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LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY
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Farm and City

Waseca Lions Club Golf Tournament at Lakeside Club July 24

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

ATA (Another Time Around) at Janesville Veterans Memorial Park July 24

Musical group ATA will play at the Janesville Veterans Memorial Park from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, July 24. This event is free.

Adventures in Zootopia at Waseca Public Library Thursday, July 24

Kids ages 4 to 8 will journey through the vibrant world of Zootopia at 10 a.m. on Thursday, July 24 at the Waseca Public Library. Participants will learn valuable skills through interactive stations based around the movie's different characters. Free and open to the public.

Retirement Party for Cheri Brummond July 25, 2025

A retirement party for Cheri Brummond, administrative assistant at the Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District, will be from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on July 25 in the East Annex Conference Room across from the county licensing office at 300 North State Street in Waseca Refreshments provided.

Holdfast at the Indian Island Winery Friday, July 25

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

Swim and Stories at Waseca Water Park Saturday July 26

Waseca Public Library will lead a special Romp and Rhyme Story Time at the Waseca Water Park at 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 26. Keep cool and enjoy the water while sharing books, stories, rhymes, music, and movement at this family story time. Water Park admission included.

Sammy Kershaw at the Boxcar Bar in Waseca Sat., July 26

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

A word from The Word

God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?
Numbers 23:19



The Wagner Foods parade float this year featured the above cart.

Kulseth honored as Grand Marshal

Farm and City Day provides fun for all ages, Kid Zone well attended at annual celebration

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

Hundreds of visitors and residents were in attendance throughout Farm and City Days weekend in New Richland, July 18-20.

The most popular attractions included the classic car show, which drew a 109 cars, down from last year's record draw of 149. There were 127 cars in 2023.

This year's big winner of Best of show was Gary Johnson with a 1958 Chevy Impala.

Other events included new events sponsored by the State Bank of New Richland, including Adult Tricycle Races and numerous new activities geared for youths in the Kid Zone, including a rock climbing station and Monkey Trampolines.

The winner of the \$100 cash prize for the Tricycle Races was Ben Waldhauser.

A fun run sponsored by New Richland's Panther Power House helped kicked off the day at 8 a.m.

Making a return this year was the famous dunk tank, which featured popular names in town, including: Fireman Craig Eustice, NRHEG Principal Berg, Ambulance Director Sarah Sundve, Councilman Jason Casey, Neighbor's Meats Dan Lewer and officer Drew Deraad. This event was sponsored by the NR Ambulance Department.

Other popular events included Neighbors

Farm and City continued on 5



Sue Kulseth was surprised to learn during the Saturday pancake breakfast that she had been named the 2025 Farm and City Days parade grand marshal. Above, Kulseth stands with Farm and City Days committee members SaraJo Vulcan, Jennifer Weber, Brandy Jacobson, and Krewden Jacobson (in front), Kulseth, and Ryan Gehrke.



NRHEG Farm and City Days Car Show "Best of Show" winner Gary Johnson, with his 1958 Chevy Impala. Below, members of the New Richland-Hartland class of 1975 put together a unit for Saturday's parade. Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens



Local arm wrestlers say the sport has much to offer

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

According to Alex and Jolene Clark of Waseca, the outcome of a typical competition-level arm wrestling match is determined in less than 20 seconds. The process of becoming a winner, on the other hand, can take years.

Alex, 35, and Jolene, 34, have been married for 15 years and have four children: Traehvon, 17; Makayla, 14; Vincent, 8; and Serenity, 6. Since discovering a passion for arm wrestling more than three years ago, the two have become avid about personal training and weight lifting, and have attended practices with groups across the southern half of Minnesota. They have gone to competitions not only in Minnesota, but occasionally in Wisconsin, Arkansas and Kentucky.

"We hear from a lot of people they

had no idea arm wrestling is an organized sport," observes Alex.

"Well, it is. And it's a lot of fun." "We seem intimidating," admits Jolene. "But I promise, we're nice."

The couple recently attended state-level competition and came home with titles—Alex as third in his class with the left hand, and Jolene as second. Just over 120 men competed; there were three women.

The two explain that, although most people believe brute strength determines the outcome of a match, the sport is actually quite sophisticated, involving precise rules about positioning and technique, as well as fine-tuned adjustments and movements which can provide advantages "at the table."

For example, arm wrestlers refer to a match as a "pull" because draw-

Wrestlers continued on 4



READY, SET, PULL - Waseca residents Alex and Jolene Clark recently took titles in state-level arm wrestling competition. They say the sport requires considerably more technique and finesse than most people realize. According to the pair, the outcome of a match is determined in less than 20 seconds.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

City to update treatment plant; hears audit report summary

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editorial Assistant

A significant portion of the regular Waseca City Council meeting on July 15 was occupied by a summary of the 2024 financial audit, the approval of murals on grain silos in town and the anticipation of learning the identity of a new tenant at the former Taco John's building to be announced this month.

The council discussed and approved a \$250,000 project to overcome problems at the sanitary sewer facility. According to the proposal, there is unreliable service of the aeration blowers at the wastewater treatment plant, which were purchased during the 2008-2012 plant renovation. A proposal shared during the meeting stated that engineering analyses have determined the need to replace the Nelson Lift Station and to replace the aeration blowers at the treatment plant.

City Manager Carl Sonnenberg said the cost would be around a quarter of a million dollars, with the system set up as economically as possible. He added that right now he did not have a lot of answers as the city is struggling with cash.

"It took us a lot to get us to where we are with the portable generators," Sonnenberg said. "We're very judicious with how we spend our money on sanitary sewer fund. We don't have extra checks in the check book to be written."

Councilmember Gary Conrath expressed the thought that this would be the best time to put in permanent generators during the renovation so that there is no time wasted when a storm happens and the portable generators have to be moved.

"We just don't have the money to do everything we'd like to do," Sonnenberg countered.

The audit of the city's 2024 finances was summarized by Abby Schmidt of the accounting firm Abdo. She said results showed no instances of non-compliance, which she termed a "clean" report. She said the city's fund balance had decreased due to expenditures which exceeded city revenue, and recommended the council "has to be intentional to increase those reserves."

Sonnenberg offered assurance, saying that an apparent decrease in reserves also occurs simply because revenues sometimes come in after an expense has been incurred, creating the appearance of a decrease. According to information posted by the city online, the city's annual operating budget is close to \$13 million.

In general fund revenues, the highest was intergovernmental, with the lowest in the "other" category.

Schmidt stated the city's key performance indicators of expenditures by program are similar to those of comparable nearby municipalities. She said Waseca showed to be higher in public safety and capital outlay and lower in transfers out and community development.

"Does the council feel that the community expectations are being met?" Sonnenberg asked.

Council continued on 5



Compostings

by Al Batt

The doorway effect

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFER'S CLUB MEETING

My wife says that I can be an idiot sometimes. That's good to know.

Why is that good to know? Rather than as an accusation, I take it as a permission to be myself.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me from the land of the tall yellow corn. I have a fear of speed bumps, but I'm slowly getting over it. There was a dead chicken on the road not far from our humble abode. I hope it hadn't been trying to show the opossum that it was possible to cross the road.

I'VE LEARNED

I hope gravy has a lot of vitamins.

Psychologists believe that walking through doorways resets memory to make room for a new episode to emerge. This is the doorway effect. It involves a liminal space, a place of transition, a threshold between two points, signaling the end of one space and the beginning of another.

The man said he was a good ventriloquist, and he wasn't the only one saying it.

The Anchorage, Alaska, Zoo has wolverines and polar bears. It isn't a petting zoo. A polar bear can eat 100 pounds of seal blubber in a single sitting and would destroy Joey Chestnut in a hot dog eating contest.

Gov. Wally Hickel of Alaska, also Secretary of the Interior under President Nixon, wanted to be buried upright and was buried vertically and facing toward Washington, D.C., so he could keep an eye on it, at the Anchorage Memorial Park Cemetery. Seeing a Bigfoot is no small feat.

When I step onto a scale, I remind myself that wisdom is heavy.

The Magic 8 Ball was an early version of AI.

You can't be a geezer if you don't know how to geeze. The world's shoe-tying championship ended in a tie.

THE NEWS FROM HARTLAND HAROLD

My wife and I attended the funeral of Shirley Sibilrud, matriarch of the family who operated Sibilrud's Cardinal Grocery Store, formerly Sibilrud's Jack Sprat Grocery Store, in Hartland. The Benson family (Peter, his wife and five children) provided the music. Peter is the son of Tom of Tom's Barber Shop and Pat Benson of Pat's Beauty Shop, both Hartland enterprises. The officiant was Mark Larson, the son of

Burton Larson, who was a pastor at Cross of Glory Lutheran Church back in the day.

Andrew Carnegie said, "Libraries are the free universities of the people." It was a joy for me to volunteer at the Friends of the New Richland Public Library's Book Sale during Farm & City Days.

Congratulations to Caldyn Huper of the USC FFA Chapter, a finalist for the American Star in Agricultural Placement.

NATURE NOTES

A squirrel was giving a rousing stump speech as I stumbled through the treacherous phalanxes of mosquitoes. The air was flavored with the odor of skunk. Depending upon the environment, conditions and the sniffer's nose, one can detect the smell of skunk from 1.5 miles to 20 miles. As Pepe Le Pew said, "If you have not tried it, do not knock it.

Crows flapped shadows in the welkin. They made flight announcements. Henry David Thoreau wrote, "What a delicious sound! It is not merely crow calling to crow, for it speaks to me too." I love seeing crows walking in a bandy-legged gait.

He wanted to follow me on my walk to the mailbox. He was a fawn. I called the little buck "Fawnzie." It was a happy day.

I sat on a deck with friends and watched birds, each a stunning beauty, visit the busy feeders. It's impossible to be unhappy around friends with bird feeders.

At home, a talkative eastern screech owl, all beak and eyes, perched on our deck rail at midnight. It wasn't the first night it's done that. I see it flying out of a shed, but I never see it flying in.

Juvenile cardinals resemble adult females but have gray-to-black bills. A chickadee feeds on a sunflower seed feeder each morning. No matter how many chickadees there are in this world, it needs one more.

It's the time for tiny toads in our yards and gardens as they hop from water into a terrestrial life.

Julie Knutson of Hartland said one of her sons had 4 pounds of honeybees on the outside of his mailbox. Bees swarm as a natural way for colonies to reproduce by splitting in two. The old queen and a portion of the worker bees leave the original hive to establish a new colony elsewhere. Overcrowding combined with the availability of resources like nectar and pollen can trigger swarming.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"Every student needs someone who says, simply, 'You mean something. You count.'"—Tony Kushner. Be kind.

Tadpoles are charming, interesting

My husband is working on an outdoor project for which he covered some of his materials with waterproof tarps.

All this year's rain has gradually been deposited on the tarps, bit by bit causing the fabric to form to the shape of what's underneath it, creating some unintended pools of water. Frankly, it's very impressive how far the tarps have stretched down into the open spaces and how much water is being held without any leaks—at least so far.

It's like the weather is carrying out a stress test. "Oh, it hasn't broken yet? How about three more inches of rain?"

If asked to guess, I would hazard some of the spaces are holding five gallons or more of water suspended about four feet above the ground.

But this column is not about the amazing flexibility of the tarps—though I am truly impressed.

It's about the tadpoles. It has been easily a decade since the idea of tadpoles has been brought to mind for me.

Frogs, of course, have been a persistent presence. One sees them everywhere—one hears them singing after dark. When we go walking across wet grass, they jump



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

ahead of us. As we move along a stream, lake, or pond, they leap as a group to get away from our shadows.

Since I know they eat insects, I automatically regard them as a positive influence and try to cause them as little harm as possible.

I admire their sleek form, their landscape-tinted markings, their cheerful night songs, and their big, curious-looking eyes. I marvel at a tree frog's ability to climb and a leopard frog's versatility.

When I was fishing a few days back, I used a lure that mimicked a swimming frog and was startled at the force with which it was snapped up by a hungry bass. The moment forced me to recognize the frog's vital position in the food web.

In short, at least for someone who lives in the country and enjoys

time on the water, it is impossible to ignore or forget frogs.

But tadpoles are another matter, it seems. When John showed me a picture he had taken with his phone of one of those suspended pools of water occupied by a few dozen tadpoles, it was like an unexpected phone call from an old friend. "Oh, yes, I remember them."

The little creatures are charming and interesting enough on their own; I cannot resist being fond of them because, at least eventually, they will eat mosquito larva.

