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WASECA
COUNTY
PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

No. 26 Vol. IV \$2

Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca

Thursday, June 26, 2025



■ Page 5



Jamboree

Waseca Water Carnival at Trowbridge Park Thursday, June 26
Bring the whole family to Trowbridge Park for a free event, full of water games, backyard games, and lots of fun from 11 a.m. till 1 p.m. Thursday, June 26. Events will include an Inflatable Obstacle Course, a Water Slide, Water Balloon Games, a Dunk Tank, a Water Wall, Face Painting, Art Projects, and more. Plus, enjoy a free lunch at the event! In case of rain on June 26th, the event will be held on Friday, June 27th.

“Law and Order: Fairy Tale Unit” at Waseca Performing Arts Center Friday, June 27 and Saturday June 28
Enjoy the Community Education summer theater production “Law and Order: Fairy Tale Unit” at the Waseca Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m. Friday, June 27, doors open at 6:30 p.m. A second performance will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 28, with doors open at 1:30. Tickets are available for sale at the door, \$5 for a ticket; ages 5 and under are free.

Waseca Art Center Vase Classes June 28 and July 12
The Waseca Art Center will hold classes for adults on handbuilding vases from 2-4 p.m. June 28 and July 12. Cost is \$50 for members/\$55 non-members.

Weber St. John Concert Sunday, June 29.
Piano and violin duo Weber St. John will be performing a concert of hymns at First Lutheran Church in Waldorf at 7 p.m. June 29. The concert is open to the public.

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

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

A word from
The Word



You will be secure, because there is hope; you will look about you and take your rest in safety.

Job 11:18

Waseca coffee brews success

MN Mornings Coffee serves Waseca every weekend

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editorial Assistant

Waseca county residents Alyssa Barbknecht and Shelby Kaiser joked with each other about owning a coffee shop for about a year before they realized both were serious.

“She sent me a trailer on Facebook for sale and she’s like, ‘What do you think?’” Kaiser said. “I’m like, ‘Let’s go look at it.’ So then we both knew that we were serious.”

The pair drove out to South Dakota last year to look at the bright blue old camper trailer now seen regularly around Waseca and thought it felt right.

“We went and looked at it, came home, kind of talked some things through, and then I think it was a week or two later, we went back and we bought it,” Barbknecht said.

MN Mornings Coffee Company was born.

Since opening in mid-February of this year, Barbknecht and Kaiser’s blue coffee trailer can

MN Mornings
COFFEE

	12oz.	16oz.	20oz.
	\$2.75	3.00	3.25
	4.50	5.00	5.50
WHEAT, HAZELNUT, SF VANILLA, SF CARAMEL, CHAI	4.50	5.00	5.50
ESPRESSO	4.00	4.25	5.00
White Mocha	5.00	5.50	6.00
late	3.75	4.25	4.75
	5.00	5.50	6.00
	3.25	3.50	4.00
GREEN TEA, MINT, ORANGE SPICE			
Energy Drink REGULAR OR LEMONADE	4.50	5.00	5.50
PER PUMP, RASPBERRY OR LAVENDER			
	4.25	4.75	5.25
PER PUMP, RASPBERRY OR LAVENDER			
	3.75	4.25	4.75



CUP OF JOY - Shelby Kaiser (left) and Alyssa Barbknecht serve coffee to visitors at the Waseca farmers’ market the morning of Saturday, June 21.
Pioneer photo by Amelia Roessler

fitted out as a coffee trailer, and after a few changes to make it fit Minnesota codes, MN Mornings Coffee was up and running.

With a few learning curves, of course.

“Electrical work is not our specialty,” Barbknecht laughed. “Our espresso machine went down one day in the beginning and it was an electrical thing. We closed down and took it to our maintenance team and they helped us.”

Both Barbknecht and Kaiser said they are very grateful for the people in their lives who have helped them. The pair are sisters-in-law, with Barbknecht having married Kaiser’s brother.

Besides learning that they needed a new generator to handle both their coffee and espresso machine, the pair partnered with someone who

Coffee continued on 4

Obsolete structure forces new plans

County to face increased construction costs because jail building cannot be remodeled

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Several months of planning and anticipation were suddenly undone when members of the Waseca County Board of Commissioners learned there is no cost-effective way to remodel the current county law enforcement center, which houses the county jail and numerous county offices, including the sheriff’s department and emergency management services.

County leaders had hoped to keep construction costs for a usable jail and safe and improved justice offices

at less than \$20 million by using a combination of remodeling and new construction to the west of the historic county courthouse.

A recent tour by architects and building planners revealed, however, that numerous elements of the current law enforcement center structure, in use since 1970, make it impossible to add necessary between-floor infrastructure to meet modern air handling, plumbing and electrical needs. Costs to create that space, Commissioner Brian Harguth summarized, were equivalent to “putting a \$10 patch on a \$5 bald

tire.”

Ever since a state Department of Corrections (DOC) report in 2022 warned county officials the jail is in danger of being downgraded or even closed, county leaders have been looking at finding workable solutions for two major problems at once. The first is how to comply with DOC requirements regarding the housing and movement of jail inmates—even including the option of downgrading to a short-term “holding facility” and contracting to have inmates kept at facilities in nearby counties.

The other is that county employees

who work in “justice” departments are located in scattered and sometimes cramped locations, while the county courtroom, located at the top of a flight of stairs on the third floor of the historic courthouse, has numerous shortcomings in the areas of accessibility and safety.

Planning efforts have been a persistent attempt to balance between what county administrator Michael Johnson has referred to as the “fiscal” and the “philosophical” sides of the issue. Commissioners have seen

Jail continued on 5

Elysian celebration brings simple enjoyment

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Perhaps the best way to sum up Pat Nusbaum’s connection with the Elysian Fourth of July event is to say “One thing led to another.”

After 41 years at the helm, however, perhaps the words “and another, and another, and another” should be added.

Nusbaum, 81, has been connected to Elysian her whole life, including graduating from Waterville-Elysian High School in 1962. She and fellow Elysianite Jerome married in 1967 and remained married until Jerome’s death in 2003. They spent their married life together in town, raising their daughter Ann and their son Joseph.

Her connection to the city was even tighter than that, however, since

she served as Elysian’s city administrator from 1971 to 2015—a total of 44 years.

That might be the “one thing” that led to the row of dominos which became “another.”

“I believe that if you’re going to lead a community, you have to also be part of it,” she explains.

Nusbaum is a founding member of the Elysian Chamber of Commerce and still serves as its treasurer. In 1984 when the city celebrated its centennial, the Chamber put together some events to mark the milestone. “It wasn’t as big back then,” she says of the celebration. “But it was the beginning.”

From that start in 1984 to the present, she observes there have been many changes—most of which were additions to the array of events. But

ELYSIAN

ESTABLISHED 1884

Home of Rose Holler
4-Time Paralympic
Silver and Bronze

Home of Jerry Terrell
Minnesota Twins '73-'77



DECADES OF LEADERSHIP - Lifelong Elysian resident Pat Nusbaum has been helping plan and carry out the city’s annual five-day Fourth of July celebration for 41 years.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

certain fundamental intentions have remained consistent.

“You’ve got to promote main street,” she says. “Businesses are what keep a town alive and thriving.”

Along with that, “We bring people together to enjoy each other and have some good-spirited fun,” she summarizes. “Kids and families have always been at the center,” she adds, listing numerous events focusing on

Elysian continued on 4

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

‘West water tower’ and Marketplace advancing

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editorial Assistant

The “west water tower” and advancements toward the MarketPlace construction easements were discussed during the 25-minute regular Waseca city council meeting June 17.

After discussion, the council approved a resolution authorizing and supporting an application for state bonding dollars to assist in the construction of a one-million-gallon water tower.

According to city manager Carl Sonnenberg, this year’s bonding is mostly undesignated except for state entities. He said any city work will have to be applied for directly, which is what the council is doing.

Councilmember Jeremy Conrath suggested the council consider doing these things on their own, as there does not seem to be a lot of help from the state yet. Sonnenberg answered that the current utility conservation improvement plan (CIP) dictates all funding for the water tower will be through state or federal grants. He added that the CIP can be adjusted.

Council members also voted to request state bonding dollars to assist in the sanitary sewer clean water inflow and infiltration reduction project. Sonnenberg said it is an ongoing project and that it is important to continue asking for the funding as the city can afford occasional six-figure projects, but cannot afford any which mount into seven or eight figures.

The council also held a public hearing for and approved vacating various easements which crisscrossed the property where the MarketPlace apartment complex is planned. The water and sewer line in the existing easement is running at an angle that will remain in place.

During administrative reports, Sonnenberg reminded the public after receiving a letter from a resident that the fire and police departments have authority to require an outdoor fire to be extinguished if it becomes a hazard or if neighbors complain.

Councilmember Stacey Schroder reported the fire-works funding goal for Lakefest has been reached and thanked the donors. She also informed those in attendance the Chamber of Commerce office has been relocated next to Suburban Furniture, on the east side of the building.

Councilmember Jeremy Conrath reminded the public of the Fire Department fish fry June 28 from 4-7 p.m.



Compostings

by Al Batt

Speak only kindness

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
What's wrong with you?

I forgot to take my stupid pills this morning.

Don't worry, it doesn't show.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. My family used to go for drives without a stated destination or predetermined route. It was a way of saying I love you without saying, "I love you."

A fellow who lives in a city told me there had been a dead skunk in the middle of the street going past his house. It had been there for some time. He wondered why no one had removed it. I told him that the police needed to notify the skunk's next of kin first.

OVERHEARD AT ST. ME-NARD'S HARDWARE STORE

I'm looking for some wallpaper. We have a wide selection.

I'd like some I could put on myself.

OK, but if I could give you a little advice, it would look much better on a wall.

I'VE LEARNED

The longest-running license plate design in the United States is Wyoming's "Bucking Horse and Rider," which has been in continuous use since 1936.

Tall people sleep longer in bed.

Minnesota mosquitoes are big.

One bit my car, and the vehicle swelled up so much that it wouldn't fit into the garage.

Being an adult is learning to yawn with your mouth closed.

A learn-it-all will always be better than a know-it-all.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

I was sitting on the sofa watching TV, when my wife yelled, "Do you ever get pains in the chest like someone's got a voodoo doll and they're sticking pins in it?"

I replied, "No."

Then she asked, "How about now?"

Mark Twain died on April 21, 1910. Shania Twain was born on August 28, 1965. Never the Twain shall meet.

The woman was a romantic at heart and decided to text her husband while she was working out of town. She texted: "If you are sleeping, send me your dreams. If you are laughing, send me your smile. If you are eating, send me a bite. If you are drinking, send me a sip. If you are crying, send me your tears. I love you."

Her husband texted back: "I'm on the toilet. Please advise."

My wife is mad because I've

never bought her flowers. I never even knew she sold flowers.

My grandfather raised a field of popcorn one year. The weather turned so hot that the popcorn popped on the ear. The air was filled with so much popcorn that it looked like a blizzard. His cows saw that, stopped in their tracks, and froze to death.

NATURE NOTES

Woodpeckers are considered keystone species because of their broad effects on other species. They create cavities that other species use, aid in controlling forest insects, and may help disperse spores of fungi that are agents of decay. A keystone species is one that has a disproportionately large effect on the communities in which it lives. The term was coined by American zoologist Robert T. Paine in 1969 and refers to the practice of using a wedge-shaped stone to support the top of an arch in a bridge or other construction.

I enjoy seeing Jack-in-the-pulpits in the woods. The plant has both male and female parts, and can change gender from year to year in response to successful (or failed) reproduction the previous year. Small flies pollinate it. The Jack-in-the-pulpit is native to the lower 48 states and parts of Canada. Some birds and mammals eat the berries of this plant, but humans should not. Native Americans harvested the roots for food, but the plant contains calcium oxalate crystals that cause blisters and painful irritations when eaten raw.

Both the male and female ticks feed on blood by inserting their barbed, straw-like mouthparts into the skin of their host, but only the female ticks drink to the point that they become engorged. Ticks don't jump and they can't fly, because they don't have wings. They cling to grasses and to anything that passes by questing, which means clutching grass or leaves with their rear legs and stretching out their front legs to grab onto a host. Female ticks require a blood meal to support the reproductive process. Only the female mosquitoes bite because blood provides the perfect package of nutrients necessary for their developing eggs. Males aren't capable of biting because they lack the specific mouthparts necessary for piercing skin. Male mosquitoes are pollinators that feast on flower nectar.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"For beautiful eyes, look for the good in others; for beautiful lips, speak only words of kindness."—Audrey Hepburn.

Cleaning the car leads to reflections

Here I am again, about to begin the archaeological dig which, in other households, is known as cleaning the car.

