

NEW BEGINNINGS

June 2026

Volume 36, Issue

★ Celebrate ★
AMERICA'S
250TH

with us!

★ ★ ★ YOU'RE INVITED! ★ ★ ★

MNB OPEN HOUSE

★ FRIDAY, JULY 3 ★
1:00PM - 3:00PM



Enjoy
**SWEET TREATS &
REFRESHMENTS**

Dessert and
punch!



Take a Guess
**PATRIOTIC JAR
GAME**

Closest guess
wins a prize!



Enter to Win
**A GREAT
PRIZE!**

Firework bundle
worth \$250



**OPEN A NEW CHECKING ACCOUNT
AND EARN \$250!***

Ask us how easy it is to get started.

WE APPRECIATE
OUR CUSTOMERS
AND COMMUNITY!



*Stop in, say hello, and celebrate
with us—we'd love to see you!*



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
*New checking account applicants only. \$250 bonus paid after account
opening. Restrictions may apply. Funds in participating accounts only. See a branch for details.

Member
FDIC

AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

July 8th — 5:00 PM

HITCHCOCK COUNTY COURTHOUSE LAWN

COME CELEBRATE!

READING OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

AND MORE

SANDWICHES SERVED AT
THE TCDC BUILDING AFTER THE PROGRAM



—Sponsored by
Hitchcock County Veterans Organizations



*Thank you to the Stratton EMT and Ambulance crew
for taking care of Ralph and getting him to North
Platte after his heart attack.*

Sincerely,

Ralph & Becca Stevens



BENKELMAN 4th of July Parade Schedule

9:00 Registration: Sidewalk of Peckham Dental
9:30 Parade Starts
9:30-12:00 Park Activities
*Toddler Zone - Water Zone - Bounce House - Fire Truck
Rides - Barrel Train Rides - Craft Station - Bubble Station
- Tattoo Booth - Cotton Candy - Snow Cones -
Watermelon *

11:00-12:00 Hot Dog Feed
11:15 Three Legged Races
11:30 Potato Sack Races
11:45 Tug-o-War
12:00 Baby Crawling Races
12:30 Duck Races
1:00 Free Swim






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.

Join us for an uplifting musical experience with *The Pauls*, a ministry focused family of seven dedicated to encouraging and empowering families through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

AUGUST 1ST

DUNDY COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS

MEAL—5:00 MDT

-SERVING:

***SLOPPY JOES**

***SALADS**

***CHIPS**

***COOKIES**



MUSIC BEGINS 6:00

MDT

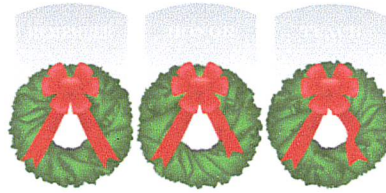
**FREE WILL
DONATION**

SPONSORED BY NEW
HOPE CHURCH OF
MAX

The Paul's are a ministry focused family of seven, whose aim is to encourage and empower families through a relationship with Jesus Christ. All seven members of the Paul family skillfully blend a distinct musical styling that when combined with inseparable family harmonies create a sound that encourages audiences everywhere they go.

2024 Inspirational Country Music Associations "group of the year" nominee has experienced commercial radio play featured from originals on their latest two records. From the "Get Up And Walk" and the latest, "Sundays", have both records found their way to radio success. The Pauls have had four top 10 hits, 2 two top fives, with "Not Just On Sundays" reaching #2 on Cashbox music chart not to be outdone "Nothing Short Of A Miracle" reaching all the way to #1 on Christian Voice Magazine charts.

WREATHS — across — AMERICA



Rosehill Cemetery Joins Wreaths Across America for the First Time in 2026

The national nonprofit **Wreaths Across America** has announced that **Rosehill Cemetery in Stratton, Nebraska** will officially join the yearlong mission to **Remember, Honor, and Teach** in 2026. This will be the **FIRST** year Rosehill participates in this national program, joining more than **5,600 locations across the country** on **Saturday, December 19, 2026**.

