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LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY
No. 21 Vol. IV \$2 Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca Thursday, May 22, 2025

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Career Fair

Graduation Open house ads available

Celebrate this year's graduates in the paper with a photo and open house announcement. Cost is \$25 for one week or \$40 for two weeks.

Please email: news@waseca-countypioneer.com.

Cook the Book at Waseca Library Thurs.

Visit the Waseca Public Library to choose a recipe from the selected cookbook. Then bring the finished dish to the library at noon on Thursday, May 22 where the cooks will sample all the dishes and share their experiences. It's a great way to meet people in the community, share cooking tips, and try out delicious food. Open to all cooking and baking skill levels!

JWP Graduation 6 p.m. Friday, May 23

The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton school district ceremony for the graduating class of 2025 will be at the school beginning at 6 p.m. Friday, May 23. The last academic day for younger students will be Thursday, May 29.

Books and Brews at Half Pint Brewery and Waseca Public Library Saturday, May 24

Waseca Public Library has found the perfect combo for a book club, bookworm babble and beer. Stop by the library to pick up this month's book discussion selection, The Maid by Nita Prose. Book club begins at 4 p.m. Saturday, May 24th at Half Pint Brewing Company. Drinks and food not provided but can be purchased.

Rain Kings performing at the Indian Island Winery Saturday, May 24

The Rain Kings will be performing at the Indian Island Winery from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday May 24. They perform live music from an acoustic and electric roots rock band.

Chris Brooks & The Silver City Boys at the Mill Saturday, May 24

Chris Brooks & The Silver City Boys will be performing at the Mill event center from 8 p.m. till midnight. A top midwest-based country band, they play only the good stuff.

Good Night Gold Dust at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm Sun., May 25

Good Night Gold Dust will be performing at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm from 1-7 p.m. on Sunday, May 25. An indie pop group known for energetic live performances.

Waseca High School graduation 1:30 p.m. Sunday, June 1

Doors open at 12:15 for a 1:30 graduation ceremony for the Waseca High School class of 2025. The ceremony takes place in the Waseca Junior Senior High School gymnasium.

A word from The Word

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. 1 John 4:18



Heather Blake, who along with her husband Travis took ownership of Four Seasons athletic wear in downtown Waseca, is planning to transition the business back toward its original focus on sportswear, gear, and supplies.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Four Seasons changing under new ownership

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

When Heather and Travis Blake took ownership of Four Seasons Apparel and More from Jaala and Jeremiah Miller at the beginning of April, it was a bit like returning home for Heather, who has had many connections with the store beginning back when she took part on the Bluejay softball, basketball and volleyball teams prior to graduating in 2005. The store was founded in 1976 by Tom and Cindy Piche, who operated it for decades before selling it to the Millers in 2014.

Heather says she feels a strong association with the business because not only did her aunts

Linda Zienke and LuAnn Anderson play for the 4-Seasons softball team in the 1980s, the Piches' daughter Angie coached her in Community Ed softball and Jane Bartelt's daughter Jayme coached her fast-pitch summer team. She says the Piches and Bartelts have been great family friends, and Heather has many memories of being at the store visiting Jane and Cindy, buying tennis shoes and Bluejay gear.

Shortly after graduating, while in her 20s, Heather even had a part-time job at the store, which has been

in the same location at 124 North State Street in Waseca's downtown since its inception.

"Next year will be the store's fiftieth anniversary," she notes with excitement.

"There will be a learning curve," she observes. "I want to figure out what the needs are as we

return to something closer to the original model of the business." She makes the observation that the Millers added an online store, brought new technology and expanded the equipment for creating custom apparel. She calls attention to some remodeling and improvements to the building done by the Millers during their ownership, saying they really did a nice job updating the store.

Heather says she intends to reinstate the original company name, "4-Seasons Athletics," while increasing the stock she carries of sporting goods and coming to a better understanding of the steps she can take to keep more in town.

"For most of my life," she comments, "4-Seasons Athletics was the place to go for uniforms, sports attire and custom clothing."

4-Seasons continued on 12

Mental Wellness event promotes connection

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Activity was already brisk at the 4 p.m. start of the Waseca Area Mental Health Resource Fair at The Mill in Waseca the afternoon of Thursday, May 15. The free event featured more than 20 mental health support groups from Waseca, Owatonna, Wells, and even Rochester, according to Marty Johnson, founder of Keep Fightin' Recovery and one of the planners for the event.

Johnson explains that, when talking to people fighting mental health difficulties and addiction, he frequently hears comments like "I feel like I'm alone on an island."

"This event is all about building connections," he said.

Johnson explains the "Waseca Suicide Prevention Cohort" has now broadened its focus and become the Waseca Mental Health Collective, the fair's sponsoring organization. Part of the intent of the new name, he continues, is to help make it clear people do not need to be in crisis to seek support. "Wellness is something we want to be working on all the time," he points out.

Planning began last fall to find and bring to-

Wellness continued on 12



The Waseca Mental Health Collective, formerly known as the Waseca Suicide Prevention Cohort, sponsored a wellness fair at The Mill in Waseca the afternoon of Thursday, May 15. Planners for the event included (kneeling, from left) Pastor Jillene Gallatin of Grace Lutheran Church; Cindy Wofford of Sparrow Crisis Response; Ashley Killday and Colin Ayers, both of Waseca County Public Health; Sue McIntosh of Bethlehem Inn; (standing, from left) Mariana Izaquique of Waseca County Public Health; Marty Johnson of Keep Fightin' Recovery; Afton Finley of the Waseca Public Library; and Meg Monahan.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Bluejay graduates receive more than \$175,000

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

"Scholarship Night" at Waseca High School brought high school scholarship recipients to the stage alongside the individuals who helped decide who would benefit from about \$176,000 in support for their post-secondary schooling.

According to introductory remarks offered by principal Jason Miller, the tradition for the ceremony began in 1958 when \$200 in scholarships were given. "Tonight we shine the light on excellence," said Miller. Summarizing the achievements of the 154 students in Waseca's Class of 2025, Miller said 92 are honor students with cumulative grade point averages (GPA) of 3.0 or higher. Among them, 26 are graduating "with highest honor," a ranking known as "summa cum laude" in Latin. Because of additional GPA credit given for college courses, seven students have an offi-

cial GPA higher than 4.0; The 4.0 is associated with receiving no grade lower than an A at any time during one's academic career.

During the 2.5 hour event, about 75 different scholarships were awarded-while most named a single recipient, some organizations selected as many as six or nine. Amounts ranged from a few hundred dollars to one four-year "scholarship program" which could award up to \$20,000 across four years.

Recipients and scholarships included (listed alphabetically by student last name) Pablo Alvarez-Reyez, \$350 Marilyn Lau Memorial Scholarship, \$3,600 Teachers of Tomorrow Scholarship. Reed Anderson, \$1,400 James Ballard Memorial Scholarship, \$525 Holland Norton Memorial Scholarship. Adian Androli \$1,000 Rosenau Medical Scholarship, \$2,000 Greg &

Program continued on 12



Six recipients were selected for the Waseca Fusion J0 Volleyball Scholarship in Memory of Jocelyn Passon: Ellie Hoehn, Siri Kuhns, Kalea Sartori and Melanie Engel-Mueller. Not pictured are Aliyah Taylor and Kendall Bowers. Pioneer photos by Deb Bently



Recipients of the Rosenau Medical Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 were Navaeh Sampson, Hazel Moore, Adian Androli, Sierra Krause, Sophie Chawra, and Nathanael Andrs.



Caleb Erickson

Scherff to speak at Waseca Memorial Day Ceremony

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Wasecan Karla Scherff will be the speaker at the Waseca Memorial Day program scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. Monday, May 26, on the county courthouse lawn.

She describes herself as "humbled and honored" to be selected, since she is not a veteran. The topic she intends to share with those at the event, she says, is "What it's like to be a Gold Star Mom." The title is one given to the mother of a soldier who has been killed in the line of duty; in Scherff's case that was Corporal Caleb Erickson, whose unit was attacked by a suicide bomber while on a mission in Afghanistan in 2014.

Scherff believes that, if her son were given a chance to live his life again, he would follow the same path. "He felt a calling to serve his country," said Scherff. "He started talking about it when he was 13, and by the time he was 16 his mind was set."

Caleb signed up with the Marines during high school, graduated in 2012, went to boot camp that July and completed training in October.

"He said to me, 'What do you think, Mom? I'm a Marine now,'" remembers Scherff. She also remembers that, having completed the rigors of boot camp, "He was really craving some home cooking. He wanted a burger with everything on it."

Over the decade since Caleb's death, Scherff has organized annual events in his memory, most notably an annual ride late in August which included family members, local veterans, and some who served with him and came to the Waseca area especially for the event. The tenth annual ride occurred last August and is the final one Scherff plans to organize.

Of her Memorial Day speech, she says it probably won't be very long, but its intent is to help people see the value and significance of the annual observation.

"It's not a happy holiday," she comments, observing the sense of loss she feels will be lifelong. Time has given her practice at coping with her grief, but it has not decreased it. "People who have experienced a loss deserve to know their loved one is not forgotten," she said.

Karla Scherff came to Waseca in 1984 to attend the University of Minnesota-Waseca. She has lived here ever since, having worked for the Waseca Veterinary Clinic as a technician and office manager for the past 38 years.



Scherff



Compostings

by Al Batt

Declining bird populations

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
Do you get a deer license each year?

I don't hunt for deer.
Why not?
I figure if a deer loses something, it can hunt for it by itself.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I was turning the yellowed pages of a book to see if its wondrous words were worth donating to a library for its book sale. I remembered the comfort that book had brought me while I was growing up on a dairy farm. I enjoyed milking cows. In the barn, I could read a book, listen to the radio, and do my persistent chores at the same time. The cows were Holsteins, the radio was a Philco AM-only wooden console, and I was happy.

I found myself in Stanton, Iowa. It wasn't hard for me to find me. I knew right where I was. It's a gift. I saw the largest Swedish coffee pot in the world (it could hold 640,000 cups of coffee) and the world's largest coffee cup and saucer, which serves as a water tower and is capable of holding 2.4 million cups of coffee. Why all that coffee? It was in honor of Virginia Christine, who was born in Stanton and portrayed Mrs. Olson in Folger's Coffee TV commercials for 21 years. She played a smiling, Swedish woman ready to bring happiness to a young married couple by giving the bride a can of Mountain Grown Folger's Coffee. A single cup of it restored marital bliss.

I drove through Brewster, Nebraska, in the rural charm of the Sandhills. It's the county seat of Blaine County. Brewster has a population of 12, and Blaine County 431. I didn't count them. Brewster had the county courthouse, a couple of churches (UCC and Lutheran) and Uncle Buck's Lodge scattered throughout the 12 people.

I'VE LEARNED

The research team of personal injury lawyers at Osborne & Francis analyzed the drivers of all the US states based on six key factors, including crashes caused by distracted drivers, drunk driving fatalities and arrests, speeding, low seat belt use, and the number of uninsured drivers. Those components showed where operators are more likely to break the rules and make the roads more dangerous. New Mexico exhibited the worst behavior, followed by Wyoming, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas and South Dakota. The best behavior was found in Minnesota drivers, followed by New Jersey, Iowa, New York and Utah.

If you don't like the way your lawn looks, cover it with disabled

lawnmowers.

Bill Withers was making aircraft toilet seats in a Los Angeles factory when he wrote the song "Ain't No Sunshine." When the song went gold, the record company presented Withers with a golden toilet seat.

I have something most billionaires will never have—enough.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

A man in an interrogation room said, "I'm not saying a word without my lawyer present."

Cop: "You are a lawyer."

Lawyer: "So where is my present?"

A genie asked me, "What's your first wish?"

I answered, "I wish I were rich!"

The genie said, "OK. What's your second wish, Rich?"

Overheard in the bakery: "Do you have sticky buns?"

"Yes."

"Well, then, don't sit down."

"Name a country without the letter R in it."

"No way!"

NATURE NOTES

American white pelicans glided overhead on 9-foot-wingspans. In my yard, common grackles were everywhere. Despite that, they're becoming less common, with a cumulative population decline of 54% from 1966 to 2014. In Minnesota, the decline averaged 2.03% per year since 1967. Since 1966, when the Breeding Bird Survey began monitoring, the house sparrow has experienced a decrease of 3.61% per year. In Minnesota, the decline has been 4.08% annually. House sparrow declines have resulted from intensive agriculture. The increasing use of pesticides reduces insect populations, which lowers food availability for nestlings, and efficient farming practices limit the availability of waste grain.

I kept baby geese on the porch. What kind of geese were they? They were porch-a-geese.

The bumblebee was indecisive on a lovely May day. It landed on one flower briefly and then moved to another. It was a May bee may-bee.

Birds can be appetites with wings. Having milo (sorghum), which resembles BBs, in a birdseed mix is like having banana chips in a trail mix. I don't want banana chips in my trail mix, and few birds want milo in their trail mix.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"You can love completely without complete understanding."—Norman MacLean, "A River Runs Through It and Other Stories." Thanks to Dave and Deb Manning of St James for sharing this. Be kind.

I go crazy trying to get pictures...

I have one of those electronic picture frames. I'm sure you know what I mean, it stores photos and then shows them on a small screen one at a time. Now that I've had it for about a year, it has photos taken in every season.

I go kind of crazy trying to get pictures of wildflowers in spring—really, it's quite amazing how many there are, and what a variety a person can find. Some of them are around for less than two weeks, so if I miss them in one year, I have to wait for the next one to get a photo. Of course there are also wildflowers in summer, and I get pictures of those, too, but there's not the same level of urgency because those blooms seem to stick around longer.

I have to say my summer focus is wildlife. It is delightful to have good pictures of various elusive animals. I can't say I have a particularly extensive collection, but I am pleased to say I have one or two of an otter and a fair number of deer. I also have photos of both a black squirrel and a white one. The most success I have is with birds, perhaps mostly because



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

they position themselves in such visible places. I have a few of swans that I am fairly pleased with, some of Canadian geese leading young fledglings. I have had the good luck to get two pictures of bald eagles I am very satisfied with. And then the loons...oh, the loons. They are quite bold, coming surprisingly close to my family's pontoon. If we are not noisy or boisterous, my telephoto lens can get some great shots.

As the electronic photo frame cycles through, it comes to photos taken in fall. I would say my objective for autumn pictures is capturing combinations of colors. I think of a mountain ash tree I am acquainted with. It covered itself in berries last

fall: they were bright orange-red and beautiful to look at. They made a very nice photo contrasted against the green of the tree's leaves. As time went on, other trees nearby began to change color.

I still smile when I think of the morning we were headed out to go fishing. I sat on the boat trying to get a good angle that showed the bright colored berries in the foreground and the orange-brown leaves of a nearby tree in the background. I spent a few minutes trying to get the right angle before the boat headed out onto the lake. "Oh well," I thought to myself. "I'll get it when we come back."

A couple hours later when we returned, the berries had all been eaten

by a flock of excited birds still chirping and bouncing through the branches. Of course I've always understood a photographer should get the shots at the best opportunity, but that adventure really drove the message home.

I started writing this column, though, because of the winter photographs. Now that the leaves are green and the temperatures above freezing, those pictures of the ground covered in white seem to be from years ago, rather than a time that could be measured in weeks. There's one of my car parked on the ice next to a fish house; that one seems especially long ago.

The good news is, I find pleasure in them all.

Each one is a frozen moment that allows me to travel in both time and space, back to where and when it was taken. My electronic photo frame is a slide show of moments I found beautiful enough, significant enough, or unusual enough to capture, so I'm grateful both for its capabilities, and for the trouble I took to select and upload the pictures.

I am now officially a woman of letters

It is now official that I have graduated from college. Or, as my grandpa put it, I am now officially a woman of letters.

Although I may now officially have my Bachelor's of Arts in Journalism and Psychology, it doesn't feel as much has changed for me. I sat through a two hour ceremony, moved my white tassel from the right to the left, sang the Minnesota Rouser, clapped and cheered, took pictures, and was done. Then I walked back to my apartment and took off the cap and gown that I will never wear again, probably going in



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

a closet in my parents' basement for the foreseeable future.

But I will say it has been fun watching all my classmates from high school and college graduate and

post their pictures.

I had forgotten how many different places the Waseca Class of 2021 had spread after some of us decided to leave Waseca for college. Seeing all

the Facebook and Instagram posts from old high school classmates and seeing where they went, what they've accomplished, is really cool. Especially considering while we may have gone separate ways, we were still in this endeavor of college and life together, and now we're celebrating our successes around the same time.

And then there's all my college friends who I got to cheer on as they graduated right along with me because we were in this journey to-

Amelia continued on 4

Spring is the best season for bird watching

Spring is in full swing—definitely my favorite time of the year for bird watching! Many of us look for the first true sign of spring, the return of the robin. Their beautiful orange and dark black color along with their hopping walk make them unmistakable.

