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WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY
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Meet your neighbor

Masonic members' fourth annual car races rescheduled for Sept. 10

The fourth annual car races sponsored by Tuscan masonic members has been rescheduled from Saturday, August 20, 2022 to Saturday, September 10, 2022. The event will take place at the Waseca Masonic Lodge from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

* * *

Polka Service in Waldorf, August 28

The Waldorf Days and All School Reunion Event is welcoming everyone to the Waldorf Community Polka Service on Sunday, August 28, at 10 a.m. at the Waldorf school. Polka music will begin 30 minutes prior to the service and continue 30 minutes after and will be followed by a pancake breakfast at the Waldorf Community Center.

* * *

Memorial Ride and Benefit Sept. 10

Ticket presales have begun for the memorial ride and benefit dinner to be held September 10 at the Waseca American Legion. Tickets are \$8 in advance, and \$10 at the door. The benefit will be held in honor of Hunter Alexander Frank, Owatonna graduate and brother of Waseca resident Brandon Flores. Money raised will go to Wounded Warriors Family Support to provide caregiver respite, veteran training, and other services to veterans and their families. To purchase tickets or make a donation, contact Flores at hafmemorial@outlook.com.

* * *

Willow Bense and Family benefit August 20

A silent auction is the works, but first a meal including pulled pork sandwiches, baked beans, coleslaw, chips and a cookie for \$8 a plate at 110 E. 3rd St in Janesville. Donations and cards will also be accepted to help with financial burden.

* * *

Movie in the Park Aug. 19

Please join members of the community on Friday, August 19 (rain day Saturday, August 20) at Tink Larson Community Field for a screening of *The Princess Bride*. Sunset on August 19 is at 8:14pm and twilight ends at 8:43pm so we expect to begin the show around 8:30pm. Seating will be in the stadium seats only. Thanks to the Waseca Area Foundation for helping us in putting on this event.

* * *

Correction: Spelling on Gaiter Lake

In past coverage of the Waseca Council meetings, the *Pioneer* spelled "Gaiter Lake" incorrectly.

Also spelled incorrectly was Gary Dobberstein's name. It was stated Dobberstein showed the council maps, which he had not. Rather, the map he held up was a copy of a photo taken of a map provided from developers.

A word from The Word

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28



JUST BUSINESS - After Mayor Rob Wilkening found boxes of Waldorf Days shirts during the tour of Gidgets, he decided to buy one. Owner Bridget Gehring processed his transaction mid-speech.
Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

BEST for last

County tour ends in Janesville

By MICHAEL ROY
Publisher

As Waseca County's fastest growing community, Janesville provided a dynamic last stop for the Business and Entrepreneurial Support Team (BEST) on Wednesday, August 10. At the start of the tour in city hall, BEST member Bob Hoffman asked Community Development Director Marley Rohwer about the town's size. "We are at about 2,500 people," she replied. "And we're growing fast."

According to Rohwer, Janesville is expanding so rapidly that it has only two vacant lots left for devel-

opment. "We are now conducting a housing study to see what our city needs for proper housing," she said.

Business is also slowly building in town. "Home Sweet Home Remodeling" of Eagle Lake, owned by Dave and Jennifer Miller, bought the Janesville Hardware store; the two plan to continue using most of the building's space as a hardware store, but will also use part of it as a second office for "Home Sweet Home Remodeling." Their moving into town was made possible with some

BEST continued on 3



Brock Nelson

Finding value

Nelson brings experience to his role as new county assessor

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

Although he "didn't grow up thinking I wanted to be a county assessor," there are many ways it seems newly installed Waseca County Assessor Brock Nelson, who took office July 11, seems born and bred for the position.

Point one: He comes from a Waseca family closely associated with real estate. His grandfather Dwain was and his father, Blain, and uncle, Blair, still are real estate agents here in town. Brock remembers that property values, interest rates, return on investments (ROI's), comparable sales, and other related terms had a way of influencing family discussions during gatherings throughout his childhood.

