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Iconic cut

Waseca County Horse Thief Detectives meeting, 11:30 a.m. July 4
All interested area families and individuals are invited to a pot-luck meal and old-fashioned fun beginning at 11:30 Friday, July 4. Those not already members of the Waseca County Horse Thief Detectives society are invited to join for a \$3 lifetime membership fee. More information at horsedetectors.org

Lakefest at Clear Lake Park in Waseca July 4
Enjoy live music, food trucks, beer, seltzers, spirits, kids activities, volleyball and beanbag tournaments, boat parade, fireworks over the lake and much more starting at 7:30 a.m. and going all day till the fireworks.

Farmamerica hosting free Kite Festival July 5
Farmamerica, Waseca Sleigh and Cutter, and Great American Kites and Events are thrilled to invite the community to a free, family friendly kite festival from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on July 5. “Old Glory,” the world’s largest kite at 600 pounds, will be featured and goes up at noon. Farmamerica is located just 5 miles west of Waseca. Check Facebook for more information.

Miller and Borneke Trio at the Indian Island Winery Saturday, July 5
The Miller and Borneke Trio will be performing at the Indian Island Winery from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday, July 5. They play everyone’s favorites.

Todd Michael Jameson and Fred the Bear at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm Sunday, July 6
Enjoy Todd Michael Jameson and Fred the Bear at the Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm from 1-7 p.m. Sunday, July 6. Have some live music with pizza.

Stuffed Animals Workshop at Janesville Public Library Monday, July 7
Kids will make their own stuffed animal at Janesville Public Library at 1:30 p.m. Monday, July 7. Geared for ages 7-12. Register at the library.

Exploring Shapes at the Waseca Public Library Mon., July 7
In this creative workshop, kids will make two art pieces by exploring shapes and how we combine them at the Waseca Public Library at 10 a.m. Monday, July 7. Geared for ages 3-7.

Create Your Own Shrinky Dinks at Waseca Public Library Monday, July 7
Design a bracelet, necklace, or keychain charm to fit your personal style at Waseca Public Library at 1 p.m. Monday, July 7. This free event is geared for ages 7-12.

A word from The Word

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

1 Thessalonians 4:13





Wasecan Ralph Keyes works at one of the century-old looms he uses to make rag rugs. He regularly sells his finished products in a number of venues, including Waseca's farmers' market.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Resuscitating a dying art

Wasecan Ralph Keyes makes rag rugs on antique looms

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Ralph Keyes observes there are advantages to specializing in a dying art. One is that people are excited when they see it. “I hear it all the time,” says the Wasecan, who makes rag rugs using looms which were built prior to 1930. “‘Mom used to do that,’ or ‘The lady next door used to make those.’”

Another is that there is no lack of available equipment.

Despite having numerous sales and publicity venues, he currently does not know of any other crafter who makes rag rugs. He has also come to own eight looms, nearly all of which have been rescued from decades-long storage in someone’s barn, attic or garage.

“Every once in a while I get a call,” he comments. “Someone says they have an old loom and wonders whether I’ll be interested.

“Or they want to know if I can

“I hear it all the time. ‘Mom used to do that,’ or ‘The lady next door used to make those.’”

— Ralph Keyes

help them get it back in working condition.”

Keyes, 88, has lived in Waseca since the 1970s, when he and his wife Audrey moved to town so he could take a position as the school district’s assistant superintendent. Audrey worked as a home economics teacher. A few years later, Ralph ran for county commissioner and held office for about 16 years. After leaving government, he operated an appraisal business for 13 years, eventually retiring around the year 2000.

Rugs continued on 4



Kelly Boeddeker, executive director with Waseca Caregiver Services and Mayo Health System physical therapist Nick Rudolph were presenters during a one-hour session offered to area caregivers Thursday, June 26.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Caregiver Services offers senior wellness seminar

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

About 20 people attended a one-hour seminar at Waseca Caregiver Services that focused on how staying active can slow, and sometimes even reverse some of the side effects of aging.

Mayo Clinic physical therapist Nicholas Rudolph said even simple exercise can help people “get back to the ‘thriving’ part of life” after recovering from an injury or illness, or as they reduce sedentary habits.

Almost any type of movement is good, he mentioned, while targeted movements are even more beneficial, helping not only physical problems, but also reducing loss to cognitive skills and improving balance—thus reducing the danger of falls.

He went on to admit motivation can be a problematic element, even for someone like him who works with people who have been advised by their doctors to take part in treatment. He told the story of a teenager who was late to a physical therapy session because his electrical bicycle was not charged.

Rudolph offered a number of suggestions regarding motivation.

“Use something they enjoy as an excuse,” he proposed. “If they enjoy bird watching, get them outside and moving to see nature.

“If they want social interaction, maybe take them to a dance—or dance with them in your living room.”

He encouraged everyone there to regard opportunities for movement and exercise not as work, but as a way to engage in, or become strong enough for activities and interactions they enjoy. Another motivating factor, he said, is maximizing independence and remaining in the home environment.

Boeddeker encouraged everyone to consider taking part in an upcoming class in Tai Jai Quan, a set of coordinated movements and stretches which help improve balance, muscle strength and mobility.

Rudolph shared some exercises which he recommends to patients with limited mobility. One is called “sit to stands,” and entails simply standing up from being seated on a chair. “This one has a lot of benefit,” he said. “It works on all major muscle systems and uses movements we need all the time.”

Another set of movements he recommends are called “heel raises.” He suggested getting a firm hold on a nearby counter and then raising oneself on tiptoe and then lowering gradually. When feeling comfortable with the movements, he said the next step

Seminar continued on 4

Waseca man charged with attempted murder

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Franklin Richard Mullen, 45, of Waseca, is in custody awaiting his first court appearance on July 8 in Waseca District Court. He is charged with five felony level crimes including attempted premeditated murder after incidents which occurred in his residence on Fourth Avenue Northwest between 3 and 4 a.m. on June 24.

The victim, Mullen’s wife, underwent emergency surgery in Rochester and is recovering from a knife wound in her back that, according to the surgeon, came very close both to severing her spine and to opening her aorta, a major blood vessel which attaches directly to the heart.



Mullen

According to court documents, three city police officers and one county deputy reported to the residence after receiving a 4 a.m. call from a juvenile resident of the home stating her father was attacking her mother, and learning, while en route, there was a firearm involved.

As officers arrived, they encountered two frantic minors and one adult resident of the household who reported Mullen had possession of a firearm and that an ambulance was needed because Mullen’s wife had been stabbed in the back. The adult reported both Mullen and the victim were in an upstairs bedroom.

As officers made their way upstairs, they came across a male resident of the house on the floor of the upper level. He was having trouble standing, and related Mullen had issued threats at gunpoint when the female resident and he had entered the bedroom after hearing Mrs. Mullen screaming. Mullen had shoved him and the adult female resident out of the room.

As officers approached the bedroom, Mullen surrendered to them, saying, “Go save my wife, she’s dying.” He went on to say he had stabbed her in the back with a knife and that the weapon was still in place so she wouldn’t “bleed out.”

While some searched Mullen and found he was carrying additional weapons, others entered the bedroom where they found the victim face down on the bed with a knife near her spine in her back up almost to the hilt.

After Mrs. Mullen was taken by ambulance and Mullen was removed from the residence, officers found additional firearms belonging to Mullen, who had sleeping quarters in a separate bedroom from the victim, and who owned a gun safe which was standing open.

After preliminary treatment in the hospital emergency room and prior to being airlifted to Rochester, the victim revealed she and Mullen were in the process of a divorce which Mullen had requested about a week before. She described him as having become increasingly agitated and making accusations that she had been cheating on him.

She stated she had been asleep when he entered the bedroom in the early morning of June 24. When he awakened her by turning on the lights, she told him to leave. He stabbed her in the back with the knife, then climbed on

Charge continued on 8



Compostings

by Al Batt

Substantial news from the ‘Harold’

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS’ CLUB MEETING

We used to raise a couple of corn crops each year.

How did you do that?

We stood the farm on its end and planted on both sides.

DRIVING BY BRUCE’S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. It was raining cats and dogs—and maybe a couple of cows. I wasn’t trying to beat traffic. I hoped for a tie. A blink-long pause in the downpour allowed a couple of men wearing redneck toupees and driving ginormous pickup trucks that were far exceeding the speed limit as they tried to outrun a month’s worth of weather in a couple of days.

I picked black raspberries. Unfortunately, stable flies, also known as “ankle biters,” and a common nuisance in Minnesota during the warmer months, picked me. They have painful bites and target the legs and ankles of humans and animals.

Data at <https://wallethub.com/edu/states-where-people-spend-the-most-least-on-fast-food/146260> found that Mississippians pay more for fast food relative to their income than any other state. WalletHub analyzed the price of hamburgers, pizza and chicken sandwiches across the 50 states. Following Mississippi were: New Mexico, Kentucky, Arkansas, West Virginia, Louisiana and Alabama. Iowa was the 27th highest, with Minnesota resting in 45th place. Massachusetts was 50th.

I’VE LEARNED

If I’m punctual, there’s no one around to appreciate it.

I asked my cellphone for the directions to a cemetery where I could pay respects to a loved one. The phone voice did a skillful job and ended it with, “You have reached your final destination.”

As I looked at the restaurant’s menu, I heard the server say those three little words I love to hear, “All-day breakfast.”

A buttal requires a rebuttal.

If the flashlight on your cellphone is on as you enter a restaurant, you’ll get a senior citizen discount without asking.

We’ll always need coins to use on scratch-off lottery tickets.

Rocky the Flying Squirrel and Bullwinkle J. Moose lived in Frostbite Falls, Minnesota. Bullwinkle was born in Moosylvania, a fictional island in the Lake of the Woods, near the border between Canada and the United States. The ownership of the island is the subject of dispute between the United States and Canada, with each country claiming it belongs to the other.

You are lost when Siri asks, “Where are you?”

I enjoyed a piece of my sister-in-law’s toothsome rhubarb pie as her cousin talked about “scooter

pooting” in Louisiana as a youth. That’s a colloquial term, used in the South, that refers to casual socializing or going out for fun with a group of people. The term sometimes describes a group of vehicles traveling together in a convoy-like manner.

BAD JOKES DEPART-MENT

What’s the difference between a camera and a sock? A camera takes photos, and a sock takes five toes.

My uncle used to travel a lot. He was a good man, but a terrible basketball player.

A game warden rescued a man being chased by a grizzly bear. Once safe, the officer arrested the man for running with a bear behind.

The man who created the wind chill factor died. He was 86, but he felt like he was 75.

I went to the doctor with hearing problems.

He said, “Can you describe the symptoms?”

I replied, “Homer is portly and lazy, and Marge has blue hair.”

THE NEWS FROM HARTLAND HAROLD

A tornado picked on some superb humans, Glenn and Karen Ausen, of rural Hartland. Big weather has no conscience.

A substantial new building will pop up in beautiful downtown Hartland. It might be the new home of the Minnesota Vikings or the Empire State Building West. Or not.

NATURE NOTES

A glance out a window revealed a red-headed woodpecker, indigo bunting, northern cardinal, Baltimore oriole, gray catbird, blue jay and black-capped chickadee in our yard. I don’t question why I watch birds, but if I did, I’d find the answers in the beauty beyond the glass.

I rambled while wearing sandals because I love the freedom of the open-toed. I walked with purpose. An inspired bird saunter. My antennae were finely tuned, searching for magic doors to open. My heart sang as I glimpsed turkey vultures slicing the air thin. I watched as a meditation. Raindrops and birds are bolts of beauty. Proust wrote, “Whence could it have come to me, this all-powerful joy?” I walked several miles until I heard a vesper sparrow sing. I was soggy, but I’d reached my destination—an all-powerful joy. I located a red-winged blackbird nest with three eggs (blue with black markings) in it, which was 2 feet off the ground in a Canada thistle in a prairie planting.

MEETING ADJOURNED

“My wish for you is that you continue. Continue to be who and how you are, to astonish a mean world with your acts of kindness. Continue to allow humor to lighten the burden of your tender heart.”—Maya Angelou.



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

Mystified by God’s little creations

For the past few days, I have been mystified by the behavior of a goldfinch that comes to my window feeders. You see, I have two clear plastic little house-shaped feeders which cling directly to the glass. All year long, I enjoy seeing who pops into them for a snack.

Of course activity in the feeders is ongoing, but I am only paying attention a relatively small part of the time.

One thing, though, when I am at home writing stories or editing text, I sit on a chair only a few feet away. I guess I have to admit to a certain level of prejudice when it comes to my clientele; I am happiest when colorful songbirds appear. I remember a recent gasp of delighted surprise when I looked up to see a scarlet tanager.

I very much enjoy cardinals; they are my most brightly-colored regular visitors. But the red color of the tanager makes cardinals look as if they’re dusty, the difference is so stark.

Blue jays have recently discovered how they can make use of the window feeders. They’re really too big to fit inside, but a few of them have learned to perch on the forward edge, lean in, and shovel the food down. I had always blamed their apparent constant hunger on their large size, but I recently learned they may not actually be eating everything they’re taking. It turns out blue jays are a little like chipmunks in that they create small storehouses of food in various nooks and crannies in the vicinity of their nests. If that’s what’s going on, I’m led to be curious how much

less bird feed I would end up buying if they did not do that. I see a fair number of blue jays at my feeders.

Chickadees are charming because they’re so modest: They will land on a plate-sized platform of food, take one seed, and fly away. One or two nuthatches seem to have discovered they like the window feeder, but most of their family seem to prefer the feeders near the tree.

On the four south-facing windows in my line of sight, there are the two clear plastic stations and two hummingbird feeders.