When spring arrives, most of nature's creatures are in their prime body color. Both males and females look their best because it's the time for procreation and family.

Barn Swallows are my favorite architects in building a nest. Somehow they fashion a structure made from tiny pieces of mud; after the nest dries to concrete, they lay eggs and raise a family. Unfortunately they don't build only in barns. One finds their nests in places where human activity is likely to be a disruption, including in boat lifts and on light fixtures in porches. My good neighbor Violet has a swallow nest built under her entry to the front door. She was busy cleaning up small fragments of mud and twigs for a couple of days as a pair of swallows built a nest. Soon she will be clearing bits of bird droppings and debris from the young hatchlings. Anyone knocking on the front door might be bombarded by swooping, protective parents. They might surprise or startle people, but really they're harmless—much more pleasant than swooping bats. I find swallow nests in the corner under the canopy of my boat lift every spring. I don't mind. Yes, their droppings and debris make a bit of a mess on my boat; I just put my Dewalt vac-



Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika



uum to work and clean up a bit before any outing fishing on Tetonka.

A special note: Destroying or removing a bird nest that contains eggs or young birds is illegal. There are exceptions; birds that can be a nuisance and are undesirable such as sparrows and starlings are not in the protected category. If you don't want to deal with the mess which will follow the making of the nest, you will be wise to remove it before any eggs are laid.

I had an exceptional bird viewing opportunity this spring as I was out on one of my early morning nature drives. I came upon two sandhill cranes right next to the road. I stopped and rolled down the window. They were so busy with their courtship dance, they didn't even seem to notice I was there. The dance is complex and was one of the best spring bird shows I've ever witnessed. The pair bowed to each other, tossed grass, leaped high, and ran around in circles. After completing the exercise, they exchanged calls back and forth as a duet. They repeated the ritual several times before moving on. Sandhill cranes mate for life and can be observed in grasslands next to wetlands.

When Canadian geese gather, they are the first birds to nest. They can nest when the water and air temperatures are only 40 degrees. I observed several pairs on the golf course, heads bobbing, nuzzling, and honking to one another in their mating ritual. The geese were out on the gold course before any golfer had even considered swinging a club. The Canadian geese will mate for life and stay together year 'round. The male defends the female and nesting site 24 hours a day. I observed two families of geese swim by the cabin dock at a very early date, May 8.

The young yellow goslings were busy feeding on insects in the weeds as they swam by.

A unique gamebird, the woodcock, also known as the timberdoodle, lives in damp lowlands of aspen or willows. The male timberdoodle is an odd-looking, fist-sized bird with an outlandish two-inch-long, thin bill. The elaborate courtship ceremony of the bird cannot be observed. Why? The curtain for his show goes up after dark. The male comes out of the swamp on clear, calm evenings, picks a field bordering the swamp, and be-

gins his "sky dance" at exactly 20 minutes after sundown. He begins by emitting a throaty "peent" every three to four seconds. He keeps pivoting 90 degrees, repeats the call, directing his affection to a female. The timberdoodle then takes flight parallel to the ground, and begins flying higher in wide arcs. The circles became steeper and smaller until he is hundreds of feet high in the air. As he rises, he emits a musical sound as air rushes through primary wing feathers. When he reaches his peak he folds his wings, falls back to earth, and returns to the exact spot where the performance began. He repeats this ritual for 45 minutes before retiring. The bird and his sky dance will hopefully attract the lady of his life.

Our feeder at the cabin has really attracted the orioles this spring. Beautiful males and females come in several times a day for a belly full of grape jelly. They empty the dishes daily and when filling dishes I noticed twigs and grass stuck in the dishes. The feeder hangs close to the deck, and we observe the birds at close range. One of the females was visiting daily and dipping nest material in the jelly. Smart lady, an honor student: she was using sticky jelly to help put her nest together.

When you have a chance, take a break and observe birds and nests in your own backyard. You may observe something exciting, a fantastic story to tell, or a mating ritual!

commitment deserve our deepest respect and support, not just in May, but year-round.

This month, let us thank the foster parents in our communities. Let's uplift their stories, provide them with the training and support they need, and recognize their contributions as essential to child welfare. If you know a foster parent, take time to express your appreciation. If you've ever considered fostering, now is a great time to learn more and explore whether this path is right for you.

Every child deserves to grow up in a safe, loving, and stable environment. During National Foster Care Month, we celebrate those who step forward to provide that for children in need. Foster parents are everyday heroes, and their impact lasts a lifetime. For more information on how to support foster care or become a foster parent, contact your local child welfare agency or visit <https://www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth>.



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DEADLINES: Pioneer: Noon Monday
GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

ELI LUTGENS
DEB BENTLY
JIM LUTGENS
JON LUCCA
BEN REVERMANN
TERESA ROSACKER
JESSICA LUTGENS
RACHAEL JAEGER
MELISSA DUNN
AMELIA ROESSLER

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Staff Writer
Staff Writer
Editorial Assistant

Contributing writers/photographers: Dave Zika, Al Batt

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To the Editor,

May is National Foster Care Month, a time to recognize and honor the critical role that foster parents play in the lives of children and youth in care. Across the country, thousands of individuals and families open their homes and hearts to children who have experienced abuse, neglect, or trauma. These foster parents provide not only shelter and safety, but also compassion, stability, and a path toward healing and hope.

Foster parenting is one of the most selfless and courageous acts a person can undertake. Children enter foster care through no fault of their own, often during moments of great upheaval. In these times, foster parents serve as a stabilizing force, helping children feel seen, valued, and supported. Whether it's helping with school transitions, attending therapy appointments, or celebrating birthdays and milestones, foster parents show up for children in countless ways that

shape their development and build resilience. This month is also an opportunity to highlight the diverse contributions of foster families. Foster parents come from all walks of life. The statewide performance standard for relative placements is 35.7 percent or greater and MN Prairie County Alliance placed 71.7 percent of children placement with relative caregivers in 2024 (Tableau, 2025) or more than double the statewide requirement. Some offer short-term emergency care, while others provide long-term placements or support youth transitioning into adulthood. Each of these roles is vital. It takes a broad and inclusive community to meet the needs of children in care, and foster families are at the heart of that network.

The impact of a nurturing foster home extends far beyond immediate safety. Research from Casey Family Programs (2024) shows that children who feel connected to stable caregivers are more likely to succeed academically, develop healthy relationships, and build self-esteem. When foster parents can partner with birth families, caseworkers, and service providers, they contribute to better outcomes and greater permanency for children. Reunification, adoption, and kinship care are all possible when foster parents act as mentors, advocates, and allies for the children they care for.



demically, develop healthy relationships, and build self-esteem. When foster parents can partner with birth families, caseworkers, and service providers, they contribute to better outcomes and greater permanency for children. Reunification, adoption, and kinship care are all possible when foster parents act as mentors, advocates, and allies for the children they care for.

At the same time, we acknowledge that fostering is not easy. The emotional, logistical, and relational demands are significant. Foster parents face uncertainties, navigate complex systems, and sometimes experience grief when children leave their homes. Their resilience, compassion, and

OBITUARIES

Michael Supalla

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Michael (Mike) Laurence Supalla, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend who touched countless lives with his warmth, generosity, and extraordinary work ethic. Mike left us too soon, following a tragic farm accident, but his legacy of love, dedication, and faith will continue to shine in the hearts of all who knew him.

Mike was born on February 27, 1950, to Laurence and Irene (Ignaszewski) Supalla. From a young age, he farmed alongside his parents, learning dedication, responsibility, and perseverance. He also learned that success isn't measured in single seasons but in generations of careful tending.

As a mischievous young lad, he loved playing pranks and spent countless hours playing baseball with neighboring farm friends and cousins. He attended New Richland-Hartland High School, where he gained recognition in football, wrestling, and baseball. He married his high school sweetheart, Gretchen Tukua, on June 21, 1969.

As a young adult, he re-established the New Richland Reds baseball team and co-founded the Minnesota Waxy Corn Growers Association (MWCGA). He took great pride in teaching a 'city' girl to become one heck-uva tractor driver, and together they were honored as the 1984 Waseca County Young Farmers of the Year. They owned and operated Supalla Trucking Company, where they formed lasting friendships along the way.

His greatest joy was his family. For 56 beautiful years, he and Gretchen built a life rooted in love and hard work. Together, they raised their family and nurtured their farm, through challenges and triumphs. Their bond was the foundation of everything they grew—both in the land and in their family. Mike (or "Rotz" as his family called him) poured his heart into his wife, three daughters, sons-in-law, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. He was their biggest champion, always encouraging their dreams and celebrating successes. His pride in them was immeasurable, and his love was unconditional. Whether offering quiet wisdom or a reassuring presence, "Rotz" led by example—teaching his family the importance of responsibility, kindness, and taking pride in a job well done.

Mike enjoyed checking on fields, picking rocks (not so much), cheering on his grandkids, spending time at the lake, side-by-side riding with friends, golfing, fishing, vacationing with friends and family, warm winters



Michael Supalla

in Nuevo Vallarta, and dreaming the Minnesota Vikings were Superbowl Champs.

Mike's absence leaves an immeasurable void, but his spirit will live on in the fields he tended, the lessons he imparted, and the love he gave so freely.

Mike is survived by his wife Gretchen, three daughters: Sharra (Scott) Hagenbrock of Celina, TX, Raquel (Todd) Hansen of Owatonna, MN, Lynsey (Matt) Heim of Owatonna, MN; Eight grandchildren: Lindsey Hansen (special friend Buzz Pool), Eric (Amanda) Hansen, Michael, Tyler, and Madison Hagenbrock, Caleb, Kade, and Paige Hullopeter; and 6 great-grandchildren: Ethan, Abigail, and Noah McGurran and Taitym, Zoey, and Rylinn Hansen; siblings Chris (Kevin) Johnson, Barb (Dave) Lyndgaard, Randy (Sue) Supalla, brother-in-law Eliott (Nancy) Tukua; Aunts Anne Theder and Marian Mithun; Uncle Bernard (Eleanor) Ignaszewski; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents Laurence and Irene Supalla, and siblings and in-laws: Betty and Reuben Woitas, Georgene and Tom Lenort, and Jolene and Roger Buchholtz.

A visitation for Mike will be from 4:00-7:00 PM on Thursday, May 15, 2025, at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca. A Funeral Mass will be held at the Church of All Saints in New Richland on Friday, May 16, 2025 at 10:00 AM. Burial will follow at Calvary Cemetery in New Richland. In his honor, the family kindly requests donations to the Church of All Saints or to the New Richland Fire Department.

The family is deeply grateful for the swift response of the New Richland, Waseca, and Ellendale First Responders. They are truly overwhelmed by the outpouring of generosity and support from friends, family, and neighbors.

Rest in peace, Rotz. You were truly one of a kind.
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Ardean Douma

Ardean D. Purdie-Douma, age 99, of Mankato, (formerly of New Richland) Minnesota, died Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at Lakeshore Inn Nursing Home, after complications of a stroke in March of 2024. The memorial service was held at Nasinee Funeral Home on Saturday, May 17, 2025 at 11:00 AM. Visitation was held 10:00-11:00 AM at the funeral home. Burial was in St. Olaf Cemetery in New Richland after the service and the luncheon. Please see nasinecfh.com to leave online condolences.

Ardean was born December 29, 1925 to parents Elmer and Esther (Brandt) Beyer in Vivian Township, Waseca County, MN. She was baptized Jan. 17, 1926 and confirmed April 21, 1939 at the First Lutheran Church in Wells. She attended Dist.#33 country school and graduated from Minnesota Lake High School, in 1943 as salutatorian of her class, and a graduate of The Minnesota School of Business (Globe College) in Mpls.

lege) in Mpls.

Ardean was hired at Security State Bank, Wells, where she met Loren "Brownie" Purdie. The were united in marriage on July 14, 1946 at Peace Church in Minnesota Lake and had 6 children: Sharon, Gary, Vicki, Nancy, Terri and David. In January, 1959 the family moved to New Richland, MN. During that time, Ardean worked for E.F. Johnson Company in Waseca. Brownie passed away on Feb. 8, 1991 and she continued working at E. F. Johnson for a total of 35 years. She was active in the Trinity Lutheran Church in New Richland, serving on the church council, and other organizations in the church: Altar Guild, WELCA, Quilting group, and also served on the New Richland Care Center Advisory Board. She was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary since 1947.

Ardean met Donald Douma at a dance in Mapleton in January of 2003. They married May 14, 2005 at Centenary United Methodist Church in Mankato. They enjoyed wonder-

ful years together living in Mankato until Don's death on March 22, 2014.

During her life she enjoyed playing cards and was an avid Bridge player. She enjoyed dancing (also western line dancing), bowling, golfing, cross word puzzles and other games. Ardean supported her grandchildren in their sporting activities and endeavors, and was an avid professional sports fan.

Ardean is survived by her 4 children: Sharon (Buddy) Sand of Rochester, NY; Nancy Purdie (John Johnson) of Rochester, MN; Terri Purdie and David (Lana) Purdie, all of New Richland, MN; 11 grandchildren; 2 step-grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great-granddaughters; daughter-in-law, Kathy Purdie-Maas; son-in-law, Roger Herbst; sister, Arbutus Miller; sister-in-law, Kay Beyer; along with many nieces, nephews and their families. Don's children: Donelle (Re. Grant) Tanner, Dennis (Susan) Douma, and Curt Douma, and their children.

She was preceded in death by her



Ardean Douma

parents, husbands, Brownie Purdie and Don Douma; daughter, Vicki Herbst, son, Gary Purdie, grandson, Joey Herbst; brothers: Eugene (Lois) Beyer and Marlin Beyer; and brother-in-law, Donnie Miller.

Douglas Prescher

DOUGLAS HAROLD PRESCHER, age 77, of Waseca, died on May 17, 2025, at his home with his family by his side.

Born on August 12, 1947, in Mankato, he was the son of Everett and Rita (Brigger) Prescher. Doug grew up on a farm near Mapleton and graduated from Mapleton High School with the class of 1965. On December 6, 1967, Doug was drafted into the United States Army where he honorably served his country during the Vietnam War as an Army Drill Sergeant. Doug was very proud of his military service! Following his honorable discharge, Doug continued his education at Mankato State University where he studied business, graduating in 1973. In 1975, Doug was united in marriage to Julie Johnson at the United Methodist Church in Mapleton, together they had two children and were later

divorced.

Throughout his life, Doug worked as the Assistant Veterans Service Officer, Director of Violations Bureau and Assistant Court Administrator all for Blue Earth County, ending his career as Court Administrator for Waseca County, retiring in 2007. Doug enjoyed curling, hunting, fishing, tending to his vegetable garden and following Minnesota Sports. In the early 2000's Doug began a new chapter in his life with his loving companion, Bonnie White. Together they enjoyed being involved with the Waseca American Legion, wintering in Texas and going up north fishing. He was a member of Grace Lutheran Church in Waseca, Ducks Unlimited, serving as treasurer for many years, and the Waseca American Legion where he was active with the formation of the Waseca County Veterans Memorial.

Doug is survived by his two children, Natalie Norris of Mound, and

Brett (Rebecca) Prescher of Waseca; five grandchildren, Tristan Godwin, John Norris, Jack Norris, Adelaide Prescher and Rorric Prescher; siblings, Richard (Elizabeth) Prescher of Morristown, Greg Prescher of Redwood Falls, Gale (Tom) Morley of Redwood Falls; and Bonnie's children, Becky (Derek) Brewer of Waseca, Steven (Della) White of Plainfield, IL, and Kelly (Vaughn) Ihrke of Isanti; many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, loving companion, Bonnie White; sister-in-law, Barb Prescher.

Funeral service will be 11:00 AM on Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at Grace Lutheran Church with Pastor Jillene Gallatin officiating. Visitation will be for one hour prior to the service at the church on Wednesday. Interment will be at Union Cemetery in Mapleton.

Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral



Douglas Prescher

and Cremation Service in Waseca is handling arrangements. DSOFuneral.com

Ralph Kern

RALPH KERN, age 77 of rural Waseca County passed away on May 18, 2025 at MCHS-St. Mary's in Rochester, surrounded by his family. He was a beloved son, brother, husband, father, and grandfather.

Ralph was born to John and Doris (Chavie) Kern on Valentine's Day in 1948 at the Faribault Hospital. He spent most of his childhood growing up on his parents' farm just NE of Owatonna. As a young man, he enjoyed horseback riding and 4H. He attended a one room country school-house until fourth grade and then St. Mary's Elementary, eventually graduating from Marian High School in 1966.

In the spring of 1966, Ralph met Shirley Pechacek, and they were married the next year at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Owatonna. They eventually purchased a farm north of

Waseca where they raised their daughter Angela and son Erik.

