

NEW BEGINNINGS

May 2026

Volume 34, Issue 12

Kickoff to Summer!

The Stratton Swimming Pool's opening day is **May 25th** from 3 to 8pm. Bring the family and join in on the fun! Watch the Stratton Facebook page for updates!

Enter for a chance to win a **"Welcome to Summer" Basket** hosted by the **Stratton Area Chamber of Commerce**.

To be eligible for the basket, you must purchase your annual swimming pool pass from the Village Office prior to opening day.

The winner will be selected on opening day at the pool.



COMMUNITY-WIDE GARAGE SALES

—JUNE 6TH—

CALL OR TEXT TARA

308-830-2878

TO BE PLACED ON THE LIST

Maps will be available at MNB Bank, Stratton Country Market, Village Clerk's Office and posted on the Stratton Facebook page on June 5th.

STRATTON POOL QUILT RAFFLE

Raffle tickets for the Quilt Raffle are now available at **MNB Bank**, the **Stratton Country Market**, and the **Village Office**. Tickets will also be sold at the **Pool Fundraiser Bake Sale** in front of the **Stratton Christian Union Church** during the **Community Garage Sale** on **June 6**.

Ticket Price—6 for \$5.00 or \$1.00 each.

The quilt drawing will be held during the Community Garage Sale. Be sure to stop by to check out the quilt—currently on display at MNB.

The raffle drawing will be held during the community garage sales, June 6th. All proceeds from this raffle will benefit the **Stratton Community Swimming Pool**, helping keep this important community resource going strong.

A heartfelt **thank you** to **Janet Felt** for creating and donating the beautiful homemade quilt. Her generosity makes this fundraiser possible and is deeply appreciated.



Good Food.
Bright Starts.

Your New
Morning
Tradition!

Sunrise Corner Café

GOOD FOOD. BRIGHT STARTS.

GRAND OPENING!

COME CELEBRATE WITH US!

JOIN US
WEDNESDAY
JUNE 3RD, 2026
6:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Proudly serving
Stratton and surrounding
communities!

We've owned this building
for **10 years**.

Previously home to
"Burger Baskets and More"
for 6 years, closed in 2022.

We're excited to start
this new chapter with you!



NEW OWNERSHIP!
Same hometown
hospitality,
fresh new
energy!

Because
you're
our first,

ENJOY 10% OFF YOUR ENTIRE ORDER
JUNE 3RD – JUNE 7TH!

Dine-in or To-go. Not valid with any other offers.

Homemade. Hearty. Made for Our Community.



FRESH INGREDIENTS
Made with care
every morning.



FAMILY FRIENDLY
A warm place
for everyone.



FAST & FRIENDLY
Great service
to start your day.



TO-GO OPTIONS
Perfect for busy
mornings on
the move!

We can't wait
to serve you!

101 Howard St, Stratton, NE
Call ahead for to-go orders:
308-206-7462

Thank you for
supporting your
local café! ♥

Congratulations!



To the following 2026 Graduates:

Hitchcock County School:

Cole Block

Dylan Kollmorgen

Connor Latta

Dundy County Stratton School:

Cassidy Barbour

Hailey Ladenburger

Ethan Latta

Eden Lozano

Austin Sydow



**Celebrating Norma Thomas, 99
years young on May 30, 2026.**

To mark this wonderful milestone, a **card shower** is being hosted in Norma's honor.

If you'd like to send warm wishes, please mail a card to:

Norma Thomas
407 Dakota Street
Benkelman, NE 69021

Thank you for helping make her day special.





**STRATTON FIRE
DEPARTMENT POKER RUN**



SATURDAY, JUNE 20TH

START AND FINISH AT THE STRATTON FIRE STATION

7:30 AM Registration/9:00 AM Start Time

Fee—\$15 Hand / \$5 Per Extra Hand / \$2 Buy Back

HIGHWAY CHECKPOINTS

**1ST—TRENTON FIRE STATION
2ND—PALISADE FIRE STATION
3RD—WAUNETA FIRE STATION
4TH—BENKELMAN FIRE STATION
END AT STRATTON FIRE STATION**

OFF-ROAD—ATV, DIRTBIKE, SXS

**1ST—STRATTON FIRE STATION
15 MILE LOOP
4 STOPS
LEAD BY FIRE DEPARTMENT
END AT STRATTON FIRE STATION**

PAYOUT—50%

TOP HAND RECEIVES 30%

WORST HAND RECEIVES 20%

(Tie breakers draw top card)