All work stops when a hummingbird appears. I sit and watch as the bird hovers toward the artificial yellow flowers, then suspends itself in the air to enjoy the sugary “go-juice,” as I like to call it. Really, who can concentrate on anything else when such magic is occurring? There are attached perches, but the hummers use them maybe half the time.

And now I have worked my way to the moment of revelation that sparked this column.

You see, I’ve been confused, and maybe even a bit irritated over the past few days at the behavior of one beautiful little goldfinch.

Of course I love seeing goldfinches enjoying my offerings—their spectacular summer plumage makes me think of embodied sunshine. I purposely tempt them to my feeders by mixing a bit of niger seed, which I understand tastes like candy to them, in with the sunflower seed. Like all the other colorful birds that come and go, I take pleasure



This fierce but beautiful little goldfinch has been attacking his own reflection in Deb Bently’s windows for the past several days.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

in seeing them.

This one little fellow, though, keeps tapping on the window.

For the past week or so, I have been in the middle of something and heard a gentle “tap-tap,” then looked over to see that goldfinch at one of the four windows. Even though he wasn’t even always near a feeder, I was subconsciously receiving the message there wasn’t enough seed. But when I would check, that was clearly not the problem.

Still, there he would be, time and time again, tapping on the window. Sometimes inside the feeder, sometimes on top of it, sometimes standing on the windowsill.

He’s such a pretty little thing it’s impossible to be angry at him, so I suppose any frustration I felt stemmed mostly from not knowing what he “wanted.”

As I was watching him today, the answer revealed itself. I saw him look toward the window and lift his wings slightly upward, then lower his head. I was immediately reminded of the defensive stance geese or turkeys take when

they believe their young are being threatened.

As brightly colored as he is, his reflection in the window is probably quite distinct: He sees that fellow in the window as a potential rival and he’s trying to drive him away.

This morning I watched as he moved back and forth across the top of the birdfeeder threatening—and pecking at—that handsome little rival.

With the answer found, my irritation vanished. I simply took the opportunity to appreciate his vivid plumage—so bright yellow—punctuated by black wings and markings around his eyes. He’s a striking little warrior, even if it is impossible to be intimidated by him.

Still, I can’t help thinking he really has nothing to worry about. There are plenty of female goldfinches coming and going to enjoy the luscious niger seed. I hope it’s not long before he lets his reflection make friends with one of theirs, and goes off to find himself some real companionship.

Only 42 days until Colorado is home

Congratulations, we made it through another week. To all those supervising kids this summer, I’m sure you’re counting down the days or weeks. To those who are trying to enjoy their summer, I’m sure you’re not counting.

For me, it depends on the day. There’s a countdown on my phone of when I move to Denver. It reads 42 days as I write this. Some days I look at the counter and some days I don’t. Sometimes I look around my room or the house and think of all the things I must remember to pack, all the things I might want to take with me. Other days, I don’t bother looking, don’t bother thinking about it, and just sit in the sun and swap stories of our day with my family.

My sister recently started a new job at a daycare. How she manages to cheerfully deal with children all day, every day baffles me. The stories she comes home with are sad, hilarious and absolutely wild. Depends on the day, depends on the child.

Our reporter Ben has three children; he informed me the more you have, the more creative you get. I would consider myself already creative, thank you very



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

much, but it would be interesting to see if I have a creative superpower hidden away.

Our editor Deb called children “life’s largest learning experience,” which I found funny and unique, while also very creative of her. But I guess that’ll come with raising a couple boys.

My mom will come home and tell us which prison she traveled to that day to talk to a client and learn their story. Or she’ll mention the 20-plus page memo she finished writing. My dad might mention how many houses he had to cut power to, or which area of town he was in as he fixed lights or changed banners.

And I’ll mention what stories I organized in the paper, which events I went to. “I got to go to Aspyr Acres and watch a bunch of cute kids play veterinarian on a bunch of cute stuffed animals. I got some good pics.”

It’s just nice to come home and share with each other, check in. But I’ve been realizing it’s harder to do with friends.

When I lived with my friends in my apartment, it was as easy as it is with family. You come home after class, after meetings and complain about how much homework, which professor said what. You ask if they want to get food, get a sweet treat, maybe have a glass of wine and watch a movie.

But now, with miles separating us friends and full work schedules, it is a lot harder to do. Every once in a while, I’ll get a text with an update of their life and it’ll brighten my day. My best friend just signed a lease to a new apartment, she moves in in a couple of weeks. My other two friends are playing in a recreational soccer league. The other just got a job offer.

The details, however, are lost.

Tone is hard to read over text. No one calls anymore, and I wish we spoke more often.

And don’t get me started with trying to make plans. It’s like pulling teeth, speaking through a tunnel with a delayed response.

“Hey, are you free Friday? Want to do something?”

“.....No, I’m busy. What about Saturday?”

“.... Well, I have stuff going on. How about Sunday?”

“..... It’s Sunday.”

Of course that’s an exaggeration, but now that we’ve become “grown ups,” I understand the pain of making plans. It feels like more effort, so much more intentional. Which isn’t always bad. I appreciate more the sacrifices my friends make of their time to spend time with me, and our time together is limited but so much more treasured.

My Determination: “You never know the biggest day of your life is going to be the biggest. The days you think are going to be the big ones, they are never as big as you make them out to be in your head. It’s the regular days, the ones that start out normal. Those are the days that end up being the biggest.” -Lizzie Stevens, Grey’s Anatomy

In Brief

CredibleMind offers free mental health resources

All area residents are eligible to use free online access to mental health resources available at MNPrairie’s “CredibleMind” website. The site offers interactive, evidence-based ways to explore local and national mental well-being resources. Free and anonymous at www.mnprairie.crediblemind.com

Waldorf Veterans

Memorial Fund Drive

Donations are requested to support the construction of the Waldorf Veterans Memorial. Checks written to WVMP Fund Drive can be mailed to WVMP Fund Drive.

Shepherd’s Robe Free store Tuesdays from 1-3 and 5-7 p.m.

The Shepherd’s Robe free store offers clothing, supplies, and much more for free to all interested parties. The store is located at Vista Cov-

enant Church, 14679 275th Avenue, New Richland.

Waseca Farmers Market Saturdays from 8 a.m. until noon

Every Saturday until the fall season the Waseca County Fair Grounds will be hosting a farmers market from 8 a.m. until noon.

Waseca Public Library Summer Reading

Program taking applicants

The Waseca Public Library is again taking applicants for their summer reading program. Designed to keep reading skills focused over the summer. In addition to the summer reading challenge where kids and teens read to win prizes, the libraries will be holding events with live animals, marionette shows, music, crafts and fun activities. Sign up at Waseca Summer Reading Program Registration Waseca-Le Sueur Library



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

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Pan-Handlers Steel Drum Concert at New Richland and Waseca Library Tues., July 8
At New Richland Public Library at 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 8. At Waseca Public Library at 1 p.m. Tuesday, July 8. Experience the sweet, lively sound of the steel drums, which evolved from old oil barrels to the beautiful instruments we love today. Enjoy traditional steel pan tunes along with popular songs from The Beatles, Guns N’ Roses, and Prince. Geared for all ages.

Virtual Author Event: Raúl The Third at Tuesday, July 8
Join author and illustrator Raúl The Third as he discusses his book ¡Vamos! Let’s Go Read! at a virtual Waseca-Le Sueur Regional Library System event at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., Tuesday, July 8th. From cookbook demonstrations and comics workshops to mask making and language classes, Little Lobo’s library has something for everyone and Little Lobo can’t wait to show you. This event will be recorded and people who register will be emailed a link to the recording. Register at the library or at wasecalesuerlibraries.com/registered

Flower Crafts at Janesville Public Library Tues., July 8
Get ready for summer gardens with flower crafts at Janesville Public Library at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 8. Create a flower holder for delicate stems and beaded garden stakes. Geared for adults.

Pan-Handlers Steel Drum Concert at JWP Auditorium Wednesday, July 9
At Janesville Waldorf Pemberton Auditorium in Janesville at 1 p.m. Wednesday, July 9. Experience the sweet, lively sound of the steel drums, which evolved from old oil barrels to the beautiful instruments we love today. Enjoy traditional steel pan tunes along with popular songs from The Beatles, Guns N’ Roses, and Prince. Geared for all ages.

Textures Watercolor classes at Waseca Art Center starting July 10
Fun with Textures Watercolor series of three on Thursday nights from 5-7 p.m. beginning July 10. \$60 for members/\$65 non-members.

Rain Kings at Indian Island Winery Saturday, July 12
The Rain Kings will be performing at the Indian Island Winery from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday, July 12. This live music comes from an acoustic and electric roots rock band.

Lonesome Dan Kase and Whiskey Whiskers at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm Sunday, July 13
Music group Lonesome Dan Kase and Whiskey Whiskers will be performing at the Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm from 1-7 p.m. Sunday, July 13. Enjoy some music with pizza on the farm.



The New Richland Area Sportsmen’s Club recently funded the planting of three trees in St. Olaf Lake Park, with the intent of preserving the habitat there after oak trees in the park began dying. Rocks and Roots Landscaping of Hartland acquired and planted the elm, hackberry and maple which are now in the park. Photos by Deb Bently

Sportsmen’s Club funds improvements at St. Olaf Park

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

The New Richland Area Sportsmen’s Club recently arranged to plant three 20-foot trees at St. Olaf Lake Park in hopes of helping to compensate for the rather sudden loss, over the past couple of years, of about 10 oak trees on the property.

At the club’s request, a team of three foresters from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) visited the park last summer to check on the status of the trees, according to club member Lee Mendenhall. DNR forester Andy Kernan, who works out of an office in Fari-bault, was one of the three. He notes an unusual number of oak trees across Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan have been dying in recent years due to what he referred to as “death by a thousand cuts.”

One factor is that the trees are aging. Full-grown oak trees are more than 100 years old, and capable of living up to 300 years—the rough equivalent of a human living a century. The tendency over the past 200 years of local history has been the removal of trees, with not many younger ones being planted as land was cleared, so many current trees are past their prime.

Along with their age, Kernan says, trees have been stressed by recent weather patterns. In years of extensive rainfall, he explains, ground water tends to rise, drowning out some of the roots which extend most deeply into the earth. In years of drought, then, the trees no longer have the deep reach needed to find existing water resources.

Once trees are stressed, he continues, they are more susceptible to disease and infestation by insects.

The foresters reached a consensus there was no sign of oak wilt in the park, a fungal infection which can kill a tree within a year or two, and which is frequently either airborne or carried by insects. This is good news, he continues, since the fungus is highly infectious among oak trees and it requires extensive efforts to contain.

“Whatever’s causing it,” observes Mendenhall, “the trees are dying, and the sportsmen’s club wants to do what it can to preserve the habitat at the park.”

Mendenhall describes the pattern of scattered oaks with grass and other plants underneath as an “oak savanna,” a special habitat which, Kernan says, is known for offering both a certain amount of shelter and the



At least a dozen oak trees at St. Olaf Lake Park have died over the past couple of years. Though there is no single known cause, a DNR forester referred to the problem as “death by a thousand cuts.”

opportunity for a diverse variety of plants which support pollinators. Compared to how it once was in the region, Mendenhall mentions, only a miniscule percentage of the former amount of oak savanna habitat remains.

The beauty and environmental importance of the habitat in the park is worth preserving, he says, which is what prompted the sportsmen’s club to fund the purchase and planting of a maple, elm, and hackberry tree, each between 15 and 20 feet tall. Oak trees were not chosen for at least two reasons—they grow very slowly, and should not be susceptible to whatever is causing the oak trees to die.

“Our club members tend to be diverse outdoorsmen,” Mendenhall ob-

serves, “so we take an interest in the park and the lake.” He mentions the club also having funded the fishing pier and an accessible fishing dock at the park, having done upkeep on the DNR boat launch, and having built a fish rearing pond at the lake.

According to Mendenhall, the New Richland Area Sportsmen’s Club has more than 200 members. Founded in 1930, it maintains a park-like property east of town with practice ranges for pistols, rifles, and archery. In addition to charging membership dues of \$20 a year for a family, it maintains itself by holding fundraisers including an ice fishing contest on St. Olaf Lake and “fish fry” dinners.

WASECA SCHOOL BOARD

Board looks at ‘25-26’ budget

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writer

During the June 26 regular meeting of the Waseca school board, Superintendent Eric Hudspeth told board members about how the district’s strategic plan helps make use of resources more efficient and effective. The facility committee brought forth a recommendation to the board to have a full facilities assessment completed. The last full assessment was completed in 2015. Information and data from community surveys, enrollment studies, tax impact and timing considerations were taken into consideration by the facility committee, as well as the challenges of long-term facility maintenance. The board approved a 2025 facilities assessment study to be completed by ICS Consulting of Minneapolis.

Business Manager Sarah Brandt presented the preliminary 2025-2026 budget, comparing it with the numbers from the 2024-2025 final budget. Revenues in the general fund show an increase of \$313,977. Program expenditures show an increase of \$1,158,256. Brandt summarized her information by showing the preliminary general fund budget as just under \$28 million. General fund expenditures are \$29.1 million, bringing the district to a net decrease in the overall fund balance of \$1.145 million. The majority of this decrease will come from the use of restricted funds. The unassigned general fund balance remains steady at

School continued on 6



Jay Brown, owner of Icon Barber at 113 State Street North in Waseca, has been cutting Wasecans' hair for the past 16 years. Pioneer photos by Deb Bently

It's not all about the haircut

Waseca’s Icon Barber

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Jay Brown has owned Icon Barbers at 113 State Street North in Waseca for about 16 years. Brown, 61, tells of having worked in construction much of his life. “I bought a house in Waseca to fix up and sell, then ended up liking it here and staying,” he remembers. At that time, he decided to follow the persistent advice of his long-time barber, located in Mankato, who had told him over and over that he should attend training to become a barber.

