



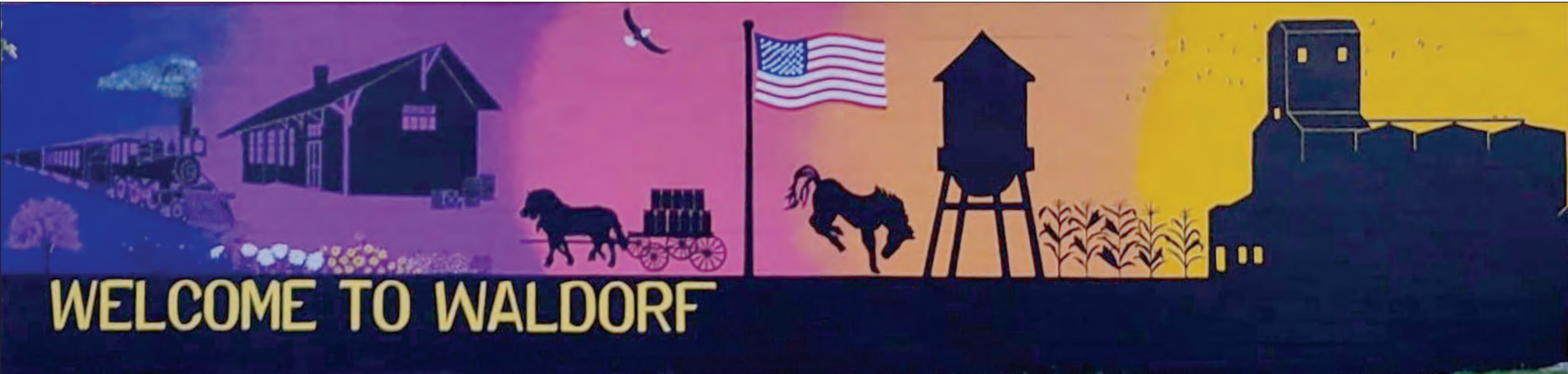
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Sports



Officially unveiled Friday was the completed mural which sits across from the Community Center in Waldorf. Local residents enjoyed a potluck meal at the community center in the evening to celebrate the momentous occasion.



Aug. 19 was declared Catherine Blashack Day in Waldorf to celebrate the artist who helped complete the new Waldorf Mural.

Blashack day celebrated

COURTESY OF THE JANESVILLE JOURNAL

It was a fantastic homecoming for Lieutenant Colonel Catherine Blashack.

She had no clue that when she flew from Texas to visit her hometown of Waldorf for two weeks that she would receive an unusually warm welcome as well as a custom award recognizing her achievements in the military.

"I seriously was not expecting this," she told the crowd of over fifty

people at the Waldorf Community Center on Thursday, August 17. That day had been declared "Catherine Blashack Day."

Blashack had grown up in Waldorf and was a 1974 graduate of Waldorf-Pemberton High School. She received a bachelor's degree in theater with a minor in textiles from St. Benedict University in St. Joseph, MN. She has been recognized in her current home state of Texas for her

Blashack continued on 12



Waldorf Mayor Rob Wilkening touches up the letters on the mural.

Waldorf Car and Truck Show Aug. 25

Members of the Waldorf Days Committee will be hosting a Car and Truck Show from 4-7:30 p.m. Aug. 25. MyGlobalDJ will be providing music with a Kids' Zone held between 4:30-5:30 p.m. Prizes will be given away at the Kids' Zone.

Relay For Life of Steele/Waseca County. Sept. 23 from 5-10 p.m.

Steele/Waseca County will be having a Relay For Life event from 5-10 p.m. at the Steele County Fairgrounds. There will be a silent auction, entertainment, survivor recognition, raffle, kids activities and food.

Circus Stella to perform Sept. 8

Circus Stella is coming to Christian Assembly Church on Sept. 8 from 4 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. The show promises to bring smiles and laughter to the audience. Tickets are on sale at circusstella.com

Annual Corn and Burger Feed Aug. 25

The Waldorf Fire and Rescue Department is hosting its annual corn and burger feed on Friday, Aug. 25. The dinner is from 5:30-8:30 p.m. and a dance follows at 8:30 p.m. \$10 for the meal and \$15 for the dinner and dance. Kids under 5 are free. Events will be held in or near the Waldorf Community Center.

A word from The Word

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.

Colossians 3:23

DIY at C&A Designs

By TRISTAN GEHRING
Staff Writer

C & A Designs has opened a storefront with handmade consignment, do-it-yourself (DIY) classes, and private parties. The storefront is located at 208 N State Street in Waseca, the former location of Hammer and Stain. The company has also posted information online at candadesignsmn.com about upcoming class dates and party information.

C & A Designs is owned and operated by Danielle, Charlie, and Aidan Androli, and with the opening of their storefront Danielle's longtime friend Mike Garten came on board. C & A Designs got its start in 2018 when Danielle, Charlie, and Aidan were "fooling around" making cups and Charlie and Aidan, who are both still in high school, thought it would be a way they



Danielle Androli is one of three owners who operate C&A Designs located along State Street in Waseca. Their location is near El Molino and the Waseca Chamber of Commerce

could raise money for Tuberous Sclerosis research and Bluejay Dance. Both are causes which were important to Larissa Yeager-Androli, the boys' older sister who died at age 13 due to complications resulting from tuberous sclerosis. The business evolved from there, and spent sev-

eral years operating through online sales and craft shows.

In November of 2022, Danielle saw that Hammer and Stain was moving; because Dan-

Design continued on 6



Roslyn Schmidt of St. Peter, left, behind the wheel of the "Pantheon 1" was the day's champion. Photo by Jonah Stafford

Annual day of races and smiles

By JONAH STAFFORD
Staff Writer

The Waseca Masons held their annual Soap Box Race last Saturday afternoon. During the event, the street next to Tuscan Lodge #77 in the 800 block of Third Avenue Northeast was closed to make room for needed equipment including a two-lane slope, the soap box cars themselves, hay bales, and a finish line. Eight cars, most of which are sponsored by local businesses, were available to be piloted by any child

who volunteered to race.

"All it takes is a parent signature and you can get ready for some race-car action," announced spokesperson Brad Kubat.

Soap box cars are motorless miniature wooden cars that gain speed when raced on a downhill slope. The cars and ramp were built by volunteers, including Kevin Clemons and Mark Wolf.

Clemons, a member of the Ma-

Races continued on 7

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

SCDIU talks, Breitbarth memories

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

A presentation from the South Central Drug Investigation Unit (SCDIU) dominated the first hour of the Waseca City Council meeting Tuesday, August 15.

Members of the agency, including its commander Ben Johnson from Owatonna, led the presentation. Johnson told council members his organization's goal is not gaining publicity or being "in the paper," but instead keeping a low profile to remain undercover.

The SCDIU covers 2310 square miles across four counties: Waseca, Steele, Freeborn and Blue Earth. All agents work undercover combating violent crimes, domestic assault, gangs, drugs, and trafficking. The organization operates primarily on federal and state grant money.

Councilman Jeremy Conrath took issue during the presentation; he questioned whether the city should maintain the drug task force as a line item in its budget, suggesting the county could absorb the cost of including Waseca in the task force's jurisdiction given that the city comprises nearly half the county's population.

Drug Task force chair James Carlson shared the experience Albert Lea had when it decided to leave the drug task force and let the county be in charge. On a call which required SCDIU

Council continued on 7



Compostings

by Al Batt

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‘If you build it, he will come

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS’ CLUB MEETING

Do you have mosquitoes around here?

Big ones. See that eagle over there?

I do.

Well, that’s no eagle.

DRIVING BY BRUCE’S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. Everything was nearly copacetic except the treads of my sandals tend to pick up pebbles when I walk our driveway. They remain lodged in the treads until I get in the house. Then they seek freedom on the floor. Gary Hanson, who was our coach/banker/city clerk, had Little League players remove rocks from a rocky ballfield before each practice. I plucked a pebble from the treads of my sandal and chucked it outside. It will be back. It might beat me into the house.

The father of one of my classmates was the city constable in Hartland during my formative years. He was a nice man who had lost a leg to cancer. He later owned a resort in Hackensack. Because he had only one leg, it should have been easy for any mischievous kid to outrun him, and it was, but it didn’t matter. It was a small town. He recognized each miscreant and the boy’s yellow dog.

BLESS YOU, WHETHER OR NOT YOU SNEEZE

We ate at a customer appreciation event and talked about movies, mostly Barbenheimer, when one of the Loafer’s hands covered his mouth.

I sprang into action and said, “Bless you.”

I thought he was going to sneeze. He yawned instead. I told him he could keep the “Bless you.”

I’LL MISS HER WELCOMING WAYS

I attended the funeral of LaVaun Aussen at West Freeborn Lutheran Church. LaVaun was of Irish and Danish descent but loved being a member of the Sons of Norway and embroidering Norwegian Hardanger. An example of her Hardanger, finished in 1982, was draped over her casket. Her sons wore shirts she’d made. The hymn “In the Garden” caused me to tear up and “I’ll Fly Away” made me smile. I visited for as long as I dared before having to worry about being handed a broom. A sign outside the church showing a leaning gravestone read, “Do your relatives look a little crooked? With a donation to the cemetery fund, we will straighten them up.” I become keenly aware of the currency of time after attending a funeral and drove away from the church so slowly, insects crashed

into the back window of my car.

I’VE LEARNED

No one wants to hear a story about something we know is true because a friend’s friend’s cousin’s neighbor’s employer’s dentist knew it was true.

We want life to be like it used to be even if it never had been.

When I’m in a grocery store, it’s common for someone to ask me to grab an item from the top shelf. I’m happy to oblige, thereby keeping an unfortunate from having a diet made up of foodstuffs from the lower shelves.

We all make mistakes. Some tattoos advertise that fact.

NATURE NOTES

The Carolina grasshopper is a banded-winged grasshopper with black hindwings and could be mistaken for a mourning cloak butterfly when fluttering. It’s also called the Carolina locust or butterfly grasshopper and is commonly seen on the bare ground of school playgrounds, ballfields, dirt roads, gravel driveways and vacant lots where its coloration allows it to blend in. It crepitates, making a crackling sound as it flies.

The yard’s feeders were busy. In the movie “Field of Dreams,” Iowa farmer Ray (Kevin Costner) hears a mysterious voice in his cornfield saying, “If you build it, he will come.” Despite taunts of lunacy, Ray builds a baseball diamond on his land, supported by his wife, Annie (Amy Madigan). The ghosts of great players came from the field to play ball, led by Shoeless Joe Jackson. When it comes to birds, if you feed and water them, they will come.

Opossums gather twigs, leaves, grass and trash with their mouths and pass the items through their front legs and pack them into their curled tail for transport to their dens.

In September, Minnesota’s adult loons travel to their winter homes along the Atlantic coast from North Carolina to Florida, or on the Gulf of Mexico. The parents leave before the chicks can fly and the young loons follow about a month later. Mid-October marks the peak of migration. The bones of most birds are hollow and light, but loons have solid bones and the extra weight helps them dive as deep as 250 feet for food. They can stay underwater for five minutes. Because their bodies are heavy relative to their wing size, loons need a long runway to take flight from a lake. Minnesota supports the largest U.S. breeding population south of Alaska.

MEETING ADJOURNED

“Treat everyone with politeness and kindness, not because they are nice, but because you are.”—Roy T. Bennett.



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

Little reprieves of happiness

I am home from my fireworks convention and glad to be here. It’s good to seek out adventure, but also very good to be home again.

However, before I let the matter drop, I have to tell you about the amazing displays that occurred using programmed flying drones. These drones had light panels on them that allowed them to show different colors on command. Thus, by positioning them in the right places and using the lighting effects, the technicians were able to create stunning three-dimensional images which filled the sky above the audience—somewhere around 10,000 people in a space the size of about 3 football fields.

In one of the displays, the drones adopted the shape of a threatening, red-eyed robot which claimed that it was part of a civilization vastly superior to humankind’s, and that it was here to destroy us. Red beams then appeared to flash from the robot’s eyes; the ground below lit up in flame: we were under attack!

