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WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

No. 15 Vol. IV \$2 Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca Thursday, April 10, 2025



■ Page 3



Lady Bug



Local artist Robin Warburton has two especially large projects underway. Especially known for her lifelike sculptures of birds, she estimates she has completed close to 400 so far.

Photo by Deb Bently

Artist Robin Warburton takes on two special projects

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Janesville area artist Robin Warburton has shown her sculptures in the Waseca Art Center and consistently has her work on display in galleries around Minnesota and even in Branson, Missouri. She estimates she has created well over 300 sculptures of birds in sizes ranging from hummingbirds to large raptors. Gallery owners typically price her work somewhere between a few hundred dollars for smaller pieces to even as high as \$10,000 for larger ones.

Two pieces she is currently working on, she suggests, might be accurately priced at 10 times that much, if they were ever to be offered for sale.

The first, a full-sized bald eagle with wings outstretched and talons open, is due to be unveiled in November during a display titled "Minnesota Nature Alive in Wood" at the Waseca Art Center.

The second piece, still in the prototype phase, is an accurate, larger-than-life-size reproduction of "Alice," an adult great horned owl central to the education and fund-raising work of the International Owl Center in Houston, Minn.

Creating a life-sized sculpture which depicts the commanding presence and detailed elegance of an eagle is a project which Warburton says has been calling to her since her career as a sculptor began about 10 years ago. As her skills and experience in representing wildlife have grown, the urge to craft the eagle has continued—so much so, in fact, that she applied to the Minnesota State Arts Board and was delighted when she learned she was among the 362 "artists or culture bearers" who had been awarded funds this year.

"Now I can finally make the eagle," she says simply. She estimates the body, wings, legs and feet of the bird, being constructed in pieces, are about 20 percent finished at this point, and have already required hundreds of hours of work—with the time-consuming task of adding

Artist continued on 9

A word from The Word

Beside them the birds of the heavens dwell; they sing among the branches.
Psalm 104:12

Partial collapse afflicts building Back wall of 115 S. State Street falls, displaces tenants

The back wall of an apartment building located at 115 South State Street in Waseca collapsed between 1 p.m. and 1:17 p.m. Wednesday, April 2. There were no injuries reported; power and gas were turned off that same day.

First responders answered the call at 1:15 p.m. Waseca Police Chief Kris Markeson said the structure includes 10 apartment spaces with 10 tenants: all were safely evacuated. Residents were allowed short periods, accompanied by police, to pick up necessary items or medications. For safety, surrounding buildings and apartments were also evacuated, but those occupants were allowed back in their homes by Wednesday evening; the 115 South State Street building remains empty. A business named The Design Box operated out of the building for a time, but had ceased operations.

The 100 block of South State street was temporarily closed to both vehicle and pedestrian traffic much of Wednesday afternoon with a temporary detour for Highway 13 in effect for about 2 hours. Any displaced residents were sent to the public safety center where emergency management personnel could lend assistance and help find temporary housing; with the assistance of the Red Cross and Waseca County Emergency Management, all now have short-term housing.

The city building inspector and an engineer had inspected the building by 5:30 p.m. Wednesday. The majority of the building is made of brick. Blockades remain in place on the alley and parking spots east of the building; the sidewalk in front is also closed off.

Caution warnings had been in place behind the building and the space there had been cleared prior to the collapse because occupants of nearby buildings had noted as much as two weeks beforehand that the back wall was bowing outward—one witness estimated by as much as three feet. Officials had reportedly already been in touch with the building's owners regarding the danger and possible remedies. As of Friday evening, April 4, no decision has been made regarding the future of 115 South State Street.



The back wall of the building at 115 South State Street in Waseca fell in two sections at about 1:15 the afternoon of Wednesday, April 2. No one was injured; tenants have been helped in finding temporary housing.
Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

County begins \$17 million bonding process

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

After an April 1 public hearing at which no input from the public was offered, the Waseca County board of commissioners approved moving forward with a "bonding" process to borrow up to \$17 million toward remodeling the county law enforcement building and constructing a "justice center" addition to the historic county courthouse.

During their regularly scheduled

first session of the month, board members heard from Bruce Kimmel of Ehlers Public Finance Advisors out of Roseville regarding the anticipated bond, likely to be issued in August. Kimmel let commissioners know the county is in a strong position both because it has shown itself to be reliably responsible in fiscal matters, and because "there are more investors seeking to purchase bonds than there are organizations looking to sell them."

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Although a time frame discussed in March had suggested the bond could be issued as soon as early summer, Kimmel said circumstances surrounding the market have stabilized in the past few weeks, and there are potential advantages to waiting a few months longer.

Issuance of the bond is on a com-

pletely different time frame from the process of determining the ultimate size and design of any remodeling or construction. That process is currently in the "pre-planning" phase, with many details yet to be determined. In previous meetings, board members have suggested costs for the project should be kept at about \$12 million; the "up to \$17 million"

County continued on 4



Janesville area farmer Todd Selvik shared information about raising pigs with third-graders who attend Waseca schools during the April 1 "Ag in the Schools" event at Hartley Elementary.



New Richland area farmer Leon Schoenrock shared information about the many ways corn and soybeans can be used during the "Ag in the Schools" education day held at Hartley School on Tuesday, April 1.
Pioneer photos by Deb Bently

"Ag in the Schools" lives up to its name

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

"If you ask a child where milk comes from, the answer will probably be 'from the grocery store,'" observes Vicky Singlestad, organizer of a local annual program known as "Ag in the Schools."

On Tuesday, April 1, nearly 150 Waseca area third-graders from Sacred Heart, Team Academy and Hartley schools learned more about the "right" answer to the question when four area farmers gave brief presentations regarding what it takes to raise crops, dairy cattle, pigs and sheep—and equally importantly—how that work relates to children's everyday lives.

The event took place on the Hartley school campus and began more than 30 years ago when Singlestad chose to share information about the hog operation run by herself and husband Scott at the time: Their daughter, now in her 40s, was a third-grader that first year.

Singlestad continues to organize the schedule, and now works with Waseca County Farm Bureau and the Ag Business committee of the

Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce. Students attend the informational sessions and are provided afterward with gift bags of activities and products.

Once all the third-graders arrive at Hartley, they are divided into groups and spend about two hours rotating between presentations.

"They're the fluffiest animals I've met," observed Alistair Gilmore as he petted a days-old lamb brought by area farmers Gary and Tina Schoenfeld. In addition to having the two lambs, the Schoenfelds projected photos of their family performing typical tasks including daily care and shearing. Gary also showed the group the tool used to cut wool off the sheep.

Among interesting information he and Tina shared was the fact that, thanks to natural oils, wool is so water-proof that even if sheep stand in the rain, the water will never reach their skin. Also, as "ruminants," they have teeth only on the bottom half of their mouths.

School continued on 5

Steele County votes to end MN Prairie JPA

During their March 25 meeting, members of the Steele County board of commissioners voted to take steps toward terminating a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) and dissolving a three-county agency known as the Minnesota Prairie County Alliance (MN Prairie). Waseca, Dodge and Steele counties are parties to the agreement.

When first written, the joint powers agreement was conceived with more than a dozen counties taking part; ultimately only Dodge, Steele and Waseca joined. Formed in 2014, the alliance was crafted as a way of consolidating the staff which delivers the many types of social support programs administered by "human services" departments; these include substance use, income and food support, senior care, disability care, children and family, and more.

If the joint powers agreement were ended, each of the three counties would need to investigate how it would deliver these services going forward, however, despite the Steele County vote, dissolution would be slow in coming, if it comes at all.

Under the terms of the joint powers agreement, dissolving the alliance requires at least two of the three member counties to support doing so: As of this publication, neither Dodge nor Waseca counties have placed the matter on their agendas. Waseca County Administrator Michael Johnson has told news media that no county commissioners have asked him to look into the possibility of a dissolution.

Waseca County Board Chair Doug Christopherson reports that Waseca County did discuss removing itself from the alliance a few years ago, but after research and discussion elected to work within the joint powers board to make some changes; he stated the conversation has not been raised among Waseca commissioners since.

During the Steele County board meeting in March, county attorney Robert Jarrett termed the joint powers agreement as "awful." Among his complaints are what he perceived as an inequity: because it has the largest population of the three counties, Steele makes the largest annual financial contribution, \$6.5 million of the \$12 million counties pay. According to Steele County administrator Renae Fry, the organization has a total annual operating budget of about \$30 million.

The joint powers board governing MN Prairie has six members, two from each county, putting all three on equal footing despite the disparity in their contributions. For a proposal or change to be approved, Jarrett said, the vast majority of actions can be passed by a simple majority of four out of six.

Christopherson mentions giving counties equal footing regardless of size or financial contribution is common among inter-county interactions, and goes on to observe that, having served a three-year term as the chair of the joint powers board

Prairie continued on 4



Compostings

by Al Batt

All about owls, ‘1984,’ and April

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS’ CLUB MEETING

I feel like a kid.

That’s wonderful. What’s your secret?

I tried opening a childproof cap. **DRIVING BY BRUCE’S DRIVE**

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. Can February March? No, but April May. I’ve known more females named April than I can remember. I asked one if she’d been born in April. She had not. According to the Social Security Administration, April was the 515th most popular name for a baby girl in 2023. The name hit its peak of popularity in 1981 when it was the 25th most popular name for a girl. I was born in March. From 1900 until now, March has never been in the top 1000 most popular names for girls or boys. I don’t know anyone with the first name of March. Pity.

George Orwell’s book “1984,” published in 1949, has this iconic sentence for its first line: “It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen.”

T.S. Eliot, in “The Waste Land,” wrote, “April is the cruellest month, breeding lilacs out of the dead land, mixing memory and desire, stirring dull roots with spring rain.”

If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring? Pilgrims. A 1610 poem contained the lines “Sweet April showers, do spring May flowers.” “March winds and April showers bring forth May flowers” has been traced to 1886.

When Mr. T was asked what his favorite month was, he replied, “April, fool.”

The Beatles sang, “If you try to sit, I’ll tax your seat. If you get too cold, I’ll tax the heat. If you take a walk, I’ll tax your feet. ‘Cause I’m the taxman.”

I’VE LEARNED
If I feel stupid, I’ve just gotten smarter.

A cat will never hold an elevator door open for you.

To sit down in any pants I’m trying on in a store.

Anything makes a good sandwich if you have enough bread.

“From there to here, from here to there, funny things are everywhere!”—Dr. Seuss, “One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish.”

The talk was about three foods that those seated around the Table of Infinite Knowledge liked that other people might not. I came up with three quickly: Welsh rarebit

(sometimes called Welsh rabbit), a dish of melted cheddar cheese sauce (sometimes including mustard or Worcestershire sauce) served on toasted bread; baked beans on toast with ham; and asparagus pickles. That’s a trifecta of fine victuals. I almost said poutine, which consists of french fries topped with cheese curds and hot gravy, but the pickles were a healthier choice.

NATURE NOTES

Owls are like stars. They come out at night. A great horned owl flew in front of my car on a dark night. Owls find roads to be prime hunting locations. An owl-car collision was avoided.

I was stationed at the edge of a lake, an intersection with nature, ready and willing to be astounded by all I might experience. Canada geese flew in for a water landing. I think of geese as accomplished fliers and I don’t think of them as fancy aerialists, but some used a tricky technique to slow themselves for a safe and effective landing. The geese stopped flapping their wings and rolled their bodies upside down while twisting their long necks so that they remained right side up. Then, they rotated their bodies to right themselves just in time for a gentle splashdown. If they’d been passenger geese, the travelers aboard would have applauded the landing. The maneuver the geese performed is called whiffing. Slowing their descent is what I think the big birds wearing goose down were doing, but they might have just been showing off. Either way, it was impressive.

Turkey vultures monitored the roads no matter where I drove. To them, each road is an aisle in the grocery store. Road-killed deer, raccoons and opossums were available for their dining pleasure.

I listened to a tufted titmouse calling “Peter-Peter-Peter” in Lamoni, Iowa. That’s what the mnemonic is. It could have been producing a clear whistle that said pita-pita-pita, cheeva-cheeva-cheeva, or here-here-here. The plural is titmice, and the name has nothing to do with mice. It derives from Old English words meaning “small bird.” The collective noun for titmice is a banditry. One titmouse flew near me, its big, dark eyes giving it the look of a bird that is constantly surprised. It used its feet as a plate to hold a seed and its beak as silverware to open and eat the food.

MEETING ADJOURNED
Don’t flunk gratitude. Be kind.

Card sessions “bridge” changes

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

When Wilda and Keith Smith and their family moved to Waseca 45 years ago, Betty McIntire, who operated the drug store with her husband Homer at the time, pulled aside an out-of-town visitor who had stopped to ask for directions. “There’s something I have to ask you about Wilda,” Betty said with disconcerting urgency.

“Does she play Bridge?”
The name of the card game Bridge, it seems, has a double meaning—while it provides entertainment and challenge, it simultaneously serves as a way to overcome gaps.

Five long-standing Waseca residents have a lot to share on the subject. The five of them, ranging in age from 81 to 94, get together twice a month to spend a few hours playing Bridge while also enjoying each other’s company: MaryAnn Madel, Cookie Rausch, Phoebe Praxl, Jacque Storby, and Wilda.

