of the building site. The aforementioned pressure tank in the basement project will be another welcome improvement to a work in progress for 40 years. It isn't perfect, but we call it home.

Poppy's role in all of this? She assumed the mantle of "Resident Dog" from Ruby and has performed her duties admirably. Looking back, she's the 7th dog to reside with us. Unlike all but Murphy the Sheltie, she's a lap-dog, especially as we move into the colder months. As Mrs. Cheviot calls her, a veritable baked potato, capable of pinning you against the backrest on the couch if you're taking a nap. Poppy is an absolute little bum too when it comes to getting up in the morning, a far cry from the Border Collies' "pitter patter, let's get at 'er" attitudes. Once she's up, however, it's time to chase kitties, bunnies and squirrels. A large responsibility for such a small dog.

See you next week...real good then

Technology allows for family fun

You are going to question my sanity after you read this.

In order to allow my granddaughter to visit with some of her cousins, and also to visit "Fright Fest," a spooky celebration at the Six Flags Great America theme park in Gurnee, Illinois, I drove from Grand Marais, Minnesota, where she lives, to the northern edge of the Chicago urban area. For two days we had an orgy of fun riding roller coasters, seeing shows, and taking part in other entertainment.

Then I drove back to Grand Marais. The distance, one way, is about 550 miles: eight hours of driving, plus stops for meals and stretches.

I suppose it's possible I might have been willing to make the drive back in a time before GPS navigation, but I was a whole lot more confident about it thanks to modern electronic support.

My "phone"--I put the word in quotes because it's a word whose meaning has expanded a thousand-fold over the past 15 to 20 years--made the drive smoother, faster, and more inviting than it would have been in times past.

First, and most obviously, it supplied navigation. Not only did it show the route I should take to get from starting point to destination, it estimated with impressive accuracy how long it would take me to get there. Had I needed it, it would have suggested alternate routes made more appealing because of traffic or construction.

It was able to tell me whether there was a particular restaurant in the



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

town I happened to be approaching at about lunchtime.

It willingly created a new route if some circumstance changed--for example, if I wanted to add a "stop."

Perhaps best of all, if I failed to follow the provided instructions for one reason or another, it calmly adjusted and continued supplying guidance to get me to my destination.

As important as all those elements are, they were only the fundamental beginning.

My phone supplied distraction and entertainment on the drive. I have an app which allows me to listen to "books on tape." Let me just say, it really helps pass the time on a long drive. Along with that, because I'm a nerd who listens to "that sort" of book, it offered tremendous food for thought. If you've never read "Mere Christianity" by C.S. Lewis, you might consider doing so. In addition to addressing fundamental elements of Christian faith, it broadens one's perspective on a remarkable number of everyday matters as well.

When the driving was a bit more tense and so did not allow me to pay attention to the book, it also lightened the mood by supplying other distractions--perhaps most notice-

ably, music. My granddaughter and I had a music exchange, in which we took turns choosing a song we like, playing it for the other, and then saying why we selected it. I was pleased to learn that, along with some of the noisier types of music not suited to my ears, she is fond of instrumental numbers and show tunes as well.

Then there was the app for the amusement park. It revealed when the park opened and closed each day; it laid out what shows were available at what locations and at what times. When some of my nieces and nephews decided to join us at the park, I was able to send a "pin" providing our location. Though I have never had much luck following "pins," it apparently worked very well for my nephew; he and his children arrived just in time to join us for a show.

And along with all that, electronic connectivity provided "phone" service as never would have been dreamt of in the past.

While I was coming from Grand Marais and my son and his family from home territory near Waseca, we were nonetheless able to coordinate our arrival at a stop partway along the route to have a late lunch with

family members. As I drove toward Mac's Pizza Joint in Janesville, Wisconsin, fully informed as to where the other car was and when it would be arriving at the lunch, I thought to myself of long drives taken in the past when the only information available to each party was the other's intended departure and arrival times, with pretty much every other element of the drive made on faith alone.

I made and received phone calls, most of which related to the trip and our weekend activities, and some having to do with my work with the newspaper. I spoke with people who were literally hundreds of miles away while they had no reason to believe I was anywhere other than on home territory.

While it had little to do with my phone, I was also able to connect my computer to WiFi and submit pieces I had written as though I had been working in my home office. I used email to make and confirm some future appointments.

Mostly, I spent my long weekend enjoying the company of family and friends while also enjoying the excitement of thrill rides and frightening actors. But the conveniences of technology pushed their way into my consciousness often. I was grateful for the many ways connectivity made my weekend simpler and easier.

As a child of the twentieth, rather than twenty-first, century I was astounded at how far human ingenuity has brought us.

The South Dakota scrapbook pictures



Just a Thought...

by Eli Lutgens



TRAVEL FUN - Highlights from Eli and Madison's South Dakota adventures from Oct. 7 through 12, 2025. Highlights included the Badlands, Mount Rushmore and dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Lewison. Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens



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

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Compostings

by Al Batt

The cereal captain

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

I have three chickens in my backyard. One hen lays brown eggs.

That's not unusual.

Oh, no? Could you do it?

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. Another wonderful neighbor, Jared Knutson, sent me a video of an eastern cottontail trying to hide in a harvested cornfield. What was it hiding from? It feared the two adult bald eagles that had a hankering for a bunny meal. The rabbit didn't initiate the attack. Those two eagles, with white heads and white tails, made several attempts at capturing the rabbit, but were unsuccessful. The eagles have been followers of Jared's harvest activities for several years, knowing that Jared would roust rabbits from their hiding places.

Years ago, a red-tailed hawk followed my farm equipment around the field, hankering to take the voles and mice I'd exposed out to lunch. Farm equipment is much larger today, necessitating Jared's upgrade from a hawk to two eagles.

CORNELIUS ROOSTER

As I drove through Northfield, the smell of toasting grain wafted my way. Post owns the MOM (Malt-O-Meal) Brands of cereals produced in Northfield, but it's Battle Creek, Michigan, that's known as the "Cereal Capital of the World" because it's the birthplace of two major cereal companies, Post and Kellogg's.