LUNCH FOLLOWING EVENT TO BE SERVED AT STRATTON FIRE STATION

LUNCH OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

50/50 Raffle

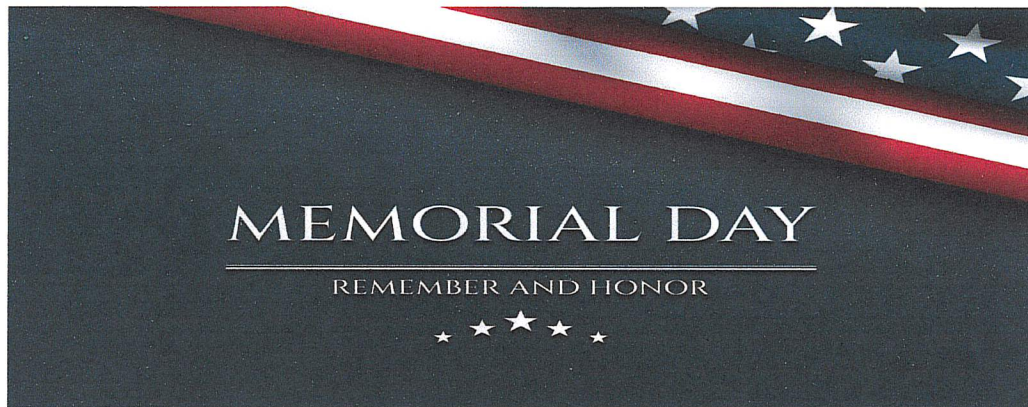
Gun Raffle

Call or text Austin Jensen at 308.737.8940

To purchase tickets or for more information

EVENT TO BENEFIT

STRATTON FIRE DEPARTMENT—EQUIPMENT UPDATING



MEMORIAL DAY
EVENTS

MAY 25TH—MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM 10:00 CDT
GRANDVIEW EVENTS CENTER

STRATTON AMBULANCE MEMORIAL DAY LUNCHEON—
FREE WILL DONATIONS

Join us in Honoring Our Heroes

We invite you to attend our Memorial Day Luncheon, a special event dedicated to remembering and honoring the brave men and women who have served our county. The luncheon will feature sloppy joes, beans, chips and desserts. This is an opportunity to gather with friends, family, and members of the community to pay our respects.

Date 05/25/2026

Time: 11:00 am—1:00 pm

Location: Grandview Events Center



Little House Museum – Summer Hours

Open the 1st and 3rd Sundays 1:00–5:00 PM
June, July, & August

Step back in time and explore our community's history. **New items this season including a fascinating collection of papers from the Stehno family — a unique glimpse into local heritage.**

Come visit, discover, and enjoy an afternoon at the Little House Museum.





RATTLESNAKE

AWARENESS

It's that time of year where we will start seeing more rattlesnakes out. Due to the lack of moisture and the fires, we may see a bigger presence off them.

Please remind your kids to stay away from snakes and do not handle them.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE BIT:

- Call 911 right away, if possible have someone drive you to meet the ambulance. **DO NOT WAIT**
- Stay still and calm
- If you can safely move away from the snake, do so
- Remove any jewelry, watches or tight clothing
- Sit down or lie down keeping the bite slightly below the heart
- Do not use a tourniquet or cut the skin
- Do not apply ice
- Do not try to suck out the venom
- Do not take any medication
- Do not try to catch the snake



Earn a \$250 Bonus!



Celebrate with MNB Bank's American Celebration Offer

Open a new MNB Bank checking account and complete these simple steps:

- **Set up Direct Deposit**
- **Make 15 debit card purchases**

Complete both within **90 days** and you'll receive your **\$250 bonus**.

Offer valid through August 31st. Available for customers who **do not currently have a personal checking account with MNB Bank.**

Member FDIC

Public Library News May 2026

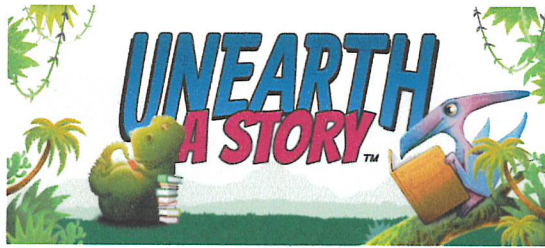
HOURS: MONDAY 12-7 THURSDAY 12-5

Spring on into the Stratton Library and check out a book!