“I gave it a try,” he says, “and I liked it well enough to keep doing it.”

Mid-conversation, young Wyatt Schultz, 12, arrives with his grandmother and sister. The group was staying at a Waterville campground. A few hours of rainy

“I gave it a try, and I liked it well enough to keep doing it.”
— Jay Brown

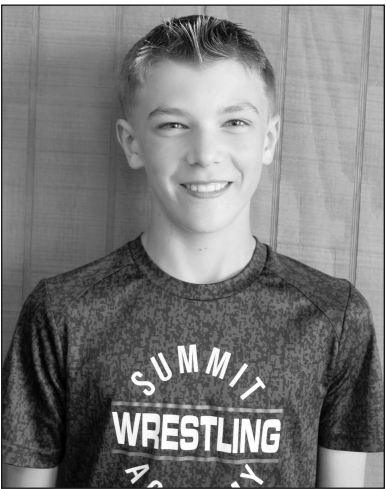
weather prompted them to use their time to get Wyatt’s hair cut. A sixth-grader and a wrestler, Wyatt had joined his teammates in coloring his hair blonde for a state-level wrestling invitational, and it had been growing ever since.

When they searched online for barbers, they were pleased with some of the reviews they found

Barber continued on 8



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OBITUARIES

Gary Gehring

Gary “Huck” M. Gehring, age 64, of Fairfax passed away on Thursday, June 19, 2025, at Cedar Heart Homes in Franklin. A Celebration of Life will be Sunday, July 13, 2025, 2:00 P.M. at the Lions Park in Fairfax.

+++++ +++++ +++++ +++++

Gary “Huck” Marlin Gehring was born on November 16, 1960, in Waseca, Minnesota. He was the son of Marlin and Beverly “Bev” (Helms) Gehring. Huck received his education in Waseca, Minnesota, where he played baseball and football. He was a graduate of the Waseca High School Class of 1979.

On September 7, 1985, Huck was united in marriage to Cheryl Hansen in Waseca. After their marriage, the couple resided in Fairfax. They were blessed with one son, Joe. Huck was co-owner of Four-Square Builders in Fairfax. Huck and Cheryl would have shared 40 years of marriage in September.

Huck was a scout leader and enjoyed hunting, fishing, and gardening. He cherished the time he spent with his family.

Huck became a resident of Cedar Heart Homes in Franklin and passed away there on Thursday, June 19, 2025, at the age of 64 years. Blessed be his memory.

Huck is survived by his: Wife, Cheryl Gehring of Fair-



Gary Gehring

fax, MN;

Son, Joe Gehring of New Ulm, MN; 7 Grandchildren, Shyla, Kamryn, Dravyn, Brynna, Carson “CJ”, Nolan, and Lynden; Siblings, Hoot (Clipper) Huntington of Owatonna, MN, Dude (Ed) Jesse of Waseca, MN, and Chik (Roo) Miller of Owatonna, MN; Many nieces and nephews.

Huck was preceded in death by his Parents, Marlin and Beverly “Bev” Gehring; Father-in-law and Mother-in-law, Russell and Mary-Lou Hansen.

Arrangements by Hauser-Hantge Funeral Chapel in Fairfax, Minnesota. Online obituaries and guest book available at www.hantge.com

Donald Korman

DONALD “BUTCH” MELVIN KORMAN, age 72, of Owatonna passed away on Thursday, June 26, 2025 at his home.

Butch was born on April 9, 1953 in Waseca to Melvin and Edna (Gehring) Korman. He graduated from New Richland-Hartland High School in 1971. Over the years, he worked for several companies including OMC, Corchrans, Mercury, and Winegars. He also enjoyed helping out on the family farm.

In his free time, Butch liked snowmobiling and spending time with his family and friends. He especially enjoyed visiting South Dakota to spend time with his good friend, Al Herrick. He loved animals, especially his dog, Snuggles. He was a member of First Lutheran Church in Waldorf.

Butch is survived by his sisters, Bonnie Truebenbach, Denise (Stan) Kluge; nephews and nieces, Mike Truebenbach, Terry Truebenbach, Kristina (Ryan) Whitesell, Michelle Kluge; great-niece and nephew, Julia and Adam Whitesell;



Donald Korman

and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother-in-law, Paul Truebenbach; and special canine companion, Snuggles.

Funeral service for Butch was at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, July 1, 2025 at First Lutheran Church in Waldorf. Visitation began one hour prior to the service at the church. Burial followed at First Lutheran Cemetery in Waldorf. Dsofuneral.com

■ Seminar

from Page 1

is to let go of the counter with one hand, thus working on balance. Another motion that can be done while holding onto a counter, he said, is a “marching” movement—lifting each knee up somewhat higher than is typical when walking, then very deliberately bringing each foot down in turn.

For those who feel ready, he offered the idea of placing the heel of one foot directly in front of the toes of the other foot. He also mentioned the “police sobriety test,” walking in the same way. “While you’re doing it,” he said, “work to control balance.”

As the session came to a close, Boeddeker thanked everyone for attending and reminded them to al-

ways walk “heel, then toe,” meaning that the heel of each foot should touch the floor before the front part. “If you walk that way, you’re pretty much guaranteed not to fall,” she said.

Waseca Area Caregivers is a program for those who provide in-home care for a member of their family or household due to illness, an injury or failing health. It is supported by numerous grants, and offers its programs, services and support at no charge.

Waseca Area Caregivers provides homemaker/chores, in-home and group respite services for a member of their family or household due to illness, an injury or failing health. It is supported by numerous grants, and offers its programs, services and support at no charge. Anyone interested in further information can contact the organization at 507-835-0015 or look online at wasecacs@outlook.com.



Mary Athey



Ann Staloch



Greg Schieber



Kim Nelson

SMIF welcomes new board trustees

OWATONNA, Minn., June 24, 2025 – Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) is pleased to announce the appointment of four new members to its Board of Trustees, beginning their terms in July 2025. These individuals bring a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to fostering economic development, Early Childhood development, and community vitality across southern Minnesota.

Mary Athey, Manager - Municipal Advisory at Baker Tilly, joins the board with extensive experience in economic development. Her previous roles with Community Economic Development Associates (CEDA) and as City Administrator in Blue Earth, Minnesota, have provided her with first-hand insight into the challenges and opportunities faced by small towns. Mary has successfully leveraged SMIF resources to support local initiatives, demonstrating a strong commitment to sustainable rural economies.

“I am most looking forward to being involved with the organization in a new capacity and supporting SMIF’s important efforts,” said

Athey.

Ann Staloch, a dedicated community leader and President of the Waseca Economic Development Authority, brings a diverse background in nonprofit governance, small business support, and youth empowerment. Her deep involvement in civic organizations and her tenure as Executive Director of the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce reflect her long-standing commitment to rural revitalization and economic opportunity.

“I’m looking forward to the collaboration that SMIF is known for as we continue to create a stronger, more connected southern Minnesota,” said Staloch.

Greg Schieber, Owner and Attorney at Nethercutt Schieber PA in Harmony, MN, adds legal and small business expertise to the board. Having returned to his southeast Minnesota roots after law school, Greg has focused his practice on real estate, estate planning, business planning and tax preparation and planning. His active role in the Harmony Economic Development Authority gives him a hands-on perspective on small-

town growth and succession planning.

“I am excited to broaden my focus and interest in rural community vitality beyond the Harmony area and into the entire SMIF region through my participation on the board,” said Schieber.

Kim Nelson, MPNA, Dean of Academic Affairs for Construction Trades, Transportation, & Manufacturing and Campus Director at Riverland Community College in Albert Lea, brings a strong background in education and nonprofit leadership. With over 17 years of experience as the director of nonprofit childcare centers in southern Minnesota, Kim understands the vital role of quality early childhood care in regional prosperity. Her work as a school board member and in higher education reflects a dedication to workforce development and community collaboration.

“I am most looking forward to collaborating and partnering with the other board members and communities to continue to support the great work of SMIF,” said Nelson. “I am also excited to give back to an organization that gives the re-

gion so much.”

“We are thrilled to welcome these four outstanding leaders to our Board of Trustees,” said Benya Kraus, SMIF President and CEO. “Their diverse expertise and passion for the region will help strengthen SMIF’s mission of building a prosperous southern Minnesota through economic growth, early childhood investment, and vibrant communities.”

About Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), a donor-supported foundation, invests for economic growth in south central and southeastern Minnesota, serving a region that includes 20 counties, 175 communities and one Native nation. The Foundation has provided more than \$170 million in grants, loans and programming within the region during the past 39 years. SMIF’s key interests include entrepreneurship, Early Childhood development and community vitality. To learn more about our work and mission, visit www.smifoundation.org.

■ Rugs

from Page 1

About then he happened to think of the loom once owned by his father, Raymond, who was a mailman in Sleepy Eye during Ralph’s childhood. After his workday was over, Raymond would make custom rag rugs for customers who supplied their own fabric already torn into strips, sewn into long runs, and rolled into balls—almost like yarn, but much, much thicker.

After Raymond’s death, Ralph’s sister had taken the loom, but admitted she had made no use of it and consented to give it to Ralph in exchange for a few tasks.

Because the looms Ralph works with occupy floor space about four feet on a side and stand about 4 feet high at the tallest, they must nearly always be disassembled in order to be moved. He brought his father’s loom to Waseca and set it up in his basement. It still stands there, and now has three other looms for company.

Another advantage to practicing a dying art is that he has been able to purchase each one for about \$100 or less.

Most of his looms are labeled “Union Loom #36, Boonville, N.Y.” According to various online sources, the Union Looms manufactory was active from 1916 to about 1930, when the Great Depression put it out of business. Reportedly, the company made only three types of looms—a small “home” unit, the #36 style designed especially for making rag rugs up to about 25 inches wide, and a high-end custom loom, capable of weaving projects 45 inches wide.

At its height, the company employed 160 people. The #36 seems to have been its most popular; about 40,000 were produced and sold around the country.

Ralph admits it was a labor of love to reassemble Raymond’s loom and prepare it for use. That

is, the complexity of the equipment, its disassembled state, and the many steps required to get the 360 “warp” strings in position before weaving can begin do not inspire dreams of wealth and fame.

“You can’t think of it as work,” he comments. “It has to be something you’re doing because you like to.”

He remembers when he wove his first rug nearly three decades ago, he was nervous about it. “I was always wondering if I was making a mistake,” he recalls. “I worried about whether the edges were even, and if I was keeping it tight enough.”

Nowadays, he says lightly, “I just slam it into place.”

By “slam,” he means the motion of pulling the “beater”—the loom piece’s actual name—against the material.

Another advantage to his hobby, he points out, is the different ways it gives him exercise. “Beating” is perhaps the most obvious, but there is also the persistent motion of feeding the “shuttle,” a sort of elongated wooden spool, back and forth.

“It’s probably lengthening my life,” he suggests.

Yet another strength of his hobby, he goes on, is that “the raw materials appear on my doorstep.”

People who know he makes rugs drop off fabric by the boxful, he relates. They also deliver it to him at his usual booth at the Waseca farmers’ market, or tell him about it and he volunteers to pick it up. He also visits thrift stores to keep his eye open for likely cloth.

“A fitted sheet, a flat sheet and two pillowcases,” he declares, “are just the right amount of material for one rug.” The combination, he explains, makes a finished product about 54 inches long.

Probably his favorite type of cloth to work with, he says enthusiastically, are chenille bedspreads. The bumpy fabric, he explains, creates a soft, bumpy texture in the rug. “People like it,” he says. “They always sell

“You can’t think of it as work. It has to be something you’re doing because you like to.”

— Ralph Keyes

really fast.”

A favorite no longer available to him, he recalls, were “trimmings” sold as scrap by the Faribo Woolen Mills. The company would make gigantic runs of fabric, he describes, and then cut edges away to prepare for hemming.

“Those strips would just go on and on,” he remembers. “No need to tear them apart like sheets, no need to sew the strips together. And they made nice rugs.”

Among the types of raw materials he can work with, Ralph goes on to say, are discarded curtains, tablecloths, bedspreads and sheets—with flannel sheets being particularly good. “Anything that can be torn into long strips,” he describes. Stretchy fabrics are not useful for weaving, and shorter garments like shirts do not tear apart smoothly into strips.

He makes a fair number of rugs from blue jeans. “They make very durable finished rugs, but they are more work to prepare,” he comments, noting that the pockets must be removed and the various seams dealt with.

In addition to farmers’ markets in Waseca and Mankato, Ralph also finds sale venues in Florida, where he and Audrey spend part of the winter. He notices distinct preferences in the two markets.

One highlights the differences in the soil. “Up here, people tell me my rugs are too light-colored,” he says. “Down there, they tell me they’re too dark.”

In general, people in Florida seem to use fewer rugs, he comments, so he makes smaller items like table runners and, in one case, a piano bench cover.

Another smaller product he finds a market for is a rug roughly two feet on a side.

“The wives tell me their husbands wear out the carpets kicking and stamping their feet when they watch the football games,” says Ralph. “So they put it in

front of their chairs to protect the carpeting.”

Ralph says “I wish I knew” when asked about how many rugs he’s made over the past three decades, but estimates each typical-sized rug requires about four hours of work—two to tear the fabric into strips and then sew the strips end to end and two to weave them.

