

Get a jump on spring cleaning

Citywide cleanup set for Saturday, May 18

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Editor's note: This article was updated April 24 from the previous addition. A paragraph was changed to reflect that not all residents will have their items picked up off their driveway. Only residents who are disabled or over 70.

On Saturday, May 18, the curbs of Litchfield streets will house unwanted furniture, electronics, home appliances and more as residents participate in the annual Citywide Cleanup.

If anyone needed extra motivation to clean out their junk closet, get rid of a dilapidated piece of furniture or find a way to move an extra-large piece of furniture out of their home, the

Citywide Pickup event offers the perfect opportunity.

Residents who participate will bring their items to Intersection of 10th Street and North Armstrong and proceed to line up on 10th Street or Armstrong Avenue. Once directed, they will drop off items at the Civic Arena parking lot.

For residents over 70 or who are disabled, Waste Management and Surplus Warehouse will pickup unwanted items at the end of residents' driveways or curbside between 7-10 a.m. that Saturday morning. To participate in the event, participants must be Litchfield residents, visit Litchfield City Hall to fill out a form with items being discarded and pay a \$20-per-load fee. Participants should bring their drivers license with them and a utility bill to show proof of residency in Litchfield. This event, sponsored by the city of Litchfield, is an effort to keep the city clean.

Residents can recycle large

home appliances and electronics, such as air conditioners, computer monitors, dishwashers, and stoves; small electronics, such as cellphones, computer accessories, VCRs, DVD players, and more. Furniture, home goods, and exercise equipment will also be accepted.

Materials that will not be recycled include batteries, aluminum cans, large wood and metal items, tires of all kinds, aerosol cans, paint, hazardous chemicals and wastes, glass of any kind, bottles, and shingles. If a resident has some materials that are prohibited from pickup, they can call R & R Metal and Auto Salvage, Litchfield Recycling and Auto Salvage or the Meeker County Landfill to have those recycled properly.

The last day to complete forms and pay pickup fees is Monday, May 13. For any questions regarding the Citywide Pickup, contact Litchfield City Hall at 320-693-7201.

BOEREMA

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not enough, he's hitting .677, has stolen 13 bases — without being thrown out — scored 13 runs and driven in eight runs. As the Dragons won three of four games last week, Boerema collected eight hits in 14 at-bats — and his batting average actually dropped a few points.

"It's pretty impressive," Litchfield coach Jeff Wollin said of Boerema's start this season. "Especially if you consider that until last year, Owen's best skill is his pitching. He's a heckuva left-handed pitcher and as a sophomore and most of last year, that's kind of what he was known for. Then he started hitting the ball and getting on base and stealing bases and scoring runs. Everything he does just looks so effortless, too. Swinging, throwing, running ... he makes it look easy."

Boerema and Wollin both acknowledge that it seems a bit odd to be discussing him as the state record holder for a hitting streak. Boerema's pitching ability landed him a spot on varsity as a sophomore, but Wollin often chose a designated hitter to fill Boerema's spot in the lineup that season.

This season, he's batting in the lead-off spot and creating havoc for opposing teams with his hitting and baserunning — in addition to being one of the top pitchers in the area.

Boerema says that double duty as a pitcher who also hits for himself has actually helped him at times.

"When I'm pitching, I think about pitching (and) when I'm hitting I think about hitting," he said. "It's also kind of nice, you know, because when I'm struggling pitching, then I get a hit and I feel a little better about how things are going. Or if I'm struggling hitting, then I'll pitch (well) and feel better about how things are going. If one's going well, then the other one will usually go well because I'm just feeling good."

And feeling good has happened a lot so far this season,

even while Boerema admits that at times he's felt the pressure to keep his hitting streak alive.

"Especially these last couple games, if I don't get a hit the first time, then I start to get a little nervous," he said. "Now, I'm not super stressed about it, but there were a couple games where the first time up I didn't get a hit right away and I got a little nervous. Then the second at-bat I didn't get a hit and I got a little more nervous. But it's always worked out."

Wollin said he wasn't even aware of the hitting streak state record — or even if that statistic was actually tracked — until late last season. He received an email from Tink Larson, former Waseca baseball coach, who compiles state statistics for the baseball coaches association website, that encouraged coaches to submit information for various categories.

"I went back to check through Eddy's (Estrada Jr.) stuff," Wollin said of the 2015 LHS graduate and baseball standout, who went on to play at the University of Minnesota. "He had some big games and impressive stats."

In the process of checking those stats, Wollin said, he ran across a three-home run game by Joe Pennertz in 1993, which he submitted to the coaches association.

As he looked deeper into his baseball archives, Wollin realized the coaches association website also tracked hitting streaks. His first thought was that Estrada might have a spot in the top 10 or 15, considering his impressive seasons with the Dragons.

"His longest (hitting streak) was 15," Wollin said. "Even though he would get three, four hits a game, every once in a while he'd have an 0-for-2, or one game against Hutchinson, he was walked five times. So he didn't have the real long streak."

"But then I happened to notice in Owen's game-by-game, there were no zeroes in the hit column," Wollin continued.

"So, then I looked a little closer and verified and made sure we hadn't missed something."

By the end of last season, Wollin had confirmed that Boerema's streak had reached 26 games. He submitted it to Larson, and the streak put Boerema into the top 10 on the hitting streak list.

"At the end of last year, we had an individual meeting, and Mr. Wollin kind of told me ... 'Did you know, you hit in every game this year?'" Boerema said. "I was pretty surprised. I didn't realize."