A mascot for Kellogg's, Cornelius "Corny" Rooster, has a green body, red comb, yellow beak and multicolored tail. He promotes the advantages of a Kellogg's breakfast with his friendly attitude and healthy appearance. "Nothing gets you crowing in the morning like Kellogg's Corn Flakes!"

Wheaties was invented in 1921 when a clinician for the Washburn Crosby Company (Minneapolis) accidentally spilled wheat bran onto a hot stove. After many attempts to fortify the cereal to withstand shipping, Gold Medal Whole Wheat Flakes were released in 1924. A contest led to the name Wheaties. In 1926, Wheaties was featured in the first prerecorded radio jingle, "Have You Tried Wheaties?" on station WCCO (named for Washburn-Crosby Company). Washburn-Crosby merged with three other mills and was renamed General Mills in 1928. The cereal was featured on a billboard, with the tagline "The Breakfast of Champions," for the Minneapolis Millers baseball team and sponsored that team's broadcasts on WCCO.

I'VE LEARNED

Our clocks go back soon, but I don't remember where I bought them.

If you want a dollar's worth of gas, buy a few radishes.

If you see lions, tigers and bears, you're at an animal sanctuary or a zoo.

I needed a twist tie. I found one in the junk drawer next to the broken pliers and an ancient, floppy, round piece of textured rubber meant to help open jars while promoting a funeral home.

Dr. Frankenstein found the brain for his monster in the junk drawer.

Age isn't just a number. It's a word.

We need conspiracy theories that promote joy and optimism.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

Robert E. Lee had a brother who was never late. His name was Earl Lee.

My neighbor was fired from his job at a dairy farm because he was a danger to himself and udders.

What's the difference between a pickpocket and an umpire? One steals watches and the other watches steals.

Whoever came up with "a penny for your thoughts" and "I'm being nickel-and-dimed to death" certainly knew how to coin a phrase.

Singing in the shower is great until you get shampoo in your mouth. Then it's a soap opera.

NATURE NOTES

A monarch butterfly was in my yard on October 24. Monarchs migrate between 50-100 miles a day; it can take up to two months to complete the journey. The farthest-ranging monarch butterfly recorded traveled 265 miles in one day. Their arrival in Mexico coincides with the celebration of the Day of the Dead on November 1 and 2. Monarch butterflies cluster in the treetops of sacred fir at the El Rosario Sanctuary, Michoacan, in central Mexico. My yard butterfly is unlikely to join that gathering.

Four young opossums (joeys) fed under the bird feeders. They were cute, and they had 50 teeth each, more than any other American mammal. Opossums are omnivores and eat just about anything, even mustard and sugar sandwiches. I don't know for sure that they'd eat those sandwiches, but I bet they would. The Virginia opossum is the only marsupial native to North America. Playing possum is an involuntary response to potential predators. An adult opossum weighs 4-14 pounds, and opossums are found from Costa Rica to Ontario and British Columbia.

MEETING ADJOURNED

If we judge others, it reveals more about ourselves than others. Be kind.



Pictured here are those who organized the Great Fall Get Together on Saturday, Oct. 25 at the Starfire Event Center. From left, Molly Hendrickson, Brad Milbrath, Penny Vought, Christy Easton, Ann Staloch, Monica Priebe, Tara Bjerke, Ann Johannson, Diane Beckmann, Katie Youngberg, and Mikhail Rostislavovich.



Charlie Priebe and Brad Milbrath looking stylish.



Sue Harguth's key fits the lock for the \$1,600 earrings donated by Williams Diamond Center.



Missy Donner serves up Waseca area gift certificates in champagne glasses.



Jennifer and Mike Bartelt join the Art Center soiree



Sally Takala and Bruce Boyce stop by the bar for a snack.

Art Center's Great Fall Get Together

By MELANIE PILTINGSRUD
Copy Editor

The Starfire Event Center saw a veritable who's who of Waseca County walk in the door on Saturday, Oct. 25 for the Waseca Art Center's Great Fall Get Together, and this year's celebration, which took place from 6 – 9 p.m., was a truly gala event, as the Waseca Art Center began celebrating 50 years (1976 - 2026) of bringing art to the community.

Crista Bohlmann and Jerimy Bohlmann-Little provided live entertainment, playing classical music on violin and cello, respectively. The Starfire Event Center entertained with an array of eatables that looked as though it could have collapsed a less

robust buffet, and, after picking up their auction numbers and drink tickets at the door, many guests lined up for the delectables with enthusiasm, while others mingled at the tables until the line decreased.

While some got drinks at the bar, others perused the tables of silent auction offerings, which included quite a number of gift baskets, paintings by local artists, and even a baseball, signed by Rod Carew, who played for the Minnesota Twins from 1967 - 1978. Still others tried their luck at any of several games. Purchasing a \$15 playing card from Brad Donner or Ann Johannsen earned the purchaser a chance to win a SOLO Stove smokeless fire pit. With only 52 chances to win, people bought

quite a number of cards. A Pyramid of Wine contained bottles of choice wines donated by members of the Waseca Art Center board and others. Jeanne Sexton, ever ready to volunteer, happily sold \$20 corks to interested persons. Each numbered cork earned the purchaser a designated bottle of wine, all of which quickly sold out. Missy Donner took up her usual role in helping with the games, selling for \$10 each the contents of ritzy champagne glasses: gift certificates hidden in elegant dinner napkins. The popular Key to My Art also quickly sold out. Charlie Priebe, Waseca County Republican Party treasurer, and Brad Milbrath, Waseca County commissioner, sold keys for \$30 each. All 35 keys were sold, and

ladies lined up in the hope of unlocking a treasure chest. To her evident astonishment, the prize of a \$1,600 pair of earrings, donated by Williams Diamond Center, went to Sue Harguth, as her key opened the chest.