That estimate is also hard to tie down, since he seldom works on any one task for more than 30 minutes at a time. “If I feel like I’ve done enough of this one thing, I switch over and do another.” That’s why, he says, there are four looms in his basement: he persistently keeps at least four projects going at once.

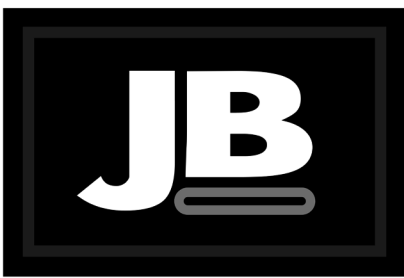
Being one of few people acquainted with looms has brought him a certain amount of notoriety. He gets calls even from nearby states asking whether he can help rehabilitate a loom or teach someone to use it.

He has a regular gig at Farmamerica, where he sets his loom up in the shade of the apple tree on the 1800s farmstead and demonstrates what it takes to weave a rug. He says he especially enjoys watching children’s faces as they see all the steps of the project come together, or are fascinated by the slamming sound and motion of the beater.

He apparently also enjoys the unpredictability that comes along with the requests for help.

“One lady asked me if I would teach her how to weave,” he recalls. “I got to her house and she showed me the loom—it was all in pieces. Instead, I got a good start on putting the loom together.”

One lesson he is particularly looking forward to is in response to a request from his 26-year-old granddaughter, who said she would like to learn to weave. “I got a loom for her, and I’m getting it ready,” he says. “I’ll be delivering it to her sometime soon.”



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Martens leaves for Blooming Prairie position

The City of Blooming Prairie has offered the position of city administration to Anthony Martens, who has been the New Richland city administrator for the past few years.

A contract won't be official until signed at the July 14 Blooming Prairie City Council meeting.



Martens

Martens has more than 20 years of experience in municipal and county operations, as well as expertise in public administration, emergency management and strategic leadership.

His other roles include chief of police and emergency management director; Martens has a master's degree in public administration with a specialization in emergency management. He has led initiatives in economic development, public safety and intergovernmental coordination.

Ice Cream Social at North Waseca Lutheran Church Sunday, July 13

There will be an Ice Cream Social at the North Waseca Lutheran Church from 3-6 p.m. Sunday, July 13. Pulled pork sandwiches, potato salad, baked beans, ice cream and pie with lemonade and coffee. Adults \$10, kids 6-11 \$5, kids 5 and under free.

New Richland Farm and City Days July 18 to 20

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

Mal Murphy performing at Indian Island Winery Sunday, July 20

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

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

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

Waseca Lions Club Golf Tournament at Lakeside Club July 24

Join the Waseca Lions Club for their Golf Tournament at the Waseca Lakeside Club, shotgun start at noon. \$100 gets golf, cart, lunch and apps. Must be registered by July 15. Questions, wasecalionsclub3079@gmail.com.

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

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

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Fairboard Secretary/Treasurer Robin Dulas, Discover Waseca Tourism President, Mikhail Rostislavovich, Fairboard President Mike Harguth, Fairboard and Tourism Members.

Discover Waseca Tourism awards \$4,500 grant to County Free Fair

WASECA, MN — Discover Waseca Tourism has proudly awarded a \$4,500 grant to the Waseca County Free Fair to support the Free Entertainment Stage. This grant aims to help promote one of Waseca County's most cherished and well-attended events.

"The Waseca County Free Fair brings thousands of people to our community every year," said Mikhail Rostislavovich, President of Discover Waseca Tourism. "We're proud to support this event, which not only offers fun for all ages but plays a key role in boosting our local economy through tourism and hospitality."

The grant, part of the Tourism Board's ongoing commitment to enhancing local events and increasing visitor engagement, will help amplify awareness of the fair's free live entertainment—an annual highlight that draws families, music lovers,

and fairgoers from across the region.

Mike Harguth, President of the Waseca County Fair Board, expressed appreciation for the support. "This generous grant from Discover Waseca Tourism helps us continue to offer a high-quality fair experience for everyone. We're grateful for the partnership and shared commitment to making the Waseca County Free Fair a destination event."

The Waseca County Free Fair re-

mains the largest community gathering in the county, offering live entertainment, agricultural exhibits, carnival rides, food vendors, and family-friendly activities.

For more information about the Waseca County Free Fair, visit wasecacountyfreefair.com.

To learn more about Discover Waseca Tourism, visit discover-waseca.com.



President & CEO of Keen Bank, Bernie Gaytko, presents board members of Oak Hill Community Connections with a \$10,000 donation—a partnership between Keen Bank and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines' Member Impact Fund.

Keen Bank helps award Oak Hill Community Connections \$10,000 through Member Impact Fund

June 17, 2025 (Waseca, MN) — Keen Bank, in partnership with Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines (FHLB Des Moines), is pleased to announce that Oak Hill Community Connections of Steele County will receive a \$10,000 grant from the Member Impact Fund. This matching grant program will result in FHLB Des Moines awarding \$20 million in funding to support affordable housing and community development in Minnesota.

"The greatest thing we can do as a community is to extend a helping hand to those in need," said Bernie Gaytko, President & CEO of Keen Bank. "As a community bank, we were thrilled to leverage our donation with the Member Impact Fund to help such a wonderful cause and provide much needed services for those in need in Steele County."

Oak Hill Community Connections is a community-based nonprofit that will provide short-term housing with a co-location resource center for agencies supporting many of the same families and individuals. Services include housing, mental health

needs, physical health needs, food and clothing resources, employment services and more. Coming together under one roof will allow for great collaboration between providers as well as reduce the operational costs due to the shared facility and financial efficiencies it will create—narrowing the gap between services offered and the people who need them.

FHLB Des Moines provides funding solutions to more than 1,200 members to support mortgage lending, economic development and affordable housing in the communities they serve. The Member Impact Fund provides FHLB Des Moines members up to \$3 for every \$1 in matching grant donations to strengthen the ability of not-for-profits or government entities to support the needs of their communities.

"The Member Impact Fund continues to be a powerful resource in supporting our members as they expand access to affordable housing and drive community development," says Kris Williams, president and CEO of FHLB Des Moines. "It's in-

spiring to see the partnerships centered around improving local communities in such a variety of ways."

Recipient organizations were selected based on the needs for grant funding to support capacity-building or working capital necessary to strengthen their ability to serve affordable housing or community development needs including job training, affordable housing, financial literacy, food banks and youth programs.

This member matching grant program is part of FHLB Des Moines' ongoing mission to offer a variety of funding options through its members. Since its founding in 2023, the Member Impact Fund has supported affordable housing and community development with nearly \$70 million in grants awarded by FHLB Des Moines. Member institutions apply and receive Member Impact Fund matching grants to be distributed to eligible organizations alongside their own grant contribution.

About Keen Bank
Keen Bank is a local, family-

owned and managed bank that has been proudly serving southern Minnesota since 1874 with three locations in Waseca, Owatonna and Ellendale. Their commitment

to customers, responsiveness to find solutions and genuine willingness to help is the makeup of their organization. Keen Bank meets the needs of customers while maintaining the personal aspects of service that are synonymous with community banking. For more information visit keen.bank.
Member FDIC

About FHLB
FHLB Des Moines is one of 11 regional banks that make up the Federal Home Loan Bank System. Members include community and commercial banks, credit unions, insurance companies, thrifts and community development financial institutions. FHLB Des Moines is wholly owned by its members and receives no taxpayer funding. For additional information about FHLB Des Moines, please visit fhldm.com.

Lions Club features golf tournament, more

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editorial Assistant

Founded in 1927 and one of the oldest of its kind in Minnesota, the Waseca Lions Club is hosting its annual golf tournament July 24 at the Lakeside Golf Course in Waseca. For \$100 per participant, a hopeful golfer can make use of a golf cart and enjoy a provided lunch. Businesses and organizations are welcome to sponsor a hole for \$125, prominently displaying their company name. Last year, the tournament included 15 teams. This year the Lions claim to have placed an order for ideal weather.

While this event may be one of two fundraisers the club hosts all year, they do a lot more that may go unseen.

The golf tournament and a pancake breakfast are the club's only fundraisers, and are very popular events, according to past club president Diane Beckmann.

"A small group of people, but we get a lot done," Beckmann said.

Thanks to their fundraisers, the public service group is able to assist organizations and activities in Waseca. The Lions Club gives annual scholarships, supports the Scouts, provides dictionaries for all third graders, works with the Can Do Canines, and helps with Thanksgiving food baskets, Journey for Service, Project New Hope and they helped fund the Waseca High School Robotics Team.

The Lions also partner with Drs. Akre and Clark Eye Care to help provide around four students a year with glasses and eye exams; the club was instrumental in starting the fund drive for the March food challenge which donates to the Waseca Area Food Shelf.

"Food insecurities have always been my passion," Beckmann said. "A kid can't learn if they're hungry."

The group started with supplying a snack for the Backpack program, with every Lion asked to bring in a package of Goldfish crackers as the program needed 100 for a weekend.

The Lions came through with 600 packages.

"All you have to do is ask," Beckmann explained.

From there, the Lions challenged other service organizations and businesses in Waseca—the generosity of all working together brought in \$30,000 worth of food this past March.

Along with that, the club supports the diabetes foundation, hearing foundation and cancer foundation.

The Lions' mission statement is "To create and foster a spirit of understanding among all people for humanitarian needs by providing voluntary services through community involvement and international cooperation."

The Lions Club does not meet during the summer, but meets every first and third Wednesday of the month starting in September. Beckmann said they are always looking for new members.

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The Pastor's Column

Spirituality and the art of lawn maintenance

**By Mike Coglan
Pastor, Real Life Church**

I attract attention when I mow my lawn wearing a backpack full of camping gear. I do this to prepare for trips to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. I want to be able to carry heavy equipment over a rocky portage trail. I don't like wearing a backpack when I mow the lawn. Actually, I don't even like mowing the lawn. But I like having a beautiful yard. And I like having strong legs. So, I do things I don't like in order to have things I like a lot.

We need discipline not just for our homes and bodies, but for our souls. 1st Timothy 4:7-8 says, "Train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come."

Lawn maintenance has been on my mind a lot these last several wet days. The rain is good for the greenery. But it brings a lot of extra mowing. I learned a lot about lawncare while living in Missouri. Hot and dry summers left most lawns brown. But my next-door neighbors had a gorgeous green carpet of grass. Every blade was perfect. Every leaf looked exactly like every other. Sometimes I would sneak over and pick a few of their blades just to prove it was real.

My neighbors, Jean and Harley, were really nice people. They were quiet. They went to church. They shared their tomatoes with us. But their grass really ticked me off. If it wasn't for them, I could have relaxed all summer. I hated sending my wife out to mow the lawn so often.

Thanks to Jean and Harley, I know how to kill weeds and crabgrass. I know how to fertilize. I know when to water. I even learned about grubs. Those are the ugliest bugs God ever invented.

In order to get a lawn like my neighbors, I copied Jean and Harley. They fertilized the lawn four times a year, so I fertilize four times a year. They sprayed for weeds, so I spray for weeds. They aerated the soil, so I aerate the soil. They pulled out the crabgrass, so I pull out the crabgrass. I may never achieve lawn perfection like they did, but by imitating them, I have a much better lawn today.

In the Letter to the Ephesians, the Apostle Paul describes the maintenance of our spiritual life in terms much like lawn maintenance. First, he says, "Be imitators of God." I want my lawn to look good, so I imitate my expert neighbors. Paul says if we want a healthy spiritual life, we need to imitate God. Jesus, "being in very nature God," (Philippians 2:6) is our model to imitate. He showed us how to live in words and action. He worked. He studied and prayed. He touched and served others. He rested and played. He spent time in solitude and reflection. These are all worth imitating.

Paul also spoke about pulling the weeds. We have spiritual weeds in our life like immorality, greed, and impurity. Also like weeds, sins are stubborn behaviors with deep roots. They come back if you let them. Paul said to carefully pull these weeds out by the roots, and seed the bare patches with love, sobriety and thanksgiving. Weeds grow in the absence of grass, so fill your spiritual lawn with good turf. It's all a daily activity and it's year-round.

You know you can't neglect your lawn because you can see it. The grass overgrows and weeds take over. But while you're out there mowing, remember your spiritual life is more important than grass that withers and the flowers that fade. It may not be visible to your neighbors, but God sees it. Make sure you spend more time growing your spirit than you do growing your lawn.

School
from Page 3

\$4,919,370. The preliminary budget was approved. Other action Items approved in-

cluded the food service agreement with MVAC and cancellation of the July 3 work session due to the July 4 holiday.. Student representative Collin Dettmer received a plaque in appreciation for his two years of serving on the school board as one of two student representatives. Collin will be attending Wartburg in the fall.



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From left: Christy Easton, Kathy Lindner and Christine Hoffman were at the first of two Waseca Art Center Vase classes. This one was Saturday, June 28. Another is being offered on July 12.
Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Pinch pots and clay makers Waseca Art Center hosts class June 28

**By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer**

The Waseca Art Center recently held the first of two classes on making vases on June 28. In the basement next to the pottery wheels was a small class of ladies with pulled-up shirt sleeves and clay-dirtied fingers.

Jamie McShane, teacher of the class, is currently working on her Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in ceramics at MSU. She instructed class members to press clay over a piece of plastic wrap that was wrapped around a Styrofoam

bowl. When asked what the point was of doing that with clay, McShane responded, "Today we're making two-tiered pinch pots—two bowls pinched together lip to lip, stacked on top of another two bowls, also pinched together." Another person in class paraphrased: "Or double-stacked pinch pots." McShane had also taught a class earlier in the day with young students on how to glaze pots before they are fired. She assured everyone that no firing was going to take place on Saturday, "We won't be firing

these pieces for at least two weeks." She said this while cutting another block of gray clay for use from a much larger block, and said, "These big clay blocks we buy from the Cities, just like this, and we have to drive up there to get them as well."