After hearing Wilda’s story about Betty McIntire, all five of them agree: Betty was “Mrs. Bridge” in Waseca back then, persistently arranging get-togethers which centered around the game.

“Dozens of people played,” remember Phoebe, now retired from her decades-long work as a teacher at the Waseca High School. “We would get together and play as couples.”

“There used to be several Bridge clubs in town,” points out Jacque. “Now we’re probably the last one left. “We’re keeping it alive.”

“So far, so good,” chimes in Cookie.

Among them, the five ladies spent 283 years married and raised 14 children to adulthood. All are now widowed and most live on their own, but they’re still playing Bridge.

Along with Phoebe, both Jacque and Cookie had careers in education, and were also married to teachers. Jacque was part of a class-action lawsuit in which all female faculty members of the (then) University located in

Waseca sued the school, and won, because it was easily proven the male members of the staff were receiving higher pay based not on their qualifications, but their gender.

The three teachers also share stories of “convenient” policies. Two relate how they were rejected for teaching positions because of a “policy” that if their husband worked for the district or campus, they could not have jobs there as well. Another was told her teaching license did not meet the criteria for a specific job. Yet, when unexpected vacancies occurred and the positions needed to be filled on short notice, the policies became unimportant and the ladies were hired—at lower salaries than their husbands’.

“That’s how it was back then,” all five Bridge players concur. “The woman’s job was treated with less respect because she wasn’t the ‘head of household,’” observes Phoebe.

“Those were the olden days,” says Jacque.

“Don’t get us started,” jokes Cookie.

Despite the warning, however, a discussion about ways things have changed continues.

MaryAnn mentions having learned to drive—with adult supervision—at age 11 and receiving her South Dakota drivers’ license at 13. She explains her father had grown up on a family farm, “and he just hated it, so he got out of there as quickly as he could.”

Yet after starting a family and while living in town, he purchased some acres in the country where he kept cattle. “My father taught me how to drive and got me a license so I could help check on them,” she explains.

Noting that it’s somewhat ironic because her husband LeRoy, widely known as “Storb,” taught drivers’ education, Jacque says she did not learn to drive until after she was 21. “We didn’t have a car that I could drive,” she recalls of her own youth.

Asked about other ways Bridge has played a role in their lives, the ladies return to its social aspects. “I got to



know people I would otherwise never golf clothes, and Toddy just wore ev-

The card game Bridge has provided a decades-long network of support—and hours of good-spirited ribbing—for this group of Waseca ladies. They are (front, from left) MaryAnn Madel, Jacque Storby, (standing, from left) Wilda Smith, Cookie Rausch, and Phoebe Praxl.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

have met,” most of them say in their own words.

Phoebe tells how, when she moved to town in 1973, the game opened doors for her. “As soon as they found out I played bridge, I started being invited,” she recalls. As she was raising her children, she remembers the “Bridge Club” would rotate among the players’ homes. She describes how her children very much enjoyed the evenings the party would be at their house. “They thought it was fun to serve the guests,” she says, pointing out, “Of course we always had to have some sort of a treat.”

Cookie remembers her participation in a Bridge group as something of an escape during the time she was a stay-at-home caretaker for her children. “We would bring them along,” she said of herself and the other mothers. “The children would play together in one part of the house, and we’d play cards in another.” She recalls valuing the opportunity to interact with others on an adult level.

Wilda tells the story of a time when she and fellow retiree Toddy Smith were spending part of the winter in Florida. After seeing a newspaper ad which invited all interested Bridge players to an area club, the two made arrangements to take part.

Based on their own Bridge clubs back in Waseca, the two arrived dressed rather casually — “I was in my

eryday clothes—slacks and a top.” Once at the venue, however, they discovered things were done differently there. “Everyone was very dressed up,” she comments, remembering the women were all wearing nice dresses and one woman even had a colorful bow in her hair; all the men were wearing suits and ties.

She tells how she and Toddy were seated with two men as their opponents, and how the two seemed unimpressed with the Minnesotans. Their sense of being out of place continued as paper and pencil were distributed and everyone began to write something down. After Toddy expressed confusion, the two women were told players were listing the “conventions” they used.

When they showed confusion regarding the request, one of the men “looked at us over his nose and he asked, ‘You don’t play any conventions?’ in this really superior way.”

After a few moments’ thought, the two women realized they did, in fact, follow some specific practices that should be written down. Still, the men’s demeanor left a sour taste in Wilda’s mouth as play began.

“But do you know,” she says, hitting the table, “we upped those stuffed shirts.”

“It felt really good when Toddy and

Bridge continued on 9

Aah, life, the grand adventure

I had lunch with a wild crew last week.

Five area ladies gather regularly to play the card game Bridge and have lunch. Elsewhere in this issue, you will find the news piece regarding their get-togethers.

Let me begin by admitting I “covered” their gathering for somewhat selfish reasons—I was acquainted with a few of them and knew small parts of others’ history: Since they range in age from 81 to 94, they’ve had plenty of time to build local connections.

Three of the five ladies once worked as educators and so they felt a bit of an obligation to teach me a thing or two about Bridge. While I did learn a little, I certainly did not come away from the session ready to pick up a hand and play it. As I was advised, “Bridge is a thinking person’s game,” and I was so busy being enchanted by the energy and spirit of fun at the table that I did not use up much energy thinking.

The ladies shared observations, experiences and stories. Their long association with each other was obvious since they frequently finished



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

each other’s sentences or even expounded in a roundtable sort of way on various elements of their lives.

Their careers and opportunities were forged in a time when women were listed as appendages to their husbands: “Mrs. Keith Smith,” for example, rather than “Wilda Smith.”

The three educators shared stories of having been told they could not have a job at a school or university if their husbands had a job at the same place—“it was policy.” One of them, Jacque Storby, was part of a successful class action suit against the then University located in Waseca because the institution was paying women less based solely on their gender.

The ladies’ observation: “That’s just the way it was.”

What I came away from the session with was that, however independent and free-spirited we regard ourselves to be, we are still shaped by our culture and its expectations. We may respond to that culture by conforming, by struggling against it with all our might, or some combination of the two, but even if we leave it behind for the stereotypical deserted island, we have still been molded.

Consider the ability to read, for example. I am willing to wager that, across human civilization, vastly more people have lived their whole lives without the ability to read than have ever acquired the skill. Many societies never had a written form of their language; most others offered education only to the wealthy or

privileged—or, as is still going on in some countries today, people of the “right” gender.

Whatever level of skill you have as a reader, your brain has still been shaped by the concept of written language.

Then there are the many comforts and advantages given to us by technical advances. We all know how “helpless” we become when the power goes out or even only when the internet goes down. We have been molded to rely upon those utilities. If some extreme circumstance were to occur which deprived us of those things, our responses would be widely varied, but still based upon the fact we once had them and relied upon them.

Of course I cannot know what changes and advances will occur as time rolls forward. Based on the conversation over cards and the many changes described by the card players, I am led to assume I will regard many of them as positive, many of them as logical outgrowths of ongoing trends, and at least some of them as tremendous losses.

Aah, life, the grand adventure.

Significant progress in 5ks

I have run more 5ks in the past week than I did in the entirety of last year. That is, I ran two this week and only one last year.

However, this is significant progress. If anyone knows me, they have probably heard me say that I am not a runner and that I will choose anything besides running. I used to tell people I always chose to play the sports with the least amount of running. Volleyball, golf, a brief stint of tennis. I never played, or had any interest in playing, basketball, soccer, track, cross country. If intense running was involved, I was not. The only thing I might have considered if given the option would have been football as a wide receiver.

However, I’ve recently realized running isn’t as terrible as I remember. It’s also a healthy habit, so why not? I ran the Clover Dash 5k at St. Patrick’s Day this year; I confess, however, it might have been the thought of the green beer waiting for me at the finish line that got me through the three miles of snow and slush. But I realized last week that I had signed up to run the Goldy’s Run 5k here at the University of Minnesota with my roommates a couple of weeks ago and had forgotten.

It had been a while since I had run, so I jumped on the treadmill, put on Grey’s Anatomy, and tried

to see how much I could manage. I was surprised at the ease with which I reached three miles. I was expecting panting, hands on knees, dripping sweat, and way more walking. However, despite knowing I was going at a far slower pace than the guy on the treadmill next to mine running like he was the Flash, I reached a 5k distance and wasn’t in complete despair or hating myself as much as I usually might be when running. I was not plagued by thoughts like “I just want to walk”; “This sucks, I have a stitch in my side”; or “Who ever voluntarily does this?!” entered my head. So when Goldy’s Run came along, I rolled out of bed bright and early to braid my hair, bundle up, and confidently walk to the starting line.

Or maybe it was running with my best friend that encouraged me to do what I had thought impossible: running the entire 5k without stopping or walking. Don’t get me wrong, there were times when my pace was very slow, but I didn’t walk once. That also could have been because of the million people who were also taking part in Goldy’s Run, leading me to create a game that could be named “weaving in and out of people

Amelia continued on 4



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler



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‘Hats’ Exhibition at the Waseca History Center through May
‘Hats’ is the Exhibition at the Waseca County History Center, 315 Second Ave NE Waseca, during daily hours from now through the month of May. Explore a stunning collection of hats from the WCHS archives and several personal collections. There will also be a magical Hat-box, and the Legend of the Blue Hat.

Coffee with Tom at Waseca Chamber of Commerce office Friday, April 11
Join Representative Tom Sexton at the Waseca Chamber of Commerce office from noon through 1 p.m. Friday April 11 for coffee, snacks and a meet and greet. Said Sexton, “Thank you to all who have attended in the past, and if you are interested, I strongly encourage you to attend.”

Mary Guentzel Quintet at the Indian Island Winery Friday April 11
The Mary Guentzel Quintet will be playing at the Indian Island Winery from 6-8:30 p.m. on Friday, April 11. This band plays Irish music and some all-time favorites.

Waseca Public Library How-To Festival on Saturday, April 12
Learn a wide variety of skills at this community-based interactive learning event from 10 a.m. till 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 12th at the Waseca Public Library. From making sourdough to punch needling, from improving gut health to helping wildlife, add a few tricks up your sleeve in these short sessions!

Waseca Spring Shop Hop April 11 and 12
Waseca’s special shops are sponsoring two days of special offers and activities on Friday and Saturday, April 11 and 12. Participating businesses are Suburban Furniture and Flooring, and Barefoot Lane at Suburban, 2200 N. State; Glitter & Grace, 1800 N. State; Past & Present, 1101 N. State; Homestead, 917 N. State; Waseca Floral, 810 N. State; C & A Designs, 208 N. State; The Speckled Hen, 123 N. State; Four Seasons Apparel, 124 N. State; Pic A Dilly, 106 N. State; Zinnias, 108 S. State.

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church of Meriden two-day garage and soup sale April 11 and 12
St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, 2781 SW 92 Ave Meriden, is having a two-day indoor garage sale and homemade soup sale from 11 a.m. till 6 p.m. on Friday April 11, and from 8 a.m. till 1 p.m. on Saturday April 12. Lots of items and good food.

Spring Craft Show at the Starfire Event Center Sat., April 12
There will be a Spring Craft Show at the Starfire Event Center from 10 a.m. thru 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 12. For vendor inquiries call 507-461-1387, there will be a special appearance by the Easter Bunny.

Spring Shop Hop in downtown Waseca Saturday, April 12
Downtown Waseca will have a Spring Shop Hop from 10 a.m. through 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 12. The specialty shops of Waseca unite to give residents and visitors a reason to get out for the weekend. Takes place both Friday, April 11, and Saturday, April 12, during business hours.

The Lady Bug changes hands

Grand re-opening to be held April 26

By **DEB BENTLY**
News Editor
According to new owners Paulette and Dave Krampitz and prior owner Linda Wagner—Paulette’s mother—a whole array of circumstances fell into place to make the transition in ownership of New Richland’s Lady Bug Thrift Shop, which happened at the beginning of March, surprisingly smooth.
“We call it God’s timing,” Paulette observes.
Perhaps most importantly, after operating the business on New Richland’s main street for 12 years, Linda felt she might be willing to hand it over to someone else. Prior to purchasing the Lady Bug, she had operated a different consignment shop for 13 years along Highway 30. “I’ve been at it for 25 years,” she says.
Having invested so much of herself, however, “It couldn’t be just anybody.”
In the meantime, Paulette and Dave had acquired extra free time thanks to Dave’s decision to sell his long-time business, Dave’s Body Shop.
Along with that, the next door building occupied for decades by the New Richland drugstore and more recently by the New Richland Craft Mall, became available for purchase, creating the opportunity to double the business’ display floor.
“Dave went from body work to carpenter,” comments Paulette. “From the very start, it seemed he had a vision of what it should be

Lady Bug continued on 9



Longtime owner operator of New Richland’s Lady Bug consignment store Linda Wagner (front), recently sold the business to her daughter and son-in-law, Paulette and Dave Krampitz. At the beginning of March, the store was able to expand into the neighboring building, greatly increasing the size of its display floor and the types of goods it could offer.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently



Waseca County Sheriff Jay Dulas has begun offering sessions during which area residents can meet with him in person and get answers to some of their questions. Among those present at the first session held Friday, April 4 at the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce office were (from left) Katie Gonzales, Mikhail Rostislavovich, Robin Dulas, Sheriff Jay Dulas, Landi Dulas, Bernie Gaytko, Larry Johnson, Brian Harguth and Brad Milbrath were present for the first Straight Talk with Jay Dulas at the Waseca Chamber of Commerce offices on Friday, April 4, 2025.
Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Straight Talk with Sheriff Jay Dulas

By **BEN REVERMANN**
Staff writer
Straight Talk with Jay Dulas took place on Friday, April 4 at the offices of the Waseca Chamber of Commerce. This was presented by the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce and was a chance to ask Sheriff Dulas questions face to face; about 25 people visited.
In answer to one question, Dulas responded, “We try to stay ahead of the criminals, they try to stay ahead of us. Drugs change names and hands and depending on the combination of who’s taking them, that can change behaviors.” He alludes to users having drop areas where they can leave bags of substances for “customers” to find; buyers then make electronic payments to Venmo or other cash apps. He went on to say common names of drugs change from year to year, making it difficult stay current on “What the kids are calling it these days” can be difficult.