The goal for Rosehill Cemetery is to raise enough funds to place **166 sponsored Veterans' Wreaths** — one for every local hero laid to rest there. Each wreath is a symbol of gratitude, ensuring that those who served to protect our freedoms are **never forgotten** and that our community comes together in patriotic remembrance.

Help Rosehill Cemetery, Stratton honor local heroes!

Sponsor a wreath today to be placed on a veteran's grave this December
at Rosehill Cemetery, Stratton, Nebraska

(Cost is \$17.00 per wreath)

Scan the QR code to make a donation online or visit
www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/NERSHL

For more information, please contact: Deb League

Phone: 308-340-2686 email: deborahleague@hotmail.com PO Box 37 Stratton, NE 69043



What a pleasant surprise to learn I was the winner of the Stratton Pool Quilt Raffle. I'm truly grateful for this beautiful quilt and for everyone who helped make the raffle possible. (I have one grandson, so this will be a special quilt for him). A huge shoutout to the volunteers and to the Village of Stratton for providing a pool for the community. Your hard work has paid off and is very much appreciated!

Thank you!

Julie Bernt

MEET A MEMBER - DUSTIN LADENBURGER



As a lifelong resident of Stratton, Dustin Ladenburger understands what makes this community special. A farmer and rancher by trade, Dustin serves as co-chair of the Stratton Community Foundation

Fund (SCFF) and is passionate about helping ensure that Stratton remains a vibrant place to live, work, and retire.

When asked what he loves most about living in Stratton, Dustin points to both its location and its quality of life. "We are in the middle of everywhere," he says. "Whether you are traveling to Lincoln or Denver, to the east or west coast, we are in the middle. I also enjoy the safe, relaxed atmosphere that Stratton offers."

Dustin has found his service on the SCFF Advisory Committee to be both meaningful and rewarding. He appreciates seeing community members come

together through charitable giving to support projects that strengthen and enhance the town. Dustin shares, "It's inspiring to see a community come together with their financial gifts to help keep Stratton an attractive town where people want to live, work, and retire."

When reflecting on the Fund's impact, Dustin is most proud of the many community projects that have benefited from SCFF grants over the years.

For Dustin, supporting SCFF is rooted in a simple but powerful belief. "I believe giving back is the cornerstone of a strong and active community. SCFF is where I give."

Through the dedication of volunteers like Dustin and the generosity of donors throughout the area, the Stratton Community Foundation Fund continues to invest in projects and opportunities that help build a stronger future for our community.

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

THANK YOU, ANN SUTTON

The Stratton Community Foundation Fund extends its heartfelt gratitude to Ann Sutton for her years of dedicated service to our committee. As Ann retires from the SCFF Advisory Committee, we want to recognize and celebrate the many contributions she has made to our community and Foundation.

Throughout her time on the committee, Ann has generously shared her time, talents, and passion

for making Stratton a better place. Her thoughtful leadership, willingness to serve, and commitment to community improvement have helped guide the Fund's efforts to support local projects, organizations, and opportunities that enrich the lives of those who call Stratton home.

While Ann's presence on the committee will certainly be missed, her legacy of service will continue through the projects, programs, and partnerships she helped support over the years.

Thank you, Ann, for your commitment, leadership, and unwavering belief in the future of Stratton. We wish you all the best as you begin this next chapter and hope you take great pride in the lasting difference you have made.



