



■ Inside:

- 3 - Legacy Award
- 3 - City Council
- 3 - Downtown history
- 4 - Obituaries
- 5 - Take a Kid fish
- 8-9 - Sports
- 10 - WIS Track
- 12 - Civil War
- 12 - Largest flag

WASECA  
COUNTY  
PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

No. 24 Vol. IV \$2

Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca

Thursday, June 12, 2025



■ Page 5



Rodeo

**Circus Manduhai at Waseca Public Library Thursday, June 12**  
This Mongolian performer incorporates juggling, acro-balancing, contortion, unicycling, and hula hooping into a spectacular show at 10 a.m. Thursday, June 12. Geared for all ages.

**Construction Site: Let’s Build at the Janesville Public Library Thurs., June 12**  
Work through Construction Site’s newest projects at Janesville Public Library at 10:30 a.m. June 12. 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.

**Marbled Coasters at the Waseca Public Library Thurs., June 12**  
Create a chic and colorful spin on marbled coasters at Waseca Public Library at 1 p.m. Thursday, June 12. Geared for ages 13-18.

**Clarks Grove Historical Society meeting June 12**  
The Clarks Grove Historical Society will hold their next meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 12. Snacks will be provided with a presentation by Karter Sletten from Sorenson’s Appliance & TV.

**How to Train Your Dragon Party at the Waseca Public Library Friday, June 13**  
Train with Hiccup and his friends to become dragon riders at Waseca Public Library at 10 a.m. June 13. Kids will create their own dragon sighting guide, learn how to read Viking runes, feed the dragons, and more. Geared for ages 7-12.

**Scott Maas at the Indian Island Winery Friday, June 13**  
Scott Maas will be performing at the Indian Island Winery from 6-8:30 p.m. June 13. He plays all your favorite hits from the 70s up through the 2000s.

**St. Joseph’s Church of Waldorf Summer Festival Sat. June 14**  
Join us for fellowship at the St. Joseph’s Church of Waldorf on June 14. All denominations welcome. 4:30 p.m. fellowship, 5 p.m. mass with a meal to follow with free will donation.

**Aspyn Acres kids’ wildlife clinic June 14**  
Contact Aspyn Acres for information about a kids’ wildlife rehabilitation clinic scheduled for June 14. Using stand-in models, participants will use the resources of a new facility to help diagnose the needs of animals in distress and discover the best way to help them.

**Father’s Day at the Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm Sunday, June 15**  
Celebrate Father’s Day at the Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm from 1-7 p.m. Sunday, June 15.

A word from  
The Word



The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.

Proverbs 13:4



Children and adults alike enjoyed animals, farm equipment and free food and ice cream at the Taste of the Farm event Tuesday, June 3, 2025 at the Waseca County Fairgrounds. Left, Ronald Spence and Dustin Schlaak were busy flipping, coating and frying pork patties Right, a girl enjoys the cows



Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann and Amelia Roessler

## Taste of the Farm event in the books

**By BEN REVERMANN**  
Staff writer  
The seventeenth annual Taste of the Farm event took place at the Waseca County Fairgrounds on Tuesday, June 3, thanks to the Minnesota Corn Growers Association, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the Waseca County Farm Bureau. The rain let up long enough for dinner inside the 4-H building, the line for which extended outside almost 60 deep at

times, with plenty of little ones running around. Mary Jo Schoenfeld, office assistant to the Waseca County Farm Bureau, said more than 700 people showed up for the event. “We even ran out of milk,” she commented.  
Outside on the fairgrounds, a cow and her calf, two sheep and a goat were available for children to pet in the livestock area. There were coloring projects, contests, and a word scavenger hunt to find information about the different

ways corn can be used. Fun Facts: Pigs eat corn for energy and soybean meals for protein. With 87 counties in the state, Waseca County accounts for one percent of total Minnesota agricultural sales. Among its exports are products including grains, beans, peas, fruits, vegetables, hay, poultry, eggs, cattle, milk, hogs and sheep.  
Gary Schoenfeld of the Waseca County Farm Bureau, who helped organize the day’s event said, “We purchased all our food through do-

nations and grants; it’s the same every year. This will be the seventeenth year the Waseca County Farm Bureau has helped put this on, but for me this is only my seventh. We do everything we can to get the kids involved through this grassroots education.” Pointing at all the people, “How else will all this continue?”  
Served during the event were

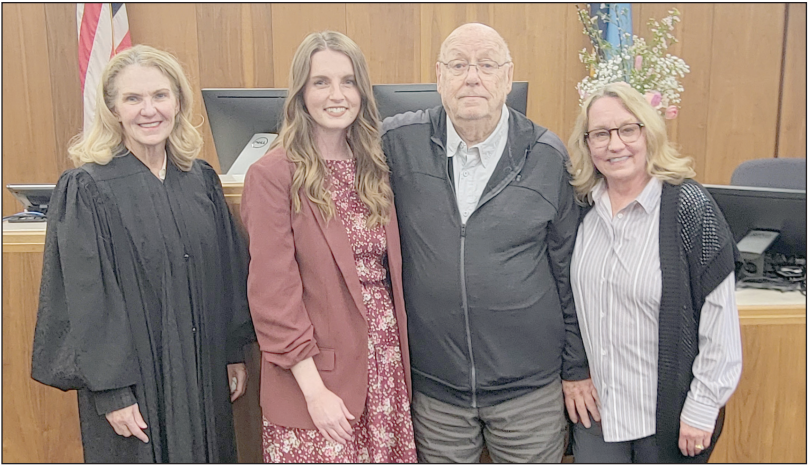
Farm continued on 12

## Olivea Boyer follows tradition

**By DEB BENTLY**  
News Editor  
“I’m not really the center of this story,” claims Olivea Boyer, 26. “This is about the power of connections and the importance of compassion.”  
Olivea, a 2017 graduate of Waseca High School, is now an associate attorney with Hennepin County Adult Representation Services, an agency which, according to its website, provides independent legal representation, advocacy and support to clients experiencing poverty in civil matters where they are entitled to an attorney.  
Her education as a lawyer began with a degree in social work earned at the University of Wisconsin in Eau Claire followed by three years in a law degree program at the University of St. Thomas in the Twin Cities.  
As is the case with all newly trained lawyers, Olivea began her official career by taking what is known as the “Oath of Attorney” to become eligible for membership in the Minnesota State Bar Association. Unlike her classmates, most of whom took part in a mass ceremony at the state capitol building, Olivea was sworn in during a fairly intimate gathering in the Waseca County District Courtroom by Olivea’s professional acquaintance, The Honorable Judge Renee Worke.  
In speaking with Olivea, it becomes clear public service is in her blood. Mother Audra Nissen Boyer started her career in county social services, then served as director of community education in Waseca from 2006 to 2012 and is currently serving in that same role for Mankato Area Public Schools. Her father Tim Boyer started his career with the Waseca County Sheriff’s Office and currently works as

the Director of 911 Services for the Minnesota State Patrol. Her maternal grandfather is Leo Nissen, retired after 22 years with the Waseca County Sheriff’s office; Sabrina, his wife of 25 years, spent her career in social work specializing in child protection. Her paternal grandfather was Tony Boyer, long-time principal at New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva secondary school.  
Olivea’s interest in studying law began when she was in high school. To test that interest, she mentions having joined the school law team, coached by social studies teacher John Hanson.  
She remembers that one day Hanson invited her to spend a class hour on a phone call with his sister Laura Hanson, a lawyer with decades of experience.  
Olivea recalls being grateful for the generous, spontaneous nature of the gesture. Along with that, the exchange with Laura Hanson reassured her a career in law could also be one of public service.  
“I’ve always been interested in the power of advocacy,” she elaborates, “particularly for supporting people who are vulnerable or marginalized.” The conversation with Laura Hanson, she says, increased her understanding of what it means to be an advocate. “It amplified all I had learned from my parents and family as civil servants and broadened my understanding of what public service can look like.”  
“The story” underway in this piece has another coming of age element, one which began in 1976, according to Leo Nissen. At that time, he became acquainted with then high-schooler

Boyer continued on 5



**SWORN IN - Olivea Boyer was sworn in to the Minnesota State Bar Association on April 25 by The Honorable Renee Worke at the Waseca County Courthouse. Top, Boyer and Worke hug after being sworn in. Bottom, from left, Worke, Boyer and her grandparents Leo and Sabrina Nissen.**

## Siren enthusiast tells of hobby, safety measures

**By DEB BENTLY**  
News Editor  
Chris Aylward, 20, has lived in Waseca for a year and proclaims enthusiastically that he loves it here. Having grown up in a Chicago suburb where noise from a nearby highway was constant and the sounds of airplanes taking off and landing at O’Hare airport shook his family’s home, he says he loves how quiet it

is in our local towns.  
Which makes it seem very ironic that his hobby is sirens.  
He admits it’s an unusual fascination, but goes on to say he and his circle of friends have assembled a map that shows where essentially every siren in the state is located. He also recently returned from an event named “Sirencon,” located in a fairly remote area of Wisconsin north of

Rhineland, where more than 600 enthusiasts gathered and—who would have guessed?—sounded off sirens.  
“We brought in a great big generator to power them,” he explained.  
For his trip to the event, Aylward strapped a siren in his trunk and crammed its electronic components into his car so that he, too, could

Siren continued on 2

### WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## ‘Sentenced to serve’ cuts lead to questions

**By DEB BENTLY**  
News Editor  
Despite an unusually light agenda, the members of the Waseca County Board of Commissioners faced a heavy issue during their June 3 regular meeting. County Court Services director Jon Schiro informed board members that, due to state-level budget cuts, the state department of corrections (DOC) has decided to stop its practice of coordinating and supervising “sentence to serve” projects.  
The sentence to serve (STS) program has allowed non-violent offenders who have been convicted of a crime to be sentenced to provide community service labor in lieu of either spending time behind bars or paying a fine.  
Schiro explained LeSueur and Waseca counties have operated a shared STS program under which crews frequently consisted of STS individuals from both counties. Costs of operating the crews—including supplies, safety gear and equipment—have been shared by the two counties and the state, with each county covering about 38 percent while the state paid 25 percent and supplied an individual to supervise. The state also kept an array of equipment—for example trailers, tools, rakes, shovels, and even power equipment such as log splitters or mowers. That equipment was shared among STS projects across the region, making it possible for crews to be sent to work on an array of different types of projects.  
DOC officers also coordinated details among the different agencies which might be involved—for example, communicating with park personnel about when a crew might come work on removing buckthorn, then arranging for the necessary equipment and supervision.  
Schiro informed commissioners LeSueur County has stated that, without the DOC’s participation, it does not intend to continue its STS program, leaving Waseca County with a decision about whether it wishes to bear all costs of continuing or to end its program as well.  
In response to commissioner questions, Schiro shared STS crews or individuals have performed tasks such as mowing grass on “forfeited” property, splitting wood at Courthouse Park, and providing assistance at the county recycling center. Schiro mentioned work done by STS individuals has reduced county costs by providing unpaid labor which would otherwise

County continued on 5



**ENTHUSIAST - Siren enthusiast Chris Aylwerd, 20, has made a hobby of studying and learning about sirens and the systems used to activate them. Aylwerd recently took this siren to an event in Wisconsin where more than 600 people who share his interest gathered to exchange information about sirens and how they are used.**  
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently





## Compostings

by Al Batt

# Men are strange

### Echoes from the Loafers' Club Meeting

Do you know why dinosaurs went extinct?

It resulted from an impact with a large celestial object.

No, it was because they couldn't take selves, and their life had no purpose.

### Driving by Bruce's drive

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. One year, I made the radish decision to plant six varieties of radishes. They were all good, and radish sandwiches abounded.

I picked up a T-shirt, sniffed it and said, "It's good for one more wear." That's right, I can do my laundry by smelling it.

Men are strange. I had a friendly neighbor who walked to a town 4.5 miles away to get groceries. At least it wasn't uphill both ways. His car, an ancient, hulking Hudson, stayed hidden to avoid oil changes and tire rotations. He walked that far to get a bag or two of groceries and then walked back home. He farmed with horses, one large workhorse mirroring the actions of its partner as they performed their equine ag duties. One day, when I was 15 and driving on a farm permit, I happened upon the man hoofing his way home. I asked if I could give him a lift. He told me that if he'd wanted to ride in a car, he'd have driven his own. His behavior wasn't rude. He just didn't believe in traveling a longer distance than his legs could carry him.

I drove across the Mackinac Bridge, a suspension bridge that connects the upper and lower peninsulas of Michigan. It spans the Straits of Mackinac, a body of water connecting Lake Michigan and Lake Huron. It contains 4,851,700 rivets and 1,016,600 steel bolts. At 5 miles, it's the seventh-longest suspension bridge in the world and the longest suspension bridge in the Western Hemisphere. I drove across it in an elderly borrowed car. It had personality enough that I drove with my fingers crossed. No parts fell off into a Great Lake.

### I've learned

The archives are where Noah kept the bees.

Nine of ten new cars sold in Norway last year were fully electric vehicles

Look for every opportunity to say, "thank you."

The E on the fuel gauge doesn't stand for "enough." Today's Trojan Horse would arrive in an Amazon box.

I spoke in Freeport, Illinois, where Pretzels is the high school's team nickname due to the city's

strong German heritage and pretzel bakeries.

It's a good idea to make a list of things to do each day. That way, you'll be able to cross "make a list of things to do" off your list at the end of each day.

### Bad jokes department

I gave my seat on the bus to an elderly man. And that's how I lost my job as a bus driver.

I'm suffering from an iron deficiency. That's why my shirt is wrinkled

"Ah" on the periodic table is the element of surprise.

Describe yourself in three words. "Lazy."

A truck hauling Vick's VapoRub overturned in the middle of the highway in Minneapolis during the rush hour. There was no congestion.

### Nature notes

Matt Hoelscher of Hartland had a robin dining at a grape jelly feeder. Robins occasionally eat jelly. Other animals than orioles feed on the jelly, including catbirds, woodpeckers, house finches, rose-breasted grosbeaks, brown thrashers, hummingbirds, butterflies, bees, chipmunks, squirrels, raccoons and others.

The European invasive Dame's rocket blooms profusely in colonies. It's often confused with native phlox, but Dame's rocket flowers have four petals, while phlox blossoms have five petals (P-H-L-O-O-X).

As the teeth of rodents (including mice, rats, squirrels and beavers) wear down from gnawing, they continue growing. This ensures that the teeth remain sharp and functional throughout the rodent's life. If the teeth don't wear properly, it causes problems such as difficulty eating, malocclusion and jaw damage. Rodents chew to maintain dental health. Their dentists remind them to gnaw regularly.

The names May beetle, June beetle and June bug refer to species of beetles in the genus Phyllophaga that damage turfgrass. The larvae feed on grass, tree and shrub roots, and mature in the soil, which takes the white grubs two or three years.

The white foam blobs on various plants are produced by the nymphs of spittlebugs, small insects related to aphids. The foam protects the nymph from predators and provides insulation from temperature extremes and low humidity, so the nymph doesn't desiccate. Adult spittlebugs are called froghoppers.

### Meeting adjourned

"A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions and the roots spring up to make new trees."—Amelia Earhart.

# Share journal entries to understand

Thoughts are fleeting things.

It happens to all of us—and to some of us more often—that we will walk into a nearby room and then try to remember why we did so. Sometimes, too, we will be going through some old papers or items and come across something which gives us pause: "Oh, I'd forgotten about that."

Me, I've decided I have a poor memory compared to most. Family members often mention episodes or circumstances which I either don't remember at all, or which I must root around in my neural connections to find.

And it's either because I have come to know so many people in my dual careers as a writer and teacher or because of my marginal memory that I frequently encounter people I believe I should be able to name, but cannot think why. For that reason, please don't be offended if we should cross paths and I should fail to say hello.

I have also come across information that claims each time we access a memory, we change it. It's interesting to speculate how the researchers determined that, but I suppose I'm willing to believe it could be true. I've also been informed all the cells in our body are replaced



## In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

every five years, so when I claim to be "a changed person," I can be accurate on two levels at once.

Like everything, it may be that having a poor memory has a silver lining—I get more than my share of "firsts," since I have forgotten the original experience and now get to be someplace or do something from a fresh perspective.

Perhaps another silver lining is that, since I know how forgetful I can be, I like to write things down. Keeping a journal is a valuable hobby, not to a small degree because it causes one to reflect. Asking oneself "What was the most important or interesting thing that happened today?" is a great way to decide how to begin. In addition to that reflection, of course, it is a record of where you have been, what you have done, and what people you have spent your time with.

Not only that, it's useful for

"proving" things. If there is disagreement over a memory, showing what's written in a journal is a fairly inarguable way to establish what really happened.

Depending on what one chooses to write, sharing a journal entry or two may be a great way to help others understand who we are and how we see the world.

Naturally, there are as many ways to go about keeping a journal as there are "journalists." For those of us who know how to type, an electronic format has numerous advantages. For one, we can record our thoughts more quickly and they are easy to read. The information doesn't take up physical space, and the pages won't turn yellow or fall out over time. If the document gets particularly long, one can use "find" options to locate key words. On the other hand, what happens when formats change? Though one can take

precautions, as the document grows to cover more and more memories, just how trustworthy is electronic storage? Also, if "the worst" should happen, others may not know where to find and access it.

