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WASECA
COUNTY
PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

No. 29 Vol. IV \$2 Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca Thursday, July 17, 2025

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County Fair

Spy School at the Waseca Public Library on Thursday, July 17

Do you have what it takes to be a spy? Based on the Stuart Gibbs book series, kids will test their spy abilities through a series of puzzles and obstacles at our Spy School at the Waseca Public Library at 10 a.m., Thursday, July 17. Geared for ages 7-12.

Emoji Painting at the Janesville Public Library Thursday, July 17

Paint your emotions into this simple and expressive piece of art at the Janesville Public Library at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, July 17. Geared for ages 8-12.

Polymer Clay Food Cuties at Waseca Public Library Thursday, July 17

Guileless Green will guide teens on how to make a clay creation of a food cutie at the Waseca Public Library at 1 p.m. Thursday, July 17. This event is free and geared for ages 13-18. Register at the library or at wasecalesueurlibraries.com/getregistered.

Virtual Author Event: Marie Lu at Waseca-Le Sueur Library System Thursday, July 17

Explore the intricate world of Legend with author Marie Lu as she encourages readers to look beyond the surface and reveal hidden secrets at a virtual Waseca-LeSueur Regional Library System event at 3 pm on Thursday, July 17. Explore the depths of deceit, battle for power, and the lengths characters will go to unmask the Truth.

New Richland Farm and City Days July 18 to 20

The New Richland community will celebrate Farm and City Days from July 18 to 20. Highlights include a parade at 5 p.m. on July 19, followed by a street dance featuring Azby from 8 to 12 p.m. Also featured will be a medallion hunt, craft and vendor show, Kid Zone in the city park, and more. See website for information: farmandcitydays.com

Ventriloquist Program at the New Richland City Hall Saturday, July 19

A ventriloquist will perform at New Richland City Hall at 1 p.m. on July 19. This event is sponsored by NR Friends of the Library.

Ice Cream Social at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Otisco Sunday, July 20

There will be an Ice Cream Social at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Otisco beginning at 4 p.m. Sunday, July 20. Sandwiches, calico beans, potato salad, pie, coffee, ice cream and lemonade. Suggested donation \$12.

A word from
The Word

If a king judges the poor with fairness, his throne will be established forever.
Proverbs 29:14



SUMMER'S BEST PARTY - Members of the Waseca Fair Board were present for the official opening ceremony of the fair on Wednesday, July 9. From left, Noah Battenfeld, Serena Frazier, Kris Manthey, Jennie Johnson, Mike Harguth, Jason Schmidt, Kaitlyn Winegar, Keegan Dulas, Madison Dulas and Tanika Johnson. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Waseca County Fair brings joy, fun

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Representatives of veterans' organizations from across the county stood at attention as flags were raised to provide the official opening of the Waseca County Fair the afternoon of Wednesday, July 9. About 75 people observed the ceremony, standing in the warm sun on a

humid day. Fair board member Mike Harguth announced the opening of "Summer's Best Party," and expressed thanks to fair sponsors, board members, vendors and the public. Based on the forecast, he suggested fairgoers should watch the organization's Facebook page for any weather-related changes in the schedule.

The United States flag was raised by Lamar Kust, past commander of Legion Post 228, and Marine Vietnam veteran Jim Wilker, recipient of the Silver Star. The Prisoner of War/Missing in Action flag was raised by Floyd Herme and Kevin Dickie. Waseca County Sheriff Jay Dulas and Waseca City Police Chief Kris Markeson raised the Minne-

sota State flag. After a rifle salute by the Waseca VFW rifle squad, Deb Wantoch Yess sang the national anthem accompanied by the Waseca High School Marching Jays. Taps were played by the Marching Jays' director, Devon Lawrence.



FAIR FUN - Top: A participant aims for a big jump at the Dock Dogs competition. Middle: An FFA student holds a chick. Bottom: Tim Vaught carts people around during the county fair. Pioneer photos by Amelia Roessler

Offshore Oasis

Affordable, eco-friendly products aimed at keeping the community healthy

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editorial Assistant

A new Waseca shop which opened Monday, July 7, states its goal is to provide healthy, natural products to the community. Offshore Oasis, owned and run by Waterville resident MiKayla Miller, is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays.

Located downtown at 118 State Street South, Suite 104, Miller has filled the store with teas, shower steamers, bath salts, soaps, candles, crystals and more.

"There's so many different byproducts, different chemicals, that are put into anything, even what you brush your teeth with. And that's not things that our body needs. So trying to find a good way to still take care of yourself but not fill yourself with all of those icky chemicals," Miller said.

Miller worked in healthcare for more than ten years. She says what she saw inspired her to take a look at the state of the planet and begin looking for more natural products.

Oasis continued on 5



HEALTHY COMMUNITY - Offshore Oasis owner MiKayla Miller stands in front of her tea collection in her shop located in downtown Waseca. Pioneer photo by Amelia Roessler



MERRY WISHES - Arlo, 1, and Camden, 5, Helton got a picture with Santa, with a little help from their mom at the fourth annual Christmas Time at the Mill Dec. 7, 2024. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Christmas Time at the Mill seeking community support

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

For the fifth year in a row, "Christmas Time at The Mill" will take place the first Saturday in December. According to Jen Losen, a member of the event's planning committee, it will feature all the free events it has in the past--cookie decorating, meeting Santa Claus, crafts, face painting, and the company of beloved characters such as the Grinch, Olaf, Elsa, Anna, and a giant polar bear. Live music will be provided by local high school talent.

Just as it has been since 2021, all entertainment and activities will be provided at no cost to children or families.

Losen observes, however, that the event has grown exponentially, with the number of children in attendance

not only tripling from year one to year two, but also continuing to rise from then on, and overall numbers increasing from about 150 in 2021 to almost 1,000 in 2024.

"Christmas at the Mill has become a community wide event," observed Losen, who spoke on the topic at a recent meeting of the Waseca Exchange Club. "So we're starting to look for broader support across the community."

She went on to explain the event's founder, Matt Petsinger, and a group of volunteers have provided most of the materials and labor to make the activities and features of the event possible with space donated by The Mill, some food provided by local vendors, and certain elements--including trees in a "Christmas Tree Walk"--sponsored by local busi-

nesses. Individuals leading craft activities have typically brought the materials and supplies at their own expense.

Losen went on to say that, with the large numbers of people who have come to enjoy and anticipate attending the event, the amount of planning and organization which must take place in advance has increased. "Christmas at the Mill" now has a nine-member planning committee; status as a non-profit entity has been acquired.

"This is a great event that people can just come to and genuinely enjoy," observed Losen. "We plan to keep it that way, and we need help to do it."

Christmas continued on 4



Compostings

by Al Batt

Age is just a word

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

My accountant compared me to the most intelligent man he's ever known.

Really?

Yup, he said I was nowhere close to being the most intelligent man he's ever known.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. "It's a Long Way to Tipperary" is a marching song popularized in World War I. It's still a long way to Tipperary, Ireland, but all the summer construction detours have made it even longer.

I was strolling around a county fair and stepped into the kiddie barn. There, I found baby chicks with a poster on their enclosure asking, "Just how cute is a baby chick?" I reckoned it's cuter than a bug's ear.

I raised chickens, ducks, geese, guinea fowl and peafowl for many years. I watched a high-stepping rooster, his long spurs making that movement a necessity, that I'd named Foghorn hold court over clucking hens. I had three peafowl, two peahens and a peacock named Screamin' after Screamin' Jay Hawkins, who sang "I Put a Spell on You." Screamin', the peacock, screamed "Help!" whenever given the chance. He yelled at a volume high enough that one neighbor wondered what was going on.

One memorable moment was when Foghorn was strutting to music only he could hear, when a pullet pecked him a good lick on his chest. He should have been wearing a pullet-proof vest.

I'VE LEARNED

Butterflies fly routes as if they were given bad directions.

Each of us has about 60,000 miles of blood vessels inside of us—enough to wrap around the Earth more than twice. No wonder it's hard for us to get organized.

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

To look for good signs for everything. Audrey of Mankato reported one outside a residence that read, "Beware of opossum."

I wear a wristwatch. It's time-consuming.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

My neighbor Crandall asked me to get him some lip balm yesterday and I got him a tube of superglue by mistake. He hasn't spoken to me since.

It was so hot, my neighbor Crandall ate his lettuce salad without dressing.

My neighbor Crandall was at the Eat Around It Cafe when he was sentenced to three bacon cheeseburgers to be served concurrently.

Want to hear something odd? Three.

I had a wooden whistle, but it wooden whistle. I got a steel whistle, but it steel wouldn't whistle. Now I have a tin whistle, and I tin whistle.

Geneticists are putting cheetah genes into crabs, but the research could go sideways fast.

NATURE NOTES

The majority of the long-winded birds have quieted with the season, with the indigo bunting, vesper sparrow, red-eyed vireo, house finches and dickcissel being notable and welcome exceptions. Robins, northern house wrens, mourning doves, cardinals, blue jays and an eastern wood-peewee played limited parts in the diminished chorus.

There was a dead crow in the yard. The yard crows were having a cow because of that. I infrequently find one hit by a vehicle on a road. They're typically blue-eyed crows—juvenile birds that hadn't yet realized the perils of traffic.

A mother downy woodpecker fed her fledglings at a suet feeder. Food was dropped from that high chair, but she was relentless.

Good moms need patience. It was nice to see the red caps on the young ones, in striking contrast to the lack of red on the mother's head and the red nape of the father.

There's a good crop of young robins this year, spotted like feathered fawns, moving about the lawn.

The rain paused only long enough to catch its breath. It's good for the ducks. As I write this, hungry mosquitoes are planning their menus with me as the daily special.

Adult male common loons migrate first, usually in September, followed a few weeks later by the adult females. Before flying south, Minnesota loons congregate on Lake Michigan with other loons for around 28 days before heading to their winter homes on the Gulf of Mexico or along the southern Atlantic coast. Young loons follow a month later, sometimes as late as mid-November. Once they reach the coast, the young loons remain there for two years. In the third year, they return north but may not breed for several more years. Males tend to return closer to their natal territory than females do. Minnesota has more common loons than any other state except Alaska.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"Three things in human life are important: the first is to be kind; the second is to be kind; and the third is to be kind."—Henry James.

Fishing is more than an idea, it's grace

The term "fishing" seems to have followed an interesting path. Obviously, it started as a word for approaching a body of water and seeing what can be caught from its depths: effort expended toward catching fish. As I think of this meaning, my imagination wanders to a past time when food may have been short and success may have meant the difference between going to bed hungry and a comfortable night's sleep.

There would have been a sense of pressure, a feeling that catching nothing meant disappointing those you care about. That would have made the lack of control a source of frustration. Especially if the catch was poor on a particular day, the angler would constantly be asking internal questions. "They were here yesterday, why aren't they here today?" "Why is that person over there reeling in one after another while I'm getting nothing?" or "I'm doing everything they're doing. Why are they catching big fish and I'm catching small ones?"

I believe it's a truism that any angler who is doing well will proclaim success at fishing is the result of skill, while any who are doing poorly will declare it's luck that decides who brings home a catch. These are all ideas any Minneso-



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

tan, I believe, is completely familiar with.

From there, however, the word has traveled into other connotations, taking along with it that central idea one has little to no control, that we are reaching into invisible depths and hoping to pull up a desired, and probably elusive, result.

Someone facing confusion or uncertainty might "fish" for answers. An individual working to solve a puzzle or resolve a situation might fish for a solution. When encountering acquaintances from long ago and trying one name after another, we might be said to be "fishing" our memories.

The word always carries with it that sense of powerlessness, the idea that we must rely on good fortune in order to achieve our objective.

So a recent trip out on the lake has me "fishing" for a new word. We sat poles in hand on a pontoon which was being pulled quietly

along by an electric trolling motor. There was no wind, and the few other people on the lake were also anglers, so there were no noisy speed boats or jet skis pulling any of their usual antics.

We were fishing for fun and when it comes to my brother and me, there is no sense of competition to outdo each other. We just fish, sometimes complementing each other's catches, sometimes barely noticing them. But the days when I catch more or bigger fish than he does are rare to nonexistent.

The lake was mirror smooth. As I cast my line, I felt as if I was in some sort of fantasy movie, because I seemed to be fishing among the clouds—that's how clearly they were reflected for hundreds of feet ahead of and around me. It seemed absolutely mystical.