Christy Easton, who was using a clay flattener to smooth the clay out, commented "Vases and abstract vascery like this we flatten clay to make it easier to work with. I use these smoothers to make it even flatter and I can bend it around the bowl." The

other ladies took turns slapping their clay into place. One class participant said, "My 3-year-old was asked, 'Are you a lefty or a rightee?' to which he replied, 'I'm a bothee.'" This got a chuckle from the group.

For anyone interested, the Waseca Art Center will hold another class for adults on hand building vases from 2 to 4 p.m. on July 12. Cost is \$50 for members, \$55 non-members.

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: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 a.m. SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH 111 4th St NW, Waseca Father Glenn Ferichs 507-835-1222 Worship Sundays 10:00 a.m., Tues. and Wed. at 8:30 a.m. and Thurs. at 7 a.m.; Saturdays at 5 p.m.	REAL LIFE CHURCH 620 W Elm Ave, Waseca 507-607-8245 Sunday worship 10 a.m. CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS 1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca 507-835-4640 Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m. GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 1221 8th St SE, Waseca 507-835-2213 Sunday worship 10:45 a.m., 6:00 p.m. CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY 900 14th Ave SE, Waseca 507-833-1082 Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening 6:30 p.m. ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Otisco, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Mary Iverson Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota	Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Brian Schanil Pastor Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School Tuesdays: The Shepherd's Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m. 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Father Glenn Ferichs Friday - 10 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays p.m. Mass Sunday - Mass at 8 a.m. FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod Waldorf, Minnesota Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Larry Sipe Sundays: Worship 8 a.m.; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and adult bible class IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Worship ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship TRINITY LUTHERAN Wilton Township Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor Sunday - 8 a.m. summer worship; 10:45 a.m. Worship starting Sept. 1 THE CHURCH of JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS Brad Donner, Branch President Waseca, Minnesota www.lds.org Sunday - 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School Wednesday - 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages 12-18	TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 412 N. Main Street, Janesville Pastor Jason Wolter Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:30 a.m. Worship JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 401 N. West St., Janesville Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 43089 180th St., Morristown Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Summer worship hours, (10:45 a.m. Worship, winter) ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH 307 W. 2nd St, Janesville 10 a.m. - Mass FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 Owen St., Janesville Pastor Sarah Krolak ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Smiths Mill, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship NORTH WASECA LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA 404 30 120th St. Waseca Pastor Sarah Krolak 507-234-6463 Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship; Second Sunday "Young at heart" Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. confirmation NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.
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Janesville

1925

Clyde James, who has conducted a restaurant and confectionery in Janesville for the past 26 months, disposed of his business Monday to Ernest Ostrom of Cedar Falls, Iowa, the new owner taking immediate possession of the popular place. Mr. and Mrs. James have built up an excellent business and have many friends who will regret to learn of their contemplated departure. The long hours connected with the operation of a restaurant and confectionery proved too strenuous for Mrs. James who has devoted a great deal of her time to work in the place.

Chief of Police Klinder asks the Argus to call attention to the need on the part of automobile drivers to observe the parking rules a bit more closely. During the evenings, particularly on Saturday nights, parking spaces are at a premium, but the maximum number of cars can be accommodated if drivers will be careful to drive their cars up to the curbs at an angle of 45 degrees and to come in as close to the other autos as is possible.

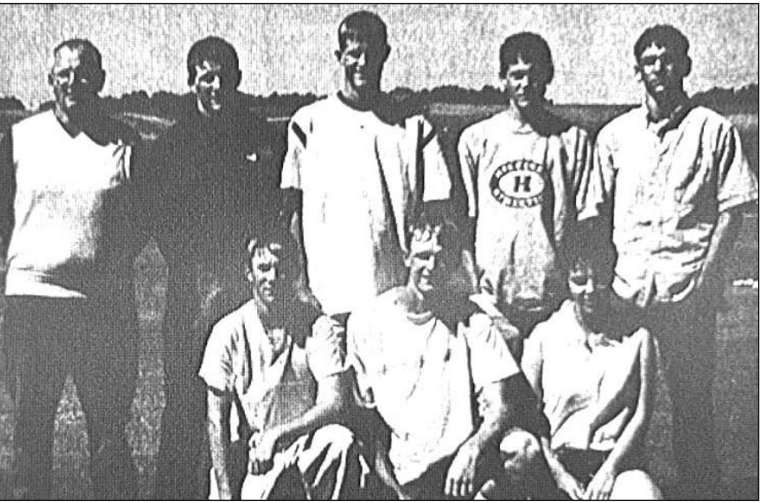
1950

Joel Alfred Goodrick of Janesville passed away at St. Joseph’s hospital in Mankato on Thursday night, June 1, at 11:30 o’clock. He had been critically ill for nine days and death was caused from infirmities of old age. The deceased was born on January 17, 1865, at Walnut Lake in Faribault County and was the son of Alfred Goodrick and Sally Ann Goodrick. He came here in 1877 when twelve years old and attended the Janesville schools. During his lifetime he was a contractor-builder and in the lumber business for 27 years. He sold out in 1947 to A. L. Paffrath of Mankato, Mr. Goodrick was a member of St. John’s Episcopal church and of the Masonic lodge 124, A. F. & A. M.

1975

Sylvester Priem was named Commander of the First American Legion District at the district convention held this past weekend in La Crescent. He became the first Janesville man to hold the high Legion office since Jack Kiner was commander in 1936-37. Priem, 56, will take office July 18 when he will be installed at Kasson and will take charge for the 13,963 Legionnaires in the First District. Priem’s jurisdiction will include 10 counties in Minnesota, an area from La Crescent on the east to Janesville on the west. Counties in the First District are: Winona, Wabasha, Steele, Dodge, Olmsted, Waseca, Houston, Fillmore, Freeborn, and Mower.

2000



The JWP golf team in 2000. Front row: Evan Holmes, Levi Mulcahey, and Lindsay Hines. Back row: Coach Mike Muedecking, Reid Olson, Brian Finley, Sean Finley, and Sean Mulcahey.

After almost 17 years together, the band Crimson Velvet is calling it quits. Crimson Velvet is well known in the Janesville area, playing at the Hay Daze festival for the past 12 years, as well as area wedding dances and celebrations. “We decided about a year and a half ago to quit while we’re on top,” said Duane Mock, the senior member of the band. Since their beginning in October, 1983, the group has been made up of the same five people: Duane Mock on guitar and accordion, Howard Mock on guitar, Dave Bateman on drums, Al Otto on bass guitar, and Janesville resident Becky Borneke on keyboards.

Archived advertising

Waseca

25 years ago 2000



- The following kindergartners participated in tee ball. Front row from left: Rachel Pahnisch, Kenzie Schuch, McKenna Martyniak and Alex Tahtinen. Second row: Michaela Budach, Chloe Colvin, Megan Maas, Karissa Huxford, Jake Trahms and Greg Craig. Back ros: Alex Struck, Billy Steinhauer, Courtney Sprengleler, Dylan DeMarch, Mason Zellmer, Tyler Oelke and Brett Bartelt.

- Auto Talk: Use the Internet to Find Your Next Car-Part II Last week I showed you how to use the internet to find out how much your trade-in would be worth (www.kbb.com), and how to use a loan calculator (www.autotrader.com) to determine how much you can afford to spend for your next car.

- Oh, what a century! Ellendale parties down for 11 days! Did you know that the town of Ellendale was named after a nineteenth century woman named Ellen Dale? Well, maybe you did know that. Did you know that the Ellendale community is coming up on its one hundredth birthday, and that they are having a super duper 10-day birthday party?

- Letters to the Editor, Horse Thief Detective meeting a success: The 136th annual meeting of the Waseca County Horse Thief Detective Association was held on July 4th at the Southern Experiment Station. Approximately 100 people attended.

50 years ago

- Only 40.4 percent of Americans old enough to vote did so in 1974, according to a new study by Dr. Pierre Purves, statistical director for the Republican Congressional Committee. That figure is down more than eight percentage points from the last off year election of 1970, when 48.9 percent of eligibles turned out.

- A bolt of lightning made “roast beef” out of six dairy cows on the Ernest (Gus) Sutter farm, nine miles north of waseca, sometime after 12 noon on Sunday.

- Temporary male contraceptive: Although it may be years before they are ready for use, birth-control pills for males will someday be available if a study being conducted by a University physician is successful.

- The Waseca Fire Department was called to Brown Printing Company at 12:55 p.m. yesterday when the bale paper storage area east of the plant ignited. The cause is undetermined, although Fire Chief Slim Cunningham said that it was probably caused by spontaneous combustion.

75 Years ago

- Cars driven by Raymond Byrne and Harvey Wilker collided at 12:30 p.m. Saturday at the intersection of 2nd St. NW and 2nd Ave. NW. Wilker, who was driving a Red Top cab, was traveling south on 2nd St. and Byrne west on 2nd Ave. The Byrne machine struck the cab, skidding it over to the curb in front of the Farm Bureau oil station. There is no stop sign at this corner.

- University professors and students will dig almost all over Minnesota this summer for relics of ancient Indian cultures, they’ll look for evidences of farming tribes near Slayton, pottery around Mille-Lacs, warlike Sioux near Willmar, mound-builders near Forest Lake.

- In 1944 Robert Swanson lost his wallet while plowing near Fairmont: this year he turned up the wallet, coins intact but currency crumbled, which has been sent to the Treasury Department in hope of replacement.

100 years ago

- In the monthly settlement last week, the Waseca Co-Operative Creamery paid its patrons 51 cents a pound net for butterfat delivered during May. The total sum paid to the farmers who are patrons of the creamery was \$37,640.60.

- That the hand of the law reaches a long ways was demonstrated this week when a car stolen in Waseca on June 22 was recovered a week later in Cody, Wyoming, and the thieves landed safely in jail. On Tuesday, Sheriff Wadd received a telegram from Sheriff Henry Dahlem of Cody, Wyoming, stating that the Ford coupe stolen from near the Waseca Hotel had been recovered.

South St. Paul, June 29. Sharp declines in all branches of the trade marked Monday’s opening in the livestock market. Killing cattle led off with a 25 to 50 cent loss, hogs and lambs following with irregular declines.

Archived advertising

New Richland

25 Years Back

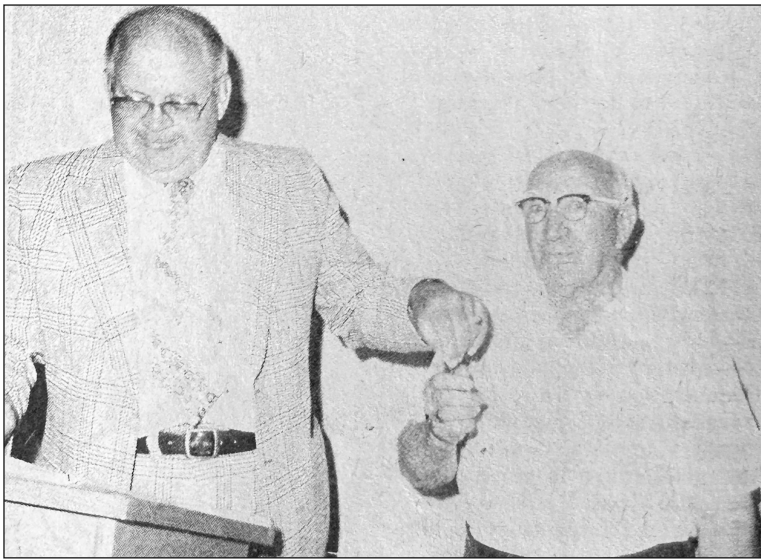
- A summer reading program is held each year at the New Richland Public Library, as soon as school lets out in the spring. This year among those enjoying the program titled “Comic Connections” is this group of girls. They are front row (left - right): Logan Davis, Katie Manthe and Casey Phillips; second row (left to right); Laura Manthe, Megan Manthe and Samantha Davis; back row (left - right); Kyree Wobbrock, no name mascot, Amanda Follmuth and Abby Phillips. The mascot will receive a name at the end of the program and get a new home.

- Todd Spencer, St. Olaf Lake resident, was elected president of the St. Olaf Lake Association, Saturday at a meeting in the lake pak. Here Jim Engen, who has served as president for the past four years, hands him the microphone and control of the annual meeting. Spencer is employed with Federated Insurance in Owatonna.

- Engagement Announcement. Heather Krause and Dion Quiram are happy to announce their engagement and approaching marriage. Heather is the daughter of Curt and Karen Krause of New Richland. Dion is the son of Dale and Shar Quiram of Pemberton. A Saturday, July 1, wedding is planned.

- The Panther Baseball team celebrated the end of a successful season with a get-together and awards night at the home of Head Coach Jeff Rese. They are from the left: kneeling, Dan Fitterer, Zach Jacobson, Nathan Schlaak, Tony Schlaak; standing, Nick Budach, Dusty Reese, Josh Otto, Matt Knudson, Jonathan Hanna, Joe Moon, Brandon Johannsen and Cody Yard. Captaining the team next year will be Tony Schlaak and Dusty Reese. Expected to play on next year's varsity squad are Corey Bailey, Zach Jacobson, Dusty Reese, Tony Schlaak , Clark Field, Seth Tukua, Jens Wyrum, Brett Schultz and Kyle Utpadel.