Following the games, retired auctioneer Larry Born volunteered his time to sell off a dozen more items in a live auction. Tara Bjerke announced each item, and Monica Priebe helped to display them. Items up for bid were a homemade wine rack with capacity for 100 bottles of wine, two vintage handmade Ravca dolls, attributed to Italian doll maker Yvonne Spaggiari, a custom watercolor painting by Grace Galvin, a bourbon lover's bas-

Fall continued on 5

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Standing Left-Right: Suzanne Dickson, Kelly Hagen, AuBree Nienoord, Lori Bagley, Nancy Vaale, Donna Yokiel
Sitting Left-Right: Drew Sorenson, Tom Sorenson, Jennie Makowsky, Samantha Elmer
Front Kneeling: Lake

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Halloween Winners



The winners of this year's Halloween decoration contest are Ryan Quade and Jody Simon. They won \$100.

MVAC processing energy assistance applications

Program (EAP) staff are processing applications so they will be ready when the federal funds arrive. Area residents are encouraged to apply for the program now. Applications are available on the MVAC website at www.mnvac.org/programs/energy. MVAC staff expect the agency will not receive funding until at least one month after the federal government re-opens. This estimate is based on communication from the Minnesota Department of Commerce. In the meantime, MVAC reminds residents to: Continue to pay your bill. Contact your energy vendor to make payment arrangements.

Ask your energy vendor about the cold weather rule. Applications are available at all nine MVAC offices and online. Please visit mnvac.org for more information. Minnesota's Energy Assistance Program is federally funded and administered by the Department of Commerce, which works with local service providers throughout the state. About Minnesota Valley Action Council MVAC is a private, non-profit organization that uses federal, state, and local resources to provide assistance wherever needed. It is a local institution working on local problems within the widest possible spectrum of local needs and interests.

■ Ellendale from Page 1

He was, and presented much of the same information, including a plat map from 1916 that lists the land as Brown's Park. "I guess I'd like to find out if it was ever renamed as Ellendale Park," said Councilor Scott Swanson, who has described himself as "a bit of a history buff." "If it was originally named Brown's Park and was never ever renamed, it's still Brown's Park, isn't it? I don't know if they have records of that or not, but I think there's a way to satisfy what they're asking for," he said. "I'll do the research and find out." In other business, the council tabled a decision about the purchase of a new work truck requested by Public Works Director Josh Otto, who was not at the meeting. The current truck was purchased in 2019 for about \$35,000; Otto presented a quote from Owatonna Ford for a new vehicle, with a \$30,000 trade-in value on the current truck. Swanson, who has been working with Otto on a schedule for city equipment purchases, said the goal is to turn vehicles over

every five years, "so maintenance on them is under the service contract," he said. "I just want to make sure you guys know there's no money in the vehicle fund, so we'd have to borrow this money," said Kim Zimprich, deputy clerk/treasurer for the city. In fact, the fund is at a negative balance, said City Clerk Steve Engel, after the purchases of a side-by-side, a \$6,000 V-plow for a city pickup and a \$100,000 snow plow. The 2019 truck is "obviously" doing the job, Swanson said, "but (Otto's) point was the trade-in value. We've had it for six years ... we've only spent \$5,000 for six years' use." "I see his point," Zimprich said. "I'm just coming at this as a financial person." Council Member Joel Meyer said the expense is unnecessary. "We don't have the money to be doing this," he said. "We're spending 30 grand fixing the sewer; we had that surprise with the apartments over there ... we can't hike taxes any more than we already have." "My opinion on it is that quote needs to go in the garbage can," he said. The item will be on the agenda for discussion at the Nov. 13 meeting, when Otto will be present.



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Champion



NRHEG FFA member Makenna Reeder won the high school division at Hild Brothers Judging contest with a score of 248/250. She also received a scholarship to attend the Iowa State University Livestock Judging Camp. The Hild Brothers Judging Contest is a livestock judging competition that takes place at the Hild Brothers farm in Webster City, Iowa, in conjunction with their Bred Ewe Sale. Pictured here is Reeder with Will Taylor, ISU Head Judging Coach.

Punt, Pass, and Kick Winners



3rd grade punt, pass, and kick winners, left to right, include Knox Johnson (third place), Dallas Hansen (second place), Easton Isde (second place), Dekker Thompson (first place), Elsie Degen (first place), Lydia Holland (second place) and JJ Gilbertson (third place)



4th grade punt, pass, and kick winners, from left to right, include Briella Koerber (third place), Bexleigh Moen (second place), Mya Misgen (first place), Reid Leonardo (first place), Cooper Hanson (second place) and James Lewer (third place).



5th grade punt, pass, and kick winners, from left to right, include Olivia Miller (third place), Sophia Johnson (second place), Makenna Misgen (first place), Adam Davis (first place), Axel Schlaak (second place), Griffin Pederson (second place) and Myssiah Gilbertson (third place)



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■ Fall

from Page 3

ket, a Bradley Donner original painting of a warbler bird, a PIT BOSS 4 Burner Deluxe Portable Gas Griddle, two batches of home-made caramels, two separate offerings of classes in clay modeling for up to six people, one by Jenny Butler and the other by Missy Donner, and a Kate Spade Weekender Package, including a weekend tote bag with four tickets to the Minnesota zoo and four tickets to a Stages Theater performance.

Of the 150 attendees, a number of newcomers enjoyed the evening's events at the Great Fall Get Together this year, including Erica Forsythe, who works at the Waseca Le Sueur Library, and came accompanied by her mother Diane Forsythe. Mike and Jennifer Bartelt came sporting stylish cowboy hats that they had just made on a trip to South Dakota. Abigail Schumacher and Kyle Manderschied received a pair of tickets from Schumacher's employer, who couldn't attend. Ben and Elizabeth ("Biz") Janike have been new faces in the Waseca community since 2021, when they moved from Mankato to Waseca to raise their family and continue Ben's online fitness business, Crossroads Training, Inc. Julie and Jon Froke, Waseca city planner, also graced the occasion with their presence. They moved from Phoenix, AZ to Waseca 16 months ago to be closer to their sons and their families, and are finding the Waseca community to be a pleasant fit.

Regular attendees at Waseca Art Center events included Robin and Jay Dulas, Waseca County Sheriff; and Deanna Bendex, local artist and author, who came with her two grandsons. "They brought me," said

Bendex, clearing up any misconception that it was the other way around. Carol Wobschall, too, another local artist, was seen bidding on items at the silent auction. Pete Madel and Liz O'Brien were also there. Although O'Brien has taken a step back after four years on the Waseca Art Center board, she still enjoys attending the events.