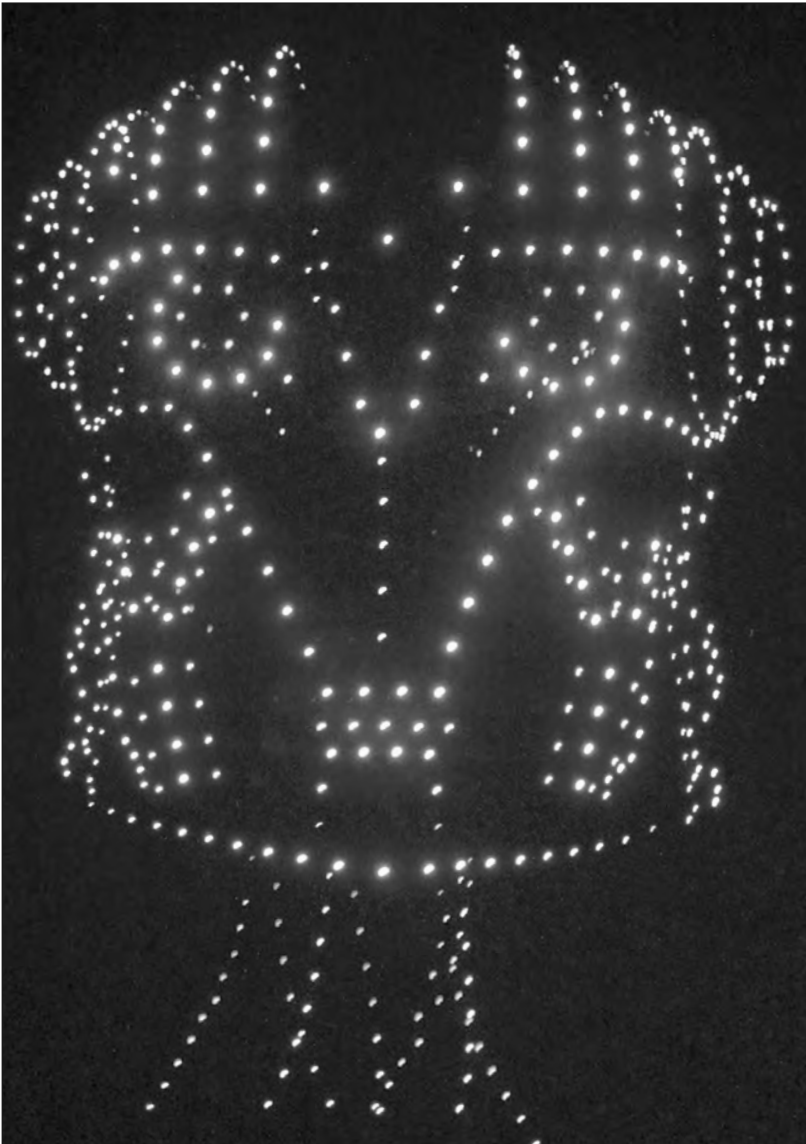
Pyrotechnic effects from the ground appeared to fire back. We were defending ourselves!

I wish there were words sufficient

to share the size, the energy, the astounding power of the presentation, but there just aren’t. There is a picture of the robot head with this column, but the newspaper cannot make it hundreds of feet wide or three-dimensional. Still, I hope it gives you an idea of how amazing it was.

You may be interested to learn that next year’s convention of the “Pyrotechnics Guild International,” the sponsoring agency, will be in Brainerd. If you’re in that part of the state in mid-August, you should definitely pay the \$10 (or so) admission cost and attend the closing night “Grand Public Display.”

But while I am listing pleasant experiences, I feel I must include the 8 a.m. photo session I attended with the members of the NRHEG football team. As a teacher who retired from there this past spring, I am well known to the team members. It was a pleasure to see them all spiffed up for the sake of their photos. Their excitement about their approaching season was evident...and infectious. I was there for the sake of acquiring photos for the newspaper, but it was a definite confluence of the two currents in my life.



DESTRUCTION - In one of the displays at the Pyrotechnics Guild International convention in Wisconsin last weekend, 1,200 drones adopted the shape of a threatening, red-eyed robot which claimed that it was part of a civilization vastly superior to humankind’s, and that it was here to destroy us.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Here’s hoping that you, too, find some pleasures over the next few days. Let me suggest that taking a few minutes to write a letter or a journal entry about them would be

worth your time. It’s a great pleasure to come across things like that a little later and relive the happiness.

The parachute opened and I turned 20

I have finally turned 20. Two decades. The big two-zero. Woo.

I don’t feel that old. Some days I feel like I’m still too young, as if I should still be in high school. Other days I feel as if I could just be done with college right now and I should start looking for my own place to live with a nice big grown-up job.

Birthdays are weird for me. As much as I do understand why we celebrate people’s birthdays, I don’t understand why we celebrate their birthdays. I don’t do anything specific to deserve presents every year. If anything, we should be congratulating moms and dads for our birthdays.

I sometimes feel bad when people give me presents because I think they felt they were expected to do so simply to conform to society’s rules and expectations. I explained my thoughts to my friend—he said birthdays are an excuse to appreciate a person. He claimed we don’t get to appreciate each other very often, so birthdays are something of a reminder.

I have never placed a lot of emphasis on birthdays; the last time I



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

had a big birthday party and invited all my friends over and everything was in middle or elementary school.

One birthday I remember fondly was quite a few years ago. I purposely woke up before my mom and dad had to leave for work so I could open my presents. I remember receiving two large Lego sets from my uncle. That day, my mom took my sister to work with her so I was able to have the whole day to myself, watching Disney channel and building Lego structures on the living room floor in my pajamas. That was a great birthday.

But no birthday will top my eighteenth. Instead of going out to buy lottery tickets or gamble or do whatever most people do when they turn

18 and think they run the world, I went skydiving: I loved it. Since he’s not afraid of heights, my dad volunteered to go with me. Three generations of my family went out to the Waseca airport the day of my birthday. By chance, Karl, the guy I was strapped to as my tandem partner, had actually grown up with my mom so it was a nice little reunion for her and my grandparents.

The plane ride up was surprisingly peaceful: The back of the small plane was nice and warm and the views were beautiful. We climbed to whatever height is needed to jump out of the plane. The side door opened and a rush of cold air flooded the plane. My dad went first, cool as a cucumber. That was when I started to

get a little nervous as one does, but when I sat on the edge of the door with my feet dangling, it was such a rush. Karl leaned forward...we started rolling out of the plane and down toward the ground, and then... we kept turning. He had taken us into a flip! The flip was amazing, but I hadn’t had time to think about it as we were then free falling over the fields of Waseca and southern Minnesota. It was the best feeling and one that is quite indescribable.

The parachute opened, Karl gave me the handles, and we had a little fun going around in circles before landing safely in the field at the airport. Now, I can’t wait to go again.

This year it was too hot to go out and do anything adrenaline and fun filled. I thought about going hiking or cliff jumping, but again, it was too hot. I hope all of you were able to stay cool and hydrated this week.

My Determination: “Never fear quarrels, but seek hazardous adventures.” — Alexandre Dumas, The Three Musketeers

Piecing my life and apartment together

I was interviewed by the Mankato Free Press today. After going through multiple interrogations by Deb Bently who has written about me in the past, this was a walk in the park.

I probably talked too much for my own good, but it was an interview after all. My favorite part was the surprise question about my soon-to-be released Spanish newspaper. I’m not sure where that idea came from, but it made me chuckle. In Waseca, for a short time, we did publish a column printed in Spanish each week.

This past year has gone quickly. The first year of the Pioneer is in the books. My third year as “caretaker” (as my dad likes to call it) of the Star Eagle is already almost halfway through. And I’m about to celebrate the second year as publisher of the Golden Link.

This week we are making the switch from the Pioneer office in Waseca to our own building. That was a process.

At the same time, my apartment in New Richland, in the back of the Star Eagle office, is nearing completion. I finished installing



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

floor tiles in my bathroom Monday evening and the only major work left to be done is a closet and putting a ceiling on my bedroom.

It’s been a very eventful/busy few years.

I feel like I blinked and the month of August went by, just like summer, much in the same way the past three years have gone.

They say time moves a little faster as you get older. Haha, I’m still only 25. Who am I kidding?

Given that I’m speaking about my apartment and offices, I can’t miss the opportunity to thank the New Richland Economic Development Authority. They chipped in some funds for the new roof the Star Eagle so desperately needed. At the time of my asking for their help, I was in a pretty sorrowful state as my health troubles were at

their worst. I really wasn’t able to properly thank them at the time, and I’m still not sure what the correct way is to thank them now...Other than to say thank you often and loudly.

The process started when I called Mitch at Wagner’s to ask about how the EDA worked. Then I attended a meeting and then another meeting, and brought all the stuff to Anthony Martens at City Hall and the rest is history. I had a local roofer do the roof, one who Jody Wynnemer, a local EDA member, also knew. Throughout the construction of my apartment, I’ve made it a point only to hire locally. Bohlens Plumbing and Heating did all of the plumbing work. Delane Nelson all of my electrical. And the rest? My mother.

Thanks, Mom!

Oh, and several readers donated items for my apartment. The Finneys, who moved to South Dakota, gave me a brand new bed. A neighbor donated a bunch of ceramic tiles. My cousin gave me a very nice couch. And another family friend helped me find very affordable, quality appliances for next to nothing. Many other little items, odds and ends, have found their way in as the space has been constructed and it has reminded me, consistently, to be patient.

Everything will, in fact, work out, generally for the better if you just take your time and don’t rush it.

So how did the interview with the Mankato Free Press Lady go? I talked for an hour and she only actually asked me about four questions. Turns out I’m pretty well versed at telling stories. Especially one I’m so familiar with.

“One of the greatest tragedies in life is to lose your own sense of self and accept the version of you that is expected by everyone else.” - K.L. Toth



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Jeannie Feldkamp and one of her sons during the Waseca Farmers Market. Pioneer photo by Amelia Roessler

Overwhelming success for PoP

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editorial Assistant

The Power of Produce (PoP) club has had an overwhelmingly successful start this summer at the farmer's market, with its first weekend being July 22 and numbers still continuing to grow.

The program provides free fresh produce to youth through a joint partnership between 4-H, the Waseca County Public Health office, and Mayo Clinic. Kids under 18 years old can come to the farmer's market held each weekend at the Waseca County fairgrounds and register for

the PoP club; once they are members, they will get a five dollar voucher to spend at any of the vendors for fresh fruit, produce, canned, pickled, freeze dried or dehydrated vegetables, and eggs as well. The vendors will be reimbursed for those goods.

The PoP club had over 100 kids register the first weekend and again the second, with close to 150 kids participating the third weekend, according to Amy Nelson, University



Kids register for the Power of Produce club during the Waseca Farmers Market. Pioneer photo by Amelia Roessler

Meatery heads to state fair

Yes, meat is for sale at the local grocery store, but where did the grocery store get it? Down the road? Out of state? Out of the country?

"Those were questions we heard a lot," says Colette Drager, President of The Meatery, an online startup with a mission to bridge the gap between home-grown producers and home chefs. "It used to be that most consumers didn't think much about where their meat came from," says Drager, "but things are changing, and more consumers want to connect with the incredible stories behind their food."

As part of its mission to provide more consumers with quality meats, the Meatery will have a booth in the upcoming Minnesota State Fair from August 24 to September 4. The Meatery's booth at the Eco Experience will allow fairgoers to meet the farmers behind the meat, sample delectable cuts, and learn about the company's commitment to connecting good food with good people.

Many of The Meatery's partner producers will be at their booth at the fair, offering samples of everything from pork chops to burgers to snack sticks and more. Among the partners are Remmele Custom Beef, Fischer Family Farms, Hart Country Meats, Fertile Acreage Farm, as well as small butchers and meat shops like Country Butcher Shop and Wiste's Meat Market.

"At the fair, visitors will have the chance to shake hands with our dedicated farmers, savor samples of thoughtfully curated meats, and enjoy exclusive fair promotions available only by visiting our booth. It's a celebration of community, connection, and exceptional food," says Drager.

According to the North American Meat Institute's 2022 State of Meat study, a growing number (64%) of home chefs want to serve meats that are better for their family, and a third want to serve meats raised with a commitment to animal and environmental welfare. The Meatery responds by providing an online marketplace where customers can purchase carefully curated boxes of meats directly from producers. Each box, packed and shipped by the producer, arrives at customers' doors in environmentally friendly packaging, ensuring a seamless and eco-conscious experience.

"At The Meatery, our goal is to revolutionize the connection between consumers and the

Meatery continued on 6

MVAC interns celebrated

Internship program shows growth in year number two

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

A few dozen people, among them Waseca County Commissioners Brad Krause and Brian Harguth and several area business owners, were in attendance for a "thank you" breakfast put on by Minnesota Valley Action Council (MVAC) Thursday morning at the East Annex building in Waseca. The event recognized local college students who participated in a summer internship program throughout Waseca County.

The program, in its second year, is a mirror of the Martin County Internship program which has been in place for more than a decade. MVAC placed college students as paid interns with the Waseca County Sheriff's Department, the Waseca County Pioneer, iWealth, Ockwig Construction, Small Town Media and Production, Waseca Vet Clinic and South Central Human Relations.

The program's intention was to focus on showing young Waseca County adults that opportunities exist in their fields of study here in their home county.