Adult Selections: Eye of the Hawk – Ross, Jigsaw – Kellerman, Revenge Prey - Sandford

Juvenile: Red Dog – Wallace, The Book of Changes – Jones, Earth - Vogt

Children's: Boom Town



Mark your calendars for Mondays in June for the 2026 Summer Reading Program

Activities will take place on the first four Mondays of June from 2-4.

UNEARTH a STORY

PLEASE give the Library or City Office a call to sign your child up for the Summer Reading Program! Open to all children age 4 – 6th grade. (6th graders have a choice on which program they would like to sign up for) 6th – 12th can sign up for the Young Adult Reading Program where they will track the books read to earn points towards prizes.

Current Adult Challenge: Read two books with the same Title! Let the Librarian know which one you liked the best. Each set of books read will get your name into a drawing for a prize. Take yourself out of the box a bit and try a different book!

Come check out the selection of books with the same title!

Coffee and Conversation is happening at the Stratton Public Library every Thursday from 2:00-4:00. Stop in for a few minutes or stay the whole time. May will be the last month for Coffee and Conversation.

“Silence is golden. Unless you have kids.
Then silence is just suspicious.”
– Unknown



Be Part of the Sweetest Parade Ever!

This year's Fall Festival Parade is stepping into **Candy Land**, and we want YOU to join the fun! Create a float, decorate a vehicle, gather a walking group, or dress up as your favorite candy themed character.

Gumdrop Mountains, Peppermint Forests, Lollipop Woods — let your imagination run wild. Help us make this parade colorful, creative, and unforgettable!



Sometimes, we need to thank God for —

- The second chances we didn't deserve.
- The tears that turned into worship.
- The friend who checked in when we went quiet.
- The season of waiting that built our faith.
- The test that turned into a testimony.
- The people he took out of our lives so we could heal.
- The heartbreak that led us closer to him.
- The grace he gives us daily, even when we fall short.
- The "not yet" that turned into his perfect timing.
- The call or text that reminded us we weren't alone.
- The strength to forgive when we wanted to hold a grudge.
- The unexpected blessings that came out of nowhere.
- The prayer he didn't answer because he had something better.
- The way he turned what broke us into something that built us.

GOD&MAN
www.godandman.com

Thank you

Thank you so much to the Stratton Ambulance for the quick response and all your help. I really appreciate the care and kindness you showed—it made a stressful situation a lot easier. Stratton Ambulance truly has the best responders, and we're lucky to have you in our community!

Thanks again,
Dolores and Wes Burk

SMART HEALTH: TOOLS FOR MANAGING HYPERTENSION



Are you living with hypertension (HTN) or high blood pressure?
Are you concerned about developing HTN or caring for someone
with HTN?

*This course is for you!
Join us for a FREE 4-week series aimed at improving
Hypertension management.*

Topics include: basics of hypertension control, nutrition, physical activity, tobacco cessation, medication management, stress management, and creating action plans for success.
You will receive class materials at the first session!

*Class size is limited!

When?

Thursdays:

May 7, 2026
May 14, 2026
May 21, 2026
May 28, 2026

What time?

9:30-11:30am CT

Where?

Stratton Public Library
411 Bailey St
Stratton, NE 69043

Register by April 24 via QR code, or by calling the
Hitchcock County Extension office at 308-334-5666.

Baleigh Lashley, Nebraska Extension
Mary Castillo, Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department



SCFF AWARDS GRANT FOR COMMUNITY WELCOME SIGN RESTORATION

Stratton Community Foundation Fund has awarded a \$2,000 grant to the Village of Stratton to restore and enhance our community's welcome signs.

Serving as a first impression for residents and visitors, these signs reflect our town's identity, pride, and character. Over time, exposure to the elements has caused fading paint, peeling surfaces, and reduced visibility—especially at night. This project will refresh and improve these important landmarks.

Grant funds will support surface preparation, professional repainting, and the installation of commercial solar lighting to enhance nighttime visibility. These upgrades will ensure each entrance to Stratton presents a clean, bright, and inviting image. Long term, the improvements will support local economic vitality and reduce maintenance costs through durable materials and LED lighting.