Along with that, turtles were persistently surfacing nearby. Their triangle-shaped noses would some-

times be accompanied by a small mound made as their shells broke the surface, sometimes not. Way off across the cloud-dotted surface, a beaver was swimming, leaving a long "v" in the water behind itself. Now and then, for some reason I could not discern, it would slap its tail against the water and dive, then come back up again a few feet further on.

Through it all, I continued to cast out my line and reel it back in. Sometimes a fish would bite, sometimes the lure would return unnoticed. My movements were almost automatic, I was so caught up in the serene surroundings and the good fortune I had to be fishing in the clouds.

And now I have come back around to my point. Yes, I was undeniably on a body of water and exerting the effort to catch fish. But there was no sense of powerlessness, no anxiety about luck or skill, no worries about what might or might not be below me in the invisible depths.

I was purely and simply present in the moment, appreciating where I was located and what was happening around me. And now, thanks to this meandering search, I have found the word I was looking for.

Grace.



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

Listen to the music. What do you hear?

We hear music every day. On the radio, on TV, on our phones, on almost every video we watch. Jingles of commercials, latest hits on the radio, TikTok and YouTube sounds and more.

But when do we ever sit down and really appreciate music?

Music is usually convenient. You listen to it in the car when you're going someplace so you don't sit in silence. You listen to it working out or doing house chores. But when's the last time you carved out time in your day to actually listen to music and hear it?

The Kiwanis Thunder of Drums Drum Corps International competition was last Tuesday in Mankato; my mother, sister and I went. For those unfamiliar with DCI, it's like a professional marching band with no woodwinds. So you have amazing brass and percussion sounds and a color guard performing outstanding field shows.

I was in the Waseca Marching Jays in high school, where I fell in love with marching band. My family fell in love with it coming to all of my shows. So deciding to go to the Thunder of Drums was a no-brainer, and it had been a long

time since I'd seen a well-performed field show.

I realized how lucky I am to be in a community, and surrounded by communities, who love and appreciate music and bands. I watched as different bands from all over the country came on throughout the night and blew my socks off. I sat in the bleachers, soaking in the rolling waves of smoothing brass sounds that echoed off the bleachers and watched, mesmerized, as performers moved in sync to create different shapes and designs that ebbed and flowed with the moving of their bodies.

These sounds are like no other; I am emotionally moved every time I hear them. I feel it in my soul, in my whole being, and a lot of times, listening to the amazing sound brings me to tears.

One performance was centered around dawn and the rising of the sun. It started off slow and softer, not hard-hitting like some bands, and quietly grew until I was swept up in the moment. Hopeful notes blended together and danced their way to my ears, where they sent a picture to my brain of sitting on a mountain watching the sun rise.



DRUM AND BUGLE - The Cavaliers, based in Rosemont, Illinois, performed at the Kiwanis Thunder of Drums July 8.

Pioneer photo by Amelia Roessler

I felt like a main character in a movie having a moment doing just that – watching the sun rise at the end of a harrowing time. I was everything and I was nothing. I was the main character and the sun, the breeze of air that brushed my face and the pebbles at my feet. I felt as if I was a gliding, smooth river and yet a roaring fire.

Isn't it crazy how music can make you think? Make you feel? I allowed my imagination to stop seeing what was on the field and just feel the music, see what I was doing on the inside. It was fantastic.

Then the music stops and you wake up, applauding with a standing ovation along with everyone

else. Bravo. Life feels hopeful again and you remember what a blessed life you are living, despite all the trials and pressures of the world, of society. For one moment you can lose yourself in the experience, in the feeling of something more than you.

So next time you listen to your favorite song, or a pleasant melody, try to stop and really take in the notes. How does the sound make you feel? Is the bright trumpet making you feel upbeat? Does the guitar tell you life is good? I don't know, you tell me.

My Determination: "Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and that which cannot remain silent." — Victor Hugo



SERVING THE WHOLE OF WASECA COUNTY including the communities of Waseca, Janesville, New Richland, and Waldorf

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Secret to happy marriage? Cookies

Last week I had the pleasure of meeting Kyle and Anastasia's parents.

This week, it was my friend Mark Henderson's parents.

I write his last name for the benefit of Pat Churchill, a former NRHEG teacher and coach, who attended college with Mark. They used to carpool to and from school together. (I think I have those details right.)

A year or two ago I ran into Pat; he mentioned about having a friend who is the General Manager of the Arizona Cardinals National Football League team. I said, "That's crazy, another friend of mine was telling me the same thing..."

A small world indeed. (Both Mark and Pat love sports, and both are high school coaches.)

I've known Mark since I was about 19 years old, courtesy of the game store. Mark has been a good



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

friend and mentor in the almost decade we've known each other.

Mark's family is from Luverne, Minnesota. His parents were staying at Brookside Campgrounds, just outside of Blooming Prairie, this past weekend. Mark invited me out for a small grill-out.

His parents, Roger and Vicki, have been married 49 years. They met because Vicki, a school teacher, was in the first year ever of coaching girls' high school basketball at Luverne (that's when girls' basketball became an option). Roger was the bus driver.

The pair shared a story of a late road game where Roger bought

Vicki a cheeseburger. In order to keep it warm, he kept it by the radiator/heater. "I didn't have a microwave on the bus!" Roger exclaimed.

Vicki, as the coach, was the last one to leave the locker and was very flattered.

The couple told me about their love for travel...well, Vicki's love for travel. Roger comes along for the ride.

Roger was a local handyman of sorts, and Vicki, teacher. For 19-years Vicki worked at the local Community Health Center and later, for County Social services.

I was only able to visit for an

hour or so. If I had more time, I'd have had the chance to ask them the secret to 49 years of a successful marriage. Mark, however, warned them I do like to ask questions. I'm glad, after so long, I finally had the chance to meet the makers of Mark, as I joked. The family was kind, welcoming and, just like Mark, they all liked to talk.

Alas, Monday evening, I returned for more company. I'm told the secret behind 49-years of happy marriage is... chocolate chip cookies. Vicki and Roger answered in unison before telling me numerous lovely stories.

"There is nothing on this earth more to be prized than true friendship." - Thomas Aquinas

Oh, and here's a quote from Mark, which he shared:

"People come into your life for a reason, a season, or a lifetime."



FINDERS KEEPERS - Owen, Leeland, Finley, Sophie, Beckett, and Eden were ready, willing, and able to complete the Waseca County Fair's Family and Kids Scavenger Hunt on Saturday, July 11, 2025. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Scavenger hunt popular option at fair

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

There are 16 members of the Waseca County Fair Board, each member a key component to the daily operations of the fair. Noah Battenfeld, the First Vice President of Free Entertainment was on duty the afternoon of Saturday, July 12: He headed up the 2025 Family & Kids Scavenger Hunt.

Set up at the free stage, Battenfeld came out of the fair office holding sheets of paper and a container of pencils. There was a smile on his face and on the faces of about 20 children waiting near the stage to receive instructions. He told the kids, "Nothing on these papers is impossible to find. But if you do have trouble, feel free to find me or any of the people wearing these blue shirts," he pointed to his own shirt, "to ask questions." When he was done speaking and each of the kids got their sheets and their pencils, there was an excited yelling as they took off.

Said Battenfeld, "I'm on the

free entertainment committee. We needed something good and easy for the kids to do. We didn't put any age restrictions on it but that's never been a problem." He was asked about the prizes available for the children once done with the hunt, "We have a box of surprises in the office: suckers, wristbands, magnets, erasers and pencils, kids' stuff."

The scavenger hunt sheet asked children to find answers to questions about animals, 4H and the FFA. Also required was information about food for sale at various stands. One question asked, "How many carts are on the ferris wheel?" But no matter how hard everyone tries, one person will have done it the fastest, but in this case, three kids were done first, Owen, Leeland and Sophie, who were so excited to get their prizes they simply disappeared afterwards. But one by one, every child eventually finished, and they got to pick a prize as well. The Family & Kids Scavenger Hunt was a popular success.



CAR WRECK - Kyle Bathke competed in three heats during the Waseca County Fair's Demolition Derby on Friday, July 11, 2025. He took second place in the "minivan" division.

Kyle Bathke, a guy who likes to wreck cars

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The audience seating for the Demolition Derby at the Waseca County fair was packed on Friday night. In fact, it was so full, many chose to stand down in the front because the stands were shoulder to shoulder. There were vendors coming and going, adult beverages were being sold in cans for \$5 apiece. Those spectators who were old enough were also able to take their wristband over to the beer tent after the derby to get a free drink.

Local resident Kyle Bathke, 27, competed in three different heats that night. First was the minivan class, for which he took second place, then compact vehicles and finally the stock weld class-for which he also earned a third-place win. Said Bathke, "I do this in numerous county fairs all over southern Minnesota and northern Iowa. In total I can do 10-12 demo derbies per year." He was quick to share the credit: "My sponsors, Fromm's Auto, I-35 Auto and Dave's Body Shop really help out to keep me going. I just couldn't do it without them." Bathke himself works at Dave's Body Shop out of Waseca. Demo derbies have been his passionate hobby for the past 13 years.

"And I don't get sore doing them either, if anything they tend to loosen me up a lot, I walk out

of the car fully stretched." He stated, "The cars I get also, my sponsor I-35 Auto really helps me out getting fresh vehicles. In total I've gone through over 50 vehicles in the time I've been doing derbies. If I had to put a number on it, I'd say around 90 percent of the vehicles I go through are minivans. The rest would probably be compacts."

Bathke's Uncle, Dallas Spies, was in the audience cheering for his nephew. After the minivan heat was over and the vehicles were hauled off the muddy track, it was joked that Dallas was a liar because Bathke's vehicle no longer looked like a minivan, "It looks like a compact car now. Are we sure that was a minivan?" asked Dallas. Thanks to the Waseca and Janesville Fire Departments, when Bathke's #7 minivan caught on fire, it was quickly extinguished, "Yeah, that van was finished in this race, sometimes you can reuse a vehicle but not today, that one was finished. When that happens, it's time to get a fresh vehicle."

The Waseca County Fair board would like to thank Janesville, New Richland, Waldorf and Waseca Fire Departments and North Memorial Ambulance for their time. Also, the Waseca Police Department, Waseca County Sheriff's Mounted Posse and the Waseca County Highway Department.

Onions galore

Fire department food stand marks 50 years at Waseca County Fair

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

For the past 50 years, the Waseca Fire Department's food stand at the county fair has been opening on schedule. Every year, tireless firefighters show up to work hard. This year was no different. The Waseca-Fire Department is famous for the onion rings. Two of these red-shirted firefighters, Nick Edwards and Andrew Lloyd, were busy fellows but were able to spare a few moments to discuss volunteering and working to feed hungry fairgoers.

When asked whether they could name all the firefighters working in the booth, Lloyd said, "Steve Forshree, Gary Hanson, John Underwood and Jimmy Groll-I think." There were nods of agreement from a few others who were also wearing red shirts. Firefighters shared that the stand has evolved slightly over the years: "They began with just onions and rib tips. Now we go through about a thousand pounds of onions and a thousand burgers. In the beginning

those guys were slicing all of the onions by themselves, now we can just order them that way; it makes things way easier."

Inside the stand, heat rose near a large container of flour and seasonings into which the onions were dipped before they were fried. At the counter under a heat lamp were already-cooked onion rings ready to be sold. The menu offered onion ring baskets, quarter pound hamburgers and cheeseburgers, and a whopping half-pound Firehouse Burger which featured two meat patties with cheese topped with onion rings.

Said Edwards, "Yeah, they were just a small shack when they first started, it wasn't permanent, they could take it down and bring it with them when they were done. The Relief Association owns this structure. It's also used for the Christmas lights over the winter for that drive-thru show they do. The Relay for Life used it for their cancer walk but that's not an annual thing. We can also take the fryer equipment and move it over to the fire-



FRESHLY FRIED- Firefighters Andrew Lloyd and Brandon Dahmert were staffing the Waseca Fire Department's food stand at the Waseca County Fair on Saturday, July 12, 2025.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

house for the fish fry when we need to, and that really helps things." He had to turn away to tend to a hungry customer.

Around 30 volunteers signed up to work the fire department's stand this year. Hours were from 11 a.m. till 10 p.m., said Brandon Dahmert, "It gets slower the later we're open,

so not a lot of people are here all that late, you know, the kids get tired and chilly."

They also said Sparky the Waseca Fire Department's mascot would be by later, "He'll be giving out free onion rings and burgers for kids," said Edwards.