The process begins with moments of deep reflection. My inner adult looks disappointedly at my inner child and wags her finger as if to say, "I told you this would happen." My inner child lowers her head and mutters toward her feet, "You told me, but I didn't listen. I'll try to do better next time."

At which my inner adult tousles the child's hair, smiles gently, and says, "That's right. Use this as a learning experience so this doesn't keep happening."

But she knows better than to believe it.

Self-recrimination over, I steel myself for the task.

As I assemble my tools, I soothe myself with a few excuses. I couldn't have cleaned the car the last two days, after all—that hot wind was unbearable and would have blown things all over the place. The days before that, of course, I had too much work to do for the newspaper—deadlines have that name for a reason, after all. Obviously



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

there was no opportunity on the rainy days that came before that...

As I open the nearest door of the car, I am reminded more of a storeroom than a vehicle. As I begin sorting things, I have to admit this makes sense.

I drive an SUV for a number of reasons. The first is that I am a tall person who is part of a family of tall people. Extra space for heads, knees and feet make my vehicle the first choice for outings—not because of the number of seats, but for the space between them.

Those outings, large and small, account for some of the snacks and beverages I see—some of them unopened, others only empty containers.

A second aspect that contributes to the warehouse effect is my flexible schedule. Not only

do I have a large vehicle, it's relatively easy to find a time when it's available. What grandmother can resist transporting her granddaughter's large "double bass" orchestral instrument when it means she gets to transport the granddaughter, too?

I drive a rather astounding number of miles each month for an astonishing array of reasons—so this office-weight foldable dolly for moving my computer and materials through long hallways makes all the sense in the world...

As for the stack of blankets? Yes, there are probably more of them than there need to be. But in this yo-yo year, who knows when the weather will turn cold? Besides, if I ever come across the scene of an emergency, these could be essential

Dog sitting reveals town life realities

I have spent the past week dog sitting for a relative in town and I've learned some things. Not just learning about taking care of new dogs, but learning what it's actually like to live in town.

I've been taking care of three dogs: a lab, a little lap poodle type, and a mutt. I wish I was better at knowing or explaining dog breeds, but I have no clue. Basically two bigger dogs and one small dog.

But I'm familiar with dogs, I love dogs. It's the living or being in town that's new to me.

I've only ever spent time in the country with no neighbors or in the heart of the city surrounded by neighbors—not the in-between of a town's residential neighborhood. And while it's an adjustment (although a temporary one for me), I have noticed some advantages and disadvantages of this new setting.

Strengths. I like that you're close to everything. That's kind of like living in the city, where anything I want is at my fingertips. I had work to do, so I walked the few blocks to where I needed to go instead of driving ten minutes to get there. I like that if I want to take one of the



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

copyright © 2022 by Amelia Roessler

dogs for a walk, I can just put on the leash and start walking in any direction through the neighborhood. And I'll feel safe doing so, something I can't always say in the city. I could do it in the country, but cars like traveling speedily on our road and it doesn't feel as safe.

My list of disadvantages is somewhat longer. I will say this is just me, and that I understand why people enjoy living in town—I just don't, at least not without further practice.

For one thing, in town, I feel myself sort of hyper-aware of every move I make. I don't know whether it's true, but I feel like someone is always watching me. I wonder if they're suspicious of my presence, since I'm not the usual person they see with these dogs, hanging around this area. I also feel very conscious of the volume of my

voice and the words I choose. I feel nervous yelling at the dogs because I don't want to disturb the neighbors or annoy anyone.

And on top of that, I wonder if people do a lot of comparisons in town. Oh, that person's lawn is always mowed and looks clean. The other person needs to mow their lawn probably soon, and I think the other person just gave up and is going all natural.

I also think it's interesting to see who has a fence and who doesn't. Who works to maintain some level of privacy in their yard or around their house, and who doesn't. It's just very interesting to me. We never had a fence, never had to really worry about privacy. We have no close neighbors and are surrounded by trees – out in the country I can yell at the dogs as loudly or harshly as I would like. I can step outside the house without

thinking about what I'm wearing or how I look. No one is there to pay any attention to my behavior or wonder whether I belong.

I have also realized how spoiled I have been with the country dwellers' ability to just let the dogs out, let them run, and not have to worry about where they'll go. Our yard is like our very own dog park. Sometimes we just open the door, let them out, and continue going about our day until we decide it's time to let them in or they bark to be let in, which isn't often. They like basking in the sun like the rest of us.

My Determination: "Such short little lives our pets have to spend with us, and they spend most of it waiting for us to come home each day. It is amazing how much love and laughter they bring into our lives and even how much closer we become with each other because of them."

— John Grogan, Marley and Me: Life and Love With the World's Worst Dog



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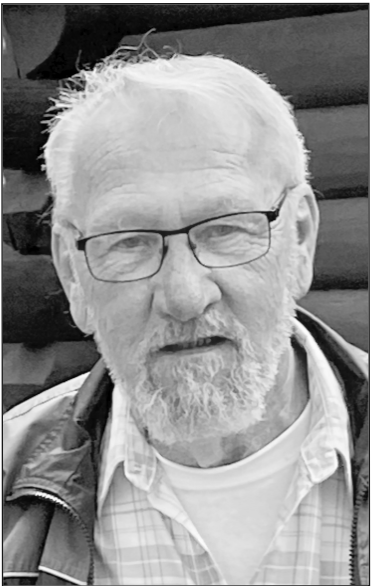
Lyle Theodore Christensen Jr.

Lyle Theodore Christensen Jr., age 77, passed away on Sunday, June 22, 2025.

Lyle was born on June 20, 1948, in Wadena, Minnesota, to Lyle Sr. and Dora (Brasel) Christensen. He attended high school in Princeton, Minnesota, where he met the love of his life, Brenda Blank. The two later married on February 7, 1967. Together, they recently celebrated 58 years of marriage.

Throughout his life, Lyle was a dedicated worker. He was employed at Homecrest Industries in Wadena and later worked for Aramark until his retirement. Outside of work, he enjoyed fishing, cheering on his favorite football teams, and—most of all—spending time with his family. He will be deeply missed.

Lyle is survived by his beloved wife, Brenda; their children: Darwin Christensen, Brian Christensen, Tina (Eric) Marsh, Keith (Jenny) Christensen, and Joseph (Amy) Christensen; their nine grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. He is also survived by six siblings, along with many



Lyle Christensen Jr.

nieces, nephews, and extended family members. He was preceded in death by his parents and four siblings.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, July 20, from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the Ellison Park Log Shelter, 913 E River St, Monticello, MN 55362. Arrangements are being handled by Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service.

■ Board

from Page 3

sired funds. He warned that competition would be strong, however, since water infrastructure is a pervasive problem all around the state, with some communities not even able to produce the water pressure needed to make fire hydrants functional.

“We’ve got a lot of work to do,” he observed.

County emergency management director Denise Wright and sheriff Jay Dulas summarized a change in the county’s procedures for notifying the public regarding severe weather. The practice will now be to activate all sirens in all county communities whenever any part of the county is under a tornado warning. A separate article in this week’s Pioneer provides further information.

Also on June 17, county court services director Jon Schiro continued sharing news regarding what it will take for Waseca County to operate its own Sentence to Serve (STS) program. As was reported in an earlier edition of the Pioneer, the state Department of Corrections (DOC) is pulling away from the work it has formerly done coordinating and supervising STS work crews. The county was left with the options of either allowing the program to end or creating its own.

Commissioners had asked Schiro to acquire additional information regarding likely costs and typical numbers of participants. Schiro provided data indicating that, from 2021 to 2025, it has been typical for 40 or more Waseca County residents each year to be remanded to the STS program, providing roughly 400 hours of work. The crews have included participants from both Waseca and LeSueur counties; there were typically either 2 or 3 from Waseca, according to numbers provided by the DOC.

Tasks have included mowing or shoveling snow on county controlled property, splitting wood to help clear deadwood from county parks, providing customer service assistance at the county recycling center, mowing and cleanup at the county fairgrounds, highway

cleanup, and more.

Schiro suggested costs would include staff time to coordinate work crews and to supervise them, as well as insurance, staff training, and the need for a vehicle to transport crews.

All present, including commissioners, county administrator Michael Johnson, and county facilities director Brian Tomford, shared ideas about ways these tasks and costs could be accomplished.

No action was taken, but Schiro and others committed to carrying out conversations with other staff members regarding approaches to beginning a county-operated STS program.

In separate business, Public Health Director Sarah Berry provided a summary of two programs she said her department is excited to deliver.

The first is a new medication management program under which public health nurses will be available for home visits to review and answer questions about people’s use of medications. Berry said her department sees the program as especially valuable for people who have received a new prescription and want to know more about its side effects or how it interrelates with other medications or supplements they may be taking. For those with numerous prescriptions, or perhaps people returning home from a hospital stay, the nurses can help organize the medications and offer suggestions.

“This is an exciting opportunity to get out and work with the public,” Berry said. Anyone interested in finding out more about the program or scheduling an appointment is invited to contact public health nurse Lacey Cords, BSN, RN, at 507-461-7766 or

lacey.cords@wasecacounty.gov.

Berry also expressed gratitude for a contribution of 195 children’s books from the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF). She said the public health staff will distribute the books, a portion of which are in Spanish, to children and families. “Having parents read to children is a very important part of early literacy development,” commented Berry, “so we’re glad to be able to contribute to that.”

Waseca Art Center featuring pair of new artists

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The most recent displays at the Waseca Art Gallery were celebrated on Thursday, June 19. Carla Hanson - Melander, painter/designer/sculptor and Chad Holliday, Master of Fine Arts in glass sculpting/metal fabricating and jewelry design were presented in the latest installment of artistic enlightenment.

Hanson-Melander, painter/designer/sculptor and Chad Holliday, Master of Fine Arts in glass sculpting/metal fabricating and jewelry design were presented in the latest installment of artistic enlightenment.

Hanson-Melander, who is featured in the Harguth Gallery, was raised in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan where her passion for art developed early. She describes having used any opportunity she could to create, including sculpting with clay, designing her own clothing and painting. Regarding her work as a painter, Melander said, “I started out with watercolors first.” After a decades-long career in banking, this mother of three adult children

has been influenced by the beauty of the natural world, especially the intense power and moodiness of Lake Superior. When asked how long it takes for her to finish a piece, she replied, “That entirely depends on whatever mood I am in; every picture is different.”

Melander says she has taken a lot of inspiration from fellow creator Bridget Riley, an English artist known for her optical art—a style that uses distorted or manipulated geometrical patterns, often to create optical illusions. Melander features many paintings having to do with Lake Superior. Two notable pieces are “Moon Drops” and “Electric Girls on the Northshore.” Her artist’s statement reports: “I create vivid oil paintings on canvas that tear the façade off anger and division and expose beauty in truth and nature at its most basic level; most often in relation to the equalizing power of water and our human connection to it.”

Inside the Beckmann Gallery were multitudes of glass pieces by Chad Holliday, who has been a part of numerous universities, both as student and teacher, including having taught at The Secondary School

Kaiser also said they experimented with a few products and techniques on Barbknecht’s small home espresso machine before bringing them to the public.

“We just kind of tried out a few things and then we took that workshop and it was like everything we did was wrong. It’s like, well, I’m glad we took this and didn’t just start messing with that machine and messing up drinks,” Kaiser said.

Through the workshops and practice, Barbknecht and Kaiser were able to perfect making drinks on their machine. When they were ready, they set out first to the Bomgaars parking lot and then found a community at the Saturday farmers’ market.

“We’re happy to serve them good coffee. We want them to come and chit chat and make small talk with us. We want to be a friendly face to come and get your coffee,” Barbknecht said.

The pair expressed how much

pleasure is ferrying people in her golf cart. Her first objective, she explains, is giving the military representatives who have marched the length of the parade a ride back to the starting point where their vehicles are parked. With that taken care of, she says, she cheerfully offers rides to anyone who looks like they could use one—parents with small children, people with quite a bit to carry, elderly people who seem like they would appreciate it.

“With 20,000 people in town, some of them have parked quite a ways away,” Nusbaum observes.

Also a hugely popular event on Independence Day is a dance under the big tent with the Johnny Holm Band—who, she says, have been coming consistently for 10 years or more. “About 2,000 people stay for the dance,” she mentions, going on to say the energy and good-spirited fun there also bring her great joy.

With Independence Day on a Friday this year, the parade and dance fall right in the middle of the schedule, with two days of accompanying events both before and after.



NEW DISPLAYS - Missy Donner, artist Chad Holliday, Waseca Art Council President Mikhail Rostislavovich and artist Carla Hanson-Melander greeted visitors at the Waseca Art Gallery’s latest opening on Thursday, June 19, 2025..