But how did a frog—well, a pair of frogs—happen to be on top of those four-foot-tall stacks of boards? Having scaled the precipitous heights, they then, apparently, had to jump down into the suspended pools and deposit the necessary eggs.

Did they have any trouble get-

Trials, triumphs of my sourdough journey



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

the more-than-a-week-long task of dumping and adding, dumping and adding, I had had enough. I needed a break from fussing over my sourdough. So I threw it in the fridge and decided I'd find time in the two weeks or so I had read that it could be stored.

I didn't. I was still using up the discard, and I didn't have any time to actually work with the real sourdough mixture I had created. It's still sitting in the fridge, and frankly it looks ready to get even with me for abandoning it. Something that looks like a normal mixture is sitting at the bottom, but on top of it is an oily substance of an odd, grotesque color. I'm scared to open it, to be honest.

Anyway, so I've been baking with the sourdough discard and I don't want to toot my own horn, but I think some of the things I've made have been pretty tasty. The muffins and blueberry lemon scones have been my favorite.

I could pause here and connect how the discarded sourdough could be like other things we deem unworthy but are actually good or useful in our lives, blah, blah, blah. I'm here to talk about bread, not feelings or life lessons.

So with the last of my sourdough discard, I decided to just go for it. Let's make some real bread this time. But did I decide to go with any normal bread? No. Chocolate cherry sourdough bread is the recipe I deemed a worthy challenge for my baking skills.

Mix everything together, let it sit. Fold it in, let it sit for another half an hour. Fold, sit, fold, sit, fold, sit. It took me all afternoon and evening to get through every fold-and-sit step, taking a minute every half hour to fold the dough and another minute to scrape all the sticky dough off my hands. The recipe told me I would eventually be able to pinch the dough

ting back out again? I am glad to report there are no little frog skeletons in evidence, so they must have found a way.

Fortunately, my husband is working on a separate phase of the project just now, so the suspended water tanks will be available for a while—still, some online research reveals that under optimal conditions, the tadpoles will need at least 60 days to become frogs. They're about an inch long right now, but I have no idea how long ago they hatched. The good news is, when the tarps have to come off, we should be able to transfer the water—tadpoles and all—to the Le Sueur River, which isn't far from our property.

For now, though, I can enjoy the wonder of it.

The tarps held the rain, the water created miniature ponds. Against all odds, at least that's how it seems to me, some frogs found the ponds and laid their eggs. Algae has developed in the water to supply food and, in this artificial environment, there are no fish or other creatures prowling the nursery for a treat.

These seem to be rather lucky little hatchlings. It will be fun to watch as they develop into frogs.

up to form a transparent film thingy – basically it wouldn't break when I stretched it. I'm guessing it was supposed to look like bubble gum when you blow a bubble. Mine did not look like that, and did not pull up nicely when I tried. But at that point it was my bedtime, so I stuck the dough in the fridge to let it be there for the required 14 to 16 hours.

Once again, it took me the rest of the afternoon to let it sit between doing little things to it. Until finally it said I could put it in the oven. After all those hours and hours of preparation and fussing, it only took forty minutes to bake. Ridiculous.

Needless to say, my bread didn't rise. It baked, but stayed round and low. I didn't mind because it was my first attempt — I'm just happy it tasted good. My sister took one bite and spit it out because I guess I had somehow burnt the bottom. I told her to just eat the top, which she did and admitted it wasn't too bad. I'm counting it as a win.

I'm also done using sourdough, in case anyone is wondering.

My Determination: "Life isn't fair, it's just fairer than death, that's all." — William Goldman, The Princess Bride

Scenes from Farm and City Days

Another successful Farm and City Days celebration is in the books.

A couple things really stood out to me as I spent my Saturday walking New Richland's main street.

The number of events for kids.

I was really happy seeing the large amount of entertainment for youths. Ever since the carnival rides and games were removed from Farm and City Days, I felt like something was missing. This year, my impression was that, if I were still a child or teen, I would have had a good time. The 'Kid Zone' as it was dubbed, included a large number of activities in the park, a large rock-climbing setup that went almost 50 feet into the air and a bungee jump/trampoline type setup that looked really appealing. For parents with young kids, it would have made for a very fun, memorable day.

As an adult, I enjoyed the morning pancake breakfast. I was happy to see Sue Kulseth celebrated as this year's grand marshal. She didn't want a big fancy article when she retired, so I respected her privacy and chose not to interview her. In my time working with the school since I graduated in 2016, Sue has been a pleasure to work with and I will miss her. During her acceptance speech, she mentioned the whirlwind her life has been recently as she prepares for



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

her future endeavors.

On Saturday, I had Ben Revermann shadow me as I walked around for the next two hours interviewing the various street vendors. I talked with each of them, asked many questions, and took their pictures. My favorite encounter was the tie lady, Mardell Johnson. She makes beautiful small purses decorated with men's neckties. She described starting the hobby more than 15 years ago when a friend asked her to finish a project; now it's a hobby business. What stood out most was how kind she was and the care she put into the projects she described.

Speaking with Jason Casey was fun, as always. I not only learned a little more about him, at his stand I acquired some of his local honey as well as two retired New Richland Street signs to go with one I already owned. It brings me pleasure that I now have the sign which marked the street I lived on as I was growing up, and the one that once delineated the street where I currently live. Walking by these

signs all my life, I never would have guessed one, or three, would end up in my house one day.

After speaking with the vendors, I snapped some photos at the kid zone, along with other activities before proceeding to the classic car show. It was another great turnout. Eli's newspaper choice award is a tie for any of the mid-60s Mustangs. There was a black one that I really liked.

At 1 p.m. I photographed all of the winners of this year's awards. Speaking with Janda about her Mayor's Choice Award was enlightening. She talked of a restoration project currently underway in her family of a similar vehicle.

Next up was the Adult Tricycle race. It did not disappoint, as I only witnessed one accident and one outrageous outfit. Nearing the end of activities, the kids' tractor pull was a huge hit again.

For lunch, I stopped with friends at the Red Leaf and enjoyed some loaded waffle fries. Oh, and the pleasant company of Theresa. She and husband Dean are a big reason

I enjoy local diners.

At 5 p.m. the parade went through town. I'm not a big fan of all the loud noises, but I do enjoy taking photos as the various parade units pass by. With Ben shadowing me as a learning experience, I emphasized the importance of "framing" photos and talked about how I love to capture happy facial expressions—as far as I'm concerned, the best photos are those which include a natural smile or laugh. There's no better feeling than knowing I've recorded a special moment.

After a nap and some Cowboy Tacos from Blake's food truck, I headed to the street dance with my aunt, cousin Taya and friends. The music, this year, was really good. I enjoyed the song selection; the band's vocals were excellent. The company was also excellent.

All in all, I think the Farm and City Days committee and everyone else involved in this year's celebration did an excellent job and should be commended. I did not mention Friday and Sunday's events, but I trust, from what I heard, they were well enjoyed.

"Life is like a camera. Focus on what's important. Capture the good times. And if things don't work out, just take another shot." — Ziad K. Abdelnour



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Comedy Night at Starfire Event Center Saturday, July 26
Comedians Steve Sabo and Scott Putnam will perform at the Starfire Event Center's Comedy Night at 8 p.m. July 26.

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

Rainbow Loom Bands at Waseca Public Library Monday July 28
Create colorful bracelets with unique patterns at the Waseca Public Library at 1 p.m. Monday, July 28. Geared for ages 7-12.

Mario Kart Tournament at Waseca Public Library Tuesday July 29
Start your engines. Avoid the shells. Fly by competitors. Conquer Rainbow Road at Waseca Public Library at 1 p.m. Tuesday, July 29. This free event is exclusively for ages 13-18.

Solar Printing at Janesville Public Library Tuesday, July 29
Harness the power of the sun to create beautiful prints with botanicals at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 29 at the Janesville Public Library. For ages 13-18.

Superhero Cape Workshop at Janesville Public Library Thursday, July 31
Be ready to save the world in style! Learn how to use a sewing machine to make a superhero cape at 10 a.m. at the Janesville Public Library on Thursday, July 31. For ages 5-12. Registration required.

Virtual Author Event: Pria Anand Waseca-LeSueur Library System on Thursday, July 31
Author Pria Anand will chat about her new book "The Mind Electric": A Neurologist on the Strangeness and Wonder of Our Brains at a virtual Waseca-Le Sueur Regional Library System event at 1 pm on Thursday, July 31.

Waseca Garden Club's Summer Garden Tour Saturday, August 2
The Waseca Garden Club's annual Summer Garden Tour will be from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 2. There will be five stops with maps and refreshments starting at the Bailey-Lewer House at 401 2nd Ave. NE. This event is free of charge but donations are accepted.



FARMERS MARKET FIRSTS - Kiera and Liam Holgren were selling crafts and keychains at the Waseca Farmers Market on Saturday, July 19, 2025. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Holgren's crafts at farmers market

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer
A new stand at the Waseca Farmers Market on Saturday, July 19 featured three Waseca residents. John Holgren, father to Kiera and Liam, was sitting behind them, letting them run the store for a bit while he took a break.
Kiera, who is 13 years old and is going into eighth grade next year, said, "I've been a cheerleader for the past five years. This will be my second time going to nationals. Last year we went to Lexington, Kentucky, where we placed second out of five. We qualified this year, too, up in St. Paul. Our uniforms are a mix of purple, white and black." Liam, 8, her little brother who is going into second grade, claimed he helped to kill the real scorpions used to decorate the keychains he was selling. He walked that statement back a moment later:
"The scorpions just came inside there already, I didn't kill them."
Said John, "We leave tomorrow for Cleveland, Ohio." He pointed at his daughter Kiera, "She's in Waseca's chapter of Champion Force Cheerleading. We tried this [booth] out to help pay for some of the cost." On the table in front of the kids were carefully assembled pens, keychains, scorpions frozen in amber, bracelets and noise-makers. "Kiera and Liam picked these out. We ordered them in kits and spent the week assembling and getting them ready. We got here today at a quarter past seven; this will be our first time doing the farmer's market." The sun was shining warmly, but each of the Holgrens was nice and cool under their awning.
As Liam attempted to garner a customer's attention, Kiera said, "We would like to

NEW RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL

City accepts Martens' resignation, seeks inspector

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editorial Assistant
The members of the New Richland city council reluctantly accepted the resignation of city administrator Anthony Martens during their regular monthly meeting on Monday, July 14. Along with that, the new building inspector was approved and the 2026 preliminary budget was discussed.

Martens resigned as the city administrator after being offered a position with the identical job title for Blooming Prairie. Mayor Janda Ferguson and the council expressed their reluctance to see Martens leave, but wished him well.

"You have done a lot for the city and turned our rating for our bond to go through better. I do appreciate that," Ferguson said. "I wish you good luck."

The council will hire a new administrator with the help of a recruitment consultant from South Central Services Cooperative.

Building inspector Mike Benson is also leaving his position; he offered two recommendations for hiring an outside provider: CMS out of Rochester and Prokore from Mankato. Martens said CMS does not provide all the services the council is looking for and added Prokore seems to be a better fit for a town like New Richland. Along with the new inspector, there will be a change to a majority of dealings being online, with a few hand written forms still in use.

The council formed a new committee whose task it will be to determine a path for golf carts which allows them to cross a combination of public and private property near the creek which runs through a section of town. Membership will consist of one council member and any property owners who wish to be involved.

Continuing their discussion regarding golf carts, council members decided carts are not allowed to drive on the grass in city parks unless the owner is granted a medical exemption because of problems with mobility. Using the example of the Legion Field ball park, council members said motorized traffic in the area could be a danger to pedestrians moving from one field to another. Anyone interested in a medical exemption can submit a request at City Hall.

In new business, the council approved the June check

NR City continued on 10

Starfire B&B sees upgrades

Millers Bed & Breakfast recently saw changes to lobby, rooms

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editorial Assistant
The Millers Bed & Breakfast recently saw some upgrades to their four rooms, including a new website.
Located on the third floor of the Miller Armstrong Building and part of the Starfire Event Center, the bed and breakfast started around 2006, according to events and lodging manager Mindy Jimenez.