There have been no surprises this year. With Boerema's first hit of each game, teammate Max Tibbits yells from the dugout the number to which the hitting streak has risen.

Some coaches would worry about the burden such a streak might put on a player, or what the attention on one player's hitting streak might do to team chemistry. But Wollin sees only positives in the attention Boerema has received in recent days.

"To me, it's a chance to promote our team, and it gets the other kids excited," Wollin said. "And you know, it's an individual accomplishment, but everything he does helps our team. I think he's got it in the right perspective. And it gets people talking a little bit, and that's really good. I think everybody seems to be enjoying that part of it."

Boerema is OK with the attention, too, although he seems to be much more comfortable out on the field with his teammates than standing in the dugout answering a reporter's questions about a hitting streak.

"It's a really good, really fun team to be around," Boerema said. "A lot of guys have played a lot of successful baseball. There's just a really positive atmosphere in the dugout. We've been down a couple of games this year and we're always positive. There's always someone there to pick everyone up. It's just a really fun team to play with."

RIPLEY

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the traditional class setting at the elementary level.

"All of our students have iPads now, but I don't see us

changing to online classes here, maybe at the middle school and high school," Zender said.

The school originally housed grades kindergarten through sixth grade when it opened in 1969. The building was reorga-

nized and Wagner Elementary School took on fifth and sixth grades. The school was reorganized again and had grades kindergarten through third grade. Now, the school has kindergarten through fourth-grade students.



FOREST CITY THRESHERS
PORK CHOP
DINNER

Sunday, May 5th, 2019
Dinner: 11:00 a.m.-2 p.m.

*Grilled Pork Chops, Cheesy Hash Browns,
Baked Beans, Cake w/Strawberries*
Take Out Available

Gluten, Nut, & Peanut Free Options Available
Adults: \$10.00 Age 7 & under: \$5.00

Forest City Threshers Dining Hall is located 5.5 miles
Northeast of Litchfield East side of MN Highway #24

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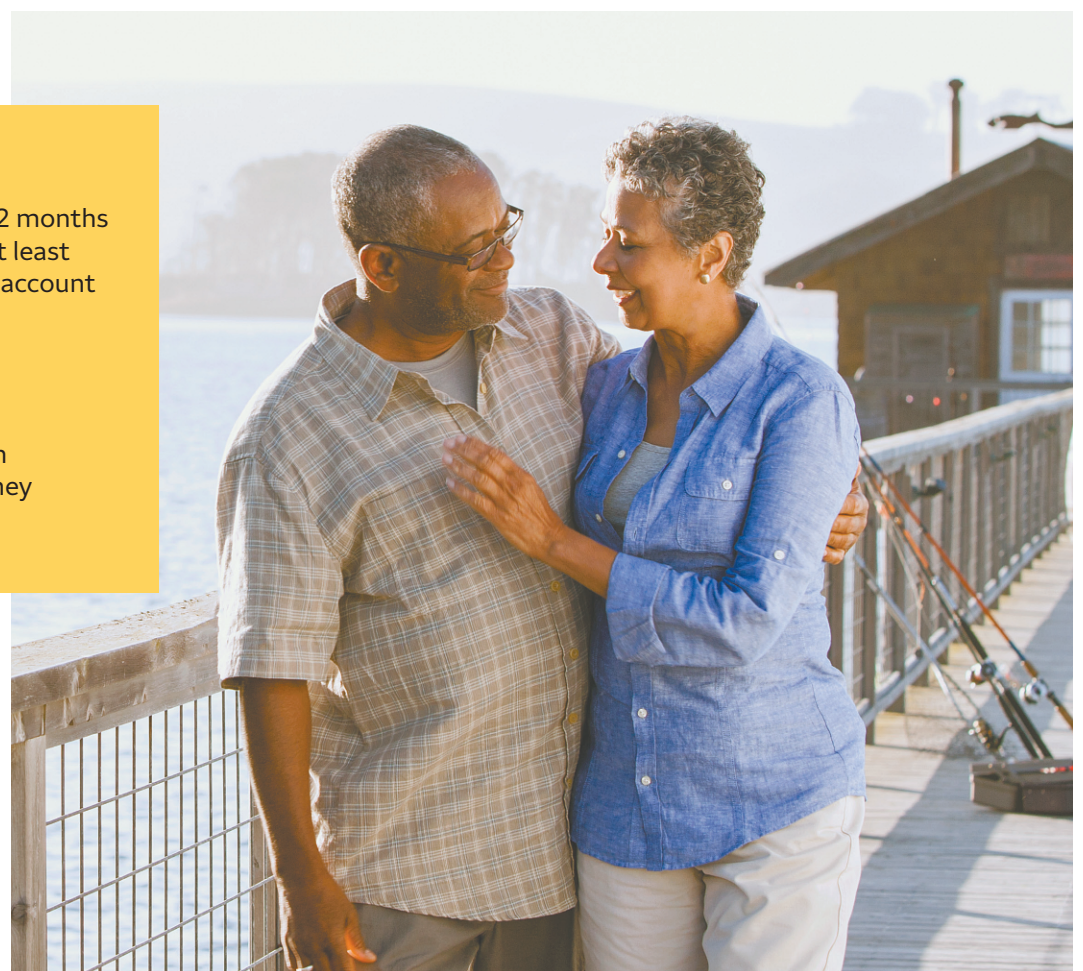
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