After the auction concluded, Mikhail Rostislavovich, Waseca Art Center president, expressed his appreciation for the Waseca Art Center's 50 years of providing the wider Waseca County area with a locus of activity for local artists and art lovers, for the members of the Waseca Art Center board and volunteers for their hard work in making it all possible, and to all the people who contribute to the continued success of the Waseca Art Center, not least of which are those who generously support it with their donations. "Tonight's generosity ensures that art will continue to inspire the next generation," he said.

Tara Bjerke rounded out the evening with her own speech in appreciation for the Waseca Art Center's 50 years, and encouraged attendees that, if they hadn't won anything, they had yet another opportunity to contribute for the many supplies that the Waseca Art Center needs in order to continue offering art classes to the community at a reasonable cost. She sold the star balloons that decorated the stage, beginning with the gold starts for \$25, and continuing with silver and black balloons, all of which had served as a backdrop to the evening's theme of black and gold.

If you would like to know more about the Waseca Art Center, including their class offerings, visit their website: www.wasecaart-center.org or better yet, stop in to see the exhibits. Their hours are Tues – Sat from 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Fall is here, and this is how I know



FACT OR FICTION

...you decide

by Bob Hanson, Emeritus

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

When Genie and I replaced our land line phones with cellphones, we kept our phone numbers. This has resulted in some very interesting scam calls. For example: My phone rings, I answer, the caller identified himself as with a company that will help me because his company has found out there is a problem with our 2024 IRS Income Tax. (The scammers know an old phone number is an older person and the older the person is, the easier to scam!!) I hung up-the caller didnt call again!! (I know IRS doesnt call- they contact by mail)

Summer is about gone. We're almost into the winter solstice system which according to the calendar begins about the 22nd of December.

Living as senior citizens in Southern Minnesota we refer to this as the fall season. This can be stopped and starting with cold, snow, freezing temps anytime in the months of September, October, November or December.

home to Earwigs.

More short shorts:

A. When most people retire they have a choice: "war out or rust out." Genie and I chose "Wear out."

B. As an older retired person your social security check is more than your early years working check!!

C. Change your outside house light to green in showing your support of Veterans Day.

D. There are 4 oriental multi-colored ducks swimming around in the pond in front of Hanson Tire in Albert Lea.

E. It's the time of the year to make a phone call 1 951 262 3062. This is the phone number

for a great jolly fellow. Regardless of your age, once again 1 951 262 3062. (The slogan for Nikki shoes is "Just Do It" call!!!)

F. Illinois is #1 State in growing pumpkins.

Minnesota is #1 state in raising Turkeys.

I summarize the afore mentioned summer of 2025 due to all the rain as: A terrible summer for humpty dumpty but he had a great fall. (All the crops were harvested with a good yield even though the price wasn't the best.)

It is currently very very dry. How dry is it? I can see my footprints as I walk across our lawn on the south side of our house in Albert Lea. It is so dry you must be careful when you let your little dog out to pottie as a rose bush might just grab him for the water!!

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 is a picture of a general store in the Village of Ellendale in early 1900s. One of the men is Edwin Ellingson, uncle of Lloyd Kaplan. Edwin was married to Anne Kaplan (sister of Frank H. Kaplan).

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■ Gonitzke

from Page 1

Gonitzke describes a mood of friendly cooperation at both events.

"I can't believe the media is reporting that the protests were violent or threatening," she points out. "Everyone got along, cooperated, and did nothing to threaten or harm anyone."

In fact, Gonitzke remembers a distinct feeling of pride when she noticed two teenage boys nearby. "I told them I was really impressed they were taking an interest and expressing themselves," she notes.

Knowing that she would need help with mobility, Gonitzke, who walks with a cane, took along a specially made walker. "That way I could be steadier on my feet," she points out. "And I would have a place to sit down." Gonitzke points out she did not feel out of place.

The atmosphere was welcoming and numerous other people with limited mobility were there.

She says at each rally she chose a spot where she could watch the goings-on, then seated herself and held up her sign which said "Leave our medical insurance alone."

As a widow who depends financially on Social Security income and Medicare health insurance, she said some of the activity at the federal level makes her genuinely nervous about her livelihood. "These are benefits my husband and I contributed to our whole lives," she observes. "It's just not right to frighten and intimidate us this way."

She says she also worries for others who are affected by new administrative policies. She remembers growing up on her parents' farm, standing next to her mother who was looking out the window at a violent hailstorm, knowing the crops were being de-

stroyed as they watched.

"She was crying," says Gonitzke. "All I could do was hold her hand and try to comfort her in my childish way."

"I remember what it was like that our livelihood depended on selling our crop, and what it was like when we had nothing we could sell."

As for what she saw at the rallies, she says it was a learning experience for her. She read people's signs or listened to their conversations. "And I kept thinking to myself, 'I never thought of that.'"

Among the signs she saw were, "This veteran opposes fascists and oligarchs," and "Liberty and justice FOR ALL!"

"At the rallies, people were cooperating and treating each other kindly. There was energy and positivity," she summarizes. "When it was over, I went home feeling better about being an American citizen than I had felt in a long time."

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BIG PLAYS — Action from last week’s section opener at United South Central. At left, Gavin Lewison runs for his second touchdown of the night. In the middle, the Panthers’ Calvin Nissen hauls in a pass on fourth down. At right, Fynn Baumann makes the catch for a two-point conversion.
Star Eagle photos by Eli Lutgens

Football Panthers drop rematch with USC

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

This time was much closer. But it still went the way of the United South Central Rebels. In a rematch of the regular-season finale, the Rebels defeated the Panthers 28-21 in their section opener last Tuesday at Wells.

“The team battled and made some good adjustments from last week,” said Panthers coach Marc Kruger. “We started with a great first half, but could not finish in the second half. I am proud of how these boys battled all year. They made a lot of improvements, and we have a lot of young players to look forward to in the future.”

Early on, both teams had trouble

hanging onto the ball on an extremely windy night last Tuesday.