The business offers four rooms — three standard and one referred to as "the honeymoon suite." Each room features a king bed, private restroom, cable TV, a sitting area and fireplaces. The honeymoon suite offers the added bonus of a bathtub.
"We redecorated and changed who is taking care of it," Jimenez said. Their website and lobby have also seen some updates with the renovation.
Jimenez mentions the rooms are often booked by wedding parties or guests who use the Starfire Event Center. The honeymoon suite is offered to the bride and groom at no extra cost on their wedding night, so a lot of times the family or the wedding party stays nearby in the bed and breakfast.
"It is great to have these as a fun option for all of our event guests," Jimenez said, mentioning the rooms draw a wide variety of customers including travelling business people and visiting family members of local residents who are looking for an alternative



B&B FUN - Above, the newly renovated lobby of the Millers Bed & Breakfast is located on the third floor of the Miller-Armstrong building. Below, General Manager Tom Linde and Events and Lodging Manager Mindy Jimenez pose in one of the four rooms. Pioneer photo by Amelia Roessler

to a traditional hotel. Many, she said, appreciate the character and uniqueness of staying in a historic building.
The Miller-Armstrong Building was originally constructed in 1900 and used as the WJ Armstrong Wholesale Grocers. The grocery warehouse served the community until the 1980s. In 1981, the building was placed on the National Register of Historic Sites "as the best preserved building and unaltered business representing an important historical link to the railroad," according to the building's website.
Why the bed and breakfast? General Manager Tom Linde said the idea simply evolved as travelers and family members expressed a need.
In the basement is the breakfast, lunch and coffee bar Jonnie Beans. Club '57 is on the main level, serving dinner and happy hours during the week and on Saturdays. Jimenez said guests are given a voucher to use anywhere in the building. Either for breakfast, lunch, dinner or even to use as at the golf simulator across the street in the Event Center.
"We try to get it so it's a one stop shop basically," Linde said.

But running a bed and breakfast isn't always easy. Jimenez said trying to stay similar with other lodgings in town and keeping up with the times can be difficult. Linde said he finds it strange that some people still don't know that Jonnie Beans is in the building, let alone the bed and breakfast.
"You would think people would know, but it's not really on Main, so it's off a couple blocks. That might be a reason," Linde said.
But there's always the fun part

of being in charge of lodgings, meeting new people. Linde said they meet people from all over, from New York to California.
"It's been fun so far to kind of get to take care of and set up and speak with all the guests and hear their fun plans," Jimenez said.
More information about Millers Bed & Breakfast and other amenities in the Miller-Armstrong Building can be found at their website at wasecamac.com.

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OBITUARIES

Mary Jo Evans

Mary Jo Evans, age 61, of Maple Grove, MN, passed away suddenly on Monday, July 7, 2025.

Born June 29, 1964, in Minneapolis, MN, she was the daughter of Irwin “Bud” and Lois (Schroeder) Evans of Waseca, MN.

Mary Jo attended Waseca High School, graduating in 1982. During her time in school, she was involved with OEA (Office Education Association) and worked part time at Waseca Mutual Insurance Company. After graduating, she found a job in Bloomington, MN, and stayed in the Metro area. Her current job was with Park Avenue of Wayzata, MN, for the past 24 years.

Friends may greet the family at 11:00 am at Brick-Meger Funeral Home (1603 Austin Rd, Owatonna, MN) on Saturday, August 9, 2025. There will be a celebration of Mary Jo’s life at 11:30 am, at which friends and family will have



Mary Jo Evans

the opportunity to share memories. This will be followed by a luncheon.

Mary Jo was preceded in death by her brother, sister, parents, and grandparents. If you are unable to attend or uncomfortable reading a memory out loud, please share your memories at www.meger-cares.com.

Lisa Anne Beschnitt

Lisa Anne Scheuerman Beschnitt, 61, of Owatonna, passed away on July 17, 2025.

Lisa was born February 11, 1964, in Minneapolis to Thomas and Jean Scheuerman. She graduated from Stillwater High School, earned her degree from the University of Wisconsin, and completed her Master’s in Art Education at the University of Minnesota. She married Bil Beschnitt in 1996 and dedicated her life to mentoring and teaching youth through Young Life, Trinity Lutheran Church, and as an art teacher in the Austin and Owatonna schools.

She is survived by her husband, Bil; mother, Jean Scheuerman MacDonald; and siblings: Susan (Brad) of Richfield, MN; David (Heather) of Lakeland, MN; Michael (Kelly) of Bend, OR; Tony (Zina) of Woodbury, MN; Sarah (Joe) of Edina, MN; Cuong (Tiffany) of Inver Grove Heights, MN; and Sharm (Lisa) of Claremont, CA; along with



Lisa Beschnitt

many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her father, Thomas J. Scheuerman.

A visitation will be held Friday, July 25, 2025, from 4:00–7:00 p.m. at Brick-Meger Funeral Home (1603 Austin Road, Owatonna). Visitation will continue at Trinity Lutheran Church (609 Lincoln Avenue, Owatonna) Saturday, July 26, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., followed by the funeral service at 11:00 a.m.

Wrestling

from Page 1

ing the opponents’ arm forward away from their body reduces the leverage they can apply.

Matches are observed by two officials watching from opposite sides. The referees’ job is much more extensive than announcing the winner—the two watch for rule violations and help to do with the competitors’ hand positions, certain types of movements or changes in stance, and more.

Those rules and expectations, as well as certain tips and warnings, are the reason arm wrestlers hold group practices, Alex and Jolene explain.

The two have hosted local practice sessions, using social media and word of mouth to invite any interested people to attend. In fact, the two have a session planned at noon on Saturday, Sept. 6, at Club ‘57. “We hope lots of people will come and learn more,” says Jolene.

Alex mentions that during his youth he enjoyed playing both basketball and football. “It was fun to get out there and test myself,” he remembers of competing in those team sports.

“But after I injured my knee, those just weren’t an option any more.” He mentions two surgeries and a feeling of still not having recovered his full ability.

“Arm wrestling has given me the chance to be competitive again,” he says. “It’s a setting where I can test myself and still do well.”

For any who attend a practice, the two continue, there is no obligation, just an opportunity to learn more and try something new. “We start out gradually,” says Jolene. “We don’t want to overwhelm anyone by trying to tell them everything at once.”

“The funny thing about the practices,” says Alex, “is that they’re all about helping each other get better. We work together, we show each other what it takes to win.” The atmosphere, he continues, is nearly family-like.

The same mood prevails at competitions. “Win or lose, we can face each other at the table, then have a friendly conversation about it afterwards,” he says. “The next thing you know, we might be repairing a car together like best friends.”

The long-term aspect of the sport, Alex mentions, has to do with personal workouts. “It’s not all about lifting weights,” he comments. “You’re working long-term to strengthen not only muscles, but even tendons and bones.” He says he uses resistance straps for many of his exercises, and even stops physical exertion altogether a few days before going to a competition. “I load up on carbs,” he shares.

As he tests himself against opponents, he says, he is able to evaluate how well his conditioning exercises have been working.

He and Jolene also mention there is a significant mental component to competitions. “You have to work on your own confidence,” says Jolene. “And maybe that helps you look more intimidating to your opponent.”

Library helps young spies enhance skills

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Codebreaking Legos, alarm lasers, invisible writing, memory tests, scavenger hunts and more were at the Waseca Public Library’s Spy School event. Based on the Stuart Gibbs book series, around 20 young participants were able to test their spy skills in many ways on Thursday July 17; some even had previous spy training.

The activity the children seemed to be most interested in at first was the scavenger hunt. Using their brains and observational skills, they searched for a series of eight random words written around the library on walls, behind chairs or under bookshelves for a secret message. Once the message was decoded it

read, “Meet me by the red door at midnight.” Nearby, volunteer Jake Leiser had strung yarn back and forth between bookshelves to create a mock laser alarm system. Participants had to weave their way among the “laser beams” as they navigated the event’s activities. Leiser, a consistent volunteer at the library, said he was glad to help with the event.

Most of the children were able to crawl under the lasers, jumping up and down in triumph once the other side was reached.

Soon-to-be fifth-grader Nevaeh showed up for the event a few minutes late but caught up with everyone else quickly; she also started with the scavenger hunt. She said she wanted to focus on practical skills the event could teach her. “I think it’s pretty good



SPY SCHOOL- Easton and Everly were busy practicing to become successful spies at the Waseca Public Library’s Spy School on Thursday, July 17, 2025.

for training for a library. I’ve been self-taught at home for the past five years as a spy, so you know I’ve got a lot of experience.”

Kelly Sutlief was volunteering with a memory game; children would see a picture in one container, then look at a similar picture, minus a few items in another container and try to determine what was missing. There was also a table with invisible ink and special black-light flashlights to

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann allow spies to share hidden messages back and forth. Sadie Schimming was going from spy to spy to help those who needed a hint or a clue. The codebreaking Legos went over pretty well, once the rules were established.

The Waseca Public Library has a full schedule of events all summer long. They are listed at <https://wasecalesueurlibraries.com/events/>.



Stained glass mosaics at Janesville Public Library

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

There was a dangerously exciting, and safely supervised, art demonstration at the Janesville Public Library on Tuesday, July 15, involving glass and glass cutters, with beautiful results. Participants 12 years old and younger learned to make mosaics using stained glass; the instructor was professional St. Cloud artist Laura Ruprecht. Head librarian Kelly Koplen let learners know the session was funded by a state program known as the arts and cultural heritage fund. Then she added, “Thank you for coming out; I hope you enjoy this because it looks really cool.”

Glass expert Ruprecht, earned her bachelor’s degree in art from the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph. It seemed clear she knew what she was doing; assorted pans with different colors of stained glass were set out nearby. Eleven children lined up around the table, each equipped with safety glasses, glass cutters, a small, black-lined piece of glass to glue the

stained glass to, and a baggie filled with glue. Each young artist selected a picture—choices included Christmas trees, music notes, turtles, cats, dogs, or fish. The selected template was taped to the back of their glass, so the design was clearly visible. Pieces of glass were fastened down using the provided special glue.

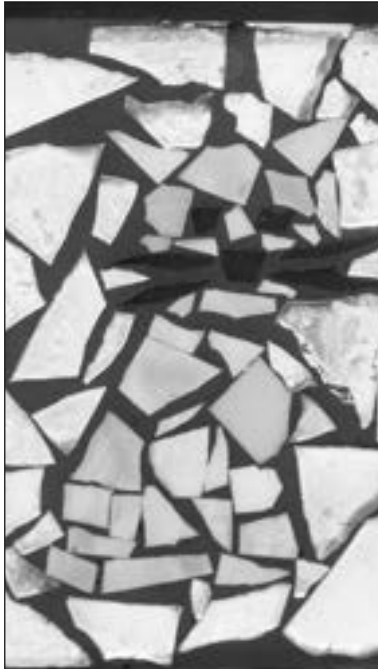
With 12 different stained-glass colors in Ruprecht’s “glass buffet” to choose from, each child had a rich supply of colors and shapes to work with. Said Ruprecht, “Don’t try to cut the glass in a certain way; try instead to take the broken pieces and use them as they are to match your picture, just like a puzzle. When you try to cut them down you often lose too much shape and have to start over again.”

Said Ruprecht, “Right now I’m going around to every library in the Waseca LeSueur Library System and giving these classes.” She reminded a child to put their safety glasses back on, “I don’t want anyone cut but just in case we do have band

aids.” Those safety precautions paid off because no children were injured, although some did walk away with sticky fingers.

Ruprecht also sent home some supplies for learners to use later: powdered grout, a sponge, protective gloves and instructions for finishing their pictures. There was also a backing for the mosaics so they can be hung on the wall. The grout will fill in the edges so the only light will be through the colored glass, which completes the picture. “But” said Ruprecht, “You must wait 24 hours until the glue is completely dry.” None of the children forgot their goodie bags nor their mosaics.

More information about Ruprecht is available at lauralizmosaicbiz.com, on Instagram it’s @lauralizmosaicbiz.



MESMERIZING MOSAIC- Juniper Revermann, Stella Myhr and Maya Olson attended the Mosaic Class at the Janesville Public Library on Tuesday, July 15, 2025. Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann



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■ Farm and City

from Page 1

Meat's kids' grilling contest, and Power Pedal Tractor Pull for ages 4 to 11 (sponsored by NR Auto Repair, Midwest Repairables and Thompson's Body Shop).

Saturday night included a well behaved-crowd at the street celebration, including AZBY performing. Advertised as ending at "midnight," the event went until about 12:15 a.m. and included numerous stoppages due to "power issues."

A parade showcased many, many groups and organizations. Selected as this year's parade grand marshal was Sue Kulseth. After 10 years as administrative assistant to the superintendent at NRHEG, Kulseth retired at the end of the school year.