Ralph was not one to sit still. Whether it was farming, construction, fixing, or any kind of project, it didn't matter. The harder he worked, the more he loved it. He also loved to read. It didn't matter if it was the Hoard's Dairyman, The Farm Journal or a Western. However, his greatest love was his grandchildren Will, Wyatt, Emily, and Addie.

Ralph is survived by his loving wife Shirley; his children, Angela (Bill) Storch and Erik (Krista) Kern; grandchildren, Will Storch, Wyatt (Gracie) Storch, Emily Kern, and Addie Kern; siblings Ron (Peggy) Kern, Joyce Sammon, Marge Kern, Mary (Ed) Zuranski, Sharon (Jim) Gray, Marty (Cindy) Kern, and Ken (Lisa) Kern; in-laws, Mary Quaintance, Mona (Gary) Edgar, Terry (Yvonne) Pechacek, Marlin (Leann)

Stoltz, Milo Stoltz, Roberta Rodriguez, Eddie Pechacek, and Danny Pechacek; and numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents John and Doris Kern; siblings, infant John Kern, Kathy Kern, and Harland Kern; father-in-law Robert Pechacek; brothers-in-law, Clem Sammon and Richard Quaintance; and sister-in-law Renee Kern.

Visitation will be held Wednesday, May 21, 2025 from 4-7 PM at the State Street Chapel (711 N. State Street) of Dennis Steffel Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca. Funeral services will be on Thursday, May 22, 2025 at 1:00 PM at Sacred Heart Catholic Church (111 Fourth Street NW) in Waseca. Burial will be at Calvary Cemetery in Waterville.



Ralph Kern

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

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But that is them. There is still the question of what am I going to be? Who do I want to be?

If someone stopped you right now and asked you who you are, how do you respond? Do you say your job title? Do you respond that you are a mother, father, grandparent of some lovely children? A sibling? Do you say you're a resident of your town? Who are you? What defines you? What defines me?

Do I say I am a recent college grad

from the U of M? A journalist working for the Waseca County Pioneer? A sister, child, and relative to a loving family? A reader, a writer, a chef? Someone who works out but loves sweet treats?

There are endless possibilities to who I am, who you are. I don't want to put labels on it or set boundaries to who we may become. I just want to enjoy life and every day we are granted. Sometimes it may be hard, watching people fight, watching politics get angrier, watching the world become more divided in places. But sometimes it may be great, watching people celebrate each other, watching communities come together,

watching people grow and learn more about themselves, about each other.

Where your role in that, where my role is in that, is up to us. Who are we now and who do we want to become?

I know it's all very "this is what my therapist would say," but I do think it's important. Or maybe that's just my psychology degree talking.

My Determination: "“We are always not quite as good as we wish. As capable, as bright. It is the human way to fall short of ourselves.” – Leo, The Great

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NEW RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL

NR bonds \$3 million for project

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

During their regular meeting on May 12, New Richland city council members authorized issuing nearly \$3 million in bonds to support street and utility improvements to South Ash Avenue and South Broadway Avenue due to take place this summer. The city has engaged David Drown Associates, Inc. in Minneapolis as its independent financial advisor for the bonds and will be selling them by a competitive negotiated sale.

Council members learned the New Richland Area Foundation has allotted \$7,500 toward upgrading the restrooms in City Hall; the facilities will be brought up to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance. Full cost for the project is expected to be \$10,000. Other significant awards are \$1,500 to the New Richland Care Center and \$500 in support of the city library's summer reading program.

The city council enacted an ordinance making it illegal to park along the east side of Ash Avenue in the 300 block across from the school between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on days when school is in session. Permits will be available through city offices for property owners on Ash Ave South who are affected by this restriction.

At the request of the American Legion, May 23 has been officially declared Poppy Day in the town of New Richland. The Fire Department completed pump training for April. There will be a water balloon fight on the last day of school, at the school; everyone is invited, the kids are excited.

The New Richland Care Center is seeking candidates for a number of positions including director of nursing, a certified dietary manager, an activities director, registered or licensed practical nurses and certified nursing aides. Some interviews have taken place with more to be scheduled in the future.

At the recommendation of city administrator Tony Martens, the council approved assigning the duties formerly listed as the responsibility of the city clerk and the city treasurer to Martens' position. The remaining position in the city administration office will be changed to "deputy clerk." Some research among comparable area cities shows that most are now using this title for the position.

Council members approved \$1,400 for the purchase of an air conditioner to be installed in city garage C.

The New Richland swimming area will not be open summer 2025 due to staff shortages. Those who have prepaid for summer swim lessons will be refunded.



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Officer Gage Horn of the Waseca Police Department visits with student Anya Gaona regarding possible careers in law enforcement. Members of both the police and fire departments visited with students during the outdoor career fair held near the Waseca Junior Senior High School the afternoon of May 13.



Waseca students (from left) McKenna Mortensen, Emily Mumme and Elli Hoban tried out goggles brought by the police department which simulate what it is like to try "walking a straight line" when under the influence of a substance. The three were among a steady stream of students who visited the outdoor career fair on Tuesday, May 13.



Waseca students Hunter Harty (left) and Noah Rohr visited with Southern Research and Outreach Center (SROC) researcher Jason Stenzel during the recent career fair.



Tim Roessler, Waseca's deputy director of public works, sits at the wheel of a paver—one of three large machines brought by the city to the outdoor career fair next to Waseca Junior Senior High School the afternoon of May 13.



Graham Johnson, owner of ALC Industries in Waseca, with Waseca Junior Senior High School Principal Jason Miller (at right). ALC performs a wide variety of construction and landscaping work, including building and maintaining railroad tracks. The business brought a number of pieces of large equipment to the outdoor Career Fair held May 13 at the Waseca Junior Senior High School. Pioneer photos by Deb Bently



Jennifer Patzner (left) and human resources manager Lisa Hanson from Cinch Connectivity Solutions in Waseca encouraged Waseca students to consider a career in machining. The two staffed a booth at the Waseca Junior Senior High School outdoor career fair on May 13.

Fair focuses on outdoor careers

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

About a dozen organizations set up displays near the Waseca Hockey Arena for much of the business day on Tuesday, May 13, to show Waseca secondary students a range of career ideas related to the outdoors and agriculture. Waseca Junior Senior High School student success coordinator Jack Arpin relates that about 500 students in grades 6 to 11 visited the displays, many of which had hands-on elements.

The Minnesota State Southern Agricultural Center of Excellence located in North Mankato brought a

mechanized chair set up to simulate the driver's seat of a combine; a screen in front of the chair represented the combine head moving through rows of corn. Said representative Courtney Spence, the simulator, which can be used to imitate numerous devices, helps build a bridge between agriculture and education by piquing students' interest in the many facets of the field.

"Agriculture is more than fields and barns," commented Jason Stenzel of the University of Minnesota's Southern Research and Outreach Center (SROC) located near Waseca. Stenzel was introducing students to a process which exposes oils from

various crops to a plasma field, causing the liquids to change in ways that make them suitable for a wider range of uses. Corn oil, for example, separates into glycerol which can be used in animal feed and another fluid suitable to become biodiesel. When run through the process, camelina oil acquires properties suitable to become jet fuel.

Tim Roessler with the City of Waseca's public works department, attracted student interest with a high-way paver. He, along with Graham Johnson, whose ALC companies also brought large vehicles, mentioned their agencies hire some high-school age workers, so the fair could serve

the dual purpose of educating students about possible future careers and helping them find a summer job. Representatives of the Waseca police and fire departments used the event both for career recruitment and building rapport with students.

According to Arpin, this was the third year of the outdoor fair. "I've heard really positive things," he said. "We've received statements of gratitude for holding the event. Presenters also thought the flow of students was consistent, and that kids were showing genuine interest."

DARE Class of 2025

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Waseca Intermediate School Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Class of 2025 graduation took place over the lunch hour on Monday, May 13, to a full gym of students and family members. Event organizers told the crowd DARE courses are designed to help fledgling Blue Jays continue to "Think Blue and Achieve Gold" and to always stay drug free.

Detective Nick Wellman of the Waseca Police Department handed out DARE diplomas to the six different classrooms of fifth-graders after he spoke of their achievements and determination. Wellman helped teach the classes of Ria O'Brien, Jodi Schlichte and Lori Harris. Resource Officer Greta Luiken helped guide the other three, taught by Katlyn Yaste, Jana Kestel and Rachel Bruns. DARE education is spread across 10 weeks in March, April and May.

One student from each of the six teachers' classes read an essay she had written about the benefits of staying off drugs, who the drugs affect and the damage they can do. For Ms. O'Brien's class, Leta Hughes was spokesperson; her points included reaching out to trusted adults; communicating

about substance-related situations; developing good habits, including choosing friends who are not users; and not being rude to people who want to help.

Kendall Johnson, from Ms. Schlichte's class, told listeners she participates in gymnastics and wants to be a paleontologist. Her essay included statistics and trends such as, "There are 200 chemicals in vapes. If you do drugs you get kicked out of sports. Drugs produce bullies. There is a difference between telling and tattling. Tattling is immature and silly and is for things that are not serious. Telling is important and has a point."

Lilian Berg from Ms. Yaste's class made reference to Officer Luiken and how much her approval means to her. "When you see drugs, walk away." She also made reference to the DARE decision-making model and the difference wise decisions can make to a person's future.

Samarah Hoffman represented Ms. Kestel's class. Hoffman, a swimmer, mentioned having learned with guidance from Officer Luiken, "Never smoke or vape, it will turn your teeth yellow. You can stay safe in the DARE pro-

DARE continued on 12

JANESVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Accessory structure ordinance approved

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

During their May 12 meeting, Janesville city council members approved increasing the maximum standard size for accessory structures including garages, sheds and camper storage buildings from 900 square feet to 2,000 square feet or half the size of the rear yard. Larger buildings could be allowed if a variance is approved.

City administrator Clinton Rogers praised the thorough research performed by city intern C.J. Betcher, who worked with the city from January through mid-May, and who contacted numerous nearby towns regarding their ordinances. The decision to research larger structures, Rogers said, was based on resident requests.

"We've had a few of those the last couple of years," Rogers added. "I'm just going to say a thirty-by-thirty shed might not be big enough for a couple vehicles and a workbench, so the planning commission asked us to research what other communities in the area have done."

During a comprehensive discussion regarding the ordinance change, council members expressed concern regarding a restriction that accessory building side walls were limited to a standard height of nine feet. Comments included that for anyone wishing to store a camper, nine feet might not be tall enough. Rogers suggested that those who want taller buildings can still apply for a variance or conditional use permit, and commented the planning and zoning committee had chosen the standards with the goal of preserving the integrity of neighborhoods and individual yards.

Waseca County Commissioner Dee Malterer, who was present at the council meeting, asked how much it would cost to apply; Rogers responded the cost is \$300.

"I really appreciate the thoughtfulness that went into this," Malterer commented and went on to say she understands the reasoning behind the change as it applies to the city's development. "Is there a way that you can tie the square footage to gather with the sidewall height, even to twelve feet?" As had others, Malterer expressed concerns about campers since there seem to be quite a few, and since owners have numerous reasons to acquire indoor storage for them.

Rogers clarified that this ordinance is a baseline and that any resident who needs additional space can apply for the variance.

In other business, the council declined the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton (JWP) school district's request to terminate their contract with the city for the service of school resource officer (SRO) Sheila Jewison, effective June 30. Instead the council authorized Rogers to negotiate with JWP about keeping Jewison on staff.

Rogers said he had communicated with the school about possibly carrying the program through Christmas break so the city could receive the payments for the six months until Christmas break. In that period, he added, the city and JWP could discuss what the future would hold.

"Having served on the school board previously, this time of the year is typical for cuts in staffing and you'll find that probably 90 percent of those cuts are never realized," commented council member Ivan Maas. "Those people are hired back before the next school season, so I think holding it out to December is the thing to do."

Other options were discussed, including a hybrid type of program where an officer could come out for a few days instead of a week and handle calls re-

Council continued on 12

MEMORIAL DAY

MAY 26, 2025



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Anthony Arnfelt



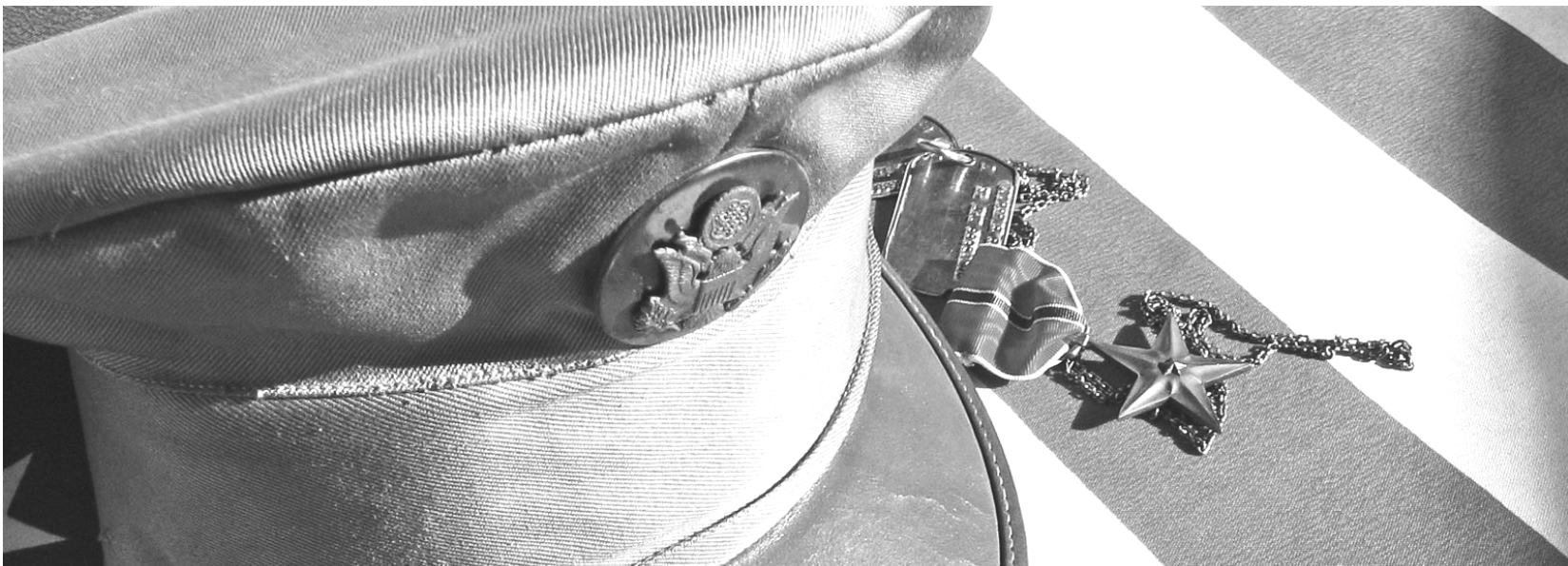
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Area Memorial Day ceremonies

Memorial Day Events
Veterans organizations will celebrate Memorial Day, Monday, May 26, 2025, in accordance with the following schedule. Please set aside time to attend one of these featured events in commemoration of those who have and are currently serving our country in the military. The events especially pay tribute to those who have given the ultimate sacrifice of their lives, establishing freedom in the United States of America.

Those who wish to be able to sit during outdoor ceremonies may wish to consider bringing a lawn chair.

Waseca
The program starts at 9 a.m. Monday at the south side of the Waseca County courthouse with a short parade followed by a ceremony. The speaker during the ceremony will be Karla Scherff, mother to Corporal Caleb Erickson, a Waseca High School graduate and U.S. Marine killed in action in Afghanistan in 2014. Jackie Barbknecht, Waseca American Legion Commander, will be the master of ceremonies for the

program, which will begin with flag raising ceremonies led by V.F.W. Honor Guard members Blaine Brooks, Chris Weber and Dean Farley.

Anyone wishing to be seated during the ceremony should bring a lawn chair.

The national anthem and other musical selections will be played by the members of the Waseca High School Band, directed by Devon Lawrence. The lyrics of the national anthem as well as other pieces will be sung by members of the high school male and female sextets, directed by Megan Kreinbring.

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address will be delivered by Ashton Jenzen. The Wendt Sisters will perform the Veterans' version of "Hallelujah."

Ceremonies at the plaque will be performed by representatives of the American Legion, the V.F.W., the American Legion Auxiliary and the V.F.W. Auxiliary. The list of deceased veterans from 2023 to 2024 will be read by Blaine Brooks. "Homeward Bound" and "America" will be sung by the male and female sextets of

Waseca High School. A benediction will be delivered by Pastor Ashley Kuhlman. A rifle salute will be followed by Taps, to be played by Waseca Senior High School Band buglers Allen Kopetzki and Elliott Galle.

In the event of rain or other inclement weather, the program will be moved inside Waseca High School, with a start time of 9:30 a.m.