OLD, NEW AND UNMISTAKABLE - The Auto & Cycle Show-n-Shine revved up at noon along Eighth Avenue Northeast at the Waseca County Fair on Sunday, July 13, 2025.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Hot temps, cool cars at Show-N-Shine

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Every car was polished and ready for show on Sunday, July 13, reflecting a hot sun shining down on the event. From noon till 4 p.m. on the final day of the Waseca County Fair was the Auto & Cycle Show-n-Shine along Eighth Avenue Northeast.

There were muscle cars, the Ghostbuster's ambulance (before they put the ghost on the side), Smokey and the Bandit's 1977 Trans Am; although there was no sign of Burt Reynolds, his picture was on the visor and his hat was on the driver's seat. Eighth Avenue was filled by classic cars, brand new cars, and "unmistakable for anything else" cars. Some were for sale, others had owners who were looking to buy. There were door prizes for entering; Brad Schnepf from the fair board, who usually works the grandstand, was supervising the car show sign in for the day. "We have two car care buckets and some other prizes, donated by Waseca Auto Value, Waseca

O'Reilly's and NAPA of Waseca. Most of the people had signed in by 1 p.m.," said Schnepf, "We will get a couple of late sign-ins but most of the people should be here by now."

Behind the carnival rides opposite the cars were some single cab trucks down to the end; one of them looked like it was still in the early stages of its rehabilitation. A 1972 Chevrolet Cheyenne Super 20, orange and white in color, is owned by Wasecan Ty Schumacher. He related he has been really into trucks for the past 10 years. His truck, despite a few little rust spots along the bottom, or rough spots in the box, was starting to look pretty good. The engine looked strong, and the hood pivots just fine, "It's a new hood, I just put that on this spring. Got two new rear tires and I rebuilt the differential last fall, little bit by bit I'm getting it done." Schumacher said he hasn't focused on the repainting yet, but he knows he'll get to it. When asked why he chose a 1972 vehicle, he replied, "My dad had a '72 truck like this

when I was little and I always loved it. I want to do more but only have so much time. The transmission is new, can't forget that, there's more than one thing I want to work on next so I can't say I'm following a set schedule

or anything." Inside the cab his seat was pretty worn on the driver's side, so it's clear Schumacher spends a lot of time in his truck. Not that anyone is timing him or anything, but hopefully he's closer to his goal next year!

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OBITUARIES

Duane K. Cole

Duane K. Cole, age 83, of Waseca passed away on June 30, 2025 at Al-lina Hospital in Faribault.

Duane was born on March 19, 1942, in Freeborn County, Minnesota, to Kenneth and Mabel (Jedde-loh) Cole. He grew up in Waseca and graduated from Waseca High School. After graduation, he served in the United States Army. Following his service, Duane lived throughout Minnesota before moving to Minneapolis for work. He then retired in Waseca, where he lived the rest of his life. He was united in marriage to Pamela Bradley on March 9, 2002, at Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church in Minneapolis.

He was a proud member of the Local 49 Operating Engineers Union, the American Legion, and was active in his community. Duane was a life-long Lutheran and carried his faith with quiet strength and humility.

Duane enjoyed the outdoors and spent much of his time fishing, hunting, cycling, traveling, and flying. He was known for his steady presence, strong work ethic, willingness to help others and sense of humor. At home, he found joy in the company of his



Duane Cole

family and beloved pets, Ted and Cary.

He is survived by his wife, Pamela Bradley of Waseca; siblings, Sharon (Dan) McLaughlin of Minneapolis, Glen (Patty) Cole of Minnetonka, Roger Cole of Waseca; and many other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Jan Cole; and many aunts and uncles.

Committal service for Duane will be at 1:00 PM on Monday, July 21, 2025 at Woodville Cemetery with military honors.

Kraig Mark Deling

Kraig Mark Deling, age 60, of Waseca, died on Friday, July 11, 2025 at his home surrounded by his family.

Born on May 27, 1965, in Waseca, he was the son of John and Judith (Wieske) Deling. Kraig was baptized as an infant and confirmed in his faith in his youth at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Waseca. He attended Waseca Public Schools, graduating with the class of 1983. Kraig continued his education at Hutchinson Vo-Tech where he studied agriculture. On September 10, 1988, Kraig was united in marriage to Kristi Nelson at Zion Lutheran Church in Alexandria, together making their home in Waseca where they raised their three boys.

Kraig loved farming! He worked for over 31 years at the University of Minnesota at the Experiment Station as a mechanic and farm hand, helping where ever he was needed. Kraig also helped various farmers in the area in the spring and fall. He was a lifelong member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Waseca where he served as an elder for many years. He was also a member of the Sons of the American Legion. Kraig enjoyed tinkering and fixing things, although his family would refer to it as putzing. He enjoyed working on his yard, tending to his vegetable garden, traveling, camping with crackling fires, Gator cruising the countryside, and watching westerns.



Kraig Deling

Kraig will be remembered for his “Stache” and light hearted sense of humor, that even animals couldn’t resist.

Kraig is survived by his wife of 36 years, Kristi; sons: Jason (Charlie) of Marshall, Justin (McKenzy) of Waseca, and Jacob (Kelsey) of Miltona; grandsons: Stetson and Layne; siblings: Lori (Randy) Loeffler of Waseca and Kevin (Diane) of Janesville and Kristopher (Tracie) of Elk Mound, WI; nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents.

Funeral Service will be 2:00 PM on July 25, 2025 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Waseca with Rev. Michael Grannis officiating. Visitation will begin at 12:00 PM and continue until the time of the service at the church on Friday.

Charlotte “Char” Marie Connors

Charlotte “Char” Marie Connors age 74 of Waseca, died at her home on the afternoon of Saturday, July 12, 2025.

Char was born in Albert Lea on March 24, 1951 to parents Maurice Leroy and Marion Dorothy (Gardner) Springer. She went to school in Freeborn and graduated from Freeborn High School. On May 27, 1972 Char married Daniel Connors at the West Freeborn Lutheran Church. Following their wedding she and Dan enjoyed their involvement with a couples’ bowling league in Waseca that allowed them to get to know others in their community. Her knowledge Waseca’s residents served her well during her career at Walmart that spanned over thirty years. She began working at Walmart in Owatonna but transferred to Waseca when they opened a new location and she quickly specialized in her role in the liquor department where she made many lasting friendships. Char enjoyed camping, quilting, gardening, and following her grandchildren’s sporting and school events. She was a long-time member of West Freeborn Lutheran Church.

Char is survived by her husband of fifty three years, Dan Connors of Waseca; four children, Faith (Jeff) McDonald of Park Rapids, Tracy (Dwight) Langford of Janesville, Samantha (James) Scott of Colorado



Charlotte Connors

Springs, CO, and Uriah (Lareasha) Connors of Maple, WI; ten grandchildren, Dana, Olivia, and Aaron McDonald, Sydney, Tristen (Brooke), and Kayle Langford, Andrew (A.J.), and Liam Scott, and Landen and Indiera Connors; and two siblings, Robert Springer of Hinkley, and Sharon Casebier of Skiatook, OK. She was preceded in death by both of her parents; a sister, Deloris Sindt, a brother-in-law, Ron Casebier; her parents-in-law, Joseph and Lucille Connors; and a sister-in-law, Susan Connors.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m. on July 24, 2025 at the State Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca, with Rev. Marcia Pederson officiating. Visitation will be held from 12:00 p.m. until the time of the service at the funeral home.

Waseca Hockey Association’s Outdoor Bash at Boxcar Bar

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editorial Assistant

The Waseca Hockey Association’s annual Outdoor Bash is set to take place Saturday, July 26 at Boxcar Bar in Waseca. The Bash is open to anyone 18 years and older and includes live music, food trucks, raffles, socializing and an “all-around great time,” according to Waseca Hockey Association’s gambling manager Josh Lynch.

Lynch said each year’s event includes a popular headline musician along with local and rising talent. This year’s feature is country music legend Sammy Kershaw, joined by TikTok sensation Kaleb Austin and local Chad Johnson.

The Outdoor Bash started at the Boxcar Bar 26 years ago. Lynch said Waseca Hockey partnered with the Boxcar Bar in 2014 to bring in headliner Chris Hawkey. Over the years,

they’ve hosted crowd favorites like The Gear Daddies, Arch Allies, Pop-Rocks and Tyler Farr.

“The Waseca Hockey Outdoor Bash is a big deal for our town,” Lynch said. “People come from all over, stay in local hotels, eat at our restaurants and experience what Waseca has to offer. It’s awesome to see our sponsors, hockey families and community members come together for a fun night.”

According to Lynch, the event takes nearly a year to plan, from booking entertainment and food trucks to organizing security and sponsors. Lynch said the committee also makes a strong effort to support local businesses when the entertainers are in town.

The money raised directly supports the Hockey Association, helping keep the program strong and growing, according to Lynch. De-

spite having challenges that range from booking the right bands and lining up sponsors to crossing their fingers for good weather, Lynch said he is most looking forward to seeing the committee’s hard work come to life.

“It’s a night for the community to come together, enjoy great music, support local businesses and raise money for our hockey program. Having a country music icon like Sammy Kershaw headline at the Boxcar Bar in Waseca makes it even better,” Lynch said.

According to Lynch, the Waseca Hockey Association is about more than just hockey. He said it’s about building confidence, teamwork and lifelong friendships for kids across numerous communities. The association welcomes players from Waseca, WEM, JWP and NRHEG. New players pay \$75 for their first



year; ongoing fundraising opportunities are offered to help cover costs.

“Events like the Outdoor Bash are a big part of that support, helping us grow the program and keep hockey strong in southern Minnesota,” Lynch said.

Tickets are \$40 and are sold at Boxcar Bar, Waseca Music Co. and Eventbrite.



REDEMPTION - Left to right, founder and CEO Dwight Tostenson, Bruce Morrisette, Chairman Mikhail Rostislavovich, Odell Wilson, Tom Pippett, Malcom Olatunde, and Bradly Ratgens.

The Redemption Project announces Rostislavovich chairman of the board

The Redemption Project (TRP) proudly announces Mikhail Rostislavovich as the organization’s new Chairman of the Board of Directors. Rostislavovich brings decades of experience in nonprofit leadership, organizational strategy, and community development. Known for his ability to strengthen boards, grow memberships, and foster collaboration among diverse stakeholders, he has consistently helped organizations expand their reach and impact. His reputation for solid leadership, long-term vision, and steadfast commitment to service makes him uniquely suited to guide TRP into its next chapter of growth and success.

The Redemption Project operates in numerous correctional fa-

cilities throughout Minnesota, including FCI-Waseca and MCF-Faribault, delivering its transformative Virtues for Success curriculum. Rooted in the core principles of Wisdom, Courage, Self-Control, and Justice, TRP equips incarcerated individuals with the tools to break cycles of incarceration and build meaningful, productive lives upon reentry.

In accepting the chairmanship, Rostislavovich shared his enthusiasm for the organization’s mission, “The Redemption Project represents a powerful path forward, not just for the individuals we serve, but for entire families and communities,” said Rostislavovich. “I’m honored to help lead this important work and am excited to be

part of this new venture.”

TRP Founder and CEO Dwight Tostenson expressed great confidence in Rostislavovich’s leadership, “Mikhail brings an extraordinary combination of wisdom, experience, and passion for community betterment,” said Tostenson. “His vision and steady hand will be a tremendous asset for the long-term success of The Redemption Project. We are excited to have him in this role.”

As TRP expands its reach and deepens its impact in correctional facilities statewide, Rostislavovich’s appointment signals a bold step forward in its mission to foster hope, dignity, and opportunity for justice-involved individuals.

For more information, visit

www.redemptionproject.org.

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Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika



Road kill research

In traveling down highways going north I find some thing very interesting; there are more groups of new houses moving out of the larger cities dotting the landscape. Perhaps the reason is to escape traffic and the hustle and bustle of larger cities. It may be for safety and an escape from violence. We now live in a society where a 60 minute commute is the norm and people drive in traffic moving faster than ever before.

Animals and birds don't have areas with signs that read animal and bird crossing where traffic slows down much like in approaching a pedestrian crossing sign. Animals and birds are constantly becoming victims of a road kill.

I was driving back from our cabin on Tetonka and before I was a mile out of Waterville a huge hen turkey came out of nowhere and flew across the highway. I was lucky, she just brushed the edge of my windshield. A few miles later, approaching the Morristown cutoff, there was a young kit fox in the middle of Hwy 13. I was able to slow down a bit and the fox moved off to the shoulder, unfortunately young fox became confused and sprinted under my vehicle. The rest of my trip became a trip with a few tears. I felt sick to my stomach and miserable. Could I have done anything to avoid hitting the young fox?