Setting aside a regular time for journaling can be helpful in making sure the writing gets done. It doesn't have to be daily; once a week still allows us to record the memories while they're fresh, while also causing us to reflect back with a bit more perspective. Or maybe for some just having a certain notebook or hard-covered journal floating around will cause us to write down memories whenever we feel the impulse to do so. That may not lead to the sort of chronicle many of us think of when we hear the word "journal," but it will still have value.

I hope all these thoughts have you considering the topic of journals—either perhaps beginning one, going now to write in one, or even digging one up and reading through it—whether one of your own or one kept by some historic family member.

Just, when you step into the next room to get it, don't forget why you're there. After all, thoughts are fleeting things.

# Cooking, art, hobbies and choice of drink

Welcome back to another version of things Amelia has noticed in her life or things she thinks are funny and wants to share.

I have been working the bar more often now that I am home, and I always love the opportunity it gives me to observe human behavior. Some people, for some reason, think that being in a bar or being drunk allows them to throw off the shackles of society and do things or say things they normally wouldn't. Some people though didn't have those shackles to begin with and that's just how they are.

For example, one regular customer decided she was definitely going to get her point across to a guy by throwing her drink in his face. Yes, that's really going to show him that his words are hurtful to some women and definitely not get him more angry and riled up at all. She apologized to me the following week for causing such a ruckus, which was nice, but didn't take back the fact that she caused such a disruption in our respectful establishment.

Or another customer last week decided to walk into the bar and loudly share his political views with his friends while also asking personal political questions of me and others. Hun, I'm not there to give my political views. Do you want a drink or



## To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

not?

I understand that alcohol loosens the lips and that sober thoughts are drunk words and all that, but I still think it's interesting to notice these things as the one sober person in a bar full of people at different levels of drunk.

On to something more positive — art! I went with a friend last weekend to an art fair in the city, and while we couldn't afford anything at all, it was a lot of fun to just walk around and see the passions of people and artists come to life and be presented. People are so talented and I love that everyone sees things in a different way and interprets it to their own liking.

I also like that so many people love to be creative. I feel like there's a little part in all of us that just is itching to be creative in some way, whether that's painting, knitting, pottery, woodworking, sculptures, you name it. My friend and I were

wondering how someone realizes they are good at something enough to pursue it into a business. Who figures out they're good at glassblowing and enjoys it enough to sell it? How does one find out that they're good at making porcelain into jewelry? I don't know, but I love it and I'm so proud of all the artists and their good work, although I was not able to support them financially.

My mother has recently gotten into pottery. My sister went on a crocheting frenzy a couple months ago. Me, I haven't been able to really tap into my creative and artsy side in a while, but that's ok. I still read, I still enjoy the beautiful things in life.

My friend just started a full time job last week. Her first in life as we just graduated. She asked me if I had any ideas for a hobby she could pick up because now she goes to work and comes home and doesn't know what to do for the rest of the evening

that is not spend time on her phone. It was something I hadn't really thought of before, that I might have to find a hobby to take up my time in between work instead of always having something to do.

I told her to maybe try running or knitting, but that I personally like working out, reading, cooking.

Speaking of cooking, I've noticed it's a lot different cooking for oneself than it is cooking for a family. I've spoken in this column about how I've enjoyed cooking recently. But it's a lot more fun when I just have to worry about myself instead of other people. Before, I could eat how I want and when I want. If I want to start making dinner at 8 p.m. and make something spicy or make something I'm craving, it's no big deal.

Now, I have to worry about when everyone's going to be home, what people might want to eat while also making sure I don't make anything that they don't like. My mom doesn't like a lot of onions. My dad loves them. My sister doesn't like mushrooms. None of them like spicy foods.

I feel I've ranted too long, but there's just so much to notice in life.

My Determination: "You give me lemons, you'll have lemonade, lemon pie and lemon meringue." — Georgia Miller, Ginny and Georgia

## ■ Siren

from Page 1

make some noise. He has owned the siren for only a few months and has spent some of his spare time looking over and repairing its wiring. Manufactured in 1982, it was among a set of similar units decommissioned by the city of Fairmont. When Aylward asked about them, one was offered to him for free.

He explains that, when in place, the siren had four sets of four speakers, each facing a different direction. When offered the items, he decided to take only one set.

Aylward appeared at the June 3 meeting of the Waseca County board of commissioners. During the "public comment" opportunity, he referred to himself as a "stormchaser" who is very interested in sirens and wants to see the public protected.

He offered the examples of two storm systems which moved through the county during the past 9 months; he detailed that, in one case, the storm had already struck the city of Janesville and caused damage before the siren sounded, even though the National Weather Service had transmitted its warning minutes before. In another case, the city of Waldorf was under a warning and its siren did not sound.

All county tornado sirens are activated from the sheriff's office dispatch center, located in Waseca. Aylward shares there are six sirens in Waseca, two in New Richland, three in Janesville, and one functioning unit in Waldorf. They are positioned 50 or more feet in the air and mounted either on poles or on the

tops of buildings. They are strategically located so their sounds reach all members of the community, ideally at a sound level of 70 decibels—which he compares to standing next to a vacuum cleaner while it's in operation.

Siren units across the county are quite different from each other. They are often kept in place for decades at a time, Aylward observes, because they are not only durable, but expensive to replace. He refers to one or two in the county as being from the "civil defense era," in other words, from the time of the cold war when Americans were concerned there might be a nuclear attack. Others are newer, but none are truly "new."

Aylward estimates purchasing and installing a siren will cost in the range of \$25,000. He mentions older, refurbished units can be acquired at a lower price, but it can be problematic linking aging technology to modern communication systems.

However, Aylward says, it is the activation system that has caused the delayed or missing warnings, not the sirens. As the system in Waseca County works at this time, the operator in the dispatch center receives information from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Sometimes the information is straightforward; sometimes it is more complex.

"For example, the tornado warning might include Janesville and Waldorf, but not Waseca or New Richland," Aylward offers. "The dispatcher has to refer to the information, confirm which buttons on the panel need to be pushed, and reference everything back and forth.

"At the same time, there might be calls coming in because of the weather, which will add to the dis-

traction and confusion."

During his brief comments to the board of commissioners, Aylward volunteered to work with county officials—if desired—to help set up a system which bypasses a human operator and activates the sirens directly.

When it comes to the end purpose of the warning system, there are some things about the sirens Aylward says he wishes every member of the public understood.

"First," he says, "when there is a tornado warning, it is typical to sound the sirens for three minutes and then stop.

"That's because of certain things about the sirens themselves. They're made to operate for about three minutes at a time.

"So when the siren stops, that does not mean the emergency is over. People should still be taking all the steps needed to stay safe."

Given the many modern forms of communication available, Aylward acknowledges sirens may seem somewhat archaic. He claims, though, that they continue to be vital to public safety because they reach everyone within a community—especially those who do not happen to be watching television, listening to the radio or using their smartphones. "Maybe they're outside doing some gardening and they left their phone inside," he offers as an example.

In Waseca County and in most communities, the siren indicates it's time to take shelter. While doing so, Aylward suggests, they can also acquire further information from other sources.

Sirens are tested once a month, he goes on to say, because they are sophisticated devices with a vital role in public safety. During the test, there

is often someone whose job it is to move among the different sirens and confirm they are operating properly. Equipment may be used for this, he adds, or the person may simply be watching and listening to the apparatus—which is much more sophisticated than a simple loudspeaker or horn. Many actually use a specially designed fan to create the sound, which is then amplified by the shaped shell.

A change in tone may indicate the equipment needs attention.

Aylward notes he is acknowledged among his fellow enthusiasts for being especially good at recognizing the desired pitch for most types of sirens.

He points out there is a statewide siren test in the first half of April each year. He suggests, "Don't just ignore that. Use it as a motive to consider where you would go to be safe if the siren sounded at this time of day."

Though this is not true in Waseca County, Aylward mentions sirens can be used in other ways in different communities. In some, he says, the siren indicates firefighters should report to the fire hall. In places where a town is below a dam, there is often a separate siren with a separate tone meant to warn if there is emerging danger having to do with the water. There are even communities where sirens are used to announce night time curfews.

"Sirens are specialized equipment that has been kept operating to protect the public," he comments. "People should do their part to know how to respond to them, so all the trouble and expense will be worth it."

Aylward invites anyone who would like to learn more to visit his YouTube channel: Siren dude1003.



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

PHONE: 507-837-6767

email: news@wasecacountypioneer.com

Address: Office at 111 Elm Avenue West

Mail: PO Box 578, Waseca MN 56093

DEADLINES: Pioneer: Noon Monday  
GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

|                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| ELI LUTGENS     | Publisher           |
| DEB BENTLY      | News Editor         |
| JIM LUTGENS     | Sports Editor/Dad   |
| JON LUCCA       | Ad Design           |
| BEN REVERMANN   | Staff Writer        |
| TERESA ROSACKER | Advertising Sales   |
| JESSICA LUTGENS | Staff Writer        |
| RACHAEL JAEGER  | Staff Writer        |
| MELISSA DUNN    | Staff Writer        |
| AMELIA ROESSLER | Editorial Assistant |

Contributing writers/photographers: Dave Zika, Al Batt

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

\$59 Per Year, Waseca County Residents

\$69 State of Minnesota • \$79 Outside Minnesota

Waseca County Pioneer (USPS permit #25304) is published weekly on Thursday, by Pioneer Publications Inc., 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca, MN, 56093. Entire contents copyright © 2025 PIONEER Publications, Inc. and respective authors. Opinions expressed in editorials or letters to the editor are those of the individual authors, and do not necessarily represent those of the Waseca County Pioneer or PIONEER Publications, Inc. Letters may be edited for content or length. Periodicals Postage at New Richland, MN. POSTMASTER: send address changes to Waseca County Pioneer, P.O. Box 578, Waseca, MN, 56093.



## The future of the Boathouse property

By AMELIA ROESSLER  
Editorial Assistant

After a lengthy discussion, members of the Waseca city council directed staff to work with Del and Amber Olivas, operators of The Boathouse Bar and Grill along the shore of Clear Lake, toward arranging a 50-year lease of the city-owned property where the business is located. The lease might also include a provision allowing the lease holder the option of purchasing the land after meeting specific conditions, for example after owning and operating the restaurant for a certain number of years.

The directive was given during a June 3 city council work session, the agenda for which was discussing the status of the property. The city owns the land, but not the building located on it.

The current lease is good until June 30, 2028, but with an intended sale of the restaurant, owner Del Olivas encouraged the council to consider a long-term lease in order to reassure potential buyers. The current lease was signed in 2010.

City attorney Chris Kennedy began the discussion saying the city has the option either to sell the property or maintain the status quo even though the business location does not conform to the zoning plan for the residential area where it's located. He said the concerns the council has to consider include the fact that the city controls the real property, but the lessee of the building may have a right to claim ownership of the building and structures, causing potential complications in the current arrangement.

Kennedy asked the council, "Is the property being maintained in a fashion that serves the public good?" The council was also reminded they should consider the question not from the angle of what is best for the business using the property, but what is best for taxpayers.

Councilmember Mark Christiansen said he does not think it is in taxpayers' best interest to sell, given that the restaurant is a popular stop for tourists.

Regarding possibly selling the property, council members discussed the numerous complications which arise because of the dual ownership: any buyer might have to purchase the land from the city and the structure from the current owner. Another question is what could be done if the buyer wanted the property, but had no interest in the existing structure.

After the council issued its directive that city staff should communicate with the restaurant owners, Mayor Randy Zimmerman reminded the audience that rumors of a business can be detrimental and asked there be no rumors about The Boathouse.

"Everyone thinks we're closing," Del Olivas agreed.

## Petsinger receives 2024 impact award

By ELI LUTGENS  
Publisher/Editor

Waseca business owner Matthew Petsinger received American Family Insurance's Minnesota Community Impact Award during an April ceremony held in Chaska. Petsinger, 47, has operated his Matthew Petsinger Agency in Waseca since 2017.

Matthew, a 1997 graduate of NRHEG and 2001 graduate of MSU Mankato has been married to Becky, 40, since 2008. The two were united in marriage at Sacred Heart Church in Waseca. They have four children together, Michael, 10; Mitchell, 8; Matilyn, 5; and Markus, 2. Well known for having been a wrestler, Matthew is a National Division II champion named to both the Division II and MSU Mankato Athletics Halls of Fame.

As the community impact award was announced, Petsinger's non-profit gym, contributions to the local wrestling club, church leadership and Knights of Columbus membership were all mentioned, as well as classroom volunteerism and having served on the school board. A major element of Petsinger's community impact is "Christmastime at the Mill," a free annual event since 2021 that invites area families to spend time together taking part in holiday-related activities, making crafts, and enjoying treats.

"The thought here is you may not always have a lot of money, but you have time," Matthew said of the event. "And time is what is needed to help make things happen... to get things done. The part of just giving back, throughout my short life... the biggest impacts have been the people who have given back to their communities. I'm in a position where I'm able to do it. And I think it's the right thing to do."

The award came as a bit of a surprise to Matthew who didn't know his secretary Jen Losen nominated him in December.

"Matthew does a lot for his community that is not expected of him," Jen stated. "He doesn't do it for recognition and he does a lot in the background."

"I knew something was up when Becky and Jen were nudging me and insisting we attend this year's program," Matthew shared. As the presenter at the banquet began to provide information about the chosen candidate, Matthew said he realized the award winner was from the same district as he is, however, "I knew there were a lot of awesome people from our district. I didn't think it was actually me until they put my picture up on screen."

The Impact Award Matthew received celebrates commitment to customers and community.



IMPACT - Jennifer Barlage (left) announced Matt Petsinger (right) as award honoree.

"Imagine a community where every individual regardless of age has the opportunity to thrive and excel," Jennifer Barlage, district manager, read as she announced him as the honoree. "Our community impact winner is doing just that."

"People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care," Becky said when describing Matthew, quoting Teddy Roosevelt. "Matt cares. He has a big heart and does a lot for his community that is not expected of him... He doesn't do it for the recognition."

Matthew credited those behind the scenes.

When asked about community involvement, he responded, "Who? The team. My supportive wife, excellent staff, and amazing volunteers. There's a team that puts these events on."

What are Matthews goals for future community involvement?

"Hopefully to continue the progress we made, what we're doing now," Matthew concluded. "Continue and build upon and if the opportunity arises, to add, add, add."



Detective Courtney Hartle (left) earned the Legacy Service Award, given by Arik Matson (right).

## The first ever Matson Legacy Service Award

By AMELIA ROESSLER  
Editorial Assistant

The first ever Arik Matson Legacy Service Award was presented at the June 3 Waseca City Council meeting. Public Safety Director and Police Chief Kris Markeson introduced the award, which features three major character traits that he said Matson exemplified during his career: cooperative spirit, community engagement and willingness to improve.

After the award was created a few months ago, Waseca police officers began considering who among their peers suited the criteria well enough to be their nominees. The final selection was made by Matson in an effort to keep him involved with the department and remind us of the sacrifices he made, Markeson said.

Detective Courtney Hartle was presented the award by Matson himself. Hartle has been with the Waseca Police since 2016 and was nominated by Sgt. Jacob Kaplan.

Hartle was recognized for being positive, always having a smile on her face, always being willing to help without any complaints and for enjoying community engagement.

When Matson handed Hartle the award, he said, "Keep up the great work, okay? Thank you for working so hard; it doesn't go unnoticed."

"I've got big shoes to fill," Hartley responded.

## Local Waseca entrepreneurs harvest gold

By BEN REVERMANN  
Staff writer

As two young Waseca residents considered what they could do to earn some spending money, their mother suggested they consider "What are you willing to do that no one else wants to do?" Her question spawned "Poop Picking," a dog poop removal service courtesy of Jordan, 14, and Jackson, 12, Rosenthal.

Besides their bicycles and scooters, these men of action have a few protocols for the safe and cost-effective removal of the feces. Their collection tool will be Walmart bags, of which they have plenty in reserve. The two boys also have plenty of plastic gloves on hand. Their protocol for disposal or transport is, "If they have a garbage can there, we'll

use it. Otherwise, we can double bag it and throw it away at our house when we get home."

Postings advertising their service can be found at Bomgaars and Kwik Trip. The flyers state, "Poop Picking, City of Waseca only. If you are looking for someone to clean the poop out of your yard, call us! My brother and I are looking to earn some extra money. The price depends on yard size and amount of poop. Starting at only \$20.00 a yard: Cash Only! Doesn't matter what shape, looks, or size... We'll pick it up!"

Said Jackson, a fifth-grader, of the business concept, "I started it, but then Jordan kind of took over." Jordan, a seventh-grader, observed his brother "wanted to do lawn mowing and poop removal, but we just need



BROWN GOLD - Jordan and his brother Jackson Rosenthal mined for extra cash in an unusual but profitable way in northeast Waseca on Tuesday, May 28, 2025. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

to focus on the one job." For those jobs that require a lot more time and work, Jordan suggests, "Yeah if there's like piles of it, we will have to charge more. If we have to go get more bags then, yes, we'll start raising the price. It's a yard by yard basis, the number of dogs they have, a lot of factors in this to consider."

If things go well for the business, Jordan says he'd like to buy a computer. He says he would use it both

for gaming and for schoolwork. Jackson's plans are a bit more long-term: "I will save some for college, but I want to start playing football, so I will buy a good football first."

As their flyer advertises, anyone wishing to hire these two young entrepreneurs can call Jordan at 507-330-6973 or Jackson at 507-323-5894. And remember, "Doesn't matter what shape, looks or size, We'll pick it up!"