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann around the world and have received many awards.

Said Holliday, “My process is a holistic immersion, a symphony of charcoal sketches, clay models, and the transformative melding of glass. What sets my work apart is the profound connection I cultivate with the material as it undergoes its metamorphosis. It’s not just about shaping the exterior; it’s about predicting the interplay of light, color and space within and around the form.” Each of his pieces was different when looked at from a different angle, regardless of lighting.

After the introduction and opportunity to mingle, refreshments were served in the Tea Room. Carla Hanson-Melander and Chad Holliday’s work will be on display through July 25.

■ Coffee

from Page 1

has experience roasting coffee, who helped them understand inventory and which product to sell.

“We had no clue how much to order. How do you know? So they’ve been great,” Barbknecht said.

Kaiser added there was definitely a learning curve, saying there are a “bzillion” different cups to figure out which to use on top of learning the product.

Barbknecht had a bit of coffee making experience going into this, having worked at a restaurant that had an espresso machine. Kaiser, however, was brand new to the experience.

“This roaster that we also go through, they have classes,” Kaiser said. “That was super helpful.”

■ Elysian

from Page 1

week from year to year.” Since the 100-unit parade is always on July 4, for example, it means the parade sometimes falls early in the celebration and sometimes later.

“Between 15,000 and 20,000 people come to watch,” she mentions, “so it’s a very big part of the planning.

“That’s one of my favorite parts, going along the route and seeing all these people, young and old, sitting together and having so much fun. It lifts my heart.

“That’s really all the reward anyone needs for [putting together] an event like this—seeing people simply and honestly enjoying each other and enjoying the day.”

Nusbaum offers a surprise confession: “I’ve never seen the parade. I’m always busy making sure everything is taken care of.” One task which she says brings her great

they enjoy seeing and talking with their customers, encountering new faces and making relationships with people in Waseca.

“We have some regulars we see most of the time; it’s fun to chit chat with them and meet people.

“We live in the town, but there are people we never really knew until they started coming to the coffee trailer,” Kaiser said.

Barbknecht talked of the joy of hearing updates of customers’ lives and building relationships that are meaningful, especially in the farmers’ market community.

“Just getting to know other people we never would’ve — we don’t get out much. That is our outing, and so meeting other people, that’s been awesome,” Barbknecht added.

The pair plans to continue running the coffee trailer for the foreseeable future. They currently plan on continuing to operate into the start of winter and the holidays, then pausing until next summer.

When asked about her willingness to continue volunteering for the event for 41 years, Nusbaum shrugs aside any special recognition. “I don’t keep count of what I do,” she comments, “I just do it.”

She goes on to say she is grateful to the 200 or so volunteers who consent to take care of the myriad details involved with the celebration—everything from making sure cookies are in place and ready to be served to registering units for the parade.

She does admit, “I’m always glad when it’s over,” meaning, she explains, she’s grateful all the details have fallen into place and everything’s been taken care of.

Regarding her sense of personal fulfillment, she observes, “I’ll just keep doing all that I can for as long as I can.

“I think that’s the way we build good lives.”

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ETHANOL

Waldorf City Council looks at future projects

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

At the Waldorf city council meeting the evening of Monday, June 9, Mayor Rob Wilkening presented the “City of Waldorf Phase 2 Project” listing 11 different city projects for a total cost of about \$8.4 million. He suggested that by listing and prioritizing the projects, which include street and utility improvements, the city could begin the process of applying for funding support from state and federal agencies. He added that having projects on the list does not obligate the city to follow through with them.

The city is accepting applications through June 23 for someone to perform cleaning tasks at the Waldorf Community Center; interested persons can visit the city website. Maintenance requested 10 plastic covers for the sewers; each cover is \$75.

Mike Koepp of PCI Roads, a construction company out of St. Michael, Minnesota, asked whether his company could receive a reduced rate for water being used in nearby road work. Koepp requested a price of \$25 per thousand gallons, rather than the \$35 it has been paying. He

WALDORF CITY COUNCIL

said PCI Roads has already used about 100,000 gallons, and expects to use another 100,000 before finishing its project around July 31.

Council members voted to begin using a new bookkeeping and payroll system which, it is believed, will simplify local processes while also making it easier to submit reports to the State Records Disposition Panel.

There were 10 no pays for water and 12 partial pays and six people have received shut off notices. Mayor Wilkening expressed concern about the increasing number of people unable to pay and stated he would like to remind people there are resources available.

The price of stamps is going up July 1 to 78 cents; the council decided to buy 20 rolls in advance to save money. Waldorf uses around one roll per month.

The bathroom remodel in the community center will cost more than \$1,500, the total amount is not yet known but the modified cost was approved.



NEW PLAN - A recent architectural inspection of Waseca County's Law Enforcement Center established that the building cannot be remodeled to meet modern HVAC and electrical standards.
Pioneer photo by Amelia Roessler

Jail

from Page 1

price tags ranging from \$53 million to \$17 million for possible construction plans, and saw the lowest-priced option evaporate at their most recent work session.

Despite the unsettling dis-

appointment, commissioners expressed a desire to continue working toward a solution. After 90 minutes of sometimes tense discussion, Johnson was provided with the direction commissioners want to see taken. The request is that county staff speak with planning companies about scaling down some of the previous models, for example reducing the number of jail cells or decreasing the size of various spaces.

Sirens

from Page 3

mation.

“Not that they need to seek

shelter immediately, but they should find out more and be ready to respond appropriately.”

Any time the county is under a severe weather watch, Wright went on to explain, local weather spotters are dispersed across the area. If spotters see a danger developing, they will report it to the county dispatch center and sirens will be sounded again, but this time only in any community affected by the identified feature.

“We hope news will keep spreading and next time people will not be confused,” commented Wright. “Our goal is to make sure people have the information they need to be safe, and we believe this policy will encourage them to get that information.”

In addition to measures taken at the county level, Wright mentioned, there is also a practice called “code red notification.” Under code red, the smartphones of people who are in the “polygon” which marks the likely area of a tornado on the national weather map receive a notice on their phones.

All natural itch treatment offered at farmers’ market

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

In 2016, Cambridge, Minnesota resident Trina Engle was suffering after coming into contact with poison ivy. Her significant other Clint VanLaanen did some research into naturally-based treatments and decided to make a salve. When it was done, though, its consistency was too thick to be applied like a lotion. “Not wanting to waste the almost \$50 we had invested in making it, he purchased some empty lip balm tubes from Michaels. We filled them up and the ItchStick was born!”

The couple gave some of their extra tubes to friends and family, who were immediately hooked and began asking for more. “We decided to start selling to the public, because not only did it do wonders on poison ivy, but we learned that our ItchStick helps relieve almost any itch or sting. It is safe for kids, babies, and dogs! Then, to help my son’s eczema, we developed the ItchStick chronic dry skin which also helps with eczema and psoriasis. We had to change the recipe twice in the

past ten years, but we got it.”

Using all natural ingredients, it’s not for eating, but is safe enough that kids and dogs won’t get sick if they do, said Engle, “It doesn’t taste good either, so kids tend to stay away from that. I’ve hired my niece and nephews to help me when I go into the woods, and we pick truckloads of our own ingredients.” When asked about the specifics of those ingredients, “I can only disclose that we use beeswax, olive oil and plant extracts, the other ingredients are a secret.” She’s also been told by customers that infants with diaper rash who have used the ItchStick have seen their symptoms disappear. Said Engle, “Our product doesn’t even hurt on open sores, just offers instant relief.” Given the popularity of the ItchStick, Engle is now traveling all over the country talking about it.

“We are selling it in a few stores in Florida and a few stores around Cambridge Minnesota, and at farmers markets all over central and southern Minnesota.” In Florida, Engle says, the product has been useful for treating ant bites. “They have a big problem with the



ITCHING FOR BUSINESS - Minnesotans Clint VanLaanen and Trina Engle, inventors of the ItchStick, which can be found online or at the Waseca Farmers Market every Saturday.

fire ants down there.”

Compared to After Bite and BiteMD, which are available on Amazon, people who have tried the ItchStick, are telling Engle and VanLaanen, “We won’t be getting that other stuff anymore, we love yours.” But when it comes to the big brands, Engle said, “I am selling in other states right now, I have plenty of other stuff to do, I don’t have time to worry about what the big brands are doing, if they want to talk, I’ll listen.”

For anyone interested in trying

Horse Thief Detectives to meet

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

The Waseca County Horse Thief Detective Society will begin its annual meeting at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, July 4 and continue well into the afternoon at Waseca’s Northeast Park.



YEE HAW - Randy Raub, left, gave horse roping lessons to attendees at last year’s annual picnic and meeting of the Waseca County Horse Thief Detectives, an organization which has been in existence for 161 years. This year’s meeting will be July 4 at Waseca’s Northeast Park beginning at 11:30.

All interested families and individuals are encouraged to attend.

On the agenda is a report of the organization’s current efforts to follow through on its founding purpose, the prevention of horse thefts—failing prevention, investigating any missing horses and capturing the low-down thievin’ varmints who took ‘em.

Organization leader Scott Roemhildt explains the organization began in 1862 after some horses—the “tractors” of their time—were taken from a rural homestead. Club history records that, although the thieves were captured and arrested, they subsequently broke out of jail and escaped. “The theft, escape and expenses involved in their arrest and trial outraged local citizens,” a brochure reports. From that day forward, local “detectives” vowed “not to let history repeat itself.”

Original expectations of members were occasional patrols when suspicious characters were seen in the area and attending organization meetings, which took place monthly. Membership dues

provided the funds for investigations and other activities. As the number of thievin’ varmints decreased, meetings were scheduled quarterly; since 1880 they have been only once a year.

Roemhildt reports there have been more than 4,000 members in the organization across its 161 years of existence, but it is essentially impossible to provide current numbers. He explains once the \$3 dues are paid, members have joined for life. A few families, he goes on to say, have been represented since the organization began.

The July 4 meeting is more a celebration of rural history and culture than an opportunity for an annual report, since the organization has never left any stolen Waseca County horse go unreturned.

Members are meant to bring their families and a contribution to a potluck dinner or, if they wish, to bring their own picnic lunch. They will also need their own plates and utensils.

There will be live music as participants gather, a 1:00 meeting, and an afternoon of games and fun. Like the organization, games and competitions will be family focused, with activities for participants of all ages. Examples include

traditional competitions like pie-eating contests, sack-cloth races, or bubble-gum blowing.

Roemhildt declares every interested family should feel free to attend: folks are invited to become members the day of the event. Families do not have to be horse owners or even live in the country. The only disqualification, he warns, is being a low-down varmint horse thief.

Anyone wanting more information can visit horsedetectives.org or call or text Roemhildt at 507-995-9832.

Roadwork

from Page 3

grades and storm sewer improvements at the Seventh Avenue intersection, full depth pavement replacement of the west parking lane and the Seventh Avenue intersection pavement and utility fixture adjustments.

A total of 30 working days have been allotted for substantial completion of this project with final completion (final grading and turf establishment) to be achieved within 14 days of substantial completion. The entire project area will be closed to through traffic during construction. The Seventh Avenue intersection and other sections will be temporarily closed as work progresses, and complete closure will occur for a few days during the milling and paving operations. Access to residences and businesses will be maintained whenever feasible.

Fourteenth Avenue SE/ 139th Street/ 345th Avenue Reconstruction

Contracted through Ulland Brothers Inc., this joint Woodville Township and City of Waseca project involves the reconstruction of Fourteenth Avenue SE, which transitions to 139th Street/ 345th Avenue from Eighth Street SE to 145th Street.

Additional work includes culvert replacement and ditch grading. Construction began the week of June 9 at the east end of the project and will progress in sections to the west until the entire project is ready for asphalt paving. Project completion is to be reached by Sept. 26. The entire project will be closed to through traffic during construction. Access to residences and businesses will be maintained whenever feasible.

Noetzel’s Addition Water System Improvements

This project involves the replacement of water mains and other services which are more than 70 years old in Noetzel’s Addition

(north of Eighth Avenue NE between Ninth Street NE and Clear Lake Drive). Construction, contracted by Steve James Excavating Inc., is expected to begin the week of July 7. Substantial completion is to be reached by Oct. 17 with final completion, including punchlist items and turf establishment, to be completed by June 19, 2026. Minimal impacts to traffic are anticipated and access to residences will be maintained during construction.

Waseca Intermediate School Sidewalk Connector

The joint Waseca School District and City of Waseca project contracted through ICON LLC involves the construction of new ADA sidewalk and ramps along the west side of the Waseca Intermediate School driveway between 22nd Avenue NW and the north end of the school parking lot.