“However,” said Dulas, “people will try to avoid highway 35 from the cities and drive through Waseca, stay on smaller roads. But Waseca is a safe town, it’s a friendly town, no worse than other communities this size.”
“Fraud,” Sheriff Dulas said, “A lot of the time fraud is happening, and people don’t say anything because they are embarrassed.” He tells of incidents where older people get calls claiming they must send money or they are in danger of losing their home. Callers have also claimed the person’s grandchild has been either kidnapped or arrested and demanded money to have them released. “These calls” said Dulas, “are always time sensitive, telling victims you must act quickly, or your utilities will be shut off. This involves cash, bitcoin in amounts like \$19,000, \$27,000, and once that money is gone, it’s gone.” There is an investigator in the Waseca office, who can work with

other departments all over Minnesota, the department works with banks to try to track down accounts, but some of those accounts close quickly. There are ways to help but sometimes money disappears. Before the Secret Service or the FBI will get involved, the amount has to be \$100,000 or higher. Sometimes criminals use shipping companies like FedEx or UPS; there are some cases where someone shows up at the house to get the money because, “We don’t want it to get lost in the mail.” Dulas said, “It’s not all a loss, we are getting some money back. Please, if this happens to you, even if you are embarrassed, getting that information out there and talking to others does help inform the police about the different scams. Don’t stay quiet: One thing to keep in mind about insurance and fraud, insurance can’t cover something you gave away willingly.”
In response to questions regarding

Talk continued on 4

Waseca approves action for Loon Lake Island

By **BEN REVERMANN**
Staff writer
During their regular meeting the evening of Tuesday, April 1, members of the Waseca City Council granted a three-year permit to Waseca County for the limited use of firearms within city limits to remove cormorants from the island located in Loon Lake. Brian Tomford, Waseca County facilities director, promised to notify the council when firearms will be used, but noted the information would not be released generally. The reason, he said, is to limit how many members of the public might choose to be in the vicinity, thus either interfering with the process or placing themselves in danger.
Mikhail Rostislavovich, president of the Waseca Exchange Club, requested that council members issue a proclamation naming April as “Child Abuse Prevention Month” in the city of Waseca. Rostislavovich presented statistics indicating more than 408,000 U.S. children are currently in foster care, then shared information about circumstances children remanded to foster care experience as time goes on. Among those was the fact that 50 percent of girls in foster care will be pregnant by age 19. The proclamation was approved; Mayor Zimmerman declared that for the city of Waseca, starting April 2025, April will be known as Child Abuse Prevention Month. This motion was approved.
Fire Relief approved a \$1,000 donation for furniture in the public safety room. City Manager Carl Sonnenberg was repeatedly congratulated for his 45 years of service to Waseca.; he received a card from the council, a gift package from his staff, and some snacks to ruin his dinner. Council member Jeremy Conrath reminded everyone the local Board of Appeal and Equalization will be having another meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 14, at city hall. The board’s purpose, Conrath pointed out, is to request a change in the assessed value assigned to individual properties, not to the amount of taxes paid. Any property owners who believe their property has been valued inappropriately is advised to have the County Assessor out for a visit prior to April 14. The board may recommend a change to the council based on the assessor’s input.
Investors in the Waseca Real Estate Fund (REF) presented a request that the city council authorize the city manager to extend the timeframe of an early access agreement to develop the Marketplace property through October 21, 2025. This is the third time an extension has been asked for. This motion was approved.
Council members approved a 3.3 percent interim increase in rates for electricity provided through the city. City manager Sonnenberg stated, “This is an interim 3.3 percent rate adjustment on the energy charge only, no additional increase on customer charges, no additional increase on to the commercial customer that are charged KW or a Demand charge. This is a 3.3 percent charge across the board.” This motion was approved.
Council members also approved a change in how the city

Council continued on 4



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OBITUARIES

Wayne Mundt

WAYNE FRED MUNDT, age 70, of Columbia Heights passed away at his home on Saturday, March 29, 2025.

Wayne was born on December 9, 1954, in Waseca County, Minnesota, the son of Ruben and Ella (Mittelstadt) Mundt. He graduated from Waseca Central High School and went on to pursue higher education at Mankato State University, where he earned both a bachelor's and a master's degree.

Wayne devoted much of his career to education, working for thirty-seven years at the Northeast Metro 916 Intermediate School District in White Bear Lake. After retiring, he continued his work in the community, spending his later years at the City of Saint Anthony Village Liquor until his passing.

Wayne is survived by his siblings, Lloyd Mundt of Owatonna, Linda Sorenson of Waseca; sister-in-law, Mary Ann Mundt; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Walter and Norman Mundt; nephew, Adam Soren-



Wayne Mundt

son; brother-in-law, Richard Sorenson; and sister-in-law, Mary Mundt.

Visitation will be held from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM on Saturday, April 12, 2025 at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation service in Waseca. Interment will be at St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery in Meriden.

Dsofuneral.com

Deborah Pehrson

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Deborah "Debbie" Ann (Bosacker) Pehrson, age 72, of Waseca, MN, who passed away peacefully on April 8, 2025, surrounded by her family after courageously facing a two-year battle with pancreatic cancer.

Born on May 8, 1952, in Owatonna, MN, to Kenneth and Arlene (Raedeke) Bosacker. She was baptized on May 18, 1952 at St. Peter (Bell) Lutheran, Waterville and confirmed on April 3, 1966 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Waseca. Debbie graduated from Waseca High School in 1970, later earning her degree from South Central College in Mankato for Sales and Marketing. On October 23, 1971, she married the love of her life, Mark Pehrson, at Christ Chapel in St. Peter, MN. The two built a beautiful life together over 54 years, raising a family and creating countless memories in Waseca, MN.

Debbie lived a life defined by unconditional love and a deep commitment to those around her. She was devoted to her family, friends, church, and community, leaving a legacy of kindness and compassion that will forever be remembered.

Debbie's professional life was one of quiet dedication. Over the years, she held roles at Brett's Department Store in Mankato, Waseca Collection Agency, managed Hammer's women's clothing store in Waseca, supported payroll and accounting operations at Birds Eye Foods and at the University of Minnesota for 19 years before retiring. She valued her work and held deep gratitude for the wonderful colleagues and friendships she built throughout her career. Along the way, she and Mark owned Apple Annie's, where Debbie shared her passion for crafting and antiques with the community.

Faith was the foundation of Debbie's life, shaping her unwavering dedication to St. Paul Lutheran Church, where she was a devoted member for 67 years. Her heartfelt contributions enriched the church community in countless ways. She sang in the choir, shared fellowship as an active member of the quilting group, served on the decorating committee, and participated in the 29ers Club. Debbie also inspired and guided young people as the head of the St. Paul Mission Team, leading mission trips across the country.

She also generously dedicated her time to community initiatives, including the Waseca United Way and founding the Waseca Wrestling Club alongside Mark.

Debbie found pleasure in walking, biking, shopping, tending to



Deborah Pehrson

her beautiful flower garden, and adorning her home with elegant Victorian décor. A passionate antique collector, her home reflected her impeccable style and festive spirit, coming alive most brilliantly during the Christmas season.

What Debbie treasured most in life was her family. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother who never missed a single milestone event. Her greatest joy was spending time with her grandchildren and sharing her love of travel, taking them on unforgettable trips near and far, including a cherished family trip to Hawaii last December.

Debbie is survived by her loving husband, Mark, and their children, Troy, Trevor, Tony, and Arica. She will be deeply missed by her grandchildren Tanner (Megan), Hunter, Kenley, Ella, and Ingrid Pehrson, Mallorie and Payton Gehloff; and great-grandson, Leo Pehrson. Debbie is also survived by her siblings, Rhonda (Harold) Christianson, Brenda (Jim) Walker, and Mindi (Steve) Baker; aunt, Berness Ayers; sisters-in-law, Mary (Scott) Kreykes, Cathy Giefer, Deanna Hoffmeister; brother-in-law, Wally (Laurie) Pehrson; along with her many beloved nieces, nephews, and extended family of friends and loved ones. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Debbie's life was a testament to love, kindness, and community spirit. Her memory will be carried forward by the countless lives she touched.

Visitation for Debbie will be from 4 – 7 PM on Friday, April 11, 2025 at the State Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service. Visitation will continue for one hour prior to the service at the church on Saturday.

Funeral service will be at 11:00 AM on Saturday, April 12, 2025 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Waseca. The burial will be at Woodville Cemetery in Waseca. Dsofuneral.com

Steele County officials expressed concern over a lack of communication from MN Prairie's CEO, especially when it comes to the budget and sharing data.

"When this board asked why there's an essential refund of over a million dollars to the county, it's an interesting red flag that needs to be looked into, and that was met with resistance," Jarrett said.



Doug Christopherson, chair of the Waseca County Board of Commissioners, signs a proclamation naming April as County Child Abuse Prevention month and suggesting people can wear blue ribbons to show their support. Looking on are (back row, from left) fellow county commissioners Brad Krause, Brad Milbrath, Brian Harguth and De Malterer, and Waseca Exchange Club members Mikhail Rostislavovich, "Time-Out Teddy," and Robin Dulas.

Time-Out Teddy is part of a National Exchange Club campaign to help prevent child abuse; toys are donated to first responder organizations to be given to children undergoing frightening or stressful experiences.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

County

from Page 1

phrasing used regarding the bond is meant to leave room for adjustments as planning continues.

County Information Technology Director Judy Hiller reported regarding the upcoming "rip and replace" project surrounding surveillance cameras on county property. A National Defense Authorization Act lists the brand names and types of compatible equipment; the county-wide system which has expanded from cameras installed in the county jail more than 25 years ago is not in compliance and so must be replaced.

The Waseca company Streamline Communications will be installing more than 100 cameras. Hiller reported costs for equipment and installation will be more than \$100,000; the county is eligible to be

reimbursed up to \$103,000.

In response to a request from the Waseca Exchange Club, board members proclaimed April to be "Child Abuse Prevention Month" in Waseca County, aligning with a parallel national observance.

Exchange Club president Mikhail Rostislavovich shared an array of startling statistics, including that up to 80 percent of people with a history of child abuse eventually attempt suicide. Stating the hope that the proclamation would help "encourage awareness, compassion, and ultimately action," Rostislavovich declared "It shouldn't hurt to be a child."

County facilities management director Brian Tomford reported regarding the sale of a 10-acre parcel of "landlocked" property southeast of Waseca sometimes referred to as "St. Mary's Park." Owners of adjoining property had been provided with information regarding the parcel and invited to submit a bid to purchase it;

the high bid was \$30,010.

The county gave official acceptance of a \$500 donation from Sweet-Sommers V.F.W. Post 1642 toward the purchase of equipment for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training.

Five matters of business during the April 1 work session and meeting surrounded the county highway system.

Commissioners stated their support for an agreement with the City of Janesville to turn over a one-block long section of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44 labeled as "Front Street" on city maps, to the jurisdiction and control of the city.

County Highway Engineer Jim Kollar shared that the city wishes to see new infrastructure installed below the street and the street itself improved. By revoking CSAH status and removing the section of road from county ownership, Kollar stated, the city will be given full control of its project. Commissioners

stated support for the plan and encouraged Kollar to move forward with all steps needed to complete it, including applying with the state to have the section of road removed from the CSAH system.

Board members also gave official approval to issuing contracts for four summer road construction projects, including paving the shoulders on part of CSAH 5 northwest of Waseca, reconstruction and paving on CSAH 3 between Waldorf and Janesville, rehabilitation work on CSAH 4 southwest of Waseca, and reconstruction of a Woodville Township road which is under shared jurisdiction with the county.

A general discussion regarding the bids centered around them being "aggressive," that is, in some cases nearly 25 percent below the engineer's estimated cost. Commissioners observed that contractors were clearly serious about ensuring they have projects to fill their upcoming construction season.

Talk

from Page 3

grades on the jail and law enforcement center, as well as a new justice center. The Waseca County Sheriff's jail is a 22-bed facility, housing all males; on average there are around 10 inmates at any given time. Any females who are arrested are transferred to the custody of the Le Sueur County Sheriff's Office; Dulas said

his officers arrest far fewer women than men, anywhere from none to about 4 per week on average. Juveniles are sent to appropriate accommodations located in Anoka County.