Participating in the program were eight college students, three more than last year. They were: Amelia Roessler and Jonah Stafford (Pioneer); Jonah Drake (iWealth); Collin Dufault (Ockwig Construction); Isabella Hadley (Small Town Media); Erin Heitkamp (Waseca Sheriff's Office); Ian Pomeroy (Waseca Vet Clinic); Anna Sexton (South Central Human Relations).

The program pays interns \$15 an hour up to 29 hours per week at their respective businesses. At the start of the summer, Interns were given on-site initiations at their sites by MVAC representative Stephanie Landsteiner and an owner or manager of the business.

As the celebratory breakfast catered by Lush



Minnesota Valley Action Council staff and Waseca County personnel, from left: MVAC Senior Services Coordinator Sarah McDonald, Commissioner Brian Harguth, MVAC Community Services Director Margy Hendrickson, County Administrator Michael Johnson, Family Resource Specialist Stephanie Landsteiner, County Commissioner Brad Krause, MVAC Executive Director Amanda Mackie and County Human Resource Director Melissa Sexton. Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens



Waseca County Sheriff Jay Dulas and intern Anna Sexton; Right, Pioneer interns Amelia Roessler and Jonah Stafford. Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens



Cake of Waseca came to a close, Landsteiner expressed her gratitude for the summer program and her opportunity to lead it. "Personally, one of the greatest things about running this program was how willing this community was to make a difference," she shared. "The purpose of this program is really to give students a chance to re-imagine their home county with adult eyes, and become aware of opportunities in their own home towns, and I would say it's working."

County Commissioners Krause and Harguth

also expressed positive impressions. "This is an excellent opportunity for the interns," Harguth said. "And shows folks there is work for them here."

"We're excited to have the program continue," Krause added.

As for the interns, all in attendance were asked to speak.

MVAC continued on 8

Lisa just beat breast cancer

My wife, Lisa, just beat breast cancer. After a successful surgery and many visits to Owatonna, she is cancer free. Thanks to a fantastic surgeon, caring nurses, and smiling receptionists, she's once again healthy. I've had a wonderful last couple of weeks: time for a full week at the Tetonka cabin and a fishing trip with family.

At our cabin, it's BLT and sweet corn season. Upon our arrival there was a knock at the door and there was our neighbor Roger with 4 plump, ripe, tomatoes. Thank you Roger! We stuffed our tummies with BLTs for the next couple of evenings and enjoyed the smell of cooking bacon; the aroma filled our cabin with my favorite smell, bacon! I picked up a half dozen sweet corn ears from Mason's sweet corn stand and it was on to a meal of sweet corn. Mason always



Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika



fills your bag with a couple of extra ears of corn. We ate all of the 8 ears of corn in one sit-down meal. Thank you Mason for your wonderful produce.

My neighbor Bob, a realtor in Mankato, is a great neighbor. He and his wife Emily are avid Wisconsin sports fans: I enjoy talking to him after another Gopher border war game has taken place. Bob's secretary's daughter and a group of friends enjoyed Bob's cabin for the weekend.

They appreciated the lake with pontoon rides, swimming, and late night bonfires. As all young people do at the lake, they drank favorite beverages, grilled out, played their music, and partied late into the night.

The group was packing to leave on Sunday and there was a knock at our cabin door. There stood Kaylee, the secretary's daughter, looking a bit nervous and unsettled. She had stopped by to apologize for being a bit loud and rowdy into the late Sat-

urday night. I replied by saying, "That's how young people should enjoy a vacation at the lake!" I told her I was glad they had a wonderful time. I also mentioned that they hadn't bothered us at all. In fact, in my younger years I would have joined them. Kaylee is a wonderful, considerate, young lady.

Lisa decided it was time to celebrate and entertain at the cabin. She invited one of her social groups, the Olivettes, to come for a get together. I believe they get their name from putting olives in their beverages; the group consists of retired Waseca Public School employees. I spent the morning cleaning the deck, cabin, and toilet, then setting up chairs. According to the weather people at

Zika continued on 4

WASECA SCHOOL BOARD

Survey to explore community opinions

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writer

In his report during the August school board meeting, Waseca superintendent Eric Hudspeth requested approval to distribute a community survey within the next six weeks. The purpose of the survey is to help the district assess public sentiment as it addresses ongoing uncertainty—and even controversy—regarding whether to continue ongoing high maintenance and repair on the aging Hartley school building or to ask the community for a tax referendum needed to construct a new facility.

As he requested that the board move forward with the survey, he emphasized that it did not entail the commitment that a vote would, but instead would give decision makers a stronger understanding of general community sentiment toward the district facilities and a possible referendum. "None of us as individuals really have access to the entire community sentiment. We just don't. We talk to as many people as we possibly can, but we need to get more information from the entire community," Hudspeth said, reminding the board that their personal views are not the question.

"It's our job to bring ideas to the community. The community will have the final say about these ideas, but doing nothing is not an option." A discussion was held about certain points of the prepared information and survey, with Theron Kruger expressing some concern about the terminology used. Anderson mentioned that the ambient noise in most classrooms requiring teachers to wear microphones was also omitted. Hudspeth reminded the board to continue adding names of community groups to his spreadsheet for him to contact about the facilities presentation and survey.

In what he called the "celebration part" of the report, Hudspeth shared data regarding academic achievement; 74% of students in grades K-4 demonstrated moderate to aggressive growth on their math assessments and 62% in the same grade demonstrated moderate to aggressive growth in reading. In grades four to nine, five of the six grades exceeded growth targets in math on the NWEA test. All grade levels are within two or three points of the national

School continued on 8

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OBITUARIES

Charles Youngberg

Charles Glenn Youngberg, age 79, or Waseca, died on Friday, August 18, 2023, at Benedictine Living Community of Owatonna.

Born on June 18, 1944, in Waseca, he is the son of Glenn and Nina (Nelemans) Youngberg. Chuck attended Waseca Public School, graduating with the class of 1962. In 1971, Chuck was united in marriage to Jan Jaeger and they were later divorced. He worked at Central Natural Gas for a short time before starting a 34 year career at E.F. Johnson Co. where he worked in Radio Testing and Electrical Manufacturing. Chuck loved cars. He was a past member of the Waseca Jaycees and a member of Faith United Methodist Church in Waseca.

Chuck is survived by his mother, Nina Youngberg of Waseca; siblings: Carol Meyer, Rita Johnson, and Craig (Arllys) Youngberg all of Waseca; several nieces and nephews, other relatives and friends.



Charles Youngberg

Preceded in death by his father.

Funeral Service will be 11:00 AM on Tuesday, August 29, 2023, at Faith United Methodist Church in Waseca. Burial will follow in Woodville Cemetery. Visitation will be for one hour prior to the service at the church on Tuesday.

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Lucille Kubista

Lucille (Kuyper) Kubista, age 102 of Waseca, died on Tuesday, August 15, 2023 at Foxdale in Waseca.

Born on December 30, 1920 in Bath Township, Freeborn County, Minnesota, she was the daughter of Alfred and Elnora (Jensen) Christensen. She graduated from Ellendale high School in 1939. Lucille was united in marriage to Elmer L. Kuyper and he preceded her in death in 1970. She later married George Kubista on December 30, 1972. She worked as a bookkeeper at Kuyper Implement and later Kubista Implement for 35 years. Lucille was a member of Faith United Methodist Church in Waseca.

She is survived by three children, Stuart (Kathy) Kuyper of Albuquerque, NM, Thomas (Karen) Kuyper of Waseca, and Mary (Louis) Born of Winona; five grandchildren, Charity, Michael, Lisa, Justin and Shannon; and eight great grandchildren, Aiden, Ava, Gracie, Finnegan, Addie, Sullivan, Bryce, and Connelly. She is also survived by one step-daughter, Brenda (Tom) Marzinske and several step-grandchildren and



Lucille Kubista

great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; both husbands; brothers, Virgil (Orla) Christensen, LaVerne Christensen, and Marlin Christensen; sister, Eleanor (Calverley) Leiser; and infant grandson.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, August 26, 2023 at 2:00 PM at Faith United Methodist Church in Waseca. Visitation will be held on Saturday from 1:30 PM until the time of services. Burial will follow at Woodville Cemetery in Waseca. dsfuneral.com

■ Zika from Page 3

channel 12 news, the rain and drizzle were supposed to clear off at 2 p.m. Nice report weather people, eight Olivettes arrived at 4 p.m. carrying their goodies into the cabin in rain and drizzle. They came bearing beverages, salad, dips, crackers, chips, Chex-mix, tater tots, and rum cake. Lisa prepared ham and cheese sliders. Our cabin area is rather small, so the group quickly reorganized things to suit the current need. They had wonderful food and drink, laughter, and great conversation. I even got to participate, maybe a bit too much at times.

Lisa, Steph, Lou, and Carol have all beat breast cancer. They are all alive and well, not to mention being a wonderful group of ladies.

My son Marc, his father-in-law Gary, and three of my grannies (grandchildren, that is), Evan, Ryan, and Nathan, recently went on a fishing trip to Big Stone Lake. It was three generations of family fishing together. The weather was great, our fish fries yummy, and everyone caught a trophy Bluegill over 10 inches. My youngest gran-nie Nathan has the habit of using the phrase “thank you.” I took personal notice, pulled him aside, and told him how magical and wonderful that special pair of words is. We should all use it more often. Nathan is a wonderful grandson.

We live on Fourth Street Northeast, across from the swimming pool and park. Every morning at

6:30 a.m. when I take Sammy for her wake-up walk, I encounter personal fitness walkers and joggers, as well as many others out with their dogs. Frequently I run into my neighbor Twyla V. not only walking her dog, but also carrying a plastic bag picking up litter. Occasionally I observe an elderly man walking around the baseball diamond. He parks his car in the parking lot and takes his dog for a walk later in the day. On a 90-degree day, I saw him taking his baby steps, periodically holding onto the fence to take a rest in the shade. I had to meet him. Both of his knees are very bad, but he still does his work-out to the best of his ability. David Opalinski came from Crosby, Minnesota, to Waseca to be close to his daughter. Even though he’s had several knee surgeries, he is still in pain. He said it takes about 35 minutes to do his journey with his dog. David is a true inspiration to me. With all the uplifting stories, I need to end with some sad news. The Pillsbury Doughboy died yesterday of a yeast infection and complications from repeated pokes to the belly. He was 71.

Doughboy was buried in a lightly greased coffin. Dozens of celebrities turned out to pay their respects including Mrs. Butterworth, Hungry Jack, the California raisins, Betty Crocker, the Hostess Twinkies and Cap’n Crunch.

Doughboy is survived by his wife, Play Dough; two children, John and Jane Dough; plus they had one in the oven. He is also survived by his elderly father, Pop Tart.

The funeral was held at 3:50 for about twenty minutes.

Gertrude A. Marsh

Gertrude A. Marsh, of Eau Claire, passed on Tuesday, July 18, 2023 in Eau Claire. Passing at 95, Gert lived a good life. Her faith and love for her family were very important to her. She cared deeply for her family and we were blessed to have that. She had spunk, sass, humor, wit, and charm. She will be missed by so many.

She was born in Stanley to the late Julius and Margaret (Weaver) Hiller on September 21, 1927. At age 8 the family moved to Waterville, MN. After graduating from high school, she moved to Eau Claire and attended Eau Claire Tech School in 1945.

Gert married Malcolm “Mac” Marsh on Sept 27, 1947. Mac passed in 2016.

She always took pride in her appearance. The last few years robbed her of many things, specifically her sight and hearing. She left this world gracefully.

We had so many wonderful memories with her, and we will have them forever.

When Gert and Mac had children,

she became a homemaker, staying at home to care for the children. She was very proud of her children’s accomplishments in life.

Gert was a member of North Presbyterian Church since 1947 where she was a choir member and Clerk of the Session, Youth director and Sunday School teacher. She also played piano and sang at church; she was a member of the Presbytery Women of Northern Waters. She was also a 4-H Youth leader in the Little Red Cardinals 4-H Club for 26 years. Gert was an avid bird watcher, she loved hummingbirds. She enjoyed reading, knitting, crocheting and fishing.

She loved to bowl and bowled for many, many years.

She worked for Uniroyal for 10 years in data processing. When Mac bought the shop, (Macs Seat Cover), she became the bookkeeper until retirement. When all the children were grown Mac and Gert became Snowbirds in Texas for many winters. They loved the “Eighty” where they camped every year.

She was famous for her bread making, and you always went home with a fresh loaf of warm bread. And

of course, her homemade beans were the best, but you know what happens with beans. Gert loved family gatherings for the holidays and picnics in the summer.

She will be missed; she waited for her perfect day and has gone on to her next journey. Joining her husband Mac, son Lee, and granddaughter Vanessa.