Work began the week of June 9. During construction all, or portions of, that driveway will be closed to traffic. This project is to be substantially completed on, or before, Aug. 15 with final completion, in-

cluding restoration and seeding, within 14 days of project substantial completion.

Downtown Brick Paver Replacement - Stage 2

This project is stage two of four to replace failing downtown brick pavers with standard concrete. The work this year, contracted through Steve James Excavating Inc., will take place along the west side of South State Street (Hwy 13) between Elm Avenue and the railroad tracks.

Construction began on June 13 and is to be substantially completed by Aug. 29. During construction, the adjacent on-street parking lane and portions of the sidewalk will be closed.

Additional project information, including maps and estimated or final costs, can be found on the City of Waseca website at <https://www.ci.waseca.mn.us/engineering/pages/capital-improvement-projects>

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The Pastor's Column

The image of bread

By FR. GLENN FRERICHS
People have used a variety of images throughout history to portray concepts and excite our imagination: the power of a lion's roar, the majesty of a soaring eagle, and the beauty of a rose. One image that has been used for centuries, but is being lost today, is bread. Yes, bread! Jesus tells us, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me shall never hunger." (John 6:35).

Bread was a universal food found in every household; it was something people built their lives around; it was something that people depended on. Bread also held a sense of mystery in early times. The process of making bread began by grinding wheat to dust, often between stones. This laborious process became easier as the industrial revolution advanced, and people living in urban areas were usually fortunate to be able to buy flour. People in rural areas understood the process of grinding wheat with hand mills well. Mixing the newly formed flour with a little water and then adding a little yeast mysteriously caused the dough to rise, giving it a life of its own. Through kneading and placing the dough in the right environment, it begins to transform into something new. In times past, the Dutch oven was as crucial to every kitchen as is our modern-day refrigerator. The sweet aroma of the baked bread signified life and the sustenance that helped families to get through the day.

The image of bread takes on a different meaning today. Grain is genetically modified, steel machinery is used to mill the wheat, and flour is dosed with processed yeast, and large automated ovens do the baking. Preservatives are often used to make a cheap, long-lasting, and stylish product. Once finished, the product is often coated with attractive plastic wrapping and prepared for shipping. This multi-millennial staple food has now become just one of

many things the shopper tosses into the cart on the way home from work.

In this modern age, where most everything is easily attainable and specialized for marketability, the Christian must not allow Jesus' use of the image of bread to be trivialized. Its use and meaning were intended for much more than filling the belly or comfort provided by a delicious meal.

Just as making bread requires work, time, knowledge, and experience, so do our lives as we invite Jesus more deeply into our families, relationships, and work. The temptation in a world filled with comforts and shortcuts is that we place less time, attention, and care into a quality relationship with Jesus and those around us. Overusing social media, reducing quality family time, and failing to prioritize can be dangerous habits that shortchange the heaven of an authentic, Christ-filled life. Christ gives himself to us so that we might become more like him.

In 107 AD, while on his way to martyrdom after being captured for being a Christian, St. Ignatius of Antioch wrote a letter to the Roman church, encouraging them not to intervene so that he might give his life for Christ. He said: "I am God's wheat, and I shall be ground by the teeth of beasts, that I may become the pure bread of Christ." We may not be called to this same ending; however, we are to give without counting the cost.

Like wheat, Jesus "was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities" (Is. 53:4). He says: "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." (Jn. 12:24). As freshly made dough rises with a sense of mystery that Jesus' hearers could not understand, so too, "He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed, miracles that cannot be counted." (Job 5:9) in our own lives.

Piano/violin concert at Waldorf church

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The piano and violin music duo of Kurt Weber and Ash St. John will be performing a concert consisting of hymns and arrangements of sacred music at the First Lutheran Church in Waldorf beginning at 7 p.m. Sunday, June 29. The concert is offered on a free-will basis. Beginning at 6, anyone attending is invited to enjoy free refreshments offered in the church social hall.

The musicians report that what began as a small side project for them has grown into an energetic duo which has developed a reputation playing original and classical works as well as arrangements of hymns.

Weber is a composer and pianist with more than a decade of experience in creating orig-

inal piano music. His skill began when he learned to play piano at a young age; he says his true passion for the instrument began as a young adult during a 2012 military deployment in Kuwait. Over time, he says he discovered a particular love for solo piano arrangements of timeless hymns.

Ash St. John plays the violin. He describes his story as finding persistence through life's trials, working with music his entire adult life. St. John has developed a musical reputation in the Minnesota area and has enjoyed a period of prolific creativity. More information about the pair and their music is available at www.weberstjohn.com or <https://www.facebook.com/weberstjohn>. They also featured in numerous YouTube videos.

Waseca tennis tournament results

By JIM LUTGENS
Staff Writer

The annual Waseca youth tennis tournament was held on Saturday, June 21.

18 and Under division results:

1st place: Armaan Bhatti
2nd place: Vivian Mader
3rd place: Maddy Benson
4th place: Allen Kopetzki
5th place: Paige Dufault

Bhatti defeated Mader 4-2, 2-4, 10-4 in the Championship

Benson defeated Kopetzki 4-2, 4-2 in the 3rd place match

14 and Under division:

1st place: Jesse Wobschall
2nd place: Lucy Deml
3rd place: August Pearce
4th place: Samarah Hoffman

Wobschall defeated Deml 4-3, 2-4, 10-5 in the Championship

Pearce defeated Hoffman 4-2, 4-1 in the 3rd place match

County-Wide EDA lays foundations

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Waseca County has had five active economic development authority (EDA) boards for some time. On June 18, representatives from all five met to share information and investigate ways collaboration could benefit their efforts to promote the county and its communities as viable locations for new or expanding businesses.

County planning and zoning administrator Tina Wilson shared that the county is persistently contacted by businesses and builders wanting to know about available locations and resources. These range from land or structures available for sale or rent to whether their anticipated needs for water, power, and employees or employee housing can be met.

"If we can't meet their needs, they move on to call the next city or county," Wilson described.

Wilson shared results from a survey she has been carrying out for the past several months. When it comes to the area's greatest assets, survey responders have mentioned effective local governments along with a friendly, supportive atmosphere. When asked about shortcomings, the most common responses have to do with limits on infrastructure (including water and sewer), limited availability of housing, and some communities being "risk averse."

Participants indicated through an informal survey that all communities should prioritize expanding housing and upgrading infrastructure; various representatives stated those goals are not new, but economic and social circumstances make it very difficult to move forward with them.

Wilson informed the group an initiative named "Minnesota*Star of the North" is being operated by the state department of employment and economic development (DEED), and commented there may be ways to bring state resources into county projects that align with Star of the North priorities—some of which are quite similar to those named locally.

Wilson also introduced members to the Location One Information

System (LOIS), a statewide database maintained by DEED where available commercial properties can be listed, allowing developers to search by criteria—for example square footage or zoning of the property, what local demographics are like, what agency provides power and water, and price. Wilson mentioned there is no cost to list property, and that most people in the room were eligible to establish an account and post a listing.

Wilson mentioned many developers who contact her have already referred to LOIS listings and are seeking more information about sites they have found promising.

Based on her knowledge of available properties, Wilson suggested Waseca County EDA members are looking for businesses in a "sweet spot" of hoping to take on between 15 and 200 employees. Because of infrastructure limitations, companies should not be "big water users."

"We just have to keep fishing," she observed, pointing out tariffs have developers looking more closely at "reshoring" their produc-

tion.

EDA members indicated a consensus that there is value in holding county-wide EDA sessions; Wilson suggested quarterly gatherings, and said she would send out invitations for another session to be held in October.

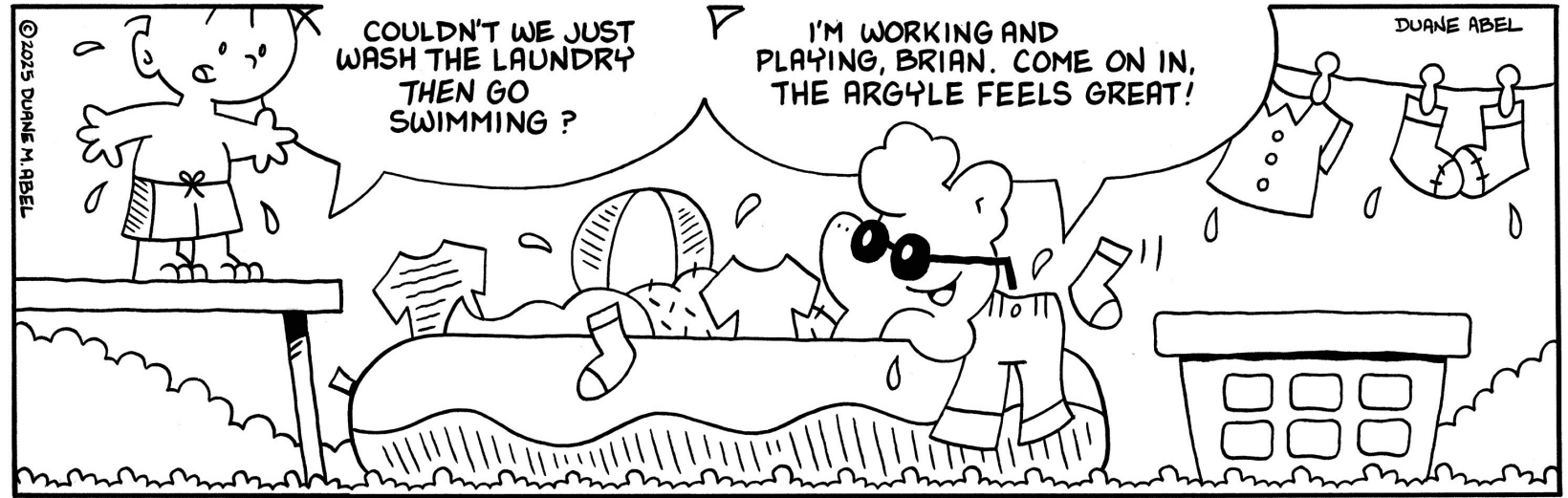
The gathering was attended by 20 people. Among them were county staff members Wilson, Maame Quarco, and Michael Johnson; county commissioners Brad Krause and Brad Milbrath; Waseca County EDA members Russ Fredrickson and Patti Schuch; Waseca city staff members Jon Froke and Carl Sonnenberg; Waseca mayor Randy Zimmerman; City of Waseca EDA members Ann Staloch, Joyce Thompson, John Fossum, Aaron Casterton, Tom Davison and Taylor Zinkle; Janesville EDA board members Ivan Maas and Katelynn Kratz; New Richland EDA board member Suzie Abbott; and Waldorf EDA board member Charlie Barnes. Donald Klunder attended on behalf of Freedom Township.

Zinnias Pre-Summer Solstice



SUMMER FUN - Left, Noah Battenfield represented Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm at the Zinnias Pre-Summer Solstice sale on Wednesday, June 19, 2025. Right, Local music trio, In a Bind performed around the construction during the Zinnias Pre-Summer Solstice sale. Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann

ZED by Duane M. Abel



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FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-3167 Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m. * * * *	GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 1221 8th St SE, Waseca 507-835-2213 Sunday worship 10:45 a.m., 6:00 p.m. * * * *	ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Father Glenn Ferichs Friday - 10 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays p.m. Mass Sunday - Mass at 8 a.m. * * * *	JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 401 N. West St., Janesville Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship * * * *
CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH 309 6th St NE, Waseca 507-835-9176 Worship Sundays traditional 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship; 10:45 a.m. contemporary service * * * *	CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY 900 14th Ave SE, Waseca 507-833-1082 Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening 6:30 p.m. * * * *	FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod Waldorf, Minnesota Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Larry Sipe Sundays: Worship 8 a.m.; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and adult bible class * * * *	BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 43089 180th St., Morristown Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Summer worship hours, (10:45 a.m. Worship, winter) * * * *
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 Sundays 9:00 a.m. * * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship * * * *	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday — 9:15 a.m. Worship * * * *	ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH 307 W. 2nd St, Janesville 10 a.m. - Mass * * * *
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. * * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Otisco, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship * * * *	ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday — 9 a.m. Worship * * * *	FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 Owen St., Janesville Pastor Sarah Krolak * * * *
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. * * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Mary Iverson Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting * * * *	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship * * * *	ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship * * * *
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 a.m. * * * *	LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting * * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN Wilton Township Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor Sunday — 8 a.m. summer worship; 10:45 a.m. Worship starting Sept. 1 * * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Smiths Mill, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship * * * *
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. * * * *		THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS Brad Donner, Branch President Waseca, Minnesota * * * *	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 * * * *

Janesville

1925

- Mankato, Rochester, Albert Lea, and St. James are in a tie for top honors in the South State Loop as a result of last Sunday's games. Each of these teams has won three games and lost one. Faribault is in fifth place with two wins and two defeats. Blue Earth and Owatonna are tied for next place with three wins in four starts and New Ulm is in last position with no victory in four games.