A plethora of other events took place, including Water Wars with the New Richland Fire Department, and many different displays throughout town.

These displays and more are shown throughout this edition of the newspaper.

This year's winning button numbers are:

- \$100 - 145
- \$75 - 371
- \$50 - 220
- \$25 - 295
- \$25 - 563

The Farm and City Days Committee deserves a lot of credit in its efforts to put together our annual community-wide celebration. "It was great to be able to be together," SaraJo Vulcan said.

Thanks to everyone who made it a success." The committee includes: Angela and Ryan Gehrke, SaraJo Vulcan, Brandy Jacobson and Sam Morgan. If you see them, thank them for a job well done!

Farm & City Days Parade Grand Marshals

- 2025 — Sue Kulseth
- 2024 — Mitch Heimer
- 2023 — Kathy (Schumacher, Flor) Hinkley
- 2022 — State Bank of New Richland, Bonnerup Funeral Home, and NRHEG Star Eagle
- 2021 — Karl and Tammy Proehl
- 2019 — Chris Schlaak
- 2018 — Carlie Wagner

- 2017 — Mary Ebnet and Rick Schulz
- 2016 — Town & Country Garden Club — Kris Pfeffer, De-lores Bartholmey, Mary Sack, Joanie Proehl, Pastor Charles Espe, Lou Anderson, Julie Phinney, Jodi Johnson, Betty Hullo-peter, Avis Rugroden, Mike Phinney, Barb Finseth, Kay Adams, Dawn Halgren, Gerald Hullo-peter, Eleanor Schlaak, Janae Janike
- 2015 — Wayne and Merlys Wenzel
- 2014 — Surviving WWII veterans: Richard Crumb, Eugene Warke, Bud Shurson, Donnie Bartness, Tony Arnfelt, Dr. Albert Flor, Gordon Peterson, Harold Thompson, Winston Evenson, Kenneth Eaton, Donald Smith, Audrinne Smith, Marie Querna
- 2013 — 2012-13 NRHEG Girls' Basketball Team — Hannah Lundberg, Maddie Wagner, Marnie Wagner, Carlie Wagner, Abby Crabtree, Paige Overgaard, Anna Stork, Jade Schultz, Katie Cole, Kelli Harrington, Raelin Schue, Ryann Hagen
- 2012 — Gail Schmidt
- 2011 — Pastor Paul Andree
- 2010 — Larry and Pam Goehring
- 2009 — Myron Schumacher
- 2008 — Gene and Sylvia Dodge
- 2007 — Mary Ann Schlaak
- 2006 — Vince Peterson
- 2005 — Don and Audrinne Smith
- 2004 — Pastor Phil Lewison
- 2003 — Gene and Mildred Budach
- 2002 — Orrin Ribbe (Honorary Gary Billing)
- 2001 — Bernie Anderson
- 2000 — Dale and Dawn Halgren
- 1999 — Beth Wesselhoeft
- 1998 — Jim Jessen
- 1997 — Margaret Engesser
- 1996 — Pastor Charles Espe
- 1995 — Lee Mendenhall
- 1994 — Gene Amley
- 1993 — Elmer and Marilyn Quiram
- 1992 — Jean Horn
- 1991 — Bill Robinson
- 1990 — Vince and Edna Erdmann
- 1989 — Herb Prescher
- 1988 — Abraham Family
- 1987 — Dr. Albert Flor
- 1986 — Harry Anderson
- 1985 — Leo Eckart
- 1984 — Dr. George H. Olds

Ventriloquist James Wedgwood entertains

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

James Wedgwood, comedian, ventriloquist and more performed at the New Richland City Hall during the Farm and City Days festival on Saturday, July 19. From one till two o'clock, as the cars from the car show packed up and pulled out, Wedgwood was pulling in laughs inside to a medium-sized audience.

Wedgwood, a 38-year veteran of his craft, has performed at the Minnesota State Fair 17 times. Since the 90s he's been on national television, and worked in 42 states at corporate events, private functions and commercial enterprises. Thanks to the New Richland Friends of the Library, he was at the 2025 Farm and City Days. Wedgwood brought along some of his friends, including a leprechaun named Patrick McWiggins, whose first words were, "We're gonna boogie woogie woogie." The little man dressed in green with a stove-top hat also performed a magic trick; he caused Wedgwood's tie to

lift up away from his chest, which delighted the crowd. His grandfather Mr. McNurny was also there; he was elderly, but seemed to have a lot of energy. His greatest talent was the flexibility of his face, almost like a rubber band.

People were brought up on stage to assist in the show. A woman named Nicole in the second row's purse was brought up on stage—apparently one of the ventriloquist characters was inside. No one saw it, but they all heard it, and it didn't want to come out, so Wedgwood handed the purse back and the show moved on. Dawn and Kevin were brought up on stage. Another of Wedgwood's characters, Bill the Bird, was instantly infatuated with her, possibly because of her green shirt.



BOOGIE WOOGIE WOOGIE - Comedian, ventriloquist extraordinaire James Wedgwood performed at city hall during the New Richland Farm and City Days on Saturday, July 19, 2025.

There was a dry-erase board named Doodle that came to life. He had moving eyes and a mouth, and his girlfriend is the Mona Lisa. His nose and ears were erased and redrawn in a style more suited to his liking. There was also a class taught to Juniper and Alex; they were handed a puppet themselves, a chimpanzee and a frog. They were instructed to take difficult words, like "jellyfish" and "alligator" and try to say those words without moving their lips—to some hilarity.

Wedgwood gave a 45-minute show with time for questions afterwards. In answer to one query, he revealed how he got started: "When I was nine years old my aunt gave me two records and a Danny Oday doll, (which is a ventriloquist dummy), from there I was hooked."

Anyone wishing to book Wedgwood for a show can contact him via email at moc.doowgdewse-maj@ofni or by phone at 651-336-3663.

Waseca County Board increases wheelage tax, talks bandshell

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

During their regular meeting on July 15, members of the Waseca County Board of Commissioners voted to increase the county's "wheelage" tax—a fee paid at the time a vehicle's registration is renewed—to \$20. The fee had been \$10 per vehicle since 2014.

The recommendation for the increase came from county highway engineer Jim Kollar; his stated intent is to increase funds available to hire contractors to seal coat bituminous roads—a process of applying a mixture of oil and pea gravel to the road surface which, Kollar claimed, can extend the usable life of a road by 7 to 10 years.

Kollar told commissioners his goal is to have about 25 miles of roadway seal coated each year; hiring contractors for the work costs up to \$550,000 yearly. When commissioners asked him whether county highway workers could perform the work rather than hiring contractors, Kollar

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

conceded that yes, current employees have the equipment needed to apply seal coating, but went on to say they could not work at the pace or level of efficiency of contractors who have large-scale equipment and well practiced crews. Furthermore, Kollar said, the contract price includes repainting lines.

He went on to say the length of the construction season places pressure on highway crews to perform many tasks of many different types in a relatively short time, and so assigning them to seal coat roads using limited equipment seems an inefficient use of county resources.

At \$10 per vehicle, Kollar summarized, the wheelage tax was bringing in about \$190,000 a year. He expects the increased fee will garner about \$380,000, reducing the drain on other funds used to support highway maintenance and construction.

Though commissioners stated hesitancy about increasing a tax, they expressed satisfaction that the money will be collected from vehicle owners and go directly toward maintaining the roads vehicles use.

Commissioners approved about \$350,000 for the purchase and installation of new rooftop heating and cooling structures at the community services building located at 1000 W. Elm Avenue in Waseca. Existing aging units will be removed and replaced with four "top of the line" units; occupancy sensors will also be installed to help with automatic temperature adjustment.

Facilities manager Brian Tomford reported that, because the heating and cooling system of the building had been modified by businesses which occupied parts of the structure before the county purchased it in 2020, regulating temperatures in the building as a whole has been highly problematic. Furthermore, the units

scheduled for removal are now past their anticipated usable lifespan, having been in use since about 2010.

Tomford also addressed the board on a separate matter, the possible construction of a bandshell at Courthouse Park. Commissioners tabled the matter for two weeks with the intent of establishing a committee to address priorities and options as development of the park continues.

Discussion on the matter included optimal locations for structures and play equipment, as well as ways to try and balance the many different ways the park is used—from large gatherings including weddings and reunions to camping to wilderness exploration and equine recreation.

Commissioner De Malterer suggested a work session saying "We need to look at the park as a whole, with a map in front of us to help us make some philosophical decisions."



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■ Council

from Page 1

"My working plan is to bring [the capital outlay] down."

Sonnenberg said he will be coming to the council over the next few months to discuss decreasing the number of capital programs, of which he said Waseca has many.

The water, sewer, electric and storm water fund were also discussed in detail, with few concerns expressed for each. The tax rate trended above the peer groups, with the tax rate per capita right in line, trending even a little lower than peer groups. Schmidt said it is typical to see increases in this category and to keep in mind that taxes per capita should go up with inflation costs.

The city's audit is posted online on the City of Waseca's website.

The council approved a permit to paint murals on two existing grain silos located at 212 Third Avenue Northwest, at the old EACO Mill site near Loon Lake. The mills were originally built by Wiliam Everett in 1870.

Steve Delaitsch of Delaitsch Studios and artist of the project, was at the meeting to answer questions and explain the images he intends to use, which show horses pulling a wagon or carriage. The council had no questions about the mural, but

expressed excitement and was curious about Delaitsch's process.

"What a fantastic tribute to the Everett family and the flour mill company," Mayor Randy Zimmerman said.

Delaitsch said he plans to start sometime in August, with the murals likely to be finished yet this fall.

In reports, councilmember Mark Christiansen said the Park Board talked about finishing the Ash Tree grant project to use the money to help remove ash trees and plant new ones. He added the installation of new playground equipment at Northeast Park is finishing up shortly and that the board signed the contract for restoration services for Maplewood Park Lodge.

Mayor Zimmerman and councilmember James Ebertowski updated the council regarding the economic development authority (EDA) meeting and said there are a lot of things happening in terms of economic development in the city. They said they had toured the newly remodeled AmericInn, which has 54 units. It was mentioned it will probably be made public this month what type of business will be opening in the former Taco Johns location.

The meeting adjourned an hour later, with the next regular city council meeting being Wednesday, Aug. 6 due to Nite to Unite on Tuesday, Aug. 5.



ART IN THE MAKING - Top, City Planner Jon Froke and artist Steve Delaitsch showed the council the lifesize example of the art that would go on the grain bins. Bottom, a model of what the grain bins would look like. Pioneer photo by Amelia Roessler

Farm and City Days, July 18, 19 and 20, 2025



From left, NRHEG Seniors Camryn VanMaldeghem, Kyleah Miller and Gabby Schlaak run their "Dirty Soda" stand. Farm and City Days was the official launch of their business "Sassy Sota" which sells carbonated beverages with the additions of syrups or other flavors.

'It's fun and we want to do it,' Schlaak said. 'I told my mom I think this will work and we can make some money at it.'



The Weber family participated in the "Earth Ball" activity. Pictured here are Luke; Jennifer; Agatha, 9; and Virginia, 7.



2015 NRHEG Graduate Bianca Kohnert and her mom Nikki Kohnert ran a booth during the vendor fair at Farm and City Days.

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Jason Casey, 70, and 2018 JWP Graduate Brookelyn Glackler of Waldorf operated a honey stand during the Saturday craft and vendor show on New Richland's main street. Casey founded Sun Honey in 2014, and currently has 60 beehives in 12 locations.



The winner of the \$100 cash prize for the Tricycle Races, Ben Waldhauser.



Mardell Jacobson uses men's neckties to make purses. Jacobson started this hobby business more than 15 years ago when a friend introduced her to it. Her most popular items include Elvis or Beatles themed purses. Jacobson did not give a specific length of time needed to create a purse, but said it takes a number of hours. She has hundreds of ties on hand for projects which she picks up from thrift stores.



Jason Keck, a 2011 graduate of Waseca High School, stands at his booth, Keck's Sweets and Treats. To create his products, he spends anywhere from four to 12 hours freeze drying commercial candies to modify their taste.

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Ralph Keyes sits at the loom, creating a rug. Photos by Eli Lutgens



Mayor's Choice winner at the 2025 Farm and City Days car show was Steve Helkenn with his 1952 Dodge extended cab pickup. Helkenn stands with Mayor Janda Ferguson.