Gert is survived by her children: Cindy (Kevin) Emry, Wendy (Gene) Leirimo, Jane Marsh, Ted (Lisa) Marsh, Amy Marsh (daughter-in-law); grandchildren: Melissa (Marc), Heather, Amy (Craig), Debbie (Chad), Danny (Penny), Rosa (Brian), Beth (Estaban), Dustin (Emily), Julia, Delana, Leah (Shaun) and Jeremy (Jenny); great grandchildren: Steve, Mathew, Nicholas, Rebecca, Sean, Cashell, Tanner, Elijah, Austin, Samantha, Dominic, Olivia, Maksim, Kiley, Sydney, and Lanae;

She is preceded in death by siblings: Lawrence Hiller, Dorothy Moldenhauer, Mary Bellows and Lucy Knish.

A Celebration of Life were held at 11:00 am on Wednesday, August 23, 2023 at Stokes, Prock & Mundt Fu-



Gertrude Marsh

neral Chapel, 535 S. Hillcrest Parkway, Altoona with Pastor Steve Scott officiating. Visitation was held from 9:00 am until time of service. Inurnment will be at Rest Haven Cemetery.

Cremation Society of Wisconsin, Altoona is assisting the family. Online condolences may be shared at www.cremationsociety-wi.com.

Theodor Anderson

Theodor “Ted” Elmo Anderson, age 90, of Waseca died on Saturday, August 19, 2023, at Lakeshore Inn in Waseca.

Born on April 18, 1933, in Becker County, Minnesota, he was the son of Elmo and Theoline (Bessrud) Anderson. He attended Detroit Lakes Public School, graduating with the class of 1951. Ted continued his education at Vocational Technical School where he studied Mercury Motor Repair. On June 5, 1955, Ted was united in marriage to Kay Baumgart at Trinity Lutheran Church in New Richland. Soon after they were married, Ted was drafted into the United States Army, being stationed at Fort Huachuca, Arizona where they welcomed their first child. Following his honorable discharge in 1959, they moved to Waseca where they made their home and raised their four children. Ted worked various construction jobs in the area before starting T.E. Anderson Construction, which he owned and operated for 18 years. Following his career in construction he started working for the United States Postal

Service as a rural route carrier which he continued until his retirement after 26 years. His family remembers his dedication to the post office, coming in on Christmas Day to make sure any last-minute gifts were delivered. Ted instilled a hard work ethic into his children and always believed in “doing the right thing”. He absolutely adored his grandchildren and great-grandchildren to the fullest. Ted will be remembered for his dedication and thoughtfulness he shared with his family and friends. Ted enjoyed hunting, fishing, boating, scuba diving, and going on family vacations. He was a proud member of the N.R.A., Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and Civil Air Patrol. Ted was also a faithful member of Christ Community Church in Waseca.

Ted is survived by his loving wife of 68 years, Kay; children: Debbie (Tom) McEllistrem of Mendota Heights, Cindy (Larry) Clayton of Waseca, Beth (Brad) Krause of Waseca, and Allen (Heidi) Anderson of Waseca; grandchildren: Tasha (Clayton) and her husband Ryan Schleis, Zach Clayton, Jacob and his

wife, Megan Krause, Caleb Krause, Allie Faust, Tatiana (Krause) and her husband Eric Marti, Tanyce (Krause) and her husband Ryan Bruegger, Elsa McEllistrem, Kaylee McEllistrem, and Hunter Anderson; great grandchildren: Cadence, Killian, Ainsley, Odellia, and Drayden Schlies, Liam and Matthew Clayton, Jayden and Odin Krause, Serenity Faust, Everleigh, Selah, and Eila Marti, Jaxon and Brynlee Krause, Vivian, Lydia, and Theo Bruegger. He is also survived by his sister, Elaine Dahring; brothers, Art (Mary), Clarence (Kathy), Roger (Karyl), and Chuck (Jayne); brothers-in-law: Bob Baumgart and Dan (Jill) Baumgart; sisters-in-law: Jane Hagen, and Judy (Don) Vogel-sang; many nieces, nephews, extended family, and dear friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents; sister, Donna; brother-in-law, Don Dahring; sister-in-law, Judy Baumgart; aunt, Gina Aure; uncle, Clarence Bessrud.

Visitation will be from 2:00 – 5:00 PM on Sunday, August 27, 2023 at Christ Community Church in Waseca. Visitation will continue for one hour prior to the service at the



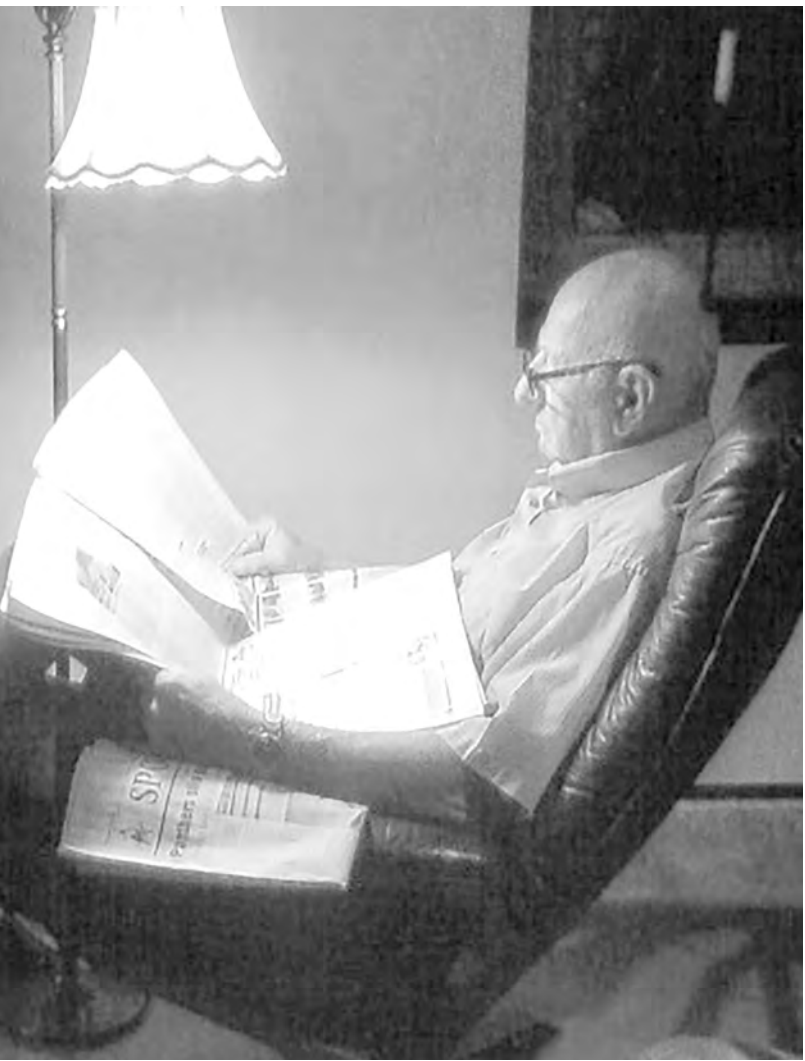
Theodor Anderson

church on Monday.

Funeral service will be 11:00 AM on Monday, August 28, 2023 at Christ Community Church in Waseca. Private family interment will be at Woodville Cemetery.

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DEATH NOTICE



Jurgen Peters

Jurgen C. Peters, age 87, of Waseca, passed away peacefully on

Sunday, August 20, 2023, in Waseca. Arrangements are pending.



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Prairie Lakes Arts Council celebrates third decade

Waseca, MN - Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council (www.plrac.org) is proud to announce its 30th year anniversary providing funding and resources to artists and arts organizations in the 9-county region of Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, LeSueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca, and Watonwan counties. This milestone coincides with celebrating the 28th year of Cindy Lewer and 14th year of Pam Trumbull with the organization. Both Lewer and Trumbull have been assets to the council's success during the transition to to the leadership of new Executive Director Anna Pollock in July of this year.

Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council became an independent non-profit organization in 1993. It is funded in part by the Minnesota State Arts Board and the State General Fund through the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (<http://www.arts.state.mn.us/grant/s/machf.htm>) as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the Legacy Amendment vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008. In FY 2023, the council awarded over \$465,000 in grants to the 9-county region. Of that, the McKnight Foundation provides funding to Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council to give \$49,500 annually to artists directly.

"It's evident that arts in Southern Minnesota are crucial to the fabric of our communities. They allow a richer human experience to people of all ages, while connecting us in ways that expand our understanding of one another," says Pollock. Randy Mediger, representing Le Sueur County, has served on the council over the past 10 years and is currently the President of the Board. Mediger states, "The Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council has been working hard to be more inclusive in the population we serve by adding more artistic disciplines and simplifying the grant application writing process. Our staff is always willing to assist prospective applicants as well."

The arts council celebrates this 30th year anniversary by increasing visibility of the arts and to ensure proper use of state and foundation funding in the region by encouraging citizen participation, providing technical assistance, planning, public information, and administrative assistance to artists and arts organizations.

Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council is a part of The Forum of Regional Arts Councils of Minnesota (<http://www.arts.state.mn.us/racs/index.htm>), a consortium of the eleven regional arts councils that serve all Minnesota counties.

Marching Classic awarded grant

The Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council (PLRC) has awarded \$2,135 in funding to the Waseca Marching Classic, scheduled for September 23. The grant will be used to sponsor educational clinics for student marching band participants during the 36th annual event. Student bands from many communities are anticipated as participants in the clinics. Funds will be used for clinician fees.

The decision to award the funding was made after Marching Classic organizers submitted an application in time for consideration in July under the "Small Arts Project and School Arts Project" grant program, which is available to non-profit arts organizations, community groups, public organizations, or schools producing or sponsoring arts activities for their community or students. PLRC says, "We encourage applications for artistic performances or the sponsorship of quality arts activities in the 9-county region. This may include dance, literature, media arts, music, theater, visual art, folk and traditional art, and more."

Also receiving funding from July consideration was the American Indian Service Learning Project, which will coordinate cultural interactive learning experiences for college students to interact and learn from American Indian artists and speakers at the fiftieth annual Mankato Pow Wow September 15-17.

The Deep Valley Book Festival's request was also granted. That organization is hosting its eighth annual book festival on Oct. 7 at the Country Inn and Suites Conference Center in Mankato. The festival will include authors from Minnesota and the upper Midwest and the Young Writers and Artists Competition for ages 7-17.

Pine Gardens extravaganza

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editorial Assistant

The Pine Gardens Bed and Breakfast celebrated its Jonny Wayne Midsummer Dinner Extravaganza from the evening of Friday, Aug. 11 until the evening of Sunday, Aug. 13. This second annual dinner included live music from artist Jonny Wayne along with Wayne's Thailand cooking. The dinner itself was Saturday night, but the event lasted all weekend.

According to Jodine Meadowcroft, owner of Pine Gardens Bed and Breakfast located on the corner just south of the Central School building, the weekend was filled with art and fun people who came to celebrate music and Wayne's cooking, a yellow curry noodle and chicken dish, and his music.

"It's just a lot of fun art and fun people celebrating each others' art and unique differences," Meadowcroft said. "We're family, so it's like a family reunion."

Last year's event was similar, but celebrated the summer solstice with 25 to 30 participants coming from all over the United States. Meadowcroft said that this year's event "we just did because we can," but with the numbers dwindling and picking up again, she didn't know how many people would attend.

Meadowcroft says she works on creating a welcoming environment. "This has always been a safe home and a safe place for people to come and express themselves and be safe," Meadowcroft explained.



Pine Gardens Bed and Breakfast celebrated its "Jonny Wayne Midsummer Dinner Extravaganza" from Aug. 11 through Sunday, Aug. 13. Pioneer photo by Amelia Roessler

Klobuchar urges USPS to address burden

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) sent a letter to United States Postal Service (USPS) Postmaster General Louis DeJoy expressing concern over recent policy changes and rate hikes affecting local and rural newspapers. In July, the USPS eliminated the use of sack containers for newspapers and other periodicals and will now only accept newspapers delivered in bulkier containers. These new containers are more labor intensive to organize and handle as well as more expensive, creating a serious burden on local newspapers.

"Local newspapers in Minnesota have found this new policy to be overly burdensome, especially those serving rural communities," Klobuchar wrote. "Rural newspapers have informed me that this new rule has increased the number of containers needed to deliver the same number of newspapers, and some now require additional trucks to deliver their newspapers to local post offices for distribution."

"Minnesotans depend on local newspapers not only to find out the weather forecast or who won the big high school sports game, but also to keep them well-informed about local issues and hold local government officials accountable. USPS's new rule and rate hikes have real impacts on local newspapers delivery, and local journalism and their subscribers are already paying the price," continued Klobuchar. "I urge you to address these burdens on local newspapers and ensure that the United States Postal Service is a viable, affordable delivery service for independent newspaper distribution so that the local newspapers that rely on the postal service can continue to serve their communities."