Stratton Community Foundation Fund
PO Box 5, Stratton, NE 69043

Stratton Public Library News July 2026

HOURS: MONDAY 12-7 THURSDAY 12-5

Adult Selections: *My Friends* by F. Backman, *House of Thieves* by C. Belfoure, *Gone Tonight* by S. Pekkanen, *Woman in Suite 11* by R. Ware, *Shadow of an Indian Star* by B. Paul, *Running Scared* by L. Jackson, *One True Loves* by T. Reid, *No Exit* by T. Adams, *The Invisible Hour* by A. Hoffman,

Non-fiction: *Conviction: Solving the Moxley*, by L. Levitt, *Courage Can Save Us* by R. Barcott

Children's: *How to Catch a Daddysaurus*, *Magic School Bus in the Time of the Dinosaurs*

2026 Summer Reading Program was a tremendous success! We had 14 kids participate in Unearthing a Good Story at the Stratton Public Library. Watch for a complete write up in the August edition of the New Beginnings.

Congratulations to Stephan Johnson – Double Title Challenge Winner!

We had a total of 10 participants with 23 sets of books being read.

This is a grand total of 46 books read during the challenge.

Way to go Stratton Public Library Readers!

Keep your eye out for future challenges

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



One step can start
a journey.

One song can change
a moment,
One smile can start
a friendship,
One hug can lift a soul,
One candle can wipe
out darkness,
One life can make a
difference,
One word can start
a prayer.
One hope will lift a spirit,
One touch can show
you care.



Be that one today...

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Delores and I have been a part of the Stratton, Nebraska community for most of our lives. Like many, sometimes we have served the community well and other times not so well. There will come a time, in the not too distant future when we will just become a stone in the cemetery and people will look at it and say; (as we say as we look at the older stones), "I wonder how they fit into this community". We realize, as we grow older, that after a generation or two, we are totally forgotten and what we did while we were here will not be remembered.

We thought that maybe as a testimony to Jesus and an encouragement to other generations that a Bible verse would be helpful. "John 3:15: That whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." It is a verse that testifies to the saving grace of Jesus Christ and we thought that maybe, somewhere in the future, someone who is in crisis in their life might read that passage and it would open their eyes to their need for salvation.

As most of you know, this year is the celebration of the 250th birthday of this nation. In that period of time there has been a lot of blood shed to defend this nation from other nations that wanted to take it over and a lot blood shed to keep it together. Right now we are at a critical time again because there are forces from within that would like to destroy our constitution, destroy our freedom to worship, our right to bear arms and the list goes on. Socialism, in the 20th century destroyed millions of people; it has never been successful where it has been tried. Islam is of the same ilk. They make it look nice until they have control, then look out. The socialists and the Islamists have joined forces and are trying to take over our national legislature and senate. Our schools have not been teaching national history and many of our young people don't know what it took to form our country and they don't know that our government is based on Christian principals. They weren't taught Civics so they don't know how our country operates. They don't know about the legislative, the judicial and the executive branches of our government.

As a Christian we are responsible for keeping our Republic. We need to vote for people that don't want to destroy our country. We need to pray; get involved; ask God what He would have us do. Lets keep our freedom.