Janesville
A Memorial Day program will begin at 9 a.m. May 25 at JWP High School. Speaker will be Mankato area veteran Bradley Ammerman, who has built a career in cybersecurity since leaving the military.

New Richland
The New Richland American Legion invites all members of the public to its annual Memorial Day program, scheduled for 11 a.m. Monday, May 25, in the NRHEG Secondary School gymnasium. Along with ceremonial observations, the program will feature Legion president Rick Rotman as speaker. The school choir will sing the national anthem,

"My Country 'Tis of Thee," and "America, the Beautiful." Seniors Harbor Cromwell and Cole Hutchinson will give readings.

After the ceremony, participants are invited to The Willows restaurant, which will be offering lunch that day even though it's typically closed on Mondays. A limited menu will feature pulled pork sandwiches and potato salad for \$11 a person.

Waldorf
The Waldorf American Legion Post # 587 Memorial Day Program will be at the Waldorf Community Center located on Main Street at 10:15 a.m. with Waseca area veteran and veteran advocate Jeremiah Miller as the speaker. Prior to the program at 9 a.m., a graveside service will take place at Zoar's Cemetery. Following the program, graveside services will be presented at St. Joseph Community Cemetery and First Lutheran Church Cemetery. A potluck dinner will begin at noon in the Community Center; everyone is welcome.



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James Ross



James Staloch



John Henry Schmidt



John Priebe



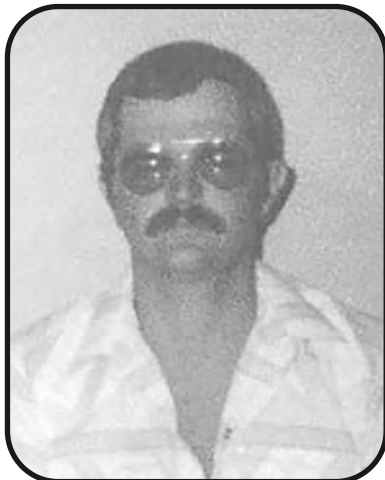
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Janesville

1925

- The American Legion \$5 million Endowment Fund drive is in full sway in most of the cities and villages throughout the United States, either this week or the following. The drive is put on to raise the above amount and put in a trust fund, and only the interest each year which amounts to \$225,000 will be used. The question arises immediately by some, "Why Not Let the Government Take Care of the Orphans and Veterans?" The government since the way closed has done very much for the disabled veterans, but how many people know just how this is carried on.

- The thought that the people already in the United States, native and foreign born, citizens and aliens, have a first right to an opportunity to make a living and secure a foot hold here as against a new immigration, was one of the big things which the President drove home in his address to the Daughters of the American Revolution. Speaking of the new immigration law, he called the attention of his audience to the fact that but for this law we would, in the last four years, we would have received an additional eight million of people from Europe, all competing against the people already here in the battle for a livelihood. Inasmuch as many of them, by reason of the straightened conditions in which they would reach us, would by force of circumstances, be ready to accept any wage offered for the purpose of securing bread, a depreciation in the general wage scale would have been inevitable. Sound common sense as usual is back of the President's words.

- One of the best Illustrations of how the American tariff protects American workmen has just been witnessed at Salen, Oregon. For many years a linen mill has been operated at Toronto, Canada. The owner of that mill, in selling his goods in the United States, had to meet a tariff of some 30 percent. The Canadian line manufacturer is establishing a \$640,000 linen mill in Salem. What has been the result? The tariff encouraged the Oregon farmer to grow flax and it also encouraged the linen manufacturer to establish a factory in this country to supply the American market.

1950

Funeral services honoring Mrs. William Kidney, well known and highly respected pioneer of Janesville, were held Friday afternoon at St. John's Episcopal church, the Rev. Marvin A. Nordmeier, pastor, officiating. Augusta Kluge, daughter of Fred and Henrietta Kluge, was born in Germany December 18, 1863, and after coming to this country with her parents when a young girl, she came to the Janesville community. On October 5, 1881, she was united in marriage to William H. Kidney, in Janesville and continued to make her home here until her death last week.

- It could happen only in a small and friendly community such as Janesville. When friends and relatives of Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Walner of Janesville learned that their cottage in Lake Francis was almost totally destroyed by fire one day last week, they decided to do something about it just expressing their sympathy to the Walners, they felt, wasn't enough, so they all congregated in cars last Friday afternoon and went to the Walner cottage (or what was left of it) and proceeded to assist the owners in taking the remaining burned and scorched siding down and cleaning up the place in general. After the busy afternoon a lunch awaited the workers.

1975

- For the first time in over twenty years, a first-year chapter has been named the best overall chapter in the State of Minnesota. That honor was bestowed on the Janesville Jaycees this past weekend at the annual Minnesota Jaycee Convention held at the St. Paul Civic Center. Accepting the award for the Janesville Caycees was outgoing president Jim Johnson who personally was named first runnerup in the competition for Top First Year Jaycee.

- Principal John Grass and teachers Deidre Malden, Nancy Boettcher and Harriet Tetzloff all resigned their positions at Janesville High School Monday night. The board had been expecting Mrs. Tetzloff to retire and the two other teacher resignations, but Graff's decision came as a surprise. The high school principal will be giving up an \$18,000 a year job when his contract expires June 20, 1975. He has been senior high principal here for the past eight years. "It took a lot of soul searching on my part," Graff told the board. "It has been eight good years."

- Sunday, April 27, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Lewis of St. Clair observed their golden wedding anniversary with an open house reception at the United Methodist fellowship hall from 2 to 5 p.m. the event was hosted by their children and grandchildren, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Lewis and girls, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Juliar and boys of River Hills, Burnsville and Mr. and Mrs. Jarrett Lewis and family of Mankato Route 4. Dining room host and hostess were Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Juliar.

2000

- Better late than never applied to the Janesville-Waldorf- Pemberton softball team at Waterville April 25. The Bulldogs overcame a 3-2 deficit with five runs in their final at-bat and went on to capture a 7-3 victory over Waterville-Elysian- Morristown. JWP, which did not score a run against the Bucca- neers last season in 6-0 and 8-0 set-backs, improved to 2-1 in the Gopher Conference and 3-1 for the season. The Dawgs have won three road games without a loss this season. WEM suffered its second consecutive defeat, falling to 1-3 in the league and overall. The Bucs are now 1-1 at home.

- For Gay Von Holtum, it isn't easy being the center of attention. When he was voted Teacher of the Year, 2000, he didn't want a big deal made out of it. He was very pleased, however. "There are a lot of great teachers here," said Von Holtum. "Any one of them could have been teacher of the year. It's an honor that they picked me." Von Holtum has been a teacher in the Janesville- Waldorf-Pemberton school district for 32 years, his entire teaching career.

- After last Wednesday, the students at JWP High School will never look at seat belts in quite the same way again. In a presentation entitled, "Highways or Dieways, The Choice is Yours," the students examined this issue at length, especially how it affects their age group. This program is a joint effort by the Minnesota State Patrol and South Central Emergency Medical Services. There is no fee to the school for this event. It is targeted at teens in the Senior High Setting, giving them valuable information regarding occupant protection. The main presenter was Sergeant Jacalyn Sticha of the Minnesota State Patrol, Paul Stelter, from South Central EMS, participated in the pre- sentation by demonstrating a Rollover-Simulator

Waseca

25 Years Ago

-Mardell Jacobsen was one of 750,000 moms and supporters who marched in Washington, D.C., on Mother's Day.

-Mardell Jacobsen of Waseca found herself in a very unusual place last week. In spite of her own admission that what she did was very out of character for her, Jacobson was in Washington, D.C., on Sunday to participate in the Million Mom March. "I'm really an introvert," she said. She had read about the upcoming march, visited the organizers' web page, and, in a spur of the moment decision, decided she would like to join the event.



-Waseca special education teacher Marilyn Teskey has been going to school every year since she was five years old. Teskey's journey to Waseca has taken many twists and turns along the way. She said her interest in education was sparked by the fact she was the oldest child in her family. "I just liked helping people," Teskey said. "I like math, and I think it was the right choice."

-Waseca elementary special education teacher Marilyn Teskey has decided to retire after 34 years in education.

-Kris Metzдорff had been thinking about running the famous Boston Marathon for years. It was a goal, something she'd always wanted to do. However, she thought such an attainment was years away. Then, at Grandmother's Marathon in June 1999, Metzдорff surprised herself. She ran the standard 26.2 miles of a marathon race in three hours and 44 minutes. She followed that up with a time of three hours and 40 minutes in the Twin Cities Marathon in October 1999.

-The students from Cheryl Read's fourth grade class at Waseca Centreal Intermediate School had lunch with their senior pen pals on May 15. Before lunch the students and seniors visited with each other about the year. The program is sponsored by the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program.

50 Years Ago

-Plan strategy – SHERIFF DON EUSTICE, right, and to of his deputies, Mert Schwarz, left and Bruce Cummins, center, planned their strategy before patrolling the streets in Owatonna Friday night to help prevent disorderly conduct among youth in that city. Eleven deputies and members of the sheriff's posse from Waseca were among the over 90 policemen and sheriff deputies on the scene.

-The Waseca County American Dairy Association is sponsoring a dairy princess contest and annual banquet on June 10. The event will be held at the Waldorf school. Lynette Eustice, 18-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Eustice of Rt. 1, Waseca, is the first candidate for the princess contest. She is sponsored by the Janesville Creamery.



-Vagabond winner – MR. AND MRS. FRANKLIN MAAS of Route 3, Waseca are probably planning their summer vacation right now, thanks to the Waseca merchants who sponsor the Vagabond Vacation program. Mr. and Mrs. Maas were the winners this week of a weekend at any Holiday Inn or Ramada Inn in the United States, Canada, or Mexico, plus cash to spend.

75 Years Ago

-TRY OUT EQUIPMENT – It wasn't long after the new Waldorf fire truck was delivered that firemen were out trying out new equipment. The water for the powerful spray was pumped from a creek south of town. Left to right are: William Zimmerman, Rollie Andrews, Jack Doyle, Frank Pasavada, and Laverne Ewert.

-Patricia Kelley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Kelley, Waseca, was elected secretary of the St. Paul region of the National Federation of Catholic College students for the coming year at the regional council meeting at St. Benedict's College, St. Joseph, Minn. Miss Kelley will automatically resign her position of acting junior delegate for the College of St. Teresa in favor of the new office which she has accepted.

100 Years Ago

-A capacity house greeted the class of 1925 at the Sacred Heart high school auditorium Tuesday evening at the presentation of their class play, "Just Out of College." The stage settings were beautiful, the costumes were attractive and the young people took their parts so ably that the production proved a most delightful one and was most thoroughly enjoyed by the audience. The cast was so well balanced that it would be practically impossible to pick out any star. Although some of the roles were heavy and more difficult than others, each one was carried out to perfection.

-Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Wolf had a rather unusual experience while returning home from a visit in Wells last Sunday evening. They were about six miles north of Wells, just at dusk, when they noticed a car swing directly across the road a short distance ahead of them, the driver indicating that he wanted them to stop. Instead of stopping, however, Harvey "stepped on the gas," swing to the side of the road and kept right on going.

-H.C. Cooper's Ford car was taken from in front of the Sacred Heart School last Monday evening. The police were notified and Chief Connelly got on the job and located the car about 11:30 near Wm. Cleary's residence on First street. As no one has yet accused Bill of joy riding, it is presumed that the car was taken by some youngsters who were out for a lark and did not realize that it is a prison offense to take any car without permission.

New Richland

25 years



- Linda Emstad, sixth grade instructor at the Middle School, Ellendale, was elected Teacher of the Year 2000 in the New Richland - Hartland - Ellendale- Geneva School district last week. She will be competing for state of Minnesota Teacher of the Year in fall. Books and class have been a part of Linda's life for 26 years.

- For the first time since its resurrection in 1995, the title of Miss Waseca County is sought by eight young women. The Miss Waseca County 2000 contestants are: Nicole Werth from New Richland, Christina Steward from Waseca, Amanda Tesch from Waldorf, Courtney Judd from Waseca, Stacy Lewer from Waseca, Mariah Routh from New Richland, Courtney Adams from Janesville and Jennifer Mackey from Waseca. Together, these eight women will earn scholarships totalling \$2000.



- Spanish classes at New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School spent several days last week making Pinatas. Here Jennifer Foley, Spanish instructor watches as Alex Barnett takes several healthy swings at the creation he and his team made. Finally he hit it so hard the entire Pinata flew across the room nearly hitting a number of students and strewing candy about.

- Engagement Announcement. Gordon and Brenda Ednet of New Richland announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Misty Lynn, to Jeremy Ralph Krueger, son of Ralph and Irene Krueger of New Richland. Misty is a 1996 graduate of New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva high School and is a CRDA for Dr. Kieper in Rush city. Jeremy is a 1997 graduate of New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva is a student of Pine Tech College in Pine City studying gunsmithing. Saturday, June 3 is the day of the wedding.

- Twelve area wrestlers brought home medals from the region wrestling meet at Rochester, March 25. They were from the left: front, Ben Barner, Alex Moen, Clay Krueger and Dylan Ferber, all placed fourth; back: Justin Tufte, third; Tim Rysavy, fourth; Gaven Schlaak, first; and Matt Holland, second.

50 years back

- Honor students of the graduating class at Waldorf - Pemberton High School are from the left, front:Lynn Drager, Conita Tesch, Cynthia Murphy, Susan Schubbe, and Becky Ewert, back: Deborah Webster, Bonnie Benson, Darla Goodrich, Dan Geary and Lynn Ewald. Graduation will be Friday, May 30 at the Waldorf school building at 8 pm.

- Mrs. Bill Nock is pictured here with a cousin, Mrs. Kath Simonson and her son, Paul Simonson of Helosingborg, Sweden, who spent some time here and in other places in this country, recently, visiting relatives and vacationing.

- Valerie Van Alen of Menomonee Falls, Wis. was on the Dean's list at Illinois University at Normal, Ill. She is a second year student and is majoring in music. She plays the flute.

At present she is touring the state of Illinois with the concert band. Valerie is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. F A. Young of New Richland.

- A baby boy was born on May 7th at Owatonna Hospital to Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Tesch of Meriden. The little lad weighed in at 6 lb and was given the name of Jason Lynn. Jason has one sister Amie Kay. Jason's grandparents are Mrs. Stewart Fell and Mr and Mrs Eldor Tesch of Waseca and great grandparents are Mrs Otto Tesch of Waldorf and Mr Herman Krueger.

75 years back

- Miss Millicent Haug of Minneaplois, daughter of Mr and Mrs Joseph Haug of Wrenshall, was married to Herbert Kuhlmeier of Superior, Wis., at St. Lukes church, Saturday afternoon, June 10. Pastor C. Morgan performed the ceremony at 4 o'clock. Mr and Mrs Kuhlmeier spent their honeymoon at New Orleans La., with Mr and Mr W. Woodrow, the latter, Mrs Kuhlmeys sister, Dorothy Haug. They will live in Superior, Wis.

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The Pastor's Column

The importance of being earnest

By: Rick Wulf, Lead Pastor Christ Community Church

When I was a senior in college, I was casted in the play, The Importance of Being Earnest, by Oscar Wilde. I played Merriman, the butler. While this play is a brilliant and witty comedy, don't mistake it for just a comedic laugh. Underneath its humor lies a sharp critique of a society more concerned with appearances than with truth.

Set in late 19th century London, Wilde felt that the people of the day were living false lives, hiding behind the masks of self-absorption and insecurity. The formality of Victorian society adored status and appearances. So, to speak to this disparity between the authentic and the phony, Oscar Wilde wrote The Importance of Being Earnest. In the play, Wilde's characters take on false names, invent imaginary friends, and go to great lengths to maintain the illusion of respectability. The irony, of course, is that they are far less "earnest" than they claim to be. In Wilde's day, being called "earnest" was a compliment—it spoke to someone's sincerity, moral uprightness, and their sense of worth. But the play reveals how easy it is for people to exchange real virtue for the mere appearance of it.

And before we get too judgmental of 1890's Londoners, let's take a look at our own addiction to and reliance on social media. While the costumes have changed, the temptation to be less than earnest hasn't. How easy it is to curate a perfect moment for public display (#blessed), and yet be filled with misery and hopelessness in the moments surrounding that photo. It becomes the goal of our existence to present a version of ourselves that we think is more appealing, more acceptable, more "put together" than the truth actually may be.

So where do we turn? What's the response for believers in Jesus? The Bible speaks to the dangers of hypocrisy and the call to live lives of integrity—to be earnest not just in word, but in deed. To live what we say. To walk the walk and talk the talk. Matthew 23 reminds us that God is not impressed by polished exteriors or carefully designed facades. When God chose David to be the King of Israel, He reminded Samuel, "I don't look at the outside appearance of a person, but at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7).