- Dean Coffey, of the University of Minnesota Agricultural College, speaking to the audience at the Farm Bureau annual picnic at Waseca last Thursday, held out hopes of a better outlook for farming in the near future. Mr. Coffey is not a man to make statements with nothing but optimism to back them up and in telling his listeners that the pendulum is swinging back to more settled conditions he advanced sound opinions based on a close study of national and international problems as related to agriculture at the present time.

1950

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

- Stasia Veronica Mulcahey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Mulcahey of Janesville, became the bride of Sylvester H. Stenzel of Minnesota Lake, at St. Ann's Catholic Church, Janesville, Tuesday, June 6, at 9 o'clock a.m. Rev. Father English performed the double ring ceremony.

- The Midwest will be a land of milk and chicken next month. Milk production will hit the year's monthly high and perhaps an all-time record in June, 1950. Hens called from Midwest flocks will add to marketings for broilers and fryers. These supplies, plus heavy cold storage stocks, should continue to mean plenty of low-priced chicken for summer meals. In view of this production outlook, the U.S. Department of Agriculture says consumers should find milk and its products and chickens particularly good buying in June.

1975

- Cindy Murphy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don Murphy, Pemberton, Dan Geary, son of Mr. and Mrs. Marlowe Geary, Pemberton, and Bonita Tesch, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Armin Tesch, Waldorf, have been accepted for membership in the United States Collegiate Wind Band, a highly select musical organization which will make a concert tour of seven of the world's important cultural capitals in July and August. The United State Collegiate Wind Band will travel for three weeks, July 25-August 14, in England, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, and Switzerland. Concerts will be performed in London, Paris, Lucerne, Altdorf, Florence, and Milan.

- Stanley Joseph Ries, 35, is the new senior high principal at Janesville High School. He replaces John Graff who resigned the position last month after serving eight years. Ries, a native of St. James, is presently the principal at the parochial high school in Sleepy Eye. He has held that position since 1973. Prior to that, Mr. Ries taught social studies at Boys Town High School in Nebraska.

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

2000

- The final preparations are being completed for the 40th annual Hay Daze celebration, this Thursday through Sunday. Presiding over the festivities this year as Grand Marshals are longtime Janesville residents Oscar and Florence Berndt. They were chosen by the Janesville Chamber of Commerce in recognition of their years of community service.

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

WASECA COUNTY

PIONEER



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Waseca

1925

- Twenty dollars in change, including a large quantity of pennies, and some cigars were taken from the Oerline Brothers Billiard hall some time early Tuesday morning by burglars who entered the building through a rear door transom. Unmolested at this place the pair tried to break into the Hawkes & Son hardware store but were frightened away by the do inside after they had cut out a small window and were trying to pry off the bar that covered the window.

- The Journal is just completing a job for the Minnesota Conference of the Evangelical Church, printing their Official Record for 1925. Among the items occurring in the minutes that no doubt will draw particular attention is one in which the conference expressed its disfavor on the practice of holding funeral services on a Sunday.

- William Prochel, who is here from Texas visiting relatives, caught a seven pound pike in Clear Lake one day last week.

1950

- About 70 were in attendance at the Landscaping Home Beautification tour held Friday, June 23. Many of the project leaders and group members who took the home beautification lessons were present. A total of six farms were visited on tour. At each of these farms Dr. Leon Snyder Ext. Horticulturist, discussed the proper methods of landscaping the proper varieties of shrubs and trees to be used for foundation plantings and the shade trees on the lawn.

- Dairy month is a good time for Waseca county homemakers to check family diets to see whether children and grownups alike are getting the milk they need. Milk has been called nature's most nearly perfect food.

- Chemicals can help Waseca county farmers get better legume seed yields. F.G. Holaway, entomologist at U. Farm, informed County Agent Cletus Murphy this week. Seed production is lowered on alfalfa, alsike and red clover by plant bugs, leaf hoppers and seed weevils. These insects suck juice from tender young blossoms and stems, injuring the flowers and preventing seed set.

1975

- Discuss weed control — Bob Anderson, Agronomy and Plant Genetics second from left, discussed corn and soybean weed control with farmers attending Visitor's Day at the Waseca Experiment Station Tuesday afternoon.

- John Graff, principal at the high school here for eight years, recently accepted the position of manager at the Janesville Creamery Association

- Farmers that took Tour 4 at Visitor's Day at the Waseca Experiment Station Tuesday were greeted by a six-foot hole and two energetic engineering technicians from the Soil Conservation Service. The men, despite the hot sun and 84 degree temperatures spent the day talking to farmers about the advantages and disadvantages of tile, plastic, clay and concrete, plus answering a bundle of questions.

- Maynard Nelson, DNR Regional Administrator, New Ulm, announced today that some 40 Waseca County senior citizens will soon be asked to participate in a Department of Natural Resources recreation survey.

- On Monday morning, Wolf's grocery store, Waseca's oldest business, officially will be no more. Oh, everyone will still be calling it that, but its new title will be Ron's Jack & Jill Food Center.

2000

- These young ladies believe strongly in the dairy industry, and as a part of dairy month they were recognized for their efforts at the 2000 Region X Dairy Princess Banquet held Saturday at Waseca High School. Pictured (from left) are: 1999 Princess Kay of the Milky Way Renae Jorgens, 2000 Region X Dairy Princess Attendant Amy Dobberstein of Waseca County, 2000 Region X Dairy Princess Kelly Sheehan of Olmsted County, 2000 Region X Dairy Princess Attendant Shannon Wels of Dodge County and the 1999 Region X Dairy Princess Amy Demmer of Steele County. Sheehan will now advance to the 47th Princess Kay of the Milky Way competition. The winner will be announced at the Minnesota State Fair on Aug. 23 and have their likeness carved in butter.

- Letter to the Editor: Do you think OPEC is ripping us off? How about our local gas stations? Gallons of gas, Waseca: \$1.75. Gallons of gas, Waterville: \$1.66. Draw your own conclusions!

- State and local officials and hog producers have worked diligently to suppress the pseudorabies swine disease, but Waseca County is one of the epicenters of the epidemic.

- With a click of the mouse here and a click there, Waseca County residents will now be able to find out anything they would ever want to know about Waseca County. The Waseca County Historical Society (WCHS) has spent the last few weeks fine tuning its new website.

New Richland

25 Years back

- Jerriek Kalis. BIC Corporation recently announced that Jerriek Kalis of Waldorf is the midwest regional winner of BIC's national essay contest for its "Quality Comes In Writing" program. Kalis, a fifth grader at Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton Elementary School in Janesville, will receive a \$500 cash award. Winners were chosen out of some 12,500 essay entries from around the country by Life-time Learning Systems, an independent judging organization. The kit, which was distributed nationally last Fall to approximately 40,000 schools, is designed to help students in grades four through six develop strong writing skills that will benefit them throughout their lives.

- Marcie and Roy Lukken were presented with a special plaque by Ed Fredrick, chairman of the Farmamerica board of directors during the dedication ceremony at the Visitor Center, Saturday morning. Roy and Marcie, first donated 40 acres of their farm, four miles southwest of Waseca in 1978 with the intention that it be developed into an agriculture interpretive center. At that time Fairmont was also seeking to develop such a center. Later the rest of the Lukken's 360 acre farm became a part of Farmamerica.

- New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Middle School fourth quarter honor roll was recently released by Principal Paul Cyr. Named to the honor roll was: A Honor Roll. GRADE EIGHT - Erin Anderson, Kalisha Anthony, Paulette Battey, April Bayerkohler, Jasmine Fitterer, Mollie Flor, Zach Hacker, Tyler Halgren, Jessica Hendrickson, Kari Klug, Sarah Kyte, Anders Mattson, Melissa Maurer, Michelle Misgen, Kristin Moorhouse, Britannia Panuska, Mandi Possehl, Chesly Quiram, Jacey Reese, Heather Schulz, Zach Tracey, Betsy Waldhauser, Kristin Walstrom and Parker Witcomb.

- Looking forward to being members of the Panther baseball teams in coming years, these NRHEG fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth graders spent a week earlier learning more about base running, hitting and the rules of baseball at a camp held here. They are Jackson Purdie, Taylor Holland, Mitchell Brekke, Joe McGuire, Justin Kormann, Brandon Schlaak, Joe Johnson, Caleb Hagen, Matt Economy, Jacob Ledding, Chris Somage, Tory Somage, Taylor Greenwood, Matt Holland, Kyle Wenzel, Bjorn Peterson, Jake Bushlack, Zach Hacker, Jacey Reese and Zac Tracy.

50 Years Back

- Waldorf-Pemberton's Band instructor Jim Kopetzki admires the huge trophy the band brought back from Winnepeg, when they took first place, this past weekend in the Manisphere International Concert competition. Riding high on the shoulders of members of his band as they shouted "We're Number One" was the thrill of a lifetime for Mr. Kopetzki.

- Engagement Announcement. Mr. and Mrs. Paul Querna announce the engagement of their daughter, Pamela Jean, to David Pokorney, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pokorney of Hibbing, Minnesota. Pam is a 1969 graduate of New Richland High school and in 1973 graduated from the College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, with a degree in elementary education. Dave graduated from Hibbing High School in 1969, holds a B.A. degree in Economics from the College of St. Thomas, St. Paul and in 1974 received a Masters Degree in Public Administration from the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, Pittsburgh, Pa.

- Sarah Lyn Flatness born April 20 to Mr. and Mrs. Larry Flatness was baptized at the Hartland Synod Lutheran Church, Sunday, June 22, with the Rev. Ronald Mathison officiating. The sponsors were Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Lutgens of Waseca and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Gorden of Clarks Grove.



A GREAT TIME - Chamber President Mikhail Rostislavovich, Chamber Executive Director Robin Dulas, Kristie Biehn, Katie Gonzales, Jessica Klinger, Diane Beckmann

Chamber Cup Golf Tournament

The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism hosted its Annual “Chamber Cup” Golf Tournament on Friday, June 13 and it was a success. A great time was had by all as golfers, sponsors and volunteers came together for a day of fun, connection and community spirit.

The Chamber’s Events Committee went above and beyond, securing amazing prizes and organizing an unforgettable day on the course.

“It was an amazing day, and we’re so proud of what we pulled off for our first time hosting this tournament,” said Jessica Klinger, Events Committee Chair. “We couldn’t have done it without the support of our generous sponsors and the dedicated volunteers who made it all run smoothly.”

The event was made possible

thanks to the enthusiastic support of local sponsors and the tireless work of committee members and staff.

“Events like this show the true spirit of Waseca,” said Mikhail Rostislavovich, Chamber President. “It’s not just about the game—it’s about the relationships we build and the pride we share in our community.”

Robin Dulas, Executive Director of the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, added, “We’re grateful to everyone who played a role in making this day a success. Special thanks to Lakeside Golf Course for being such fantastic hosts—we’re already looking forward to next year!”

For more information, contact

Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism at 507-835-3206 and wasecachamber.com.



COMMERCE GIFT - The NRHEG FFA program recently received a \$10,000 donation from Commerce Bank, which has a branch located in Geneva. Holding the check are NRHEG Ag teacher Dan Sorum and Chapter FFA reporter Olivia Johnson. With them are, from left, Commerce Bank Chief Banking Officer Josh Burgess, Chief Financial Officer Jennifer Schroeder, and Commerce Bank Chief Executive Officer James Senske.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

NRHEG FFA gifted \$10,000

Commerce Bank, in partnership with Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines (FHLB Des Moines), is pleased to announce gifts of \$10,000 each to Freeborn County 4-H and NRHEG Public Schools FFA program. The money was made available through the FLHB Member Impact Fund. This matching grant program is designed to support affordable housing and community development in Minnesota. Through the Member Impact Fund, Commerce Bank was able to multiply the impact of its donation to support these vital youth programs.

Commerce Bank believes strong youth programs are critical for community development. Commerce Bank CEO Jim Senske states “I have had a lifelong connection with these two programs as an active Freeborn County 4-H member while growing up in Albert Lea and through my many friendships with area FFA members. We are proud to invest in the future of agriculture and the communities we serve.

“The Member Impact Fund continues to be a powerful resource in supporting our members as they expand access

to affordable housing and drive community development,” says Kris Williams, president and CEO of FHLB Des Moines. “It’s inspiring to see the partnerships centered around improving local communities in such a variety of ways.”