I've driven many miles over my tenure; many of them vacations and hunting and fishing trips. I've hit raccoons, opossums, birds, and even a duck in North Dakota. I've been on trips where frogs and salamanders littered highways when driving on fishing trips during the night. When arriving home from a 400 mile fishing trip I've spent time cleaning dragonflies, butterflies, and may flies off my grill and windshield. I guess one can surmise I have had a few roadkills in my lifetime.

I was coming home during the daylight from Canada with a fishing buddy. On the tip home from Red Lake to Bemidji we saw a record number of deer along wooded areas and groups standing in the ditches. The day was hot and calm and the deer were coming out of thick cover and forests to catch a breeze. Insects were terrible in the woods and deer had headed out for relief. I was cautious driving and avoided hitting any of them. As we approached Motley the pines of the north opened up and agri-

culture began to appear. I made a mistake saying how we had driven to safety and my record of never hitting a deer was still clean.

Out of a farm grove busted a big doe right onto the highway. I had now accelerated to 65 mph and hitting the deer was inevitable. We pulled over and a farmer working in the front yard had witnessed the collision and came driving out on a 4-wheeler to offer assistance. He called the sheriff to call in the road kill. The farmer said he'd take the venison for meat and was issued a permit from the sheriff to legally take the deer. My pickup was driveable, and with two busted headlights and a dented grill and radiator, we made it back to Waseca. After a claim with my insurance agent, and several days at the body shop, everything was just fine.

I decided to dig further into road kills and what a better resource than an interview with my insurance agen, Tim Loo-nan.

The biggest claims are hitting deer. Tim said that many times deer will even run into the side of a car. People driving after dark are far more susceptible to hitting deer. One of his clients has hit more than one deer. He drives to work everyday in Rochester and travels home after dark. The Claremont Rice Lake State Park area is dangerous and he's hit deer there commuting. Tim said people can be injured hitting a road crossing deer and many times injuries are sustained from an air bag going off.

One of his clients, a lady, ended up with a turkey which flew through the windshield and ended up in her passenger seat. Birds can do damage to grills ,anything from pheasants to blackbirds.

Tim said many of the newer vehicles are smaller and ride lower to the highway. He gets claims from hitting raccoons, foxes, and even muskrats and beaver.

Two unbelievable claims came from clients hitting a cow, and one hitting a horse on the highways. Livestock and horses can escape through fences and end up crossing the highway.

Tim and my wife, an ex-drivers ed instructor, offer this advice when driving. Always wear a seatbelt, never try to swerve and avoid an animal, and be extra cautious after dark.

I've never hit a cat or a dog when driving; knock on wood.



60 YEARS YOUNG - Members of the New Richland-Hartland High School graduating class of 1965 who attended a recent reunion include (front row, from left) Sharon (Herbst) Eckart, Erna (Arneman) Krueger, Melladee (Westerlund) McIntire, Connie Johnson. Back: Caryn (Ackman) Wendt, Dennis Supalla, Sharon (Roesler) Robran, Gary Shurson, Sharon (Loken) Bishop, Paul Lynne, Charmaine (Johnson) Cadwell, Dennis Dinneen, Janine (Reese) Babcock, Dale Krueger, Barb Finseth, Frank Duenes, Bruce Babcock, and Tom Madson. Attending, but not in the photo were Cindy (Engebretson) Belshan, Betty (Andersen) Kleinbeck, Dwight Casper, and Steven Anderson.

New Richland-Hartland Class of '65 observes sixtieth anniversary

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Members of the New Richland-Hartland High School class of 1965 gathered at Waseca's Pizza Ranch restaurant on July 10 to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of their graduation. Attending were 26 people, of whom 22 were 1965 graduates.

According to organizers, the class has held a get-together every five years since 1970 except for 2020 when the pandemic interfered. The most recent gathering, in 2015, marked their fiftieth year, and was attended by a strong percentage of the original 86 class members.

Planning team member Barb Finseth speculates the Class of '65 may still be the largest ever. "When our class began first grade, we were the first of the 'baby-boomers,' which led to the expansions of schools, additions to church Sunday School classrooms and the like, to accommodate the surge of children after the end of WW II."

Of the original 86 graduates, she says, 67 are still living, and are

spread across the state and the country. Anyone who was 18 years old in 1965 would turn 78 in 2025.

Finseth says records show the New Richland-Hartland Cardinals pulled off an undefeated football season during the 1964-'65 school year; of the 11 starters on the team, nine were members of the senior class. She also mentions the basketball team was dominated by seniors. The group's scoring average was 66.5 points per game, earning them a 14-7 season record. John Engesser, who was homecoming king that year, had a single game scoring record of 34 points; Bruce Babcock finished with a career record of 909 points. The team scored its first "west sub-district championship" since 1957.

Another milestone: "Our class hosted New Richland's first foreign exchange student, Polly Lezou from Greece. She stayed with my family during her time in New Richland," Finseth recalls.

A rather vivid memory for Finseth is that the band uniforms at the time were made of wool. They were worn during summer marching appearances until after a

number of students had fainted from the heat. After that, it was decided students could wear white shirts and black pants, with no hats, while marching. "There were no teams of 'hydrating' volunteers that marched with the band back then," she recalls. When band members would finish a march, they were treated to a can of pop each.

The chance to share memories like these and to catch up on each other's experiences since then are the biggest benefits of having reunions, Finseth offers. She says the format of this year's informal gathering at Pizza Ranch was purposely left as casual as possible to allow everyone to mingle freely. "After the large fiftieth reunion, this year, our sixtieth, is casual with no frills, just visiting time. The main idea is that we are still here and can get together!"

She extends credit to the class members who have helped plan the 11 reunions. She mentions Caryn [Ackman] Wendt, long-time owner and operator of Waseca Secretarial Service who used her organizational skills to help reach class

members even as they dispersed across the country. "She kept track of mailing addresses and then emails for the classmates," Finseth mentions. "If she needed to, she would track the info down through family and friends or search online to update her files." Besides all that, Wendt distributed periodic updates regarding class members. Finseth also mentions the planning, organizing and decorating done by herself, Peggy [Lane] Borchard, Char [Johnson] Cadwell, and Sharon [Loken] Bishop—all of whom served on planning committees, although not always in the same years.

Other interesting details about the class include that Sally Stenzel was valedictorian and Charmaine Johnson was salutatorian. Class officers were John Engesser, Perry Haugen, Ramiro Duenes, and Tom Greenwood. Homecoming queen and king were Barb Finseth and John Engesser; court members were Suzanne Scholljegerdes, Judy Moe, Peggy Lane, Charmaine Johnson, Dale Madison, Tom Greenwood, Dwight Casper, and Dwayne Ostrom.

Local pickleball group invites all

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editorial Assistant

Though everyone who takes part in it calls it a "league," the Waseca pickleball league is not as formal as its name implies. However one refers to the 80 or more interested players, they typically fill the six pickleball courts at Oak Park near the skateboard park every Monday and Wednesday night—not only with their physical presence, but with their passion and enjoyment of their chosen sport.

According to active participant Denny Hoehn, joining them is as simple as texting "ICP" [I can play] in the 82-member group chat.

"Then anybody that's in that group chat gets [the message]; they reply, and as soon as we have more than four, people just start showing up," Hoehn said.

The group normally starts around six p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays and ends whenever people feel like it. If it gets dark and people want to continue playing, there is the option to turn on the floodlights.

Hoehn said the group started around three years ago, before the building of the new pickleball

courts last year, as a league through Community Ed during the winter. After that, they started a GroupMe chat for when people want to play. He added some people—for example Hartland resident Petra Kittleson—come from a little further away, but most are from Waseca.

One can usually find Hoehn on a Monday or Wednesday night playing pickleball at Oak Park. "Unless it conflicts with the beer garden," player Jeff Kunz chimed in with a laugh. When the pickleball nets were slashed last year, it was Hoehn who zip tied all the nets together so people could continue to play.

"It's a great group of people," Hoehn said. "And the sport is good exercise. I mean, it gives you a lot of flexibility. You also meet a lot of people."

The average age of the players tends to be around 50, according to Hoehn, although ages range from 14-year-old Olive Scheffert to 76-year-old Roger Nordaas.

"It really doesn't matter. The older ones can be just as competitive as anybody. I mean, that's the one nice thing about the sport is age isn't a factor as to how good you are," Hoehn said.



PADDLES READY - Jeff Kunz and his partner get ready to serve the ball after a rally during one of Wednesday night's games.

Pioneer photo by Amelia Roessler

Scheffert comes with her dad, Grant, to play with the league. Hoehn said there are a few husband and wife couples who show up as well. However, he added, anyone is welcome, even without a partner.

Hoehn compared the easy, informal format of the "league" to other sports, offering the example of golf, which typically entails paying a cost, and booking a tee time. "There's a lot involved," he observes. "With this, you basically just show up. If you've got a paddle and a ball, you can probably

find somebody to play with," Hoehn said. "And if you're just by yourself, it doesn't matter."

There is talk in their group chat of possibly forming an official Pickleball Association or club to help with things such as funding to keep the courts maintained, although nothing has yet been done.

The group welcomes anyone to play, inviting people of all skill levels and ages to "just bring a paddle and have fun." Or, as Hoehn will ask, "Should we play a game?"

■ Oasis

from Page 1

"These products are natural, eco-friendly, zero waste, no harsh chemicals," Miller explained. "And that's all of the things that your body and the planet need."

Along with healthier products, Miller said she wants to provide an affordable option so people aren't breaking the bank to stay healthy. "Just because it's good doesn't mean it has to be expensive," she added.

Right now, Miller says she has a large stock of tea meant to help with conditions ranging from menopause and fibromyalgia. She also has more unique products including dried jasmine pearls that open in hot water.

Miller said she decided to open a shop in Waseca because her two daughters go to the Montessori here and her mother is a nurse for ICAN.

"It's a nice community. There's a lot of history here and people are very friendly," Miller said. "So just being able to work better as a family, as a community."

One of the biggest challenges Miller said she's come across is the

business side of things. As a health-care person, she said she is not necessarily a business person, but a "people-that-cares-about-people kind of person." However, she said at the end of the day paperwork is paperwork, whether that's numbers or counting medications.

She says she hopes customers will give her plenty of feedback, giving their impressions of her products to let her know how she can adjust. Miller added she is "here to help serve you."

"People are really excited. I've kind of been throwing the word out there that you can do online ordering.

There've been a couple people who have done that," Miller said.

Miller said she finds it surreal that she has become a storekeeper, since it is not something she ever pictured herself doing. She finds it exciting, both because she gets to sell healthy products, and because she is a meth addict in recovery. As of the day of this publication, Miller is seven years, four months and 15 days clean.

"I have built myself up from living in the back of my boyfriend's car with nothing but the clothes on my back to opening a store today. It's amazing," Miller said.

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Pioneer photos by Deb Bently, Ben Revermann and Amelia Roessler



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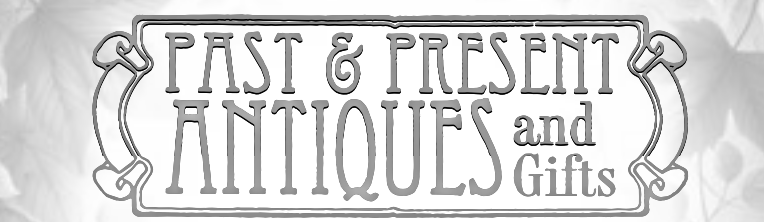
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HOURS**

Mon-Fri:
8:30 a.m. -
4:00p.m.
Saturday: Closed

Member
FDIC

Waseca County Free Fair



Claire Madden, Jane Kroeger and Kim and Emma Babcock were selling ice cream and smiles at Undeniably Dairy.



Sarah Born-Raetz, Nevaeh Sampson and Corbin Born were working Polly's Pantry Eats.



Jill, Oakley, Madison and Leigha were helping at the All American Gyro stand during the Waseca County Fair.



Tony Deno and Alex Cobs were feeding hungry fairgoers at Lakes Co. Eats.



Travis Blake of Blake's BETtor Spread was happy to help.



Autumn Thissen and Ashlyn Pelant were helping out Wiste's Meat Market.



Nicole Wangen staffed a booth specializing in cheese curds.



Emma Keith and Emily Zielinski were taking care of Strawberries and Creme.



Amy Johns and Moey Moegeo's were selling pickles.



Connie Evenson and Carissa Nelson sold pretzels.



Mark, Tega and Tessa were selling Godfather's Pizza by the slice.



Lexi Kanewischer, Mia Kanewischer and Susie Kuhns.