50 Years Back



- Mayor Robert Marpe of Waldorf accepts the keys to the new Municipal building at Waldorf from Alan Kunkel, who talked a bit about the history of the erecting of the building. At the left is Fire Chief Mark McDonough.

- Cindy Kruse, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kruse of near Waldorf, left last week for Denmark where she will spend the summer with the International Cultural Exchange Summer Program. She spent a day in Detroit,

Michigan, for Orientation and then went to NewYork where she left by plane for Denmark. Her host family will be the Svend Poulsens. An active family, they have planned a summer of hiking and camping for Cindy. Cindy will have, with no doubt, an exciting summer with many wonderful experiences with her three Danish sisters and Danish brother.

- The Little Leaguers won its third straight without a loss Friday night, as it took an extra inning to down Waterville 6-2. New Richland scored twice in the first after sending eight men to the plate and gathering three bases on balls and a double by Getskow. New Richland won the game in the fifth inning when Bushlack, Christenson, Entwisle and Besser all scored a single, a walk and two more singles, respectively.

- David Winegar, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dale Winegar of New Richland, is completing work on a Masters Degree in Environmental Public Health at the University of Minnesota-Duluth. He will be spending the summer in the Duluth Area.

75 Years Back

- Alfred Anderson and George Tukua of Hartland were in New Richland Monday. Alf told us his son-in-law, John R. Hawkinson, who has been an active member of the Navy Reserve with headquarters at Wold-Chamberlain field, Minneapolis, was ordered to report last Saturday for active duty.

- A baby daughter, weighing six pounds, 10 ounces was born to Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Molkenthin, Tuesday, July 18, at the Waseca Memorial hospital. Mrs. Molkenthin and new daughter, Linda Marie, returned to their home near New Richland Sunday morning.

- New Richland Boy Scout troop No. 90 turned in a 12 to 9 win over the Waseca troop here Wednesday evening at Skelly park. The New Richland troop has been playing good ball all summer and has won a majority of the contests played so far.

In Brief

Holdfast at the Indian Island Winery Friday, July 25
Holdfast will be performing at the Indian Island Winery from 6-8:30 p.m. Friday, July 25. They play a variety of country, pop, bluegrass, fold, indie and 80s.

Sammy Kershaw at the Boxcar Bar in Waseca Sat., July 26
Grammy nominated country icon Sammy Kershaw will perform at the Boxcar Bar in Waseca from 3-10 p.m. Saturday, July 26. Kershaw has earned three platinum and six gold albums.

Comedy Night at Starfire Event Center Saturday, July 26
Comedians Steve Sabo and Scott Putnam will perform at the Starfire Event Center’s Comedy Night at 8 p.m. Saturday, July 26. To reserve a spot and get tickets, call 507-461-1387.

Musicians Phil Berbig and Joe & Anne at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm Sunday, July 27
Phil Berbig and Joe & Anne will be performing at the Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm from 1-7 p.m. Sunday, July 27.

MNVAC Waseca Head Start Preschool 0-5 accepting applications for 2025-2026
The MNVAC Waseca Head Start Preschool is accepting applications for children 0-5 years old for the 2025-2026 school year. Please either call Rachel Grunklee at 507-835-1282 or go to www.mnvac.org to apply. Free Home base and Center Classes, eligibility will be determined upon application.



A tornado captured on camera near Hartland. Photo by Noah Nielsen



On Wednesday, a tornado touched down near Hartland and destroyed buildings on a nearby farm.

Hartland man’s farm destroyed by a tornado on Wednesday

What was supposed to be an Ausen family dinner at The Depot Bar and Grill in Faribault quickly turned into a night full of shock.

Wednesday’s tornado near Hartland tore apart Glenn Ausen’s farm and although he wasn’t home when the damage occurred, he said it was still shocking to see, leaving him with very few words for how to process it all.

“You know I really don’t know what to think right now, I really don’t,” Ausen said, describing the process as one “where you don’t know where to start.”

Pieces of wood and lots of metal littered the field adjacent to the farm off Highway 13 near Hartland. But even with so much damage, Ausen remained hopeful.

“We’ll probably rebuild and try to put things back to normal again.”

Ausen’s brother and sister, Lynne Arneson and Ron Ausen, showed up at the farm to see the

damage. They too couldn’t believe their eyes.

“A picture doesn’t do it justice; it’s unbelievable what the wind did,” Arneson said.

While the damage and sudden loss were a shock, Arneson and Ron Ausen both said they were grateful nobody was hurt.

“The house is okay, the chickens are okay, so it’s okay,” Ron Ausen said.

The rebuilding process already started as crews from Excel Energy were onsite Wednesday evening to restore power to the home.

On Thursday afternoon, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) rated the tornado as an EF1, with estimated maximum winds of 105 miles per hour.

The tornado also brought down numerous power lines in the area.

According to NOAA, the tornado touched down at 4:32 p.m. and was on the ground until 4:40 p.m.

■ Charge

from Page 1

top of her pointing a firearm at her.

The screaming and shouting during the episode awakened the other adults in the house who came to see what was the matter and were then threatened and

forced out of the room, prompting the 3:57 a.m. call to law enforcement.

Charges against Mullen include both premeditated (first degree) and second degree murder attempts and assault for his actions toward Mrs. Mullen and charges of assault and terroristic threats against the other adult residents of the house. At this time, he remains in custody without opportunity for bail.

Kurt Hunter Marionettes performance at JWP is mostly for the birds

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Marionettes were the stars of a show titled “Feathers and Strings” at the JWP auditorium the afternoon of Tuesday, June 24. From juggling birds to shirts with personality, the nearly 40 children in attendance were on the edge of their seats.

Thanks to a grant from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, Kurt Hunter Marionettes were set up in the JWP auditorium. Kelly Koplen, head librarian for the Janesville library introduced Kurt Hunter who took the stage for the hatching of a pink flamingo to background music. The children clapped wholeheartedly at the end of each set. The “Cholesterol Cuties” were next: Four little eggs danced together in a line. They were joined by a cube which would unfold and bob up and down in Russian kick-dancing style. The children asked about the cube later after the show and how it worked.

There were two marionettes that stood out for the children enough so they wanted to see them again. The first was the juggling bird named “Sam the Bluebird of Happiness,” who could juggle eggs on his hands and tail. This amazed the kids to the

point they insisted Hunter bring it out again for a short demonstration; he obliged happily. Another bird was Ostrich Orville, who tried very hard to fly, but couldn’t, until he blew up a big red balloon and was able to fly away. The children were in awe that the bird could blow up the balloon.

A button-up shirt with a red nose had some difficulty handling a red balloon; some of the kids in the audience had to run up to help, which was no problem. BJ the dog was shy, but still had a few tricks to show off. Fuzz, the multi-colored fluff ball did a dance: His identity was first confused with a mop, then a frog, then a dancer, but no one really knew what he was to begin with, and he didn’t seem to mind. Said Hunter, “Everything you see in the show today came from an idea I had and made a puppet for.” He went on to reveal one of the most difficult things about having and using marionettes is the storage, “The best way to store a puppet with strings is to twist the puppet around in a circle a few times, until all the strings become one big string, then you can store them without all the strings getting tangled up.” He also shared a set of



Kurt Hunter Marionettes performed at the JWP High School auditorium to a medium-sized crowd of children on Tuesday, June 24, 2025.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

printed instructions for making a simple puppet using cups and string.

Hunter, who was born and raised in Nebraska, saw a marionette show in California in 1975. Since there were no puppeteers around him, he learned about marionettes from books he could take out at the library. His first puppet, “Chester,”

was made of wood. His all-time favorite puppet was called Gustov, owned by a teacher named Albrecht Rosser, “You could watch that puppet and read its mind just by looking at its actions.” More information about Kurt Hunter Marionettes is available at <https://www.huntermarionettes.com/>.

Recertification Field Days for CNC and private pesticide applicators

The University of Minnesota Extension Pesticide Safety and Environmental Education (PSEE) program is offering field days for pesticide applicator recertification. This class will offer outdoor, hands-on recertification training for both private and commercial/noncommercial (CNC) pesticide applicators. Private pesticide applicators who need to recertify in 2026 can attend a field day this summer, eliminating the need to attend a workshop or take the exam in January or February 2026.

There will be a variety of pesticide

safety and application topic demonstrations and hands-on activities in a field day setting, including:

- In-field demonstration plots
- Nozzle selection and application techniques
- Drift management
- Mixing, loading, and container cleaning
- Integrated pest management
- Pest identification and management tools
- Drone application demonstration
- Seed treatment demonstrations

and safety

Class cost is \$100 for private pesticide applicators, \$145 for CNC applicators with categories A & C, and \$190 for CNC applicators with categories A, C, & H. These workshops will be held at the Southwest Research and Outreach Center, Lamberton on July 15 and the Southern Research and Outreach Center, Waseca on August 12 starting at 7:30 a.m. CNC applicators can register at z.umn.edu/pseeachworkshops. Private applicators can register at z.umn.edu/ppatfielddays.

Contact Extension Educator Sally Raymond at nels9091@umn.edu or (612) 626-2237 with any questions or issues.

For more news from U of M Extension, visit www.extension.umn.edu/news or contact Extension Communications at extnews@umn.edu. University of Minnesota Extension is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

■ Barber

from Page 3

regarding Icon, and had decided to come down. Wyatt had told his grandmother regarding going to a salon. “I want to go to a barber.”

Brown says one difference between the two types of training is that barbers spend more time learning ways to use hair clippers. “We specialize a bit more,” he observes, “while the stylists spend more time and training on long hair styles, and coloring.”

Barbers are expected to know how to color hair, for example, but fewer men than women seem to be interested in the service.

Although the training requirements have changed since then, Brown says his schooling included about 10 months of classes, a required test, a year of apprenticeship and then another test, qualifying him as a “master

barber,” a title no longer conferred by the Minnesota board of barber examiners, the agency which licenses and oversees businesses like his. “Now we’re ‘registered’ barbers,” Brown clarifies.

He jokes that, in his experience, there are two types of barbers—“artists” and “technicians.” He claims the difference between them is that an artist will take about an hour to create a hairstyle while a technician “will cut your hair in 20 minutes.” And, he finishes, “you’ll end up with the same haircut.”

The training for working with hair is “more complicated than most people realize,” he says, mentioning that part of it is what would be expected—using the tools and techniques needed to shape people’s hairstyles. The other part focuses on health and safety—recognizing common skin disorders and even certain skin cancers. Chemistry, biology and the human nervous system are all included.

“There are a lot of elements to

“It’s important to treat people right... It’s not all about the haircut.”

— Jay Brown

being a barber many people don’t know about,” he continues, pointing out that all hair stylists in any shop as well as the shop itself must be licensed to be legal in the state of Minnesota.

Hair tends to grow about half an inch in a month, he mentions, but this means different things to different individuals.

“Some people want it to seem as if they never get their hair cut,” he says. “They usually come in about once a month. Others come, he jokes, “once a year, or when their wife tells them to.”

His shop is open Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon, and stays quite busy. Appointments are not expected, but waits are seldom long.

The single largest tip he can

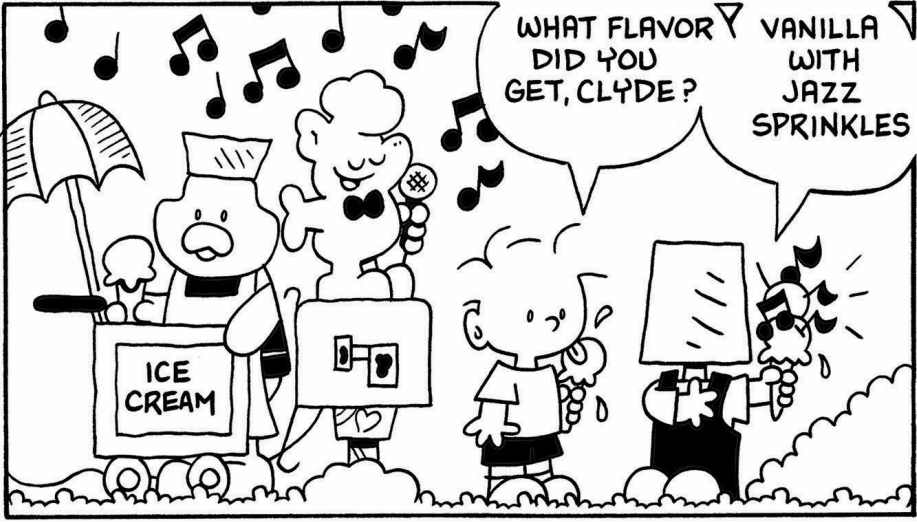
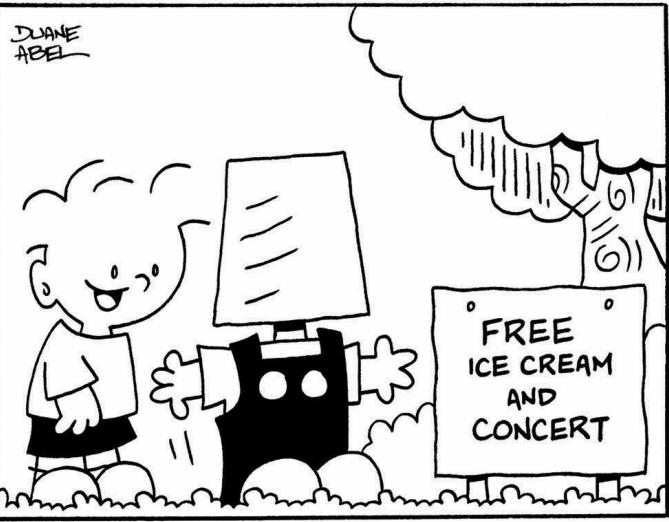
offer for running a barber shop is to be consistent. “If your sign says you’re open, then you’ve got to be there ready to do business. I don’t think you could operate any business if you’re not disciplined.