Commerce Bank is a Minnesota-based commercial bank with locations in Geneva and Edina. Commerce Bank provides a broad range of banking services for its customers with a focus in its Geneva office on lending to agricultural producers and business owners. Commerce Bank is a member of the Federal Home Loan Bank Des Moines, that is a funding source for its members.

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

14U Jays Tournament



HOME RUN - Pictured left to right, top row - Biz Janike (Head Coach), Avery Roessler, Crosby Hinna, Grady McDonough, Braxton Nelson, Ashton Kahnke, Colton Madson, Chad McDonough (Assistant Coach). Bottom row, left to right, Brayden Butler, Jaegar Anderson, Zander Rahe, Corbin Ristau, Jackson Janike, Keegan Villwock, Carter Wernimont, Bryan De Jager. Not pictured- Holten Howard. Over the weekend of June 6-8th, the Waseca Bluejays 14U baseball team won first place in the HammerFest tournament held in Albert Lea which punched their ticket to the State Tournament taking place July 25-27 in Brooklyn Park.

14U Jays baseball tournament fun

The 14U Jays came back from a rough start to the tournament being outscored by their first two opponents, Albert Lea and Austin 18-1 on Friday evening and Saturday morning. On Saturday evening of the tournament weekend, the boys started to rally their bats, scoring 9 in the first inning, adding to the final score to win over the Minneapolis Millers 15-8. This win advanced them to Sunday morning where they faced Austin, who had beaten them once in the tournament

already. As the game progressed, the Jays took advantage of an unraveling Austin team and made aggressive moves on the bases, Brayden Butler stealing home from 2nd base on a passed ball and Grady McDonough stealing second on a ball four passed ball which contributed to a 10-7 win advancing them to the championship game against Owatonna on Sunday afternoon. Due to league pitch count limits, which puts a cap on the maximum number of pitches an

individual can have during a tournament (125), both Owatonna and the Jays had to be strategic with how they played their defense. Lefty Braxton Nelson, who threw 5 solid innings the day before, opened the game to get the Jays to the third inning where he reached his pitch count and had to come off the mound. He was replaced by lefty Jackson Janike who used up his remaining pitches for the tournament to get the team out of one more inning. The Jays made a sur-

prising pitcher change, placing Corbin Ristau their starting catcher on the mound, and Jackson Janike one of their starting pitchers behind the plate at catcher. The duo closed out the game with 10 strikeouts and allowed only one passed ball behind the catcher contributing to the final 12-7 winning score. The 14U Jays next home competitions are scheduled to take place on June 30 and July 7 with the State Tournament taking place in Brooklyn Park July 25-27.

Waseca Braves beat Lake Royals

By JIM LUTGENS
Staff Writer

The Waseca Braves snapped a losing skid by defeating the Minnesota Lake Royals 6-2 Sunday at Tink Larson Field in Waseca.

“It was nice to get back in the win column,” said Braves coach Tink Larson.

Tyson Reger registered his fifth straight complete-game pitching win, all with at least 10 strikeouts. He yielded but one earned run.

“Reger pitched another great game,” said Larson.

Reger also had two hits, as did Chris Glynn. Kelvin Nelson was

4-4 with three runs scored.

“Kelvin had a great day at the plate,” commented Larson.

Also registering hits for the Braves were Keaton Roeker, Payton Garza and Kyle Waugh.

With the win, the Braves improved their record to 8-6.

On Friday, the Braves faced Montgomery and fell 5-2 in a seven-inning game at Larson Field.

“It was a great game for five innings,” said Larson, as both pitchers threw no-hit ball.

Montgomery scored three unearned runs in the seventh inning to win it.

Ryan Hanson took the pitching loss despite giving up only three hits.

Roeker and Glynn had the Braves’ lone hits. Waseca stranded five baserunners to four for Montgomery. Waseca had three fielding errors, Montgomery one.

“We only played seven innings, which is all Montgomery wanted to play,” said Larson. “Hanson pitched well after not throwing for a month due to a sore back.”

Last Wednesday, the Braves fell 11-0 to Blue Earth at Larson Field.

The Pirates scored three in the sixth, three in the eighth, and five in the ninth.

Sabastian Teague pitched for the first time in nearly three weeks and threw five scoreless innings for the Braves. The Pirates’ Brandyn Olsen gave up two hits and struck out 12 in 8 innings.

“We have to hit better,” said Larson.

After a Wednesday home game against Cleveland at 7:30 p.m., the Braves play Sunday at 2 p.m. at Lake Crystal. They face North Mankato at home Wednesday, July 2 at 7:30.



SCRATCH ART - Close to 25 children attended the used CD Scratch Art event at the New Richland Public Library on Tuesday, June 17, 2025.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

CD Scratch art at New Richland Library

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

An artistic opportunity presented itself at the New Richland Public Library on Tuesday, June 17: CD Scratch Art. Attendance at the event, geared toward children preschool through fifth grade, was so strong that three additional tables had to be brought in to accommodate the large and chatty bunch.

Many who grew up with CDs, or even old vinyl albums, know that at their respective heights, many people had gigantic collec-

tions of them. So anyone looking for old CDs can easily acquire quite a few now that the media format is mostly obsolete. But head librarian Kathy Kronebusch chose CDs to give the kids a taste of the past. She selected the day’s project from a large booklet the Waseca Le Sueur County Library System provides. Also provided are needed supplies and lots and lots of CDs. Kronebusch compared the activity to an old grade-school project. “You remember back in school when they had you color thick, multiple layers of crayon on a blank

sheet of paper, then paint over that? The following day you would take a paperclip or something to scrape the top layer away to get an explosion of color in thin little lines. This is like that but with CDs.”

Kayla Wobbrock, who provides group family childcare, and who is also in charge of the energetic group of children in the School Age Care program, said, “We got a flyer telling us the dates for all these events at the library, and we really try to join every activity we can.” As she spoke, numerous children were

comparing the “accidental touches” of paint on each other’s arms and fingers. The CDs were passed around the table, the tools were selected and passed out as all the children went to work.

Some of the designs looked like houses, or cars and a horse or two. There were two or three little ones whose pictures looked like squiggly lines. Some had names, others went unlabeled, but all of them were unique. Young artists were all given their CDs to take home at the end of the session



PRIORITIES - Speaking up and listening in on behalf of Waseca County during a recent USDA information-gathering session were Waseca County Soil and Water Conservation District staff members Cammi Nordmeyer (far left), Mark Schaetzke (back right), and the agency's summer intern, Jayme Sandbeck (front right). Pictured with them are interested farmers Dan and Debbie Roemhildt and Marvin Guse (far right). Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Conservation professionals address funding

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

The Mankato office of the United States Department of Agriculture invited farmers, rural property owners, and soil conservation professionals from Blue Earth, Faribault and Waseca counties to a local work group (LWG) meeting the evening of June 16. About 40 people gathered at the Pemberton community center to offer input regarding what the USDA should prioritize as it divides out funding for the myriad programs it supports.

District Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservationist Jessica Beske told those in attendance this was their opportunity to provide input which might have an influence on future statewide decisions.

Some in the room expressed displeasure that certain USDA programs were paused this year. Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) manager Mark Schaetzke commented on the number of applications which were not funded. "A lot of them should have been funded," he stated. "They were good projects that provided a lot of public good."

Though not in a position to defend or explain the entire USDA organization, Beske observed "This is the first year in my experience that we've had a backlog." She mentioned uncertainty at the federal level regarding how consistent funding might be, and suggested that may have been part of the problem. "Don't judge based on this year," she suggested.

SWCD staff offered numerous suggestions.

One was that additional priority should be given to funding restoration of windbreaks, since a fungal needle cast disease has been found to be killing spruce trees in the area, especially since spruce had previously been among the most recommended trees for wind-

breaks.

After a discussion about protecting streams and rivers, the group consensus was that projects which "impact a direct water source" should be given priority over those which do not.

The group also placed emphasis on outreach, noting that numerous farmers continue to use conventional tillage and management methods even on "HEL"--highly erodible land.

Group members also brought up wind erosion, pointing out that "black out" winds seem to be occurring more often. They regarded land left bare after the planted crop had been drowned out as a major contributor, and suggested emphasis should be placed on getting a cover crop in such locations.

Another element of the conversation involved compost structures. Various individuals noted the standard USDA plan includes attaching a roof and laying nine-inch-thick concrete. The roof, the group agreed, decreased the structure's efficiency, while nine inches of concrete was more than necessary and added expense.

Also shared during the work group session were priorities the USDA has assigned to the four major categories of agricultural projects within Minnesota. Provided here are the names of the categories and the top two priorities for each.

Cropland: Weather resilience, ponding and flooding. Field sediment, nutrient and pathogen loss.

Forestland: Degraded plant condition; plant structure and composition. Pest pressure, plant pest pressure.

Farmstead: Storage and handling of pollutants; nutrients transported to surface water. Weather resilience, ponding and flooding.

Pastureland: Livestock production limitation, feed and forage balance. Weather resilience, ponding and flooding.

NRHEG Schools awarded new funding to support student needs

By MICHAEL MEIHAK
Superintendent

NRHEG is pleased to share some positive financial news for NRHEG Public Schools. Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, our district has been awarded funding through the state's Alternative Delivery of Specialized Instructional Services (ADSIS) program.. While that may sound like a lot of education jargon, here's what it really means for our schools and our community.

The ADSIS program helps schools provide early support to students who may be struggling in areas like reading, math, and behavior. These are students who don't qualify for special education services but still need some extra help to stay on track. With this new funding, NRHEG will be able to add support staff and interven-

tions that help more students succeed before bigger challenges arise.

In financial terms, this award means an estimated \$350,000 per year for the next two years—funds that go directly toward helping students. In a time when school budgets are being stretched thin due to inflation and the rising costs of goods and services, this is a significant boost. It won't solve every challenge, but it's a big step in the right direction.

We're grateful for this opportunity and proud that our application stood out at the state level. As always, we'll continue to look for responsible ways to fund the high-quality education our students deserve while being careful stewards of taxpayer dollars.

Thank you for your continued support of NRHEG Schools.



RAINBOW OF FUN - Not even the heat could stop kids and families from enjoying activities at the Growing Tree Jamboree on Saturday, June 21 in Waseca. At the end of the event, kids were able to take cups of color and "color bomb" the Growing Tree staff. Pioneer photos by Amelia Roessler

Growing Tree's colorful Jamboree

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editorial Assistant

The Waseca Growing Tree Montessori School and Child Care hosted their fifth annual Growing Tree Jamboree Saturday, June 21. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., children, their families and the public were invited to play games, win prizes and participate in various activities including a bounce house, dunk tank, silent auction and best of all, the color bombing of the teachers.

The Jamboree is the Growing Tree's one and only fundraiser of the

year, according to director and founder Jenny Connors.

"The funds are used to help pay the activity fee for families every year and also building improvements," Connors said.

The Jamboree is carnival themed, with something new added every year to make it bigger than the last. The new addition this year was the bounce house, a popular choice on Saturday and social media coordinator and lead toddler teacher Brittany Arndt's favorite part of the Jamboree.

"It's amazing, I have goosebumps," Arndt said. "I've been with Growing Tree since we've opened and it's wonderful to see how we've grown and developed."

Opened in 2020, Growing Tree has 73 kids signed up and 20 staff employed. Although a lot of the Jamboree participants were Growing Tree members and families, Connors encourages the public to join next year and attend other events.

Arndt said other things Growing Tree is involved with is giving back to the community with things like,

donating products for veterans, Together on Memories gala, the Blue-jay Blast, cleaning yards and donating to the Neighborhood Service Center.

"We've established ourselves for a few years and now it's our turn to give back to those who helped us get going."

This year's Jamboree was a success despite the heat, with a colorful ending letting the children throw colored powder at their teachers.

"We're family here, so we'll treat you like family," Arndt said.

NRHEG School board approves 2025-26 budget

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Members of the NRHEG school board approved a budget for the upcoming school year which includes just over \$13.5 million in expenditures, alongside slightly less than \$13.3 million in anticipated revenue.

District business manager Karla Christopherson acknowledged those numbers lead to a decrease in the "general fund," monies set aside at the advice of financial organizations to act as a buffer if incoming funds should be delayed. General guidelines stated during past school board meetings are that the amount in the general fund should be enough to support somewhere between three and six months of operation.

While a projected \$417,000 decrease in the \$10.5 million general fund was not appealing to board members, Christopherson quickly explained her numbers could not include \$350,000 in income due to be paid to the district after the end of the 2025-26 budget year.

NRHEG has been named as a recipient of an "alternative delivery of specialized instructional services" (ADSIS) grant for both of the next two school years. The terms of the grant specify the district should deliver eligible services at its own expense, then be reimbursed after the end of the school year.