Built in 1970, the Waseca County Sheriff's Office is the oldest operating jail structure in Minnesota. When a person is arrested, jail personnel are required to go through a medical checklist regarding whether any medical care is needed and what care is appropriate. All Waseca County Sheriff deputies are EMT trained, from bloody noses to cardiac arrest,

they provide assistance until the ambulance gets there.

Dulas reported his officers will be getting more equipment soon. Body cameras and tasers expected by the end of February have yet to be delivered. Dash-mounted cameras have been in use for the past 20 years in Waseca County and they have been a big help, new ones are due to be installed which will align with equipment used in Mankato and the Minnesota DNR, which will help when the agencies work together.

According to Sheriff Dulas, as of

Friday, April 4, no decision has been reached as to the fate of the apartment building at 115 South State Street, the back of which collapsed. Fortunately no one was injured, but up to 10 building residents were suddenly rendered homeless. Those residents have been in contact with Red Cross and Waseca County Emergency Management.

There will be additional chances to conduct some Straight Talk with Jay Dulas every first Friday of the month, next talk will be May 2 at noon.

Amelia

from Page 2

who filled the road and made side-walks quite cramped."

When my friend and I rounded the

corner and the looming darkness of the stadium entrance towered over me, it was a great feeling. I turned to my best friend, face flushed, smile wide as we encouraged each other — "We're almost there!"

Running onto the football field filled with people watching myself and other runners on the big screen cross the finish line was a genuine

have payment withdrawn from their paychecks.

It was shared during the meeting that there are two hangars still available for rent at the airport with the stipulation renters must use them for airport-related purposes. Interested parties can call Nate Willey 507-835-9716. It was also shared that two runway lights were broken during snowplowing and have since been replaced.

Council

from Page 3

can receive payment from utility customers. People can show up to pay their bill in person, can telephone and provide pertinent account numbers, can pay online, and can

Prairie

from Page 1

through January of this year, "I am not aware of anything being passed by the MN Prairie joint powers board with any significance fiscally or policy wise that was not supported by all three counties."

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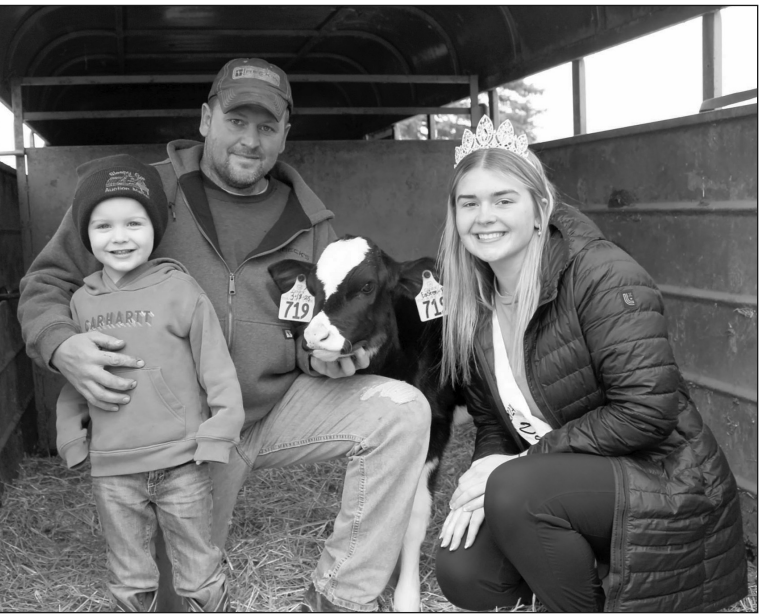
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Members of the Jon and Cassie Eldeen family shared information about dairy farming with students during the "Ag in the Schools" day on April 1. Pictured here are Jon, Waseca County Dairy Princess Katie Eldeen, young Porter Steffl, and "Pebbles" a Holstein heifer. Also helping for the afternoon were Cassie and the Eldeens' daughter Megan Steffl.



Hartley third-grader Amelia Driessen pets "Pebbles," a Holstein heifer calf who visited during the annual "Ag in the Schools" event.



Gary and Tina Schoenfeld shared information about caring for sheep during the "Ag in the Schools" education program on April 1. Third-graders from Team Academy, Sacred Heart and Waseca Public Schools attended.

■ School

from Page 1

Though he had no fluffy animals, New Richland area farmer Leon Schoenrock displayed two live plants in special growing cases. He shared information revealing soybean oil can be used in ways ranging from aviation fuel to foods. Its edible forms include not only oil but flour—and because it is higher in protein than wheat flour, products made with soy flour are often sought after by vegetarians to supplement their diets.

After students brought up the topic of ladybugs, Schoenrock mentioned the insects eat aphids and pointed out that, after harvest, “the ladybugs call it quits” in the fields and “start moving into people’s houses.”

Todd Selvik, who farms in Blooming Grove Township, shared a slide show and told students about raising hogs. He highlighted some of the technological features built into facilities where they are kept, including high-efficiency filters for drinking water, sprinklers to cool them if they get too warm, curtains which are raised and lowered automatically to adjust the temperature, and even a generator which ensures the delivery of food, water and ventilation continue even if commercially provided electricity should go out.

Three generations of the Cassie

and Jon Eldeen family shared information about operating a dairy farm. Indoors, third-graders watched a video with a narrator who is about their age to see what the facilities and practices are like for raising and milking dairy cattle. Waseca County Dairy Princess Katie Eldeen and her sister Megan Steffl provided information that included it requires 21 pounds of milk to make a single pound of butter, that cattle are milked twice a day and in that time produce roughly 90 glasses of milk, and even that, in most cases, milk is safely processed and on store shelves within about 48 hours of having been produced.

After the information session, students walked outside to see and pet a young heifer calf, Pebbles, who was in a trailer in the parking lot. Watching over Pebbles were Cassie and Jon Eldeen and their young grandson, Porter.

Singlestad expressed pleasure that the event went smoothly, stating “It’s fun to see the excitement on the children’s faces, and the presenters are glad to have a chance to tell kids about what they do.”

She went on to say all parties were glad to be chipping away at the “disconnect” which seems to be growing larger as fewer and fewer people live on farms. “Kids don’t know where their food comes from,” she observed. “This [event] helps children see farmers are working all the time to grow the products they use every day.”



Back from left: Dr. Jay Bulfer, Heath Miller, Robin Dulas, Jodie Thompson, and Jamie Beckstrand. Front: Jessica Klinger, Mikhail Rostislavovich, Shannon Kuball, and Katie Gonzales.

Waseca Chamber welcomes Kuball to board

Waseca, MN – The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the appointment of Shannon James Kuball of James Bros. Construction, Inc. to its Board of Directors. Shannon brings a wealth of experience in business, community service, and leadership, making her a valuable addition to the Chamber’s leadership team.

Shannon is a dedicated business leader with deep roots in the community. As part of James Bros Construction, she has played a pivotal role in continuing the company’s tradition of excellence, customer serv-

ice, and community engagement. Shannon’s professional journey has been diverse, including roles in outpatient therapy, hospice work, and co-owning and operating Kuball Dairy Farm alongside her husband, Nathan. Her commitment to both business and community development is evident through her service on various boards, including Together on Memories, the Grizzly Booster Club, and the Rice County ADA Board.

“We are thrilled to welcome Shannon to the Chamber Board of Directors,” said Mikhail Rostislavovich,

President of the Board of Directors. “Her dedication to business growth and community service aligns perfectly with our mission. Her leadership and expertise will undoubtedly contribute to the Chamber’s continued success.”

Robin Dulas, Executive Director of the Chamber, echoed this sentiment, stating, “Shannon’s passion for community engagement and business excellence makes her an ideal addition to our Board. Her experience and insights will help guide our Chamber’s efforts in fostering a thriving local business environ-

ment”.

Shannon and her husband, Nathan, have two daughters in college and a son in his senior year of high school. Outside of her professional and community commitments, she enjoys gardening, hiking, biking, and camping with her family.

Please join us in welcoming Shannon James Kuball to the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. We look forward to her contributions and leadership in strengthening our local business community.

Farmamerica breakfast celebrates volunteers

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

A “farm-to-fork breakfast” at Farmamerica on Friday, April 4, provided interested individuals a chance to enjoy a complimentary breakfast and to learn about future signup volunteer opportunities at the complex, located a few miles west of Waseca on County Road 2.

Jessica Rollins, Executive Director, was the first person greeting visitors as they arrived; she handed out packets filled with volunteer information, schedules, signup sheets. She explained, “Today is for people who think they may be interested in volunteering for Farmamerica. We

started this breakfast last year to hopefully encourage more people to sign up. For those who do volunteer, they get the benefits of helping a non-profit and the youth of the area, they also get to help others learn about agriculture. They can leave Farmamerica knowing they made a difference.” Morgan Mudgett, communications and engagement coordinator for the facility, mentioned area residents were invited to the event via social media, Instagram and the newspaper. Area FFA and high school honor groups were also notified.

Volunteer Jerry Janish said he likes volunteering at Farmamerica because of his roots: “I used

to live on a 1930s farm not too far from here. I watched this place grow from the beginning and I wanted to help: I like being around kids and teaching them.” Fellow volunteer Larry Olson said, “I’ve been around agriculture all my life. I found out this was available, and I get to work with the younger people—which is great. I also like being in a learning environment and that’s what they do at Farmamerica.” Roberta and Roger Walker were also present. Seasoned volunteers, the two have filled numerous roles over time. Roberta said, “I usually take tickets or work concessions, I used to give tours at the schoolhouse, but I had to take a break

for a while, now I’m trying to ease back into it.” Roger said, “I have been out here a lot, I do school events, school tours. I last drove the tram for the Turkey Trot back in November and boy was that cold. I also work weddings: I have a black vest, a top hat and a white shirt so I can really look the part.” He says although his official title would be tram driver, he just likes teaching kids about farm life.

Anyone interested in volunteering as summer approaches can sign up online at <https://www.farmamerica.org/volunteer/> or by calling 507-835-2052.

JWP spring choir concert centers around folk songs

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Janesville Waldorf Pemberton (JWP) music department presented the Janesville Spring Choir Concert the evening of Monday, March 31. Folk songs provided a fundamental theme for the show. The Director of Chorus was Joshua Sorenson with piano accompaniment by Becky Borneke.

Before the seventh-grade choir members took to the stage, Sorenson said this about their song selections, “These folk songs come from different cultures around the world, Scottish, Mexican, Norwegian but I’ll let the kids tell you about that.” The group’s first number was an American folk song called “Appalachian Dances,” followed by a Norwegian folk song titled “Who Can Sail?”, a number titled “I Ask for One Day” by Jim Paupolis, closing with “Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho.”

The JWP Junior Choir was next, performing four numbers. The group began with a Scottish folk song titled “Aiken Drum,” then Mexican folk song “De Colores” followed by “Witness,” and an American folk song, “The Cuckoo.” Sorenson told those assembled, “I would like to give special kudos to the JWP Chamber Choir as they have put an incredible amount of work into their pieces; it paid off for them with the group’s first “superior” rating at Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) large group competition in 10 years. Seniors Isaiah Berndt, Eric Daschner, He went on to name Ariana Aguilar, Jayden Jones, and Myles Kruger as having been “pivotal” in supporting that



The Spring Choir Concert for JWP started off with the seventh grade choir singing 'Who Can Sail?,' directed by Joshua Sorenson on Monday, March 30, 2025.

ensemble and setting the standard for future generations.

The Treble Choir started out with a sea shanty titled “Seagull, Seagull,” followed by “Be Like the Bird,” and then “Simple Gifts.” The group finished out their set with an Irish folk song titled “Danny Boy.”

Two sea shanties was also among the numbers performed by the Bass Choir: “The Ballad of Santy Anno” and “What shall we do with a Drunken Sailor?” The group also performed “O Mistress Mine” followed by Gordon Lightfoot’s, “Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald,” which included a solo performance by Carson Schultz.

Next was the Chamber Choir. The group’s first song was a Czech polka called “Stodola Pumpa” followed by “La, la, la Je Ne L’ose Dire” by Pierre Certon. Next came a samba called “Cantar!” Chamber choir members finished their set with an American folk song by Bob Dylan called “The

Times, They are a Changin’” with a solo performance by Eric Daschner.

The final numbers of the evening was performed by the members of all participating groups. “Homeward Bound” by Marta Keen and “Kwela,” a Shotho and Zula folk song. Said Sorenson, “All of the performing choirs did a great job and represented JWP well. It was an especially good experience for the combined choirs. This is where our classes shift, and it gives the younger students some insight to what the future will look like for them in choir. As well as an opportunity for the more senior members to step into leadership and mentor roles for the younger ones.”

The JWP music department expressed its thanks to the custodial staff for assisting with the setup and teardown; the administration for supporting the programs and helping provide an artistic outlet for students; and finally to parents and families for attending and supporting the students.



The Pastor's Column

We need adventure

By Pastor Mike Coglan
Real Life Covenant Church

Spring brings the hope of summer travels. I wrote this reflection several years ago in anticipation of an annual family fishing trip.

I'm counting the days until my annual celebration of manhood. My son and I will strike out after church for an epic fishing trip to the great north woods of Canada. I'll be loading up our Jeep Wrangler with equipment and supplies. I'll have to remove the backseat to make room, and everything will need to be tied down. Yes, I could drive the family car; the gas mileage would be better and we'd be more comfortable. But an all-male adventure requires the rugged symbolism of a Jeep, even if I don't use the 4WD.