The full text of the letter is available below:

Dear Mr. DeJoy:

I write to share concerns raised by my constituents about the impacts of the United States Postal Service's (USPS) recent policy changes and rate hikes on local newspapers.

USPS recently eliminated the use of sack containers for newspapers and other periodicals and will now only accept newspapers delivered in

bulkier containers that are more labor intensive to organize and handle. These containers are also more expensive. Local newspapers in Minnesota have found this new policy to be overly burdensome, especially those serving rural communities.

Rural newspapers have informed me that this new rule has increased the number of containers needed to deliver the same number of newspapers, and some now require additional trucks to deliver their newspapers to local post offices for distribution. While USPS has responded to some of these concerns by suggesting that sacks can be used if organized onto pallets for delivery, many rural post offices do not have loading docks or the necessary equipment to unload and receive pallets. This new rule is being implemented at a time when newspapers are already grappling with USPS's 30 percent delivery rate increase since January 2021, including an increase of more than 8 percent earlier this month.

Local newspapers are already facing an existential crisis with ad reve-

nues plummeting, newspapers closing, and many rural communities becoming "news deserts" without access to local reporting. Minnesotans depend on local newspapers not only to find out the weather forecast or who won the big high school sports game, but also to keep them well-informed about local issues and hold local government officials accountable. USPS's new rule and rate hikes have real impacts on local newspapers delivery, and local journalism and their subscribers are already paying the price. The United States Postal Service should be helping these local newspapers reach their communities, not making it more difficult for them to do their critical work.

I urge you to address these burdens on local newspapers and ensure that the United States Postal Service is a viable, affordable delivery service for independent newspaper distribution so that the local newspapers that rely on the postal service can continue to serve their communities.

Local health programs seeking input

Have you ever wondered why something isn't being done about [insert your concern]? Do you look around your neighborhood and wish for change? Do you have ideas about how to make your community a healthier place?

Public Health is seeking public input to identify health concerns and "hoped-fors" among area residents, wondering what you most need to be your healthiest. We'd like to hear your concerns and ideas. Soon we'll be stepping into your community to hear from you. We've gathered some data from local surveys and want to share those results with you. And most importantly, we'd like you to help us understand what your community most needs to make strides toward better health.

Health can mean different things to different people. The public health department is preparing for that variety by seeking some early input intended to help maximize some work scheduled for the coming months. Area residents are asked to complete a brief survey. Survey responses will help identify local health concerns and select times and dates for sessions to receive public

input. Readers are asked to access the survey at tinyurl.com/WasCPH and share their thoughts. The survey should take only a couple of minutes to complete on a computer or smartphone.

If you'd like to complete the survey and need assistance due to language, technology or other barriers, please call or visit our office. We'd really like to hear from everyone, so are happy to mail a survey to you or provide it in Spanish. Our office is located at 1000 West Elm Avenue, Waseca and our phone number is 507-835-0685.

Please come and visit with us and help us understand where we might be able to supplement and support work that is already happening in your community. What we learn from you will be used to shape a report we will share with decision makers and it will inform strategies for community support in the coming years.

Data can only tell part of the story. We'd like to hear your lived experience to better understand what is at the heart of our community. Hope to see you soon!

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PALS - Lori Gehring of Waseca and Brenda Clemmons of Oregon met in person for the first time after 25 years spent as pen pals.

Long distance friendship

Lori Gehring grew up in her hometown of Waterville and now lives in Waseca near Otisco. She is the daughter of Norval and Mae (Seljeskog) Schuette, one of five children. She is married to Steve Gehring and has three children, Joseph, Breanna, and Corwyn, as well as a daughter-in-law, Tristan.

Brenda Lee Clemmons grew up in Dayton, Oregon, 25 miles south of Salem, and now lives in McMinnville nearby. She was the youngest child of Curtis and Lauramae Douglas, with four siblings, Randi, Denice, Dwayne, and Beverley. She describes Beverley as her “bestie” growing up when most of their siblings had left for college. Nowadays she has two grown sons, John and Noah, both married and living independently. Clemmons currently lives with her sister Randi.

What connection exists between these two women? They have been pen-pals for either 48 or 49 years, depending on who you ask. “When we started writing to each other,” Gehring recalls, “stamps were ten cents.”

In all of that time, they'd never met face to face until Clemmons visited southern Minnesota to meet Gehring on August 11 and 12. The two “met” as children through family. Gehring says her maternal grandmother, Grandma Helen, enjoyed “pen-palling” greatly and had pen-pals all over the world. She passed the practice onto her family. Gehring's mother began writing to one of Clemmons' relatives, Marie, at the age of eight. When Gehring was eight, she began writing to the daughter of her mother's pen-pal, Clemmons' cousin Marlene. Their acquaintance was brief, but led to the introduction and lifelong friendship of Gehring and Clemmons. For Clemmons, things began when she discussed pen-pals with Marlene and revealed she didn't have any. When Gehring started writing to Marlene, she made the introduction between the

pair in part for that reason. Clemmons recalls receiving her first-ever letter from Gehring, asking to be pen-pals and including a questionnaire. She says they often did “twenty questions sheets” as they wrote back and forth. In one such exchange she recalls learning that Gehring's favorite song was “I Was Country When Country Wasn't Cool” by Barbara Mandrel. Clemmons knew of the artist, but had never heard the song, so says she called her local radio station to request it so she could hear it.

Like all lasting friendships, Clemmons and Gehring have shared hard times. In the late 70s, it was Clemmons who told Gehring, who passed the information onto her mother, that Marie had died of breast cancer. “Mom cried and cried,” Gehring recalls.

Gehring and Clemmons agree that the best part of having a pen-pal is that they made a life-long friend, and that the most difficult part has been finding time to write in adulthood. As the two girls married and had families, it became difficult to stay in touch. “I was lucky if I could get a letter off in a Christmas card,” Clemmons says. The solution came when Gehring's youngest son urged her to join Facebook, and Gehring in turn urged Clemmons to join. Now, more often than mailing letters they talk on the phone, text, and share photos through Facebook.

“There were times when just knowing that you have a friend meant everything to me. In those times when I felt all alone, I always knew there was one more person I could name as a friend. It meant everything. I'm just sorry it's taken this long to meet,” Clemmons says. “Now that I know she's 5'3” instead of the 5'9” I thought she was all these years, I'm happy,” Gehring said humorously as the visit drew near, adding. “Knowing all of the things we've been through, I cannot wait to hug her.”

Waseca County History Center

Where'd It Go?

C&NW Depot., ca. 1913

At one time the M & ST. L. and the C & NW shared a passenger station in Waseca called the Union Depot. Built in 1877 when the M & St. L began service in Waseca. It was destroyed by fire in 1912. The C & NW Depot is now privately owned and located within the Historic District on South State Street.



Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. C & NW Railroad Train Engine 400 in the Waseca depot in 1963; noted on back that this was its final trip.

■ Produce from Page 3

of Minnesota Extension educator and 4-H Youth Development.

“As people are finding out about it, we're seeing more and more kids participatet,” Nelson said as she

pointed out that last week, the number of kids returning was larger than the number of kids registering for the first time.

As for the vendors participating, Nelson said that they are loving it. “It's increasing traffic and sales for them so they're enthusiastic about participating. It makes it worth their time.”

Nelson told of one vendor who

had never before sold out of broccoli, but had for the first time thanks to thePoP club.

With the club as successful as it is, Nelson says her office is still looking for financial support. Mayo Clinic and other organizations such as the Legion, Auxiliary, and MinnWest bank are helping fund the program, but with such active participation, the PoP club still needs more fund-

ing.

“If there are groups, organizations or individuals that would like to donate to the cause, all that money goes to paying and reimbursing the vendors for their items,” Nelson said.

If someone wishes to donate or to volunteer at the PoP club booth at the farmer's market, they can call the University of Minnesota extension office.

■ Design from Page 1

ielle wanted to see a DIY space in Waseca, she initially thought she might buy the business and continue its work in Waseca, but that wasn't the direction things went. “It was really a blessing in disguise,” Danielle said about the failed purchase. Opening a new storefront in the same location has allowed them to continue as C & A Designs and do things their own way. “It's been a hard road, though, I'll tell you that.”

The DIY consignment aspect of the storefront, which has been described as “like Etsy, but in person,” came about because Danielle wanted to help other artists and crafters. “Let's do that for a while and see what happens,” she said, regarding hosting those makers' goods in her storefront. There are currently 19 small businesses and crafters renting space from C & A Designs, all local to southern Minnesota and each bringing unique ideas and products to Waseca.

Anyone can rent out C & A Designs' DIY space to teach a class for a fee of \$25 per hour. Classes so far have been very successful, with some filling up entirely. Examples of classes include painting, wood-crafts, and mosaic art. “The sky's the limit,” said Danielle.

Parties at C & A Designs are a customizable experience, where hosts can choose a craft they'd like to do and create a package around it to cover time and supplies, then bring in their own snacks and treats.

Mike Garten said he supports the direction C & A Designs is growing. “It's an opportunity to give



C&A Designs is located along State Street in Waseca.

Pioneer photos by Amelia Roessler

“We're just scratching the surface.”
— Danielle Androli

people that wouldn't have it that venue,” he said, explaining that he believes most people's barrier to making things for themselves isn't a lack of desire or creativity but a lack of space, or not knowing how to start. He also believes the things people make for themselves at C & A Designs have the potential to be long-lasting. “We want to be the place where you can get things that maybe one day your kids will have and tell their kids about.”

There is more planned for the fu-

ture. In wintertime, Danielle says that C&A Designs hopes to use its DIY space to host farmers'-market-style events where additional vendors can sell food and craft products under their own licenses. They are also willing to contract for custom-made items for clients who don't feel comfortable making their own crafts. The C&A Designs storefront has not yet held a grand opening event, but Danielle says they still hope to. About their future, she says “We're just scratching



C&A Designs has not yet held a grand opening event, but Danielle says they still hope to.

the surface, we don't even know what we can do yet.”

■ Meatery from Page 3

farms that produce their meat. We're not just selling cuts of beef, pork, and poultry; we're offering a deeper connection to food sources and a commitment to transparency and sustainability,” says Drager.

Unlike traditional meat markets, every box purchased from The Meatery is never handled by a mid-

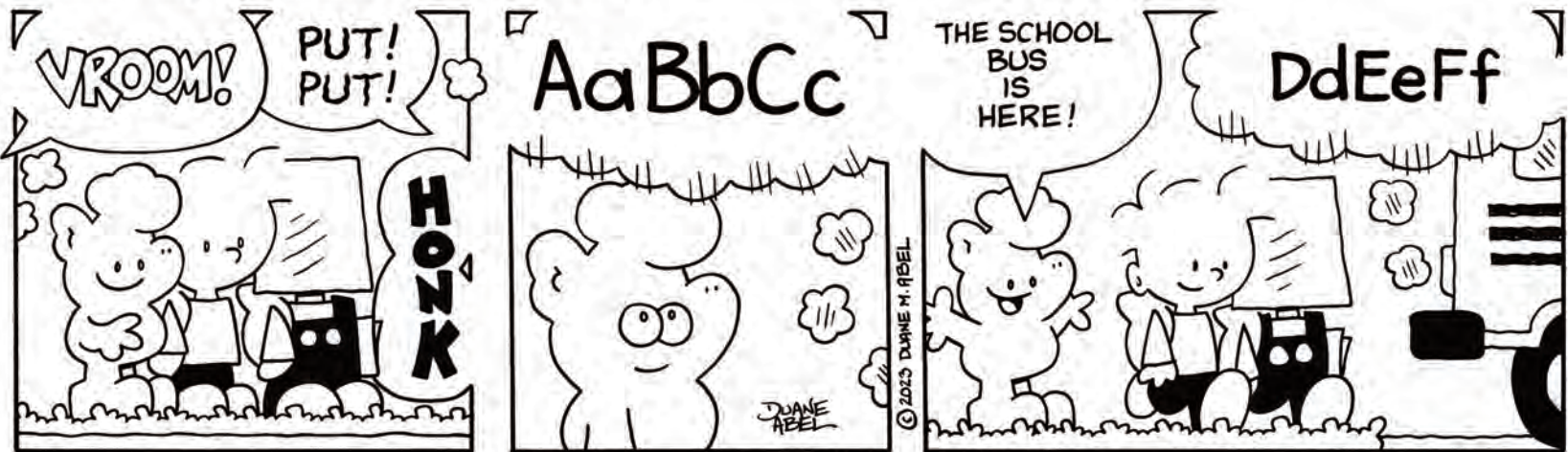
dleman. Instead, customers receive meats packed and shipped directly by the producers themselves. This approach provides a unique level of assurance, where home chefs enjoy every bite knowing exactly where it came from, how it was raised, and who brought it to them.