So, although the \$350,000 could not be included in Christopherson's official summary, the anticipated income sharply reduces the actual decrease in the general fund to about \$67,000.

Christopherson went on to say keeping a strong general fund balance provides significant financial benefits and also sends a message to contractors, potential lenders and others regarding the district's financial health. Noting that, of 362 districts in the state, NRHEG is among about one-fourth which do not rely on an additional tax referendum from area property owners to continue operations, she expressed the possibility that a persistently shrinking general fund might indicate



the need for a referendum is approaching. Numbers shared in the past indicate about 17.5 percent of the school's costs of operation are paid by local property taxes, with the remainder coming from state, and to a limited degree, federal sources.

Tyler Firme of Owatonna's Heinz Insurance Agency presented board members with a comprehensive insurance quote for the 2025-'26 budget year, stating the overall cost for nine types of property, liability, workers' compensation and auto insurance had risen by only 3.5 percent. Firme stated that, among his clients, any increase less than 10 percent is regarded as very good, then went on to say insurance company investigators had toured district buildings and found the new safety upgrades reassuring. All policies through the Heinz Insurance Agency



IN WITH THE NEW - After 10 years as administrative assistant to the superintendent at NRHEG, Sue Kulseth retired effective at the end of the school year. Pictured above with Kulseth is Sarah Wacholz, who is learning the ins and outs of the administrative position. Wacholz and her husband Thomas live just outside New Richland. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

in 2024-25 were just over \$142,000; for 2025-'26 they will be a bit more than \$147,000.

School superintendent Michael Meihak announced he had already begun interviewing candidates for the elementary principal position left vacant with the resignation of Craig Kopetzki. Kopetzki has accepted a position as assistant principal at the Waseca Junior/Senior High School. Meihak reported interviews will continue into the week of June 23, with an offer and perhaps a newly named principal taking place soon afterward.

As the meeting finished, board members presented retiring administrative assistant Sue Kulseth with gifts that included a lounge chair and bucket full of some of her favorite treats. They thanked her for her 10 years of service, and for handling the many details involved with various gatherings—especially the staff events at the start and close of the school year. In place already for the past few months is Sarah Wacholz, who with her husband Tom lives just outside New Richland.

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Discover Waseca Tourism awards \$500 grant to Lakefest

Discover Waseca Tourism has proudly awarded a \$500 grant to support the upcoming Lakefest celebration in Waseca. This annual community event will take place on Friday, July 4, at Clear Lake Park, offering a full day of family-friendly fun, food, and music.

The grant presentation highlights Discover Waseca Tourism's commitment to supporting local events that celebrate Waseca's community spirit and

attract visitors to the area.

"We're thrilled to support Lakefest, an event that truly brings our community together and showcases the best of what Waseca has to offer," said Mikhail Rostislavovich, President of Discover Waseca Tourism.

Lakefest 2025 will feature live music, food trucks, beer, seltzers, spirits, kids' activities, volleyball and beanbag tournaments and a boat parade.

Lakefest Facilitator Tom Sexton

expressed gratitude for the support. "Lakefest wouldn't be possible without the help of great community partners like Discover Waseca Tourism. This grant helps us provide the music and activities that make the event a memorable experience for everyone who attends."

For more information on Lakefest, check out the Waseca Lakefest Facebook page or contact the Chamber office.



LAKEFEST GRANT - Tom Glaser, Tom Sexton, Discover Waseca Tourism President Mikhail Rostislavovich, Kristin Weber, Emery & Henry Weber

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

The Shepherd's Robe free store offers clothing, supplies, and much more for free to all interested parties. The store is located at Vista Covenant Church, 14679 275th Avenue, New Richland.

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

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

A life of service

By STEELE COUNTY TIMES

Tim Penny was serving in the U.S. House of Representatives when he first learned about the McKnight Foundation's plan to establish six regional nonprofits in the wake of the mid-1980s farm crisis.

Massive increases in farm debt, coupled with falling commodity prices, a 1980 grain embargo, and severe droughts had resulted in thousands of family farm foreclosures. The economic pain spread deep into small, rural communities, sparking bank and other business failures.

"It was really hurting rural regions from one end of Minnesota to the other," Penny said.

He worked with his colleagues on a farm debt restructuring bill that he said, "helped stop the hemorrhaging." He was also aware of McKnight's work and "very appreciative they came up with this idea" of regional foundations.

The Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) made its first three investments in 1987, in the areas of Community Vitality, Early Childhood, and Economic Development.

After Penny retired from Congress in 1995, SMIF asked him to take on a few volunteer roles before he was hired as president and CEO in 2007. He said he was impressed with the nonprofit's work in small business lending, entrepreneurship and economic development, early childhood, and other programs established over the previous 20 years.

"I was pretty happy with the portfolio of work," he said.

This year, Penny retired. The nonprofit last month named Waseca County native Benya Kraus as its new leader; she started work this week.

Focus on collaboration

In recalling his own first days with SMIF, Penny said he brought with him a valuable lesson from his political career, "too few dollars over too many things are not going to make a difference... So, we really tried to build out the work we do in economic development, early childhood, and the entrepreneurial space."

He placed a heavy focus on collaboration, coordinating and cooperating with the many organizations already doing work in those areas, "so our investments can achieve bigger results."

Penny's first year took a dramatic turn after a huge flood hit Rushford, a small community in Fillmore County, and surrounding areas.

"All of downtown Rushford was under water," he said. "We saw the need and ramped up a business recovery program."

Over a period of just two weeks, SMIF raised \$850,000 for flood relief grants that to businesses in Rushford and some communities downstream.

"It was enough to get them started on their recovery. We learned that early money makes all the difference," Penny said, adding the approach became a model for early recovery after disasters. "I'm very proud of what we created there."

Today, one of his favorite initiatives centers around local foods—the processed meats, cheeses, sauces, beverages, and other items. It's "one of the most effective and exciting collaborations we've been part of," he said. "We see the potential for that to be a much bigger part of our local economy in southern Minnesota."

SMIF reached out to organizations already working in that space and developed its "Grow a Farmer" loan fund, which provides up to \$15,000 to help small scale farmers and particularly those who might not have



Tim Penny of Owatonna has retired as president of Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation, an organization that he led for 18 years. Under his leadership, SMIF has benefitted southern Minnesota in many ways. Submitted photo

access to traditional funding.

Working with Renewing the Countryside, a Hammond-based nonprofit, SMIF also launched the FEAST! Local Foods Network. There are two big events under that umbrella:

Held in November, the FEAST! Local Foods Marketplace, which Penny described as "a farmers market on steroids," offers consumers the opportunity to shop with local food businesses at the Rochester Mayo Civic Center. It's timed, he said, for holiday shopping, whether you're looking for gifts or items to serve on your holiday table.

The FEAST! trade show, in March, introduces 60 exhibitors and caters more toward helping those businesses secure commercial contracts.

"That's an example of collaboration at its best," Penny said of the FEAST! Network.

Across the growing region, Penny said, there's a movement among small towns to build on their assets. Folks in Henderson—population less

than 1,000—created a hummingbird garden and annual festival, hosts car shows, and celebrates its connection to the late musician Prince, who filmed a scene from "Purple Rain" there.

Forty years ago, tiny Lanesboro was a town built almost exclusively on agriculture. Today, with an emphasis on cultural arts and the addition of some trendy shops, it's a tourist destination.

"They've found different ways to build on what they have," Penny said.

Touring the small towns in southern Minnesota has been Penny's favorite part of his work at SMIF. Taken with the board of directors, the tours showcase the work the organization has done across the region.

"That's probably my favorite day of the year," Penny said, adding he also enjoys the local food events. "I grew up on a small, family farm, so local foods is something I'm very passionate about."

Penny's lifetime of public service that began with his election to the

Minnesota Senate in 1976—just two years after he picked up his degree in political science at Winona State University—will continue.

Though he's stepping down, he plans to continue promoting the Acres for Good program, which allows people to consider land as a charitable gift.

"We'll see to it the land is kept in production" by renting it out, he explained. After taxes and expenses, the rent would go to SMIF, community funds, or a fund created in the family's name, to create a benefit to the region.

Penny will also help out by attending fundraisers for the 33 community funds in the region "and give my successor a weekend night off."

What keeps him on the move when he could just retire and take it easy?

"My family goes back five generations in this region," Penny said. "I'm just passionate about southern Minnesota and honored to have had the opportunity to play a small role in the success of this region."

Waseca Public Library Summer Reading Program taking applicants

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



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Construction Abounds



HARD HATS NEEDED-Underground water lines made of metal are being removed and replaced with PVC pipes on Ash Avenue South and Third Street Southeast in New Richland. Even water hydrants are getting new connections. When the underground work is done, the road will be regraded and resurfaced, and a sidewalk will be added.

Pioneer photos by Deb Bently

THANK YOU!

TASTE OF THE FARM

Thank you to the over 650 attendees and numerous sponsoring businesses, organizations, & volunteers!

Ag Partners
Bin Pro Dumpster Rental
Boss Supply of Janesville
Bremer Bank
Compeer Financial – Mark Scharf
Condon Farm Service
Corn Country Seed – Tyler Huber
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Neighbor's Meats
Waseca Area Foundation

Waseca CERT
Waseca Chamber of Commerce
Waseca Dental – Dr. Thompson
Waseca County American Dairy Association
Waseca County Corn & Soybean Growers
Waseca County Free Fair
Waseca County Pork Producers
Waseca County Sheriff's Office
Waseca FFA
Waseca 4-H
Waseca Fire Department
Waseca Sand & Gravel / Eagle Concrete

....and more! We apologize if any sponsors or volunteers were inadvertently missed.



NOTICE OF EXPIRATION OF REDEMPTION		
State of Minnesota County of Waseca County		Tamara J. Spooner Director of Property & Election Services
TO: ALL PERSONS WITH A LEGAL INTEREST IN THE PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THE FOLLOWING NOTICE:		
You are hereby notified that the parcels of real property described below and located in Waseca County, Minnesota, are subject to forfeiture to the state of Minnesota because of the nonpayment of delinquent property taxes, special assessments, penalties, interest, and costs levied on those parcels. The time for redemption from forfeiture expires if a redemption is not made by the later of (1) 60 days after service of this notice on all persons having an interest in the parcels, or (2) May 12, 2025.		
The following information is listed below: the names of the property owners, taxpayers, and interested parties who have filed their addresses under M.S. 276.041; the addresses of the parties are filed with the county auditor; the legal description and the parcel identification number of each parcel; and the amount necessary to redeem a parcel as of the date listed below.		
Names of Owners, Taxpayers & Interested Parties	Parcel # Description of Property	Total Tax + Penalties
DAVID DEAN WARD 4394 440TH AVE ELYSIAN MN 56028	JANESVILLE TOWNSHIP RP 06.002.1300 W1/2 OF W445 FT E890 FT OF N97 FT 10 IN OF NE 1/4 OF NW1/4	\$2,613.73
JEFFREY NELSON 1383 W CARDINAL CT CHANDLER AZ 85286	NEW RICHLAND TOWNSHIP RP 07.013.2300 COMM ON S LINE OF MH TRACT AT A PT 493.50FT NORTH EASTERLY FROM SW COR THEREOF; THEN NORTHEASTERLY 129.50FT ALONG S LINE OF MH TRACT; THEN N2DEGW 212FT TO SHORE OF LAKE TO PT OF BEG; THEN SOUTHERLY 212FT; THEN SOUTHWESTERLY 89FT; THEN NORTHERLY 238FT; THEN EAST 84FT ALONG SHORE TO PT OF BEG	\$4,048.53
ARLAN M KRASSIN 32241 90TH ST WASECA MN 56093	ST MARY TOWNSHIP RP 09.028.0220 4.63AC COM NE COR OF SE1/4; THEN S1317.62FT; THEN W736.11FT THEN N18DEGE 463.62FT; THEN N07DEGW 203.19FT PT OF BEG; THEN N8SDEGW 145.56FT; THEN W 200FT; THEN N09DEGW 298.13FT; THEN N16DEGW 141.86FT; THEN N8BDEGW 55.64FT; THEN N66DEGW 279.46FT; THEN N63DEGW 201.36FT; THEN S89DEGE 508.78FT; THEN S12DEGE 149.60FT; THEN S42DEGE 173.51 FT; THEN S20DEGE 82.35FT; THEN S87 DEGE 156.09FT; THEN S14DEGE 223.69FT; THEN S02DEGE 110.66FT TO PT OF BEG	\$3,561.58
ARLAN M KRASSIN 32241 90TH ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 09.028.0230 2.33AC COM NE COR OF SE1/4; THEN S1317.62FT; THEN W736.11FT; THEN N18DEGE 463.62FT PT OF BEG; THEN S46DEGE 17.44FT; THEN S78DEGE 580.16FT; THEN S45.57FT; THEN W300FT; THEN W78.16FT; THEN S84DEGW 387.34FT; THEN N18DEGE 305.31FT TO PT OF BEG	\$2,881.06
JACOB V WITT PO BOX 303 JANESVILLE MN 56048	JANESVILLE CITY RP 14.100.2040 ORIGINAL PLAT S1/3 OF LOT 9 BLK 15	\$6,756.38
MICHAEL & JESSICA KARLES PO BOX 192 JANESVILLE MN 56048	RP 14.201.0100 CARPENTERS FIRST ADDITION W1/2 OF LOT 5 & E1/4 OF LOT 6 BLK 1	\$927.82
WELLS FARGO BANK NA 3476 STATEVIEW BLVD MCKN X7801-03K FORT MILL SC 29715		

CITY OF WASECA
PLANNING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Waseca Planning Commission will hold public hearings at 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, in the COUNCIL CHAMBERS of CITY HALL located at 508 South State Street in Waseca, Minnesota.