Denise Joecks and Barb Finseth talk outside the morning pancake breakfast.



Josh Moen and Josh Babcock help cook sausages for the pancake breakfast.

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Pioneer photos
by Eli Lutgens

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The
Pastor's Column

When called by the wrong name

By PASTOR RICK WULF

Vanellope von Schweetz knew that she was something special. She knew she was born to race. She believed in her heart that she was destined for the top of the leaderboard. But to everyone else, she was not known as a great racer. She wasn't seen as a worthy opponent. Instead, she was known as...a glitch. All the other racers called her glitch. Even King Candy led the charge in making sure she knew she was a nobody. But Vanellope didn't believe she was a glitch. She saw something in herself that no one else was able to see.

You may remember this as the storyline from one of my favorite Pixar movies, Wreck-It Ralph. As I watched the movie for the first, second, fifteenth time, I would find myself in the same racecar as Vanellope. I hear the voices of those around me telling me everything I am not. I hear the chants of unworthy, unable, and unqualified. I hear, "you were born to lose." And then I soon realize that those voices aren't just coming from without, but now, from within. The voices that once were just "out there" began to sound a whole lot like my own voice. And I began to listen to the voices in my own head telling me that I am a glitch. I hear, "You're too flawed. You're too broken. You're too faulty. I hear, You'll never amount to anything and those around you are better off with someone smarter, wiser, better."

As much as I hate to write these things aloud, maybe they aren't unlike the voices you hear in your own head. I began to ask myself, "Where do these thoughts keep coming from?" The truth is, I know where the thoughts come from. My adversary, the accuser of the brethren, reminds me every day who I am. And he's right. I am all of those things. I am faulty. I am broken. I am unworthy. I am a glitch. But here is the best news you might hear all day. I don't go by those names any longer. And he can keep calling me by those names, but as I learn to listen to the voices of my Creator, my Father, the Lover of my soul, I refuse to answer. Why? Because that is

not my name. I have a new name, given to me by my the One who knows the real me. Not the glitch, but the gem of His eye. Not the unworthy servant, but His worthy son, for which He was willing to send His Son. Not as broken, but as brand-new, created in His image for His purpose. And when you are tempted to forget, or you think that the wrong name is somehow correct, remember this: The world can call you a glitch, but the Father has created you for greatness.

Maybe you need some reminders from God's love letter to us. Ephesians 2:10 writes, "For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago." 1 John 4:4 which speaks of the power of God's Spirit in us writes, "the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world." Romans 8:38-39, "I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:1 reads, "So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus."

The Word of God speaks truth to our life and our struggles. So, when you question your value, worth, and identity, run to the Source of all joy and peace. And find Him and His kindness in His Word. As we let His voice fill our mind, we begin to hear a gentle voice calling us to Himself.

In the end, Vanellope crosses the finish line, restoring her memory and status as Princess Vanellope, the game's ruler and lead character, while keeping her advantageous glitching ability. What a powerful reminder. What Satan reminds you is your weakness, God has the power to use for His glory. Your glitch just may end up being what makes you great.

‘Ask a Trooper’: throwing items

By SGT. TROY CHRISTIANSON OF THE MINNESOTA STATE PATROL

Question: Somebody was trying to tell me the other day that it's ok to throw out their fruit peels along the highway as they break down fairly quick and it shouldn't be an issue. I disagreed and told them garbage is garbage. I asked if they would want someone to throw that stuff in their yard. What does the law say?

Answer: You are correct. That would not be allowed. It is illegal to throw items from your vehicle onto streets, roads, and public or private land. Do not throw, leave, place or dump any items, including: cigarettes,

fireworks, debris, snow, ice, glass, nails, tacks, wire, cans, garbage, papers, ashes, refuse, carcasses, offal, trash or rubbish.

You can avoid a ticket — and a crash — if you simply buckle up, drive at safe speeds, pay attention and of course, drive sober. Help us drive Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths.

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota, send your questions to Trp. Troy Christianson – Minnesota State Patrol at 2900 48 th Street NW, Rochester MN 55901-5848. or reach him at, Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us.

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Waseca Braves blow out the Spiders

By JIM LUTGENS
Staff Writer

The Waseca Braves amateur baseball team put it all together Friday night, blowing out the visiting Cleveland Spiders 12-0 in seven innings at Tink Larson Field. It completed a season sweep of Cleveland for the Braves.

Right-hander Tyson Reger led the way for Waseca, pitching a complete-game three-hitter, striking out 14 and walking none. The Braves backed him with errorless defense.

"It was a great pitched game by Tyson Reger," said Braves coach Tink Larson. "It might be the first time in his career in which he pitched a complete game without walking or hitting a batter."

Offensively, Keato Roeker led a 10-hit attack, going 4-for-4 at the plate. He had two RBIs, scored three runs and stole two bases.

"Keato continued his hot hitting," said Larson.

Reger helped his own cause by going 2-for-3 and scoring two runs. Kelvin Nelson went 2-for-4 while driving in three runs. Also getting hits for the Braves were Kyle Waugh and Payton Garza. Waugh scored twice, as did Jimmy Loonan.

The Braves stranded five baserunners, two more than Cleveland.

"We also took advantage of a number of Cleveland wild pitches, along with several Spider errors," said Larson.

A shorthanded Braves squad took a beating from the Wells Wildcats 18-7 Saturday night at Larson Field. Wells took the lead in the fifth inning, scoring eight runs on two hits.

"Walks and errors hurt us," said Larson.

Reger hit the first home run of his career at any level. The Braves nearly bounced back Sunday at Morristown before falling 14-13 in 12 innings.

"It was another poorly played game by the Braves," said Larson. "We had five errors for the second game in a row."

Waseca had a 10-6 lead in the sixth inning and gave up six runs.

"Had we made a couple of plays that inning, they would have scored just one run," said Larson.

There were several highlights for the Braves. Waugh had two home runs. Oliver O'Brien hit his first home run as a Braves player. Payton Garza and Sebastian Teague had three hits each, as did Waugh.

Adding hits were Roeker, Loonan and Zach Hoehn. Nelson was fantastic in relief. He had thrown only one inning all year. He came in and pitched five shutout innings before giving up the winning run in the 12th inning.

The Harmon brothers, Landon and Tate, both homered for Morristown as did Matt Samerow.

Kyle Green was the winning pitcher in relief, pitching the final four innings for Morristown without giving up a hit.

In other recent action, the Braves took a 14-3 loss at league-leading Waterville, which defeated Waseca for the second time this season.

"We had a couple rough innings where they hit the ball real well," said Larson. "They have a very good team."

The Braves, who left six baserunners stranded, totaled three errors. The Indians collected 13 hits and two errors and stranded none.

Roeker again led offensively, going 2-for-3. Logan Reger, Nelson, Ryan Hanson and Sebastian Teague contributed one hit apiece.

Tyson Reger and Danny Cromer pitched for Waseca. Reger took the loss, striking out seven and walking two through 4 2/3 innings on the mound.

The Braves hosted Stewartville and came up short at Larson Field, falling 8-4.

"This was a game we could have won," said Larson.

Hanson took the pitching loss, giving up eight hits and eight walks.

"He pitched well for seven innings, other than allowing too many walks," said Larson.

Stewartville stranded 14 baserunners, Waseca five. Garza and Nelson pitched in relief. Roeker was 2-for-3, Tyson Reger 2-for-4. Nelson, Waugh and Ben Schoenrock added one hit apiece.

"We didn't hit the ball well, other than

Roeker and Reger," said Larson.

The Braves played errorless defense while Stewartville had two fielding miscues. They traveled to Owatonna and lost 8-4 to the Aces.

"It was nice to play a game again, although it was not a good one for us," said Larson. "We had no errors, but we only had three hits until our final at-bats."

Hoehn and Tyson Reger were both 2-for-3, with Roeker and Garza getting one hit apiece. Both teams stranded six baserunners. Like the Braves, Owatonna played errorless defense. Tyson Reger started on the mound and took the loss. Hanson and Garza pitched in relief.

"We have a couple real tough ones coming up with Stewartville and Waterville, both very good teams, but the challenge should be fun," said Larson.

The Braves, shorthanded on pitching, fell 10-0 to a tough Eagle Lake squad at Larson Field.

"We ran into a very good Eagle Lake team," said Larson. "We could have made a contest of it, but we couldn't get a hit with runners on base. We left 14 runners on base in the final seven innings and didn't score a run with all those chances."

O'Brien was 3-for-5, Hanson 2-for-4. Waugh also hit safely. Carter McQuery started on the mound and took the loss, with Teague and Hanson throwing in relief. Waseca had one fielding error, Eagle Lake none.

Quiet council meeting, many updates

It was a quiet meeting for the Waldorf City Council on Monday, July 14. With two council members not in attendance, only Mayor Rob Wilkening and members Carrie Ferch, Jamie Beckstrand and Cody Schnepf were in attendance.

In old business, the council adopted a resolution for the Minnesota Historical Society approving the retention schedule request made by the council. This is a plan for managing government records and establishes a records disposition panel; an expectation is that many records will need to be converted to a digital format.

In new business, city resident DuWayne Enter asked council members to consider rezoning the property of Lorraine Muller from residential to commercial. Enter said he is interested in starting a storage rental facility on one lot and putting storage containers on the second lot. He added that he would like to try it out on the first lot and if it works well, would mirror it on the second lot and have the second lot be an option for

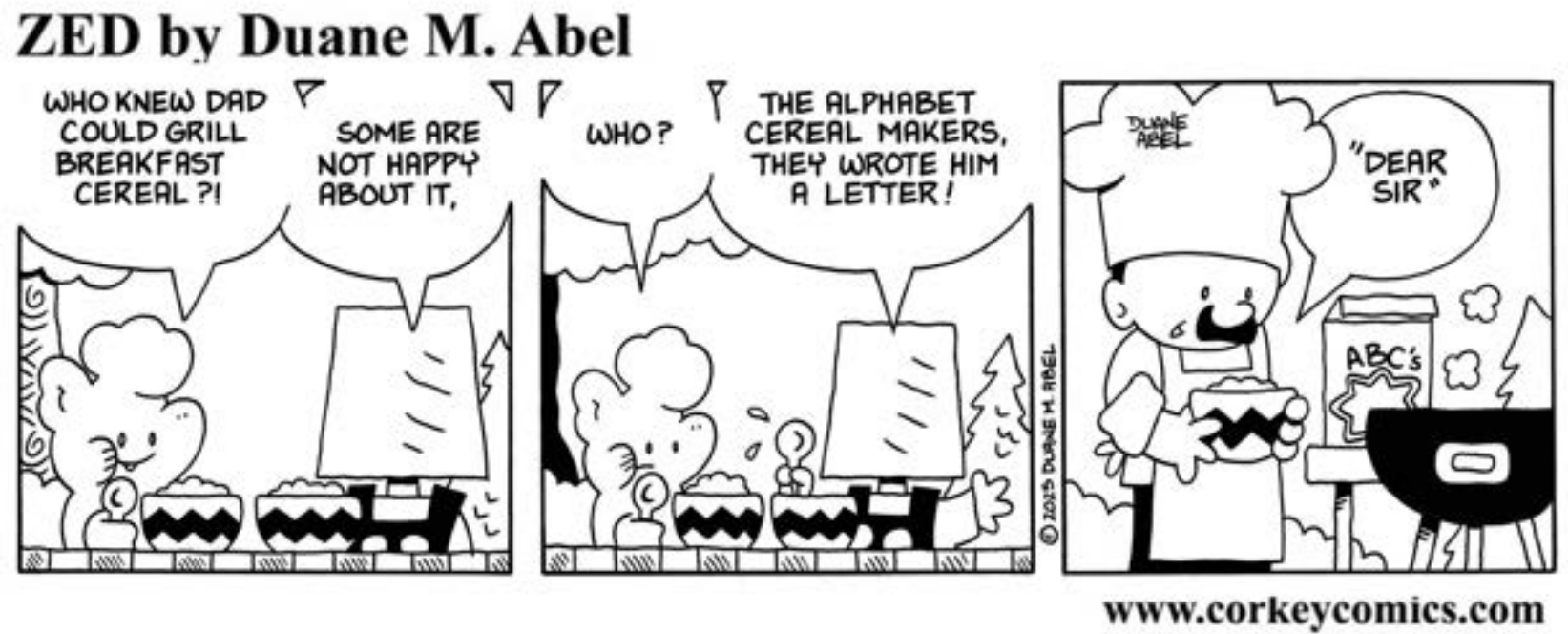
the public to use. Wilkening explained the process of what would need to happen in order for that to happen and told Enter they would set up a time to meet the following week for further discussion.