The Village of Stratton is contributing in-kind support through public works staff and the use of town equipment for site preparation and installation. SCFF is proud to partner on projects that enhance quality of life and strengthen community pride.

MEET A MEMBER - TERRA RIGGS



Terra Riggs grew up in Culbertson and Trenton and has spent her life in Hitchcock County. She serves as the County Assessor and has lived in Stratton since 2016 with her husband and two boys. Terra enjoys crafting,

hunting, working with cattle, and spending time outdoors with her family.

She appreciates our quiet, welcoming community and says it's a great place to raise a family. Terra finds her SCFF service very fulfilling, especially seeing how donations create lasting impact. She is most proud of the generosity of donors who believe in SCFF's mission

and its role in strengthening the community. Terra is passionate about contributing her time and talents to improve Stratton for current and future generations.

Terra believes unrestricted endowments are vital to hometowns like ours, ensuring funds remain in the community—growing over time and expanding opportunities. The principal stays untouched, while the interest is reinvested locally. The larger the endowment, the more possibilities for our community. She encourages others to give, knowing their contributions will make a lasting difference.

Learn more and support our work:
www.nebcommfound.org/give/stratton-community-foundation-fund



MEET OUR FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE!

Our advisory committee meets on the third Sunday of each month to review grant applications and evaluate the long-term goals for the Fund.

THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

At the ascension of Jesus Christ from the Mount of Olives, He commanded His followers not to depart from Jerusalem but to wait for the promise of the Father which you have heard from Me: Acts 1: 5; "For John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." Acts 1: 8; "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

When Jesus had come to the disciples after He was crucified, it tells us that He breathed on them and they received the Holy Spirit, but in Acts 2 on the day of Pentecost, (Feast of Harvest) they received the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

When we surrender ourselves to Jesus and are saved, we receive peace and the Holy Spirit, but, either at that time or later, are baptized with the Holy Spirit we receive power and an awareness of the love and joy that can only come from God. We are given instruction from Jesus to testify to others what Jesus has done in our lives and how they can be saved from eternal death in hell forever. We are not supposed to sit in our pews once or twice a week and think that's all we are supposed to do to serve Jesus. We are to share Jesus where ever and when ever we can. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the wisdom and discernment to do this. Spend time in your Bible and find out the different ways to use it to witness to others. This isn't about bringing people into your denomination, this is about bringing people to eternal life with God.

You will find that people, (whom you think don't have a care in the world) who are desperate to find a solution to their problems, and they are glad somebody took the time to share Jesus with them. Our country is in turmoil, our kids are being indoctrinated in transgenderism, secularism, homosexuality and on and on. People are trying to find peace in alcohol, drugs, adulterous relationships, cults, anything but Christianity. Islam is spreading like wildfire, far more than most people realize. We are in a time of uncertainty in this world and people need Jesus. The only true peace that we can have is through Jesus Christ and out of love for people, as Christians we need to share that peace with those that don't have peace. The Holy Spirit, if you ask Him, will direct you to those people who do not have Jesus. We are in the last days and Jesus' return could be any time.

Richard Stahly

Women's Prayer Breakfast

May 16—9:00 am

Host: Methodist Church

This is the last of the season. Thank you to all the churches that have supported the breakfast and the women who've made it a success! See you in October.



Church Worship Service Schedule

Comm. United Methodist Church

10:00 a.m. Church Services

Christian Union Church

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:45 a.m. Church Services

St. Joseph Catholic Church

8:30 a.m. Mass

Church of Christ

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Church Services

Southwest Nebraska Holiness Church

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

11:30 a.m. Church Services

7:00 p.m. Church Services

New Beginnings is published monthly by the Community Builders Academy. In order to assure a timely issue, articles must be submitted by the 25th of the month to Julie Bernt. Articles may be emailed to rbernt@gpcom.net or mailed to MNB Bank, PO Box 367, Stratton, NE 69043. **Colored copies of New Beginnings are included on the Village of Stratton website.**

Thank you to this month's donors:

- Bill Condon
- Stratton Community Foundation
- Rita Crose
- Jerry & Brenda McDonald
- Sabrinna Morgan and Janet Nelson
- Mel & Virginia Campbell
- Pat Egle
- Dana Bermel
- Julia Diehl

Blessing Box

Located in front of the Church of Christ

Take what you need, leave what you can. Donations may include—Non-perishable food items: Rice, pasta, cereal, nuts, seeds, granola bars, instant oatmeal packets, dried fruit, cake mixes, soup mixes.