Lily Owens, Josie Hagre and Briley Plym were manning Kelms BBQ. Pioneer photos by Ben Reverma



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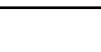
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MLS





The Pastor's Column

Living forever, now

By Pastor Michael James Grannis

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.”

While many U.S. citizens and students of democracy all over the world are able to recite these opening lines of The Declaration of Independence, few are able to recite or even recognize the closing lines of this historic declaration. Listen to these following lines closely.

“And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.”

Did you catch that?“...with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence...” This means that the founding fathers of our country acknowledged that their success in breaking ties with England and forming this new government was completely dependent on the protection and blessing that God alone could provide. While declaring their independence from England and the King’s authority, they were simultaneously declaring their total dependence on God and His authority

We would all do well to follow the lead our founding fathers by humbling ourselves before God and admitting our total dependence on His will, His strength, and His blessing in accomplishing anything worthwhile in our lives. This is a lesson God has taught time and time again throughout the ages - the lesson that all people need to rely fully on His strength and trust in His will.

For example, Ezekiel is known for being a mighty prophet of God. But what did Ezekiel really do? Not much really. In Ezekiel chapter 2 he didn’t even have the will to get up off the ground. God lifted Him up. God gave Ezekiel the very words he was to deliver. God sent him on his way. Whether or not the people listened God said they would know that a prophet had come to them. God didn’t promise that people would respond favorably to the message. He simply gave Ezekiel the strength to stand and the words to speak.

Similarly, the Apostle Paul is thought of as someone who was blessed with all kinds of amazing abilities. However, in the end what does he say he will boast in? His weaknesses! (2nd Corinthians chapter 12) Why would he boast in his weaknesses? Paul realizes that if he boasts his own accomplishments, he would not be pointing people to God; he would be drawing people to himself. Paul didn’t want people to focus on him, or what he supposedly had to offer. He wanted them to hear God’s message of salvation and forgiveness through Christ. So he showed off all his weaknesses and his struggles and difficulties in life. He did this so that people would not see the greatness of a man but

the greatness of God.

In Mark chapter 6, Jesus sent His disciples out into the surrounding villages to deliver the Gospel, bringing with them next to nothing. He did this to teach them to trust that God will provide for them. They didn’t need to worry about all the details. God would provide them hour by hour, day by day and they would learn to trust in God’s providence and guidance in their lives.

We often put our trust in money or influence, jobs or government, experts or gurus, or even celebrities’ opinions. However, the best place (the only place) to look for all good things is from the source of all goodness – our eternal, loving heavenly Father. As we learn to trust in our loving God to provide us (not just with what we need, but with opportunity and purpose), we will see His faithfulness more and more.

For generations the United States has boasted that we are the greatest nation that has ever existed. When you list our accomplishments as a country it’s easy to understand why: from our initial declaration of independence, to our expansion into the west and beyond, our harnessing of natural resource, our victories in battle and war, our resilience in the face of various disasters, all of the inventions and innovations we have brought about, our exploration of outer space, our prominence in the world markets and economy, the list goes on and on.

Yes, just like the Apostle Paul, it is easy to see why we might boast in our accomplishments as a nation. Yet, from the very beginning, written in black and white, is a reminder from our founding fathers. None of this would have even been possible if it weren’t for the “the protection of Divine Providence.” Our founding fathers spoke of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness as they sought independence from an earthly king. True life, true liberty, true and eternal happiness can only be given by our heavenly Father through a total dependence on Christ Jesus our Lord and King.

God created us and gave us LIFE so that we would do good in other’s lives. Through Christ He gave us LIBERTY from sin, death, and the power of the devil, so we would no longer pursue sin, and fear death and hell. He freed us to love God and do His good will in the world around us. In Christ’s resurrection, He won the victory over every evil, giving us the promise of eternal HAPPINESS when we are raised from death to life. Having Christ as our King brings with it true and eternal Life, Liberty and Happiness, even as we still struggle with the heartbreak and sadness of this fallen world.

We need to humble ourselves before God and declare our total dependence on His strength and His will for our lives. Whatever you do, whether good or bad, you are using the resources that God has blessed you with. Even your very body and life is a gift from God. We truly are completely dependent on God in every way.

Area students earn spring semester honors

- Many local students have earned academic recognitions during the 2025 spring semester at their respective colleges and universities. These recognitions typically include earning a high grade point average, usually around 3.5 GPA and above.

University of Minnesota Duluth
Sophia Berry, Dean’s List
Casey Johnson, Dean’s List
Kylee Kruger, Dean’s List
McKenzie Mueller, Dean’s List
Susan Smith, Dean’s List
St. Olaf College
Cecelia Huttemier, Dean’s List
Emma Wieseler, Dean’s List
Cora Harpel, Dean’s List
Winona State University
Dylan Loken, Dean’s List
Anna Peterson, Dean’s List
Torri Vaale, Dean’s List
Matthew Mueller, Dean’s List
Hanna Crabtree, Dean’s List
University of Wisconsin - La Crosse
Haydn Lynch, Dean’s List
Elsie Schultz, Dean’s List
University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire
Rachel Horejsi, Dean’s List
University of Wisconsin - Madison
Kendall Johnson, Dean’s List
University of Wisconsin - River Falls
Morgan Honstad, Dean’s List, Graduate,
Buck Kuhns, Dean’s List, Graduate
Lily Sonnek, Dean’s List
Iowa State University
Ian Pomeroy, Dean’s List
Hallie Schultz, Dean’s List
Southern New Hampshire University
Jaiden Robinson, Dean’s List
Barbara Paulson, President’s List
Nevada Walsh, President’s List
Concordia University
Isabella Wolter, Honor’s List
South Dakota State
Grace Arthur, Dean’s List
Anna Blatti, Dean’s List
Erin Peterson, Dean’s List
Kia Buendorf, Dean’s List
- North Dakota State University**
Meghan Arbegast, Dean’s List, Graduate
Marquette University
Laura Deml, Dean’s List
Riverland Community College
Kyle Ahlschlager, President’s List
Kirsten Berkness, President’s List
Logan Bultman, President’s List
Te’a Friesen, President’s List
Joel Frye, President’s List
Makenna Gare, President’s List
Sydney Kofstad, President’s List
April Konz, President’s List
Jaden Krause, President’s List
John MacKay, Dean’s List
Brittany Pechacek, Dean’s List
Kaylee Smith, Dean’s List
Cayanna Stoltz, President’s List
Patricia Trevino, President’s List
Olivia Whetstone, President’s List
Meela Budach, President’s List
Alden Dobberstein, President’s List
- Kiyah Mikesell, President’s List
Cole Blomstrom, Dean’s List
Tyler Flemming, President’s List
Madyn Holland, President’s List
Hannah Brunsen, President’s List
Tayla Sandry, President’s List
Minnesota State University Mankato
Brooklyn Anderson, Honor List
Aspen Ascheman, Honor List
Sage Barnett, Honor List
Theresa Breck, High Honor List
Mallory Bruhn, High Honor List
Dahminik Deutsch, Honor List
Eddy Gallegos, Honor List
Payton Gehloff, Honor List
Dominic Grunzke, Honor List
Noah Hiniiker, High Honor List
Alleyce Huff, Honor List
Philip Jacobson, High Honor List
Sophia Krause, Honor List
Josie Madson, Honor List
Hazel Moore, High Honor List
Brecken Neid, Honor List
Erik Rios Hruska, Honor List
Haylee Sommers, Honor List
Isabella Sorenson, Honor List
Colby Sylvester, Honor List
Hannah Wilder, Honor List
Ryan Zimmerman, Honor List
Elizabeth Bushlack, High Honor List
- Ashlin Keyes, Honor List
Alison Olson, High Honor List
Faith Olson, High Honor List
Addison Peed, Honor List
Mara Richardson, High Honor List
Sammi Wehking, High Honor List
Bryce Barrie, Graduate
Bodie Bice, Graduate
Collin Dufault, Graduate
Payton Gehloff, Graduate
Jacob Hulscher, Graduate
Tanika Johnson, Graduate
Tyler Klinger, Honor List, Graduate
Shelby Larson, Graduate
Destiny Logan, Graduate
Sydney Ludwig, Honor List, Graduate
Abbi Miller, Graduate
Kenya Moallin, High Honor List, Graduate
JadyN, Nelson-Spies, Graduate
Morgan Robinson, High Honor List, Graduate
Laney Srp, Graduate
Tori Stinehart, High Honor List, Graduate
Kendra Youngberg, Graduate
Anahi Miranda, Graduate
Jacob Schuller, Graduate
Ethan Born, Graduate
Lacey Cords, Graduate
Emily Olson, Graduate
Allison Roberts, Graduate
Peter Tinaglia, Graduate
Levi Ward, Graduate
St. Cloud Technical & Community College
Rosa Gamez, President’s List
St. Cloud State University
Katrina Pedersen, Graduate
Alexandria Technical & Community College
Ryan Britton, Dean’s List
Brayden Rolfson, Dean’s List
Ellsworth Community College
Jewel Stewart, Dean’s List
University of Wisconsin-White-water
Cameron Lynch, Graduate, Hired Before Graduation honor
St. Mary’s University
Jonah Stafford, Graduate

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CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH 2200 4th St NE, Waseca 507-835-2235 Service times 9:30 a.m. * * * 4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH 605 4th St NE, Waseca 507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker) Worship Sundays 10 a.m. * * * FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-3167 Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m. * * * CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH 309 6th St NE, Waseca 507-835-9176 Worship Sundays traditional 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship; 10:45 a.m. contemporary service * * * ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 Sundays 9:00 a.m. * * * ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. * * * FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. * * * GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 a.m. * * * SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH 111 4th St NW, Waseca Father Glenn Ferichs 507-835-1222 Worship Sundays 10:00 a.m., Tues. and Wed. at 8:30 a.m. and Thurs. at 7 a.m.; Saturdays at 5 p.m. * * * REAL LIFE CHURCH	620 W Elm Ave, Waseca 507-607-8245 Sunday worship 10 a.m. * * * CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS 1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca 507-835-4640 Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m. * * * GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 1221 8th St SE, Waseca 507-835-2213 Sunday worship 10:45 a.m., 6:00 p.m. * * * CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY 900 14th Ave SE, Waseca 507-833-1082 Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening 6:30 p.m. * * * ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship * * * ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Otisco, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship * * * TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Mary Iverson 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 * * * 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 * * * ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Father Glenn Ferichs Friday - 10 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays p.m. Mass Sunday - Mass at 8 a.m. * * * FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod Waldorf, Minnesota Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Larry Sipe Sundays: Worship 8 a.m.; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and adult bible class * * * IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township 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 Father Brian Mulligan Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship * * * TRINITY LUTHERAN Wilton Township Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor Sunday - 8 a.m. summer worship; 10:45 a.m. Worship starting Sept. 1 * * * THE CHURCH of JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS Brad Donner, Branch President Waseca, Minnesota www.lds.org	Sunday — 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School Wednesday — 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages 12-18 * * * TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 412 N. Main Street, Janesville Pastor Jason Wolter Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:30 a.m. Worship * * * JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 401 N. West St., Janesville Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship * * * BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 43089 180th St., Morristown Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Summer worship hours, (10:45 a.m. Worship, winter) * * * ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH 307 W. 2nd St, Janesville 10 a.m. - Mass * * * FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 Owen St., Janesville Pastor Sarah Krolak * * * ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship * * * TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Smiths Mill, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship * * * NORTH WASECA LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA 404 30 120th St. Waseca Pastor Sarah Krolak 507-234-6463 Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship; Second sunday “Young at heart” Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. confirmation * * *
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Janesville

1925

- John Hayes, a pioneer of St. Clair, died at St. Joseph’s hospital in Mankato Wednesday of last week following a long and distressing illness, cancer of the face having developed about four years ago. Several operations and various lines of treatment were resorted to but failed to effect a cure of the exceedingly painful malady. He was born in Boston January 2, 1850, and had attained the age of nearly 76 years. He came to Wisconsin with his parents when a youth and a few years later moved with them to St. Clair where he resided for 50 years, successfully operating a farm there for the greater portion of that time. About ten years ago he took up residence with his sister, Mrs. Margaret Fanning, and nephew, Charles Fanning, in Alton Township until his death.

- A new hog barn 30x100 feet is under construction at the Waseca County Fairgrounds and a high knoll between the present horse barns and the old hog barn has been chosen as the site for the new buildings. This was the report submitted by L. P. Zimmerman at the Fair Board meeting Monday evening of last week. The funds for the new building were secured for the fair association just recently.