“Our goal isn't just to sell meat; it's to empower consumers with knowledge about their food and support small farms and producers. We're fostering a community that values quality, sustainability, and direct connections,” adds Drager.

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Council

from Page 1

agents, a windshield on a large piece of equipment was taken out during an officer involved shooting and the Albert Lea department was left with a \$25,000 bill.

“We realized we can’t do this alone,” Carlson said. “We need the partnership.”

Among other reasons Carlson offered for maintaining membership in the SCDIU was officer retention. He mentioned that, due to the special demands of their position, SCDIU agents receive higher wages than typical law enforcement officers. Rather than bearing that higher cost alone, participating agencies distribute it across their departments.

He also mentioned that SCDIU agents are privy to a cooperating network across a large area. “Investigations and crimes do not stay within county lines,” Commander Johnson said.

The city of Waseca currently funds four out of six possible agents on the SCDIU; the county supplies two. All agents are undercover, leaving their identities unknown to the general public.

All council members expressed their support for the SCDIU and the work it accomplishes. Conrath, however, questioned which government entity should be footing the cost.

The debate came to a close after a Waseca resident asked to speak. In tears, Michelle Oswald expressed her gratitude for local law enforcement. “I moved to this community as a first-time home owner and ended up next to a drug house,” Oswald began. “It was awful. I can’t express how much it meant to have that resource. The police got those people out of there.... People were coming to my door at 3 a.m. looking for drugs. It was scary. When you move into a nice little town, you do not expect that kind of thing. Officer Matson was shot on my block. Words cannot express how important this service is.”

Aside from the lengthy SCDIU presentation, the council meeting was relatively short. The city approved a request from Ann Fitch to relax the open bottle policy for the “Halfway to the All School reunion” celebration over Labor Day weekend.

Jessica Stuckmayer and Mikhail Rostislavovich from the Waseca Arts Center thanked the council for its \$3,000 annual grant. “We would not have one of the premier spaces for cultural arts without all the support,” Stuckmayer shared.

New improvements this year included ceramic arts and fiber optics studios. The center is also being updated to incorporate permanent displays for Waseca County art/artists. Its major annual fundraising event, the Great Fall Get-together, will be October 28. The next major project the center is looking at is an elevator to increase accessibility for visitors with handicaps.

Three short public hearings were held regarding residential driveway amendments. Driveways may now be a little longer and wider than before. Exact measurements can be found by contacting the city office. Councilman Mark Christiansen voted no on the issue, recalling an incident from a few years ago when the city required a resident to dismantle a recently completed driveway because it exceeded the ordinance by only a couple of feet. The new regulations would have permitted that driveway.

“I hope each one of you gets a phone call from him,” Christiansen said.

Both Walmart and Cashwise liquor stores accepted fines without objection for having sold alcohol to a minor.

The city approved a new policy outlining the procedures for trespass notices.

A public hearing will be held Aug. 31 for residents who would like to share ideas for the Gaiter Lake Development project.

DoodleBug Trail is again open after the completion of recent renovations.

A number of council members shared their condolences over the unexpected loss of 40-year-old Wayne Breitbarth. Breitbarth worked as a local 911 dispatcher and was beloved throughout the community.

Councilman John Mansfield, although absent from the meeting, shared a couple stories with the Pioneer regarding his experiences with Wayne.

Mansfield’s introduction to Wayne came when he called 911 looking for animal control. Mansfield was new to town at that time and didn’t know there wasn’t animal control. His family had lost their cat, the kids were crying, and Mansfield said he called 911 with the idea that the dispatcher could provide him with further information. Wayne answered the phone, very professionally gave Mansfield a number to call, and ended the call.

Mansfield, thinking, “Oh I have the number for the pound,” dialed the number. It was Wayne’s cell phone.

“John, you can’t call 911 looking for your lost cat. It’s for emergencies.”

Mansfield also shared another story from the officer Matson shooting. Wayne was on the ground working/ coordinating efforts. During the chaos, Mansfield texted Wayne about the matter.

“Don’t worry. Your family is safe,” Wayne responded.

“He found the time, in all that chaos, to text me that,” John remembered.

Other council members also shared memories. Councilman Conrath was a co-worker. Councilman Darren Arndt lived three doors down from Wayne.

Randy Zimmerman closed the meeting, “thanking the good Lord for the rain this week.”

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

“John, you can’t call 911 looking for your lost cat. It’s for emergencies.”
— Wayne Breitbarth



In conjunction with the Waseca County Historical Society, Larry and Jan Hofmann unveiled the results of a restoration effort at Janesville’s Hofmann Apiaries. Pioneer photos by Jonah Stafford



An open house was held at Janesville’s Hofmann Apiaries last weekend. Right, Laura Coale, a cousin of the Hofmanns.



Historic site renovated

Hofmann apiaries acknowledged for decades of beekeeping

By JONAH STAFFORD
Staff Writer

In conjunction with the Waseca County Historical Society, Larry and Jan Hofmann unveiled the results of a restoration effort at Janesville’s Hofmann Apiaries with an open house last Saturday afternoon. The apiaries’ honey house and wax shed have both been renovated over the past few years, with the project reaching completion on July 31.

The site of the apiaries has been owned by the Hofmann family since Valentine and Rosalia Hofmann bought their first portion of its land in 1873. According to Jan, the property was originally used as a hog farm, but its purpose changed under the ownership of Emil Hofmann 30 years later. Jan said that while Emil was

raising pigs, a large swarm of bees became a nuisance. When he fashioned a hive to remedy the issue, “We then became a high producer of honey,” Jan said, mentioning that, at its peak, the facility had more than 1,000 hives.

In 1932, Charles Hofmann took over the business and stayed active in the beekeeping industry until retiring in 1985. The Hofmann family no longer work as beekeepers, but maintain the legacy of the apiaries as a historic site. In addition, beekeepers from outside the family often use the site’s facilities.

Joan Mooney, executive director of the Waseca County Historical Society, has played a large role in preserving the Hofmann Apiaries. She said she first visited the site over a decade ago for an estate sale at the honey house and took immediate interest in it “once the story began to unfold.” Beginning in 2012, Mooney and other Minnesota Historical Society staff began pursuing the potential for the apiaries to be included on the National Register of Historic Places. After being approved, the Hofmann Apiaries were listed beginning with the 2016 National Register. Mooney said the site is the only apiary on that registry, which is evidence of its significance in the history of agriculture. Because of that recognition, the Hofmann Apiaries were able to qualify for grants and funding that made \$325,000 in restoration projects possible.

At the open house, guests were given the opportunity to explore the newly renovated honey house and wax shed, which now include exhibits on the history of the apiaries. In addition, refreshments were offered and Minnesota honey producer Sun Honey LLC offered its products for sale. Laura Coale, a cousin of the Hofmanns, gave backpacks to people who donated to help continue to preserve the apiaries. She also sold DVD copies of “The World of Bees,” an informational video made by Charles Hofmann in the late 1960s.

While the Hofmann Apiaries remains privately owned, it is expected to open for tours and school groups now that the restoration project has been completed.

Races

from Page 1

sons for over fifteen years, described the organization as “a fraternal philanthropy group.” He added that the Soap Box Race is the Waseca Masons’ main annual fundraiser; all profits will be donated to charitable causes in the community. While preparing for the race is a lot of work, Clemons said it’s very rewarding. “The best part is the grins on these kids’ faces,” he commented.

Car sponsors included Radio Mankato, Pantheon Computers, and Kibble Equipment. Other businesses sponsored hay bales, which served as safety buffers during the race.

After an hour-long, triple elimination racing tournament, Roslyn Schmidt of St. Peter, behind the wheel of the “Pantheon I” was declared the champion and presented with a trophy. The car was constructed by Scott Coy, Schmidt’s grandfather. “I like that,” Schmidt said of her win. “I’m surprised I beat my cousin’s friend; she’s pretty fast,” she added. Schmidt’s mother, Jen, added that she enjoyed the race as it was an activity that could “equalize boys and girls.” After the race, the



Big winner Roslyn Schmidt stands with her mom Jen at the Free Masons Soap Box races. Pioneer photo by Jonah Stafford



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Growing Tree Montessori School personnel: Jenny Connors, Josiah Conely, Brittany Arndt, Jaelyn Hebert, Jorja Bluhm. Below, Bluhm operates the prize counter.
Pioneer photos by Jonah Stafford



Growing Tree Jamboree

By JONAH STAFFORD
Staff Writer

Growing Tree Montessori School held its third annual Growing Tree Jamboree at its Waseca location Saturday. The event included games for children, a photo booth, concessions, and a silent auction fundraiser. After earning tickets at the carnival games set up at the Jamboree, kids could redeem them for prizes.

Jenny Connors, Growing Tree's owner and director, opened the preschool and child care center at 900 Fourth Street Southwest in 2020.

"It's a Montessori school where

we bring the feeling of a family daycare and the advantages of the center," said Connors. Growing Tree offers programs for children ages six weeks up to 13 years old.

According to Connors, Growing Tree has a staff of about 20 people, including administrative staff, teachers, and assistants. She mentioned that about 80 students are enrolled in the school's various programs.

Growing Tree Montessori School provides before school, after school, and primary care programs. Transportation to Growing Tree is provided for children who are enrolled.

■ MVAC

from Page 3

"I thought all deputies did was pull people over," Heitkamp said of her thoughts before working in the sheriff's department. "I got to see all the hard work they do. The booking process, SWAT training, and I got to go on a ride along... I really don't know how I'm going to go back to my boring front desk job in the fall."

Everyone who spoke thanked

the county commissioners and MVAC for making the program possible.

The non-profit organization MVAC has been in operation since the Johnson Administration, having been created during the War on Poverty in the 1960s. The organization is perhaps best known for its focus on school age children and the elderly, but offers programs which benefit people of all ages, including energy assistance toward winter heating costs and programs designed to help the un-housed or underemployed.

■ School

from Page 3

norm.

"I feel really excited to tell you that we show district growth in math and reading. In fact, we exceeded our goal targets for growth in both subject areas as far as student achievement. We still have some students not at benchmarks

in some levels and we need to work at supporting them, but we are making exceptional growth. I attribute that to our teachers who are doing everything they can for those kids."

Hudspeth went on to say that Waseca's graduation rate continues to be above the state average. He feels the district is really on track with the academic portion of the strategic plan. "Thank you very much to the staff and the students. We are just continuing to fly."



Waseca tennis players, from left: Mia Kanewischer, Addie Pfeifer, Ashton Jenzen, Sarah Haley, Esme Pearce, Lizzie Roessler, Maddie Benson, Paige Dufault, Tayln Kaput, Vivian Mader, Takya Schoenrock.
Pioneer photo by Amelia Roessler



Waseca High School tennis doubles partners Mia Kanewischer and Lizzie Roessler greet each other on the court.



Addie Pfeifer, left, and Paige Dufault, right, show some of the intensity which has earned the Bluejays their perfect record.

Tennis off to perfect start

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The Waseca High School girls' tennis team is off to a perfect start to the 2023 season.

Literally.

After three dual meets, the Bluejays are 3-0.

The most recent win was Tuesday, when the Jays upended Worthington 6-1 Tuesday on the WHS courts.

Waseca won three of four singles matches. Sarah Haley swept 6-0, 6-0 at No. 2 while Maddy Benson dominated 6-0, 6-1 at No. 3. Addie Pfeiffer prevailed 6-0, 6-0 at fourth singles.

The Trojans' lone win was at No. 1 singles, where Takya

Schoenrock dropped a close 7-5, 4-6, 10-3 decision.

Waseca was equally impressive at doubles, where the Jays dropped just three games. Mia Kanewischer and Elizabeth Roessler rolled 6-0, 6-0 at No. 1, Paige Dufault and Vivian Mader triumphed 6-0, 6-1 at No. 2, and Esme Pearce and Ashton Jenzen were victorious 6-2, 6-0 at No. 3.

Waseca's junior varsity lost 2-1.

The Bluejays won twice on Thursday, Aug. 17, defeating Austin 6-1 and Tri-City United 6-1 in Waseca.

Singles winners against Austin: Haley, No. 2, 6-2, 6-4; Benson, No. 3, 6-0, 6-2; and Mader, No. 4,



Bluejay women's tennis doubles players Mia Kanewischer and Lizzie Roessler.



Mia Kanewischer and Lizzie Roessler during a lighter moment in the match.
Pioneer photos by Amelia Roessler

6-2, 6-1. Schoenrock was defeated 6-2, 6-2 at No. 1 singles.

Kanewischer and Roessler had a bit of a tussle at No. 1 doubles, where they won 6-3, 7-6 (7). Pfeiffer and Dufault won 6-4, 6-4 at No. 2. Jensen and Pierce rallied for a 3-6, 6-2, 11-9 victory at No. 3.