Actually, we look forward to the road trip as much as anything else. We enjoy the steady splats of summer insects on the near-vertical windshield, the deafening roar of the soft top flapping in the wind and the frequent stops at colorful, expensive gas stations along the way. Iowa will be our desert; Coke and Snickers bars will be our manna.

We'll cross the "Jordan River" at International Falls and everything will change. First, the customs agent will interrogate us with that mysterious Canadian language (How's it going, eh?). Then the temperature will drop into the 20s (Canadians use Celsius). The speed limit will rocket to 80 (Canadians use kilometers). The dangers ahead will include moose, fallen trees and gift shops. In the rustic town of Ear Falls, Ontario, we'll strap ourselves into a 50-year-old Beechcraft floatplane for a stomach-churning one-hour trip to a lake where there are no roads or phones.

Sure, we're not Lewis and Clark, but we'll be out there in the wilderness. Like most men, we crave the outdoors and the elements. It's in our nature to test ourselves, at least a little bit. Our heroes are Marco Polo, Ernest Shackleton and Sir Edmund Hillary. We admire Magellan for sailing around the tip of South

America even at the risk of falling off the edge of the earth. We want to float down the Mississippi river like Huck Finn. Not all men are built this way, but for most, there is something deeply spiritual about escaping civilization, at least for a little while.

I know in my own life, that getting out in the wild is my favorite way of connecting to God. It's not enough by itself; I still need a community of faith. But I also need annual excursions into the raw world of God's creation.

John Eldredge, author of Wild at Heart, notes that this is part of God's design for men. The first man was not created in Eden. He was formed in the wilderness. Only afterwards was he brought to the ordered safety of the Garden. Since the beginning, men have never been quite at home in the safety of a structured world. God made men with a longing to explore.

The heroes of the Bible didn't meet God within the walls of a city. They found Him in deserts and the wilderness. Moses received his life's mission out in the uncharted world. Jacob received a new name and identity outside and away from the comforts of home. Even Jesus allowed himself to be tested, alone and away from the safety of his family.

In the Gospel of Luke, chapter 4, Jesus went out alone into the wilderness with no food. He met the devil there and they had a contest. Satan tempted him, and cast doubt on his mission. Repeatedly the Devil said, "If you are the Son of God..." In other words, "Are you sure of yourself?"

If a man is ever to find out who he is and what he's here for, he has got to take that same journey for himself. Who am I? What am I made of? What am I destined for? We don't all go to the woods to find the answers, but these are questions that can't be answered at the kitchen table. A man has to step away from safety and test what he knows and believes. He has to ask questions and listen for answers.

And you thought you were just taking a vacation.



Waseca Exchange Club members (from left) Jeanne Sexton, Brad Donner, Jen Williamson, Teddy, Jake Lieser, Exchange Club President Mikhail Rostislavovich, and Robin Dulas.

Time Out Teddy appears at childhood fair

WASECA, MN — The Waseca Exchange Club welcomes Time Out Teddy, the beloved mascot of the national Exchange Club's child abuse prevention efforts. Teddy made a special appearance at the Waseca Early Childhood Fair on March 28th.

Teddy is more than just a cuddly bear—he represents the Exchange Club's mission to promote safe, healthy childhoods through education, awareness, and community support. April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to recognize the importance of preventing child abuse and neglect and to renew our commitment to creating nurturing environments for all children.

"We were excited to have Time Out Teddy joining us at the fair," said Mikhail Rostislavovich, President of the Waseca Exchange Club. "Teddy is a fun and approachable way to engage families in an important conversation about child safety, positive parenting, and community support."

The Early Childhood Fair provided an opportunity for children to meet Teddy, take photos, and receive free educational materials and coloring pages provided by the Waseca Exchange Club. Families can also learn about local resources dedicated to child development and family well-being.

Time Out Teddy may also be making additional appearances around Waseca County throughout April to raise awareness for child abuse prevention. Follow the Waseca Exchange Club on social media for updates on where Teddy will be next.

The Waseca Exchange Club has been a proud supporter of youth, community service, and child abuse prevention initiatives for over 40 years. As part of the National Exchange Club's network, the Waseca chapter remains committed to making Waseca a stronger, safer place for children and families.

For more information on Time Out Teddy or Child Abuse Prevention Month, please contact the Waseca Exchange Club.

Donation



South Country Health Alliance, a county-based purchasing organization that provides Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare coverage for those in seven rural Minnesota counties, recently presented Let's Smile with a Community Impact Program grant of \$130,000 to support their dental care initiatives for low-income families in Steele, Waseca, and surrounding area.

Let's Smile was selected as a grant recipient due to their exceptional commitment to providing accessible preventive and follow-up dental care to children who might otherwise go without. Their innovative approach, including setting up portable dental units in schools to remove barriers such as transportation and scheduling challenges, stood out during the comprehensive grant review process.

Additional information about South Country's Community Impact Program can be found here: South Country Health Alliance Announces Recipients of \$2.16 Million in Grant Funds through its Community Impact Program – South Country Health Alliance. Pictured: Representatives from the Waseca Intermediate School, South Country Health Alliance and Let's Smile.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

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

1925

- A. D. Sackett dropped into the Argus office Saturday morning and spoke relative to the wheat market and the causes that suddenly were responsible for a drop of fifteen cents in the market price at one whack out of the box. It was not the democrats, as he suggested, but Senator Henrick Shipstead who prophesied a fall in the market and so from Mr. Sackett's standpoint the senators' predictions seem to be verified – with the notations, however, that he evidently got his wires crossed. But it only a matter of about five months, not by any means so grave an error, and then again the drop was much less notable and significant than Shipstead inferred it would be. Again he is off his base because he made the bad, bad Republicans the scapegoat whereas Mr. Sackett declares the cause in the manipulations of the Chicago Board of Trade.

- Can you picture in imagination how it would seem to you had you been born in China, had spent you life there until maturity and then find yourself in America? Would you think of America as home? It is doubtful. The picture came before us vividly when on Sunday Miss Sarah Boen said to us that China seemed like home to her and that America did not; that she is walking, longingly, until she is enabled to return to that country; and that it is her only idea of home, her real home, because she was born and reared to womanhood there. "Home is where the heart is." And her heart is in China and that is her home.

- Little interest, apparently, is manifested in the approaching village election. A president, recorder, councillor, treasurer, justice, marshal, and two members of the school board are to be elected. Up to the present writing there are no active prospective candidates in sight, although several names have been mentioned. For president the names of C. H. Schafer and Herman Beske have been suggested, none for councillor so far as we are informed, Paul Quast for treasurer, Frank Miner, J. Monroe Gordon and D. M. Walrath for members of the school board, Frank Klinder for marshal. Those who desire to file any office may do so on or before midnight next Monday, March 30.

1950

- The state will open bids April 5 on five transmitters, including one near Janesville, for a statewide highway patrol network to include 15 stations eventually. According to an announcement in Minneapolis Monday the station will be completed in from three to five years. According to the announcement, cost of the first five units is \$95,000. The cost of the completed project, which will blanket the entire state, is estimated at \$300,000.

- Volunteer workers in Waseca County have begun counting the first returns in the 1950 Easter Seal drive, it was reported today by Rev. G. E. Martin of Waseca, the county chairman. "The early returns are coming in very well," Rev. Martin said, "Although it is still too early to determine whether the statewide quota of \$275,000 will be met." The chairman pointed out that contributions are being counted right here in the county. The drive, sponsored by the Minnesota Society for Crippled Children and Adults, opened March 9 on a statewide basis and continues through Easter Sunday, April 9.

1975

- The nominating committee, appointed by the board of directors of the Janesville Creamery Association, has chosen three young area farmers to oppose incumbents on the ballot at Saturday's annua creamery meeting. Nominated for the eight-man board were Larry Burke, Dave Adams, and Mike Mulcahey. They were nominated by a committee of Bill Quast, Wilbur Ewert, and Bob Mulcahey.

- The City of Janesville has begun condemnation procedures on the Municipal Parking Lot south of Tetzloff's Standard Station. City Attorney Cliff Gardner joined Councilman Steve Sens and City Clerk Chuck Brandmire in appearing before District Court Judge Urban Stelmann on the procedure March 3. At that time, Judge Stelmann granted the condemnation petition and appointed commissioners to view and appraise the value of the property in question. Appointed to appraise the property were James Donahue and John Conway, Waseca, and Joe Finley, Janesville. They will have 90 days to report back to the court.

- As he bundled his last load of mail Friday, George Gomsrud, 56, told the Argus that he won't miss the bad roads, snow drifts and ever-increasing volume of mail, but he will miss the patrons of Rural Route 3 and the green apple pie. George retired as a rural route carrier Friday after delivering mail for 30 straight years. For six days a week he sorted and delivered about 300 pounds of mail a day.

2000

- Highway 14 would be one major step closer to being completed, if legislation introduced in the Minnesota Legislature becomes law. The proposals, authored by Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato) and Reps. Carol Molnau (RChaska) and Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen), would infuse nearly \$1 billion into major highway projects throughout Minnesota, including Highway 14. "It's a new day for Highway 15," said Peter Connor, Mayor of Owatonna and Chair of the Highway 14 Partnership, an organization dedicated to the timely completion of Highway 14. "These bills, which the Highway 14 Partnership initiated, would help projects like our break through the funding bureaucracy and get completed. No project should have to wait decades, like Highway 14 has to received funding."

- Philosophical differences. That was the response of Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton (JWP) Superintendent Don Hainlen to a letter to the editor written by Kersten Peterson, a JWP High School art teacher and wife of JWP High School agriculture teacher David Peterson. Upon receiving the letter that appears in today's edition of the Janesville Argus, the Argus interviewed Hainlen and Peterson regarding the situation. The letter blasts the district for not allowing Peterson to change curriculum and not providing him with the tools and materials needed for successful classes as promised by the district. Hainlen said the district wanted a person who would embrace technology for the future of the agriculture and technology programs.

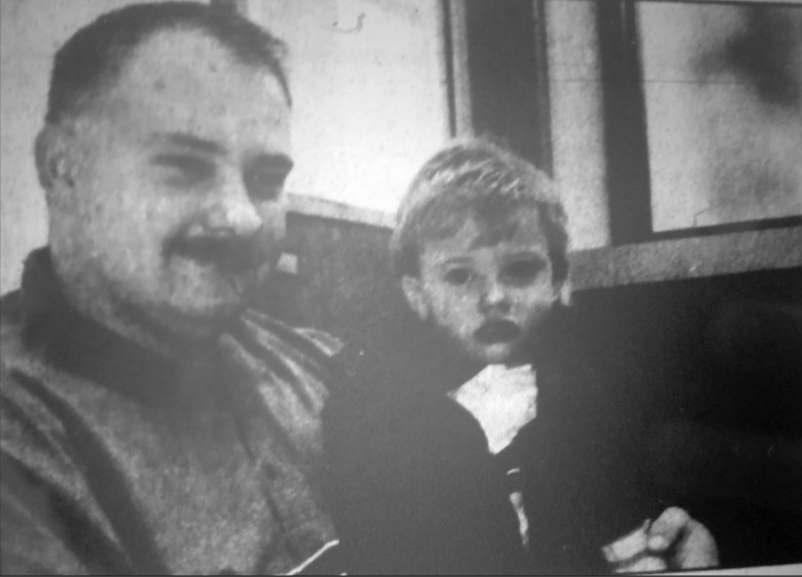
Waseca County aware of unauthorized access and deletion of data in November 2024

Waseca, Minnesota – Monday, March 24, 2025. In November 2024, a former employee of Waseca County was able to gain unauthorized access to Waseca County's online geographic information system (GIS) environment shortly after employment was terminated. The employee's access to Waseca County's local domain systems was disabled immediately upon separation, but the former employee had unknown accounts with administrative level access to these systems and used that access to do irreparable damage. The unauthorized changes made include mass deletion of data, deletion of user permissions, removal of a suppression layer for non-public data, as well as other actions. Waseca County took immediate action to suppress non-public data and made additional changes to ensure further unauthorized access could not be made. Criminal charges are currently pending.

Waseca

25 Years Ago

-Chad Davis's first law enforcement job was as a patrol officer in his hometown of Springfield. For the past 14 months he's worked as a police officer for the Waseca Police Department, and last month, on Feb. 22, he took a new position with the Waseca County Sheriff's Department as a deputy sheriff.



-New Sheriff's Deputy Chad Davis and his 14-month-old son, Storm, sat down to talk about the job of serving Waseca.

-George Washington Slept Here – The cast and directors of the Waseca High School play gathered for a cast photo after the opening night performance Thursday. The play is for director Gary Bohm who is retiring at the end of the school year.

-Waseca's Josey Meurer (left) battled Shannon Wilker of NRHEG during last year's FCA Invitational. Both teams, plus seven more, will battle at this year's meet Thursday.

50 Years Ago

-The Waseca Rotary club board of directors recently announced the formation of a scholarship fund in the name of Philip C. Stoltenberg, former superintendent of schools here and active Rotarian. The fund is incorporated as a tax exempt foundation with a constitution and by-laws to be administered by a five person administration board, wholly separated from the Rotary club.