Baby essentials: Diapers, wipes, baby formula. Hygiene items: Toilet paper, feminine products, soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant. Warm clothing: socks, mittens, hats, hand warmers, blankets.

Dundy County Hospital's Annual Health Fair

DISCOUNTED HEALTH FAIR LABS!

General Health Panel

\$50

CALL NOW For An Appointment

308-423-2204

LABS OFFERED:

General Health Panel

★ Included: CBC, CMP, TSH, Phosphorus, Magnesium, Uric Acid, Lipid Profile

PSA (Prostate Cancer Screen) \$15
A1C (Diabetes Screen) \$15

Dundy County Hospital

1313 N Cheyenne St.
Benkelman, NE

6:00 - 9:00 A.M. (MT)

- Tuesday, May 5
- Tuesday, May 12
- Tuesday, May 19

It's the perfect time to take care of you! Spots fill fast!

Stratton Medical Clinic

903 Bailey St.
Stratton, NE

7:00 - 10:00 A.M. (CT)

- Thursday, May 7
- Thursday, May 21

Wauneta Senior Center

231 Tecumseh Ave.
Wauneta, NE

6:00 - 8:00 A.M. (MT)

- Wednesday, May 20

Haigler- Golden Inn

217 Porter Ave.
Haigler, NE

6:00 - 8:00 A.M. (MT)

- Wednesday, May 6

Patients at DCH with a portal account will receive results electronically. Patient(s) that do not have a portal or a provider with Dundy County Hospital can pick up results at the DCH Medical Records Department 24 hrs after lab draw or pick them up the day of the health fair. HF details below.

- ✓ Fast 10 - 12 hours for accurate results.
- ✓ Payment collected at time of draw.
- ✓ Bring check or cash no debit/credit cards

DCH Health Fair, Friday, May 29, 2026
11:00 AM to 2:00 PM (MT) at the
DCS High School 400 9th Av W Benkelman, NE



Saturday Night from 7-9
Bring your family friendly games to
Grandview Events Center
Join the Fun

Thanks!

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Stratton Area Chamber of Commerce's Annual Easter Egg Hunt a success! It wouldn't be possible without your help stuffing and hiding eggs and providing donations. We hid over 1,000 eggs and had an excellent turn out.

Thank you to our donors:

- ◆ Margie & Earl Denio
- ◆ Dale & Laura McAllister
- ◆ Stratton Quilters
- ◆ Dan & Mary Sandberg
- ◆ John Parker
- ◆ Christi Elliot
- ◆ Bob & Joyce Forch
- ◆ MNB Bank
- ◆ Wes & Dolores Burk
- ◆ Trae & Shaila Latta
- ◆ John & Deb Glasco
- ◆ Rich & Julie Bernt
- ◆ Rich & Beth Kollmorgen
- ◆ Julia Diehl
- ◆ Dana Bermel
- ◆ Jane Voss
- ◆ Pat Forch



FRIED CHICKEN DINNERS

EVERY 1ST AND 3RD SUNDAYS OF THE MONTH

GRANDVIEW EVENTS CENTER

11:00—2:00

CALL BY SATURDAY AT 5:00 FOR RESERVATIONS,
308-276-2282. LEAVE A MESSAGE FOR WHITE OR
DARK MEAT AND HOW MANY OF EACH.

\$10.00 PER PLATE

Proceeds go to the Stratton Medical Parking Lot



Stratton Medical Clinic

NOW OPEN
WEEKLY SCHEDULE



Dr. Lori Stonehocker, D.O.

Tuesday's

10:00 AM to 4:00 PM (CT)

Closed 12:00 to 1:00

Walk-ins Welcome



Laken Vrbas, APRN

M - W - Th

8:00 AM to 4:00 PM (CT)

Call to schedule your appointment:

308-423-2151

903 Bailey St.

Stratton, NE., NE 69043

www.dchbenkelman.com



I HATE IT WHEN
I'M TALKING TO

A cartoon rabbit with long ears is holding a blue cup with a red straw. There are a few small yellow coins or pieces of paper scattered around it.
MYSELF AND
SUDDENLY REALIZE
I WASN'T LISTENING AND THEN HAVE
TO START ALL OVER 😞