“It’s important to treat people right,” he continues. “It’s not all about the haircut.”

As for job satisfaction, he says he satisfied a life goal when he acquired his shop. “I’m my own boss,” he says. “I’m making a living on my own skills and labor.”

By owning a locally operated shop, he adds that he is helping support the community he lives in. “You go to a local barber, the money stays in town instead of going to some corporation,” he points out.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



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OMC opens new Owatonna clinic

By KAY FATE
Steele County Times

If the ribbon-cutting and public tours were any indication, Owatonna is ready for Olmsted Medical Center.

The Rochester-based health care facility began seeing patients at it new clinic and ambulatory surgery center on Tuesday, but provided a sneak-peek to city officials Monday morning and a public open house that afternoon.

The new clinic offers extended weekday hours from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., along with access to on-demand video visits in the evening via OMC MyChart.

Since its origin as a solo medical practice in 1949, OMC has had “very thoughtful growth” in the communities around Rochester and southeastern Minnesota, said Dr. Mark Wilbur, chief medical officer for the organization.

Services locally include family medicine, acute care, cardiology, obstetrics and gynecology, psychiatry, podiatry and additional visiting specialties.

It will also offer full diagnostic imaging Monday through Friday, and plans to offer orthopedics, pain management, urology, dermatology, oph-

thalmology and plastic surgery in the future.

Wilbur said “the numbers and data” brought OMC to Owatonna.

“We realized, quite frankly, that a lot of the folks who live around here were seeking health care elsewhere, and were seeking health care with us,” he said. “The location and distance . . . were lining up to point us in this direction.”

Bringing “a microcosm of OMC” to town is worth noting, Wilbur said. “If you’re paying attention to health care landscapes in a more rural environment, if anything, these are being cut back,” he said. “We know this, so for some organization to come in and actually offer more than basics, it’s quite a statement.”

The ambulatory surgery center will begin surgical procedures Aug. 28, including things like endoscopies, colonoscopies, biopsies, women’s health and more.

The facility employs about 40 people, said Amy Johnson, director of operations.

“Some specialists will be here each week, some will be here maybe twice a month and some will be here once a month,” she said.

Geneva native Dr. Melissa (Lon-

ning) Richards, an OB-GYN at OMC, said services are continuing to evolve.

Dr. Heidi Gaston, also an OB-GYN, will join the organization in September.

“She’s a big grab for Olmsted Medical Center and for the community,” Richards said. “She’ll provide prenatal care as well as gynecologic care,” and is also a surgeon.

While Richards practices out of the Rochester facility, she’s “hoping to help out a little. I’m excited to come back and see some of my high school classmates.”

OMC typically delivers about 900 babies annually – most of them at the Women’s Health Pavilion birth center in Rochester.

Still, Richards said, “we know that when people need to get health care, sometimes that 45-minute drive doesn’t happen, so it’s important to have those relationships.”

She said the clinic is “working on creating a relationship” with Allina Hospital in Owatonna.

“It’s about collaboration, right? Working closely with other organizations, I think, is always a good option,” Richards said.



The halls of the new OMC Clinic and ambulatory surgery center in Owatonna were filled Monday, as OMC staff provided tours to city officials in the morning, and to the public in the afternoon. Lisa Cochran, center, Main Street Director for the Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce, and Mayor Matt Jessop, right, were part of the group to welcome OMC to town.

Photo by Kay Fate

Richards was referring to Mayo Clinic Hospital-Saint Marys Campus, which has a Level III neonatal intensive care unit.

Owatonna, she said, “deserves really, really great community-based

health care, and that’s something that OMC does very well. I’m just so excited to have OMC in my hometown area.”



Red Eye Ruby played at Trowbridge Park on Tuesday, June 24, 2025. Pictured from left are band members Jason Murray, Mike Drager, Ishmael Menseh and Ruby Blu.

Photo by Ben Revermann

Red Eye Ruby performs at Waseca’s Trowbridge Park to large audience

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Red Eye Ruby performed at Trowbridge Park behind the Waseca Library on Tuesday, June 24 to a large audience.

People relaxed in lawn chairs, insulated drinks in hand, enjoying the energetic and modern sound of this Minneapolis based band that performed next to the bandstand. There were also a few mosquitoes but the sun held many of them back during the show.

The band’s website states, “Red Eye Ruby is a retro roots-rock collective based out of Minneapolis. Channeling the soulful rock sounds of Amy Winehouse and the rhythmic roots of New Orleans, their shiny collection of original music sounds classic yet very much of this time – speaking openly about abusive relationships and the reality of working

as a woman in the male-dominated music industry.” The lead singer is Ruby Blu, Mike Drager on guitar, Jason Murray on bass, and Ishmael Menseh on drums.

The band kicked off right at seven, with the sun beginning to set they said they did both covers and originals. Ruby, the lead vocalist, originally from North Dakota and whose actual name is Liz Collin, explained, “We’re so happy to be here in Waseca. You’ll recognize some of these songs from the radio, but many of them are our originals.”

“Burning Sunbeams” was their first number for the night; it was an upbeat song with a sad undertone, with a female narrator saying the man she is attracted to has love comparable to a sunbeam. The group also plays songs by Fleetwood Mac, Van Morrison, Bob Marley and Amy Winehouse.

Keith Johnson, Waseca resident, along with his wife Myra was in the audience, “My friends saw these guys in the 331 Club in the Cities and told me to check them out.” He pointed to his wife, and she said, “Yeah, we threw some picnic chairs in the car, made some extra drinks to bring along and came to see the big concert in the park. I didn’t know this many people knew about Red Eye Ruby, I’m glad we came.”

Ruby’s voice was unique; there was a similarity between her and Amy Winehouse. The group also played “Sunshine” and “Good Looking,” another of the band’s originals which has also been featured on Current’s Friday Five and the song of the day in 2022.

Red Eye Ruby was able to play in town thanks to the Waseca Area Foundation and the Friends of the Waseca Library.

Kaiser named Miss Janesville 2025

JANESVILLE JOURNAL - With Hay Daze starting, it was time for Miss Janesville 2025 to be crowned. On Thursday, June 12, Chloe Kaiser was given the prestigious town title and bestowed with the responsibility of representing the Janesville community. Joining her will be her first attendant, Kayleigh Donner, and her second attendant, Hudson Miller. Named Little Miss Janesville was Emma Sexton.

This year’s Miss Janesville pageant had the most involvement of any recent iteration. Whether it was the ABBA theme or an overall heightened interest in pageantry, this year featured seven candidates vying for the title of Miss Janesville and a dozen Little Miss contestants.

Contestants for Miss Janesville were junior Claire Miller; sophomores Abigail Balzotti, Raylen Blasing, Chloe Kaiser, and Hudson Miller; and freshmen Kayleigh and Ryleigh Donner. Little Miss contestants were Quinn Burns, Aubrey Leiferman, Chloe Oachs, Elsie Jaeger, Olivia Roers, Emma Sexton, Isabella Walker, Cecelia Quast, Madi Pederson, Avery and Ally Hammett, and Aveline Johnson.

As fitting for the ABBA “Mamma Mia” theme, the opening number featured the contestants dancing to “Mamma Mia!” before they were introduced in their evening gowns. Five of the seven contestants chose to sing, with four opting for ABBA songs. Kayleigh Donner chose to perform “Slipping Through My Fingers,” while sister Ryleigh chose “I Have a Dream,” with Balzotti performing “My Love, My Life,” and Kaiser ending the talent portion with “Thank You for the Music.” Claire Miller took the more traditional approach, performing the classical piece “Ave Maria.” Hudson Miller

chose to perform American Sign Language to the Moana classic “How Far I’ll Go,” while Blasing decided to conduct a speech about being your true self.

While the judges deliberated the scores and which candidates deserved the coveted titles,

Emcees Brandon Johnson and Kristin Ziemke also provided some entertainment, singing music by...? You guessed it! ABBA! They performed the hit “Our Last Summer” and encouraged the crowd to get involved. In addition to that, the Little Miss Janesville contestants showed they were all “Dancing Queens.”

Outside of the fun entertainment, Miss Janesville 2024 Ariana Aguilar gave her farewell speech. It included everything the perfect speech could have: laughs, hilarious inside jokes, fun memories shared, and a few tears near the end.

“This year has been incredibly busy, but even more rewarding,” she began. “When I was crowned, I could have never imagined just how truly exciting and humbling this journey would be.”

She joked about the Miss Janesville 2024 royalty’s first public appearance at a wrestling show. “Not exactly your typical princess moment,” she commented. “But hey. Nothing says royalty like getting crowned and seeing somebody getting body slammed on the same night. But we had fun with it.”

She briefly shared a few memories, including launching a successful children’s food backpack program, which, as she put it, “gave me the opportunity to give back to the community that has

given me so much.” The weather

presented unique challenges as well, whether it was getting drenched by rain and thunderstorms during the

Elysian Fourth of July parade or on other sultry summer days.

“And who could forget the times we were trying to smile so hard that it looked

like we were trying to hold in a fart?” Aguilar added. Now that was a good joke.

Despite the “less than glamorous moments,” Aguilar and her fellow royalty made many unforgettable memories. She thanked Erin Borneke for pushing her and being a mentor while additionally thanking Holly Holland and Sophia Coulsey for making this year’s pageant possible. She extended her gratitude to all the others who were involved in running the pageant.

However, when she arrived at her comments to Ava Appel as Miss Janesville 2022, it was challenging for her not to shed happy tears. Many may remember that before becoming Miss Janesville 2024, Aguilar was Appel’s only attendant. “Thank you for introducing me to the royalty role and being the absolute best friend I could have asked for when I first ran. You’ve been such a big part of my journey, and I’m grateful you were there for every step of the way.

Without your support, I wouldn’t be where I am.”

She then moved on to her family and shared how much they had supported her journey as Miss Janesville, especially noting that her mother was her number one supporter. “You’ve always seen something in me, even when I couldn’t see it myself. You were always encouraging me to take risks and put myself out there. I wouldn’t be where I am without your love, so thank you so much for everything.”

She saved the thank-you to her attendants, Madyn Holland and Victoria Blomstrom, for last. “As we



ROYALTY - From left: Miss Janesville 2025 Chloe Kaiser; First Attendant Kayleigh Donner; Second Attendant Hudson Miller; Little Miss Janesville Emma Sexton.

pass on our crowns, I’ll always remember the laughs we shared and the singing sessions before parades. Only we would understand how fun we are. I’m going to really miss working with you.”

She shared the following advice to the incoming royalty: “No matter how things turn out today, I want each of you to be incredibly proud of yourselves and of each other. Just stepping up and doing this takes so much courage, and I hope you know how proud I am of you for trying something new and showing what strong leaders look like for the younger generation of girls. Whoever gets crowned, have your head held

high and wear it with pride.”

Before the crowning, Aguilar took one last walk with her attendants and Little Miss Janesville 2024, Genna Mueller joining her on stage for their final appearance with their crowns and sashes.

In addition to the crowning, there is a talent award decided by the judges and a Miss Congeniality award voted on by the candidates. All award winners – royalty members, congeniality, and talent – received cash prizes. The talent award went to Claire Miller, while the title of Miss Congeniality went to Hudson Miller. Both received \$25 cash prizes. Miss Janesville received \$300, while the

first attendant was awarded \$100 and the second attendant \$50.

As Aguilar mentioned, this year’s Miss Janesville pageant was run by Sophia Coulsey (Miss Janesville 2023) and Holly Holland, with additional help from Ava Appel. Holland mainly focused on Little Miss Janesville, while Coulsey and Appel coordinated the main portion. Sashes were provided by One Little Shirt Shop, with Ginger P. Designs providing the programs.

As Miss Janesville 2024 advised, they should wear their crowns and sashes with pride and enjoy representing their community.