-Spring is coming? – WINTER COATS, SCARFS, mittens, snow and a chilly breeze didn't shop this group of youngsters from getting their bicycles out of storage in anticipation of spring Thursday afternoon. The children, living near 9TH Ave. N.E. are apparently as impatient as the rest of us for spring to arrive bringing with it warm breezes, green grass and flowers. Pictured: Laurie Baker, Peggy Patterson, Kathy Leier, Brenda Patterson and Lisa Maas.



-Wins prize – STEVE DIMMEL, Janesville, was congratulated by Bob Hildebrandt, assistant manager of the Janesville Creamery Association for winning \$60 worth of animal health products at the creamery's drawing. The drawing was held at appreciation days at the business Thursday.

75 Years Ago

-This spring's styles will appeal to many Waseca county women because they have a definitely feminine feeling, says Home demonstration Agent Mrs. Doris Wyman. Fabrics that have a feminine look this season include sheers, soft crepes and pure silks.

-The Seed Testing Laboratory at University Farm, St. Paul, has reported that very poor germination has been found in many of the seeds sent in for testing this year. This is particularly true of soybeans and flax, as well as many of the small grain samples.

100 Years Ago

-Several years ago a group of eight or nine men, composed largely of the milling superintendent and department heads, entered into a contract with the present owners of Everett, Aughenbaugh & Co. for the purchase of stock in that company. The business was prosperous and the group of men were about to take over their share of the stock when the general business uncertainty attacked the country a few years ago, rendering a delay desirable.

-“What happened to Jones,” the class play given by the Senior class of the Waseca High School drew a large attendance at the school auditorium Friday evening. The play was an original farce comedy in three acts that bubbled over with laughter and trying situations. Much for the successful production of the play rightfully goes to Miss Margaret Mealey of the school faculty.

In Brief

ICAN Annual Talent Show on Wednesday, April 23

ICAN will be having their seventeenth Annual Talent Show at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 23. This will be in the Central Building, free admission and all are welcome.

Taste of the Farm at Waseca Fairgrounds on Tuesday, June 3

Join the Waseca County Farm Bureau for their Taste of the Farm event at the Waseca Fairgrounds from 5-7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 3. This is a family-friendly event. A free meal

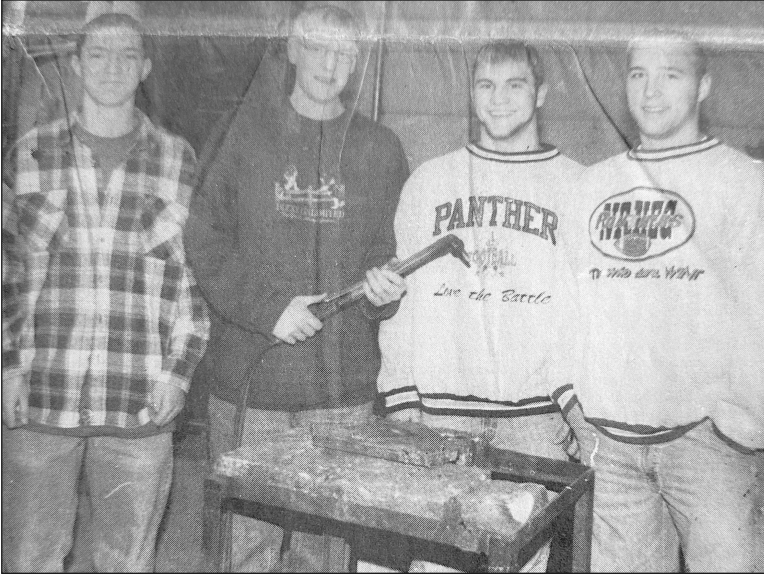
will be served until gone, enjoy farm animals, farm equipment and other fun activities.

MNVAC Waseca Head Start Preschool 0-5 accepting applications for 2025-2026

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

New Richland

25 Years Back



- These members of the New RichlandHartland-Ellendale-Geneva Future Farmers of America Mechanics Judging team will enter state competition during the FFA State Convention, later this spring. They placed second with 350 points, one point behind Blooming Prairie. From the left they are Travis Root and Chris Bartsch, who tied for fourth individually with 117 points; Nathan Schlaak, eight individuals with 116 points and Nick Budach, who scored 99 points.

- Engagement Announcement. Richard and Mary Bakken of New Richland announce the engagement of their daughter, Anne Bakken to Troy Polikowsky, son of the late Allan Polikowsky and Patricia and Mark Mehrhoff of Ida Grove, Iowa. Anne is a 1995 graduate of New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School and is now currently a junior at Winona State University, Rochester Campus. Troy is a 1994 graduate of Denison High School and is now a junior at Winona State University Campus.

- Two New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High school basketball players were named to the Gopher All Conference boys basketball team. They are Rusty Routh, 6'3" junior forward, and Brian Hullopetter, a 5'10" senior guard.

- "Alive In The Spirit," the summer event for Catholics in southern Minnesota to celebrate the Jubilee Year 2000, has been honored with an Addy Award for its event logo. The log which features a soaring dove in various shades of orange, represents the Holy Spirit and growing faith. The Addy Award was presented by the LaCrosse Area Ad Club as part of a competition sponsored by the American Advertising Federation. The design was created by Mediawerks, a national marketing firm based in Winona.

- A daughter was born to Gina Brian Haman of Bellevue, Nebraska, on Friday March 24, 2000. Kuri Jane, she has been named, has one brother, Gavin 2 ½ years old. Grandparents are Richard and Janet East-vold of Hartland.

50 Years Back



- Carmen Johnson (middle) won the New Richland-Hartland High School Physics class Hot Air Balloon Race, recently. Tied for second were Carol Winegar (left) and Marti Moen (right). The experiment results, calculations and graphs proved these students to be true winners of this years race.



- Engagement Announcement. Alan Kaiser and Mary Lynn Kaiser announce their engagement and forthcoming marriage. Mary is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs Kenneth Kaiser, rural Janesville. Mary is a 1974 graduate of Waldorf-Pemberton High School. Alan is the son of Mr and Mrs Gordon Kaiser of rural Wells, he graduated from Waldorf-Pemberton High school in 1973. The wedding is planned for July.

- Kristin M. Stokke of New Richland has been accepted at Bemidji State College for admission next fall, according to E.J. Aalberts, registered at BSC. Kristin, daughter of Wayne M. Stokke will join about 1100 other new students at Bemidji State next fall for a week of orientation to college life and BSC campus.

Oh so close

Bluejays edged 11-10 despite 3 home runs, 5 RBIs from Sommers

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Upon examining the statistics for the Waseca High School softball team's 2025 season opener, one question comes to mind.

What do they serve Hannah Sommers for breakfast?

"Nothing fancy," said her mom, Amanda Sommers, the Bluejays' second-year head coach. "She's put in a lot of work on and of the field."

That much was evident Saturday afternoon.

Hannah, an eighth-grader, tied the game at 4 in the bottom of the first inning, sending a pitch over the fence for a home run.

It was a scene of things to come.

Hannah went on to hit not one but two more home runs, driving in five runs and pitching innings in relief as the Bluejays were edged 11-10 by visiting Worthington on the WHS field.

Hannah added homers in the sixth and seventh innings, leading the Bluejays with three hits and three runs scored.

Worthington took the lead in the top of the second on a two-run double.

The Trojans scored five runs on four hits in the top of the third. An error scored one run. Three came in on a home run.

In the end, the Bluejays' rally fell

just short.as Waseca scored six runs on five hits in the bottom of the seventh. Barto doubled, scoring two runs. An error scored another. Hannah Sommers homered to left field, scoring two more, and Audrianna Willingham singled, scoring one run.

The Bluejays totaled 12 hits for the day.

Another eighth-grader, Avery Barto, went 2-for-4 with a double and a triple, Lily Owens was 2-for-2 with two runs scored and a stolen base. Madison Roessler and Lauren Grant doubled and scored. Also hitting safely were Audrianna Willingham 1-for-2 with an RBI, Siri Kuhns a single and two runs, and Allison Mader 1-for-2. Willingham registered their first hit at the varsity level.

Barto started in the circle and pitched 3 1/3 innings, giving up 11 runs (six earned) on 12 hits, with six strikeouts and two walks on 92 pitches.

Hannah Sommers threw 3 2/3 innings in relief, allowing one earned run on three hits on 39 pitches.

After a Tuesday game at Belle Plaine, the Bluejays are home today to face New Ulm at 5:30. They host NRHEG in a nonconference game Monday at 4:30 and on Tuesday, April 15 face TCU at Montgomery.



JOYFUL GREETING – The Bluejays' Hannah Sommers, right, is met at home plate by jubilant teammates after hitting a first-inning home run, the first of three in the game for Sommers.

Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens



CELEBRATE – The Bluejays celebrate Hannah Sommers' home run against Worthington Saturday.



OPENING DAY ACTION — At left, the Bluejays' Siri Kuhns connects during Waseca's 11-10 setback to visiting Worthington Saturday. At right Avery Barto delivers a pitch.



WAY TO GO HANNAH – Avery Barto raises her arms on the way to scoring a first-inning run.

Upset bid falls short for baseball Panthers

NRHEG trails 3-2 after six innings

For no less than six full innings, the NRHEG baseball team had to be thinking upset in their 2025 season opener Friday.

That changed in the top of the seventh.

The LeSueur-Henderson Giants, expected to field a pretty good squad this year, plated six runs in the seventh to walk away with a 10-3 decision at Reese Field in New Richland.

"We had a good showing for the first game of the season," said NRHEG head coach Shawn Larson. "Most of the game was played defensively sharp for both teams."

Owen Wayne was sharp on the mound for the Panthers, striking out seven straight at one point as the Panthers took a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the third, when Wayne doubled in what would be the Panthers' lone run.

The Giants answered with four runs in the top of the fifth, but the Panthers plated two in the bottom half to pull within 4-3. It stayed that way until the top of the seventh."

Wyatt Larson and Ryan Schlaak singled for the Panthers' only other hits, with Wyatt scoring NRHEG's run.

Wayne finished with nine strikeouts and four walks, allowing four



SEASON OPENER – Above, NRHEG pitcher Owen Wayne delivers a pitch during the Panthers' season opener against LeSueur-Henderson at Reese Field in New Richland. Below, NRHEG first baseman Alden Dobberstein snags the throw to complete a double play.

Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

earned runs on five hits in 6 1/3 innings.

"Owen had a very controlled start with us on the mound tonight," said Coach Larson. "If Owen pitches this way, we will be in a lot of games this season. In the end, the offense of LSH was sharp to keep contained and they took over late and never let us back in."

The Giants totaled 10 hits, stranding six. The Panthers left two runners on base, striking out 12 times while drawing no walks.

The Panthers today at 4:30 at United South Central in Wells.



JWP softball team evens record at 2-2

Bulldogs edge Blooming Prairie, blow out Minnesota Valley Lutheran

Just as quickly as the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton softball team started the season 0-2, the Bulldogs have evened their record.

The JWP girls handled Blooming Prairie 7-6 at home last Thursday and blew out visiting Minnesota Valley Lutheran 16-1 the next day.

Brielle Dessner led the Bulldogs offensively against MVL, going 3-for-3 with two doubles, seven runs batted in and one stolen base. Autumn Thissen went 2-for-2 with a double, stolen base and one RBI, Ray Blasing 2-for-3 with three stolen bases and two runs scored. Ella Oliver added a hit, a run and an RBI.

Ryligh Donner pitched all four innings for JWP, allowing one earned run on two hits, with four strikeouts and two walks.

"We hit very well today," said JWP coach Brianne Eldred. "We had 10 hits, and six of them were doubles. I am very impressed that in each game, we are getting bet-

ter. We still have things to work on, but the girls have been becoming more aggressive at the plate and making sure we take our time throwing."

Blasing was the leader at the plate in the Blooming Prairie game at 2-for-3 with three stolen bases and two runs. Kayle Langford tripled. Desner, Donner, Ellah Oliver and Autumn Thissen added one hit apiece. Thissen drove in two runs, Dessner scored twice.

Donner was the winning pitcher, giving up three earned runs on one hit and 11 walks with five strikeouts. JWP committed five fielding errors.

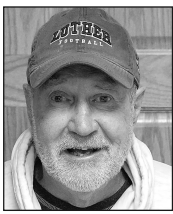
"We gave Blooming Prairie extra bases, however, we hit the ball well today, which moved people into scoring position," said Eldred. "We hit well today and that is what made the difference. It is fun to see the girls be competitive and have fun playing the game of softball."

His name is Rugger, not Reger

The name of a Waseca High School boys' tennis player was mishandled in the outline under the tennis photo on Page 9 of last week's Waseca County Pioneer.

The player's name is Bryhton Rugger, not Brythgon Reger as printed.

The Pioneer apologizes for the error and any confusion it may have caused.



Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika



Waseca fans are one class act

On Saturday April 12, the Waseca Lakes Association is hosting its twenty-fifth annual Waseca Lakes and Parks clean up. Volunteers are asked to meet at 9:00 am, rain or shine, at the Maplewood Park shelter on the hill. Upon arrival enjoy coffee, juice and rolls. Your party will receive its clean up assignment and be provided with gloves and garbage bags. After you've completed your assignment: back to the shelter for hot dogs, chips and beverages. Hot dogs are on the grill from 11 am to 1 pm.