### WASECA CITY COUNCIL

## Ambulance information, tax finance conversations

By AMELIA ROESSLER  
Editorial Assistant

A capacity crowd gathered in the Waseca City Council chambers for the police and fire department awards and recognitions at the June 3 city council meeting.

The police and fire department awards and recognition event included the first ever Arik Matson Legacy Service Award, granted to Det. Courtney Hartle. Waseca Police Chief Kris Markeson also awarded six local first responders with the Waseca Police Department lifesaver award, including officer Jarret Imlay, sheriff's deputy Serena Frazier, fire chief/shift commander Jason Forshee and firefighter Randy Sietsema. The award was in recognition of the six having responded to a life-threatening circumstance and having preserved the victim's life. It regarded an incident in December of 2024, when a driver suffered a cardiac emergency while driving, causing her car to crash.

North Memorial Ambulance manager Terry Nelson and paramedic and supervisor Scot Peterson presented the council with information on staffing, operation and response times. Waseca currently staffs two ambulances 24 hours a day, with an average response time for 911 calls being 8.38 minutes and almost 17 minutes for interfacility transport, including from hospital to hospital.

From May 2024 to May 2025, North Memorial averaged about five 911 responses a day, a total of 1,600 for the year. In the presentation, Nelson said this first quarter is seeing an uptick in responses, nearing seven a day.

There are 71 team members among three regional centers; Nelson said there are currently five open paramedic positions.

During the meeting, a public hearing was held regarding a proposed ordinance regulating cannabis businesses. City engineer Nate Willey presented information to the council regarding the ordinance's allowance of two cannabis retail locations and ten lower-potency hemp edible locations. Lower-potency hemp businesses could include places like gas stations or bars and have longer selling hours, while retail cannabis stores would have restricted hours. If approved, city attorney Chris Kennedy said this ordinance is one that will likely be amended numerous times over the next year.

Public hearings were also held and approved by the council authorizing the sale of the Waseca Marketplace property and modifying the tax increment financing (TIF) plan in order for Waseca Marketplace LLC to purchase city-owned land located between Walmart and the high school and start building a rent-controlled apartment complex south of Walmart.

Waseca Finance Director Alicia Fischer presented the information and explained that the affordable housing project is unlikely to occur without TIF. She said the project on the 2.6 acres

Council continued on 5

# PHEASANT CAFE

• SINCE 1942 •

Great Home Cooking • Catering

Full Breakfast Menu • Daily Lunch Specials

104 State Street, Waseca MN • 835-1259

# BATTENFELD LAWN CARE

Lawn Maintenance & Residential Snow Removal

**Zach Battenfeld**

507-521-0226

zachbattenfeld@gmail.com

# DAVE'S Body Shop

Waseca • Minnesota

715 S State St,  
Waseca, MN

(507) 835-8615

Hours:  
Sat-Sun ..... Closed  
M-F ..... 8 AM-5 PM

Ali and Willy Malecha are excited to continue to bring you the excellent service you have come to expect at Dave's Body Shop!

Serving Waseca and the surrounding areas for more than 30 years!

# EYE Q VISION

Serving the Mankato, MN area with a full range of eye care services, including routine eye exams, contacts, glasses & urgent care visits. At Eye Q Vision we are dedicated to providing our patients with the highest quality of optometric care to patients of all ages!

**OUR STAFF**

Jeffery Crowley OD  
Angela Johnson OD  
Laura Coudron OD

**ADDRESS**

111 Star Street  
Suite 101  
Mankato, MN 56001

**507-387-6695 • eyeqvvisionmankato.com**



OBITUARIES

Julia Ann Fischer

Julia Ann Fischer, age 98 of Waseca, died at Laurel's Peak Rehabilitation Center in Mankato on the evening of Monday, June 2, 2025.

Julia was born in Waseca on December 3, 1926, to parents Joseph and Julia (Maher) Thiewes. She was a student at Sacred Heart Parochial School in Waseca and she graduated with the Scarlett class of 1945. She went to work at First National Bank in Waseca and then Rutledge Insurance in Waseca for a couple of years until her marriage to Clayton William Fischer on April 30, 1949. After her wedding she became the deputy clerk of court in Waseca, then an office manager at Falk Chiropractic, a teacher's assistant at Sacred Heart, and finally a paraprofessional at Sacred Heart. Throughout all her working years she was a partner on the family farm and an invaluable asset at Metro Sound and Lighting. In 2005 she and Clayton moved from the farm into town, but her involvement on the farm never wavered. Julia liked to play card games and was involved in a bridge club for many years. She was an avid reader, and she and Clayton enjoyed traveling, but more than anything she loved to spend time with her family. She was a lifelong member at Sacred Heart and enjoyed being a part of the Catholic Daughters.

Julia is survived by two sons, Larry (Paula) Fischer of Egan, Tim (Marijo) Fischer of Waseca; a daughter-in-law, Jeanne Fischer



Julia Ann Fischer

of Northfield; six grandchildren, Steven (Sarah) Morrison, Angela (Matt) Egan, Matthew Morrison, John Fischer, Marie Fischer and her boyfriend Kyle Wedde, and Katie Fischer; and four great-grandchildren, Makenna, Kiley, Ross, and Amelia. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; a son, William; and a sister and five brothers.

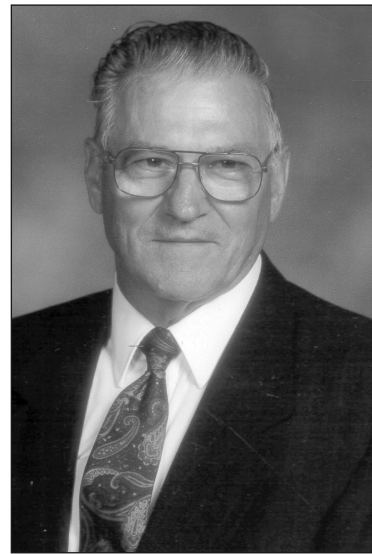
A rosary service lead by the Catholic Daughters was on Monday, June 9, 2025 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca. Visitation will followed at 11:00 a.m. and continued until the time of the Mass.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Fr. Glen Frerichs at 1:00 p.m. on June 9, 2025 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Interment followed at Calvary Cemetery in Waseca. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca is handling the arrangements.

Robert "Bob" Eugene Miller

Robert "Bob" Eugene Miller, age 91 of Waseca, died Saturday, June 7, 2025, at Lakeshore Inn Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

He was born on October 2, 1933, in Janesville, a son of George and Helen (Bucek) Miller. At a young age, Bob had to leave school and start working on a farm to help support his family. While attending church at St. John Lutheran Church as a young adult, he met Jean Carole Strand who he would later marry at the church on April 16, 1961. Together they built their lives and raised their children in Waseca. In addition to being a farm laborer in his youth, he also worked in the warehouse for Herter's Inc., in Waseca; he enjoyed snowmobile racing and would become a race driver for Herter's. He worked for the City of Waseca in the Street Department as a Heavy Equipment Operator for 17 years, before his retirement. In his retirement he did some piecework for Barrie Archery. Bob was a very hard worker who believed with hard work and self-accountability, one could accomplish anything. He was very self-reliant and took all the means necessary to provide for his family. He was kindhearted and known for his daily morning walks around Clear and Loon Lakes in Waseca. He was a farmer at heart who was proud of his garden. He enjoyed snowmobile racing, hunting, fishing, all things outdoorsman, (especially being at "the cabin" up north), softball, bowling, always being present for his children and grandchildren's Bluejay sporting events and rooting for the Green Bay Packers. He was a member of St. John Lutheran Church in



Robert "Bob" Eugene Miller Waseca.

He is survived by his wife; his children, Michael (Dawn) Miller of Plymouth, MN, Steven (Jorge) Miller of San Diego, CA, James (Jodi) Miller of Waseca; grandchildren, Katelyn (Jeff) Sprunk, Aaron Miller, Joel Miller, McKenna Miller; great-grandchildren, Summer and Sonnie Sprunk; sister-in-law, Roxy Miller and brother-in-law Orville Bolduan. He is preceded in death by his parents, siblings, George Jr. (Judy) Miller, Richard Miller, Kenneth Miller, Laurice (Lavern) Tetzloff, Loraine (Arnold) Knutson, Ruth (William) Nelson, Harriet (Leo) Roe, Mary Bolduan, Sharon (Wayne) Huntington and Linda (Ray) Mudgett.

Visitation was held, June 11, 2025, from 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM at St. John Lutheran Church in Waseca. Funeral service was held at 11:00 AM at the church with Rev. Ashley Kuhlman officiating. Interment was held at the Woodville Cemetery in Waseca. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service is handling the arrangements.

# Downtown's history revealed in its buildings

By AMELIA ROESSLER  
Editorial Assistant

When asked by the Waseca Heritage Preservation Commission to write an article, Vice Chair Dan Forrest says he jumped on the opportunity to use his genealogy skills to write about the history of downtown Waseca.

"How many times have you looked up while either driving through or walking in downtown Waseca?" Forrest wrote.

Waseca, a designated National Historic Commercial District, houses a lot of history in its buildings. May is National Heritage Month, the reason behind the Commission's effort to call attention to the history of Waseca.

Forrest starts his narrative at the Courthouse and moves south along the east side of the street, naming and describing some of the changes various buildings have undergone.

The building at 216 North State Street has a triangle-shaped rooftop. Now part of the El Molino restaurant, it has the name "T. Barden" shaped into its face. The building was constructed in 1897 by Thomas Barden, an Irish immigrant born in County Meath in 1832 who came to America in 1846 at the age of 13.

In Forrest's research, he found that Barden, whose name is on many of the downtown buildings, first settled in western Massachusetts before marrying Honora O'Rourke and migrating west. Coincidentally, Thomas and Honora are Forrest's great-grandparents.

"They first settled and farmed in Wilton township at the edge of the Winnebago Indian Reservation," Forrest stated in the article. "He also ran a hotel and saloon in the village of Wilton and is rumored to have

played a part in the transfer of county records from Wilton making Waseca the county seat."

Around 1890, the couple moved to Waseca, where Barden built and/or owned several buildings, including 216 North State. Over time, the building has served as a saloon, grocery store, machine shop and a variety of other enterprises.

Continuing southward, Forrest mentions 204 North State, currently the office for Michael Kubat, CPA. The building was constructed in 1885 and served as Waseca's post office until the early 1900s.

"The pressed metal molding stands out and is worth a look," Forrest wrote.

The home of Four Seasons Athletics has the word "Bank" written on the east side, as it was the Bank of Waseca from 1882 until 1904.

Currently a tavern and liquor store, 110 North State Street, also displays the name Barden in its modern sign. According to Forrest, the bar's original owners were two grandsons of immigrant Thomas Barden. The building was originally constructed in 1917 as a bank; craftsman installed a seven-panel stained glass window with a matching skylight.

"Both are best viewed from the inside of the building. Sunny afternoons or early evenings are best to pick up all the colors," Forrest says.

The Domino's Pizza building at 107 South State was built as a hardware store in 1889. Above the storefront is a combination of red brick and stone accents including a sunburst motif. Like the original post office, it has a pressed-metal rooftop.

Above the main entrance to the beauty salon Stylists on Main, the name N. Weller appears. Forrest writes that records are sketchy re-



LOOK UP - Many of Waseca's downtown buildings have had interesting histories. Many bear the names of the original builder up near the rooftop. Pioneer photo by Amelia Roessler

garding Weller, but research indicates his full name was Nikolaus Michael "Mickey" Weller; he was born in Bavaria and arrived in the U.S. in 1855.

The sculptured heads of a cow and pig are displayed high up on the structure at 106 South State. The building once housed the Brozik and Sons Meat Market. Martin Brozik was born in Bohemia in 1867 and migrated to the U.S. in 1884.

"We're not sure if Martin originally established the business or purchased it from the originator," Forrest observes in his summary. "Martin had several sons, the oldest being Leon and Charley. We know they joined their father in the business as it's been reported that about 1935 these two had built the first cold storage unit in the state of Minnesota," Forrest writes.

The name Wm. Westphal is displayed up high on the face of the current Zinnias Boutique. Records show the building was constructed around 1890. It first housed a grocery store. Later, for many years, it was a saloon or bar.

The current Ultra Beach Salon building has the name Guyer written on its face after Anton Guyer, who was born in Bohemia in 1860 and came to America with his parents when he was eight. He constructed the building around 1915; it housed a clothing store until 1968.

Next door and on the southwest corner of Waseca's main intersection is 100 South State Street. The name

Didra is displayed because the building was constructed by Orlando Didra around 1908.

"After purchasing the wooden building, Orlando wanted to install a basement and construct a stronger structure. He asked the city council's permission to move the store into the street and was denied. So one night he and some friends moved the structure and began digging," Forrest said in his article.

The building went on to serve as a drug store for Didra and his son Gordon until the 1970s. Today it houses Personalized Printing.

Forrest said anything that people in Waseca know of the history of some of the town's buildings is important, given the downtown's listing on the national registry.

"I was surprised that these were people who came over from Europe, dirt poor," Forrest said. "I know for sure my great-grandfather, Thomas Barden, came over here with nothing. I think he had 25 cents in his pocket."

The Waseca Heritage Preservation Commission works to "identify, protect, enhance and preserve" these sites, since the buildings serve as "visible reminders of the historical, architectural, educational and cultural heritage" of Waseca, according to its mission statement.

Questions about the Heritage Preservation Commission can be directed to city hall.

# DNR fish count on Waseca's busy Clear Lake reveals good news

By DEB BENTLY  
News Editor

According to Brandon Eder, assistant to the supervisor of the Waterville area fishery operated by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Waseca's Clear Lake is one of the busiest in the wide area managed by the Waterville fishery, and for a good reason.

"In terms of fish counts," Eder summarizes informally, "Clear blows the other ones away."

He explains the staff at the Waterville fishery manages about 120 lakes in the area. Clear is classified as "tier 1," alongside other larger, busy lakes such as Madison, Te-tonka, and Sakatah. Water bodies in this class are monitored every 3 years, twice as frequently as smaller, less busy, tier 2 lakes which include, among many others, St. Olaf, Beaver and Reeds.

Fish counts took place on Clear Lake last August. Fishery staff placed eight gill nets and 12 trap nets, leaving them in place from August 5 to 9. "Electrofishing," a practice of sending an electrical pulse through the water which temporarily stuns the fish and causes them to rise to the surface for counting and measuring, took place last June.

Eder explains electrofishing is useful for monitoring bass populations, since bass are not commonly caught in nets.

Asked for a simple summary of the results, Eder says Clear Lake is "loaded with black crappies and bluegills." Suggesting that the population does not trend toward particularly large specimens, for anyone wanting to make a meal of them, he says their numbers can compensate for their size.

He terms the lake's walleye population as "solid."

"There's some really good bass fishing as well," he says. Mentioning there is a special regulation on Clear Lake that bass are "catch and release only," he says the practice has maintained a strong population even though the habitat for bass is rather limited.

The report Eder prepared regarding the fish counts is 27 pages long and includes the numbers of different types of fish caught, their ages, typical lengths, and a comparison to past results from surveys which began, in Clear Lake's case, in 1995.

Anglers interested in seeing the full report, including a written summary which offers an overview regarding the numbers and data, can

find it online: Its "Division of Waters" (DOW) number is 81-0014-01.

When it comes to understanding and analyzing data regarding fish counts, Eder's first statement is, "We're fishing just like you are." He explains fishery staff does everything feasible to ensure numbers are valid, including setting the same number of nets in all the same places as before at the same time of year and for the same length of time. Despite those efforts, however, numbers vary widely.

"You can't reach any kind of conclusion comparing one year to another one," he suggests. "The valuable information comes from looking at trends."

An easily-explained and very positive example of a trend, he goes on, is that the number of black bullheads in area lakes is falling while the number of yellow bullheads is rising.

Since bullheads are not a sought-after fish, he acknowledges the number is not important to most anglers. "It shows a very positive trend regarding water quality," he goes on, explaining black bullheads thrive in "turbid" and "weedy" conditions while the yellow variety thrive in

cleaner, higher-quality water.

The trend is good news for those who manage lakes, since it is an indication communities and property owners are taking steps to reduce pollutants and nutrients entering the water.

Other information anglers may find interesting regarding Clear Lake, Eder mentions, are that it is stocked in the fall of odd-numbered years with 896 pounds of walleye fingerlings. Less than one year old, the walleyes will be between six and eight inches long, and will have been raised either in fishery rearing ponds or in selected lakes around the area. Since Loon Lake was stocked with 31,000 walleye fry this spring, some may move directly from one lake in Waseca to the other.

In even-numbered years, the lake is stocked with Northern Pike fry.

Types of fish caught in both gill nets or trap nets during the 2024 lake survey included black crappie, 305; bluegill, 1,149; common carp, 6; hybrid sunfish, 2; largemouth bass, 14; northern pike, 16; pumpkinseed, 34; walleye, 16; yellow bullhead, 435; yellow perch, 5; black bullhead, 70.