NOTICE OF EXPIRATION OF REDEMPTION		
State of Minnesota County of Waseca County		Tamara J. Spooner Director of Property & Election Services
TO: ALL PERSONS WITH A LEGAL INTEREST IN THE PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THE FOLLOWING NOTICE:		
You are hereby notified that the parcels of real property described below and located in Waseca County, Minnesota, are subject to forfeiture to the state of Minnesota because of the nonpayment of delinquent property taxes, special assessments, penalties, interest, and costs levied on those parcels. The time for redemption from forfeiture expires if a redemption is not made by the later of (1) 60 days after service of this notice on all persons having an interest in the parcels, or (2) May 12, 2025.		
The following information is listed below: the names of the property owners, taxpayers, and interested parties who have filed their addresses under M.S. 276.041; the addresses of the parties are filed with the county auditor; the legal description and the parcel identification number of each parcel; and the amount necessary to redeem a parcel as of the date listed below.		
Names of Owners, Taxpayers & Interested Parties	Parcel # Description of Property	Total Tax + Penalties
JANESVILLE TOWNSHIP		
DAVID DEAN WARD 4394 440TH AVE ELYSIAN MN 56028	RP 06.002.1300 W1/2 OF W445 FT E890 FT OF N97 FT 10 IN OF NE 1/4 OF NW1/4	\$2,613.79
NEW RICHLAND TOWNSHIP		
JEFFREY NELSON 1983 W CARDINAL CT CHANDLER AZ 85286	RP 07.013.2300 COMM ON S LINE OF MH TRACT AT A PT 493.50FT NORTH EASTERLY FROM SW COR THEREOF; THEN NORTHEASTERLY 129.50FT ALONG S LINE OF MH TRACT; THEN N2DEGW 212FT TO SHORE OF LAKE TO PT OF BEG; THEN SOUTHERLY 212FT; THEN SOUTH-WESTERLY 89FT; THEN NORTHERLY 238FT; THEN EAST 84FT ALONG SHORE TO PT OF BEG	\$4,048.53
ST MARY TOWNSHIP		
ARLAN M KRASSIN 32241 90TH ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 09.028.0220 4.65AC COM NE COR OF SE1/4; THEN S1317.62FT; THEN W736.11FT THEN N18DEGE 463.62FT; THEN N07DEGW 203.19FT PT OF BEG; THEN N8SDEGW 145.56FT; THEN W 200FT; THEN N09DEGW 298.13FT; THEN N18DEGW 141.86FT; THEN N88DEGW 55.64FT; THEN N66DEGW 279.46FT; THEN N63DEGW 201.36FT; THEN S89DEGE 508.78FT; THEN S12DEGE 149.60FT; THEN S42DEGE 173.51 FT; THEN S20DEGE 82.35FT; THEN S87 DEGE 156.09FT; THEN S14DEGE 223.69FT; THEN S02DEGE 110.66FT TO PT OF BEG	\$3,561.58
ARLAN M KRASSIN 32241 90TH ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 09.028.0230 2.33AC COM NE COR OF SE1/4; THEN S1317.62FT; THEN W736.11FT; THEN N18DEGE 463.62FT PT OF BEG; THEN S46DEGE 37.44FT; THEN S78DEGE 580.16FT; THEN S45.57FT; THEN W300FT; THEN W78.16FT; THEN S84DEGW 387.34FT; THEN N18DEGE 305.31FT TO PT OF BEG	\$2,881.06
JANESVILLE CITY		
JACOB V WITT PO BOX 303 JANESVILLE MN 56048	RP 14.100.2040 ORIGINAL PLAT S1/3 OF LOT 9 BLK 15	\$6,756.38
MICHAEL & JESSICA KARLES PO BOX 192 JANESVILLE MN 56048	RP 14.201.0100 CARPENTERS FIRST ADDITION W1/2 OF LOT 5 & E1/4 OF LOT 6 BLK 1	\$927.82
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CHARLES RL MCDANIEL PO BOX 3 NEW RICHLAND MN 56072	RP 15.100.0090 ORIGINAL PLAT LOTS 6 7 & N1/2 OF 8 BLK 2	\$7,554.57
SNOW CONSTRUCTION LLC 37457 143RD ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 15.100.2225 ORIGINAL PLAT LOTS 4,5,6 BLK 20 EX S 20FT	\$18,471.06
NEW RICHLAND BUILDING SUPPLY & HARDWARE LLC 37457 143RD ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 15.100.2500 ORIGINAL PLAT LOTS 7,8,9 BLK 20 & S 20FT OF LOTS 4,5,6 & ALLEY IN BLK 20	\$41,166.64
RONALD J ANDERLY;TRUSTEE OF THE EXEMPT SEPARATE TRUST FOR RANDY L SCOTT CREATED UNDER THE VICTOR L SCOTT REVOCABLE TRUST DATED MAY 26, 2005 AND RONALD J ANDERLY, TRUSTEE OF THE EXEMPT SEPARATE TRUST FOR RICKY A SCOTT CRESTED UNDER THE VICTOR L SCOTT REVOCABLE TRUST DATE MAY 26, 2005 AND RONALD J ANDERLY, TRUSTEE OF THE EXEMPT SEPARATE TRUST FOR PEGGY A MITCHELL; AND RONALD J ANDERLY, TRUSTEE OF THE NON-EXEMPT SEPARATE TRUST FOR RANDY L SCOTT CREATED UNDER THE VICTOR L SCOTT REVOCABLE TRUST DATED MAY 26, 2005 CREATED UNDER THE VICTOR L SCOTT REVOCABLE TRUST DATED MAY 26,2005; AND RONALD J ANDERLY, TRUSTEE OF THE NON-EXEMPT SEPARATE TRUST FOR RICKY A SCOTT CREATED UNDER THE VICTOR L SCOTT REVOCABLE TRUST DATED MAY 26, 2005; AND RONALD J ANDERLY TRUSTEE OF THE NON-EXEMPT SEPARATE TRUST FOR PEGGY A MITCHELL CREATED UNDER THE VICTOR L SCOTT REVOCABLE TRUST DATED MAY 26,2005 12994 COUNTY RD #3NW PINE ISLAND MN 55963	RP 15.777.0250 ZIEGERS 2ND ADDITION W62FT OF E125FT OF E260FT OF BLK 3	\$2,413.72
WASECA CITY		
LAGOW DEVELOPMENT CO C/O CHIP KUDRLE 2052 LEAVITT WOODS LN SHAKOPEE MN 55379	RP 17.018.2520 .92AC COMM AT A PT ON N LINE OF SW1/4 OF SE1/4 467.96FT E OF W LINE OF 6TH ST; THEN S11 FT; THEN N89DEGE 211.46FT TO PT OF BEG; THEN S104FT; THEN S45 DEGE 113.14FT; THEN S86FT; THEN N89DEGE 90FT; THEN N249FT; THEN S89DEGW 170FT TO PT OF BEG & BEG AT A PT ON N LINE OF SW1/4 OF SE1/4 AT INTERSECTION OF W LINE OF 4TH ST SW; THEN W380FT; THEN S11FT; THEN E380FT; THEN N 11FT TO PT OF BEG	\$6,619.96
JON S O'NEIL GREGORY RISTAU 34883 KNOLL DR WASECA MN 56093	RP 17.210.0060 C 1 C #3 HILLTOP ESTATES ADD UNIT #1520	\$2,879.79
JON S O'NEIL GREGORY RISTAU 34883 KNOLL DR WASECA MN 56093	RP 17.210.0070 C 1 C #3 HILLTOP ESTATES ADD UNIT #1524	\$2,879.79
ABM PROPERTIES LLC C/O ROUND BANK PO BOX 667 WASECA MN 56093	RP 17.710.0230 WOODVILLE MEADOWS OUTLOT A	\$2,566.24
GLENN W SCHWIETERS-TREASURER 1900 KNOX MCRAE DR UNIT 103 TITUSVILLE FL 32780		
BRADLEY J WENDLAND-OWNER 2402 24TH CT NE WASECA MN 56093		
ROBERT MICKELSON-MANAGER 2233 BAKER TRL FARIBAULT MN 55021		
JAMES M MANN-MEMBER 1401 CLEAR LAKE DR WASECA MN 56093		
MARK BORNEKE-MEMBER 37569 15TH ST JANESVILLE MN 56048		
ABM PROPERTIES LLC C/O ROUND BANK PO BOX 667 WASECA MN 56093	RP 17.710.0240 WOODVILLE MEADOWS OUTLOT B	\$375.22
GLENN W SCHWIETERS-TREASURER 1900 KNOX MCRAE DR UNIT 103 TITUSVILLE FL 32780		
BRADLEY J WENDLAND-OWNER 2402 24TH CT NE WASECA MN 56093		
ROBERT MICKELSON-MANAGER 2233 BAKER TRL FARIBAULT MN 55021		
JAMES M MANN-MEMBER 1401 CLEAR LAKE DR WASECA MN 56093		
MARK BORNEKE-MEMBER 37569 15TH ST JANESVILLE MN 56048		

FAILURE TO REDEEM SUCH LANDS PRIOR TO THE EXPIRATION OF REDEMPTION WILL RESULT IN THE LOSS OF THE LAND AND FORFEITURE OF SAID LAND TO THE STATE OF MINNESOTA.

The amounts listed above must be paid on or before July 31, 2025. Please contact the Waseca County Property & Election Services Office to verify the amount due if paid after July 31, 2025.

Inquiries about the delinquent tax proceedings described above can be made to the Waseca County Auditor-Treasurer at the address listed below.

Witness my hand and official seal this day of June 23, 2025.

X *Tamara J. Spooner*
S/ TAMARA J. SPOONER, Director of Property & Election Services

OFFICIAL SEAL

WASECA COUNTY
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Waseca's Little Rascals performed "Law and Order: Fairy Tale Unit" on Saturday, June 28, 2025.



Acting group Waseca's Little Rascals presented the director, Karen Pfarr Anderson with an appreciation gift basket after the final performance of "Law and Order: Fairy Tale Unit" on Saturday, June 28, 2025.

Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann

"Law and Order: Fairy Tale Unit" scrutinizes the criminal justice system

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Waseca's Little Rascals acting group performed "Law and Order: Fairy Tale Unit" over the weekend on Friday, June 27, and Saturday, June 28. Complete with accents, 18 actors got to play 42 different roles. The play was directed by Karen Pfarr Anderson, assisted by Sadie Schimming.

Practice for the production began at the start of June. Cast member Olive Scheffert, who played a bruised and black-eyed Detective Humpty Dumpty, said, "Our rehearsals have been going every week, Monday through Friday." Apparently, someone or something destroyed two of the three houses belonging to the three little pigs. The other detective in the case was Detective Cindy, played by Ayden Baxter. Most of the eyes were on the B.B. Wolf, played by Keegan Rodriguez, who, it turns out, was not as guilty as everyone assumed.

Hansel and Gretel, played by Charlie Randall and Audrey Gray, were of no help to the detectives,

but they did have a lot of candy. Jack and Jill, played by Ezra Hasselquist and Abigail Berge didn't help much either, but they did explain what they needed water for. The seven dwarves were also there, as were the three blind mice. The number of characters just seemed to keep growing as the play continued. The climax happened in the courtroom, before no other than her honor, Judge F. Godmother, played by Lilliana Arkadie.

"Law and Order: Fairy Tale Unit," was written by Jonathan Rand and performed with special permission. Leroy Shield, who was born in Waseca on October 2, 1893, composed some of the music that was played before the performance and has also been part of the soundtrack for other classic shows like Laurel and Hardy, Charlie Chase and the Little Rascals. The Little Rascals show was also the inspiration for the name of today's acting troupe.

As the curtain was about to fall at the end of the performance, the players asked the auditorium manager Chuck Pollock to raise the

lights again, and for director Anderson to accompany them on stage where they presented her with a gift basket in appreciation for all her hard work. She had to walk from the control booth to the stage, but was kind enough to give updates along her journey down the stairs. The students thanked her for her patience and for how much she cared about them and the production. Anderson managed to keep tears at bay, but emotion was in the air. She said, "I am sad to see the talented seniors go, but I'm excited to see which new students will be coming along next year and look forward to the fun we'll have together." She also had a long list of thanks to give, including the staff of Waseca Community Ed, Tracy Kopetzki, Chuck Pollock, Mike Buker and her own family. She called attention to the organizations whose support made the production possible: the Waseca Area Foundation, the Waseca Drama Department and Tyler Wendland, a 2017 graduate of Waseca High School who currently works for Meta.



Jozy and Ernesto Lopez of J&E Soap Co. attended the Farmers Market on Saturday, June 28, and plan to attend every market for the 2025 season.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

J&E Soap Co.'s first year at Farmers Market going well

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Starting this year, J&E Soap Co. has started selling their products at the Waseca Farmers Market. But looking at their display it would seem like they've been at it for a long time. With more than 30 different soap types, this husband and wife duo are already looking to expand.

The J stands for Jozy, 25, the E stands for Ernesto, 32. Said Jozy, "This is our first year selling at the farmers market, but we've been living in Waseca for a while. July 4 will be our fifth-year anniversary from when we moved here." She said over the winter they took a vacation down south, and on the way back they saw a TikTok video, "That led to how-to videos on YouTube, which led us to Google, and we just kept going from there, always doing research."

Ernesto said they are interested in making soaps with beneficial effects.

"We did our research and found clays that are good for the skin, that exfoliate, help with psoriasis and eczema. We also looked into what could help with acne, you know, asking 'What's good for the body?'" He picked up some of the bars of soap and showed the contrasting colors, a burnt mustard colored bar of soap he explained, "That is powdered turmeric, all natural." He grabbed a multi-colored bar and pointed at the three colors and said of the dark red, "That part of the soap we added red clay powder, next to that is a French green coloring, also clay powder, we finished with a Moroccan Red clay coloring." They explained their ingredients are all natural and went on to say, "We also do everything we can to get our supplies from local sources."

Ernesto manages a Starbucks in Owatonna; one of his co-workers has a sister who runs the Windy Hills

Ranch as a honey producer, "We use their products and it's really working out for us. They have goats and as soon as they start producing milk, J&E Soap Co. is planning on expanding into goat's milk soap." They explained their main goal is to only make the best products regarding skin care. Ernesto went on, "With the goat's milk we hope to expand to liquid soap instead of only bars. We also want body lotion, bubble baths and more. This started out as a hobby but it's grown."

J&E Soap Co. plans to be at the Waseca Farmers Market all summer long for 2025, and mention they are always on the lookout for other events and opportunities, "We'll be at Autumn Acres on September 20." For anyone interested in more information, their website is www.je-soapco.com.

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JULY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 6pm BAR Bingo	3 7pm HALL BINGO	4 MEAT Raffle 5:30 CLUB Horse racing 6:30pm INDEPENDENCE DAY	5
6	7	8	9 6pm BAR Bingo	10 7pm HALL BINGO	11 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	12
13	14 7pm Post & AUX. Meeting	15	16 6pm BAR Bingo	17 7pm HALL BINGO	18 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	19
20	21	22	23 6pm BAR Bingo	24 7pm HALL BINGO	25 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	26
27 KOREAN WAR VETER- ANS DAY	28 BUFFALO SOLDIERS DAY	29	30 6pm BAR Bingo	31 7pm HALL BINGO		

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