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

- ORDINANCE NO. 1129:** Proposed annexation of approximately 0.045 acres of land (Parcel ID No. 120170200) lying just south of, and adjacent to, 605 8th St SE within Woodville Township in the County of Waseca, Minnesota. Upon annexation, the property will be zoned R-2 (Urban Residential District).
- ORDINANCE NO. 1130:** Proposed addition of a National Register of Historic Places Commercial District to the City's Zoning Map as designated Heritage Preservation Overlay District.
- CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT REQUEST:** Proposed Conditional Use Permit to allow an outdoor wall graphic (mural) on two existing grain silos located at 212 3rd Ave NW (Parcel ID No. 176260110). The property is currently zoned B-1 (Central Business District).

Complete copies of proposed Ordinance No. 1129, Ordinance No. 1130 and the conditional use permit are available in the office of the City Clerk located at 508 South State Street in Waseca, Minnesota.

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

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

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on Thursday, June 26, 2025.

Jon M. Froke
City Planner

SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642
JUNE 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 6pm BAR Bingo	57pm HALL BINGO	6 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm D-DAY	7
8	9 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting	10	11 6pm BAR Bingo	12 7pm HALL BINGO WOMEN VETERANS DAY	13 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	14 ARMY BIRTHDAY U.S. FLAG DAY
15	16	17	18 6pm BAR Bingo	19 7pm HALL BINGO	20 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	21
22	23	24	25 6pm BAR Bingo	26 7pm HALL BINGO	27 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	28
29	30					

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

NEW RICHLAND CITY		
CHARLES RL MCDANIEL PO BOX 3 NEW RICHLAND MN 56072	RP 15.100.0090 ORIGINAL PLAT LOTS 6 7 & N1/2 OF 8 BLK 2	\$7,554.57
SNOW CONSTRUCTION LLC 37457 143RD ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 15.100.2225 ORIGINAL PLAT LOTS 4,5,6 BLK 20 EX 5 20FT	\$16,471.06
NEW RICHLAND BUILDING SUPPLY & HARDWARE LLC 37457 143RD ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 15.100.2500 ORIGINAL PLAT LOTS 7,8,9 BLK 20 & 5 20FT OF LOTS 4,5,6 & ALLEY IN BLK 20	\$41,166.64
RONALD J ANDERLY, TRUSTEE OF THE EXEMPT SEPARATE TRUST FOR RANDY L SCOTT CREATED UNDER THE VICTOR L SCOTT REVOCABLE TRUST DATED MAY 26, 2005 AND RONALD J ANDERLY, TRUSTEE OF THE EXEMPT SEPARATE TRUST FOR RICKY A SCOTT CRESTED UNDER THE VICTOR L SCOTT REVOCABLE TRUST DATE MAY 26, 2005 AND RONALD J ANDERLY, TRUSTEE OF THE EXEMPT SEPARATE TRUST FOR PEGGY A MITCHELL; AND RONALD J ANDERLY, TRUSTEE OF THE NON-EXEMPT SEPARATE TRUST FOR RANDY L SCOTT CREATED UNDER THE VICTOR L SCOTT REVOCABLE TRUST DATED MAY 26, 2005 CREATED UNDER THE VICTOR L SCOTT REVOCABLE TRUST DATED MAY 26, 2005; AND RONALD J ANDERLY, TRUSTEE OF THE NON-EXEMPT SEPARATE TRUST FOR RICKY A SCOTT CREATED UNDER THE VICTOR L SCOTT REVOCABLE TRUST DATED MAY 26, 2005; AND RONALD J ANDERLY TRUSTEE OF THE NON-EXEMPT SEPARATE TRUST FOR PEGGY A MITCHELL CREATED UNDER THE VICTOR L SCOTT REVOCABLE TRUST DATED MAY 26, 2005	12994 COUNTY RD #3NW PINE ISLAND MN 55963	
REED DOUGLAS WALLER 308 W DIVISION ST NEW RICHLAND MN 56072	RP 15.777.0250 ZIEGERS 2ND ADDITION W62FT OF E125FT OF E260FT OF BLK 3	\$2,413.72
JAGOW DEVELOPMENT CO C/O CHIP KUDRLE 2052 LEAVITT WOODS LN SHAKOPEE MN 55379	RP 17.018.2520 .92AC COMM AT A PT ON N LINE OF SW1/4 OF SE1/4 467.96FT E OF W LINE OF 6TH ST; THEN S11 FT; THEN N89DEGE 211.46FT TO PT OF BEG; THEN S104FT; THEN S45 DEGE 113.14FT; THEN S86FT; THEN N89DEGE 90FT; THEN N249FT; THEN S89DEGW 170FT TO PT OF BEG & BEG AT A PT ON N LINE OF SW1/4 OF SE1/4 AT INTERSECTION OF W LINE OF 4TH ST SW; THEN W380FT; THEN S11FT; THEN E380FT; THEN N 11FT TO PT OF BEG	\$6,619.96
JON S O'NEIL GREGORY RISTAU 34883 KNOLL DR WASECA MN 56093	RP 17.210.0060 C 1 C #3 HILLTOP ESTATES ADD UNIT #1520	\$2,879.75
JON S O'NEIL GREGORY RISTAU 34883 KNOLL DR WASECA MN 56093	RP 17.210.0070 C 1 C #3 HILLTOP ESTATES ADD UNIT #1524	\$2,879.75
ABM PROPERTIES LLC C/O ROUND BANK PO BOX 667 WASECA MN 56093	RP 17.710.0230 WOODVILLE MEADOWS OUTLOT A	\$2,566.24
GLENN W SCHWIETERS-TREASURER 1900 KNOX MCRAE DR UNIT 103 TITUSVILLE FL 32780		
BRADLEY J WENDLAND-OWNER 2402 24TH CT NE WASECA MN 56093		
ROBERT MICKELSON-MANAGER 2233 BAKER TRL FARIBAULT MN 55021		
JAMES M MANN-MEMBER 1401 CLEAR LAKE DR WASECA MN 56093		
MARK BORNEKE-MEMBER 37569 15TH ST JANESVILLE MN 56048		
ABM PROPERTIES LLC C/O ROUND BANK PO BOX 667 WASECA MN 56093	RP 17.710.0240 WOODVILLE MEADOWS OUTLOT B	\$375.22
GLENN W SCHWIETERS-TREASURER 1900 KNOX MCRAE DR UNIT 103 TITUSVILLE FL 32780		
BRADLEY J WENDLAND-OWNER 2402 24TH CT NE WASECA MN 56093		
ROBERT MICKELSON-MANAGER 2233 BAKER TRL FARIBAULT MN 55021		
JAMES M MANN-MEMBER 1401 CLEAR LAKE DR WASECA MN 56093		
MARK BORNEKE-MEMBER 37569 15TH ST JANESVILLE MN 56048		

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

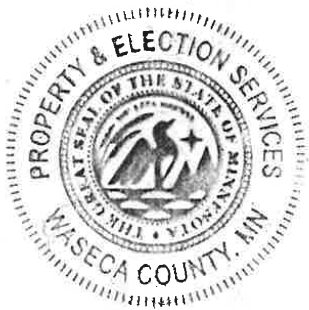
The amounts listed above must be paid on or before July 31, 2025. Please contact the Waseca County Property & Election Services Office to verify the amount due if paid after July 31, 2025.

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

Witness my hand and official seal this day of June 23, 2025.
X *Tamara J. Spooner*
S/ TAMARA J. SPOONER, Director of Property & Election Services

OFFICIAL SEAL

WASECA COUNTY
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2025
Elysian
4th OF JULY

WEDNESDAY JULY 2

Miss Elysian & Princess of the Lakes Pageant
7 pm Fire Hall

Contact: Shannon Kuball 507-838-5741 shannonkuball@bevcomm.net

THURSDAY JULY 3

Fire Fighter's Dance "Smokescreen" \$5 Admission
8:30 pm - 12:30 am under the Tent

No outside beverages permitted! Joy Ride available 10pm-2am

Elysian Fire Dept Silent Auction

July 3 @ 6pm - July 6 @ noon

Auction items can be dropped off at Elysian City Hall Mon-Fri 8am-4:30pm

FRIDAY JULY 4

Medallion Hunts (2) \$100 each

1st clue posted at 10 am on Tent power pole.

A new set of clues will be posted after 1st Medallion is found

Face Painting & Balloons

11 am - 2 pm under Tent

by Making Faces Mankato

Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address

12:00 pm On the Hill (301 NE 2nd St)

Bryce Stenzel as Abraham Lincoln

Genealogy Center open 11-2, shed open to the public

By the Le Sueur County Historical Society

39th Annual Bob Childs Turtle Races

12:30 pm under Tent

(registration at noon Bring your own turtle)

GRAND PARADE

2 PM MAIN STREET

Arm Wrestling

under Tent Following Grand Parade

Chamber Dance "Johnny Holm Band"

\$10.00 Admission 9 pm - 12:30 am under the Tent

No outside beverages permitted! Joy Ride available 10pm-2am

Elysian Area Library & Heritage Center

BOOK SALE inside

July 3,5,6 during library hours

FOOD VENDORS & BEER GARDEN

Sponsored by Elysian Area Chamber in cooperation with the City of Elysian - www.elysianmn.com

SATURDAY JULY 5

Kid's Fishing Contest

Registration opens @ 9 for Ages 2-12 Lake Francis Park

Ages 2-6 Fish 9:30 am - 9:55 am

Ages 7-12 Fish 10:00 am - 10:30 am

Bait + Lunch, Trophies & Prizes awarded

Sponsors: Lake Area Women, Elysian Fire Dept Relief Assoc.,
North Elysian Silver Lakers & MN Southern Lakes Angling & Spearing

Lake Francis Boat Parade

11 am starts east end of lake

Contact: Mark Sybilrud 507-271-9530

Prizes for top 3 boats & 3 pontoons

1ST \$500, 2nd \$300, 3rd \$100

Sponsors: Wade & Carla Becker

Bean Bag Tournament

10 am under the tent, Registration 9 am

Info 952-484-0015

Cribbage Tournament "In honor of Marti Zimprich"

1 pm Main Street Venue Bring your own board!

Kid's Bingo

2:30 pm in the fire hall

Legion Chicken Feed (UNTIL GONE)

5 pm American Legion Post 311

Fire Dept Bingo

6 pm under the Tent

THIRSTY BEAVER

9 pm -12 pm Live music

!!FIREWORKS!!

Shot from Lake Tustin Park(closed)

Sunset 10 pm

SUNDAY JULY 6

Pancake Breakfast by Chris Cakes

8 am - 12 noon Fire Hall To go boxes available

Flea Market

8 am - 2pm Main Street Sidewalks

Info: Tasha 507-995-0687

30th Annual Car Show

Car, Truck, Rat Rod, Motorcycle & Tractor

8 am - 1:30 pm on Main Street

Registration & check-in by Nu-Chek-Prep

Top 20 Awards, 1:30 pm in front of Nu-Chek-Prep

Info: Jeanne Zwart 507-267-4231

Pickleball Tournament Pre Registration required with limited teams

9 am - 2 pm Social & competitive Divisions

Elysian Sport Courts - 101 Fifth St. NW - <https://www.elysianmn.com/events/>

Kid's Power Pedal Pull (State Sanctioned)

12:30 pm under the Tent

Fire Dept Water Wars

2pm Main Street/ Fire Dept

Featuring EFD & visiting Fire departments, Top 3 Trophies

Thursday, July 3rd
and
Friday, July 4th

Plan on JOYRIDE for your
FREE sober ride home!

10:00pm - 2:00am

(last pick up is at 1:45am)

Within 15 mile radius of Elysian

Pick up at the Elysian Fire Hall

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