Whether it's social media or how we display our "perfect self" on Sunday morning at church, the temptation is the same. Present the best version of ourselves at church, carefully concealing our private doubts, struggles, or sins. We hesitate to ask for prayer, lest we seem weak. It's easy to fall into the trap of measuring spiritual maturity by how "put-together" we appear, rather than realizing grace is always an uphill climb and work in progress.

But let me share some good news with you. You don't have to keep fighting the battle of "earnest" vs. "imitation". The Gospel of Jesus Christ reminds us that God loves the real us, warts and all. And this authentic love offers us genuine, uninhibited freedom. It permits us to be honest about our brokenness, and the inner struggles that we often try to hide. Why? Because our worth is not found in the image we create, but because we were created in the

image of God.

How can we attain this "cease-fire" in our lives? It's simple (though very difficult to actually do). Remind yourself that we don't have to perform for God's approval. Did you ever think about that? Our worth, value, and identity is not based on how we pad our "spiritual resume", but on Christ's finished work on our behalf. Once we recognize this, we are free to drop the masks.

Ironically, in Wilde's play, the characters who try their hardest to be seen as "earnest" are the ones unwilling to actually live truthfully. Their deceptions lead to humorous entanglements. I remember my funniest moment of the play was a simple eyeroll that made the audience laugh pretty hysterically. Lady Bracknell made some comment that was obviously a lie, which she believed to be true, to which my facial expression said, "Oh here we go again."

But in real life, pretending can have far more serious consequences. If we are not authentic, even in the little things, the witness of the Church will be compromised and our effectiveness in the world will be weakened. Yet, when Jesus followers choose sincerity over showmanship, and integrity over the invented, we reflect God's heart for us to a watching world.

The importance of being earnest is not merely a righteous idea, it is a spiritual necessity. The world does not need more perfect Christians; the world needs honest ones. The spiritually needy people need the Light of the World, Jesus, lived out by His followers who are walking in the light themselves.

Just to be clear, I'm not talking about earnestness as an excuse for unkindness. "I just speak the truth the way I see it," doesn't speak to the heart of God. Sure, it's being "authentic", but remember that "love is not rude" (1 Corinthians 13:5). True agape love is an invitation to live genuinely, without a double mind, double tongue, or double heart.

Each of us have the opportunity to practice this earnestness. Really, it's quiet and often unnoticed, just simply letting God's Holy Spirit reminds us of our worth and value, and then choosing to live in that freedom. This is foundational to a life of integrity and spiritual "earnestness".

At the end of Wilde's play, the characters learn the value of truth in a very comical way. But as Christians, we must learn a far more serious earnestness. Our growth can only be achieved through the transforming power of the Gospel, not in societal expectations, or self-desired products. These latter things only feed the beast of more emptiness, not more freedom.

At the end of our life, when we stand before our Savior, we hope to hear the words from Jesus, "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21, 23). Notice Jesus doesn't use words like, well-polished or impressive, but good and faithful. So, in a time when it's easy to pretend to be someone or something else, let's choose authenticity. Let's remember the importance of being earnest, not just in word, but in the substance of our lives. And as we do, we shine the Light of the perfect example of an authentic life. Let's follow in His steps and live like Him without reservation.

with budgeted expenses at this time and enrollment is holding strong. Hudspeth remarked that the district's student numbers have not decreased since February.

Action items included the approvals of a clay target team for Fall 2025 and the City TIF Application feedback. The last day for students is May 30, Commencement is June 1, and the next Board session is June 5.

School from Page 3

week. Finalists will be identified later that week and the process will continue, Hudspeth said.

Business Manager Sarah Cramblit reported the district is on track



Pictured Left to Right: Molly Erdman, Marcy Buchele, Kristie Biehn, Mark Schultz, Kendra Hoehn, Theresa Sunde, Mikhail Rostislavovich, Diane Beckmann, and Jodie Thompson.

Chamber welcomes Infinity Catering and Brew'd Awakenings

Waseca, MN – The Waseca Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to welcome Infinity Catering and Brew'd Awakenings, owned by Kendra Hoehn, as the newest member of the Chamber. Kendra's journey in the culinary and hospitality industry began as a student at Winona State University and flourished with a successful tenure at ARAMARK, where she rose to the position of Catering Director for the University of Minnesota. Her experience includes managing high-profile events featur-

ing distinguished guests such as Mikhail Gorbachev, Jimmy Carter, and the Clintons.

After a break focusing on raising her five children, Kendra returned to the culinary world as Head Cook at Trinity Lutheran School, where she also led successful fundraising initiatives. This passion for culinary arts and community support led to the founding of Infinity Catering in 2017. What began as a small operation renting a school kitchen has now grown into a multi-faceted enterprise

that includes Brew'd Awakenings Bistro (opened in 2019), Infinity Shuttle (2021), Infinity on Wheels (2024), Janesville Dairy Queen (2024), and Dirty Pop Stop (2025). An expansion at the corner of Main and 1st Street is also set to open this summer.

Kristie Biehn, the Ambassador Chair, added, "Kendra's journey showcases the power of passion, perseverance, and community spirit. We are proud to support her continued success."

"We are excited to welcome Kendra Hoehn and her team at Infinity Catering and Brew'd Awakenings to our Chamber family. Kendra's dedication to quality, community, and growth is truly inspiring," said Mikhail Rostislavovich, Waseca Chamber Board President.

For more information about Infinity Catering and Brew'd Awakenings, please contact the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber welcomes New Richland Craft Mall as New Member

WASECA, MN — The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the addition of the New Richland Craft Mall to its growing list of members. The Chamber Ambassadors officially welcomed the New Richland Craft Mall, owner Jennie Johnson, with a warm reception, celebrating their commitment to the local business community.

Kristie Biehn, Chair of the Waseca Chamber Ambassadors, expressed her excitement about the new membership. "We are thrilled to welcome the New Richland Craft Mall to our Chamber family. Their dedication to providing a unique shopping experience and supporting local artisans is a wonderful asset to our community," said Biehn.

Mikhail Rostislavovich, President of the Waseca Chamber Board of Directors, also shared his thoughts. "The New Richland Craft Mall exemplifies the entrepreneurial spirit that strengthens our local economy. We are proud to support their journey as they continue to grow and serve the area."

The New Richland Craft Mall first opened in 2020 as a creative solution during the pandemic when traditional craft shows were limited. What began as a temporary endeavor quickly transformed into a beloved destination for local



Left to right back row: Larry Johnson, Marcy Buchele, Jodie Thompson, Mikhail Rostislavovich, Kevin Walter. Front Row: Kristie Biehn, Store owner Jennie Johnson, and Abby Clemons

shoppers. Co-founder Sara Jo Vulcan joined early on, and their success led to renting a storefront in the historic old drug store.

After four years of success, the owners have made the significant decision to purchase a larger space, providing greater visibility and room for expansion. The new location will feature additional amenities, including food trucks, picnic tables under the awning, and even rideable animals like those found in shopping malls.

Beyond offering a diverse selection of handcrafted items, the New Richland Craft Mall aims to support local vendors and offers special shopping experience. With plans to expand their collection of babies, wedding, and memorial crafts, the Craft Mall remains committed to fostering local creativity and community connection.

For more information, please contact the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce, 507-835-3260

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4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH 605 4th St NE, Waseca 507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker) Worship Sundays 10 a.m	CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS 1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca 507-835-4640 Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m.	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	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
FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-3167 Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m.	GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 1221 8th St SE, Waseca 507-835-2213 Sunday worship 10:45 a.m., 6:00 p.m.	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.	JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 401 N. West St., Janesville Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship
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	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.	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	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. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-1703 Sundays 9:00 a.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	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Worship	ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH 307 W. 2nd St. Janesville 10 a.m. - Mass
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m.	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Otisco, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship	ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship	FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 Owen St., Janesville Pastor Sarah Krolak
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m.	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	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship	ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 a.m.	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	TRINITY LUTHERAN Wilton Township Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor Sunday - 8 a.m. summer worship; 10:45 a.m. Worship starting Sept. 1	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
SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH 111 4th St NW, Waseca Father Glenn Ferichs 507-833-1222 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.	VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota	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	NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.
REAL LIFE CHURCH 620 W Elm Ave, Waseca			

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF WASECA
IN DISTRICT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Civil Division
Case Type: Quiet Title
Court File No. 81-CV-25-310

Wallace B. Wadd, Jennifer K. Klein,
and Joseph Klein,
Plaintiffs,
vs.

SUMMONS

Gary D. Paulson and Barbara A. Paulson; Frank Borgeson; the Unknown Heirs of Seymour J. Johnson; the Unknown Heirs of Dorothy M. Gleason; the Unknown Heirs of Steven L. Gleason; the Unknown Heirs of Helen W. Borgeson a/k/a Helen W. Cooper; and all other persons unknown claiming any right, title, interest, or lien in the real estate described in the Complaint herein, Defendants.

THIS SUMMONS IS DIRECTED TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

1. **YOU ARE BEING SUED.** The Plaintiff has started a lawsuit against you. The Plaintiff's Complaint against you is on file in the Office of the Court Administrator of the above-named Court. Do not throw these papers away. They are official papers that affect your rights. You must respond to this lawsuit even though it may not yet be filed with the Court and there may be no court file number on this Summons.
2. **YOU MUST REPLY WITHIN 20 DAYS TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS.** You must give or mail to the person who signed this Summons a **written response** called an Answer within 20 days of the date on which you received this Summons. You must send a copy of your Answer to the person who signed this Summons located at 215 East Elm Avenue, PO Box 249, Waseca, MN 56093-0249.
3. **YOU MUST RESPOND TO EACH CLAIM.** The Answer is your written response to the Plaintiff's Complaint. In your Answer, you must

state whether you agree or disagree with each paragraph of the Complaint. If you believe the Plaintiff should not be given everything asked for in the Complaint, you must say so in your Answer.

4. **YOU WILL LOSE YOUR CASE IF YOU DO NOT SEND A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE COMPLAINT TO THE PERSON WHO SIGNED THIS SUMMONS.** If you do not Answer within 20 days, you will lose this case. You will not get to tell your side of the story, and the Court may decide against you and award the Plaintiff everything asked for in the Complaint. If you do not want to contest the claims stated in the Complaint, you do not need to respond. A default judgment can then be entered against you for the relief requested in the Complaint.

5. **LEGAL ASSISTANCE.** You may wish to get legal help from a lawyer. If you do not have a lawyer, The Court Administrator may have information about places where you can get legal assistance. **Even if you cannot get legal help, you must still provide a written Answer to protect your rights or you may lose the case.**

6. **ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION.** The parties may agree to or be ordered to participate in an Alternative Dispute Resolution process under Rule 114 of the Minnesota General Rules of Practice. You must still send your written response to the Complaint even if you expect to use alternative means of resolving the dispute.

7. **THIS LAWSUIT MAY AFFECT YOUR BRING INTO QUESTION TITLE TO REAL PROPERTY** located in Waseca County, Minnesota, legally described as follows: *See Exhibit A attached hereto and made a part hereof.*

The object of this action is to obtain a judgment that Plaintiff is the owner, in fee simple, of the above-described real property, and that none of said Defendants have any estate or interest therein or lien thereon.

Dated this 29th day of April, 2025.

PATTON, HOVERSTEN & BERG, P.A.

By: Keith L. Deike (#148635)

215 E. Elm Ave., PO Box 249
Waseca, MN 56093-0249
(507) 835-5240
keith.deike@phblawoffice.com
Attorneys for Plaintiff

EXHIBIT A
Legal Description
Wadd & Klein v. Paulson et al.

All that part of the S ½ of the NE ¼ of the SE ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 13, Township 108 North, Range 23 West, Waseca County, Minnesota, described as follows: Beginning at the southeast corner of said NE ¼/4; Thence North 8929'42" West a distance of 2636.74 feet, on an assumed bearing on the south line of said NE ¼/4 to the southwest corner of said NE ¼/4; Thence North 8929'42" West a distance of 389.56 feet on the south line of said NW ¼/4 to the intersection of said south line and the centerline of the abandoned railroad formerly known as the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad; Thence North 2243'40" East a distance of 1203.00 feet on the centerline of said abandoned railroad; Thence Northeasterly on said centerline a distance of 263.57 feet on a tangential curve concave to the northwest, having a central angle of 0754'25", radius of 1909.86 feet, chord bearing North 1846'28" East, and a chord distance of 263.36 feet, to the north line of said S ½/2; Thence South 8947'48" East a distance of 2483.26 feet on the north line to the northeast corner of said S ½/2; Thence South 0016'30" West a distance of 584.81 feet on the east line of said NE ¼/4; Thence North 8929'42" West a distance of 132.0 feet parallel with the south line of said NE ¼/4; Thence South 0016'30" West a distance of 330.00 feet parallel with the east line of said NE ¼/4; Thence South 8929'42" East a distance of 132.0 feet, parallel with the south line of said NE ¼/4, to the east line of said NE ¼/4; Thence South 0016'30" West a distance of 462.0 feet to the point of beginning. Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on May 8, 15 and 22, 2025

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

The Waseca County Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing at the Waseca County East Annex (Commissioner's Room), 300 N. State Street, Waseca, MN 56093 on Thursday, June 5, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. to consider the following item:

Request for a variance from the lot width requirements pursuant to §6.14(F)(2) of the Waseca County Unified Development Code (UDC). Matthew T. & Erin M. Holland are requesting a variance to create a new parcel with a lot width 108feet. The County UDC requires a minimum lot width of 150feet. The parcel located at 17674-240th Ave., New Richland (PID: 07.013.3800) in Section 13 T.105 R.22W in New Richland Township. The property is in the LR Limited Residential Zoning District and Shoreland Overlay of St. Olaf Lake.

The staff report on this item will be available at the Waseca County Planning and Zoning Office, 300 N State St., Waseca during regular business hours 8-4:30, and will be on the county website www.wasecacounty.gov at the agenda tab. Oral comments will be accepted at the meeting. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all Waseca County services, programs and activities.

Tina G. Wilson, Planning and Zoning Administrator.

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on May 22, 2025

CITY OF WASECA
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the **City of Waseca City Council** will hold a Public Hearing at **7:00 p.m., on Tuesday, June 3rd, 2025**, in the **COUNCIL CHAMBERS of CITY HALL** located at 508 South State Street in Waseca, Minnesota.

The purpose of the public hearing is to gather information regarding the following:

- **ORDINANCE NO. 1118:** Proposed adoption of Chapter 124: CANNABIS BUSINESSES and proposed text amendments to Chapter 154 of the Municipal Code regarding cannabis business zoning and use regulations.

Complete copies of the proposed Ordinance No. 1118 are available in the office of the City Clerk located at 508 South State Street in Waseca, Minnesota.

Those interested in commenting may appear in person or by counsel or may submit written comments to the City of Waseca at 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

Upon request, accommodations will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Waseca services, programs, and activities.

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on Thursday, May 22, 2025.

Jon M. Froke
City Planner

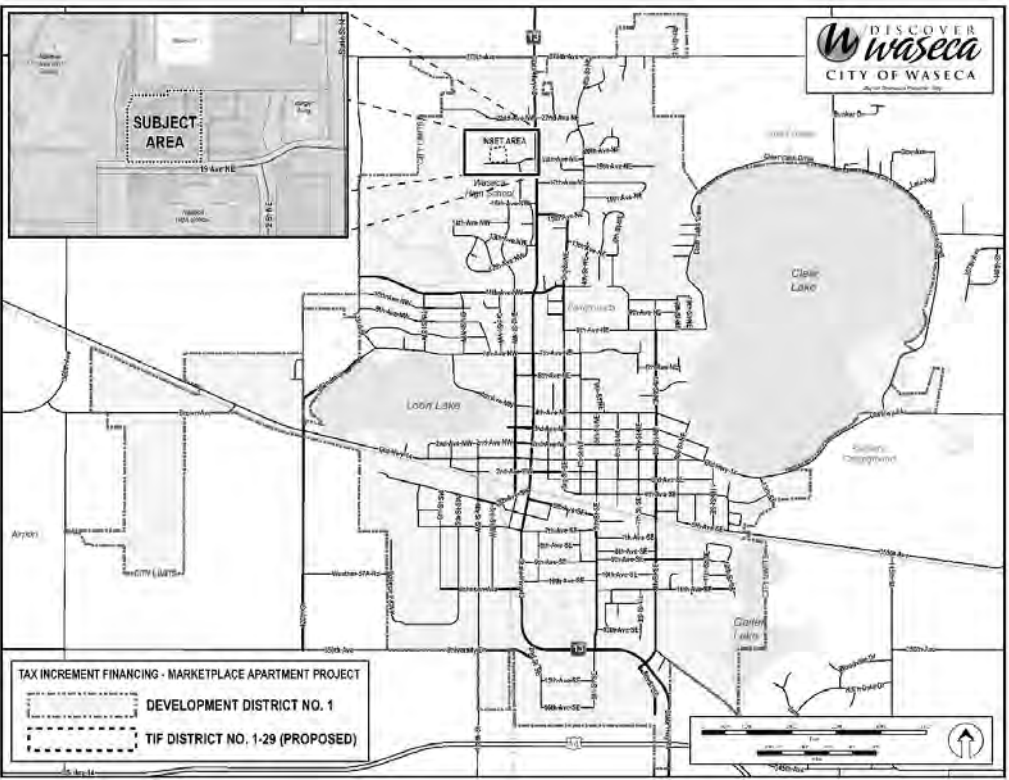
CITY OF WASECA
WASECA COUNTY
STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council (the "Council") of the City of Waseca, Waseca County, Minnesota, will hold a public hearing on June 3, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., at City Hall, 508 South State Street, City of Waseca, Minnesota (the "City"), relating to the proposed modification of Development District No. 1, the proposed modification of the Development Program for Development District No. 1, the proposed establishment of Tax Increment Financing District (Housing) No. 1-29 (Marketplace Apartment Project) within Development District No. 1, and the proposed adoption of a Tax Increment Financing Plan therefor, all pursuant to and in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Sections 469.124 through 469.133 and Sections 469.174 through 469.1794. Copies of the Development Program, as modified, the proposed Tax Increment Financing Plan are on file and available for public inspection at the office of the City Administrator at City Hall.