The Bluejays' junior varsity split, defeating Tri-City United 5-2 while falling 4-2 to Austin, while Austin beat TCU 6-1.

Waseca won all four singles matches. Scores: Schoenrock, No. 1, 6-1, 6-1; Haley, No. 2, 6-2, 6-4; Benson, No. 3, 6-0, 6-0; Mader, No. 4, 6-1, 6-0.

Kanewischer and Roessler cruised 6-1, 6-2 at No. 1 doubles

while Pfeiffer and Dufault won 6-2, 6-2 at No. 3. TCU's win was at No. 3 doubles, where Jensen and Pearce fell 6-7 (4), 6-4, 10-7.

The Bluejays traveled to the Mound-Westonka Doubles Invitational Monday, Aug. 21, finishing third with two points. Waconia won with 14 and the home team was second with 11.

Roessler and Kanewischer teamed for one of the Bluejays' victories. Benson and Mader also prevailed.

Waseca travels to Farmington on Friday to face Farmington at 9 a.m. and Jordan starting at 11 a.m.

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Argus archives

100 Years Ago – The Janesville Argus, August 22, 1923

- Main Street is to be remodeled. The good news will be hailed with satisfaction and delight by the public, no less by the stranger who passes through than by the people who reside here and are compelled to pass over it continually. There is no disguising the fact that for many moons it has been a joke, a byeword, the object of jest and ribald everywhere. It is not the fault but the misfortune of our people that this should be so and that Janesville has received considerable notoriety from the fact.

- H. D. Ayars tells one of the best fish stories of the season. And the beauty of it is that the story is true. He was enthusiastic in relating the details – how he went out trolling and how after a time felt a mighty tugging at the line. It was a big fight the fish put up, but he landed it just the same. It measured thirty inches from tip to tip and weighed seven pounds. The nieghbors were invited in and all made merry when the fish came on the table. It was a baked pickerel – and by the way Howell states that the only way to cook fish is to bake 'em. It was the finest meal served during the entire season.

- I. B. Lassell spent several days last week on the farm near Alma and also assisted at the farm of his son-in-law, Thos. Black. He states that threshing is progressing very satisfactorily. It is interesting to note that threshers are operated by traction engines and that the power even of the little tractors is sufficient to do the work without the least apparent difficulty.

75 Years Ago – The Janesville Argus, August 26, 1948

- Mrs. Donald Carr, 29, felt it wise to start for the maternity ward about 1:00 a.m. The car ran out of gas, so Mr. Carr roused some neighbors and phoned for a cab. When he got back to the car there were three Carrs – mama, baby daughter, and the stalled vehicle. The cab pushed the birth-place to the hospital, the startled police investigated and were satisfied, and Donna Carr has a good start along life's highway.

- The annual Sportsmen's Club picnic was held at Lake Elysian Park last Sunday afternoon. The attendance was not as large as in former years, but those who were fortunate enough to go report an excellent time.

- The annual garden derby is now on. Simon Gruys, Edgerton, wonders if anyone can beat a beet 13 ½ inches around one way, 18 the other, weighing 2 pounds and 2 ounces. Lamberton comes up with a 2-ounce groundcherry 2 inches in diameter, a tomato 14 inches in circumference, and a dahlia 8 inches across, from the garden of Mrs. Earl C. Lang. An Easter lily with eight fall flowers and tomatoes “the size of pumpkins” grace the garden of August Nimzak, South St. Paul. Marshall's entry is a 19-year-old rubber plant in the home of Mrs. Otto Swanson; the plant is 7 ½ feet tall with 14-inch leaves.

50 Years Ago – The Janesville Argus, August 22, 1973

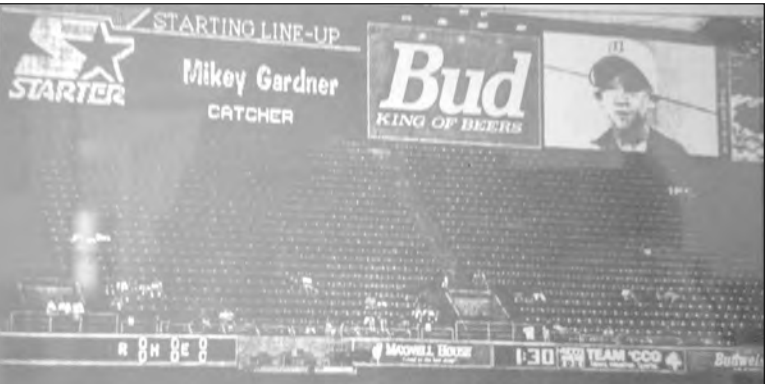
- The Waseca County Vocational Center will open August 27 to offer career exploratory vocational programs to 130 juniors and seniors from Janesville, New Richland-Hartland, St. Clair, Waldorf-Pemberton and Waseca school districts. Building Trades classes taught by Mr. Fred Arnoldt and Automotive and Related Mechanics classes taught by Mr. David Stoinski will be located in the new horticulture building at the Waseca County Fairgrounds. The Health Occupations classes taught by Mrs. Agnes Haag will be located in the basement of the Waseca County Security Building.

- The District 830 School Board approved the hiring of Mrs. Alaine Schave as a half-time elementary teacher at their regular monthly meeting August 13. Mrs. Schave is succeeding Ellen Spies as the half-time sixth grade teacher at the local school. She will share sixth grade teaching duties with Principal Bill Burns. A graduate of Mankato State College, Mrs. Schave taught a Title I class at Good Thunder last year in her first year of teaching.

- A set of 14 new stained glass windows will be dedicated this Sunday, August 26, at 3 p.m. at Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Smith's Mill. The Rev. R. G. Luebchow will conduct the liturgy and the rite of dedication. The Rev. Delbert Begalka of Bloomington will preach the dedication sermon. The window series was planned by Pastor Luebchow.

25 Years Ago – The Janesville Argus, August 26, 1998

- Although being a college student provides a busy schedule, Emily Mulcahey juggles it with her many interests. This year along with going to school at Mankato State University, Emily will mbe representing her hometown and surrounding areas as 1998-99 Miss South Central Minnesota. Emily, daughter of Jim and Irene Mulcahey of Janesville, was crowned Miss South Central Minnesota during a scholarship program in Blue Earth on Sunday, Aug. 16. She received a \$1,100 educational scholarship.



- JA Janesville first grader became a major league baseball player for a day. Mikey Gaardner, son of John and Terri Gardner of Janesville, won four Twins tickets in a recent contests sponsored by True Value Hardware. Little did Mikey know that filling out a form at Ewert's True Value in Janesville would take him into the Major Leagues. On Sunday, Aug. 9, Mikey and his family drove up to the Twins vs. Orioles game. Upon reaching the metrodome, each winning entrant was given the opportunity to shadow someone at the game. Mikey was assigned to join Terry Steinbach, catcher for the Twins, and they stood together on the third baseline during the National Anthem. To his family's delight, Mikey's name and photo appeared on the video screen announcing “Mikey Gardner Catcher for the Minnesota Twins.”



75 YEARS AGO - Four generations were united recently at the Jim Kay farm west of Lake Mills. Mrs. Lewis Buland, center, is the oldest being the mother of E. H. Buland, right. Youngest in the group is Barbara Ann Buland, daughter of Vert Buland, Mankato, Minn., left, who is a son of E. H. Buland of Waseca.

75 years ago: corn growers be warned

100 Years Ago – The Waseca Journal, August 22, 1923

- Golf is becoming more popular every day in Waseca and last Sunday the largest number of golfers that have played any one day this year appeared on the course. Paul Sage and Dan Hartwich equaled the record which has been held for some time by W. A. Zetterberg by turning in cards of 39 each. Dr. Scott turned in his lowest card of 40 and Frank Conway played his best up to date by turning in a card of 43. Jimmie Johnson, the golf professional really established the record on the Lakeside Links by making a score of 36. He did this several times. Since he is a professional his record did not hold as far as the club members are concerned.

- Fred R. Jessen of Austin is the new manager at the Waseca Co-operative store. He took charge last Thursday morning. It will be remembered that the former manager, F. A. Bade, died last June. E. A Maxham has been managing the store until a new manager was selected. Mr. Jessen has had considerable experience in the mercantile business and was connected with the J. C. Penney Company for many years. His son and daughter will graduate from the Austin High School next June so he will not move his family over here until that time.

- Making the largest number of Boy Scouts that have ever left Waseca for an encampment, forty-four scouts will leave tomorrow morning for Cedar Lake for a nine-day outing. They will gather at Trowbridge Park at eight o'clock tomorrow morning and will leave shortly after.

75 Years Ago – The Waseca Journal, August 25, 1948

- Lorna McColley, a member of the Community Winners 4-H Club, has been selected as Waseca's representative to 4-H Conservation Camp at Itasca State Park which opens September 16. Lorna is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Grant McColley in Otisco township. This trip is awarded each year to a boy or girl who has done the most outstanding work in promoting conservation in his own home and community. Lorna has participated in several phases but chiefly tree planting and bird study. Her keen interest in trees and birds probably began when an older brother who, when in club work developed a great interest in conservation activities and was awarded this same trip.

- Waseca County corn growers were warned today by Edward V. Doyle, chairman of the County Agricultural Conservation Committee to provide now for storage for this year's corn crop. “After discussing the situation with farmers from thirteen adjacent counties in the state, I am convinced that every corn grower will have to do his part if we are going to achieve orderly marketing and avert a big drop in market price,” he said. Doyle with Art Zimmerman and Julius H. Boettger, who are also members of the county triple-A committee, attended a district meeting on the storage problem at Sleepy Eye last Thursday.

50 Years Ago – Waseca's Daily Journal, August 23, 1973

- According to Juan Bilbao, Waseca's AFS exchange student for the 1973-74 school year, people with dark hair and brown eyes like his are a dime a dozen in his homeland, the Basque province of Spain. If all are as good looking and polite as Juan, the Waseca girls will order a dozen. Juan, 17, who lives with the Lawrence Clemons family, comes from Bilbao, a city of 600,000, of smog-shrouded from its iron, chemical and shipbuilding industries. Juan reads classics, enjoys theatre and motorcycle races, surfs, swims, and plays basketball, tennis and balonmano, a game a bit like soccer but very rough. Still he says Basque youth spend less time at sports and much more in discussion of serious subjects, such as politics and economics, than do American youth. Few of them are employed because jobs must go to heads of families. When he returns to Spain he'll study to become a master mariner of an ocean going vessel.

- Three suspects, one of them a Wasecan, who have pleaded guilty to charges brought against them by Le Sueur County authorities, appeared for sentencing before Judge John Fitzgerald this week. Thomas Anderson, 22, of Waseca had previously entered a plea of guilty on a charge of the theft of outboard motors and was placed on probation for five years.

- Waseca Police Department reported two accidents Wednesday at the same corner. Both mishaps occurred at the corner of North State Street and 2nd Ave. Involved in an accident at 4:40 p.m. were cars driven by Walter Maas and Jared Jackson. Involved in an accident at 5 p.m. were cars driven by Mary Evenson and Mary Helget. Officers Loren Gerdts and Rita Behsmann were at the scene.

Monday evening visitors at the Martin Roeker home to help Mrs. Roeker celebrate her birthday were Mrs. Larry Dumdei and Shelene, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Gahler, Mr. and Mrs. Burton Coy, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Fox, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Roeker, Pam, Sheila, and Wase and Mr. and Mrs. Orin Roeker.

Champions in the girls softball league is the Super America team consisting of Linda Turley, Janet Hermann, Brenda Root, Cindy Sampson, Denise Spies, Gretchen Miller, Lynne Patton, Gail Clemons, Patty Seewald, Debbie Lutgens, Teresa Studnicka, Carol Landkammer and Carrie Rethwill.

Eugene Slama, executive vice-president of the Waseca Chamber of Commerce, said today that he was informed by Robert Dokken, real estate officer of Northwestern Bell Telephone Co., Minneapolis, that the firm will exercise its option on one acre of land in the Waseca Development Corporation's Industrial Park.

25 Years Ago – Waseca County News, August 20, 1998

- To supply the community of Waseca with financial assests to meet its changing needs is the main purpose of the Waseca Area Foundation (WAF). Established with profits generated from the All-School Reunion of 1988, WAF, affiliated with the Minnesota Foundation and the NorAm/Minnegasco Foundation, has worked to provide annual grants and initiatives in the areas of arts and culture, education, health and human services, and facilities and recreation.

- Mat Gulden of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in New Ulm guided Ben Roycraft, 7, (left) of Waseca and Matt Kahnke, 7, of Janesville and about 20 other Waseca County youth through a fish painting exercise as part of the third annual MinnAqua Fishing Clinic held Wednesday at Clear Lake Park. The event was sponsored by the Waseca County Extension Office and the DNR. Participants in the clinic also learned about the importance of catch and release programs, and keeping lakes clean.