The council also approved the water/sewer report at the meeting, as well as the off-site gambling license for the fire department's raffle during its burger feed. Both Ferch and Schnepf abstained from the gambling vote due to their involvement with the fire department.

In Wilkening's report, he shared that

flexible connectors known as "boots" had failed in manhole covers located along the sanitary sewer on Third Street. He went on to say that likely means more of the boots are failing, but suggested that, to start with, the city begin by replacing the three known couplings. He stated the price of replacement is "reasonable."

Wilkening also told council members he is impressed with the results of recent seal coating work done on city streets. He also said everything with the community center is going well and that the new custodian hired is doing well.



Attend the Church of your Choice!

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH 2200 4th St NE, Waseca 507-835-2235 Service times 9:30 a.m. * * *	620 W Elm Ave, Waseca 507-607-8245 Sunday worship 10 a.m. * * *	VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * *	Sunday — 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School Wednesday — 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages 12-18 * * *
4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH 605 4th St NE, Waseca 507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker) Worship Sundays 10 a.m. * * *	CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS 1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca 507-835-4640 Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m. * * *	VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Brian Schanil Pastor Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School Tuesdays: The Shepherd's Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 412 N. Main Street, Janesville Pastor Jason Wolter Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:30 a.m. Worship * * *
FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-3167 Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m. * * *	GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 1221 8th St SE, Waseca 507-835-2213 Sunday worship 10:45 a.m.; 6:00 p.m. * * *	ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Father Glenn Ferichs Friday - 10 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays p.m. Mass Sunday - Mass at 8 a.m. * * *	JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 401 N. West St., Janesville Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship * * *
CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH 309 6th St NE, Waseca 507-835-9176 Worship Sundays traditional 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship; 10:45 a.m. contemporary service * * *	CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY 900 14th Ave SE, Waseca 507-833-1082 Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening 6:30 p.m. * * *	FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod Waldorf, Minnesota Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Larry Sipe Sundays: Worship 8 a.m.; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and adult bible class * * *	BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 43089 180th St., Morristown Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Summer worship hours, (10:45 a.m. Worship, winter) * * *
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 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 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. * * *	REAL LIFE CHURCH * * *	THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS Brad Donner, Branch President Waseca, Minnesota www.lds.org * * *	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

- Mrs. Edward O'Brien died at her home a mile and a half north of Waldorf Sunday morning after an illness of several months duration. Mrs. O'Brien had been a resident of this locality for many years and had gained the confidence and respect of a wide circle of friends and acquaintances in this section of the county. She was born in Wisconsin November 4, 1867, and came to this county in her youth with her parents, and after her marriage made her home continuously on the farm north of Waldorf.

- At the meeting of the County Commissioners at Waseca Monday and Tuesday of this week, the appropriation for carrying on the work of the Farm Bureau, \$1,500, was made without any objections. In a few counties the question of the advisability of aiding the work has brought out real fights, though in most instances the objections arose over sectional differences in the county.

- The Waseca County automobile owners paying \$16.40 car tax this year have average machines, on the basis of 1925 state motor vehicle registration figures to July 1, as made public this week. Those who pay more have better than average cars. The majority of Minnesota owners, however, are paying only the \$12 minimum tax. The general average auto tax is lower than that on any other kind of property in the state, although car owners are receiving special, direct returns in good roads reductions of operating expenses.

1950

- Mrs. Ray Nolan, Janesville, has been reappointed a lay member of the Waseca County welfare board by Jarle Leirfallom, state welfare director. Mrs. Nolan began her two-year term of office Thursday at the welfare board meeting in Waseca. This was announced by Donald Fisher, executive secretary of the Waseca County welfare agency. The other lay member on the Welfare board is Mrs. J. F. Cahill Sr., of Waseca, reappointed last year from a panel of prominent citizens for a term ending in 1951.

- Final figures on sales of Series E Savings Bonds in the 1950 independence drive for Waseca County will be released next week, according to Emerson C. Ward, county bond chairman. Mr. Ward pointed out that last week's sales amounted to \$4,443, bringing the county total through July 8 to \$52,779, or 82.4 percent of its campaign quota, which is \$64,000. Statewide, sales for the week in E bonds amounted to \$1,729,843, bringing the total E bond sales since the Independence drive opened May 15 to \$10,081,113, or \$5,066,887 short of the \$15,148,000 goal with a week to go. Percentage of the state goal reached 66.5 percent.

- Dr. Lawrence R. Russ, chiropractor, is now practicing his profession in Waseca. He was born on September 16, 1922. A native of Minneapolis, he graduated from West High School. In March 1946, he was married to Diana Dabrowski of Adams, Massachusetts. They have two children, a boy and a girl. Michael Bradford is three and a half years old and Cynthia Gail was two on the fourth of July. Dr. Russ is a Marine veteran of World War II and was honorably discharged as a noncommissioned officer. His six years of military service includes two years in the Pacific theatre of operations and three years with the Maring Fighting Squadron 213, Naval Air Station, Minneapolis.

1975

- Joe Chapman, 10, burst through the door of the Janesville Argus Monday morning with a smile so big it almost covered up his freckles. "Boy, dad, have I got a story for you!" he said while frantically unfolding a piece of paper he had crammed in his jeans pocket. "We just say a plane crash!" Judging from the excitement on his face, plus the fact that July is notorious for being a slow news month, we showed immediate interest. "Did anyone get hurt?" we asked with rising curiosity. "No, he didn't get hurt. He was a man from Waseca. His name was Jim Keller. He was trying to take off from Reeds Lake and the engine just killed on him. The plane bumped a couple of times and then just landed. It broke the whole tail of the plane off!"

- Mrs. Sylvester Priem has been nominated to represent the Minnesota Auxiliary at the National American Legion Auxiliary convention this August in Minneapolis. Her husband, Sylvester, is the First District Commander and will represent this area as a national delegate at the Legion Convention. Janesville's Don Schneider is also a delegate at the national meeting.

- More than two hundred meals have been prepared and delivered since the Village of Waldorf began its hot meals program in January. Groups from three churches provide delivery service, and in addition, the student council of WaldorfPemberton High School volunteered to work with the program. Students handled the delivery of meals throughout the month of May. During June, members of the First Lutheran Church delivered the meals.

2000

- According to Laerdal Medical Company, there was no guarantee that the Heartstart 2000 unit owned by the Janesville Fire Department would continue to work. For one Waseca woman attending a visitation at McRaith's Funeral Home in Janesville, it's a good thing they were wrong. On the evening of June 19, 2000, the call went out that there was a medical emergency at McRaith's. a woman had collapsed, and emergency services were needed. In just a few minutes, help was on hand. And with them, the Heartstart 2000, a defib machine used to help regulate the heartbeat with an electric shock. "We were fortunate to have a bystander on hand who knew CPR," said Todd Huxford, the Janesville Fire Chief. Sue Jewison, who is a nurse at the Janesville Nursing Home, had just begun CPR when he got there.

- The search for a new Chief of Police for the city of Janesville has officially ended. David Ulmen, currently a police officer in Madelia, will begin his new duties on Monday, July 17.

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Waseca

25 years ago

- Letter to the Editor: Monday, July 10 at about 10:30 a.m. I walked to the library to return a book. While waiting at the crosswalk, approximately a dozen cars and trucks drove past me- according to the state law - including a Waseca Police Car. Is it too much to expect the Waseca police to set an example for other drivers to stop for people at the crosswalk? Boyd Fuller, Waseca

- Saturday, July 15 - At 5:40 p.m. a vehicle driven by Todd Allen Mittelstead, 33, of Waseca was traveling on Highway 13 north of Waseca when he collided with a vehicle driven by Emilio Vasquez Jr. 20, of Alamo Texas. Both Mittelsteadt and Vasquez were treated and released from Waseca Medical Center-Mayo Health System.

- Letter to the Editor: I am writing this because I don't think some people understand what an impact a good teacher can make in a young person's life. Teachers who honestly car about students and look at them as individuals are very important and can help students out a lot. I also believe that when a teacher believes in a student and is willing to give people a second chance, that can make all the difference in someone's life. In my opinion, two of the greatest teacher at Waseca High are Mrs. Boehme and Mr. Hammond. Both of them have helped me out greatly. They took extra steps to help me realize my full potential and boost my self-confidence and I think without them I would not be where I'm at today. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all they have done for me. Foster Berg Waseca

- Applicants for Miss Waseca for 2000 Waseca County Fair: Courtney Adams, Jennifer Mackey, Courtney Judd, Christina Stewart, Nicole Werth, Stacy Lewer, Amanda Tesch and Mariah Routh

50 years ago

- Randy Lee Zimmerman, born June 4 to Mr. and Mrs. David C. Zimmerman, R. 3, Waseca was baptized at the St. Paul Lutheran Church June 29 with Terry Timm, Vicar officiating. Sponsors were Tamra Priebe, Roger Rucker, both of Waseca and Paul Bishman, Hutchinson. Dinner guests at the Zimmerman home were Mr. and Mrs. Albert Brandmire, maternal grandparents, Janesville.

- Thirty-three entries have been received to date for the 11th annual Waseca County Fair Tractor Pull to be held Sunday at 8 p.m. in the grandstand. Offered at the Pull this year will be Super Stock, Modified and Open Classes. New this year is the Open 9,000lbs. Class. Over \$1200 in prize money plus trophies will be presented to the winners of each class. This event is expected to fill the grandstand to overflowing. Get there early for the best seats.

- A 1976-crop allotment of 12,390 acres for Waseca County was recently announced by the Waseca ASCS Office. An allotment of 1,103,925 acres has been proclaimed for Minnesota, and 51.6 million acres is the national wheat allotment determined last April.

75 years ago

- In Waseca, Louis Roessler had been missing chickens on his farm, and upon investigation, found that fox were the thieves, therefore he and his brother Jack, went after them and on Wednesday shot one of them, and saw another. What about the bounty boys?

- Both Elysian and Waterville welcome the new doctor, Dr. Ralph H. Buesgens, who now occupies the office and rooms in the late Dr. Holtans's office building, in Waterville. The large territory, including Waterville, Elysian and vicinity, was really too much for one doctor, and we therefore feel Dr. Rhorer might take a much needed rest and welcome again to the new doctor for relieving our untiring Dr. Rhorer.

- WANTED AT ONCE- Man or woman distributor for famous Watkins Household Products in Waseca. Company will give you up to \$17.50 in free merchandise if you start now. No experience required. We train you. Get complete information without obligation. See Mr. Claude H. Swearingen at Hotel Waseca, July 20 between 7 and 9 p.m. July 21 between 9 and 11 a.m.

-Waseca County Fair 4-H winners 1975: Left, David Kanne, champion safety poster. Right, Jeff Huelsnitz, champion production poultry.

100 years ago

- Mr. H. H. Rice, president of Cadillac Motor Car company, is apparently unqualifiedly in favor of prohibition, for he recently made the statement that, "Abstinence from alcoholic beverages if recognized by businessmen as necessary for the highest productive efficiency. I want to tell you, as a business man, that today, in business, liquor is out of fashion. I am satisfied that in colleges, in business and everywhere that the use of liquor today is infinitesimally small as compared to what it used to be. Drinking today in our clubs is not ten percent of what it used to be. The fact precedes the law, and the prohibition law was a clear indication of the opinion of the American public on the liquor issue."

- The girl scouts of Waseca held their regular meeting in the high school auditorium Thursday evening, July 2, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. They were entertained by Troop No. 2 and Mr. Herman Peterson, who gave a very interesting talk on weights. Registration certificate cards were awarded to Beatrice Webb, Agnes Lewer and Almyra Root, and tenderfoot pins to Elaine McDonald, Beatrice Tumaccliff and Wilma Froelich. There was no meeting on July 9 but instead a picnic was given at Maplewood park to those who have passed the tenderfoot and second class test. There was a large gathering but it is hoped that those who have not passed the tests will endeavor to do so as soon as possible.

New Richland

- Competing for the title of 2000 New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Junior Miss are these junior girls. They are from the left: seated, Amy Sack, Holly Waldhauser, Kristin Jessen; standing, Jenifer Brouwers, Naomi Tukua and Valerie Crumb. Each of the contestants will present their special talents in the Junior Miss Scholarship Program at the NRHEG high school auditorium beginning at 7 pm, July 14.