Richard Stahly

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

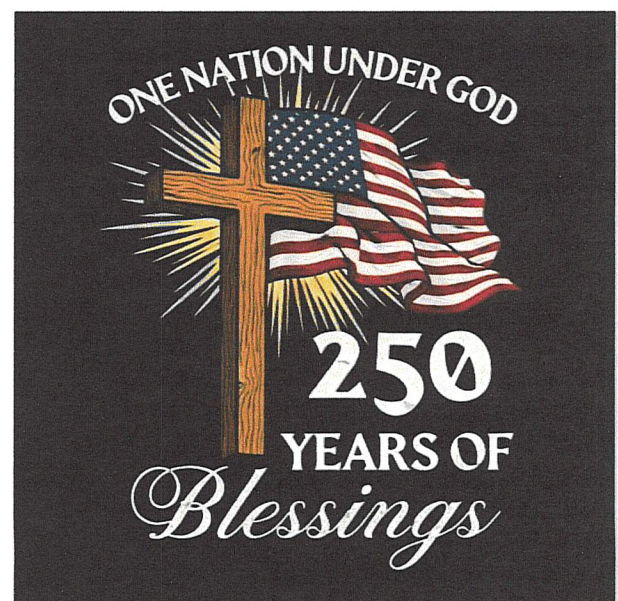
11:00 a.m. Church Services

Southwest Nebraska Holiness Church

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

11:30 a.m. Church Services

7:00 p.m. Church Services





Pictured above is the winning entry of America's 250th Birthday art contest. Along with the drawing, the contestants were required to pick an American hero and write an essay explaining why they chose that particular person. All 1st place winners are invited to travel along with a parent to the National Mall in Washington, DC to be part of the Great American State Fair and attend an award ceremony. The Colorado winner was Seaton Wood, son of Eric and Kayla (Faimon) Wood and the grandson of Mary Faimon and the late Jim Faimon of Stratton.

ADULT Water Aerobics
YOU'RE INVITED!

EVERY DAY EXCEPT WEDNESDAYS
5:00-6:00 PM

STRATTON PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL

FUN, LOW-IMPACT WORKOUT & A GREAT WAY TO STAY ACTIVE AND COOL OFF!
ALL LEVELS WELCOME!
NO SWIMMING EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!
STAIRS AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE EASIER ACCESS

Grab a friend and come make a splash with us!



Thank you to the Stratton community members for your support of the swimming pool fund raising bake sale. Because of the people who donated their time and donations to provide goodies and those who purchased those items,

we raised \$997 for our swimming pool. This money was used to buy weights for the aerobics program, new swim suits for the lifeguards, and a new clock for the pool.

Special thanks to Janet Felt for her time to make the beautiful quilt for the raffle.

Lenay Johnson
Deb Clingan
Phyllis Medrano

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
- Richard & Delores Stahly
- Jerry & Brenda McDonald
- Earl & Margie Denio
- Dennis & Deb League
- Anonymous

FIREWORKS PASTA SALAD

INGREDIENTS

- ☐ 16 ounces tubetti pasta
- ☐ 2/3 cup mayonnaise
- ☐ 1/4 cup Dijon mustard
- ☐ 1 1/2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
- ☐ 1 1/2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- ☐ 1/2 teaspoon paprika
- ☐ 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- ☐ 1 1/3 cups chopped drained spicy dill pickles
- ☐ 1 1/4 cups finely chopped celery
- ☐ 1/2 cup minced red onion or 2 shallots, minced
- ☐ 1 12- ounce jars roasted peppers drained and sliced
- ☐ 1/2 cup thinly sliced green onions
- ☐ handful cilantro chopped
- ☐ kosher salt to taste
- ☐ freshly ground pepper to taste

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cook the pasta in a pot of boiling salted water, according to the package directions. Drain and rinse with cool water. Set aside
2. In a large bowl, whisk together the mayonnaise, mustard, lime juice, sugar, paprika and cayenne pepper. Stir in the tubetti pasta, pickles, celery, red onion, roasted peppers, green onion and cilantro. Season to taste with salt and freshly ground black pepper.
3. Refrigerate until well chilled before serving.

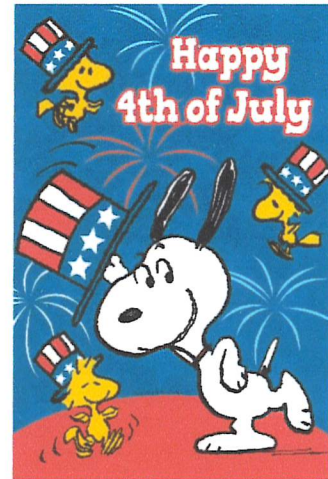


Thank you Terra & Orrin Riggs for all you did for me after my garage and bedroom flooded with water and mud. I didn't

know what I was going to do. Here you came. Didn't ask what to do, just did it.

Love you so much,

Grandma Penney



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

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.



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

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!



LITTLE HOUSE MUSEUM



Open the 1st and 3rd Sundays 1:00–5:00 PM
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.