Get your news in the Pioneer

• news@wasecacountypioneer.com

- Call (507) 837-6767
- 111 Elm Ave. West

**Rick's Appliance**  
ricksappliancewaseca.com

AMANA  
Q Speed Queen

**Sales & Service**  
507-461-9615

**MAYTAG**

Hours  
M-F .... 7:00 AM - 5:30 PM  
Sat ..... 7:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
Sunday ..... Closed

**Whirlpool**

Visit our new Showroom!  
405 West Elm Ave, Waseca MN

**Waseca Music**  
C O M P A N Y

**YOUR LOCAL MUSIC STORE**

Band Instruments • Repairs  
Guitars • CD, DVD, & Vinyl

**507-835-2980**  
111 South State Street

**Tesch Service Center**  
Family-Owned Automotive Repair

- wheel alignments
- brake services
- suspension repairs
- towing & more!

**Call us today!**

**Tesch Service**

321 Elm Ave W, Waseca, MN  
Call Us! (507) 835-4610  
teschservice@mediacommb.net

**DENNIS STEFFEL OMTVEDT**  
FUNERAL AND CREMATION SERVICE  
109 3RD STREET NE, WASECA, MN 56093  
WASECA • JANESVILLE • WATERVILLE

**GUARDIAN ENERGY**

AMERICAN MADE, FARMER OWNED  
www.guardiannrg.com

**ETHANOL**

**PH & B**

**PATTON, HOVERSTEN & BERG, PA**  
A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION / ATTORNEYS AT LAW

www.phblawoffice.com

|                                                                                     |                                                                                             |                                                                                         |                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Waseca Office</b><br>215 Elm Ave E<br>Waseca, MN<br>507-835-5240<br>888-835-5244 | <b>Janesville Office</b><br>216 N Main St<br>Janesville, MN<br>507-234-5106<br>888-980-1210 | <b>Owatonna Office</b><br>150 W Park Sq<br>Owatonna, MN<br>507-451-9000<br>866-451-9010 | <b>Faribault Office</b><br>415 2nd Ave NW<br>Faribault, MN<br>507-332-7425 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Your Trusted Local Law Offices for Over 50 Years



## ■ Boyer

from Page 1

Renee Worke, who had gotten a summer job with the sheriff's department.

Audra Boyer summarizes a statement Worke made during this spring's ceremony: "Leo was the first person to see her potential and encourage her to try more and be more. At the swearing in, she eloquently shared how impactful that support was in her choices and trajectory."

The connection between Leo and Worke continued as she completed schooling, became a lawyer, and was appointed judge in the Waseca County District Court. At that time she met Leo's wife Sabrina, who interacted with the courts frequently due to her role in child protection. A strong friendship formed among the three of them and continued after Worke was named to the state court of appeals and moved to the Twin Cities area.

The two "stories" connect after Olivea entered law school and Sabrina arranged for her and Worke to meet. Olivea summarizes the friendship and guidance Worke offered

with rich gratitude. "We would meet every once in a while, sometimes at her office, sometimes for coffee," Olivea recalls.

"It was very affirming; she let me know about some of the projects and special circumstances that might be going on, and she introduced me to people in the law field. Judge Worke has been my fiercest advocate and opened doors that I otherwise would not have had the privilege of entering."

"It's been very affirming."

Perhaps the biggest lesson Olivea says she learned from her conversations and interactions with Worke was, "Stay continuously passionate. Regardless of the outcome, the work is important."

Olivea states she is grateful for the connections and compassion she has encountered as she begins her career as a lawyer. She says she is grateful not only for her own sake, but also for the enthusiasm and dedication they have engendered in her to develop her abilities as an advocate for others.

"I want the work I am doing to be a way to thank and honor those who have helped me," she observes. "After all, their service and their dedication helped me get to where I am, and will be part of everything I do in the future."

## ■ County

from Page 1

have required staff time. In some cases, including highway roadside cleanup, it has allowed work to be completed which would otherwise have gone undone.

Because the DOC has been in charge of coordinating work crews, he told commissioners he could not immediately answer some of their questions about numbers, overall costs, and time commitment, but promised to communicate with the DOC to acquire the information.

County attorney Rachel Cornelius, who was present at the meeting, responded to commissioner questions saying her office would lose important options if the STS program did not exist. She mentioned her staff frequently recommends community service for offenders who might fall under negative influences if incarcerated. She said the drug court program also uses STS as a consequence when participants fail to follow through on commitments.

After roughly 30 minutes of discussion, board members tabled the topic to their next scheduled meeting with the intent of allowing Schiro to gather more information.

Also within the court services budget, Schiro recommended Nicole Grams, who already works for the court services department coordinating the drug court program, be given the duty of "local collaborative coordinator" for a state-funded initiative, the Waseca County Collaborative for Families.

The purpose of the program, according to state documents, is to find reliable, innovative ways to use community resources to support families and children with spe-

cial needs. It is meant to help families navigate through the process of finding resources, including mental health care.

The board approved assigning those duties, expected to require between seven and 10 hours a week, to Grams. It is anticipated the state program will fund the appropriate portion of her salary, nearly \$27,000 a year.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, board members were addressed by Waseca resident Chris Alyward, 20, whose hobby surrounds the installation, use and construction of sirens—including those used within Waseca County to warn residents of incorporated communities they are under a "tornado warning," a bulletin issued by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) that either a tornado has been sighted within their area, or that conditions are conducive to developing a tornado.

Alyward volunteered, if desired, to work with the county toward updating certain elements of the siren system so that it does not need to include a human element. Rather than the county dispatch center receiving information from NOAA, then using that to determine which sirens within the county need to be activated, the weather administration's signal could be used to automatically activate the appropriate units.

He described two incidents within the past nine months when sirens were not activated in a timely manner, and stated he wanted both to see the public receive warnings in a more timely fashion, and to protect the county from potential lawsuits if any future time lapses should occur. Thanks to recommendations from commissioners, Alyward held conversations with county officials later in the day.

approval of the Mankato to Mississippi River Electric Transmission Project consideration.

Council member Jeremy Conrath brought forth to the council the observation of citizens that the nuisance ordinance is getting worse in the city. He suggested finding a new solution, while Kennedy said there are limited funds to do so. City Manager Carl Sonnenberg added that the city does not have the staff to do it and councilmember Mark Christiansen said a good place to start is having conversations with your neighbor.

## ■ Council

from Page 3

of land is expected to cost around \$7 million and added this is the first of many steps.

Other agenda items approved include the authorization to re-use the current \$300,000 Northwest Commercial Development Funds, the approval of the project to improve the facade of the Tink Larson Community Field, and the



TEAMWORK - Teams competed in the arena during the Yaunt-2 Ranch Rodeo June 7.

Pioneer photo by Amelia Roessler

# Ranch Rodeo's successful ride

By AMELIA ROESSLER  
Editorial Assistant

Families and teams competed among neighs, snorts and shouts in the Yaunt-2 organization's first ranch rodeo of the year on June 7 and 8.

The rodeo, which takes place on the Yaunt-2 organization's property in the southeastern part of Waseca County, involved skills that people would genuinely use on a ranch. This included four different competition categories that involved controlling cattle movement.

Despite some startup issues involving microphone problems in the "crow's nest," Doug Christopherson, one of the ten organizing members, said everything went pretty well.

Yaunt-2 has existed since the 1990s and had its first ranch rodeo in 1995. This past weekend's rodeo involved five hours of competition on both Saturday and Sunday, with teams and families hailing from a wide area including southern Minnesota and northern Iowa.

While teams named "Pink Pony Club," "Burning Daylight," and "Need a Prayer" took turns in the arena selecting cattle, spectators sat on wooden bleachers.

"Hey Dave, you're slipping!" one spectator shouted after a round.

"Who invited the peanut gallery?" one man, apparently Dave, responded.

Family members from different generations often compete together, lending an inviting and family-like atmosphere to the competition.

Christopherson said this weekend's event saw a decrease in the number of teams—one likely reason he named is that some of the families which typically compete now have young children they

must care for.

"All in all, we're a little short, but we're hoping that we just do some advertising, and maybe get some new people trying it this year," Christopherson said.

People interested in trying out their skills at the ranch rodeo do not need a background in anything "other than being able to stay on the horse," according to Christopherson.

Ranch rodeo tasks originate from another time and other parts of the country, when numerous herds of cattle were let loose together on expansive open parcels of land to graze before needing to be rounded up and separated, Christopherson and other founding member Wayne Jesnen said.

At the competition, there are four different categories that involve controlling cattle movement.

"Sorting" is where teams must separate 10 specific cattle from among a group of 20 labeled cattle, bringing them across a barrier in the arena in numerical order.

"Trailer loading" is when teams are required to separate out four specific cattle and load them into one section of a two-compartment trailer. Once the cattle are in, a horse must also be loaded into the second compartment.

In the "sort and pen" segment, teams separate out specific cattle in numerical order and get them into pens built at the end of the arena.

"Doctoring" is when teams are given two cattle numbers, which they must rope either of the two and get it to the edge of the arena, where they apply shaving cream to the animal in place of administering an antibiotic or some



SADDLE UP - Todd Edon rides into the arena for his turn to compete with his team.

Pioneer photo by Amelia Roessler



LEFT: Terri Peterson rides out of the arena with her niece Riley Peterson. RIGHT: Kirsten Nielson shouts at the cattle to get them into the pen.

Pioneer photo by Amelia Roessler



other health-related treatment.

A maximum time of 90 seconds is allowed for each task, with points awarded for completing in the shortest time frame. Teams are disqualified if a wrongly numbered animal passes the barrier line.

Christopherson said each event gets paid out, with the top three or four teams earning checks depending on how many teams there are. The winning "buckle" — as "cowboys get buckles instead of trophies," according to Christopherson, — doesn't get awarded until the end of the season near the fall. There are six different competition days in a season,

three double header weekends, all of which will be located at the Yaunt-2 location in Waseca County.

Yaunt-2 is working to be as beginner friendly as it can be, with their members encouraging people to come out and try it to see if they're interested.

Christopherson said the organization is looking into scheduling some informal Wednesday evening gatherings where people could come out to take lessons if they wish, or maybe try some of the events alongside experienced participants. Interested individuals should watch for more information on the Yaunt-2 Facebook page.

# Former officer charged with felony

Gabriel Crombie, former Northfield police officer, has been charged\* with one count of felony Aiding an Offender and one count of gross misdemeanor misconduct of a public officer/employee. The charges stem from a now-former Northfield teacher, Katie Hanson, sending explicit photographs to high school students; the alleged conduct was reported to Crombie, who failed to

follow through with his duty to investigate, says Waseca County Attorney Rachel Cornelius.

The Waseca County Attorney's Office is handling the matter involving Crombie on behalf of the Rice County Attorney's Office to avoid any conflicts of interest. Likewise, the Steele County Attorney's Office is handling the matter involving Hanson. The Steele County Attorney's

Office has charged Hanson with two counts of felony engaging in electronic communication relating or describing sexual conduct with child.

As stated in the criminal complaint, the Northfield Police Department was alerted to the conduct of Ms. Hanson in December 2024. Investigation revealed the conduct was initially reported to Crombie in the spring of 2024, but was not thor-

oughly investigated by him.

A subsequent investigation, which included the MN Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA), revealed the alleged criminal conduct.

Crombie's first court appearance will be scheduled by Rice County District Court.



FISH ON - Jax Johnson and Lane Swanson were busy concentrating on fish. Middle, Ava Schlaak posed with her fish before her dad, Dan, took it off the hook for her, and Caleb Heller brought his mother, Michelle, to supervise at the Take a Kid Fishing event at Clear Lake Park on Saturday, June 7, 2025.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann



# Take a Kid Fishing event at Clear Lake

By BEN REVERMANN  
Staff writer

The Clear Lake Park fishing pier was busy the morning of Saturday, June 7. Mother Nature cooperated by giving the participants partly cloudy skies, light winds and ideal temperatures. The fish were cooperating as well; almost every child caught at least one fish, the majority caught numerous fish.

Ava Schlaak brought her dad Dan. Dimitri Horn brought his dad Gage. Caleb Heller brought his mother Michelle who said this about his first sunfish, "We were hoping to catch something, but I didn't know if it was going to happen, and then he pulls up this fish and it's like, wow." Colton Larson of the Waseca County Sheriff's office was there to keep

the peace, he said lightheartedly. "Everyone here is having such a good time I don't think I'll have much to do. I'm planning on being here till noon either way, and glad the kids are having fun."

The Sheriff's Posse was set up under the Clear Lake Pavilion, handing out blue razzberry drinks provided by 212 Waseca; there were snacks as well. Ashley Lloyd of the Sheriff's Posse for the past two years, was near the pavilion exit, "I always had horses growing up, so I joined the posse. I'm here today for the community, and these kids need an outlet with all the screen time they got over school. This vacation, get outside."

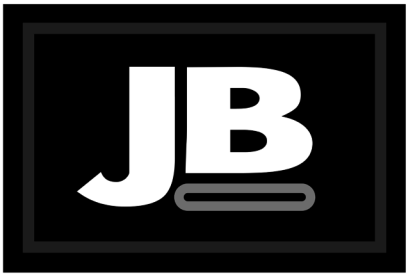
Stacy Schroeder, Waseca city council member and organizer for

the event said, "Fishing for Life donated 70 rod combos. I grew up fishing when I was little. Not everyone has an opportunity to get equipment like this. Our goal is for kids to go home today and have the ability to come back out tomorrow on their own when there are fewer people or even find another lake to try. They also get a chance to interact with Sheriff Dulas in a positive way, and they get their own equipment on top of that." The combos included a fishing pole, junior tackle boxes and wax worms. An online source said Fishing For Life is an organization that serves youth, families, veterans, and communities through fishing and outdoor programs. Founded in 2004, it collects and refurbishes used fishing gear to

promote a love for fishing and the outdoors in people of all ages.

There were two sheriff's deputies, two members of the North Memorial Ambulance, two Waseca Police Department members, five members of the Waseca Sheriff's Posse and many, many parents. The playground was full of kids who chose to take a break from the lake. Some were quick to return to fishing, others had enough and wanted to stay and play.

Take a Kid Fishing was sponsored by Fraternal Order of the Police Lodge 13, Discover Waseca Tourism, Southern Minnesota Darkhouse, VFW Post 1642, Waseca Fire Relief, Fishing for Life and 212 Waseca.



**JAMES BROS.**  
**CONSTRUCTION**

**507.267.4789**  
**jamesbrosconstruction.com**

Complete Septic Service and Installation • Excavation  
Residential and Commercial Site Preparation and Utilities  
Locally Owned and Operated since 1978





## The Pastor's Column

# The June bride vs the forever bride

By MICHAEL JAMES GRANNIS

There's a line from the musical Seven Brides for Seven Brothers that goes, "Oh, they say when you marry in June, you're a bride all your life, and the bridegroom who marries in June gets a sweet-heart for a wife." Well, I have been thinking about weddings a lot recently. It isn't simply because it's June. It's not even because I just conducted a wedding. No, I have been thinking a lot about weddings, and brides, and grooms recently, because for the past few weeks we have been hearing readings from the book of Revelation in our Sunday services.

In Revelation, St. John sees a vision: "And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." (Rev. 21:2 ESV) Toward the close of the book we can read these Words, "The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come.' And let the one who hears say, 'Come.' And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price." (Rev 22:17 ESV)

Who is being beckoned to "come?" Well the "Bride" longs for the "Groom." And who is this Groom? Why, it is none other than Christ Himself. But if Christ is the Groom, well then who is this "new Jerusalem" – this Bride of Christ? Scripture reveals this as well. The Church is the Bride of Christ (Ephesians 5). And who is this Church? The Church consists of all of the faithful (past, present, and future) – all who wait with eager anticipation for the return of Christ in glory, and the consummation of the life of the world to come. The Church is Christ's forever Bride. Like a June bride and her groom, the Church longs to be united to her true love, Christ Jesus our Savior...or should I have said that the other way around?

In Ephesians chapter 5, God reveals that the holy estate of marriage between a husband and his wife is actually a holy analogy of sorts for the mysterious union between Christ and His Church. Christ and His Church is the reality that the analogy of marriage is meant to reflect.

As such, the reality is that Christ laid aside His own heavenly glory and the joys of heaven in order to be united with us in the flesh. This shows us men who have not been blessed with the gift of celibacy that we too should lay aside our own pride and vain attempts at glory. We should "man up" by committing to and marrying a bride of our own, becoming one flesh with her. Likewise, just as Christ sacrificed His own well-being for the good of His bride, that same self-sacrifice should be reflected in how husbands love and cherish their wives. Furthermore, just as Christ did this for the good of the Church "while we were still sinners," (Romans 5), so too a husband is called to do all of this not simply when he feels like it, or when he thinks his wife de-

serves it, but even and especially when it's hardest to do and when she doesn't deserve it. Why? Because that is what Christ did for us, and we are to be imitators of Christ.

In the same vein, just as the Church is called to be united in purpose and mission with Christ and His loving will, a wife is called to be united in purpose and mission with her husband and his will. Yes, I know it may sound out of touch with the times, but a wife is called to show honor to her husband and unity of purpose with him, even as we see Christ honoring our heavenly Father and submitting Himself to the Father's will. He did not simply do this when it was easy, but even when He wished there was any other way.

Yes, in the garden of Gethsemane, as our Lord sweat blood – as His betrayer and accusers were marching up the hillside to arrest Him, Jesus sorrowfully prayed for the Father to give Him a way out. Yet, He humbly prayed, "Nevertheless, not My will, but Yours be done." (Luke 22). In the same way, a wife is called to imitate Christ by letting her needs and desires be known, and then submitting to the will of her husband.