The property included in Development District No. 1 is described in the Development Program, as amended, on file in the office of the City Administrator. The property proposed to be included in Tax Increment Financing District (Housing) No. 1-29 (Marketplace Apartment Project) is described in the Tax Increment Financing Plan on file in the office of the City Administrator.

A map of Development District No. 1 and Tax Increment Financing District (Housing) No. 1-29 (Marketplace Apartment Project) is set forth below:



All interested persons may appear at the hearing and present their views orally or in writing prior to the hearing.

BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF WASECA, MINNESOTA

/s/ Carl Sonnenberg
City Administrator

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF WASECA
DISTRICT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Probate Court Division
Court File No.: 81-PR-25-321

In Re: Estate of
SHERRY L. LARSON,
Decedent.

NOTICE AND ORDER FOR HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF INTESTACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP, AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

It is ordered and notice is given that on June 25, 2025, at 9:30 AM a hearing will be held via zoom, see notice of remote hearing, at 307 North State St, Waseca, MN 56093, for the formal adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship of the Decedent, and for the appointment of Peyton J. Larson residing at 5801 Dogwood Court NW, Rochester, MN 55901, as personal representative of the estate of the Decedent in an unsupervised administration.

Any objections to the petition should be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. NOTE: You will

need to pay a filing fee when you file the objection. If you cannot afford the fee, you can ask for a fee waiver. If proper and no objections are filed or raised, the personal representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real property, and to do all necessary acts for the estate.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minn Stat 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four (4) months after the date of this notice or the claims will be barred.
Dated: 05/06/2025
/s/ Carol M. Hanks
Judge of District Court
/s/ Shannon M. Asselin
Deputy Court Administrator

PATTON, HOVERSTEN & BERG, P.A.

Emily A. Loomis, #505701
215 E Elm Ave, PO Box 249
Waseca, MN 56093
507-835-5240
Emily.loomis@phblawoffice.com
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on May 15 and 22, 2025

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the Waseca City Council will hold a **Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 3rd, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.** in the Council Chambers of Waseca City Hall, 508 South State Street, Waseca, Minnesota to consider the following:

Ordinance No. 1127 – Authorizing Sale of City Property

A complete copy of Ordinance No. 1127 is available for public inspection in the office of the City Clerk at 508 South State Street, Waseca, Minnesota, or via email request to juliah@ci.waseca.mn.us.

Julia Hall
City Clerk

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on May 22, 2025

■ Program

from Page 1

Donnette Wheelock Ag. Scholarship. Nathanael Andrs, \$1,000 Barbara J. Sankovitz Music Scholarship, \$4,000 Stoltenberg-Rotary Scholarship, \$1,000 Rosenau Medical Scholarship. Andrick Balderas, \$5,000 E.F. Foundation Scholarship.

Kendall, \$500 KEEN Bank Scholarship, \$250 Waseca Fusion JO Volleyball Memorial Scholarship in Memory of Jocelynn Passon. Alexis Brinkman, \$1,000 Greg Ashland Memorial Scholarship.

Sophie Chawra, \$1,000 Barbara J. Sankovitz Music Scholarship, \$1,540 Vernon Kasper & Thelma Rice Memorial, \$1,000 Rosenau Medical Scholarship, \$400 Minnwest Junior Board Scholarship. Jack Chen, \$1,000 James B. Corchran Memorial, \$800 Ernest & Gertrude Gerdts Scholarship. Elias Crosby, \$1,000 E.F. Johnson Scholarship. Helin Cruz-Hernandez, \$3,600 Teachers of Tomorrow Scholarship.

Collin Dettmer, \$1,000 Abigail Claire Wendland Spirit Scholarship, \$1,000 Waseca Marching Classic Scholarship (Les & Karen Tloutan), \$500 Waseca Exchange Club “Youth of the Year” Scholarship, \$200 Minnwest Junior Board Scholarship. Callie Dufault, \$500 Wayne Orval James - Community First Scholarship.

Eden Eads, \$500 Waseca Art Council, Inc. Scholarship. Katy Eideen, \$1,000 EF Johnson Scholarship. Malanie Engel-Mueller, \$250 Waseca Fusion JO Volleyball Memorial Scholarship in Memory of Jocelynn Passon, \$500 Michael Filzen Memorial.

Isaac Feldkamp, \$1,500 Waseca Knights of Columbus Scholarship, \$1,000 Waseca VFW Post #1642 Scholarship.

Avery Gaul, \$1,000 KEEN Bank Scholarship. Tristan Godwin, \$1,000 Tuscan Lodge 77 Masonic Scholarship, \$500 Waseca Sons of the American Legion, \$500 Jon & Vicky O’Neil Scholarship, \$1,125 Ingeborg Rugdren Memorial Scholarship. Aiden Groskreutz, \$1,400 James Ballard Scholarship. Karley Hamilton, \$500 Hertz Farm Management, Inc. Scholarship, \$300 Waseca County American Dairy Association, \$1,000 Rosenau Student with Potential Scholarship.

Benjamin Hagen, \$5,000 Clarence D. Paulson Memorial, \$1,000 Jurgen Peters Memorial. Jennifer Hernandez-Verde, \$2,000 John P. Priebe Memorial Scholarship. Brayden Hesch-Priem, \$1,150 Andy Burnett Hockey Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000 Maynard R. Stensrud Memorial Scholarship, \$750 Waseca Hockey Association Scholarship, \$1,000 Waseca Knights of Columbus Scholarship. David Hodgkins, \$500 Waseca American Legion Post #228, \$1,000 Waseca VFW Post #1642 Auxiliary, \$500 Achieving Dreams Scholarship. Ellie Hoehn, \$250 Waseca Fusion JO Volleyball Memorial Scholarship in Memory of Jocelynn Passon. Brayden Hoof, \$1,540 Vernon Kasper & Thelma Rice Memorial.

Tyler Jellum, \$1,000 iWealth Foundation - Business Scholarship, \$1,000 Federated Insurance Business Scholarship. Ashton Jensen, \$500 Achieving Dreams for Disabilities (ADD), \$1,000 Christ the King Lutheran - Violet Jacobson Memorial, \$1,000 712 Giving Scholarship, \$1,000 Waseca Education Association Scholarship, \$200 Minnwest Junior Board Scholarship. Shiyane Jutzi, \$500 Achieving Dreams for Disabilities (ADD). Peyton Kalbow, \$1,000 John P. Priebe Memorial Scholarship.

Lexi Kanewischer, \$1,000 Katie Zika Athletic Scholarship, \$500 Saint John Church - Karla Schroeder Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000 Waseca Lions Club Scholarship, \$1,000 Waseca VFW Post #1642 Auxiliary, \$200 Minnwest Junior Board Scholarship. Mia Kanewischer, \$2,000 Schroeder Family Nursing Scholarship. Isaac Kehler, \$1,075 Waseca All-School Reunion. Addison Kelm, \$300 Waseca County American Dairy Association, \$2,000 Greg & Donnette Wheelock Ag Scholarship. Sierra Krause, \$500 C.B. Legacy, \$1,000 Monday Study Club Scholarship, \$1,000 Rosenau Medical Scholarship. Melanie Krueger-Eineke, \$1,000 Waseca Lions Club Scholarship, \$1,540 Vernon Kasper & Thelma Rice, \$1,000 EF Johnson Foundation Scholarship, \$200 Minnwest Junior Board Scholarship. Siri Kuhns, \$1,000

Katie Zika Athletic Scholarship, \$500 St. John Church - Karla Schroeder Memorial, \$300 Waseca County American Dairy Association, \$20,000 Gregg “Marty” Martin College Scholarship Program, \$250 Waseca Fusion JO Volleyball Memorial Scholarship in Memory of Jocelynn Passon.

Emily LeMieux, \$1,000 James B. Corchran Memorial Scholarship. Gabriela Lopez, \$500 Waseca American Legion Post #228 Auxiliary, \$1,000 Mavis Wheelock Memorial Healthcare. Bennett Ludwig, \$1,000 Rosenau Student with Potential Scholarship. Kennedy Lynch, \$500 Ward House Brewery Scholarship, \$500 Waseca Sons of the American Legion Scholarship.

Lucia Mansfield, \$1,000 Waseca Knights of Columbus Scholarship. Elizabeth Manthe, \$1,000 iWealth Foundation - Business Scholarship, \$200 Minnwest Junior Board Scholarship.

Katlyn McMurphy, \$1,000 Rosenau Student with Potential Scholarship, \$1,000 Steele-Waseca Coop Scholarship, \$2,000 John P. Priebe Memorial Scholarship. Lucas McQuery, \$1,000 Tuscan Lodge 77 Masonic Scholarship, \$1,000 Waseca Knights of Columbus Scholarship, \$1,000 Elks National Foundation (Owatonna), \$200 Minnwest Junior Board Scholarship. Joseph Mixteco-Perez, \$1,000 Caleb Erickson Memorial Scholarship, \$3,600 Teachers of Tomorrow Scholarship. Hazel Moore, \$1,000 Abigail Claire Wendland Spirit Scholarship, \$2,000 Cally Jo Children's Fund Scholarship, \$1,000 Rosenau Medical Scholarship, \$1,000 Elks National Foundation (Owatonna). Gracie Morgan, \$1,000 James B. Corchran Memorial Scholarship.

Lily Owens, \$500 Waseca County Sheriff’s Posse Scholarship.

Aayu Patel, \$3,600 Teachers of Tomorrow Scholarship. Arpee Patel, \$3,600 Teachers of Tomorrow Scholarship. Addison Pfeifer, \$500 Waseca Sons of the American Legion, \$1,000 Waseca VFW Post #1642 Scholarship, \$200 Minnwest Junior Board Scholarship. Carter Pfeifer, \$250 Skilled Trades Scholarship (Rick’s Appli-ance), \$500 Waseca American Legion Post #228 Auxiliary. Cejay Pickett, \$3,600 Teachers of Tomorrow Scholarship. Katelyn Robeck, \$350 Marilyn Lau Memorial Scholarship, \$1,540 Vernon Kasper & Thelma Rice.

Levi Root, \$500 Waseca American Legion Post #228 Auxiliary, \$1,500 Waseca HS Class of 1960 Scholarship. Tauston Rupe, \$5,000 E.F. Foundation of MN Scholarship, \$1,000 James B. Corchran Memorial Scholarship.

Nevaeh Sampson, \$1,000 Rosenau Medical Scholarship, \$2,000 Schroeder Nursing Scholarship. Kenzie Sandborg, \$1,150 Roger & Rosalie Grems Memorial. Kalea Sartori, \$250 Waseca Fusion JO Volleyball Memorial Scholarship in Memory of Jocelynn Passon, \$250 John & Thelma Jondal Memorial, \$1,000 E.F. Johnson Foundation Scholarship. Leah Scheffert, \$1,000 Waseca Marching Classic Scholarship, (Waseca Classic, Inc.), \$200 Minnwest Junior Board Scholarship. Kylie Snow, \$3,600 Teachers of Tomorrow Scholarship.

Aliyah Taylor, \$250 Waseca Fusion JO Volleyball Memorial Scholarship in Memory of Jocelynn Passon. Jackson Tesch, \$250 Skilled Trades Scholarship (Rick’s Appli-ance), \$1,150 Everett R. & Ruth M. Johnson Memorial, \$500 Garret R. Johnson Memorial Scholarship, \$750 Waseca Hockey Association Scholarship.

Molly Volosek, \$1,000 Don & Mary Winegar Memorial.

Mason Wadd, \$2,500 712 Giving Scholarship, \$500 Waseca American Legion Post #228, \$500 Wayne Orval James - Community First Scholarship, \$675 A r l e n Larson Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000 Rosenau Student with Potential Scholarship. Cody Weber, \$5,000 E.F. Johnson Foundation Scholarship. Tanner White, \$250 Pepito's Pizzeria Scholarship, \$300 Waseca County Sheriff’s Posse Scholarship. Owen Wilder, \$1,000 Connors Skilled Trades Scholarship, \$250 Pepito's Pizzeria Scholarship. Maxwell Wirtz, \$1,000 Christ the King Lutheran - Violet Jacobson Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000 Don Eustice Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000 Waseca Lions Club Scholarship, \$500 Waseca County Sheriff’s Posse Scholarship.

Luke Yoder, \$1,150 Andy Burnett Hockey Memorial Scholarship, \$750 Waseca Hockey Association Scholarship.

Farmamerica wins big with virtual reality

(Waseca, Minnesota) – Farmamerica has been named a runner-up in CareerViewXR’s 2025 Production Grant Program. This recognition means cutting-edge virtual reality technology will soon be available to visitors who want to explore agricultural careers.

As one of just five organizations across the entire country to receive this honor, Farmamerica is getting an incredible package: a full 12-month CareerViewXR subscription for up to 1,000 students and a state-of-the-art HTC VIVE virtual reality headset. Just imagine – visitors will soon be able to step into the boots of agricultural professionals and experi-

ence the diversity of ag careers through an immersive experience at Farmamerica’s visitor center.

“We’re thrilled to receive this grant. These virtual reality experiences will bring agricultural careers to life in ways we never could before,” said Jessica Rollins, Executive Director of Farmamerica. “Students can literally step into the fields, climb aboard farm equipment and see themselves succeeding in these essential careers. Whether it’s getting hands-on with crop science, experiencing livestock management up close, or discovering cutting-edge agricultural technology, these experiences will inspire our next generation of agricultural

workers.”

The CareerViewXR platform will take Farmamerica’s educational offerings and field trips to the next level. Visitors already love the self-guided and guided walking tours, family events, day camps, farm animal interactions, and interactive exhibits. Now, with this incredible new technology, we’re able to help everyone understand how agriculture provides communities with food, fiber, renewable fuels and sustainable jobs.

What makes CareerViewXR so special? It brings jaw-dropping field trips right to the classroom through stunning 360-degree web-based tours and companion

virtual reality videos. The best part? You don’t even need fancy equipment to experience it. The content works great on laptops, cell phones, and tablets that students and job seekers already have.

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

■ 4-Seasons

from Page 1

She points out the store has an easily accessed location with curbside parking.

Already on display is custom wear with the colors and designs to show support of teams at all area schools including NRHEG, WEM and JWP.

A lifelong resident of the Waseca area, Heather is a member on the

Bluejay Boosters, Bluejay

Fastpitch and Waseca Lakeside Club. She is a past board member of the Waseca Wrestling Club.

Heather says she is already beginning to make connections with local schools, community education departments and associations to see what needs Four Seasons can meet for them. She says the screen printing equipment used by the Piches in their business is still there, and she hopes to make increasing use of it to personalize items to meet customer needs.

She admits it may take a while to change people’s mindset away from going directly to a big-name store in another town when they need athletic wear, but she also believes business will grow as people discover the personal service and community connection Four Seasons Athletics will provide.

“Waseca is a very supportive community that comes together in both good times and bad,” she observes. “I think everyone wants to see that sense of community stay strong, so they want to see local businesses

thrive and keep their money working locally.”

Four Seasons’ hours of operation are now from noon until 5 p.m. on Tuesday through Friday, and from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Saturdays.

“I really invite people to stop by, see what we have to offer, and share any information about their needs and interests,” she says. “We’re ready to be flexible, and to respond to people’s needs.”

■ Wellness

from Page 1

gether the wide variety of area organizations which support mental wellness and provide assistance for people in crisis. “Something that’s been really meaningful,” he says, “is that in many cases the organizations reached out to us. They heard about our plans and wanted to be part of them.”

Local businesses and organizations also donated items for prize baskets.