After the Rebels fumbled on their first possession, the Panthers took a 7-0 lead on an 8-yard touchdown run by Gavin Lewison. Alec Wyrum added the PAT kick.

After USC took an 8-7 lead, the Panthers drove 60 yards, capped by a 3-yard scoring run by Lewison. Fynn Baumann caught a pass for the PAT.

Also in the second quarter, Ryan Schlaak caught a 7-yard touchdown pass from Brooks Gilliland. NRHEG led 21-16 at halftime.

USC took the lead with a third-quarter touchdown, tacking on another score in the fourth.

Lewison led the Panthers with 43

yards rushing on 17 carries. Gilliland ran five times for 29 yards, Schlaak six for 29, and A.J. Deen eight for 27.

The Panthers outgained the Rebels 190-181 in total yards.

The Panthers will graduate seniors Lewison, Quen Meyering, Justin Beauvais, Jordan Brouwers, Trevor Selover, Wyatt Larson and Devlin Hudson. Underclassmen on this year’s team were juniors Brooke Gilliland, Chase Johannsen, Ryan Schlaak, Deen, Jack Bartlett, Colton Conroy, Baumann and Shane Service, sophomores Dakota Schlaak, Sean Lassahn, Calvin Nissen, Noah Weller, Levi Whiteside, Braxton Arnold, Bodie Newgard, Chase Hanson, Lincoln

Quade, Connor Louks, Corey Seedorf, Dylan Schroht, Hunter McMann, Ajay Arndt, Mason Christenson, Reid Sandry and Kailin Hudson, and freshmen Brock Holland, Owen Schlaak, Lucas Degen, Charles Buenger, Jamisyn Vallejo, Memphis Schlaak, Wyrum, Tyler Piepho, Eli Hendrickson, Mack Gilliland, Aidyn Groth, Brayton Kruger, Brayton Kruger, Mason Peterson, Preston Hanna, Wyatt Hendrickson and Cooper Cords.

The captains were Brouwers, Ryan Schlaak and Brooks Gilliland.

Kruger’s assistants were Jeff Jiminez, Chad Sykes, Dan Bell, Jacob Schuller and Nick Goette.

USC 28, NRHEG 21					First downs		9	13
					Rushing Yds.		2	239
NRHEG	7	14	0	0 — 21	Passing Yds.		142	181
USC	8	8	6	6 — 28	Total Yards		190	181
					Third Down		3-11	7-10
					Fourth Down		2-5	2-2
					Fumbles lost		2	2
					Penalties		4-15	0-0
First Quarter					INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS			
NRHEG — Lewison 8 run (Wyrum kick)					RUSHING — NRHEG: Lewison 17-43;			
USC — 1 run (two-point conversion suc-					B.Gilliland 5-29; R.Schlaak 6-29; Deen 8-27;			
cessful)					Nissen 3-14; USC: Peterson 18-97; Steinhauer			
					1-0; Rest of team 24-84			
Second Quarter					PASSING — NRHEG: B.Gilliland 4-10			
USC — Peterson 10 run (two-point con-					48, 0 int.; USC: 0-0, 0			
version successful)					RECEIVING — NRHEG: Nissen 1-25;			
NRHEG — Lewison 3 run (Baumann pass					R.Schlaak 2-16; Lewison 1-7; USC: Team 2-			
from B.Gilliland)					18			
NRHEG — R.Schlaak 7 pass from					NRHEG Defense — Brouwers 6T, 1A;			
B.Gilliland (two-point conversion failed)					Deen 5T; Conroy 5T; R.Schlaak 3T;			
Third Quarter					D.Schlaak 3T; Nissen 3T, 1A; Selover 2T;			
USC — Peterson 19 run (two-point con-					Larson 2T, 2 fumble recoveries; Bartlett 1T;			
version failed)					Hanna 1T; Meyerling 1T; Rest of team 2T			
Fourth Quarter								
USC — 6 run (two-point conversion failed)								
NRHEG					USC			
Total plays					52 44			

LOOKING BACK

25 years ago



- When it was Betsy Johannsen's turn to help Mike Moen operate the first hose at the New Richland Fire Departments garage during Fire Prevention Week, she squealed with delight. Perhaps it was because a wind gust blew some of the spray back in her face.



- Among the many shoppers at the New Richland Care Center's annual White Elephant Sale, Saturday afternoon were Vi Hower, Lenore and Kenneth Finseseth. Funds raised are used by the Resident Council for special events at the center.

- The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva ninth grade girls volleyball team defeated Medford 3-0, October 10. Leading the team with kills were Kalisha Anothony and Brittany Patterson with three each. Jessica Hendrickson and Chelsy Quiram shared two kills. Betsy Waldhauser and Mollie Flor claimed one kill each. Top servers for the match were Andrea Perkins with 15 points and Kristi Thompson with seven.

50 years ago



- Inger Nordby, New Richland-Hartlands AFS students, is pictured here with her American family, the Darrel Lundbergs. They are from the left, seated: Mr. Lundberg, Mrs. Lundberg, Inger, Julie; standing: David and Kenny. Inger came August 5th by plane to Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, where she was met by the Lundbergs. She is enjoying her stay here and says the people in the New Richland-Hartland area are some of the nicest and friendliest she has ever met.

- The New Richland-Hartland Cardinal Girls Volleyball A team defeated Hayfield 2-1, winning the match, Thursday, here. The Cards B squad also won. All of the girls really played well and everyone on the squad had the opportunity to get in the action. The Cards took the first game, 18-6, with 10 points on Marsha Herbst's serves, five on Marlene Tappe's and three on Lori Smith's.

75 years ago

- Employing his musical talents with the Recruit Training Command Band at the Naval Training Center Great Lake, Ill., is Richard Proehl, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Proehl, who has volunteered as a musician during his 12 week Naval indoctrination period. The recruit band marches at all recruit centers, and also makes occasional trips to nearby communities to participate in civic events requiring a musical aggregation.

- Mr. and Mrs. Henry J Becker announce the marriage of their daughter, Irene Agnes, to Jonathan J. Stevens of Chicago, Illinois. The wedding took place Saturday, September 23, 1950 at St. Catherines church, Denver, Colorado.