1950

- The biggest parade n the history of Janesville, with seven musical units, at least three marching units, numerous commercial floats, several 4-H club floats, and a number of locally made floats, is promised by the parade committee for Janesville’s Jubilee celebration Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, June 25, 26, and 27. The parade, band concert, ball game, dances, and midway attractions are a few of the many events that the Janesville Community Club is planning for the three days. The In 1975, Waldorf-Pemberton earned a trophy for winning the Class A band competition. They traveled to Winnipeg, Canada for the competition which included over 500 musicians. ning, June 26, and be ready then to take chest X-rays of Janesville people. The schedule of the mobile unit for three days at Janesville Will be: Monday, June 26, in the evening; Tuesday, June 27, morning and afternoon; Wednesday June 28, afternoon and evening; Thursday, June 29, morning. 1975 Someone could have walked off with the towns of Waldorf 2000 Based on the recommendation of Superintendent Don Hainlen, the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton School Board tabled the proposal for a day treatment program at last Thursday’s meeting. The proposal would have placed a day treatment program for high school aged students with behavior disorders in the Waldorf Middle School. Due to concerns voiced by area residents, the school board voted at the May meeting to explore alternate sites for this program. It was anticipated that a vote would take place at the meeting last Thursday. But instead, no action was taken. kickoff of the celebration will be a gigantic parade at 1:00 p.m. Sunday afternoon. Parade entries are asked to line up at least a half hour before the start of the parade.

- Janesville people will have their first look at the chest X-ray mobile unit next week, according to Mrs. L. W. Scott, chairman of the area, who announced the unit arrives on Monday. The X-ray machine, housed in a huge gray trailer truck, will stop at the Janesville Public Library on Monday evening, June 26, and be ready then to take chest X-rays of Janesville people. The schedule of the mobile unit for three days at Janesville Will be: Monday, June 26, in the evening; Tuesday, June 27, morning and afternoon; Wednesday June 28, afternoon and evening; Thursday, June 29, morning.

1975

- Someone could have walked off with the towns of Waldorf and Pemberton and several area farms Monday night and no one would have been around to stop them. That’s because nearly everyone in the area was out welcoming home the Waldorf-Pemberton High School Band after their award-winning trip to Winnipeg, Canada. An estimated 500 people met the band in a caravan at St. Clair and drove with the school busses to the W-P High School. There, Supt. Robert Hoppe, Chamber President Neil Prescher and townspeople gathered to congratulate the band on winning the Class A Concert Competition in the annual Invitational International Band Competition this past weekend.



- In 1975, Waldorf-Pemberton earned a trophy for winning the Class A band competition. They traveled to Winnipeg, Canada for the competition which included over 500 musicians.

- Duane Kahnke, 18, a college honor student and talented high school wrestler, was killed in an accident on the Lyle and Hubert Kahnke farm Sunday morning. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Kahnke, St. Paul, Duane would have been 19 today. Kahnke was dead on arrival at St. Joseph’s Hospital, Mankato, after he was struck on the head by a pole which he was helping install at the end of the farm’s driveway.

2000

- Based on the recommendation of Superintendent Don Hainlen, the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton School Board tabled the proposal for a day treatment program at last Thursday’s meeting. The proposal would have placed a day treatment program for high school aged students with behavior disorders in the Waldorf Middle School. Due to concerns voiced by area residents, the school board voted at the May meeting to explore alternate sites for this program. It was anticipated that a vote would take place at the meeting last Thursday. But instead, no action was taken.

- A true love of music is what motivated Irene Mulcahey to pursue a career as a music education. This passion for music, combined with her love of children, are what earned her the 2000 Waseca Education Association Teacher of the Year Award. Mulcahey teaches sixth grade general music at Waseca Central Intermediate School and is the sixth through eighth grade choir director. “I have been put in situations to use my talents in the best way that I can to hopefully make a difference in kids’ lives,” she said. She is honored to receive the prestigious award. “I work with a dedicated group of teachers who work hard to do what they think is right for students,” Mulcahey said.

Waseca

25 years ago

- With gas prices at near record high levels this summer, a group of Democratic representatives in the Minnesota House said last week they will seek more subsidies for made-in Minnesota alternative petroleum. The Minnesota Corn Growers Association (MCGA) applauded the idea.

- On Monday, June 19, the Waseca Area United Way held its 2nd Annual Golf Scramble at the Lakeside Country Club. Forty-Four golfers participated in the golf scramble event which raised over \$4,200 for the Waseca Area United Way.

- Kim Miller, daughter of Gordon Klaseus and the late Marian Klaseus, and Waseca graduate of 1978, was the recipient of the Gold Star Award for Outstanding Teaching. Kim was selected from 388 teachers nominated by students, parents, and colleagues.

- Catholic parishes in southern Minnesota will share more resources and personnel, including pastors, under a new parish realignment plan announced by Bishop Bernard Harrington in the July issue of The Courier, official newspaper of the Diocese of Winona. The Cluster Plan for Parish Alignment for Pastoral Ministry is the result of several years of pastoral planning which involved people from all vocations and grassroots participation of all the parishes.



- Members of the Waseca Fire department peeled and sliced 1,450 pound of onions Tuesday at the fire department for its booth at the Waseca County Fair. The fire department has sold its popular onion rings at the fair for the past 22 years. This year they are \$3 for a serving.

- Seniors Chad McDonough and Ken Larson represented the Waseca baseball team on the South Central All-Conference Baseball Team for 2000.

50 years ago

- Five hogs, 65 gallons of beans make Family Fun Night a success at Fair — Fairboard member, Ron Christians was busily making plans for a third Family Fun Night, before the second one was even over, Wednesday night. Chairboard members, pork producers and dairy members dished out the plates heaping them with potato chips, pork ‘n beans and pork sandwiches, going through two and one-half hogs within 45 minutes.

- Garden entries at the Waseca County Fair are a different story this year. The display racks are almost filled with mouth-watering vegetables and fruits and farm crops, particularly small grains, making a good showing. Pictured with the garden display is Jurgen Peters, supervisor of the open class division and Mrs. Paul Warburton, one of the Waseca women helping register the entries.

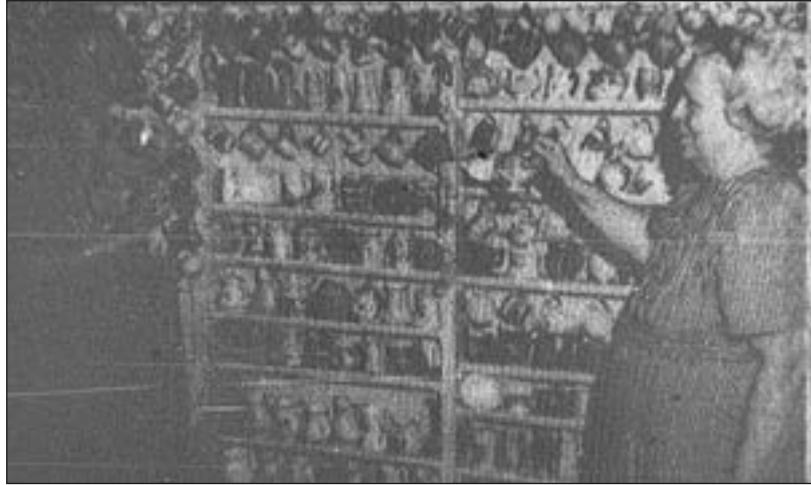
- Waseca County’s first Pork Queen was crowned Wednesday night, during the second annual Family Fun Night. Crowned was Laurie Roesler, 19, second from right, from New Richland. Her attendants (l-r) are: Kristine Hager, Donna Peterson and Jeannie Peterson.

- Two plays for children — “Scandinavian Tales” and “The Dancing Donkey” — are currently being presented at the University of Minnesota in the University Theatre’s Peppermint Tent.

- Thirty-three entries have been received to date for the 11th annual Waseca County Free Fair Tractor Pull to be held Sunday at 8 p.m. in the grandstand. Offered at the Pull this year will be Super Stock, Modified, and Open Classes. New this year is the Open 9,000 lbs. Class.

75 years ago

- With the completion of the reports for the year ending June 30, 1949, the receipts of the Waseca post office showed a 171% increase over those of 1948. The 1949 total was \$88,583.17 while the 1948 total was \$73, 677.77.



- At one time Mrs. Mary Fisk of Janesville was a great admirer of her aunt’s collection of 30 pitchers. She thought, “Oh! If I could only have that many a collection!” Today she has gotten her wish and more, too. Her pitcher collection numbers over 730 and includes almost every type of pitcher imaginable.

- Veterinarian C.E. Johnson and county agent Cletus Murphy have just finished testing 4-H calves in the county for both bang’s disease and tuberculosis. In all, they tested 81 head of both beef and dairy types. It is expected that most of these will be exhibited at the county fair August 4, 5, 6, and 7. If so, it will be the largest group exhibited in the history of the fair.

- Delightful days and still more delightful nights have been on the weather menu for the past week. A high of 89 was recorded on the 16th and a low of 33 on the 13th. At 10 a.m. today the temperature was 81.

- The Southern Minnesota league All-Stars notched their first victory in the nine-year history of the annual All-Star classic by defeating the league-leading Austin Packers.

100 years ago

- Harvesting of small grain has begun in Waseca county under good weather conditions. Heavy rains in the early season kept the agricultural men skeptical about getting into the soft fields with a binder, but the condition has been found not nearly as bad as was expected. Crop yields will not compare with those of last season in the smaller grains.

- Seventy-five employees of Everett, Aughenbaugh and Co., from their Waseca, New Richland and Lakeville mills went to Minneapolis Sunday for the annual outing.

- The prohibition officers now propose to get after the source of supply. If they can stop the smuggling of liquor from other countries they will have gone a long ways toward the enforcement of the eighteenth amendment.

- That the pestiferous wolf has no settled abode was made plain this week when Ray P. Chase, state auditor, mailed to thirty-nine Minnesota counties checks in reimbursement for wolf bounties paid by them. The checks covered the months of April, May and June and a total of \$18,837 was disbursed. The payments were made on the basis of \$15 for a full grown wolf and \$6 for cubs.

New Richland

25 Years back



- A hand cycle makes cruising around town fun for Jay McDonough and his Black Lab Casey. Jay has had the hand cycle up to a speed of 25 miles an hour. After about three to five miles, Jay takes Casey home and continues another three to five miles. The exercise is good for the master and his dog. Life was changed drastically on Tuesday, September 30, 1997, for Jay McDonough of New Richland. A helicopter crash robbed Jay of his ability to walk at the age of 29. He has made many adjustments in his life since that time. One of the major adjustments for Jay is in his mode of transportation. Recently he purchased a hand cycle that he cruises around town on. It's evident that where there's a will there's a way.

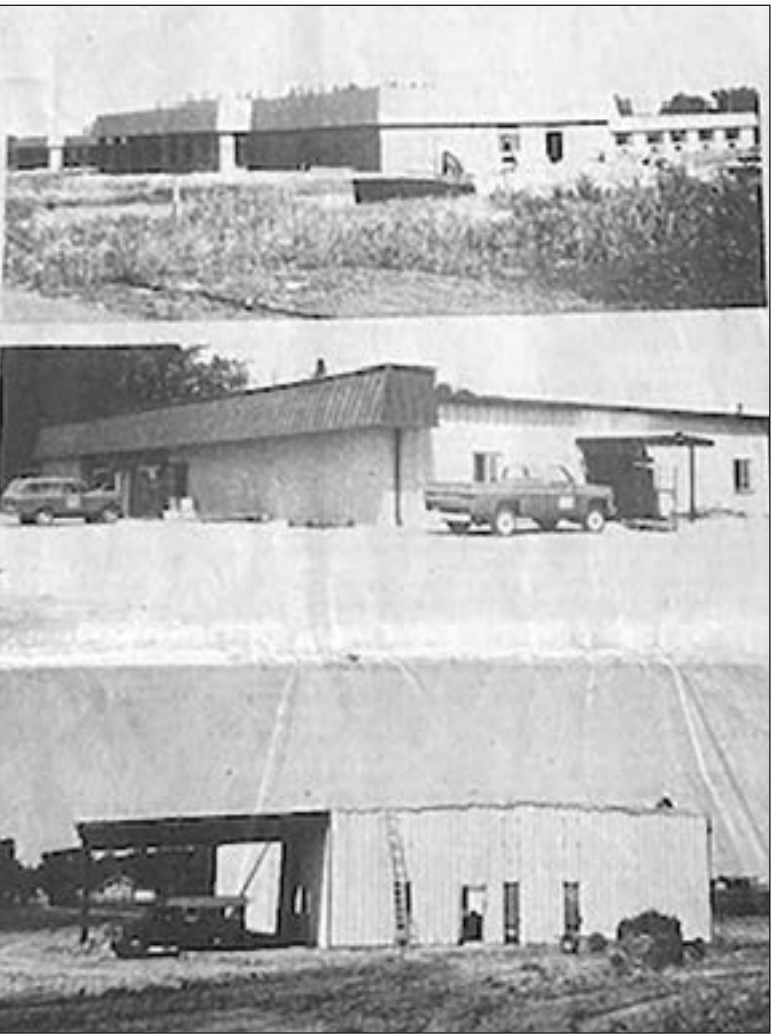
- State Bank of New Richland has been awarded Bauerfinancials 5-star Superior rating for the 20th consecutive time. The award is based on an analysis of current financial data as filed by

State Bank of New Richland with federal regulators, supplemented by historical data. “State Bank of New Richland is not simply one of the strongest banks in the nation, it represents the best community banking” said Paul A. Bauer, president of the research firm.