This reflects the picture of how the Bride of Christ acts in faith by the power of the Holy Spirit, following the will of Christ her Groom in humble obedience. The Church faithfully follows Christ, because Christ is faithful and true. Yes, He faithfully obeyed the Fathers will by laying down His life for the sake of His Bride. Ah, but there's the rub. Other than Christ, all men (myself included) are far from perfect.

A husband will fail his wife in all kinds of big and little ways every day. Does this exempt the wife from submitting to her husband as the Church submits to Christ? In a word, no. As I said above, the husband is called to cherish his wife and love her by giving himself up for her, even when he doesn't feel like it and she doesn't deserve it. So too, the wife is to humbly and willingly unite herself to the will of her husband, even when she doesn't feel like it and her husband doesn't deserve it.

On that note, it is VERY important that men and women use discernment in choosing a spouse who will not make this self-sacrifice and submission to one another overly burdensome. Our sins, our pride, our stubbornness...they can make life with one another more of a nightmare than a dream. And this is where we need to look to Christ once again. Christ loved us while we were still far from Him in our sin. He did the work of forgiving our sins and calling us to Himself. Knowing the love and forgiveness of Christ for us, husbands and wives need to forgive first...love first. That is what it means to be imitators of Christ.

# Waseca's district vision card on track

By MELISSA DUNN  
Staff Writer

During the June 5 meeting of the Waseca School Board, district Superintendent Eric Hudspith reviewed the district vision card with the two years of data obtained since the strategic plan was adopted in summer 2023. "Things are on track, the way they need to be," Hudspith told the board after sharing the details. The board will be using the August work session to update the vision card for the upcoming school year.

Representatives of school administration recently met with the custodian maintenance group for the first time in this negotiations session. Next week they are scheduled to meet with the food service group, technology team, custodial maintenance for the second time, the para-

professionals, and the district office team. Hudspith noted that as this was his third time negotiating with these groups, he expects it to be positive and productive.

Action items included approvals of the Junior Senior High Principal and Assistant Principal contracts for Justin Johnston and Craig Kopetzki. The board also approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Superintendent Hudspith concerning his 2025-26 salary and benefits. The board and Hudspith will begin negotiations on a new three-year contract this summer. Hudspith's role as the Identified Official with Authority for MDE systems was also approved.

## WASECA SCHOOL BOARD

# Janesville Library presents Reptiles Around the World

By BEN REVERMANN  
Staff writer

Snake Discovery sent its "Reptiles Around the World" traveling reptile show to numerous libraries in the Waseca County area, and during the afternoon of Thursday, June 5, they stopped at the Janesville Reading Garden located next to the library. There were 50 children sitting in the grass, with more filtering in during the show as a snake was brought out and showcased and made available, with specific instructions, to be petted.

Among the directions was, "Using just your pointer finger, just like this." Jay Radke was the educator and snake handler for the day. Before he would walk around the grounds to let the children pet the snakes or lizards, he would instruct them by showing the reptile and running a single finger or two down its back. When they listened, they were each allowed to touch it, and as Radke said, "I have a reptile from every continent on the Earth."

Snakediscovery.com refers to its traveling handlers as educators. Each team includes two full-time educators putting on 8 to 12 demonstrations each week over the

summer. Radke is not from Minnesota, "I'm originally from Melbourne, Australia, and I was brought to this job through my love of reptiles and science communication."

Kaitlyn Quast, who was watching the presentation from the back of the crowd said, "I brought Ceci, Lucy, Burton and Lyda, but Lyda is the only one of us who is a fan of snakes." Mikaela Mccome said, "I'm with Hazel, Maeve and Chance. Maeve is the one who likes the creepy crawly things; Hazel wants nothing to do with them." Mccome was kind enough to pose for a picture with her children before they returned to the demonstrations. In front, Radke was asking the children whether they know the four categories of reptiles: turtles, crocodiles, snakes and lizards and tuataras. That last one, tuataras, is not well known because it's only found on the island of New Zealand.

Guests Radke brought for the day were a Japanese rat snake, a creature which smells like taco sauce when frightened. An African Bald Python had blue eyes, pure white skin, and a history of being around famous people's necks and



Around 50 children were at the Janesville Reading Garden on Thursday, June 5, for a "Reptiles Around the World" traveling petting show. Educator and snake handler was Jay Radke.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

the necks of royalty. His beauty kept him in high demand as "living jewelry" which would sometimes be worn for a full day. He was also popular among the ancient Egyptians, who featured him in a lot of their artwork.

Radke share information about an African fat tailed gecko, whose tail acts as a distraction for predators who often bite off his tail thinking it's his head. But once he's escaped, his tail grows back to distract another day. Another featured animal was a bearded dragon, which has a mysterious "third eye" on the top of its head. It is not, however, the type of eye most people imagine, Radke warned. "Close your eyes and look toward the sky. Now run your hand between your face and the sky. That dark spot you can sort of see but can't make out the details of, that's what the bearded dragon sees through his third eye. When



Kids at Waseca's event were allowed to touch and try on some of the reptiles.

he sees that shadow above, he knows a bird is flying in to eat him."

Anyone wishing to schedule a "Reptiles Around the World" reptile show can contact the company's program coordinator, Morgyn Wuori, at 612-642-2970. Interested parties can also email programs@snakediscovery.com.

# Two new directors; SWCE hosts 89th annual meeting

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric members in attendance for the co-op's 89th annual meeting at its headquarters in Owatonna Tuesday, June 3, learned the results of the co-op's mail-in ballot for three director seats.

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Attorney Tricia Lancaster announced to the 487 registered members in attendance that a total of 1,304 mail-in ballots were received by Survey & Ballot Systems, who managed and audited the results. In District 2, Anton H. Seykora of rural Elendale was elected to a three-year term with 720 votes to 549 for Candidate Lianne M. Possin of rural New Richland. District 4 Incumbent Dennis C. Ringhofer of rural Owatonna was unopposed and re-elected to a three-year term with 1,177 votes. In District 6, Weston L.

Wilson of rural Owatonna was elected to a three-year term with 544 votes; candidates Alex Ebenhoh of rural Claremont and Michael T. Herman of Owatonna received 507 and 202 votes respectively.

With guests, the co-op's annual meeting had 1,024 in attendance. Steele-Waseca's 2024 Youth Tour Delegate Langston Richter of Faribault had a PowerPoint presentation on his experience last year in Washington, D.C. Steele-Waseca Member Services Supervisor Randy Sobrack announced no applications were received for the 2025 Youth Tour and announced changes were being developed to encourage applications for the Tour in 2026.

The annual meeting included member approval of the co-op's financial report, and remarks



Elected to the SWCE board of directors June 3 were (from left): Anton Seykora, District 2; Dennis Ringhofer, District 4; and Weston Wilson, District 6.

from General Manager Syd Briggs regarding a summary of the past year for Steele-Waseca and plans in the works for the upcoming year. Following the conclusion of the annual meeting, the co-op's board of directors met for their reorganizational meeting, which included no officer changes. Continuing is Rodney D. Krell of Blooming Prairie, president; PJ Duchene of Faribault, vice

president; Ronald D. Sommers of Northfield, secretary/treasurer; and Scott J. Carlson of Faribault, assistant secretary/treasurer.

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric has nearly 12,000 service locations in a nine-county area including: Blue Earth, Dodge, Faribault, Freeborn, Goodhue, LeSueur, Rice, Steele, and Waseca counties.

## Attend the Church of your Choice!

**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: lcwaseca@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 Schandl 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.ldso.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. Wgrship

**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

**NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.**



Janesville

1925

- Janesville High School clinched its place at the top of the league standings column last Thursday afternoon when they defeated the Waseca High School 11 to 6. The local boys had quite a scare thrown into their camp in the first inning when the county-seaters marked up five counters on a couple of hits and a little loose fielding on the part of the local infield. Not much time was wasted in overcoming that awesome lead, however, the Janesville heavy duty bats being brought into action for as fierce a cannonading as has been seen at the park in quite some time. Three baggers were as common as dandelions, while a home run was thrown in for good measure.

- The bridge over the LeSueur River between Janesville and Alma City, which collapsed last fall while Hoffman’s threshing rig was passing over is entirely replaced. Art Murphy has finished grading the approaches with a first class job that insures the maximum of safety. The bridge was built by R. E. Sullivan. The workmanship is excellent and reflects creditably on the Madison Lake contractor’s ability to handle good-sized jobs such as this was Decoration Day will be observed in Janesville Sunday afternoon with an appropriate program to mark the annual tribute to the nation’s war heroes. In these later years the ranked of the Grand Army of the Republic are rapidly yielding to Father Time’s advance, so that now there is but a handful of the Boys of ’61 to take part in the ceremonies for their dead comrades. The veterans of the world war have taken up a great share of the responsibilities of keeping fresh the memories of the Civil war fighting men as well as the later day heroes who gave their lives in France and in American camps.

1950

- Proudly displaying their brand new uniforms are the 39 members of the Golden Bear Band of Janesville High School. The new uniforms are designed after the West Point style and are black, trimmed in gold. The smart looking outfits cost \$2,500 which was raised by the Band Boosters, village council, and the school board. The Band Boosters, led by Mrs. Joe Dugan, sponsored a series of card parties that helped to put the drive for the new uniforms over. They also sold soft drinks at all the home basketball games to add to the amount.

- About 20 public spirited residents of Janesville and the surrounding community turned up Tuesday afternoon to assist in cleaning up and improving Lakeside Park. The group built a large pier for fishermen, as well as cleaned out the brush from the lake to the top of the east side of the park. Plans are now under way to install wooden steps to enable visitors in the park to take the shortcut to and from the lake. Tree trimming and a general cleaning up of the premises was also taken care of during the afternoon.

- Miss Mavis Halverson has completed a three-year course in nursing at Hamline University School of Nursing and will graduate with the senior class of 1950. She is a graduate of the Janesville high school. Graduation exercised will be held Monday morning at 10 o’clock June 5, at the Norton Field House in St. Paul. Miss Halverson has accepted a position at Asbury hospital in Minneapolis.

1975

- Mrs. Sheila Strandness and her five children were counting their blessings last Friday night after the Pontiac sedan they were riding in was crushed by a portable fertilizer spreader and its load of dry fertilizer. The Strandness family was going camping when the accident happened.

- After operating the local Gamble store for more than 30 years as a “mom and pop” operation, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Schultz have taken their son, Leon, into a partnership agreement. The Schultz family will celebrate the new partner- ship with a three-day Partnership Sale here, June 5-6-7. “To celebrate the event, we are planning an outstanding sale,” Elmer told the Argus. “We will be offering customers outstanding values on hundreds of items throughout the store. Customers should watch next week’s Argus as well as a circular we will be sending through the mail. Leon Schultz, the partner, is no stranger to Janesville. For the past two years he has worked in the store and is acquainted with Gamble’s patrons.

- Four juniors and five seniors at Janesville High School have entered the competition for Miss Janesville according to Pageant Chairman Chuck Brandmire. The seniors are Margaret Johnson, Cheryl Erdman, Cathie Jewison, Connie Carda, and Karen Kottke. Junior candidates include Marilyn Manthey, Teresa Finley, Marie Seys, and Mary Ann Donahue.

We Buy Houses For Cash!

Liz Buys Houses Connects Home Sellers with Legitimate Cash Buyers Nationwide! No Repairs. No Fuss.



- Fair Cash Offer
- No House Repairs
- Quick Closing
- Simple Home Sale
- No Realtor Fees
- Convenient Closing Date

Call (844) 978-0683

Timing is critical.



When rain is forecast, do not apply. The Runoff Risk Advisory Forecast tool can help determine the best time to apply fertilizer, manure, or pesticides.



Learn more at [www.pca.state.mn.us/fishkills](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/fishkills)

Waseca

1925

- The story of a large mouth bass that was found alive in a cake of ice at Clear lake three summers ago won second place for V. G. Pickett until recently of this city in a fish story contest conducted by the Hennepin County Sportsmen’s Club.

- Minnesota’s oldest woman, Mrs. Louise Bickford Shequen, died at her home at Balaton, Minn., Monday at the age of 107 years.

- Under the new traffic laws passed by the last legislature and which went into effect June 1, the speed limit is increased from 10 to 15 miles an hour in congested districts of cities, from 15 to 20 miles an hour in residential districts and from 25 to 35 miles an hour on rural highways if conditions are favorable.

- Perhaps the most widely discussed Departments in Waseca High School after the “opening week” last October was that wherein up-to-date business methods are being taught.

- WANT AD - I am not responsible for any bills contracted by my wife in Waseca. – Jim Jensen

1950

- Five thousand volts of electricity knocked Lawrence Fitzgerald, Electric Construction Co. lineman, from the top of a 30 foot highline pole Monday morning near the Otto Frederick farm a half mile west of Waseca.

- Two Waseca men narrowly escaped death Monday afternoon when a tractor they were riding rolled over in the woods of the Ben Krassin farm 41 miles southeast of Waseca.

- Pea freezing started Monday at the Waseca Canning factory with the plant expected to be in high gear Wednesday morning. Peas were brought into the plant Sunday and two tunnels were used for loose frozen peas Monday.

- Howie McPartland’s Waseca Indians climbed onto the winning trail Sunday as they blasted the Faribault Bees 13-5 with Emerson “Pinky” Yess and Donny Miller collecting the circuit wallops.

- Two Waseca boys are in the county jail after pleading guilty to stealing 54 chickens from the William Briese farm, 10 miles south of Waseca in Wilton township.

1975



- Harvey (Bill) Walters was the lucky Wasecan who had the privilege of racing around the Red Owl Store for three minutes Wednesday night. He assembled a stash of close to 90 pounds of meat, worth \$150.34.

- The third annual Commencement at the University of Minnesota Technical College-Waseca will be held on Friday, June 13 at 2 p.m. in the UMW Physical Education Building. Speaker for the exercises will be Dr. David C. Utz, a member of the University of Minnesota Board of Regents and a physician with the Mayo Clinic.

- Statistics just released by the Minnesota Department of Education show all area schools to be spending below the average per pupil unit in the state. State and local operating costs varied from \$541 to \$1,515 per pupil unit in the 436 school districts of the state.

- Minnesota corrections ombudsman Theartice (T) Williams says the only way to solve the problems at Stillwater Prison is to close the institution.

- Wildlife officials at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources said today that its latest wildlife census shows ruffed grouse populations are climbing very slightly but that deer numbers are about the same as last year.

2000

- Senate Minority Leader Dick Day of Owatonna announced that the state will purchase the right-of-way needed for the Highway 14 corridor expansion from Eagle Lake to Owatonna.

- The New Richland-Hartland Ellendale-Geneva (NRHEG School Board held public meetings on May 30 and June 1 to discuss the possibility adding 21,000 square feet of additional space in New Richland. The additional space would be used for an auditorium, additional classrooms, athletic practice facilities and a lobby to connect the space to the existing facilities.

- The long anticipated dramatic, ‘Last Acre Ceremony’ (was) staged last week to mark the end of the five year soil mapping survey project in Waseca

In Brief

Tom Petty Tribute band ‘Fred the Bear’ at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm Saturday, June 21

Fred the Bear will be performing at the Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm from 5-8 p.m. Saturday, June 21. They cover everything Tom Petty.

Squid City Slingers at Indian Island Winery Saturday, June 21

The Squid City Slingers will be performing at the Indian Island Winery from 5:30-8:30 p.m. June 21. They are a folk/bluegrass/gypsy jazz trio from the Twin Cities.

Swim and Stories at Waseca Water Park Saturday, June 21

Waseca Public Library will lead a special Romp and Rhyme Story

Time at the Waseca Water Park at 10 a.m. June 21. Enjoy the water while sharing books, stories, rhymes, music, and movement. Water Park admission free with Romp and Rhyme Story Time participation.

Feathers and Strings at the JWP High School Tuesday, June 24

Feathers and Strings will be performing at the JWP High School in Janesville at 2 p.m. June 24. An assortment of intricate marionettes are the featured performers in this eclectic hunter Marionettes showcase. All ages welcome.

Ruby Eye Ruby at the Trowbridge Park in Waseca Tuesday, June 24

Ruby Eye Ruby will be performing at Trowbridge Park at 7 p.m.