I really enjoy serving hot dogs at this event; I'm sad to report attendance has been down over the past couple of years. I want to suggest this is a great time for grandparents and grandchildren, families, couples or individuals to come out and make a difference. It's a great chance to visit with the famous historian Joan Mooney and some of the Historical Society staff. Look forward to seeing you there!

Congratulations to the Waseca BlueJays on incredible play at the state tournament. The BlueJays left everything they had on the hardwood and coach Seth Anderson gets an IAT for having his team ready to go and outstanding coaching in three straight games.

In the first game against Pequot Lakes, the BlueJays won despite a stretch of eight consecutive free throws missed and a nightmare shooting the basketball. They played lights-out defense and finally took the lead in the final minute. I really enjoyed listening to the voices of the BlueJays Don White and Dale Kugath, putting this listener right at courtside. I personally blame the courts at Target Center for the difficulties early in the game: The NBA court takes time to adjust to and become acquainted with the shooting background. I rest my case: the Jays shot lights out in the barn, the confines of Williams Arena.

On to the semi final game against Breck, a private powerhouse basketball team. Breck had some losses but played a tough schedule. They had wins and losses against the big schools including a two-point loss to Mankato East at Mankato. Breck was loaded with depth and had a number of talented athletes. In a physical, up and down game the Bluejays once again prevailed. Junior Deron Russel had the game of a lifetime hitting contested shot after shot. He finished with 38 points. Trent Tucker, an ex-NBA

star and announcer, said it may have been the best individual performance in his 15 years of broadcasting the boys' state tournament. At the end of the game, coach Anderson turned to the Waseca faithful in the stands and pumped his arms in celebration. In less than 24 hours the Blue Jays would be on the floor again playing for a state championship.

Two undefeated teams would meet for the big prize. Would Waseca or Albany have enough in the tank to take home the first place trophy??

The game disappointed no one. It was up and down, a close, nerve-wrenching game the entire time. In the end, the Albany Huskies prevailed in the hard-fought, entertaining game. The BlueJays left every ounce of energy on the Williams Arena floor.

I was very proud to be from Waseca watching those games. The camera several times showed the enthusiastic BlueJay crowd, a sea of blue and gold. Our players and coaches displayed consistent sportsmanship and team play. A clip was showed of our coach, Seth Anderson, playing in the state tournament for Maple River with his dad coaching; Seth still looks as young as he was back in his high school days. Anyone watching the state tournament was left with this impression: the town of Waseca is one class act!!!

I always enjoy watching mascots or the logos of high school teams. Dawson Boyd won the championship in class IA and were called the Black Jacks. What on earth is a Black Jack? I could only think of a card game. Turns out, a Black Jack is a Jackrabbit. How appropriate, a team located to our west on the prairie. Tigers are the name given to Albert Lea and Marshall. The Albany Huskies and Owatonna Huskies are also common team names. The JWP Bulldogs and NRHEG Panthers have slightly more intimidating team names. Waseca groups wear a beautiful bird, the BlueJay, on their uniforms. Why the Blue Jay? I went to the Historical society to find an answer. In early years the Waseca yearbook was called the "Moccasin." In 1947, the "Moccasin" became the BlueJay, with a simultaneous adjustment to the names of the athletic teams. I didn't find an answer why. At some future time, I look forward to watching a game between the Fairmont Cardinals and Waseca Bluejays, two beautiful birds.

on.

Now they meet every other Thursday at Pizza Ranch in Waseca, a business owned by MaryAnn's son, Pete Madel Jr. The single level, open floor plan allows easy accessibility for all; the large, smooth-topped tables are good for dealing out hands and sweeping in tricks. The staff is friendly and patient, allowing the card players to continue their games as the buffet hours end and clean-up time begins.

Despite any rules or conventions limiting "table talk," the group behaves in perhaps the opposite way from what most might anticipate. "Are you gloating?" asks one playfully sharp voice. "Yes, I suppose I am," comes a cheerful reply. "Well...stop it!" says the first speaker.

"It wasn't luck," someone proclaims. "We played that brilliantly."

The words "shut up" are spoken occasionally, and players on opposing teams sometimes allow others to see their cards.

All admit their social time together is vastly more important to them than the score.

"We just have fun," says MaryAnn. "It feels good to get together. It feels good to laugh and joke."

"Who wins, who loses, it's not worth any sort of argument," expounds Cookie. "It's certainly not something we would want to lose any friends over."

■ Artist

from Page 1

hand-sculpted and painted details still ahead of her.

Warburton makes many of her sculptures, and most importantly the larger ones, out of carefully selected pieces of tupelo wood. The tree is quite common across the southern part of the U.S., and is known for thriving in swamps, where the bottom few feet are frequently covered in water. She explains that, while the top part of the tree produces a strong, attractive wood suitable for woodworking tasks such as making furniture, the submersed part grows to be particularly lightweight and has many characteristics prized by sculptors.

The special wood can be quite expensive: a single block of it about 12 inches wide and tall and 48 inches long cost her around \$1000; some pieces acquired for making the eagle were larger, with each wing being close to 36 inches long. A skilled woodworker, Warburton explains she spliced some pieces together in order to have blocks large enough to begin.

Warburton, 66, has been married to her husband Marvin for 45 years. The two have spent their life together on a farm southeast of Janesville where they once kept cattle, sheep and pigs and now continue to raise crops. They raised their daughter Ann and son Mike; Mike, his wife Sarah, and their 2-year-old son William now live nearby on the same property.

Right out of high school, Robin attended South Central Technical College in Mankato and earned a degree in architectural drafting. She held jobs with various area construction companies in addition to the work performed on the farm.

"There was no time back then," she says of her creative side, although she mentions small projects she worked on occasionally, including some cartoon-like characters she carved based on a "how-to" book once acquired on vacation.

She and Marvin have consistently sought out opportunities to be in nature. Both are avid anglers, with a number of mounted fish caught by each of them on display in their home. Mingled with the real fish are carved ones, some mounted as though swimming through beds of lily pads.

"We love to appreciate natural settings," Robin says of the many camping trips that are part of family history, including from a time when their children were small.

"The more you look at natural things," she observes, "the more you appreciate them."

Robin's workshop includes tools capable of shaping wood in increments from meters down to millimeters. A band saw stands only a few feet away from grinding tools similar in size to those used by dentists.

She picks up a piece of wood she has used for practice and shows a burned-in pattern of layered feathers or scales she often uses to add texture underneath the painted layers of decoration on finished pieces. Though not located among the tools, another vital resource is a collection of books which show photographs and provide specific information about many types of birds. Robin says she uses the books, along with online photographs and statistics, to ensure her finished products look as much like the real thing as humanly possible.

"I work on it until I get it right," she mentions. "If I look at it and I'm not satisfied, I'll take it apart and fix it."

Mixed richly among the finished and partially finished pieces in and near her workshop are owls; one easily 24 inches tall, others only expressive faces peering out from knot-holes of wood.

Robin has sculpted numerous sizes and poses of owls partly because she admires the conservation and protection work being done by Karla Bloem of the not-for-profit International Owl Center located in Houston. Robin's sculptures are consistently for sale in the center's gift shop, in some cases being sold even as they are being placed out for display.

Clearly impressed with Robin's workmanship, Bloem is writing a grant to have her produce a larger-than-life-size, sculpted portrait of one of the center's best-known occupants: Alice, an adult great horned owl. Alice must be kept in the sheltered environment of the center because she has a damaged wing which droops slightly below her body. The loss of symmetry causes a particular feather to be distinctly visible, making Alice easy to identify.

The center is currently located in a former retail building, but is well on its way to constructing and occupying a location built to satisfy its particular needs.

Bloem has asked Robin to create the sculpture in a way that makes it seem as if Alice is leaning out above people as they enter the new location, perhaps as though admonishing them to behave respectfully during their visit.

"I want people to see that bird and really feel as if they're being watched," says Robin. "I think it will send a message about how each animal is an individual with its own characteristics."

In preparation for the "Alice" sculpture, Robin has created a detailed prototype only five inches



This miniature sculpture, only about 5 inches long, is a prototype Warburton has prepared for a large-scale project to be displayed at the International Owl Center in Houston, Minn. It depicts "Alice," an owl living at the center because she could not survive in the wild due to a damaged wing.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

long. True to the idea of being a three-dimensional portrait, the sculpture's left wing droops and a distinctive feather stands out.

Robin reveals that when she went to the center to show Bloem her prototype pieces, she took the miniature sculpture and a full-sized reproduction of the noticeable feather mounted on its own small stand. As Robin was showing the two pieces to Bloem, a visitor begged to purchase the feather—and did so within a few minutes.

Also underway in Robin's workshop is another owl peering out from a knothole, as if it were inside a full-sized tree. Robin is working to imitate another piece she had made previously because when she took the first one to the owl center, two visitors adamantly wanted to purchase it. The person who spoke first received the original; the second buyer will receive his shortly, when it's finished.

Nearly in a partly finished state is a crow; Robin explains someone contacted her to commission it after seeing some of her other work. Lying on its side on a counter is a large-mouth bass 20 inches long, its open jaws seeming large enough to swallow a person's hand. The right shape and size, the fish is still mostly the color of unfinished tupelo wood, al-

though much of its body is tattooed with wood-burned lines of scales and gills.

Indicating the many projects underway, Robin shrugs, smiles, and comments that she likes to work on things in phases rather than performing the same, often repetitive tasks for long periods of time.

Despite the prices her sculptures bring, she refers to her work as "a really nice hobby." Given the number of hours each project takes—she estimates "Alice" will require about 3,000 hours from start to finish—"I would be surprised if it works out to \$10 an hour." She is not bothered by this, however, since "making money was never the point."

When her work is on display, she says, "I love standing back and watching what people do." Some of her deepest moments of gratification come, she mentions, when viewers want to touch the sculptures because they want to feel the "feathers" before they'll believe they're not real. She describes a time when one viewer looked at her sculpture of a barred owl and announced, "I want to hug him!"

"That's a really good feeling," she recalls. "It makes me feel like I'm headed in the right direction."

"We feel very fortunate, and we hope to be running the business for a good, long time."

— Paulette Krampitz

She still has the number assigned to her back then: 35.

"We're up to 3,500 now," she relates.

The Lady Bug staff checks with consignors about whether they want any items which don't sell returned to them. If they do, that information is recorded. Items are sorted through, priced, and placed on display to be sold. "We decide whether we're going to display things," notes Linda. "Sometimes there are items that we don't believe people will buy. Then we either return them to the owner, or do something else with them."

When pieces sell, the shop keeps half of the selling price, the other half is credited to the consignor's account to be paid later.

The shop undergoes a changeover in February and August.

"You've got to keep seasonal," comments Linda. "People won't be buying winter clothing in the middle of summer."

During the changeover, consignors are notified and given a time window to come to the store and reclaim any of their items. Any season-sensitive pieces remaining are donated to a church in Albert Lea which holds a garage sale, then uses the proceeds toward mission work.

"It's been a very successful system," notes Linda of the overall process. The three observe that there's no predicting what items will be brought in next.

Fairly recently, Linda describes, she encountered a "first-ever" consignment: an elaborate wooden box—a "kit" of sorts—for storing the

ashes of a cremated pet. After doing some research regarding similar items online, she says she set a price and put it on display.

"We sold it," she observes. "You just never know what you'll be working with." The internet is a useful reference when staff members setting the price come across items outside their area of expertise, she says, but warns, "You've got to be reasonable. You can't go pricing things so high that people won't buy them."

The internet has proven useful to the Lady Bug in another way as well. "One day, a new lady was shopping. I got into a conversation with her, and I asked her where she was from."

The answer, "Ohio," took her completely by surprise. "So I asked, 'How did you hear about this store?'"

The woman had been visiting some family members in Blooming Prairie and found herself with some spare time. "She 'googled' it," remembers Linda. "I think over time we've had more and more customers who find us that way."

Paulette and Dave express gratitude for the alignment of circumstances which have put them at the helm of the long-standing business and have allowed them to make improvements.

"We really appreciate the chance to keep the business growing," comments Paulette. "To do that, we need everybody—our consignors, our customers, and our employees."

"We feel very fortunate, and we hope to be running the business for a good, long time."

■ Bridge

from Page 2

I advanced to the next table and left them sitting there."

She mentions the two of them returned to that Bridge club a number of times, always remembering to dress a bit more nicely than their everyday clothes. "We were never in last place," she says. "We always ended up placing somewhere in the middle."

Over time, the five make clear, the number of people with both the skills and the inclination to play Bridge has grown smaller, despite the excitement and challenge the game provides.

They admit the rules of the game are a bit complex, "But with a little effort, anyone can learn them," says MaryAnn. Still, "Young people just don't take the time," observes Jacqueline.

As for their contemporaries, well, their numbers are diminishing. "We've had too many funerals already this year," says Phoebe.

The five ladies have continued their own Bridge club through it all. Until a couple of years ago, they followed the long-standing practice of rotating their get-togethers among each other's homes, but stairs and narrow doorways created accessibility problems as time went

NOTICE OF CALL FOR BIDS

Project Location: Waseca Municipal Airport

Project Name: PAPI and REIL Installation

FAA AIP No. 3-27-0109-020-2025

SP No. A8101-38

TKDA Project No. 22269

Bids Close At: 2:00 PM [CST] on April 28, 2025

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Electronic Bid Submission for the project listed above will be received by the City of Waseca, a public corporation, via QuestCDN <https://questcdn.com/> until the official time and date as displayed in QuestCDN Online.