- Engagement Announcement. Rob and Pam Coyer of New Richland and Dave and Lios Auker of Elkhorn, Wisconsin, announce the engagement of their children, Tom Coyer and Suzy Auker. Suzy is a graduate of Staples-Motley High School. Tom is a graduate of New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School. They are both students at Bethel College in St. Paul and will graduate in December of 2000. The wedding is planned for Saturday, August 19, 2000, in Elkhorn, Wisconsin. A wedding reception is planned for a later date in New Richland.



50 years back



- Progress in New Richland continues as the 12-plex apartment building being erected by Jim Weydert, reached its full three story glory this week, the first three story building in the city. At the nursing home, the interior is about ready for the erection of the interior walls. Budachs new building displays an expansive front and the 50 foot by 150 foot building being erected by Vinlex just south of the city begins to take form. The latter building is about 30 days behind construction schedule due to the wet weather. Plastic corrugated drainage tile will be manufactured in the building.

- Rochester Community College, Rochester Minnesota, announced today that the following students have earned recognition for academic excellence by being placed on the dean’s List for Spring Quarter of 1975. They are Theresa Derick and Debra S. Preacher, both of New Richland.

- The Babe Ruth team won its third game of the season, Tuesday, July 8, as it defeated Waldorf 5-3. Johnson received the win for New Richland and Vogelsang took the loss. NewRichland scored three runs in the second inning when Mark dorn hit a towering home run to left, scoring Dave Dunnette and Gary Walstrom ahead of him. Dorn scored another run in the fifth inning when he singled, stole second base and scored on a base hit by Jim Ferguson.

75 Years back

- A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kent, New Richland, route 1, at the Waseca hospital, Wednesday, August 9.

- Robert Billing and Stanley Russ were in a group of inductees which left from Waseca to take physical examinations this week. Marvin Skinner, Waldorf and Robert Roeglin and Rolland Swenson of Otisco were also in the group.

Mal Murphy performing at Indian Island Winery Sunday, July 20

Musician Mal Murphy will be performing at the Indian Island Winery from 1-3:30 p.m. Sunday, July 20. Performing folk, alternative and country covers and originals.

Sam Cargill and Kaleb & The Nightingale Band at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm Sunday, July 20

Sam Cargill and Kaleb & The Nightingale Band will be performing at the Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm from 1-7 p.m. Sunday, July 20. Enjoy live music with pizza.

Embellished Photos at Waseca Public Library Monday July 21

Add a pop of color to black-and-white photos at Waseca Public Library at 1 p.m. Monday, July 21. Bring a photo or pick from our stash. Then, use colorful yarn to bring new life into your photo. Ages 7-12.

Canvas Bag Design at Janesville Public Library Monday July 21

Teens can transform a canvas bag into a custom tote at Janesville Public Library at 3 p.m. Monday, July 21. Teens can add vibrant patterns, intricate illustrations, or inspiring quotes. Geared for ages 13-18.

The Summer I Turned Pretty Party at Waseca Public Library Tuesday July 22

Make team pennants, create banana splits, design an arrangement from our flower bar, play carnival games, and more as we celebrate the book and TV series The Summer I Turned Pretty at the Waseca Public Library at 1 pm on Tuesday, July 22. For ages 13-18.

Floral Gift Tags at the Janesville Public Library Tuesday July 22

Create a floral gift tags using a deep etch die cutting technique at Janesville Public Library at 5 p.m. Tuesday, July 22. Geared for adults.

Construction Site: Let's Build at New Richland Public Library Wednesday, July 23

Put on your hard hat while we work through Construction Site's newest projects at New Richland Public Library at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 23. Kids will use their fine motor skills as they build, demolish, and everything in between. Geared for ages 3-6. Free and open to the public.

SpheroBall at Waldorf Public Library Wednesday, July 23

Play Major League SpheroBall, a robot-based baseball game, with our rolling Sphero robots at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, July 23 at the Waldorf Public Library. This free event is geared for ages 7-12.

Virtual Author Event: Rex Ogle at Waseca-Le Sueur Library System Wednesday July 23

Award-winning author Rex Ogle will talk to viewers about his struggles to navigate sixth grade as written about in his book "Free Lunch" at a virtual Waseca-LeSueur Regional Library System event at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, July 23.

Adventures in Zootopia at Waseca Public Library Thursday, July 24

Kids ages 4-8 will journey through the vibrant world of Zootopia at 10 a.m. on Thursday, July 24 at the Waseca Public Library. Participants will learn valuable skills



ALMOST PLAY READY - A group of students, NRHEG staff members and installation workers had a sneak preview of the adaptive playground as work was underway last week. They are shown here at a station with oversized musical instruments including a xylophone and two drums. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently



Inclusive playground becoming reality

By DEB BENTLY News Editor

Numerous fundamental pieces of the inclusive playground being developed at the NRHEG Elementary site were installed last week. These include a specially constructed swing, a large-scale piece with swaying motion similar to a teeter-totter, and an oversized xylophone set side-by-side with some drums.

According to NRHEG adaptive physical education instructor Beth Schoenrock, volunteers and staff helped prepare for the installation by removing some other play equipment

which had been located in the construction area.

"We're really excited," commented Schoenrock. "We've been working toward this for a couple of years now; it's fulfilling to see it all coming together."

"This will allow our kids who need adaptations to genuinely interact with their classmates. It's truly exciting to know we can reduce the barriers that keep kids of different ability levels from getting to know each other by playing together."

Although the equipment has been installed, Schoenrock and fellow organizer Wendy Schultz warn the lo-

cation is not "play ready" until the wood shavings meant to create a safe, level surface are in place.

Planners also want everyone to know this phase of the construction is meant only as a beginning, with additional play equipment to be added as funding and other factors make them possible.

"We're grateful to all the organizations, agencies and individuals who have helped so far," said Schultz, remembering back to the first fundraiser which simply involved having schoolchildren contribute loose change. Donations from civic organizations, Finley's Wings at Work, and

many community members have made the newly installed equipment possible. Among the most recent donations are \$5,000 from Federated Insurance Company and \$2,500 raised during a breakfast held by the New Richland Lions Club.

As reported in previous editions of the Star Eagle, costs for the inclusive playground are likely to be about \$200,000 when all elements are acquired and installed. About one-third of the cost is for playground equipment, with the other two-thirds are for landscaping elements including earth moving, sidewalks, and surfacing.

NEW RICHLAND

Farm & City Days

July 18th, 19th & 20th

Farm & City Days Buttons are \$5. Available for Purchase at Many NR Businesses.
Get your Button Early. A Chance to Win Cash Prizes.

PRE-Farm & City Days Weekend - Saturday, July 18th
9:00am: 3 Person Golf Tournament @ Riverview Golf Course. Must Register by Thursday July 10th.
-Sponsored by Riverview Golf Course

4:30pm - Gone: Potato Bake & Root Beer Floats @ City Hall.
-Sponsored by Lions Club

6:00pm: Teen Bean Bag Tournament @ Broadway Street. Registration at 5:30pm. \$20 per Team

6:30pm: Commercial Club BINGO @ Broadway St, Dance Area. \$10 for 10 Games.

7:00pm: Bean Bag Tournament @ NR Liquor Co.
-Sponsored by NRLC

7:00am - 10:00am: NR Fire Dept. Pancake Breakfast @ NR Fire Hall. \$8 or \$5 with Button.
-Sponsored by NR Fire Department

7:00am - 10:00am: Live Music-Jim Kozan @ NR Fire Hall.
-Sponsored by State Bank of NR

7:00am - 10:00am: St. Peter Luthern Church Bake Sale @ NR Fire Hall.
-Sponsored by First Luthern Church

8:00am: Panther Power House Fun Run @ City Park \$25 Registration.
-Sponsored by Panther Power House

9:00am: Grand Marshall Announcement @ NR Fire Hall at Pancake Breakfast.

9:00am - 1:00pm: Classic Car Show @ N Broadway Street. Register Day of at 8:00am.
-Sponsored by NR Community

9:00am - 2:00pm: Top 25 Antique Tractor Show @ 1st Street NW. Register Same Day.

9:00am - 2:00pm: Friends of the Library Book Sale @ Library.
-Sponsored by Friends of the NR Library

9:00am - 2:00pm: Vendor Fair @ S Broadway Street in Front of Lady Bug.

10:00am - 12:00pm: Cow Pie Bingo @ S Broadway in Gravel. Place Bids Starting June 30th until July 18th.
-Sponsored by Neighbor's Meats

10:00am - 12:00pm: Paint a Rock @ S Broadway Street.

10:00am - 12:00pm: Earth Ball Activity @ S Broadway Street.

10:00am - 4:00pm: NR Area Historical Society Display @ Washburn Hotel(NR Area Food Shelf).
-Sponsored by NR Area Food Shelf

10:00am: 50th Anniversary Celebration @ Care Center. Live Music and Activities.
-Sponsored by NR Care Center

10:00am: Hasse Family Petting Zoo @ S Broadway. FREE.

10:00am - 2:00pm: KID ZONE @ City Park. \$5 Per Kid

- Bounce Houses
- Rock Climbing
- Giant Tricycle Races
- Basketball Tug-O-War Challenge
- Monkey Trampolines
- Temporary Tattoos

-Sponsored by NR Fire Department

12:00pm: Kids Grilling Contest @ S Broadway. Teams of 4 People. Register Now until July 18th.
-Sponsored by Neighbor's Meats

12:00pm - 3:00pm: Dunk Tank @ S Broadway Street.

1:00pm: Classic Car "End of Show" Parade @ Birch Ave to Hwy 30.

1:00pm: St. Olaf Brewing Company Tasting @ S Broadway Street.
-Sponsored by St. Olaf Brewing Company

1:00pm: Ventriloquism Show: James Wedgewood @ City Hall. FREE.
-Sponsored by Friends of Library

1:45pm: Adult Tricycle Race @ S Broadway. \$25 Registration Fee - \$200 Prize. Fundraiser for Farm & City Days.

2:30am - 4:30pm: Free Caricatures by Casey @ S Broadway Street.

2:30pm: Kid Power Pedal Tractor Pull @ N Broadway Street. Ages 4-11. Register the day of. Parents Must Accompany.
-Sponsored by Thompson Auto Body, NR Auto Repair, Midwest Repairables

***** 5:00 pm: FARM & CITY DAYS PARADE *****

8:00pm - 12:00am: Street Dance: AZBY @ N Broadway Street. 21 & OLDER ONLY. \$10 Admission, Free with Button.
-Sponsored by NRLC

10:00am: Community Worship Service @ City Park. Bring Your Own Lawn Chairs.
-Sponsored by NR Area Ministerial

11:00am: Red Leaf Cafe Lunch @ City Park. Shredded Beef Sandwich, Calico Beans, Coleslaw, Chips & Cookie.
-Sponsored by Red Leaf Cafe

11:00am - 2:00pm: NR Area Historical Society Display @ Washburn Hotel(NR Area Food Shelf).
-Sponsored by NR Area Historical Society

12:00pm: NR Fire Dept Water Wars @ 7th Street NW.
-Sponsored by NR Fire Department

All Events Subject to Change.

FOOD TRUCK

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PHILLY ONLY

MoeJoe's Red Leaf Cafe
Blake's BETtor Spread
Ole and Lena's Sno Biz
Two Sisters Eatery

Farm and City Days

By ELI LUTGENS Publisher/Editor

The big weekend is here for New Richland.