- Pvt. Stanley (Bud) Tollefson, 22, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley N. Tollefson, has completed his AF basic airmen indoctrination course at Lackland Air Force Base, the "Gateway to the Air Force."

Thinking about the
'Good Ole Days'



Woods and Water

by Dic Her ndahl
Outdoors Writer

Once again, we are on the verge of experiencing winter. Just when I think it is going to be winter, it warms back up. I am not complaining. I'll take all the mild weather that I can get.

Maybe I expect too much from Mother Nature, but I am sure glad to have to a few more of those nice sunny fall days with that crisp, clear air and that special smell of fallen leaves. Hopefully November will bring us a little "Indian Summer."

I hope I am not offending anyone by that reference. When I was a kid growing up on North Bridge, I attended Hammer School, where we started every morning with the Pledge of Allegiance. We had grades 1-3 in one room and 4-6 in the other; this is where we learned the three "R's." We were a close-knit group of students and parents where everyone knew everyone. It was an experience I am so glad to have had.

I can only imagine what it would have been like if people had been as uptight about everything being "correct" back in the '50's as they are today.

Almost all of the boys in our school would have probably been in jail. We usually played cowboys and

Indians or Army. We used sticks for guns and would choose sides. Now you can't even point your finger at someone without getting into trouble. I always wanted to be one of the Indians because one of my best friends, whose name was Gerben Earth, was of Indian descent and I wanted to be on his side. It had nothing to do with wanting to be a Cowboy or Indian, but just wanting to be on the same team as your friend.

I guess that this doesn't have much to do with the outdoors, except for the fact that our recess time was our own and we played together outdoors whenever the weather was nice.

There was this one year that we got into "Really Big" trouble. We were playing Army and decided to dig a Foxhole. Not just a token one, but a real one. At the end of recess, we would cover it with some boards that we had rounded up, so the teachers wouldn't find out.

We must have labored away on that hole for about two weeks before we finally got caught; the teachers were not very happy campers. How they caught us was a mystery, but I think it might have had something to do with that growing pile of dirt that



CLASS MEMORIES - Shown here is a picture of what is believed to be our second or third grade class that has been colorized.

Star Eagle photo by Dick Herfindahl suddenly appeared on the playground.

As time went on the school was phased out and it eventually closed. Tearing down the building was kind of a sad reminder of how nothing remains the same and even though you can't relive the past you can surely enjoy remembering it.

My son, Brad, and I spent a few days at the cabin a couple of weeks ago. We did all of the winter things, but it is still there in case my son, Brian, and I attempt a late fall visit.

This is the time of year when a

person can be surprised by waking up to a layer of freshly fallen snow.

Fishing in our area should still be pretty good. Late fall always seems to be a great time to catch some nice perch. I have also had some good luck in early November fishing northern and walleye in shallow water using sucker minnows.

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.

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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 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
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 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
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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
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FIRST LUTHERAN
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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

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Brad Donner, Branch President

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

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Update to Mayo Clinic news

By STEELE COUNTY TIMES

As a follow-up to the story we broke on Friday evening, Mayo Clinic released the following statement Saturday morning:

"Mayo Clinic Health System (MCHS) remains deeply committed to supporting patients and serving the Owatonna community. Beginning November 17, Allina Health will assume OB/GYN physician staffing responsibilities for labor and delivery services at its Owatonna Hospital. MCHS care teams will continue working with each patient to support their needs through every stage of their pregnancy and ensure they receive safe, coordinated and high-quality care. Expectant mothers will continue to receive prenatal and postpartum care from their MCHS teams in Owatonna, and providers will work directly with each patient to review their birth plan, discuss delivery options, and ensure a smooth, coordinated experience.

MCHS physicians have been solely providing the services through an agreement with Allina Health but are unable to continue due to recent staffing challenges and the ongoing nationwide shortage of OB/GYN physicians. MCHS continues to work with Allina Health to explore new ways to collaborate on labor and delivery services."

IN BRIEF

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 MNPrairie's "CredibleMind" 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

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.

Waldorf Veterans Memorial Fund Drive

Donations are requested to support the construction of the Waldorf Veterans Memorial. Checks written to WVMP Fund Drive can be mailed to WVMP Fund Drive; Judy Joecks, treasurer; P.O. Box 55; Waldorf, MN 56091.

Martens brings public service to BP job

By STEELE COUNTY TIMES

People in small towns are known for wearing many hats, from serving on multiple committees to volunteering for community events and running for local government.

In Anthony Martens' case, that public service is lending itself to his ability to help run a city.

Now nearly two months into his new role as Blooming Prairie city administrator, Martens spent the last three years as the city administrator of New Richland.

As he refines that career path, Martens is grateful for his time spent as a first responder: 16 years in law enforcement and 20 years on the fire department in New Richland. He spent 15 years, off and on, as a member of the ambulance service there.

"I think one of the unique perspectives that gives me is that when working with those units, I've been there," he said. "I know what works, what maybe doesn't."

He may not be current on updated technology the departments use, "but I've been part of that situation, and am able to connect with those people. I can tell you that firefighters think a different way than a police officer, and a police officer thinks a different way than an ambulance person does."

Martens's experience, he said, gives him the ability "to modify that message (according) to who I'm talking to."

On the management side of the public service coin, "when we get requests for certain things, having been in that line of work before, I can kind of claw through the mud a little bit" and note the difference between a need and a want, he said, "or I'm able to tell the (city) council that what (a department) is asking for is important to that line of work, so we should probably pay attention to it."

Shortly before his arrival in Blooming Prairie, its police department voted to unionize – the first city



Tony Martens spent the last three years as the city administrator of New Richland. He is now the Blooming Prairie city administrator.

employees to do so.

Martens believes the department "is happy and feels like they have a connection to administration (so) they can work through some of the challenges."

He hasn't had enough opportunity to work with the fire department or ambulance yet, he said, but during the interview process for the job, "I think they were very happy to have somebody that kind of understands their operation as part of the administration staff here."

Former interim city administrator and longtime city employee Terri Zwiener agrees.

"Tony's strengths are his experience in several departments of the city," she said, "including ambulance, police, fire and city administration – along with IT experience."