By bringing the providers together

“under one roof” for the evening, Johnson said, the goal was to make it easy for individuals to find what they might be looking for—in some cases, what they didn’t even know is available locally.

Upbeat music, children’s activities, prizes and more were all included in the planning to create a positive, family-centered atmosphere, says Johnson.

Jillene Gallatin, pastor of Grace Lutheran Church and a member of the mental health collective, led yoga sessions during the event. “Yoga invites us to connect to our bodies. We control our breath and concentrate on our movements,” she says. “It’s a way to put aside the stress and the sense of being pulled in many direc-

tions.”

Gallatin said she and other members of the collective felt excited at the possibilities the wellness fair could create. “It’s all about resources,” she observed. “Staying well means we pay attention to our physical, mental and emotional needs.

“The organizations here offer support in all those areas.”

“If even one person goes away from this saying ‘This event helped me find what I need,’ I’ll regard it as a success,” said Johnson.

Health collective member and Waseca County community health worker Mariana Izaguirre agrees the event was successful. “It encouraged conversations about mental health

and wellness on the individual and community levels,” she observes. “A setting like this provides opportunities for not only our community members to learn about different resources in our area but also allows for providers to learn about the different resources available to help collaborate and better serve our community.”

The planners of the wellness event want people to know if they are looking for wellness resources they can contact collective members and public health workers Mariana Izaguirre at Mariana.Izaguirre@wasecacounty.gov or Colin Ayers at Colin.Ayers@wasecacounty.gov. Marty Johnson’s email address is Marty@keepfightinrecovery.org.

■ Scouts

from Page 3

cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent.”

Petsinger continued, “The annual Scouting for Food drive last year provided 8,533 pounds of food to the local Waseca County food shelves . The community service hours provided by the Scouts—whether it’s collecting cans, roadside clean-ups or Eagle Scout projects—all those service hours help to build those kids up and benefit the community.” She revealed that In 2020 there were only 4 local Cub Scouts; this year there

are more than 30 as the rebuild from Covid continues. Last Fall, 27 youth joined Scouting in Waseca County. This spring alone, Janesville and Waseca had 10 students join their units.

Shawn Pomeroy, current Troop 85 Committee chair and past Troop 85 Scoutmaster spoke next and addressed some of the history of the scouts, for example they originally started in Great Britain in 1907; by 1915 there was already a Scout Troop in Waseca. He explained with young kids leaving rural areas and America moving towards a more industrialized economy, “Our leaders knew the children wouldn’t learn about nature, small town citizenship, survival skills. We are the third old-

est continuously running chartered troop in the state. The goal is to get these kids to Eagle Scout, meet new people, learn new skills. There have been times we have 100 kids in a unit, right now we have 10. Waseca County has produced 190 Eagle Scouts in our tenure. We have four girls total right now but we’re hoping to earn our first female Eagle Scout one day if they stick with it.”

Pomeroy stated the large number of young people who participated in Scouting in the ‘30s, ‘40s and ‘50s are still remembering and making use of skills and information they learned as children. Anyone wishing to sign their children up for Scouts or who would like to donate in support of the Scouting America Twin Valley



To donate online please scan QR code or make check payable to Scouting America Twin Valley Council

Council is invited to contact Becky Petsinger at 507-304-0389.

■ DARE

from Page 5

gram, but you have to know how to say no.”

Ainsley Hanson of Ms. Harris’s class is a soccer and volleyball player. She reminded everyone about the stress and anxiety that

come with drug use. “It’s also your responsibility to avoid peer pressure when it happens,” she said.

The Waseca Intermediate School expressed thanks to the Waseca Police Department, Minnwest Bank

and high school members of the National Honor Society for help with the DARE program.

■ Council

from Page 5

motely. Another option involved bumping the newest hired full-time officers to a part-time position, according to the paperwork on the contract as Police Chief Johnson noted.

“I don’t see the SRO position as a budget thing at all myself,” Mayor Andy Arnoldt stated. “I think this is a community thing, not a school versus city thing. I think we need to work with the city and the school together and see what we can do to keep this program alive. There’s a lot more to it than just safety of the students.”

In contrast to when he was a child, Arnoldt added, the students now understand that the police force exists to serve the public.

“My opinion is, I would like to see

if there’s some way we could work with the school and I’m not necessarily just speaking about the three-year contract,” Arnold continued.

“I think it’s an important position for both the city and the school,” said council member Andy Ahlman, going on to suggest that, since not all JWP students are from the city of Janesville, the city should not bear the full cost.

“No, I’m not saying solely,” Mayor Arnoldt clarified. “I’m all for working together and seeing if we can find alternative routes. I couldn’t agree more. The program is very important.”

Council members gave official approval to accepting the ownership and maintenance of the easternmost two blocks of Front Street, currently designated as County State Aid Highway 44. County highway engineer Jim Kollar has submitted paperwork to have the “state aid”

designation removed from the roadway, a process which must be complete before the change is official.

In other matters, Prairie Ridge golf course grounds superintendent Jakob Lehrke reported regarding work underway to restore the greens after last year’s floods. He stated the seed planted last fall is growing, but it may take most of the summer before the damaged locations are up to standard. Lehrke expressed gratitude to Bjorn Peterson and Travis Priem for work done at the driving range.

He also mentioned projects which included adding a cart path to five and six tee-boxes with high traffic. Rerouting paths to ensure safety for customers, Lehrke observed, was a huge improvement. The golf course has also added hazard markers.

In other business, the council approved amendments to the city’s twenty-year-old comprehensive plan after the planning and zoning commission held a required public hear-

ing on April 23. No public comment was received, but Rogers mentioned some area business owners have expressed excitement about the update. City intern Betcher had made the revision a main focus of his internship, and had updated the demographics and figures, as well as the maps. Rogers thanked council members for reviewing the new plan and offering suggestions.

After council member Maas noted some apartment buildings and a park were missing from the map, Rogers said he and Betcher will revise them.

In civil matters of interest, a downtown business owner placed a request that the city be more vigilant about enforcing the three-hour time limit for parking on Main Street during typical business hours. Rogers stated he would work toward a solution.

The council approved closing Front Street to traffic during the summer Music in the Park series.



SECTION-OPENING SHUTOUT – The third-seeded Waseca High School boys’ tennis team blanked No 6 Stewartville 7-0 on windy WHS courts last Thursday. Above left, the Bluejays’ Tyler Jellum reaches for a backhand shot at the net. At right, Bryhton Rugger returns a shot. Below right, Brayden Hoof reaches for a forehand. Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

Tennis Jays cruise in section opener

In an odd twist of the schedule, the Waseca High School boys’ tennis team ended the regular season and began the post-season against the Stewartville Tigers. Both went the way of the Bluejays. Waseca, seeded third in Section 1A, defeated sixth-seeded Stewartville 7-0 last Thursday on windy WHS courts. The Bluejays, 13-3 for the season,

advanced to the section semifinals Tuesday at the Rochester Athletic Club. The finals followed. For the Bluejays against Stewartville: Tyler Jellum def. Jack Field 7-5- 6-1 at No. 1 singles; Henry Huttemier def, Matthew Spinler Mayo 6-2, 6-3 at No. 2, Otto Schoenrock swept Cooper Martin 6-1, 6-0 at No. 3, and Allen Kopetzki def. Owen Lehrman 7-5, 6-2 at No. 4.

At doubles, Armaan Bhatti and Keenan Collins def. Elias Yann and Isaac Weinman 6-2, 6-2; Tanner Hanson and Nolan McQuery def. Atlai Bueno and Jack Steiger; Brayden Hoof and Bryhton Rugger def. Milo Honsey and Micah Yann 6-0, 7-6. The final match of the season was last Monday, when the Bluejays again blanked the Tigers 7-0. Playing singles were Jellum,

Huttemier, Tommaso Scognamiglio and Schoenrock. All won in straight sets. Doubles teams were Bhatti and Collins, McQuery and Hanson, and Hoof and Kopezki. The Bluejays are seeded behind Rochester Lourdes and Winona Cotter in the section, two squads they lost to in the regular season.



Baseball Bluejays pick up another victory

Stencel, Ruedy key win at Triton

The Waseca High School baseball season continued down a rough road this past week with three losses in four games. On Saturday, the Bluejays traveled to Waterville hopeful of a win in the nonconference contest with WEM. It wasn’t to be as the Buccaneers prevailed 10-3. “We thought we had a good chance to win this one, but we didn’t play, while WEM played well defensively and put the ball in play,” said Bluejays assistant coach Tink Larson. The Bluejays did not help themselves with six fielding errors. Deven Parpart had a big day at the plate with three hits. Owen Honstad, Kallen Glynn, Colten Ruedy, Aiden Schoemaker and Jaiden Schafer had one hit apiece. Parpart started and took the pitching loss, with Honstad and Logan Reger throwing in relief. Last Tuesday, the Bluejays lost 11-1 to Maple River at Mapleton. Waseca had one hit, by Reger, and one walk, by Honstad. Schoemaker was the losing pitcher. “Offensively, we had two baserunners,” said Coach Larson. “On the other side, our pitchers struck out one, walked too many, hit too many, and we made too many errors.” The Bluejays fell 10-3 to New Ulm at Larson Field. Honstad, Max Wirtz and Easton Danks had hits for Waseca, which committed five fielding miscues. Wirtz took the pitching loss. The Bluejays won 12-8 over Triton at Dodge Center. “It was very nice to pick up the win,” said Larson. “We had our biggest hit total of the season.” Hayden Stencel led the way, going 3-for-3 with three RBIs. Reger and Glynn had two hits each, with Parpart, Wirtz and Honstad also hitting safely, Parpart drove in three runs. Ruedy started on the mound and picked up the win. “Ruedy did a nice job over the



SAFE AT THIRD – The Bluejays’ Owen Honstad (13) slides safely into third base during a recent home game at Tink Larson Field in Waseca. Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens



EXTRA EFFORT – At left, Waseca’s Kallen Glynn hustles to first base. At right, the Bluejays’ Deven Parpart delivers a pitch. Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

first five innings, giving up only one earned run and one walk,” said Larson. “Against New Ulm, a number of seniors that haven’t played very much this season got a chance to start and they did okay.” After finishing the regular season Tuesday at WEM, the Bluejays open section tournament play Tuesday,

May 27 at 5 p.m. at Triton. The winner plays Thursday, May 29 at 5 p.m. at Maple River. Section 2AA seedings: 1. LeSueur-Henderson; 2. Sibley East; 3. Maple River; 4. Tri-City United; 5. Belle Plaine; 6. Triton; 7. NRHEG; 8. LCWM; 9. Medford; 10. WEM; 11. Waseca; 12. St. Clair;

13. Blue Earth Area. The section semifinals are Saturday, May 31 at LeSueur-Henderson, the championship game is Thursday, June 5 at LeSueur-Henderson. The tournament is double-elimination.

Big South Big Standings

St. Peter	6-2
Marshall	6-2
New Ulm	6-3
Fairmont	1-0
Worthington	1-7
Waseca	1-7

Braves sink Minn. Lake

The Waseca Braves amateur baseball team evened its record at 1-1 with a 10-2 victory at Minnesota Lake Sunday. According to Braves coach Tink Larson, the game was much closer than the final score indicated, tied 2-2 until the eighth inning. The Braves erupted for three in the eighth and five in the top of the ninth. Waseca totaled 10 hits, led by Kelvin Nelson, Zach Hoehn and Sebastian Teague with two apiece. Tyson Reger, Payton Garza and Ben Schoenrock each had one hit. Reger was the winning pitcher. “It was nice to have him back from his college season,” said Larson. “He pitched a complete game, allowing just four hits and two walks, although he hit four batters. But he struck out 12.” Teague also made his first appearance after finishing his college season, coming through with two hits, four RBIs and three walks. Also making his first Braves appearance after the college season was Hoehn. The Braves hosted St. Clair in their home opener Wednesday at Tink Larson Field. They face Lake Crystal the following Wednesday at 7:30 at Larson Field.

Softball Jays seeded 11th in Section 2A

The Waseca High School softball team won one of four games in the last week, defeating Medford 15-6 while falling 9-2 to Jordan, 4-0 to Maple River and 12-5 to WEM. The Bluejays, seeded 11th out of 15 teams in Section 2A, opened tournament play Tuesday at No. 6 LeSueur-Henderson. The winner plays today at 5 p.m. at TCU or at home against Blue Earth Area. The Bluejays finished the regular season 6-14 overall and 2-6 in the Big South big school division.

Big South Big Standings

St. Peter	7-1
New Ulm	7-1
Worthington	5-4
Waseca	2-6
Fairmont	1-1
Marshall	0-9



RIVALRY WIN — The NRHEG High School baseball team scored nine runs in the bottom of the sixth inning while defeating visiting WEM 16-9 Friday at Reese Field in New Richland. Above left, Carter Martens gets a force out at first base. In the middle, Aiden Schlaak rounds third on his way to home while Alden Dobberstein trails. Right, Owen Wayne slides safely into second with a stolen base. Lower left, Levi Whiteside prepares to deliver a pitch. Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens



Baseball Panthers rally past WEM

NRHEG 10-runs Medford on Senior Appreciation Night at Reese Field

No matter what the sport, Waterville-Elysian-Morristown is almost always an arch-rival opponent for the NRHEG Panthers.

They made the most of it Thursday, sending the Buccaneers home with a 16-9 setback at Jeff and Carol Reese Field in New Richland.

The Panthers, who led most of the day, found themselves trailing 9-7 after six and a half innings, but put it away with a nine-run sixth of their own.

“Tonight we were very good except when we fell off a bit in the fifth inning,” said Panthers head coach Shawn Larson. “Our offense was on hand today. Both the top and the bottom of the lineup were productive. We also had several pitchers take the ball today, so this win was very much a team effort.”

Owen Wayne went 3-for-4 and scored three runs, Seth Staloch 3-for-5 with four runs and four RBIs. Aaden Hanna, Alden Dobberstein and Jordan Brouwers had two hits each, with one apiece by Carter Martens, Aiden Schlaak, and Jace Ihrke added one hit each. Brouwers, Martens, Schlaak and Dobberstein doubled.

Calvin Nissen, Levi Whiteside, Dakota Schlaak, Ryan Schlaak and Ihrke pitched for NRHEG, with Ihrke getting the win.

Last Monday, the Panthers hosted Medford for Senior Appreciation Day and won 15-5 at Reese Field.

“It was a lot of fun to get all of the seniors on the field at the same time,” said Coach Larson. “I hope the seven seniors that we have (Alden Dobberstein, Aaden Hanna, Aidan Schlaak, Jace Ihrke, Seth Staloch, Carter Martens, and Brock Ziemke) enjoyed playing together tonight. I am proud and grateful for the time that I have had to share with these young men.”

Owen Wayne, a junior, started on the mound and had a nice night, allowing three earned runs on four hits, with 10 strikeouts and two walks.

“Owen was great on the hill tonight,” said Larson. “He had an aggressive mindset and was attacking the zone. Owen looks like he is close to postseason form, and we will just encourage him to continue his routines, because we can trust him right now.”

Offensively, Aiden Schlaak was 3-for-4 with five RBIs. Wayne had two hits, with Hanna, Doberstein, Martens, Ihrke, Brock Ziemke and Ryan Schlaak adding one each.

“We have been making decent contact with the ball for a little over a week,” said Coach Larson. “Today the hard -it balls were falling in.”

The Panthers, seeded seventh in Section 2AA, open tournament play Tuesday, May 27 at 5 p.m. at home against WEM. The winner plays Thursday, May 29 at 5 p.m. at Maple River.

Section 2AA seedings: 1. LeSueur-Henderson; 2. Sibley East; 3. Maple River; 4. Tri-City United; 5. Belle Plaine; 6. Triton; 7. NRHEG; 8. LCWM; 9. Medford; 10. WEM; 11. Waseca; 12. St. Clair; 13. Blue Earth Area.

The section semifinals are Saturday, May 31 at LeSueur-Henderson, the championship game is Thursday, June 5 at LeSueur-Henderson. The tournament is double-elimination.



FULL SPEED AHEAD – Camryn VanMaldeghem of the NRHEG High School softball team rounds second and sets her sights on third during the Panthers’ 14-2 victory over Blue Earth Area at Legion Field in New Richland last Tuesday. Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

Streak ends abruptly at Waterville

NRHEG softball team blasts BEA 14-2, Medford 17-0 but falls 21-11 to WEM

The NRHEG High School softball team fashioned a winning streak last week.

It abruptly ended on Thursday.

After defeating Blue Earth Area 14-2 and Medford 17-0, the Panthers fell 21-11 to WEM in six innings at Waterville.

“We took one on the chin tonight defensively, committing 12 errors,” said NRHEG coach Wendy Schultz. “The game went much better offensively as the girls accumulated 16 hits. However, the errors were too much to overcome.”