This project provides for the installation of PAPI and REIL systems at Waseca Municipal Airport. Major items of work for the project include VASI system removals, excavation, grading, trenching, electrical conduit, cabling, erosion control, and turf establishment.

Approximate quantities of major items of work are as follows:

Mobilization	1	LS
Traffic Provisions	1	LS
Sediment Control	1	LS
Common Excavation	2,000	CY
Turf Establishment	1	AC
2" Conduit	800	LF
Electrical Cabling	2,300	LF
Trenching	800	LF
PAPI System	2	EA
REIL System	2	EA
Remove VASI System	2	EA

Bids shall be submitted using QuestCDN. No other alternate formats will be accepted.

Consistent with Minnesota Statute, Section 473.144, City of Waseca may not accept a bid or proposal for a contract or execute a contract in excess of \$100,000 with any business unless said business is in compliance with certain requirements concerning affirmative action plans. Evidence of compliance must be submitted within two (2) City business days following the opening of bids. Bids will be considered non-responsive if the compliance requirements are not met. Compliance requirements are outlined in the project specification.

NONDISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT

Refer to Contract and Labor Provisions in the specifications for requirements.

DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES (DBE)

The goal of the City of Waseca for the utilization of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) on this project is 0.9%.

Within (2) two City business days following the opening of the bids, all bidders who wish to remain in competition for the contract will be required to submit the following information as referenced in the Information For Bidders. Bidders will be prohibited from entering into agreements with a DBE in which the DBE promises not to provide subcontracting quotations to other bidders. A bidder's failure to show a good faith effort to achieve the specified contract goal for the participation of DBEs in the completion of this project will be grounds for finding the bid non-responsive.

NOTICE OF REQUIREMENTS FOR AFFIRMATIVE ACTION TO ENSURE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

1. The bidder's attention is called to the "Equal Opportunity Clause" and the "Standard Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Construction Specifications" set forth herein.

2. The goals and timetables for minority and female participation, expressed in percentage terms for the contractor's aggregate workforce in each trade on all construction work in the covered area are as follows:

GOALS FOR MINORITY PARTICIPATION IN EACH TRADE	GOALS FOR FEMALE PARTICIPATION IN EACH TRADE
Federal Requirements: 2.2%	Federal Requirements: 6.9%
State Requirements: 15.0%	State Requirements: 9.0%

These goals are applicable to all contractors' construction work (whether or not it is Federal or Federally assisted) performed in the covered area. If the contractor performs construction work in a geographical area located outside of the covered area, it shall apply the goals established for such geographical area where the work is actually performed. With regard to this second area, the contractor also is subject to the goals for both its Federally involved and non-federally involved construction.

The contractor's compliance with the executive order and the regulations in 41 CFR Part 60-4 and Minnesota Statutes Section 473.144 and Minnesota Rules, Part 5000.3520 shall be based on its implementation of the Equal Opportunity Clause, specific affirmative action obligations required by the specifications set forth in 41 CFR 60-4.3 (a) and Minnesota Rules, Part 5000.3540, and its efforts to meet the goals. The hours of minority and female employment and training must be substantially uniform throughout the length of the contract, and in each trade, and the contractor shall make a good faith effort to employ minorities and women evenly on each of its projects. The transfer of minority or female employees or trainees from contractor to contractor or from project to project for the sole purpose of meeting the contractor's goals shall be a violation of the contract, the executive order, the regulations in 41 CFR Part 60-4, Minnesota Statutes Section 473.144 and Minnesota Rules, Part 5000.3520. Compliance with the goals will be measured against the total work hours performed.

3. The contractor shall provide written notification to the Director, OFCCP, and the Compliance Division of the Minnesota Department of Human Rights, within ten (10) working days of award of any construction subcontract (in excess of \$10,000 for OFCCP reporting) at any tier for construction work under the contract resulting from the solicitation. The notification must list the name, address and telephone number of the subcontractor, employer identification number, estimated dollar amount of the subcontract, estimated starting and completion dates of the subcontract; and the geographical area in which the contract is to be performed.

4. As used in this notice, and in the contract resulting from this solicitation, the "covered area" is Waseca County.

BID SECURITY

Each bid shall be accompanied by a "Bid-Security" in the form of a certified check made payable to the City of Waseca in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the total bid, or a surety bond in the same amount, payable to the City of Waseca, with the surety company thereon duly authorized to do business in the State of Minnesota. Such Bid Security to be a guarantee that the bidder will not, without the consent of the City of Waseca, withdraw its bid for a period of (90) days after the opening of bids, and, if awarded the Contract, will enter into a contract with the City of Waseca, and in connection therewith, give Payment and Performance Bonds as required by law and on forms furnished to the Contractor by the City of Waseca. In the event the Bidder fails to enter into a Contract, the amount of the certified check will be retained or the bond enforced by the City of Waseca.

The Bid Security of the three (3) lowest bidders will be retained until the contract is executed, but in no event longer than (90) days, provided that the Bid Security of the lowest responsible bidder shall be retained in any event until the Contract is executed and Payment and Performance Bonds furnished as herein provided.

The bid of the lowest responsible bidder will be accepted on or before the expiration of (90) days after the date of the opening of bids. The City of Waseca, however, reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any minor irregularities, informalities or discrepancies.

AVAILABILITY OF CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS

Plans and specifications are on file for inspection at QuestCDN Online as indicated below and at the Minnesota Builders Exchange and Dodge Construction Network.

Digital copies of the drawings and specifications are available at www.questcdn.com. Documents may be downloaded for a non-refundable fee of \$22.00 by entering Quest Project No. 9602572 on the Project Search page. Please contact QuestCDN at (952) 233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance and free membership registration. Hard copy drawings and specifications will not be made available to Bidders.

Bid documents for this project may be viewed for no cost at QuestCDN Online.

For this project, bids will **ONLY** be received electronically. Contractors submitting an electronic bid will be charged an additional \$42.00, or other fee as determined by QuestCDN, at the time of bid submission via the online electronic bid service QuestCDN Online.

Dated at City Waseca, Minnesota, the 4th day of April 2025.
By: Nate Willey, City Engineer.

Publication:

Waseca County Pioneer: April 10, 2025

Quest CDN: April 4, 2025, with documents available April 9, 2025

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF WASECA
DISTRICT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Probate Court Division
Court File No.: 81-PR-25-211
In Re: Estate of
DOUGLAS J. SASSE
Decedent.
AMENDED NOTICE AND
ORDER OF HEARING
FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
OF INTESTACY, DETERMINA-
TION OF HEIRS AND APPOINT-
MENT OF ADMINISTRATOR IN
AN UNSUPERVISED ADMIN-
ISTRATION AND NOTICE TO
CREDITORS

TO ALL INTERESTED
PERSONS:
It is Ordered and Notice is hereby
given that on the 30th day of April,
2025, at 10:00 a.m., a hearing will be
held in the above Court at Waseca,
Minnesota, for the Formal Adjudi-
cation of Intestacy, Determination of
Heirs and for the appointment of
Neoma Peterson whose address is
52387 Acorn Ave, North Mankato,
MN 56003, as Personal Representa-
tive of the Estate of the above named
decendent in unsupervised administra-
tion, and that any objections thereto
must be filed with the Court. That, if
proper and no objections are filed, a
Personal Representative will be ap-
pointed to administer the Estate, to
collect all assets, to pay all legal
debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to
sell real and personal property, and to
do all necessary acts for the Estate.
Upon completion of the administra-
tion, the representative shall file a
final account for the allowance and
shall distribute the estate to the per-
sons thereunto entitled as ordered by
the Court, and close the estate.

Notice is further given that ALL
CREDITORS having claims against
said Estate are required to present the
same to said Personal Representative
or to the Court Administrator within
four months after the date of this No-
tice or said claims will be barred.
Dated: 03/27/2025
/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
Phone: 507-835-5240

Published in the Waseca County
Pioneer on April 10 and 17, 2025.

SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642

April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Burger nite 5-7pm	2 Burger nite 5-7pm	3 7pm HALL BINGO	4 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	5 GOLD STAR SPOUS-ES DAY
6	7	8 Burger nite 5-7pm	9 Burger nite 5-7pm National former POW DAY	10 7pm HALL BINGO	11 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	12
13 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am--Noon Your Host Waseca high school Choir	14 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting	15 Burger nite 5-7pm	16 Burger nite 5-7pm	17 7pm HALL BINGO	18 WALLEYE or SHRIMP DINNER 5:30 to 7pm YOUR HOST	19
20	21	22 Burger nite 5-7pm	23 Burger nite 5-7pm	24 7pm HALL BINGO	25 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	26
27 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am--Noon Your Host Waseca Care-givers	28	29 Burger nite 5-7pm	30 Burger nite 5-7pm			

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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IF YOU HAD KNEE
OR HIP REPLACEMENT SURGERY and suffered an infection due to use of a Bair Hugger (Blue Blanket), between 2020 and the present time, you may be entitled to compensation. Call Attorney Charles H. Johnson 800/535-5727

MISCELLANEOUS

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION
REGARDING PROPERTY
ASSESSMENTS

This may affect your 2026 property taxes.

The Board of Appeal and Equalization for Freedom Township will meet on Wednesday, April 16th, 2025, from 1-1:30 PM at the Freedom Township Hall. The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor’s office to discuss your concerns. If you disagree with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local board of appeal and equalization. The board will review your assessments and may make corrections as needed. Generally, you must appeal to the local board before appealing to the county board of appeal and equalization.

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WHEN:
APRIL 11 & 12
HOURS:
Friday 11 AM–6 PM
Saturday 8 AM–1 PM

LOCATION:
St. Paul's Lutheran
Church
2781 SW 92nd Ave,
Meriden, MN

Find something for the entire family!
Clothes, toys, books, tools, home goods, tools, & so much more.
Afterwards, join us in the fellowship hall for some delicious
homemade food, also available for purchase! *Shop Local!*

Important Information Regarding Property Assessments

This may affect your 2026 property taxes.

The Board of Appeal and Equalization for Alton Township will meet April 16, 2025, from 9:00 til 9:30 am at Alton Township Hall. The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor, and to determine whether corrections need to be made. **All questions, concerns, or issues MUST be addressed to the County Assessor's Office PRIOR to this meeting. Their direct phone number is 507-835-0640.**

Waseca Soil & Water
Conservation District

Position Available:
Administrative Assistant

General Duties: The Administrative Assistant will be responsible for all clerical duties and bookkeeping, and will assist with the administration of various programs and other duties as assigned by the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).

Application materials and a full job description can be found at:
• mnscsc.org/careers/government
• wasecaswcd.org

Application Deadline: 04/17/2025
Finalists Selected: 05/02/2025
For more information, visit the links above or contact Mike Humpal at the South Central Service Cooperative.

HOLLAND
AUCTION

Farmers Machinery Consignment
Live & Online Bidding
Saturday, APRIL 19, 2025 - 9:00 A.M.
LOCATION: East of Beaver Lake, Ellendale MN
Taking consignments: Tractors • Combines • Haying Equip. • Tillage Equip. • Planters • Wagons • Farm Pickups & Trucks • Construction Equip. • All Types of Farm Machinery • Recreational Items Welcomed (No car or truck tires)
Call early to take full advantage of advertising.
Limited Rack Items Accepted!
Delivery of Consignments will be on
APRIL 13, 14, 15, 16, 2025 from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
NO Consignments on April 17th and 18th!
To consign, call: Holland Auction at (507) 684-2955 or Tracy Holland, 507-456-5128 (cell) or e-mail hollandauction@frontiernet.net

Steve Fields
Minnesota Attorney

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LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DISTRICT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
COUNTY OF WASECA
Case Type: Quiet Title
Civil Division
Court File No.: 81-CV-25-212

LNB Property Management, LLC,

Plaintiff,

vs.

SUMMONS

The Unknown Heirs of Kenneth T. McHugo; the Unknown Heirs of Richard W. Palm; the Unknown Heirs of Marjorie M. Palm; Gary Palm; Michael Palm, Individually and as Trustee of the Marjorie M. Palm Revocable Trust u/a April 4, 1991; the Unknown Heirs of Steven Palm; Daniel Nydegger; Quail Creek Properties, LLC; Terry Quickstad; and all other persons unknown claiming any right, title, estate, 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 OPR 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 25th day of March, 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

EXHIBIT A
Legal Description
(LNB Property Management, LLC vs. McHugo et al.)
All that part of Lot 11, Block 2, Auditor's Plat of Ward's Addition, as the same is platted and recorded in the Office of the County Recorder in and for Waseca County, Minnesota, described as follows:
Commencing at the southwest corner of Lot 11, Block 2, in said Auditor's Plat of Ward's Addition;
thence North 0011°49' East a distance of 158.15 feet on an assumed bearing on the west line of said Lot 11, to the point of beginning;
thence continue North 0011°49' East on said west line a distance of 50.54 feet;
thence South 8954°44' East a distance of 207.79 feet;
thence South 0008°26' West a distance of 50.77 feet;
thence North 8950°55' West a distance of 207.84 feet, to the point of beginning.
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on April 3, 10 and 17, 2025.

SUMMER
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BEGIN MAY 19

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Addams Family



Pioneer photos by Deb Bently

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- WASECA COUNTY PIONEER