His transition into the role has been smooth, Zwiener said.

Martens didn't hesitate to share his impressions of Blooming Prairie.

"I love it here," he said. "The council has been wonderful; the people in the community have been very open and welcoming."

Just the day before, Martens and City Council member Greg Johnson had visited the majority of the businesses on the 218 corridor "to actually introduce myself and give them my contact information."

"Greg and I had talked a little bit about it when I came here," Martens said. "He didn't feel like some of the previous administrators maybe had had a lot of contact with the people

in the business community, so we just kind of decided that it would be a good idea ... to keep that line of communication open between the city and the business owners in town."

Some were surprised to see him, "but most of them were, I think, very happy to have somebody there to talk to and put a name with a face," Martens said. "I think it's so important for us to be able to connect with our community and business owners; whether they live in town or not, they're definitely part of the community."

He and Johnson have planned another day "where we take the Main Street run and talk to those businesses as well."

Comparisons to his former city are inevitable, but Martens said the biggest difference he's found is that things are structured differently.

"Every city is a little bit different in how they run themselves," he said, "so that's just an adjustment I have to make."

The other takeaway, he said, is that "every city pretty much has the same challenges, then there are challenges that are specific to that city."

There have been no surprises, Martens said, because "the staff here did a really good job with the tours (during the hiring process), just basically telling it like it is."

He knew the U.S. Hwy. 218 reconstruction project through Blooming Prairie was "a huge, huge deal, but I think just seeing all of the pieces that

are coming together – I guess it was a little bit bigger deal than I had anticipated."

Still, Martens said, "I don't think it's something that we're not going to be able to overcome. It's just a matter of getting the correct pieces of the puzzle to line up."

The city remains on a funding request list for both U.S. Sen. Tina Smith (D-MN) and District 1 Rep. Brad Finstad (R). The federal government shutdown could affect the timing of any decisions made.

Martens's biggest goal now is to get through the budget process; the city council last month approved a 14.1% preliminary property tax levy, with the goal of cutting it in half.

From there, he said, "we're going to really look at some development opportunities here."

The city has a proposal for a housing study, with hopes for a grant to help cover the cost.

At \$18,000, the study could raise some eyebrows, "but it covers the expected growth and needs for the community of Blooming Prairie through 2035," Martens said. "The hope is that by having (the study), and having some of this land we can develop, we can get to the point of maybe building out some more housing."

New developments can be instrumental in increasing a city's tax base.

"It's just a matter of, how do we get there? And how do we prove that we need to get there, so that we can get a little help?"

Discovery Days features llamas

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

"The alpaca's hair is so soft, she feels like a stuffed animal," commented Brenda Zachrisson, proprietor of Llama Mama Minnesota, based out of Hamburg, Minn. Zachrisson was standing among a small crowd of children holding brushes, all of them simultaneously stroking her impressively calm animals from all sides.

During "MEA Discovery Days" at Farmamerica on Thursday and Friday, Oct. 16 and 17, the three llamas and the one alpaca supplied by Llama Mama Minnesota were featured guests, available only for a few hours at midday on Friday.

Groups of children and families attending Discovery Days were offered a range of activities on both days, including face painting, crafts, pumpkin painting, tram rides around the grounds and the opportunity to tour the organization's numerous sites. Pumpkins used for the event had been raised on the Farmamerica grounds.

Roughly 200 people took part over the two days. According to Kari Wadd, program coordinator, children attended with parents and grandparents, and sometimes as part of outings sponsored by day-care programs. This marks the third year the Discovery Days event has been held at Farmamerica.

Wadd mentions the forecast for the two days had been a source of concern, it was inviting to be outdoors most of the two days of the event. "We were glad to have welcomed families to Farmamerica this fall weekend. The llama and alpacas were new guests to Farmamerica and so much fun! The opportunity to share a type of farm animal we don't normally have on site made for a unique and very fun experience."

Out on the field, Zachrisson described the differences between her two most docile animals, llama Graycee, and alpaca Coco. She mentioned that llamas tend to be larger and have longer, curved ears which she described to the children as being shaped "like a banana" compared to the alpaca's straighter appendages, which she said were more like carrots.

Zachrisson said she has been working with llamas since her children leased them as project animals in 4-H beginning about 14 years ago. She has owned her animals for the past six years, and says she chooses the animals based on their demeanor more than their color or size. "We do our best to find the calm ones," she observes.

Three of her four animals are already "therapy registered," and the fourth is in training toward that goal. Zachrisson comments "Llamas have long necks, which make them perfect for hugging."

Llama Mama Minnesota offers its animals for a diverse range of uses, including visiting care facilities, delivering "Llama grams," and in one case even as ring bearers at a wedding. They are available for birthday parties, family gatherings, and special celebrations.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



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■ County

from Page 1

Also during the Oct. 21 meeting, board members heard from Don White, operations manager for the Waseca SMART transit system and Curt Kuchera, the regional manager

for the organization.

The two reported the Waseca organization has been in the community for 11 years. There are currently three full-time and four part-time drivers with one "route" bus in service from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and two "demand response" buses running from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The "Southern Minnesota Area Rural Transit" service has delivered

about 11,000 rides so far in 2025 and is currently servicing 35 school age

students for whom regular school bus transportation is not practical.



Ellendale Lions Club Turkey Bingo

**Saturday, November 8,
7:00 pm**

Ellendale Community Center
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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 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

Summit Township Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 4, 2025
7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall

Andy Jewison
Summit Township Clerk

NOTICE

Berlin Township Board Meeting
Monday, November 10, 2025
7:00 p.m. in the Ellendale Comm. Bldg.
(in the Board Room)

Helen Schmidt, Berlin Township Clerk

NOTICE

The Geneva City Council meeting
will be Wednesday, November
12 at 6:30 p.m. instead of
Tuesday November 11 due to
Veterans Day holiday.

NRHEG Community Education

We strengthen our community by offering lifelong learning through social, educational, and recreational opportunities. Below is just one of our upcoming adult classes at New Richland Secondary School this November. Follow us on Facebook (NRHEG Community Education) for more classes, including those for children!

GREETING CARD MAKING CLASS.