Aspen Stenzel led the offense, going 4-for-4 with a double and three runs. Faith Phillips was 3-for-4 with a double and four RBIs. Brooklyn Summer and Ezra Boerner had two hits each, with Sommer driving in four runs. Addy Stadheim, Jace Knudson, Kyera Eustice, Olivia Berg and Chloe Stork had one hit apiece.

Sommer took the pitching loss.

The Panthers defeated visiting BEA last Tuesday.

Camryn VanMaldeghem was 3-for-3 with a double and a triple, Boerner 3-for-3 with two runs. Stenzel, Berg, Phillips and Stork contributed on ehit each.

Sommer registered the pitching victory, allowing one earned run on six hits, with no walks and two strikeouts.

“This was a great team win,” said Coach Schultz. “The girls continued playing well offensively, accumulating 12 hits. The battery of Brooklyn and Addy worked hard tonight. We’re hoping to keep it rolling.”

A day earlier, the Panthers sent Medford packing after four innings at Legion Field.

VanMaldeghem was 3-for-4 with a home run, a double four runs and three RBIs, Stork 4-for-4 with a double, Boerner 3-for-4, Stenzel 2-for-4, Stadheim 2-for-3 with two doubles. Adding one hit each were Sommer, Phillips, Berg and Eustice. Sommer, who hit a home run, was the winning pitcher, not allowing a hit or a baserunner.

“The whole team hit well tonight, lots of extra base hits,” said Schultz. “The girls played great defense, committing no errors. Medford did not reach base one tonight. It was a great team win.”

The Panthers, seeded 12th among 15 teams, opened Section 2AA tournament play Tuesday at No. 5 Belle Plaine. The winner plays today at 5 p.m. at No. 4 St. James or home against No. 13 Medford. The section semifinals and final are Saturday at Caswell Park in Mankato.

Gopher Conference standings	
United South Central	10-0
Randolph	9-1
Bethlehem Academy	8-3
Kenyon-Wanamingo	7-5
Hayfield	6-4
JWP	4-6
NRHEG	3-6
Blooming Prairie	3-6
WEM	3-7
Triton	3-7
Medford	0-11



IN THERE – The Panthers’ Kyera Eustice slides safely into third as the throw is off line during NRHEG’s 14-2 triumph last week at Legion Field in New Richland. Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

Simonson tied for first after three conference rounds

So far, so good for Jeffrey Simonson.

The JWP High School golfer is still on track for the individual crown after the third 18-hole round of Gopher Conference play.

At Austin Country Club last Tuesday, Simonson fired a 78 to maintain a tie for first place. Other Bulldog scores: Garrett Rienhardt 95, Evan Mulcahey 96. Both Reinhardt and Mulcahey registered personal-best 18-hole rounds.

The Bulldogs played Thursday at NRHEG, where they again had only three varsity players and didn’t qualify for a team score. Simonson was the medalist with a 44 for nine holes, Reinhardt was secing at 50, Mulcahey third with 52.

“The conditions were terrible as there were high winds and dust storms for the entire meet,” said JWP head coach Tim Burke.

The Bulldogs’ meet with GHEC on Friday was cancelled due to weather.

Simonson and the Bulldogs are back in action today for the final Gopher Conference Meet at Lakeside in Waseca.

NRHEG golfers complete third round of conference

The NRHEG High School golfers traveled to Austin Country Club for the third round of section play last Tuesday.

Eighteen-hole scores for the NRHEG boys: Reid Sandry 87, Shan Hanson 105, Chase Hansen 107, Matt Williams 106, Braydon Rollag 111, Braxton Arnold 118.

For the girls: Alexis Olson 120, Olivia Wilkenson 120.

On Thursday, the Panthers hosted JWP at Riverview Golf Course.

NRHEG boys’ scores for nine holes: Carter Schlaak 56, Brayton Kruger 66, John Lynne 67, Haydon Ripka 70, Sealey Anderson 73.

For the girls: Wilkenson 59, Olson 61.

The Panthers play today at 1 p.m. at Waseca’s Lakeside Golf Course.



A COLD, REWARDING DAY – The JWP High School girls’ track and field team finished ninth in the True Team State Meet on a cold Saturday at Eden Prairie. Front from left: Paige Walz, Anne Adams, Onikia Herme, MaKenzie Westphal, Brielle Bure, Norah Welvaert, MaKaela Westphal, Aubrey Anderson, Kayleigh Donner, Clare Groh, Nevaeh Weimert, Ella Stenger, Madyn Holland. Back: Presley James, Emma Huelsnitz, Lilly Strauss, Ava Krause, Madeline Hoehn, Ashlynn Wolff, Ava Appel, Claire Walz, Kwynn Krause, Katelyn Olson, Aubrey Weedman, Autumn Thissen.

JWP girls give it their all at True Team State Meet

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Almost lost in the hoopla of a week that included two Gopher Conference track and field championships for Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton, the Bulldog girls had one more meet on their plate on Saturday: the True Team State Meet at Eden Prairie.

They handled themselves well, finishing ninth out of 12 schools

“We couldn’t be more proud of those girls. Everyone gave it their all.”
— JWP track coach Sam Schruin

with 385.5 points. Luverne won with 521.

“Every now and then, something special happens,” said Bulldogs coach Sam Schruin. “Something that reminds us all that hard work, heart, and a little bit of grit can do. What those young women did out there, facing off against 11 other teams, in the cold, was nothing short

of extraordinary. When it was all said and done, they stood tall in ninth place. That’s no small thing. We couldn’t be more proud of those girls. Everyone gave it their all.”

Among the many highlights for the Bulldogs was the performance of Ashlynn Wolff, who placed second in the 400 meters while setting a new school record of 1:01.12.

Other highlights:

- Madeline Hoehn, Paige Walz, MaKaela Westphal and Kwynn Krause, 6th, 4x800
- Brielle Bure, MaKaela Westphal, Katie Olson and Lilly Strauss, 3rd, 4x200
- MaKenzie Westphal, 5th, 1600
- Bure, MaKaela Westphal, Olson and Onikia Herme, 3rd, 4x100
- Herme, 5th, 300 hurdles
- Wolff, 3rd, 800
- Weimert, 8th, 200
- MaKenzie Westphal 4th, 3200
- Herme, Wolff, Strauss and MaKenzie Westphal, 2nd, 4x400

- Aubrey Weedman, 7th, shot put
- Strauss 2nd, long jump
- Olson 5th, long jump

Also scoring points for the Bulldogs were Ava Appel, Sarah Bulman, Clare Groh, Autumn Thissen, Anne Adams and Presley James.

The Bulldogs are at United South Central in Wells today for the sub-section meet. The section meet is May 31 at Mankato West High School.

JWP softball team seeded eighth in Section 2A

The JWP High School softball team faced USC, the No. 1 rated team in the state, at Janesville last Tuesday.

The Rebels remained undefeated with a 10-0, five-inning decision.

“We didn’t get any hits but we did put the ball in play a few times,” said JWP coach Brianne Eldred.

Ryleigh Donner pitched 5 2/3 innings for JWP, allowing three earned runs on six hits. Claire Loeffler pitched in relief.

The Bulldogs, seeded 8th in Section 2A, opened tournament play Tuesday at home against Springfield. The winner plays today at 5 p.m. at USC.

The tournament continues at Caswell Park in Mankato.

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Friends of the Library



From left: Linda Hendricks, Dian Witt, Pat Staloch, Vanette Pope and Cheryl raised over \$600 with around 60 visitors for the Janesville Friends of the Library Plant Sale on Saturday, May 17, 2025. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Garage Sale



From left: Clayton, Amber, Sara, Erin and Tamera Clayton were among the shoppers at the 4-H Garage Sale at the Waseca fairgrounds on Saturday, May 17, 2025. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

■ Banquet from Page 3

Christian Mendez, Addison Miller, Tyler Nelson, Gabrielle Powell, Jaycie Rodriguez, Eli Rolfson, Cole Schutrop, Jack Wagenbach, Montanna Waters, Shane Witts and Makiah Zeiher.

Outstanding Artist Awards were presented by AJ Seibert: Jayden Jones, Chandelyn Marquardt, Chandra Marquardt, Addison Miller and Cole Schutrop.

Top in Shop Awards, presented by Aidan Demarais: Luke Cahill, Issac Gahlon, Chase Gerdt, Landon Johnson, Keegen Lamont, Reese March, Jaxon Miller, Evan Olson, Eli Rolfson and Shane Witts.

The Band Awards, presented by Adam Hille with a Spotlight on Scholarship Award Letterwinners: Anne Adams, Luke Cahill, Avery Carda, Brenna Hed, Dalton Ling and Elizabeth Norman. The following students received and excellent rating at large group contest: Charles Adams, Ariana Aguilar, Gavin Bauer, Deven and Ethan Cowdin, Joshua Coy, Seth Dahlberg, Eric Daschner, Kinsey Dreyer, Annie Fuerstenberg, Ruby Gunsolus, Alexander Kleve, Tyson Kronbach, Myles Kruger, Ella Lamont, Kayle Langford, Reese March, Christian Mendez, Jaxon Miller, Ellie Morsching, Brayden, Neegaard, Ayden Peterson, Lawrence Pietz, Leo Powell, Lily Quast, Adarius 'AJ' Radunz, Garrett Rienhardt, Rylan Rolfson, Carson Schultz, Zander Terbeest, Jack Wagenbach, Blayne Wandrie, Gavin Weedman, and Jason Wheelock.

Choir Awards, presented by Josh Sorenson, Letter Winner: Eric Daschner and Kaylea Elliot. Senior Cords: Eric Daschner, Airana Aguilar and Myles Kruger. MSHSL Large Group Contest Superior Rating for JWP Chamber Choir: Ariana Aguilar, Abigail Balzotti, Isaiah Berndt, Eric Daschner, Jayden Jones, Myles Kruger, Claire Miller, Travyn Shoultz and Jeffrey Simonson.

The Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) Vocal Solo Ensemble Contest, presented by Becky Borneke named Superior Solos: Isaiah Berndt, Eric Daschner, Ryleigh Donner, Claire Miller and Travyn Shoultz. For Excellent Solos: Abby Balzotti, Kayleigh Donner, Jayden Jones. Superior Duets: Isaiah Berndt, Eric Daschner, Travyn Shoultz and Jeffrey Simonson. For Excellent Duet: Kayleigh Donner and Ryleigh Donner.

The Speech Awards, presented by Jessie Oelke and Darien Kjolstad: Emma Barten, John-David Bublitz, Eric Daschner, Annie Fuerstenberg, Ruby Gunsolus, Alexandra Hanks, Jacoby Harris, Madyn Holland, Emily James, Christian Mendez, Addison and Claire Miller, Genna Mueller, Rachelle Oelke, Christian Reyes, Isabella Robinson, Ivan Schoen Rock, Asher Wagenbach and Kylie Williams.

The Activity Awards, presented by Nicca Malecha: The MSHL AAA Award went to Ariana Aguilar and Luke Cahill. MSHSL ExCel Award: Katelyn Olson and Daulton Bauer. Gopher Conference Player of the Year Award: Brielle Bure and MaKenzie Westphal. Jack Dahl and Dick Krautbauer Award went to Isaiah Berndt and Presley James.



Adora and Keira Holgrem, Lillian Whitesitt and Madison Friedrick unwound a bit after the Waseca Junior High Choir Concert on Monday, May 12, 2025.



Olive Scheffert and Mallory Wetzel performed solos for the song "Speechless" at the Waseca Junior High choir concert on May 12. Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann



Seventh-grader Lillian Whitesitt sang a solo performance for "Touch the Sky" at the Waseca Junior High choir concert on Monday, May 12, 2025.



WJH Choir Concert ends on happy note

By BEN REVERMANN Staff writer

At the Waseca Junior High School's Choir Concert on Monday, May 12, grades seven and eight performed ten separate songs using either modern music from Disney movies or classics from the past. The concert was directed by Angela Andreen, vocal music teacher for seventh grade, and Megan Kreinbring for eighth.

In contrast to the winter concert, students were wearing bright spring

colors this time instead of black and grey. The seventh-graders started out with "Salt Life" by Mike Wilson, a sea shanty more than one sailor knows. "They Touch the Sky" from the movie "Brave" with a solo by Lillian Whitesitt. After that was "Try Everything" from the Pixar movie Zootopia and "Speechless" from the live action version of "Aladdin," with two solos by Olive Scheffert and Mallory Wetzel.

Tammi Attenberger and her husband Justin were present to watch

their daughter, Reagan (RJ). RJ said she is glad to have the show accomplished, having been somewhat nervous as the performance approached. Justin said, "I thought it was a very nice concert; we have a lot of up and coming talent in Waseca. The soloists were amazing." RJ was also glad the audience responded so positively to the eighth-grade class.

The eighth-grade portion of the concert started out with the Elton John song "I'm Still Standing," then "A Million Dreams" with a solo by

Keenan Collins and Zoey Gibson. Elvis Presley's "Can't Help Falling in Love" slowed things down for a bit and got sentimental; Tomas Vasquez played guitar. Things stayed serious for Rihanna's "Stay"; the eighth-grade portion ended with the Katy Perry song "Firework" with solos by Keenan Collins, Ava Trumbull, Gianna Zak, Maddie Halla and Addison Monson. The seventh grade returned to the stage; both choirs sang "Gone Gone Gone" for a happy ending.

Brilliant+ BLUEJAYS

NORI
Kindergarten

Nori is such a gem! She is an excellent example of respecting property. She takes care of all things in the classroom and uses things correctly! She notices when something needs to be put away or if she is missing something. She does an amazing job of showing the Bluejay Way!

Teagan
1st Grade

Teagan is a great example of a Brilliant Bluejay because she tries her best every day and is always willing to help. She has been respecting property by helping clean up our classroom at the end of each day and stacking chairs. She keeps her hands to herself and follows expectations in and out of the classroom.

EVELYN
2nd Grade

Evelyn is an incredible leader that follows the Bluejay Way! She is respectful towards property in the classroom by following directions, cleaning up after herself and others! Keep up the awesome work!

Brilliant+ BLUEJAYS

AGATHA
3rd Grade

Agatha is a Brilliant Bluejay because she demonstrates a positive example of being responsible with her belongings in the classroom and the hallway at all times. She also goes the extra mile to make sure items in our classroom are recycled or reused whenever possible to keep our building clean and ecofriendly.

ZANDER
1st Grade

Zander comes to school with a big smile, loving heart, and an eager brain every single day. The Bluejay Way shines through in his respect for others, learning, and property. Zander is a friend to everyone he meets. Keep being you, Zander!

MESSER
2nd Grade

Messer is a Brilliant Bluejay in every area of the school. He respects learning in the classroom. He respects others in all places. He respects property by keeping things neat and tidy. We think you're great, Messer!

New medication management program

Taking medicine, the wrong way, can cause serious problems, like bad side effects or even life-threatening issues. Managing your medicine correctly can help prevent these problems, improve how well treatments work, help you feel better, and save money by avoiding extra trips to the emergency room or hospital. Programs like this can also help people remember to take their medicine and give them more control over their

own health. Public health nurses will give personal support by visiting people at home. They will help organize and check your medicines and prescriptions. Nurses can explain your prescriptions, over-the-counter medicines, and daily vitamins or supplements. They can also help you spot side effects, avoid mistakes, and make sure you are taking your medicine the right way. Nurses can an-

swer your questions and help you understand your treatment plan, all in the comfort of your own home. "Medication management is going to be very beneficial to our community. It is a huge need without many providers to help. I am excited to be able to provide this service and make a difference in the community" says Waseca County Public Health Nurse, Lacey Cords. The new Waseca County Public

Health medication management program is open to people of any age with private insurance or Medical Assistance (MA). It is an important step toward healthier lives for all.

For more information or to schedule a visit, contact Waseca County Public Health Nurse, Lacey Cords, BSN, RN, PHN at 507-461-7766 or lacey.cords@wasecacounty.gov.

SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642						
MAY 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7pm HALL BINGO	2 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	5
4	5	6 Burger nite 5-7pm	7 6pm BAR Bingo	8 7pm HALL BINGO VE DAY	9 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	10
11 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am - Noon Your HOST VFW Baseball	12 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting	13 Burger nite 5-7pm	14 6pm BAR Bingo	15 7pm HALL BINGO	16 WALLEYE or SHRIMP DINNER 5:30 to 7pm YOUR HOST HONOR GUARD & AUXILIARY	17 ARMED FORCES DAY
18	19	20 Burger nite 5-7pm Last one	21 6pm BAR Bingo	22 7pm HALL BINGO	23 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	24
25	26 MEMORIAL DAY	27	28	29	30	31
HOURS OF OPERATION SUN.- MON. CLOSED TUE.- 1pm to 11pm Tue. Is Lady's nite 2 for one-Men Busch light \$2.50 from 4 to 6pm. WED.- SAT-1pm to 11 pm POST & AUX MEETING 7pm club open 6pm MEMBERS only. Mn. Gambling license number 00385						

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