- A son was born to Danny and Jackie Beyer of Dallas, Texas, on Friday, June 2000. The little fellow weighed 3 lbs. 1 oz. and has been named Johathan Paul. Grandparents are Charles and Joan Chipps of Gulf Shores. Alabama and Robert Mattone of Plano, Texas and John and Debbie Beyer of New Richland.

- The annual Norwegian bake sale sponsored by members of Le-Sueur River Lutheran Church at the American Legion Clubrooms attracted the usual number of hungry folks. Here Mae Bishop looks over the selection, while Levine Paulson rearranges some of the offerings.

- Ryan Crabtree, son of Larry and Terrie Crabtree, was named to the Dean's List at Minnesota State University, Mankato, for the spring semester of 2000. Ryan is majoring in business finance, and will be starting his fourth year this fall. To be named to the Dean's List a student must maintain a 3.5 to 4.0 GPA for the semester.

- Carmen and Vianna Ebnet, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. LaVoy Ebnet of rural New Richland, took part of the 4-H Talent Show at the Waseca County Fair, Thursday. Carmen placed second in the Junior Division with her accordion solos, "The Rntrrtainer" and "Cotton-eyed Joe". She won a \$25 prize. Her sister, Vianna, sang as she accompanied herself on the guitar, "Funny Face" and "Put Your Hand In The Hand", also on the junior Division.

- Mayor Margaret A. Engesser of New Richland was elected secretary of the Region Nine Development Commission board of directors at its annual meeting in Mankato last Wednesday evening. New Chairman of the commission is Terry Stone, mayor of Madelia. Mayor Engesser represents Waseca County on the board. New Ulm Mayor Carl Wyczawski was elected to serve as vice chairman. He was previously secretary and represents Brown County on the board. The Region nine Commission, as other regional commissions in the state, was organized to create a better and more cooperation between county and city officers.

- Gary and Nancy Berg of 2550 N.W. 2nd Ave., Rochester, are the happy parents of a son, Eric Anton, born July 19. The husky little fellow weighed 9 lb. 8 oz. at birth. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Merle Jensen of Rochester and Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Berg of Hartland.

- The Hartland Little League team made up of boys in grades 7-9, finished their season recently, with a 7-4 overall record and a five win, two loss league record. The league is made up of teams from Ellendale, Clarks Grove, Geneva, Hartland and Freeborn. Nicky Johannsen was a steady performer as pitcher and is improving with every year of participation. His record was 7-4 for the season. Leading the team in hitting was Mike Somage with a .537 average. Other boys with excellent averages were Barry Schroader, .474; Jeff Hansen, .378; Jay Benson, .350; Al Bartness, .316 and Dave Crowe, .300. The Team average was .316.

75 years back

- Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Hanson (Helen Standinger) of St. James became the parents of a daughter, born July 8. She has been named Kristi Helen and has a brother, Micheal Ray.

- Harry Anderson, popular New Richland man, was honored by the people of Waseca last Tuesday night when the local team played host to the Faribault Lakers. Elmer Nelson, president of the Waseca baseball directors, acted as master of ceremonies. Harry's parents, Mr. and Mrs. O. B. Anderson, of New Richland and Harry's wife were brought before the crowd and honored. Mrs. O. B. Anderson and Mrs. Harry Anderson received flowers from the members of Waseca.

Math League Competition



MATH WHIZ - Soon-to-be seventh-grader Charlotte Haenkamp tied for first place in the sixth-grade Minnesota Math League Competition where 164 students from around the state took part. Haenkamp represented JWP at four math competitions this year and won two of them.

Waseca School congratulates 4-H fair volunteers

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Waseca Public School Board held its regular session meeting on Thursday, July 17 on the second floor of the central building. Viola Rohr, junior class representative to the school board, was attending for the first time and introduced herself. Rohr participates in speech, marching band, cross country, jazz band and in her words, “A little bit of everything.”

Sara Brant, director of business services, will be authorized to make payments prior to board approval. The school board designated that chairman Dave Dunn, clerk Alissa Bowers and treasurer Scott Dummel are authorized to sign checks on behalf of the school. Everyone on the school board expressed congratulations to members of the Waseca County Fair board for their hard work and the wonderful job they did with the fair this year. Said Dunn, “The 4-H volunteers did a great job keeping everything

WASECA SCHOOL BOARD

clean this year. John Hanson and Dave Prims do the Waseca high school’s drivers training and we want to recognize the good job those two have been doing as well.”

The Minnesota School Board Association and Renewal of MSBA Policy Service was approved. A resolution in conjunction with the 10-year long term facilities maintenance expenditure was approved. The appointment of designated Minnesota State High School League representatives was approved. The board approved two 2025-2027 master agreements, one with building technology staff and other with custodial and maintenance staff.

A school board work session and retreat is scheduled for 4 p.m. August 7; the next regular meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. on Aug. 21 at 5:30.

partment passed the annual radar certification and that two “awesome things that cost us no money” were given to the department. From Eden Prairie, they were gifted two tactical vests and four helmets and from the sheriff’s office, they were given an audio and video recording system.

Bob Johannsen, care center administrator, said the June average census was just shy of 37. He said there were some changes made to the admission process, along with personnel changes, in the past few months that are working out well.

Johannsen said he expects with the improvements that June and July is going to be really good and is expecting to break even for the whole year. “Life is good,” he said.

As for staffing, Johannsen said the center has signed contracts for five nurses from the Philippines to begin in the next few months. He said they are working with the church to help with housing and integration into the community to help make the nurses and their families’ lives easier.

The meeting adjourned about an hour and a half later, with the next regular city council meeting set for 6:30 p.m. Aug. 11.

Correction for June 5 deputy article

In the article titled “Law Enforcement ‘scholarship’ helps sheriff’s office hire deputy” published June 5 2025, it states that Brayden Berg completed his training in his home state of

Wisconsin. Berg is from Cambridge, Minnesota. He completed his bachelors degree from UW- River Falls in Wisconsin.

Emoji art at public library

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Janesville librarian Kelly Koplen was on hand for a smiling and creative event on Thursday, July 17. With fall-like temperatures outside, about 20 children were armed with paint brushes and big imaginations inside.

An emoji is a colorful, simple symbol “embedded in text and used in electronic messages and web pages” to convey an emotion. Emojis were invented in 1982 by computer scientist Scott Fahlman, and have since evolved into online messaging, stories or even the 2017 “Emoji Movie.”

Koplen, the librarian in charge for the day, had two types of paint brushes, both big and small, ten different colors of paint, thick, canvas-like paper to paint on, and circular cut-outs to trace a perfect circle. The



EMOJIS AND EMOTIONS - Elsie, Maddie and Lucy all took part in the Janesville Public Library’s Emoji Painting on Thursday, July 17, 2025.

tables were covered in green plastic to protect all surfaces from messy paint drips, but just in case there were paper towels. Clear plastic cups were half filled with water to rinse brushes when needed and to add moisture to dry-ish paint. Said Koplen, “I chose this one to go with the ‘Color of our World’ theme. This kit is part of the Waseca Le Sueur Library System, there is a lot to choose from, and I thought this looked like a pretty cool activity for the kids.” There were about 20 emoji pic-

tures to choose from, one that had hearts for eyes, smiling faces, hiding behind two hands faces, one with sunglasses, surprised, laughing, confused, one with a halo. Stella Myhr, who was among the children armed with a paint brush said, “I’m doing the halo emoji, that’s the one I like the best because it’s a reflection of what I am.” Maya Olson was sitting nearby and nodded her head in agreement. Some of the children had trouble getting water into the paint so Koplen had to help, she was very

busy but enjoys her job, “I love having all these kids here, there’s so much going on.”

When the children were done and the paint started to dry, they admired each other’s work. The yellow paint seemed to lighten the dryer it got, there were numerous nods of approval from the artists over their yellow faces. As the children started to leave Koplen began cleaning up, which wasn’t too hard because the kids didn’t leave much of a mess behind.

Fair weather for St. Peter Lutheran Church Ice Cream Social in Otisco

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

St. Peter’s Lutheran Church of Otisco held its annual Ice Cream Social on Sunday, July 20, to seventy-degree temperatures and a light wind. With Farm and City Days over in New Richland, St. Peter’s offers a nice, relaxing way to unwind after a long weekend. The event is held under tents on the church lawn. There were cars parked 15 deep along the street to the east and west of the church with many coming and going.

Starting at four, on the menu for the night were sloppy joes, calico bean hotdish, potato salad, many many pies with ice cream, coffee and lemonade. The event continued “until the food was gone.”

“Made” said organizer Pat Lewer, “by members of the church and donated for today.” Mary Hoy, who was taking donations added, “It’s our church’s ice cream social, we do it every year. This started out in 1975 and we always time it so it happens toward the end of Farm and City Days out of New Richland. When

people are done over there, they can come here to relax afterwards. Every member I know made two pies, but I know for sure they all made at least one for tonight.”

All proceeds go toward whatever the church needs. Last year more than \$2,000 was raised; funds were used for some roof repair. The year before that (2023), income went to repair the bell tower. Organizers said attendance this year was down a bit, with 140 people attending and \$1,400 raised. Hoy was philosophical about it, saying there have been slow years before. “Luckily,” she said, “we have a beautiful day to accompany us again, if God wants us to get there, we’ll get there.”

Looking at their history, twenty years ago in 2005 there was an evening that threatened rain. So, the St. Peter ice cream staff put up tents and have kept them around since. With more than 15 volunteers, there was no shortage of people willing to lend a hand. To keep an accurate tally, they don’t count heads, they count the number of plates being used to keep track of how many had been served.



SOCIAL ICE CREAM - Clay and Max were eating their pie of choice at the St. Peter Lutheran Church of Otisco’s Ice Cream Social on Sunday, July 20, 2025. The church has been holding the event since 1975.

Audit reveals Janesville city finances strong

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

During their regular meeting the evening of July 12, Tom Olinger, an accountant with the auditing firm Abdo, told members of the Janesville city council that, based on their 2024 audit report, the city is sitting quite well despite inflation costs. Olinger told council members other cities whose finances he’s audited are having difficulty keeping expenditures flat because of continually climbing prices.

He cautioned council members to watch for the effects of inflation on aspects of the city budget.

Olinger observed a minor decrease of about \$30,000 in the general fund. Within the sewer fund, \$100,000 was paid out of reserves.

As far as the budget goes, Olinger informed the council the water fund is the only operating cost that rose slightly to \$621,000; he said cash outflows have also slightly increased. He attributed that to water usage being lower due to the wet weather last summer.

The sewer fund, he continued, saw a decrease in cash of about \$30,000 but attributed it to the additional \$100,000 last year which was paid out of reserves for capital improvements. Currently, he said,

JANESVILLE CITY COUNCIL

the city has about \$300,000 in the reserves for capital improvements.

For the storm sewer, Olinger said the city has \$400,000 sitting in reserves, something that has gradually increased. He advised the city to examine whether there are future capital needs that can be paid out of those reserves as the city moves forward.

Regarding electricity, he noted As for the electric side, he noticed debt added this year and was related to the transformer project.

“Taking a lot at that, the overall cash ended up being an additional \$1.8 million,” Olinger stated and referred to the screen where the council members looked at the spike in the cash. “That cash is really just temporary because that is the bond proceeds that came in and is committed to pay for some of the construction costs that will carry into 2025.”

The cash flow the \$1.2 million in cash for Whispering Creek stayed consistent from year-to-year, Olinger also told the council.

The golf course, he shared, had a decrease in cash of \$12,000 since the cash from operations broke even while the operational costs increased for this year. The

future debt payments, he added, resulted in the decrease.

“Not a huge deal, but I would monitor that as we don’t want to have that creep down and have that cut into the cash going forward, too,” Olinger suggested.

During the meeting, City Administrator Clinton Rogers addressed a concern from the previous month about vehicles parking on Main Street for too long. Throughout the month, he researched practices in at least twelve different cities.

“Quite honestly, it varies in every community,” Rogers informed. “A lot of towns don’t have the limited hours of parking on Main Street.” Among limitations he learned about were signs limiting parking to 24 or even 36 hours; he said his research did not turn up any useful guidance. Rogers inquired of the council whether the city should begin enforcing the three-hour limit or simply remove the signs.

“Do we have adequate signage to get the point across?” council member Kyle Luitjens asked; Rogers responded the city does.