Join Patty Bethke for a fun, hands-on card-making class! Create two beautiful handmade cards while learning layering, embossing, die cutting, and stamping techniques to make your own beautiful cards and designs at home!

When: Wednesday, Nov. 5, 6:00–7:30 PM
Where: New Richland School, Community Ed Classroom C113 (enter Door #1E)
Cost: \$20 per person — register by Friday, Oct. 31
Skill Level: Beginner / Ages: 13+

All supplies are provided—just bring your creativity!
Feel free to bring your own snacks and non-alcoholic beverages.

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OCTOBER IS

NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH



Turning ‘stubborn’

Glenda Blouin gets diagnosed with cancer for the third time in her life

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

Decades-long Ellendale resident Glenda Blouin, 71, says that yes, she’s headstrong—and she comes by it naturally. Her mother, Delerene Herbst of New Richland, was well known for the way she insisted on things.

Though there were times when stubbornness like Delerene’s was difficult to cope with, there are times when it’s also valuable, Glenda observes. Especially now that she’s been diagnosed with cancer for the third time in her life.

Glenda has survived breast cancer twice, once in 2000 and again in 2009. Although her self-exams never indicated anything suspicious, she says she has also always been persistent about getting a yearly mammogram, even back in a time when she had to pay for it out of her own pocket. To a great degree, that was Delerene’s doing.

“She had breast cancer,” Glenda explains. “So she wanted to be sure all three of her daughters were taking care of things. She would ask us in this loud, rough voice ‘Have you gotten your mammogram yet?’

“She would say it anywhere, even if we were shopping in a store. She didn’t care who heard her.”

Glenda expresses gratitude to her mother, who was 90 years old when she died in 2013. “I thank her for loving me so much she yelled at me,” says Glenda lightheartedly. “She saved my life, because if I hadn’t done a mammogram, the cancer wouldn’t have been found.”

Glenda remembers that, when she was diagnosed with cancer in 2000, her reaction was anger. “I had two kids at home,” she remembers. “I didn’t want them to lose their mother.

“I was scared because I didn’t know whether I would live or die.”

Glenda has two children, Kari and Jesse. In 2000 they were, respectively, 17 and 10 years old.

At that time, Glenda was working full time as a cook at the Owatonna hospital. The

treatment at the time was radiation. And while there are many details she doesn’t remember, she recalls the only place treatments were available was in Mankato. She would drive there in the morning, wait her turn at the accelerator, and afterwards drive to Owatonna to work a full shift.

Back then, the machines were apparently less precise than they are today. In order to shield other parts of her from damage, Glenda—like all other patients using the machine—was provided with a personally fitted metal form. She would undress and settle down inside it.

“The metal was cold,” she mentions. But once it warmed up a bit, she said it was quite comfortable. She describes joking about taking it home when her treatments were over, though in the end she left it there to be melted down and reused. The method of shielding wasn’t perfect, Glenda mentions: a small portion of her lungs was permanently damaged.

After the radiation treatments, Glenda underwent a lumpectomy to remove the tumor.

One of her dearest memories of the time was the way her husband, Dennis, responded. When he learned surgery would be necessary, and that Delerene’s cancer would require a radical mastectomy, he reassured Glenda, “I love you whether you have breasts or not.”

She is also still deeply touched by the tenderness Dennis showed. “He helped me with the bandages,” she remembers. “He never batted an eyelash.”

He and Glenda had been married 42 years when Dennis died in 2017.

When she was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2009, it was again because of a mammogram.

The anger she remembers from this time was Delerene’s. “She shouted and said it couldn’t be back,” Glenda recalls. “She was truly mad, and she didn’t want to believe it.”

The treatment in 2009 was also radiation and a lumpectomy. Glenda again drove to Mankato



SURVIVOR - Glenda Blouin, 71, has survived breast cancer three.
Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

“I’ve been through a lot. But I know my family, my faith, and that stubborn streak from my mom will get me through this.”

— Glenda Blouin

in the morning and reported to an eight-hour shift in the kitchen of the Owatonna hospital. She remembers being very tired. “One time we were on break,” she describes. “And all of a sudden my boss was waking me up.

“I was sitting next to her and I fell asleep with my head on her shoulder.”

Glenda suggests that, when it comes to self exams and regularly scheduled mammograms, women should pretend they have a mother like Delerene.

“Self examinations and mammograms have saved a lot of people’s lives,” she declares. “So women should always be taking care of those. The sooner it’s diagnosed, the faster it can be taken care of.”

As for the difficult processes that follow a cancer diagnosis,

Glenda says “stubbornness” is the best response. “Make a decision you’re going to beat it. Find people who will help you, and then go do it.”

That’s the approach she’s chosen, she says, to the diagnosis of Hodgkin Lymphoma that she received only a few weeks ago. She says she is neither angry nor scared, but simply determined to beat this round of cancer, too. She mentions her faith is a great source of support.

“God gives us life,” she says. “He knows what he’s doing, so this must be happening for a reason. Since life is a gift, we should all treasure it.

“Yeah, I’ve been through a lot. But I know my family, my faith, and that stubborn streak from my mom will get me through this.”

Donate for Breast Cancer Awareness Month

This Breast Cancer Awareness Month, it's time to RISE.

When it comes to breast cancer, it has never been about the challenge we face, rather the ways in which we rise to meet that challenge. Your donation helps women get access to the education, screening, and support they need. This is our moment to rise up and do even more.

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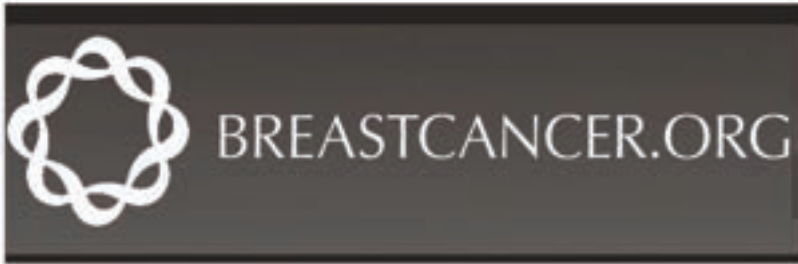
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