New Richland

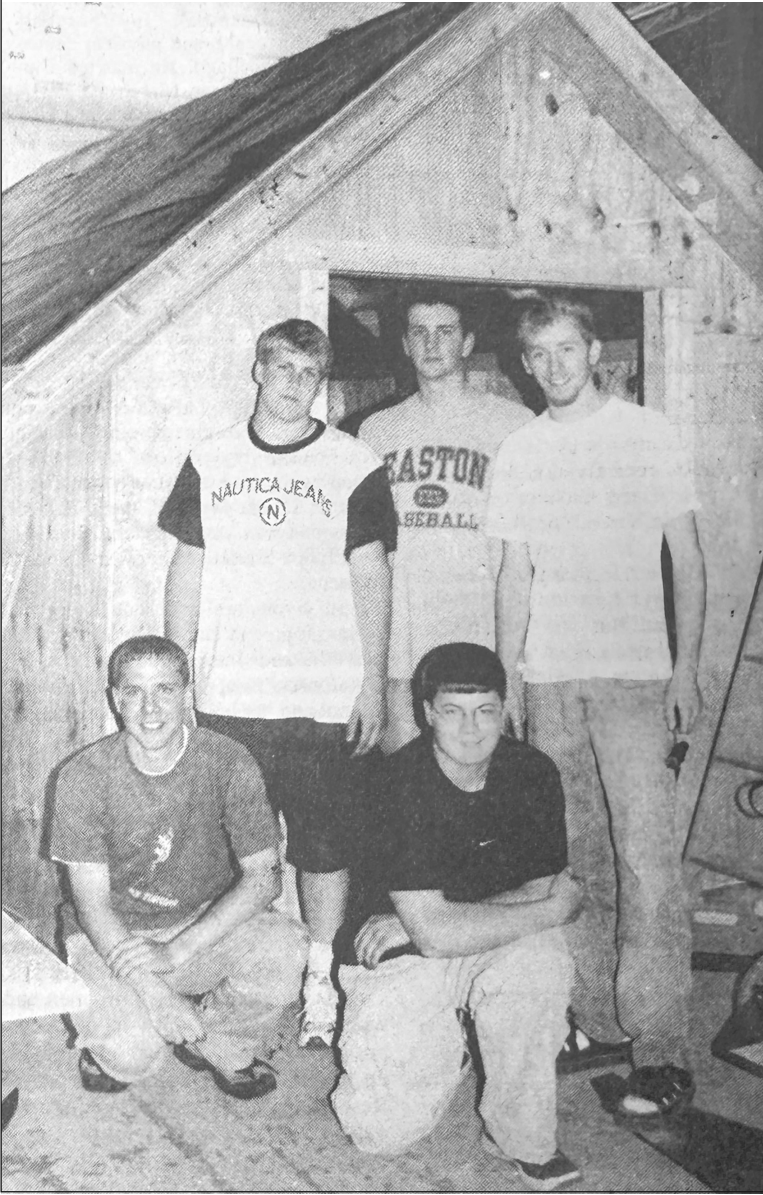
25 years back

- Annamae Gunsolus - Holzworth was voted “Teacher of the Year” by her colleagues at Menahga Public School this Spring. Since 1995, she has been a full-time speech/language clinician at the school. Mrs Holzworth grew up in New Richland, about 30 miles from the Iowa border. Earning a double major in speech pathology/audiology and German, Mrs. Holzworth graduated from Moorhead State College in 1975. That fall, she was hired by the Sebeka school district to serve as speech and language clinician, both in Sebeka and Menahga. Mrs Holzworth be-lieves success in education comes from the efforts of a balanced team. Mrs. Holzworth wishes to thank the administration, teachers, students and parents who have supported her throughout the past 24 years.



-Honor Student speakers enjoyed a bit of joviality before presenting their speeches Sunday afternoon during commencement exercises at New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School, here. They are, from the left, Nate Wayne, Jessica Kubat and Sam Glusica. They reviewed some of the outstanding events their class enjoyed and some of the embarrassing incidents classmates suffered.

- The following students were named to the third quarter A Honor Roll at Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton Middle School in Waldorf: EIGHTH GRADE: Ashlee Amundson, Tonya Balow, Gina Conlon, Laura Ewald, Julie Flemming, Samantha Fox, Jenna Monahan and Danielle Mulcahey. SEVENTH GRADE: Jenna Bertelt, Kristin Brady, Ashley Gerdts, Anna Hall, Sarah Lewer, Nicole Oftedahl and Amanda Rosen. SIXTH GRADE: Micheal Borneck, Janson Danberry, Dustyne Kruse and Andrew Majeski.

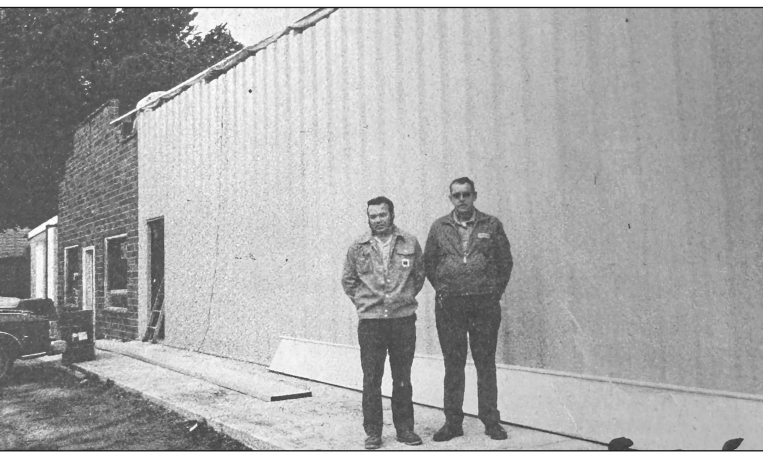


- These NRHEG Future Farmers of America pause for a photo in front of one of the last projects they built for the Better Our American Communities program - a storage shed for the New Richland Area Sportsmen's Club. They are from the left: kneeling, Paul Richards, Nick Misgen; standing Chad Neitzel, Matt Knudson and David Anderson.

- Waldorf College in Forest City, Iowa, has announced the 1999-2000 second semester (January - April 14). Among the students named to the Dean's List for the second semester was Rebecca Lynne of Hartland, a freshman.

50 Years Back

- Terri Langlie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Langlie of Hartland, took second place with her poster in the Poppy Poster contest at the American Legion First District convention in LaCrescent, Saturday, June 8. Terri won first place in the Heartland contest, sponsored by the Hartland American Legion Auxiliary. Doreen Batt was second, Merle Hendrickson, third and Steven Patschke, fourth.



- Dave Budach, left, is pictured here with his father, Gene Budach, owner of Budach Implement, in front of the 50 X 60 foot addition to the implement plant now under construction. The addition will provide visual parts display, a large machinery display floor and new offices. The walls between the older building and the new building will be knocked out, making the plant quite spacious.





SOFTBALL - Recipients of awards during the 2025 NRHEG Spring Sports Awards banquet.



GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD - Recipients of awards during the 2025 NRHEG Spring Sports Awards banquet.



BASEBALL - Recipients of awards during the 2025 NRHEG Spring Sports Awards banquet.



GOLF - Recipients of awards during the 2025 NRHEG Spring Sports Awards banquet.

# NRHEG spring sport athletes celebrated

**By ELI LUTGENS**  
Publisher/Editor

NRHEG Activities Director Dan Stork extended many statements of gratitude as he opened the 2025 Spring Sports Banquet ceremony at 6:30 p.m. the evening of Tuesday, June 3 in the high school gym in New Richland.

NRHEG spring sports were celebrated. Coaches from baseball, softball, track and field and golf all spoke.

In total, 13 senior athletes were recognized: Harbor Cromwell, Alden Dobberstein, Cole Hutchens, Jace Ihrke, Carter Martens, Sierra Misgen, Logan Schiell, Aidan Schlaak, Carter Schlaak, Gavin Sletten, Seth Staloch, Aspy Stenzel and Brock Ziemke.

Many well-deserved awards were handed out. A sense of gratitude en-

compassed the room as speakers, coaches and players reflected on their memorable seasons, and for some, entire careers.

The banquet concluded with photos and good conversation among the hundreds of students, parents, family members and coaches in attendance.

**Awards**

**Golf**

Head golf coach Brad Root shared that NRHEG golfers won 25% of their competitions this year, a goodly amount.

Receiving awards this year were Most Improved - Braxton Arnold and Alexis Olson

Most Dedicated - Shan Hansen and Olivia Wilkenson

MVP - Reid Sandry and Olivia Wilkenson



BOYS TRACK AND FIELD - Recipients of awards during the 2025 NRHEG Spring Sports Awards banquet.

- |                                                                                    |                                                               |                                                                  |                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Captains Award - Carter Schlaak and Shan Hansen; Olivia Wilkenson and Alexis Olson | liland                                                        | Honorable Mention All-Conference - Addy Stadheim                 | Panther Award - Jack Bartlett and Clara Buendorf                                                                               |
| Sportsmanship Award - Reid Sandry and Olivia Wilkenson                             | Softball                                                      | Sportsmanship Award - Chloe Stork                                | Captains - Logan Schiell, Jacob Karl and Cole Hutchens; Sierra Misgen and Quinn VanMaldeghem                                   |
| Baseball                                                                           | Golden Glove - Olivia Berg                                    | Track and Field                                                  | All-Conference - 3200m Julieann Wobbrock                                                                                       |
| Golden Arm - Owen Wayne                                                            | Golden Bat - Camryn VanMaldeghem                              | Most Valuable Track Events - Jacob Karl and Gabby Schlaak        | All-Conference - 1600m Jacob Karl                                                                                              |
| Golden Bat - Owen Wayne                                                            | Oil Can Award- Chloe Stork, Brooklyn Sommer and Addy Stadheim | Most Valuable Field Events - Lavon Jewison and Kylie Olson       | Honorable Mention All-Conference - Lavon Jewison, Gabby Schlaak, Brendon Schmidt, Anika Ladlie, Trevor Selover and Kylie Olson |
| Most Improved - Seth Staloch                                                       | Most Improved - Brooklyn Sommer                               | Most Valuable Track and Field - Harbor Cromwell and Chloe Riewer | Sportsmanship Award - Cole Hutchens and Sierra Misgen.                                                                         |
| Captains - Alden Dobberstein, Aidan Schlaak and Wyatt Larson                       | MVP - Camryn VanMaldeghem                                     | Most Improved - Jacob Karl and Kylie Olson                       |                                                                                                                                |
| First Team All Conference - Owen Wayne                                             | Captains - Chloe Stork and Addy Stadheim                      | Rookie of the Year - AJ Deena n d Peyton Frye                    |                                                                                                                                |
| Sportsmanship Award - Brooks Gil-                                                  | All Conference - Camryn VanMaldeghem                          |                                                                  |                                                                                                                                |

Photos by Eli Lutgens

# Clay target team awards picnic

The NRHEG Clay Target team held their fun shoot and awards picnic on June 4th at the Owatonna Gun Club. After a season of practice and competition this is an opportunity to shoot clays, eat good food, and recognize fellow athletes for their accomplishments the past year. The team had 56 participants this past spring and finished 4th in Conference 1 of Class 8A in the Minnesota State High School Clay Target League. Leading the team was Alden Dobberstein who put up an impressive 23 average out of a possible 25. This earned him the 9th spot in the conference for male shooters. He was joined in the Top 25 Male shooter category by Cade Meyer and Dylan Schroht. Leading the ladies was Ciara Stenzel with an equally impressive 21.9 average which gave her the number 2 spot in the conference for female shooters. Abbie Viktora and Gracie Luna were also in the top 10 while Nora Flatness and Aspy Stenzel joined the ladies in the overall Top 25 Female category. Each of

these athletes were recognized with a trophy from the team. Letter winners on the team were Charles Tufte, Aspy Stenzel, Ciara Stenzel, Abbie Viktora, Cade Meyer, Lia Johannsen, Gracie Luna, Brody Mudgett, Clayton Kaplan, Tait Michaels, Kaleb Hughes, Conner Louks, Dylan Schroht, Alden Dobberstein, Braxton Arnold, Chase Johannsen, Wyatt Larson, William Viktora, Aaron Merritt, and Keegan Peterson. The Top Gun plaque went to Alden Dobberstein. The Most Improved Shooter award was presented to first year shooter, Krish Champion. The team awarded two \$250 scholarships to seniors Aspy Stenzel and Alden Dobberstein. The team will lose just 4 seniors to graduation while adding a very talented group of 6th graders. The team now travels to Alexandria, MN on June 16th for the State Class 8A Championship where they will make their bid to qualify for the MSHSL State Tournament.



**Letter Winners - Front from left: Charles Tufte, Aspy Stenzel, Ciara Stenzel, Abbie Viktora, Cade Meyer, Lia Johannsen, Gracie Luna, Brody Mudgett, and Clayton Kaplan.**  
**Back: Conner Louks, Dylan Schroht, Alden Dobberstein, Braxton Arnold, Chase Johannsen, Wyatt Larson, William Viktora, Aaron Merritt, and Keegan Peterson.**



**Top 25 Averages for the Conference - Dylan Schroht (24th male), Alden Dobberstein (9th male), Aspy Stenzel (23rd female), Ciara Stenzel (2nd female), Nora Flatness (20th female), Gracie Luna (7th female) Abbie Viktora (6th female) and Cade Meyer (16th male).**





**ALL-CONFERENCE – Eighth-grader Hannah Sommers was the Bluejays’ lone all-conference player for 2025.**  
Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

# Sommers selected all-conference Bluejays’ Kuhns, Barto receive honorable mention for softball

Waseca eighth-grader Hannah Sommers was the Bluejays’ lone all-conference softball selection for 2025.

Sommers was named to the Big South Conference’s black (big school) all-conference squad. Receiving honorable mention were Waseca senior Siri Kuhns and eighth-grader Avery Barto.

The black all-conference squad: Rachel Johnson, 12, Belle Plaine; Brooke Burgemeister, 12, Belle Plaine; Kyla Skluzacek, 12, Belle Plaine; Ramsey Hopp, 12, New Ulm; Kenzie Enter, 12, New Ulm; Lauren Schmiesing, 11, New Ulm; Gracie Baker, 10, New Ulm; Maddie Backer, 12, New Ulm; Auden Anderson, 11, St. Peter; Ashley Liebl, 12, St. Peter; Nora Whipp, 12, St. Peter; Avery Lerfald, 12, Tri-City United; Cristina Cruz, 11, Tri-City United; Audrey Vosejpka, 12, Tri-City United; Laynee Blaschko, 11, Tri-City United; Hannah Sommers, 8, Waseca; Hannah McNab, 12, Worthington; Bailey Ponto, 12, Worthington.

Honorable mention: Sara Dallman, 10, Marshall; Berkley Wilfahrt, 12, New Ulm; Courtney Spessard, 9, St. Peter; Devyn Welp, 10, St. Peter; Caleigh Hoefs, 11, Tri-City United; Claire Hoefs, 11, Tri-City United; Avery Barto, 8, Waseca; Siri Kuhns, 12, Waseca; Megan Graham, 11, St. Peter.

The gold all-conference team: Ava Grant, 12 Blue Earth Area; Brylee Miller, 11 Fairmont; Gwyn Schultz, 9 Fairmont; Kinley VanDeVere, 8 Jackson County Central; Lauren Johnson, 12 Jackson County Central; Bailey Finck, 11 Jackson County Central; Mady Wachal, 10 Jackson County Central; Hadley Wachal, 11 Jackson County Central; Ella Reisdorfer, 12 Luverne; Payton Behr, 12 Luverne; Jocelyn Altman, 11 Luverne; Kayssa Douty, 10 Pipestone; Mariah Moeller, 12 Pipestone; Ava Meier, 10 Redwood Valley; Laney Bowers, 11 St. James; Emma Mohwinkel, 12 St. James; Charlee Huska, 12 Windom; Anja Nielsen, 11 Windom.

Honorable mention: Gabby Leiding, 12 Fairmont; Brielle Tufvesson, 9 Jackson County Central; Brilee Rieck, 10 Pipestone; Kendall Swann, 9 Redwood Valley; Elliot O'Donnell, 12 Windom; Reagan Machacek, 12 Blue Earth Area; Allie Kracht, 11 Luverne; Journey Swanson, 11 St. James; Izzy Swanson, 12 St. James.

New Ulm and Jackson County Central won their divisions, with New Ulm defeating JCC for the overall conference championship. The Bluejays finished sixth among seven schools.



Sommers



Kuhns



Barto

# Waseca 13U baseball team punches two state tickets

Gold squad qualifies by winning Slugfest tournament

The Waseca Gold 13U baseball team did not just qualify for a state tournament.

It qualified twice.

By winning the Albert Lea Slugfest tournament May 31 and June 1, Waseca received a bid for both the Gopher State Tournament and the MBL State Tournament.

“All the boys contributed in all games,” said Waseca coach Chris Nelson.

But, according to Nelson, that was not the most significant thing.

“The biggest and most important thing to come out of this weekend was the compliments we received from other teams’ parents,” said Nelson. “We had opposing team parents approach our parents and compliment our boys on their sportsmanship.”

The Waseca team includes Cruz Nesenson, Carson Roesler, Charles Galle, Luke Jeske, Trey Bohannon, Camden Nelson, Keegan Glynn, Brock Traetow, Carter Dickson and Hayden Allen.

Nesenson led the way in the championship game as Waseca defeated BOLD 9-7, going 3-for-3 with a double.

Waseca Gold came back to win despite trailing 4-0 in the first inning.

Waseca Gold 13U flipped the game on its head in the bottom of the fifth, scoring five runs on five

hits to take the lead, 9-7. The biggest blow in the inning was a double by Camden Nelson that drove in two.

Nesenson pitched three innings in relief, giving up five hits and two runs while striking out six and walking none. Bohannon opened the game on the mound, allowing four hits and four runs (three earned) over 2/3 of an inning, striking out none and walking none.

Waseca amassed 13 hits. Bohannon, Nelson, and Allen each drove in two runs. Roesler collected two hits, Traetow stole two bases.

Earlier in the tournament, Waseca defeated Prior Lake 8-3.

After falling behind 1-0 early, Waseca flipped the score by plating five runs on six hits to take the lead, 5-1. The biggest blow in the inning was a single by Nelson that drove in two.

Nelson stepped on the hill first for Waseca. He surrendered five hits and three runs over five and 2/3 innings, striking out nine and walking two. Bohannon appeared in relief.

Waseca totaled 14 hits. Nelson was 2-for-3 with three RBIs. Glynn, Galle, Nesenson, Bohannon, Nelson and Roesler each collected two hits.