Discussion indicated any form of enforcement would entail significant expense. Police Chief Steven Johnson mentioned it would be costly to begin devoting officer time to parking enforce-

ment, and not necessary very efficient, since past experience showed vehicles were not always registered to current addresses.

Another idea, making external wi-fi available so business owners could make use of building-mounted cameras to record violations, had also been found to be expensive.

It was suggested, though, that any business owner with a security camera could be invited to record and report violations.

Council member Andy Ahlman suggested “a gentle conversation or warning” had led people to change their habits in the past, and is perhaps the best way to proceed in the future. Police Chief Johnson agreed simply speaking with people can be effective for some violators. “It’s just, you know, getting everybody to have that same change would be wonderful.”

At that, Johnson said he would be willing to send out a mailer to the business owners and if a complaint surfaces, the police force can deal with the complaint.

Ultimately, the council decided to ask city staff to begin reinforcing the ordinance.

In other matters, the council accepted second quarter donations to various funds.

The council adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

CITY OF WASECA
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the **City of Waseca City Council** will hold Public Hearings at **7:00 p.m., on Wednesday, August 6, 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.

Complete copies of the proposed Ordinances 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, July 24, 2025.

Jon M. Froke
City Planner

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

The Waseca County Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing at the Waseca County East Annex (Commissioner's Room), 300 N. State Street, Waseca, MN 56093 on Thursday, August 7, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.to consider the following items:

Request for variances to construct a showroom on a property in Section 24 T106N R23W in Wilton Township. Cory C. Connors requests for a variance of 59feet to construct a showroom 16feet from the road right of way of CR 15 (288th Ave.). The proposed showroom will also be closer than the required 50feet setback from a wetland area. The property, with address 11691 – 288th Ave., Waseca, MN 56093 and identification number 11.024.0600 is in the A-1 Agricultural Protection Zoning District and the Shoreland Overlay District of LeSueur River. The variance request will be pursuant to the requirements of Sections 6.08 and 6.22 of the Waseca County UDC.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
WASECA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

The Waseca County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at the Waseca County East Annex (Commissioner's Room), 300 N. State Street, Waseca, MN 56093 on Thursday, August 7, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.to consider the following item:

A. Request for a Conditional Use Permit to operate a contractor's yard (showroom) on a property in Section 24 T106N R23W in Wilton Township. Cory C. Connors requests for a conditional use permit for a showroom on the property with the address 11691 – 288th Ave., Waseca, MN 56093 and identification number 11.024.0600. The property is in the A-1 Agricultural Protection Zoning District and the Shoreland Overlay District of LeSueur River. The conditional use permit request will be pursuant to the requirements of Sections 6.08 and 6.22 of the Waseca County UDC.

B. Request for a Conditional Use Permit to construct and operate a five (5) Megawatt Alternating Current Community Solar Farm in Section 12 of Woodville Township. Crane Creek Garden LLC, developed by Nokomis Energy, requests a Conditional Use Permit to construct and operate a 5-Megawatt Community Solar Garden on a portion (approximately 38.5acres) of a 77.93acre parcel (PID: 12.012.0100) owned by Zimmerman Pinedale Inc. and located in Section 12 T107N R22W of Woodville Township. The property is in the A-1 Agricultural Protection Zoning District. The proposed project will be contracted with Xcel Energy through the Low- and Moderate-Income Community Solar Garden program.

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

Maame Quarcoo, County Planner.

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on July 24, 2025

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6	7	8	9 6pm BAR Bingo	10 7pm HALL BINGO	11 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	12
13	14 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting	15	16 6pm BAR Bingo	17 7pm HALL BINGO	18 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	19
20	21	22	23 6pm BAR Bingo	24 7pm HALL BINGO	25 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	26
27 KOREAN WAR VETER- ANS DAY	28 BUFFALO SOLDIERS DAY	29	30 6pm BAR Bingo	31 7pm HALL BINGO		

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PAPA JAKE- In this photo taken April 29, 2019, D-Day veteran Jake Larson poses before going for a ride in the "The Spirit of Benovia" World War II-era aircraft in Oakland, Calif.

D-Day veteran and TikTok star 'Papa Jake' Larson dies at 102

By MPR News

D-Day veteran "Papa Jake" Larson, who survived German gunfire on Normandy's bluffs in 1944 and then garnered 1.2 million followers on TikTok late in life by sharing stories to commemorate World War II and his fallen comrades, has died at 102.

An animated speaker who charmed strangers young and old with his quick smile and generous hugs, the self-described country boy from Minnesota was "cracking jokes til the end," his granddaughter wrote in announcing his death.

Tributes to him quickly filled his "Story Time with Papa Jake" TikTok account from across the United States, where he had been living in Lafayette, California. Towns around Normandy, still grateful to Allied forces who helped defeat the occupying Nazis in World War II, paid him homage too.

"Our beloved Papa Jake has passed away on July 17th at 102 years young," granddaughter McKaela Larson posted on his social media accounts. "He went

peacefully."

"As Papa would say, love you all the mostest," she wrote.

Born Dec. 20, 1922, in Owatonna, Minn., Larson enlisted in the National Guard in 1938, lying about his age since he was only 15 at the time. In 1942, he was sent overseas and was stationed in Northern Ireland. He became operations sergeant and assembled the planning books for the invasion of Normandy.

He was among the nearly 160,000 Allied troops who stormed the Normandy shore on D-Day, June 6, 1944, surviving machine-gun fire when he landed on Omaha Beach. He made it unhurt to the bluffs that overlook the beach, then studded with German gun emplacements that mowed down American soldiers.

"We are the lucky ones," Larson told The Associated Press at the 81st anniversary of D-Day in June, speaking amid the immaculate rows of graves at the American cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach.

"We are their family. We have the responsibility to honor these

guys who gave us a chance to be alive."

He went on to fight through the Battle of the Bulge, a grueling month-long fight in Belgium and Luxembourg that was one of the defining moments of the war and of Hitler's defeat. His service earned him a Bronze Star and a French Legion of Honor award.

In recent years, Larson made repeated trips to Normandy for D-Day commemorations — and at every stop, "Papa Jake" was greeted by people asking for a selfie. In return, he offered up a big hug, to their greatest joy.

One memorable encounter came in 2023, when he came across Bill Gladden, a then-99-year-old British veteran who survived a glider landing on D-Day and a bullet that tore through his ankle.

"I want to give you a hug, thank you. I got tears in my eyes. We were meant to meet," Larson told Gladden, as their hands, lined and spotted with age, clasped tightly. Gladden died the following year.

In his TikTok posts and interviews, Larson combined humorous anecdotes with somber

reminders about the horrors of war.

Reflecting to AP on the three years he was in Europe, Larson said he is "no hero." Speaking in 2024, he also had a message to world leaders: "Make peace not war."

He often called himself "the luckiest man in the world," and expressed awe at all the attention he was getting. "I'm just a country boy. Now I'm a star on TikTok," he told AP in 2023. "I'm a legend! I didn't plan this, it came about."

Small-town museums and groups around Normandy that work to honor D-Day's heroes and fallen shared tributes online to Larson, one of their most loyal visitors.

"He was an exceptional witness and bearer of memory," the Overlord Museum posted on Facebook.

"He came every year to the museum, with his smile, his humility and his tales that touched all generations. His stories will continue to live. Rest in peace Papa Jake," it read.

"Thanks for everything."

Pan Handlers bang on steel drums

By JAMESVILLE JOURNAL

There's a famous song by musician Todd Rundgren that goes, "I don't want to work. I want to bang on the drum all day." While that sounds like the dream of a kid who just heard a drum solo for the first time, the Pan Handlers, a Steel Drum band from the Twin Cities, are making it a dream come true. They visited the JWP Auditorium on Wednesday, July 9, to demonstrate how an instrument made from oil barrels can produce such interesting music.

Janesville was one of many stops for the band, as they made stops throughout the Waseca-Le Sueur Regional Library System, starting at Le Sueur on Monday, July 7, and ending in Waterville on Thursday, July 10. The Pan Handlers also performed a concert at Lake Francis Park in Elysian before traveling to JWP. The events were made possible through a grant from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund of the Minnesota Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment, administered by the Traverse des Sioux Library System. The Pan Handlers, while usually performing as a full band or sextet, performed as a trio, playing the standard calypso songs while playing pop hits like Carly Rae Jepsen's "Call Me Maybe" and the Beatles' "Here Comes the Sun." Director Chris Belich led the way, with fellow musicians Olin (who is assistant director) and Payton by his side. Belich played the lead on the high tenor steel drum. Olin played the double tenor steel drums, which involved playing two and a half octaves spread between two drums. Peyton played the cello pan, which spans about three octaves between three drums. The Pan Handlers explained how the



STEEL DRUMS- Pan Handlers director Chris Belich led the way on the high tenor steel drum during their performance at the JWP Auditorium on July 9.

instruments were made. Olin claimed that many steel drums are typically made from large oil barrels, like those used by companies like Exxon to store their crude oil. Then, as Belich explained, "It's not a pretty process." The drum is formed into an overall bowl shape before smaller dents are manually hammered in a similar circular pattern. The lower the notes, the bigger the circles, which is why the lower-end cello pan spans across three drums, although covering the same number of octaves as the higher-octave double tenor drum. Another interesting fact about the steel drums is their origin. While many may automatically think of Jamaica when hearing the sweet metallic tones of the steel drums, it was invented in the two-island nation of Trinidad and Tobago. It was a fantastic time listening to the Twin Cities band share their love for the steel pan drums. It's not often you hear traditional calypsos in a small town like Janesville. A few even danced to the music. There's nothing like hearing the Caribbean in an area that gets hot in the summer and freezing in the winter.

In Brief

AZBY at Janesville Veterans Memorial Park
Thursday, Aug. 7
Musical group AZBY will play at the Janesville Veterans Memorial Park from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 7. This event is free to attend and is part of the Songs in the Park.

Community Salad Luncheon at St. Paul Lutheran Church
Friday, Aug. 8
Musical group AZBY will play at the Janesville Veterans Memorial Park from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 7.

Sweet Corn Feed at St. Paul Lutheran Church
Sunday, August 10
A sweet corn feed at St. Paul's Lutheran Church will begin at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 10, at the church: 314 4th Ave. NE Waseca. On the menu, hamburgers, sweet corn, chips, bars and drinks. Free will donations accepted.

Detroit Tigers vs. MN Twins Lutheran Night at the Twins
Thursday, August 14
The 32nd Annual Lutheran Night at the Twins will be leaving at 3:45 p.m. from behind Hy-Vee in Albert Lea on Thursday, Aug. 14. Cost is \$65 per

person and is paid in advance. For reservations, call Bob or Genie Hanson at 507-373-8655 or Wayne or Bev Indrelie at 507-402-8228.

Hartland University's Biker Bug Run
Saturday, August 16
The Third Annual Hartland University Biker Bug Run will take place at noon, Saturday, Aug. 16, with kickstands up at 12:30 p.m. Registration is \$10 per person, all proceeds donated to American Bikers for Awareness and the training and education of Minnesota Young Rider Program. There will be six stops in total with a door prize at each location for closest bug to the bullseye.

ANNUAL WASECA BAND Garage Sale

Donate clean, gently used items to help the Waseca Band!

NEW RETAIL ITEMS:
Past and Present Gifts
Glitter & Grace

FOOD TRUCK:
Polly's Pantry

EARLY BIRD SALE
\$1 AT THE DOOR
ALL AGES

Thursday August 7th | 4 pm - 8 pm

OPEN SALE DAYS

Friday August 8th | 8 am - 8 pm

Saturday August 9th | 8 am - 2 pm

Waseca County Fairgrounds 4-H Building

MARCHING JAYS PARADE
Saturday, August 9th at 1:30 pm
Starting at Bomgaars and ending at the Fairgrounds

DONATION DROP-OFF

August 4th, 5th, 6th from 10 am -12 pm, 2 - 4 pm, 6 - 8 pm

August 7th from 10 am - 12 pm

ITEMS THAT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED:

- Electronics older than one year
- Pressed board furniture
- Undergarments
- Mattresses

****ANY ITEMS DEEMED UNSELLABLE WILL BE REFUSED AT DROP-OFF****

FOR DONATION ITEM(S) WORTH \$10 OR MORE, YOU MAY CHOOSE TO ASSIGN THESE ITEM(S) SALES PROCEEDS A SPECIFIC STUDENT AS A DIRECT STUDENT ACCOUNT CREDIT OR TO THE GENERAL BAND ACCOUNT.

For Questions Contact: Koni 651-983-7342

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