Farm & City Days, the annual celebration that seems to swell the population of the town by several hundred, runs Friday through Sunday, July 18-20. The parade is scheduled for 5 p.m. Saturday, followed by a street dance from 8 p.m. to midnight on Broadway.

The weekend starts Friday as the Lions Club serves baked potatoes and root beer floats from 4:30-6:30 Friday at City Hall. At 6:30 p.m. the Commercial Club will host bingo at Broadway St, Dance Area. \$10 for 10 games. A bean bag tournament on Broadway and NR Liquor starts at 7 p.m.

Saturday starts bright and early with the annual fire department pancake breakfast from 7-10 a.m., where the grand marshal of the parade will be announced. As usual, Jim Kozan will provide entertainment.

Saturday is packed with events, highlighted by the parade at 5 p.m.

A tradition, the Top 25 Antique Car and Tractor Show, is Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Broadway and 1st St. NW.

There are many events this year, including:

7 a.m. - 10 a.m. St. Peter Lutheran Church bake sale at NR Fire hall.

8 a.m. Panther Power House Fun Run at city park.

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Classic Car Show

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Top 25 Antique Tractor Show on Broadway

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friends of the library book sale at the library from 9 a.m. to noon.

9 a.m. 3 person golf tournament at Riverview Golf Course

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Vendor Fair on S. Broadway in front of the Lady Bug

10 a.m. 50th anniversary celebration at New Richland Care Center

10 a.m. Hasse Family Petting Zoo on S. Broadway

10 a.m. to noon Cow pie bingo in the gravel across from Neighbor's Meats

10 a.m. to noon Paint a rock on S. Broadway

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Paint a rock on S. Broadway

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. NR Area Historical society display

10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. KID ZONE at city park including bounce houses, carnival games, concessions, and many other activities

Noon Kids grilling contest
Noon to 3 p.m. Dunk tank on S. Broadway

1 p.m. Classic Car 'End of Show' parade

1 p.m. St. Olaf Brewing company tasting

1 p.m. Ventriloquist show at city hall

2 p.m. Adult blow up races at city park

2:30 p.m. Kid power pedal tractor pull ages 4-11

2:30 p.m. - 4 p.m. Caricatures by Casey - S. Broadway

8 p.m. until midnight Street dance featuring AZBY

On Sunday winning button numbers are drawn following a community worship at the park at 10 a.m. Water wars is set for noon.

Farm and City Days buttons are \$5 and are available at many New Richland businesses. Buttons give you discounted breakfast on Saturday, free admission to the Saturday night street dance and a chance to win prizes up to \$200.

"We appreciate all the sponsors for the events," said Farm & City Days committee member SaraJo Vulcan, "We appreciate the effort everyone puts into Farm & City Days, and we look forward to a great weekend."



Andy Knutson of Rochester entered this 1993 Honda Prelude in Thursday night's economy car class Enduro Race at the Waseca County Fair.



A team consisting of Medford area residents (from left) Jarrett Lisowski, Casey Lake, and Angie, Carly and Bryce Lisowski entered this 1973 Monte Carlo in the full-size car class of the July 10 Enduro Races.



This 1976 Monte Carlo took part in Thursday night's Enduro Race. Coming from Pine Island were team members (from left) Steve Arndt, driver Brad McGee, Chad Ramsey, Kelly Thomforde and Mallory Arndt.



Driver Mark Reistad (far right) was supported by fellow Faribault area Enduro enthusiasts (from left) Rily Marquards, Ray Reistad, Tanner Looijohns, and Porter Sarton. Their car is a 1974 Monte Carlo.



Father and son drivers Jonathan Gransee (left) and Adam Gransee (right), both from Waseca, were among the drivers in the small or compact car Enduro Race at the July 10 Waseca County Fair event.

Thursday Enduro races at county fair

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Wasecan Adam Gransee figures he's competed in 50 or more enduro races. At this year's Waseca County Fair, he drove a 1997 Dodge Neon in the compact class; among those racing against him Thursday evening was his son Jonathan Gransee, 16, taking part in his fourth race ever.

Regarding the races on Thursday, July 10, Adam says the track during the compact car class, which preceded the full-size competition, was a bit muddier than usual thanks to rain the night before. The soggy conditions led drivers to be more cautious so they could avoid collisions. "You had to be especially careful on the curves," he pointed out. "You can't win if you can't keep your car on the track all the way to the end."

Adam took fourth place in his class; Jonathan took fifth; there were 15 cars in their division.

Adam's car, number 36, sports a colorful paint job filled with meaning. One of the main colors of the vehicle is purple, a hue Adam chose in honor of his uncle who has epilepsy. The hood sports the message "No one fights alone," and has a large pink ribbon emblem to show support for people fighting breast cancer.

Also featured are the colors pink and blue, which are used to call attention to the loss of infants.

Adam had it announced prior to the race that anyone who wished to place a memorializing emblem on the vehicle should speak with him to arrange it. At least one person approached him Thursday evening to make arrangements. He mentioned he is looking for a charitable way he can use his winnings. "I don't race for the prize money," he comments. "I race because I love doing it."

Racing against Jonathon also added excitement to Thursday's event for Adam. He said he is proud of his son's determination and skill, and mentions that he could measure Jonathan's growing acumen as the race proceeded by the fact that it was gradually taking longer and longer for him to catch up to and pass him during the 150 laps.

Winners of the compact class enduro race on Thursday, July 10 were First, Nate Coopman; Second, Riley Reistad; Third, Brian Adams; Fourth, Adam Gransee; Fifth, Jonathan Gransee. Placing in the full-sized car division were First, Trey Anderson; Second, Andy Krohnberg; Third, Marty Erdman; Fourth, Lyle Groskreutz; and Fifth, Matthew Welch.



CRASH AND BURN - There were only three imperial cars, also known as 'Old Iron,' for the second Demo Derby set at the Waseca County Fair on Friday, July 11, 2025.
Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Waseca County Fair's Friday Demo Derby gets messy

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Waseca County Fair's Demolition Derby took place the evening of Friday, July 11 to clear skies and 80-degree temperatures. The track, however, was wet, and as soon as the cars started tearing each other apart, the mud started flying. One feature of the Waseca derby is a watermelon placed in the middle of the track; the vehicle which destroys it garners a \$50 prize. The six watermelon destroyers for 2025 were Charles Root, Colton Neuhalfen, Andy and Danny Meyers, Nadine Pascuzzi, Brandon Paul and Wyatt Adamek.

For Imperials, first place was Dalton Jostock, second place Nate Richardson. For Stock Weld: First place was Colton Neuhalfen, second place Brady Nielsen, third place Kyle Bathke, fourth place Jerad Ristau. For 2 Man ½ Ton Truck Team: First place was Jake VonWahlde and Koltan Kuhlman, second place David Peplinski and Jake Peplinski, third place Brandon Bailey and Erick Bueckers, fourth place Andy and Danny Meyers. Compact cars: First place Logan Johnson, second place Gaige Johnson, third place Cody Darcy and fourth place Randy Mosloski. For Minivans: First place Colton Hewitt, second place Kyle Bathke, third place Trayton Hewitt, fourth place Francisco Montalvo. 80s Chain: First place Colton Newhalten, second place Nick Bleess, third place Brannon Hammer and fourth place Mason Steinhauer.

For the Imperial Class vehicles: 27-Nate Richardson of Zumbro Falls, 28-Dalton Jostock of Millville and 100-Charles Root of Waseca.

For compact cars: B5-Mark Boistolie of Le Sueur, 4J-Cody Darcy of Freeborn, 7-Kyle Bathke of Waseca, 13-Anna Delis of Apple Valley, 20-Josh Gullbrandson of Albert Lea, 20M-Randy Mosloski of Mapleton, 26-Logan Johnson of Waseca, 78-Nadine Pascuzzi of New Richland, 101-Jason Simpson of Mankato, 122-Jake Johnson of New Richland, 213-Colin Guetter of Mapleton, 629-Gaige Johnson of Waseca.

Mini Van Class: Ted Baker of Morristown, 7-Kyle Bathke of Waseca, 09-Francisco Montalvo of New Ulm, 11-Gavin Kendall of St. Peter, 17-Dawson Harty of New Richland, 18-Dalton Fessel of Waterville, F20-Henry Fessel of Waterville, 23-Treyton Hewitt of Nicollet, 28-Brandon Paul of St. Peter, 33x-Tyler Arndt of Waseca, 44D-Josh Ditiveson of Waseca, 48-Colin Bloemke of Nicollet, 113-Colton Hewitt of North Mankato and 830-Max Stevenson of Lafayette.

Stock Weld: 7-Kyle Bathke of Waseca, 11x-Colton Neuhalfen of Blue Earth, 14x-Jerod Ristau of Waseca, 131-Brady Nielsen of Albert Lea.

Two-Man ½ Truck Team: 16-Jake Peplinski of Dodge, WI, 05-David Peplinski of Galesville, WI, 33-Logan Ayers of Madison Lake, 73x-Austin Schultz of Madison Lake, 44x-Andy Meyers of Hastings, 144x-Danny Meyers of Hastings, 63-Matt Molitor of Hampton, 134x-Aaron Paine of Hastings, 1x-Matthew Kuzoidic of Strum WI, 1-Tyler Lexcold of Northfield, 31x-Teren Peters of Goodhue, 37-Kevin Nelson of Goodhue, 12-Jeremy Tom-sche of Albany, 24Z-Kolton Kuhlman of Sauk Centre, 11x-Jake Vonwakle of Sauk Centre, 415-Brandon Bailey of Sauk Centre, 77-Eric Bueckers of Melrose, 72T-Damon Tolzmann of Waterville, 327-Mike Kohn of Albert Lea, 22M-Max Mettler of Cleveland, 21x-Cole Schluter of Janesville.

Eighties Chain: 1x-Nick Bleess of Blue Earth, 11x-Colton Neuhalfen of Blue Earth, 13A-Wyatt Adamek of Faribault, 15-Brannon Hammer of Inver Grove Heights, 15x-Mason Steinhauer of Frost, 177x-Luke Neiderkorn of Hastings and 244X-Charlie Meyers of Hastings.



AND...SLEEP - Hypnotist Freddie Justice led show volunteers through imagined experiences which inspired laughter, sadness and energetic imitations. On the left: Freddie has volunteers enjoying a humorous movie. Middle: Freddie explains hypnosis to the crowd. Right: volunteer participant Donny becomes singer Carly Rae Jepsen and dances and sings his way across the stage.
Pioneer photos by Amelia Roessler

Hypnotist entrances fairgoers, crowd

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editorial Assistant

The Freddie Justice Comedy Hypnotist show at the Waseca County Fair on Thursday and Friday did not disappoint.

Crowds passing by the Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage could not miss Freddie dancing and messing with the crowd before the show, trying to attract more audience members.

"Who's calling? You want me to talk to them?" Freddie asked one waiting audience member who had answered their phone.

About 30 people had gathered for Freddie's first show at 4 p.m. on Thursday. Between jokes, he explained what hypnosis is and how it really works in order to comfort any potential volunteers. According to Freddie, hypnosis is just getting people relaxed.

"I don't believe in mysterious hypnosis," he said. "You are not sleeping."

Freddie went on to explain everyone is "suggestible." He assured crowd members they have been in a hypnotic state at one time or another, offering the example of times when people drive up to their homes but do not remember much about the drive which got them there. He said those who would participate in the show would feel afterward as if they had gotten eight hours of sleep in 35 minutes.

Twelve volunteers hailed to the stage, where Freddie ruled out three, leaving nine chairs filled with relaxed people. Freddie walked forward and back past them, sending each person into a "sleep" state before starting his routine. He added there are 1,000 different ways to be hypnotized.

Freddie started by playing sounds through a speaker and having the hypnotic group act out the sound. From typing on a typewriter to using a jack hammer, swatting a fly, being a buzzing phone, most of the group on stage became whatever they heard. Then Freddie had them play instruments in an orchestra and even go to the movies, where they watched funny and sad films and smelled bad-smelling popcorn.

At some points, Freddie even woke up a person or two from their state.

"How are you feeling?" Freddie would ask them.

"Weird," some answered.

"Strange."

Then came the big finale. Freddie convinced the most suggestible person on stage that they were Carly Rae Jepsen singing her song, "Call Me Maybe," which he had playing on the speaker. That person got up and danced across the stage, singing the song like Carly Rae herself.

In the end, the crowd was laughing good-naturedly: The people on stage eventually awoke and went back to their seats, ending the hypnosis.

"Did it really work?" one family member asked one of the participants after the show.

"Yes!" she responded.

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