Nesenson led the way in an 11-5 victory over the Bandits, going 3-for-3.

Waseca came back to win despite trailing 4-0 in the first.

Waseca flipped the score in the bottom of the first, scoring five runs on four hits to take the lead. The biggest blow was a single by Nesenson that drove in two.

Waseca extended its early lead with two runs in the bottom of the third thanks to RBI singles by Jeske and Allen.

Bohannon earned the pitching win for Waseca. The left-hander gave up seven hits and five runs (two earned) over four and 2/3 innings, striking out eight and walking three. Nesenson collected the save.

Waseca registered 12 hits. Bohannon and Allen each collected multiple hits. Waseca stole 15 bases in the game.

The locals defeated Woodbury 16-5 behind a multiple-hit game by Glynn, who was 4-for-5 with a double and a triple.

Waseca got on the board in the top of the first inning after Nesenson singled down the right field line, Bohannon singled to left, Traetow doubled down the right field line, and Jeske singled down the left field line, each scoring one run.

Waseca scored eight runs on six hits in the top of the third. Traetow tripled, scoring one run, Jeske doubled, scoring one run, Allen singled, scoring one run, Glynn doubled, scoring two runs, Nesenson tripled, scoring two runs, and Nesenson scored after tagging up.



**STATE-BOUND – The Waseca Gold 13U baseball squad. Front from left: Cruz Nesenson and Carson Roesler. Row two: Charles Galle, Luke Jeske, Trey Bohannon, Camden Nelson and Keegan Glynn. Back: Brock Traetow, Carter Dickson and Hayden Allen.**  
Submitted photo

Roesler began the on the mound, allowing five hits and four runs (two earned) over three innings, striking out two and walking two. Traetow appeared in relief.

Waseca tallied 16 hits. Nesenson drove in four runs. Traetow and Luke Jeske each collected multiple hits. Waseca stole 19 bases.

The Waseca squad upended Cottage Grove 14-4.

Nesenson earned the win for Waseca. The reliever allowed four hits and two runs over three innings, striking out three and walking one. Nelson stepped on the bump first for Waseca. The hurler surrendered two hits and two runs over two innings,

striking out one and walking none.

Traetow and Nesenson each collected two hits. Glynn and Jeske each drove in two runs.

Waseca was sure-handed defensively and didn't commit a single error. Traetow made the most plays with four.



**IT WAS CLOSE – The Waseca Braves lost 6-2 to league-leading Waterville at Tink Larson Field Sunday afternoon. At left, Kelvin Nelson (14) gives Tyson Reger (1) a high five after he scores the Braves’ first run. In the middle, Braves third baseman Payton Garza ranges to track down a popup at a windy Larson Field. At right, Keato Roeker (9) hands his batting gloves to first base coach Tink Larson after a single.**



# Pitching shortage leads to 1-2 week for Braves

What once was a strength has turned into a liability for the Waseca Braves amateur baseball team.

The Braves, who won five of their first six games with tough pitching, have suddenly saw several of their pitchers unable to throw for various reasons. The result was a 1-2 week, dropping Waseca’s record to 5-3.

The Braves hosted league-leading Waterville Sunday at Larson Field and, in a quick game, lost 6-2.

“We actually outthit them, but five of their six hits were for extra bases,” said Braves

coach Tink Larson. “We had just one error. Waterville has a good team.”

Erik Maas and Payton Garza each pitched four good innings for the Braves. Garza gave up no hits and no walks while striking out four in his four innings.

“The only bad inning was when we walked two batters in the fifth inning,” said Larson.

Luke Sellner followed with a three-run homer.

The Braves defeated Morristown 9-1 at Larson Field.

“The game was much closer than the final score indicates,” said Larson. “It was 3-1 in the eighth inning until we scored six runs.”

Tyson Reger pitched his third consecutive complete game and gave up just three hits while walking two and hitting three batters. He struck out 14.

Reger also led the way offensively with four hits. Kelvin Nelson had three hits.

Oliver O’Brien continued hitting the ball well in his second game back to baseball after not playing for the past two years. O’Brien had two hits and a couple of hard

line-drive outs.

At Austin, the Braves had, according to Larson, one of the worst Braves games he’s witnessed in close to 60 years. Waseca lost 20-10.

“We walked 16 batters, which might be an all-time record, hit two batters, committed four errors and had numerous wild pitches and passed balls,” explained Larson. “There is statistic that says if a team gives up five or less free bases (walks, hit by pitch, errors, wild pitches, passed balls) a team will win 72% of their games. We gave up 30 free

bases.”

But Larson wasn’t laying blame.

“It’s no one’s fault,” he stated. “We have five pitchers on our roster, three of them college pitchers, that are on the injured list. That makes it tough.”

Offensively, Reger registered three hits. Nelson, Keaton Roeker and Garza had two apiece.

The Braves host Austin Friday at 7:30. They face Blue Earth Wednesday, June 18 at Larson Field.



**Pemberton dinner with Waseca Soil and Water Monday, June 16**

Local work group meeting, Natrual Resources Conservation Service and area Soil Water Conservation District for Area Famers and Ag Professionals to connect with the U.S. Department of Agrictulture and NRCS Programs and Resources will meet at Main St. Plaza Community Center, Pemberton. Meal provided, please RSVP at 507-835-0603.

**Inside Out Party at Waseca Public Library, June 16**

Explore colors and emotions with Joy, Anxiety, Sadness, and other Inside Out characters at Waseca Public Library at 10 a.m. June 16 or June 17 at 5:30 p.m. Geared for ages 4-7.

**Minnesota Birds Block Printing at Janesville Public Library Monday June 16**

Parcel Arts will teach participants how to carve, ink, and print their very own loon or cardinal to crate a block print at the Janesville Public Library at 2:30 p.m. June 16. Geared for adults. Register at the library.

**Juliet and the Montagues at Trowbridge Park June 17**

Juliet and the Montagues will be performing at Trowbridge Park in Waseca at 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 17. They bring together jazz, blues, funk, rock and R&B with a classic, yet modern flair. They also cover Prince, Fleetwood Mac and Michael Jackson.

**Stenciled Book Edges for Teens at Waseca Public Library Tuesday, June 17**

Jump into the world of book stristry by stenciling the edges of a popular book for your home library at the Waseca Public Library at 1 p.m. June 17. Books and supplies provided. This free event is exclusivley for ages 13-18.

**Marble Run Legos Thrill Ride at Janesville Public Library Tuesday, June 17.**

Create a marble run that can make it from start to finish at Janesville Public Library at 2 p.m. June 17. This free event is geared for ages 7-12.

**Jigsaw Puzzle Derby at Janesville Library Tuesday, June 17**

Assemble a team of up to 4 players to compete in a jigsaw pubble competition at Janesville Public Library at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 17. The first team to complete the puzzle wins a prize and bragging rights! Registration required.

**Soy and Tech Day at Farmamerica Wednesday, June 18**

Please join other famers, educators and local leaders at Farmamerica for Soy and Tech Day from 9 a.m. till 1 p.m. June 18. Admission is \$5 and includes lunch. Learn farming techniques, reducing emissons, proper crop firefighting and more.

**Feathers and Strings at New Richland and Waseca Public Libraries Wednesday, June 18**

An assortment of intricate marionettes are in this delightful, amusing, and eclectic Hunter Marionettes showcase. At the New Richland Public Library, the show will begin at 10 a.m. June 18. It will take place the same day at 2 p.m. at the Waseca Library.

**Waseca Art Center Gallery opening Thursday, June 19**

Gallery opening featuring paintings by Carla Hanson Melander and glass works by Chad Holiday from 5-7 p.m., Thursday, June 19. This exhibt will run until July 25

**WIS Track and Field results**



The Waseca Intermediate School held their annual Track and Field Day Thursday, May 29. The results are as follows.

**6th Grade Track Results**

For the girls 50 meter hurdles, in first place was Olivia Brunner, second place was Josie Olsen and third place was Halle Barto.

For the boys 50 meter hurdles, Benjamin Dobberstein in frist place, Noah Love in second place and Ryder Monahan in third.

The 50 meter dash for the girls saw Cynthia Haines in first place, Josie Olsen in second and Eliana Grannis in third place.

The 50 meter dash for the boys resulted in Charles Helton in first place, Caleb Du-fault in second and Travis Lloyd in third place.

For the girls 100 meter dash, Gracelyn O'Malley came in first, Sydney Hayes came in second and Lauren Tegemeier came in third.

For the boys 100 meter dash, Charlie Janike came in first, Michael Vargas came in second, and Keian Klinger came in third.

In the 200 meter dash for girls, Ashlynn Lopez earned first place, Elly Schroeder earned second place and Violet Farley earned third place.

In the 200 meter dash for boys, Ashton Hayes earned first place, Benjamin Dobberstein earned second place and John Olsen earned third.

The girls 400 meter run saw Leilla Johannsen in first place, Kailee Fierke in second place and Madision Bailey in third place.

The boys 400 meter run saw Noah Love in first place, Kooper Nelson in second place and Chris Juarez in third place.

For the 600 meter run for girls, Leila Johannsen earned first, Eliana Grannis earned second and Kaylee Fierke earned third.

For the 600 meter run for boys, Kooper Nelson earned first, Chris Juarez earned second and Joe Harguth earned third.

**6th Grade Field Results**

The girls softball throw saw a record first place made by Kaylee Fierke, Halle Barto earned second and Lennox Swatkowski earned third.

The boys softball throw saw Cooper Nelson earn first, Parker Madison earn second and Crosby Srp earn third.

In the girls football punt, Izzy Gilson earned a record first place, Jaelin Conway earned second and Sadie Marie Skains earned third place.

In the boys football punt, Levi Rohe earned first place, John Olsen earned second and Logan Stiernagle earned third.

For the soccer ball kick for girls, Isabel Berg came in first, Eliana Grannis in second and Gracelyn O'Malley came in third place.

For the soccer ball kick for boys, Noah Love came in first, Saul Garcia Trejo in second and Grant Quade came in third place.

The girls high jump resulted in Elian Grannis in first place, Lauren Tegemeier in second and Aubrey Peterson in third place.

The boys high jump resulted in Ashton Hayes in first place, Charles Helton in second and William Deml in third place.

The girls long jump resulted in Elly Schroeder in first place, Macy Nelson in second and Avery Hill in third place.

The boys long jump resulted in Charlie Janike in first place, Henry Stenzel in second and Charles Helton in third place.

In the shuttle run for girls, Gracelyn O'Malley earned first place, Avery Hill earned second and Cynthia Haynes earned third place.

In the shuttle run for boys, Charlie Janike earned first, Keian Klinger earned second and Joseph Harguth earned third.

The gunny sack race for girls resulted in Kiarra Russell in first place, Emma Babcock in second and Joselyn Wiblin in third place.

The gunny sack race for boys resulted in Logan Anderson in first place, Collin Cords in second and Oxley Stuckmeyer in third place.

**5th Grade Track Results**

For the girls 50 meter hurdles, in first place was Aubrey DeRaad, second place was Samara Hoffman and third place was Cora Schleicher.

For the boys 50 meter hurdles, Gavin Loeffler came in frist place, Mason Martin in second place and Reggie Pickett in third.



The 50 meter dash for the girls saw Cora Schliecher in first place, Lillyann Jewison in second and Evelyn Mathes in third place.

The 50 meter dash for the boys resulted in Eli Androli in first place, Colton Barr in second and Mason Martin in third place.

For the girls 100 meter dash, Juno Revermann came in first, Megan Bowers came in second and Yllena Huntington Meyers came in third.

For the boys 100 meter dash, Daunte Johannson came in first, Blake Steinberg came in second, and Jacob Edholm came in third.

In the 200 meter dash for girls, Reese Roemhildt earned first place, Aurora Malterter earned second place and Emily Harguth earned third place.

In the 200 meter dash for boys, Cyrus Johnson earned first place, Beckett Foels earned second place and Gavin Loeffler earned third.

The girls 400 meter run sawAdelyn Hanson in first place, Bryal Nelson in second place and Samara Hoffman in third place.

The boys 400 meter run saw Reggie Pickett in first place, Ethan Jackson in second place and Dax Grams in third place.

For the 600 meter run for girls, Zoe Popp earned first, Emily Harguth earned second and Reese Roemhildt earned third.

For the 600 meter run for boys, Beckett Foels earned first, Hudson Grunwald earned second and Brantley Geyer earned third.

**5th Grade Field Results**

The girls softball throw saw Sophie McDonough earn first place, Megan Bowers earn second and Cora Schleicher earn third.

The boys softball throw saw Tucker Partpart earn first, Hudson Grunwald earn second and Brantley Geyer earn third.

In the girls football punt, Charlotte Ross earned first place, Adelaide Prescher in second place and Everly Kestel earned third place.

In the boys football punt, Joackson Rosenthal earned first place, Zane Torres earned second and William Dickerson earned third.

For the soccer ball kick for girls, Bertha Moreno Rivera came in first, Lillyann Jewison in second and Lillian Berg came in third place.

For the soccer ball kick for boys, Gavin Loeffler came in first, Noah Harguth in second and Carson Osborne came in third place.

The girls high jump resulted in Megan Bowers in first place and a second place tie between Nora Olson Kira Pelz and Zoe Popp.

The boys high jump resulted in Beckett Foels in first place, Dante Johannsen in second and Cyrus Johnson in third place.

The girls long jump resulted in Reese Roemhildt in first place, Adelyn Hanson in second and Samarah Hoffman in third place.

The boys long jump resulted in Owen Kelm in first place, Griffin Arndt in second and Jace Ulschmid in third place.

In the shuttle run for girls, Everly Kestel earned first place and Rosa Hinkhouse and Leta Hughes tied

for second.

In the shuttle run for boys, Brantley Geyer earned first, Ethan Jackson earned second and Noah Harguth earned third.

The gunny sack race for girls resulted in Emily Whitesitt in first place, Lilian Berg in second and Brynlee Dulas Spies in third place.

The gunny sack race for boys resulted in a record first place by Griffin Arndt, Blayden Tackett in second place and Cole Roers in third place.

**4th Grade Track Results**

For the girls 50 meter hurdles, in first place was Louis Rohe, second place was Addison Schmitz and third place was Betsy Koble.

For the boys 50 meter hurdles, Caden Sommers came in first place, Mason Bishop in second place and Luis Mixteco in third.

The 50 meter dash for the girls saw Kendyl Priebe in first place, Joeslyn Wiblin in second and Izzy Gilson in third place.

The 50 meter dash for the boys resulted in Mathias Arkadie in first place, Jaeger Johnson in second and Oxly Stuckmeyer in third place.

For the girls 100 meter dash, Lillian Henry earned a record first, McKinley Haefs came in second and Allie Hanson came in third.

For the boys 100 meter dash, Jaxson Lewer came in first, Caden Sommers came in second, and Mason Bishop came in third.

In the 200 meter dash for girls, Addison Schmitz earned first place, Sydney Selvik earned second place and Kendyl Priebe earned third place.

In the 200 meter dash for boys, Noah Jeske earned first place, Maverick Hoy earned second place and Trystan Kruger earned third.

The girls 400 meter run saw Ella Wilson in first place, Adelaide Prescher in second place and Jaelin Conway in third place.

The boys 400 meter run saw Wyatt Greenfield in first place, Tryston Johnson in second place and Luis Mixteco in third place.

For the 600 meter run for girls, Sydney Selvik earned first, Joceyn Wiblin earned second and Ellie Adams earned third.

For the 600 meter run for boys, Noah

Jeske earned first, Wyatt Greenfield earned second and Caden Sommers earned third place.

**4th Grade Field Results**

The girls softball throw saw a record first by Abigail Sommers, Joselyn Wiblin earn second and Ada Prehn earn third.

The boys softball throw saw Caden Sommers earn first, Collin Cords earn second and Kayson Grunwald earn third.

In the girls football punt, Brayleigh Kubb earned first place, Veda McDaniel earned second and Olivia Brunnerl earned third place.

In the boys football punt, Mathias Arkadie earned first place, Kasper Spotts earned second and Josias Vargas Garcia earned third.

For the soccer ball kick for girls, Madelyn McClain came in first, Sofia Hernandez in second and Madison Kronebusch came in third place.

For the soccer ball kick for boys, Wyatt Greenfield came in first, Trystan Johnson in second and Gabriel Callahan came in third place.

The girls high jump resulted in a first place tie between Ella Wilson and Kendly Priebe, with Nora Schultz earning third.

The boys high jump resulted in Maverick Hoy in first place, Noah Jeske in second and Wyatt Greenfield in third place.

The girls long jump resulted in Kimora Neal in first place, Nora Schultz in second and Betsy Koble in third place.

The boys long jump resulted in Noah Jeske in first place, Jaxson Lewer in second and Jacob Kummerfeldt in third place.

In the shuttle run for girls, Lillian Henry earned first place, Kylie Landro earned second and Abigail Sommers earned third place.

In the shuttle run for boys, Drake Passon earned first, Grant Hill earned second and Tristan Matz earned third.

The gunny sack race for girls resulted in Cynthia Haynes in first place, Alora Marweg in second and Elly Schroeder in third place.

The gunny sack race for boys resulted in first place by Grant Quade, Jaxon Grotberg in second place and Colten Bluhm in third place.



**COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL • NEW CONSTRUCTION • REMODELING**

- ☐ SHINGLES, STEEL, RUBBER ROOFING
- ☐ VINYL, STEEL, & CEMENT BOARD SIDING
- ☐ WINDOWS & DOORS: INSULATION, SHEETROCK
- ☐ ALL FLOORING: CONCRETE, PATIOS, DECKS
- ☐ SEAMLESS GUTTERS & GUTTER PROTECTION SYSTEMS
- ☐ CERTAINTED® CLAIMS SPECIALIST

GREG WILMES EXTERIORS LLC • BUILDING CONTRACTOR #BC793885

*“Footings to Finish”*

GREGWILMESROOFING.NET

GREGWILMESROOFING@GMAIL.COM

**(507) 202-7070**



LEGAL NOTICE

Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State  
Certificate of Assumed Name  
Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

ASSUMED NAME: Fuzzy Paws Boarding  
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 508 W. North St. Janesville MN 56048, USA

APPLICANT(S):  
Name: C&M Buds 4 Life, LLC  
Address: 508 W. North St. Janesville MN 56048, USA

If you submit an attachment, it will be incorporated into this document. If the attachment conflicts with the information specifically set forth in this document, this document super-

sedes the data referenced in the attachment.

By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

SIGNED BY: Jeremy Pavlic

MAILING ADDRESS: 508 W. North St. Janesville MN 56048, USA

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: none provided

Work Item 1563703900023  
Original File Number 1563703900023

STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
FILED  
06/04/2025 11:59 PM  
Steve Simon Secretary of State

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on June 12 and 19, 2025

Three collie male dogs for sale:  
Two - 1-year olds  
One - 3 year old  
Also:  
Collie Cross Puppies for sale:  
11 weeks old, ready to go  
Harlen Gekeler - 507-521-2560

Johnson  
APARTMENTS  
507-456-9514  
Operating in  
Waseca, Steele,  
Freeborn  
Counties  
johnsonrents.com

Got news?  
507-837-6767



Steve Fields  
Minnesota Attorney

**FIELD'S**  
LAW FIRM

**DISABLED?**  
We've Helped Thousands  
Get Benefits

**Contact Us Today  
For Free Advice**

Long-Term Disability  
Short-Term Disability  
Social Security Disability

**507-923-4169**  
[www.GetFields.com](http://www.GetFields.com)

**SUMMIT  
ON SECOND  
APARTMENTS**

FOR RENTAL INFO CALL  
**507-201-3474**

*We are accepting  
applications for:*

**1 bedroom apartments**  
*Income guidelines apply  
Vouchers accepted*

**2 bedroom & 3 bedroom**  
*Rent based on income*

Professionally managed by:  
**BRUTGER**  
EQUITIES, INC.



Waseca County  
Solid Waste and Recycling



**Free Electronic Device Collection**

E-Waste being collected during normal business hours.  
**June 2 - 20, 2025**

**Items being accepted:**

- TVs (Large CRT/ Large flat screen)
- CPU Desktops
- Laptops, Tablets, E-Readers
- TVs (Small CRT) and Monitors (CRT)
- TVs (Small Flat Screen) & Monitors (flat screen)
- Printers, scanners, fax machines and copiers

**also being accepted:**  
Keyboards  
Mice  
VCR/DVD/DVR Players  
Virtual Reality Headsets  
Exercise "Smart" Monitors  
Home Security Displays (CCTVs)  
Smartboards

**FREE  
COLLECTION**

Visit Our Website  
[www.wasecacounty.gov](http://www.wasecacounty.gov)



**MCAN**  
Minnesota Classified Advertising Network



**EMPLOYMENT**

**KMS PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
seeking High School Principal beginning August, 2025. Qualifications: Current Professional Administrative license. Submit letter of interest, resume, transcripts and three letters of recommendation to KMS Public schools at [www.kms.k12.mn.us](http://www.kms.k12.mn.us) through Frontline applitrack.

**WANTED TO BUY**

**WANTED:**  
**ALL 1970S MOTORCYCLES**  
Running or not. Titled or not. Will pick up. Cash in exchange. Sell now before prices fall. Call Dan at 612/720-2142

**WE BUY HOUSES**  
for cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 844/978-0683

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**GET DISH**  
**SATELLITE TV + INTERNET!**  
Free install, free HD-DVR upgrade, 80,000 on-demand movies, plus limited time up to \$600 in gift cards. Call today! 855/562-4309

**YOUR AD HERE!**  
One phone call & only \$279 to reach a statewide audience of 1.3 million readers!!!  
612-332-8844

**DON'T LET THE STAIRS  
LIMIT YOUR MOBILITY!**  
Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! 866/852-5506

**SAFE STEP**  
North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1,600 off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 833/966-3882

**SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642  
JUNE 2025**

| Sun | Mon                              | Tue | Wed                 | Thu                                                       | Fri                                                          | Sat                                               |
|-----|----------------------------------|-----|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | 2                                | 3   | 4 6pm<br>BAR Bingo  | 5 7pm HALL<br>BINGO                                       | 6 MEAT Raffle<br>5:30<br>Horse racing 6:30pm<br><b>D-DAY</b> | 7                                                 |
| 8   | 9 7 pm Post<br>& AUX.<br>Meeting | 10  | 11 6pm<br>BAR Bingo | 12 7pm HALL<br>BINGO<br><b>WOMEN<br/>VETERANS<br/>DAY</b> | 13 MEAT Raffle<br>5:30<br>Horse racing 6:30pm                | 14 <b>ARMY<br/>BIRTHDAY<br/>U.S. FLAG<br/>DAY</b> |
| 15  | 16                               | 17  | 18 6pm<br>BAR Bingo | 19 7pm HALL<br>BINGO                                      | 20 MEAT Raffle<br>5:30<br>Horse racing 6:30pm                | 21                                                |
| 22  | 23                               | 24  | 25 6pm<br>BAR Bingo | 26 7pm HALL<br>BINGO                                      | 27 MEAT Raffle<br>5:30<br>Horse racing 6:30pm                | 28                                                |
| 29  | 30                               |     |                     |                                                           |                                                              |                                                   |

**HOURS OF OPERATION**  
**SUN.- MON. CLOSED**  
**TUE.- 1pm to 11pm Tue. Is Lady's nite 2 for one-Men Busch light \$2.50 from 4 to 6pm.**  
**WED.- SAT.-1am to 12 pm**  
**POST & AUX MEETING 7pm club open 6pm MEMBERS only. Mn. Gambling license number 00385**



**GUARDIAN ENERGY**

**AMERICAN MADE  
FARMER OWNED**

[www.guardianrng.com](http://www.guardianrng.com)



**PH  
& B**

Your Trusted  
Local Law  
Offices for  
Over 50  
Years

**PATTON, HOVERSTEN  
& BERG, PA**

**ATTORNEYS AT LAW**

[www.phblawoffice.com](http://www.phblawoffice.com)

**Waseca Music  
COMPANY**

**YOUR LOCAL MUSIC STORE**

Band Instruments • Repairs  
Guitars • CD, DVD, & Vinyl

**507-835-2980**  
111 South State Street



**DJ**

**Daniel J.  
Johnson**

**ACCOUNTING  
LLC**

115 North State Street, Waseca  
(507) 201-2484



**WASECA  
FLORAL**

810 N. State St. Waseca, MN 56093

**(507) 835-3790**  
[wasecafloral.com](http://wasecafloral.com)  
[rickmorris982@gmail.com](mailto:rickmorris982@gmail.com)



**Rick's Appliance**  
[ricksappliancewaseca.com](http://ricksappliancewaseca.com)

**Sales & Service**  
**507-461-9615**

    
**AMANA**

**405 West Elm Ave, Waseca MN**

**13 NORTH  
EXPRESS  
LUBE**

**NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED!**

**1201 North State St.  
Waseca, MN 56093**  
**507-833-7667**



**DAVE'S  
Body Shop**

Waseca - Minnesota

**715 S State St, Waseca, MN**  
**(507) 835-8615**

**WASECA COUNTY  
PIONEER**

**NEWS FOR LOCALS  
BY LOCALS**

**SUBSCRIBE TODAY!**  
**(507) 837-6767**  
[NEWS@WASECACOUNTYPIONEER.COM](mailto:NEWS@WASECACOUNTYPIONEER.COM)

**PERSONALIZED  
PRINTING  
& APPAREL**

Bluejays Merch & Apparel | Custom Printing & Design | You Want it? We Make it!

**Barb & Mark Buker**  
100 S. STATE ST. - WASECA MN  
PHONE: (507) 835-7565  
[INFO@PPRINTWASECA.COM](mailto:INFO@PPRINTWASECA.COM)



**TGWET**

**GREG WILMES  
EXTERIORS**

[GREGWILMESROOFING.NET](http://GREGWILMESROOFING.NET)  
**(507) 202-7070**

**DENNIS  
STEFFEL  
OTTVEDT**

FUNERAL AND  
CREMATION SERVICE

**109 3RD STREET NE  
WASECA, MN 56093**



**Tesch  
Service**

**321 Elm Ave W, Waseca, MN**  
**Call Us! (507) 835-4610**  
[teschservice@mediacommb.net](mailto:teschservice@mediacommb.net)



Check out our  
Eco-friendly,  
artful, Paper  
& Bamboo or  
Walnut cases  
for the iPhone,  
Handmade in  
Waseca, MN!

[twigcase.com](http://twigcase.com) 



**SWEET - SOMMERS  
VFW POST 1642**

**113 E Elm Ave  
Waseca, MN 56093**  
**(507) 835-1811**



**PHEASANT  
CAFE**

• SINCE 1942 •

Great Home Cooking  
Catering • Full Breakfast Menu  
Daily Lunch Specials

**104 State Street  
Waseca MN**  
**835-1259**

**BATTENFELD  
LAWN CARE**

**ZACH BATTENFELD**

**507-521-0226**  
[ZACHBATTENFELD@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ZACHBATTENFELD@GMAIL.COM)

**JOHNSON  
APARTMENTS**

**507-456-9514**

OPERATING IN  
WASECA, STEELE,  
& FREEBORN COUNTIES  
[JOHNSONRENTS.COM](http://JOHNSONRENTS.COM)



Waseca America Legion 2025-26 Officers



Waseca American Legion Post 228 recently installed officers for the 2025-26 Legion year. Pictured front row left to right: Kent Schultz, Chaplain; Jackie Barbknecht, Commander; Gary Bohn, Adjutant/Finance. Back row left to right: Shelby Kaiser, First Vice Commander; Al Mettler, Second Vice Commander; Dave Schlaak, Service Officer; Stan Kahlk, Sgt. At Arms; Steve Welander, Historian.



Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) presented a May 31 ceremony at Woodville Cemetery in Waseca honoring John Oleson, who served with the First Minnesota Heavy Artillery Regiment in Chattanooga, Tennessee. His service ended in September of 1866, after the formal declaration of peace by President Andrew Johnson. After returning home, Oleson lived to the age of 94, dying on Jan. 11, 1940.

History group honors county's last living Civil War veteran

**By DEB BENTLY**  
News Editor

A small crowd gathered at Woodville Cemetery on May 31 for a ceremony which called history to mind. The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) brought together reenactors who represented a time in the late 1800s, not only by their dress, but by their use of words and behaviors which would have been common at the time.

The ceremony was similar in format to a funeral, lasting about 30 minutes. Roughly 25 people attended. The reenactors presented two ceremonies that day; the other took place in Albert Lea. Also participating were members of "Boy in Blue," a Mankato-based organization which also focuses on civil war history.

According to Gary Carlberg, camp commander of the organization's Minnesota branch, the SUVCW carries out similar ceremonies across the country. In Minnesota, they have been enacted in more than 80 percent of the state's counties, sometimes after lengthy searches to accurately identify and locate the correct name and grave. Carlberg explains many civil war veterans were immigrants originally born in another country whose names may have been spelled as many as four different ways across time.

When it comes to the SUVCW's efforts to verify the service and find the graves of union soldiers, Carl-

berg says a challenge directly inter-related with Minnesota history is the number of civil war soldiers who moved to the state beginning in the 1870s when, after the Dakota uprising, nearly all indigenous people were forcibly removed and their former lands were made available for "homesteading." Carlberg explains that, while most were required to live on land for five years before being granted ownership, union veterans could be eligible in two.

In the case of Waseca County, Carlberg says the search was quite straightforward. John [originally Johann] Oleson had arrived in Waseca County in 1857 with his parents and seven siblings; he was in his early teens at the time and worked on the family farm driving oxen teams to "break ground" for farming.

At the age of 20 in 1865, he enlisted with the First Minnesota Heavy Artillery Regiment, which grew to include about 1,700 soldiers before being sent to Chattanooga, Tennessee. The regiment maintained and manned heavy guns there as a defensive tactic. Chattanooga was originally in Confederate territory and had been taken by union forces; the heavy artillery regiment was stationed there to keep the Confederate army from reclaiming the city. The attack never occurred, and so the regiment never saw battle.

Oleson returned home to Waseca County. He never married and had



no children. He lived to the age of 94, dying in January of 1940.

"Our research is six feet deep," quips Carlberg. "We are looking for verification of the name and of their service. We're not looking for the soldiers who earned the most medals or fought in the most battles; we don't work to find out anything about their lives after the war or their descendants."

In addition to the ceremonial acknowledgment of the last living veteran, the SUVCW has made a project of acquiring headstones for any unmarked graves of union veterans. Carlberg shares proudly that the Minnesota camp has arranged to have the Veterans Service Administration (VA) supply more than 200 headstones at cemeteries across the state. He explains the VA will provide headstones for veterans at no cost; the challenge is acquiring the necessary documentation.

The funeral-like ceremony, Carlberg goes on to say, provides the military honors many civil war veterans never received.

"We think of it as doing something that should have been done 100 years ago," Carlberg comments. "We take people back in time. We hope it makes them think about how it was to live, work, and fight in those days long ago."

Along with the costumes and be-

haviors, the reenactment is loaned authenticity by a "volley" of gunfire using historically accurate rifles which use black gunpowder.

"When the ceremony is over, we bring people back to the present and they can turn on their cell phones," says Carlberg, who invites anyone interested to visit the SUVCW database at [www.suvcwdb.org](http://www.suvcwdb.org).



Farmamerica will host the world's largest U.S. flag kite

Farmamerica, Waseca Sleigh and Cutter, and Great American Kites and Events, are thrilled to invite the community to a free, family friendly kite festival on July 5 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Farmamerica, located just 5 miles west of Waseca.

The sky will come alive with color, movement, and awe as "Old Glory," the world's largest U.S. flag kite, weighing nearly 600 pounds, takes to the air in scheduled flights at 12 p.m., 2 p.m., and 4 p.m. All flight times are weather and wind dependent. If conditions are not favorable, a full lineup of other giant show kites will continue.

Event Highlights Include:

Children's activities hosted by Great American Kites and Events.

Interactive Family Kite Flying Area- Guests are invited to bring their own kites and enjoy the open sky!

Kite Store- A mobile onsite kite retail store offering many different kite products.

Meet the Kite Flyers- Snap a selfie and learn about the amazing kites on display.

Food Trucks and Vendors- Grab a bite and enjoy your day outdoors.

Entertainment- The Marv Nis-

sel Band will be playing on Farmamerica's back patio.

After enjoying the kites, guests are encouraged to take a hands-on journey through Minnesota's rich agricultural history. Explore the authentic 1850s homestead, ring the bell at the historic one-room schoolhouse, visit friendly farm animals, and peek into the blacksmith shop. Discover how agriculture has evolved from the 1800s to today and how it continues to shape our daily lives.

Whether you're coming for the kites, the history, or a day of outdoor fun, this free event promises something for everyone in the family.

For more information, visit [farmamerica.org/events](http://farmamerica.org/events), or check out the event on the Farmamerica Facebook page.

Farmamerica is a non-profit agricultural interpretive center that connects people with the evolving story of agriculture through educational hands-on experiences like historic farm tours, day camps, and family-friendly events, partnerships, and community engagement. The 360-acre Farmamerica site is located right off Highway 14 on County Road 2, west of Waseca, MN.

Farm

from Page 1

375 hamburgers and 375 pork patties. Ronald Spence and Dustin Schlaak were busy helping out by coating pork patties with Cookies BBQ Sauce over a charcoal grill. Not far from their smoky workstation, the burger men were also flipping burgers and checking temps. They pointed at the meat and said, "All this is from Neighbor's Meats out of New Richland." The smoke from the grills could be seen from anywhere on the fairgrounds. Besides the meats, there were bags of chips, string cheese, milk, water and popcorn. For dessert there were root beer

floats or M&M cookies.

Parked outside on the grounds between the drying puddles was green and yellow farming equipment, including a corn and soybean planter, a dry fertilizer air-seeder and a pull-behind chemical sprayer. Farm equipment was on loan from Kibble Equipment out of Owatonna and Gary Schoenfeld.

Additional projects for Farm Bureau Association are donations to food shelves, volunteer work at Farmamerica, and sometimes, when requested, visits to summer school. Said Schoenfeld, "We also help when things need to be changed in the Cities at the capitol, we're just one chapter but we do what we can for our county and our residents."

Meet your Dedicated Lending Team



Jon  
President



David  
Ag and Commerical Lender

Helping You Cultivate the Future

Lines of Credit ♦ Equipment Loans ♦ Farmer Mac

[mybankfm.com](http://mybankfm.com)  
220 Elm Ave. E  
Waseca, MN 56093  
507-571-3130



Experience the Advantage®