Looking back

100 Years Back - 1923

-Martin Vesterby, who has been the landlord of the Hotel Ellendale for nearly two years, turned over the keys last week to his successor, Chris. F. Jensen, who took possession Wednesday morning.

-Two men were injured by burning oil and gasoline, and the filling station of the Zamboni Oil company of Owatonna was completely demolished by an explosion at noon Saturday. It is thought that gas generated in some part of the building and caused the explosion.

-Miss Edna Haushahn returned last week from Waseca where she had spent the week end with her sister, Mrs. Grant McColley. She was accompanied by little Harry McColley, who spent the day there.

-O. H. Bronson, editor of the North Star until the year 1904, came down from Minneapolis Friday noon and remained until that afternoon. He was accompanied by his sister, Mrs. Ella Young.

-Miss Emma Betchwars returned Friday evening from the TWin Cities where she has spent the past few weeks selecting her stock of millinery goods and attending the Fall Style Show. She will have her formal opening of the Betchwars Millinery on Saturday, August 25.

-Nearly 50 people dropped in to help Mrs. Jake Echternach celebrate her birthday Sunday evening.

-Wm. O'Riley and family, Enoch Root and John Bunn and family drove to Faribault and Northfield last Wednesday.

77 Years Back - 1946

-Meager reports in the Sunday morning daily newspapers of the tornado which struck Wells Saturday evening greatly underestimated the damage done to that thriving village. A visit there Sunday afternoon revealed a business section with scarcely a business place that had not been damaged, many of them nearly demolished, and martial law reigned with four companies of National Guard stationed there to keep order and turn away the thousands of automobiles filled with curious sightseers who expected to view the wreckage. The total damage is estimated at close to one million dollars.

-The New Richland School Board has decided to comply with the advice of the executive officer of the Minnesota State Board of Health to delay the opening of the elementary and high school until Sept. 16. Dr. A. J. Chesley, secretary of the State Board of Health, stated that he considers it a judicious and reasonable precaution against further spread of poliomyelitis.

-A call came to the New Richland Fire department from Wm. Kent, occupant of the Thomas Linnihan farm just south of the Matawan corner yesterday just after noon. By the time the rural truck reached the scene the fire was out and a machine shed was pretty much ruined.

-The new branch of the Minneapolis Knitting Works will be ready to begin local operations Sept. 3.

-Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Bickel and sons of Hartland and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schultz were visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Art Kroeger Sunday evening.

-Mrs. Hans Holland, Jr., La Vonne and La Donna, Mrs. Christ Peterson and children, and Miss Verlun Newgard were Friday afternoon visitors at the Leonard Carrol home.

50 Years Back - 1973

-Editor Emmett Engesser received a letter from the National Newspaper Association Wednesday morning stating that the Star will receive one of the top awards at the NNA convention and trade show in Hot Springs, Ark., October 13.

-Mrs. Harvey Bell of Hartland took grand champion honors in the floral arrangement competition at the Freeborn County Fair.

-The New Richland Volunteer Fire department was called to Tony's Skelly Station Friday at 6 p.m. when a fire of undetermined origin burned some wooden fence and old tires near a warehouse filled with tires. Karl Proehl called the department after a passerby noticed the flames.

-Sunday evening visitors at the Arno Gilster home were Mr. and Mrs. Frankie Groskreutz and family.

-Rolland Pofahl and Marvin Miller attended the Threshing Bee at Butlerfield Sunday.

-Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Wenzel entertained in honor of their daughter, Tammy, on her tenth birthday, Monday evening. Guests for cake and ice cream were Mr. and Mrs. Murrel McGuire and Brenda, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis McGuire and Amy, Mrs. Mary Wenzel, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Kalbow and children, David and Rosalyn Swenson, Todd Eustice and Kara Hagen.

-Mr. and Mrs. Merle Wakefield and Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Sibilrud attended the Twins-Tigers ballgame at Metropolitan Stadium Wednesday.

25 Years Back - 1998

Jay Johnson of New Richland, Brad Spooner of Hartland and Duane Johnson of Albert Lea left July 12 and returned August 7 after a motorcycle ride of 8,300 miles to Alaska and back.

Mr. Post Office L. A. Ewert, as he is known in Waldorf and the surrounding area, was the Grand Marshal of the Old Fashioned Fun Day parade at Waldorf Saturday. He has been very involved in community affairs, serving as city clerk and teaching gun safety for the past 40 years.

Dale and Pam Agrimson are the parents of a son born Thursday, August 13, 1998. Chad Justin, as he has been named, has one sister, Erica, 11 years old and one brother, Nicholas, 9 years old.

Laina Rajala and Teri Kormann bowled to a Division 2 Doubles Championship in the Minnesota State Women's Bowling tournaments recently.



Although when Carter Tollefson stopped to visit with a friend, Hannah Moe, he smiled and was extremely pleasant, Hannah was not interested a bit in his advances. But both kids agreed that the food at Terra's Appreciation Day at Riverview Golf Course was good.



The Pastor's Column

Be wise in who you trust

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS

“Do you promise?” On the one hand this statement can be very endearing, on the other it is absolutely frustrating. Have you ever had a child ask you, “Do you promise?”

I remember asking this question as a child and then I remember my kids asking me the same question. I don’t recall the circumstances, but the question was really important to me and my child at the time. We were all asking the same thing, “Can I trust the words that you speak?”

With children we want to teach them to be wise in who they trust, to know whose words to listen to and how to discern what is true and right. Even today as adults we need to learn the voice of God and to trust His words, this learning takes faith and time in relationship with God. This time with God allows us to discern who He is and how much He loves us as well as how much we can trust Him.

Jesus teaches us in the sermon on the mount how much our words matter. He is revealing to us the character of God and challenges us to have the same character in our interactions with others in everyday life, in business, and in our homes.

Matthew 5

33 "Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.'³⁴ But I tell you, Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne;³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusa-

lem, for it is the city of the Great King.³⁶ And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black.³⁷ Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

Can we trust the words of God? Yes. Can we trust others? Maybe, that is why some people swore by Heaven, Earth, or Jerusalem. Now ask yourself, Am I trustworthy? You can't honestly answer that question, only others can. A better question for you is, are you living your life in such a way as to be trustworthy in every situation? That question measures our effort in being trustworthy and faithful to God while also challenging our decision-making process.

Can we live our lives as God would have us live, with our yes being yes and our no being no. That is a call to faithfulness that we have been asked to make as followers of Jesus. Can we be like God in our decisions to give Him glory in every choice? Can we be like Him in following through with our decisions to prove us and Him as trustworthy?

If we cannot do what we say we will do, it becomes sin. I will admit that I have let people down by not following through with what I say I will do. Sometimes by forgetting what I say I will do, others by the circumstances preventing me from doing it, and still others by choosing not to do what I said I will do. Lord help our yes, be yes and my no, be no.

Happy Wedding



Nuptials: Pioneer writer Tristan Jensen Gehring with her new husband, Corwyn, during their wedding on August 12.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Happy Birthday



Pioneer staff Eli Lutgens, Jonah Stafford, Deb Bently, and Amelia Roessler celebrated Stafford's 21st birthday last Friday in the Pioneer office.

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Trinity prepares for 2023-2024

By JONAH STAFFORD
Staff Writer

Principal Wade Stockman is looking forward to ringing in his sixteenth year at the Trinity Lutheran School when classes start August 30. The school, which offers classes for students in preschool through eighth grade, is associated with Janesville's Trinity Lutheran Church. Because of that link, Stockman said Trinity teaches from a “Biblical worldview.”

As the 2023-24 school year begins, 109 students are enrolled at Trinity for Grades K-8, as well as 18 preschoolers. Stockman's wife Eugenia is Trinity's preschool teacher. The couple, who live in Janesville a few blocks from the school, have four children together as well as four grandchildren.

While Stockman reported no policy changes for the 2023-24 school year, two new people have joined the staff: sixth-grade teacher Linda Kemp and preschool assistant Marlis Olson.

With the school year approaching, Stockman said he is excited for the opportunity to work with the staff, students, and families again. He added that, in addition to helping advance students' academic skills, he hopes to share his faith and teach them about God.

“The mission of our church and school is making disciples for Jesus Christ,” said Stockman. “We want students to grow their faith and understand their place in the world.”

“We want them to know God created them special and has plans for them.”

To fulfill Trinity's mission of providing a Christian education, Stockman says each school day begins with a morning prayer; the curriculum for all students includes daily religion classes. In addition, Stockman said that students and staff participate in service projects at the Trinity Lutheran Church and around the Janesville community. “Our faith isn't just what we say, it's what we do,” said Stockman.

Trinity's sports offerings include fall volleyball and co-ed soccer, as well as four different basketball teams in the winter.

In addition to his duties as principal, Stockman teaches religion and algebra classes at Trinity and has taught physical education in the past. He earned his bachelor and master degrees in education at Concordia University, St. Paul. Prior to becoming Trinity's principal, Stockman taught at various Lutheran schools in North Carolina for 22 years.

Stockman said that some of the challenges he faces as principal are keeping up with continual changes in education, as well as trying to keep Trinity's tuition rate affordable for



Trinity Lutheran School principal Wade Stockman has served the school for 15 years.
Pioneer photo by Jonah Stafford

families as inflation continues to affect the economy. To help families send their children to the school, Trinity Lutheran Church provides tuition assistance for those in need.

Stockman said that his main goal this year is to help facilitate improvement in all aspects of Trinity's teaching to better prepare students to succeed. “When students finish eighth grade, we hope they have a solid background that will serve them well into high school,” he said.

“We hope that students grow in their faith and a closer relationship with their savior. We want them to remember the fun things they did and have good memories of their time at Trinity.”

Trinity Lutheran School is open for enrollment for the upcoming school year and will still take new students once it starts. “We welcome all students to our school,” said Stockman.

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13	14 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting NAVAJO CODE TALKERS DAY	15	16 6pm BAR Bingo NATIONAL AIR- BORNE DAY	17 7pm BINGO	18 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	19
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Catherine Blashack, top left, and Charlie Barnes, above work on the mural.



GROUP EFFORT - JoAnn Kelling helps touch up the new Waldorf Mural.



Catherine Blashack's brother Bill helps paint an American flag on the Waldorf Mural.

■ Blashack

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work.

The purpose of her trip home was to complete a community mural begun by other painters on the former Eisen building across the street from the community center; she was taken by complete surprise when greeted by a potluck dinner and an award.

The mural represents Waldorf in earlier days, with a train arriving to make deliveries. Also featured are an American flag, a bald eagle, a silhouette of the town's water tower, and the grain elevator which dominates the city's skyline.

Charlie Barnes, who spoke during the recognition, mentioned that volunteers working on the mural received help in making the grain elevator more detailed and accurate.

The skyline and silhouettes are all set on a vibrant background with colors transitioning from yellow to dark blue: Bright golden text welcomes everyone to Waldorf.

"This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a

grant from the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund," Barnes read to the crowd.

"Seriously, though, we couldn't have done it without them," he added, expressing the community's gratitude for the grant which made the project possible.

The mural is part of a bigger plan to construct a Veterans Memorial in town.

Blashack mentioned how impressed she was with the foundational work already completed on the mural. "I know Charlie jokes that he's not a talented painter," she commented, "but the talent that Waldorf has is stunning."

Although Blashack has an eye for art, she has an even longer list of accomplishments in the military. Eventually becoming a Lieutenant Colonel, in 1977 she was among the first women in the U.S. Air Force to be allowed to take flight training. She was also the first woman helicopter pilot at Fort Polk, LA, and the first woman pilot at the Giebelstadt Army Airfield in Germany. With her brother Mike, the two Blashacks became the first sibling duo to complete flight training in 1980.

As a Major in the Air Force, Catherine Blashack served as the Commander of an Aviation Intermediate Maintenance company in Illesheim, Kaserne, Germany. As Lieutenant Colonel, she was stationed at the Pentagon to oversee what is now known as Homeland Defense. She has received many awards, including several commendation medals and specialist awards (including one for completing the parachutist program in the Air Force). Blashack retired in 2001.

Outside of her artistic and military achievements, Blashack received her master's degree in business administration from Texas A&M University and helped establish a business called McLane Advanced Technologies.

Before the end of the pot luck and awards ceremony, Barnes and Waldorf Mayor Rob Wilkening presented Blashack with a basket of items meant to represent her home town, "Just in case you get homesick or forget what Minnesota is like," Barnes joked.

The gifts included a Minnesota-inspired cookbook for dishes like tator tot hotdish, a bag of chocolate-covered "loon poop," and plenty of other goodies.

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