Point two: Although he understands and appreciates the real estate market, he says he does not want the life of a real estate salesman, since people seem to want to look for a new home at times that interfere with family gatherings.

Point three: A decade or more ago, when he first began considering a career as an assessor, he arranged to shadow then Waseca County Assessor Mark Vagts.

Point four: He is closely connected to the Waseca community. He grew up here, graduating from Waseca High School in 2002. He, his wife Karissa, and their children (Braxton, 11; Kins-

Nelson continued on 3

On target

Archer Zoie Thompson competes at national level

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Staff Writer

Zoie Thompson, a rising sophomore at Waseca Junior and Senior High School, recently competed in two national qualifier tournaments in archery - the Outdoor Junior Olympic Archery Development (JOAD) Nationals in Alabama from July 20-24 and the Buckeye Classic in Ohio from July 29-31. Following these tournaments, Thompson is ranked eighth in the nation among the 149 archers in her class. Competitive archery is classed by age, gender, and the type of bow used. Thompson competes in Cadet Women's Compound shooting, which she says can include 50-60 girls at large competitions. Thompson holds 26 state-wide records and one worldwide record: shooting 149 out of 150 in a competition called the "15 Arrow Match."

Unfortunately, Thompson's national ranking wasn't enough to qualify for Team USA in 2023 - an honor which she enjoyed after ranking fourth at last year's qualifiers. She believed she could have done better - two weeks on the road and disrup-



FOCUS - Zoie Thompson takes a deep breath and clears her mind before practicing her archery. She says the sport of archery is 90 percent mental.

tions due to COVID-19 interfered. "Archery is ninety percent mental," Thompson explained. Inability to focus can be a huge detriment - to the degree that Thompson has a coach whose role is almost exclusively helping her train her mental game. This coach works with Thompson on calming tools, such as focusing on form and feeling instead of scoring. When things go right? "I feel like the world is shut off around

me," Thompson explains, her eyes closed, exuding warmth.

Her recent shortfall doesn't mean the end of the season, however. Thompson will shoot at two more competitions this August. In Ramsey, she'll shoot at the North Star Open & Voyager Cup, which is the State JOAD competition, and then at the First Dakota Classic and National Field Archery Association Outdoor Target Nationals in Yankton, South

Dakota. Following these competitions, she will take a short break before beginning her indoor season. In the spring of 2023 Thompson will be participating in tryouts for the Youth World Team which, if she earns her spot, would take her to Ireland next July.

Thompson works hard to go as far

Thompson continued on 3

Member of the elite

Kaiser honored by international organization

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editorial Assistnat

Already at age 14, Nathan Kaiser has been granted membership in an elite international hunting and conservation organization. At the Boone and Crockett Club's July 22 banquet in Springfield, MO, Nathan received a plaque acknowledging his "outstanding accomplishment" of taking a bear which scored 20 8/16-that is, the measurements of whose skull totaled 20 and a half inches.

For reference, an average-sized black bear is likely to have a score of 12 or 13 inches.

The Boone and Crockett Club, named after the famous frontiersmen Daniel Boone and David Crockett, was founded by Teddy Roosevelt in 1887. In addition to its conservation

work, the organization acknowledges impressive big game takes from the entire North American continent. Receiving recognition at its once-every-three-years banquets is a goal not many hunters accomplish: Also acknowledged at the Jack Steele Parker Generation Next Youth Banquet were two other bear hunters 16 and under and other youth who had taken an exceptional deer, mountain goat, and cougar. At the banquet, Nathan received a plaque, an engraved knife, a golden measuring tape, and tickets to the museum where his bear's skull was on display from April to the end of July.

Nathan's dad, Tom Kaiser, explains that a bear is measured from its nose to the back edge of the skull, and from ear to ear, and the two numbers

are totaled to create a score.

Nathan's bear, shot on public land in the vicinity of Bemidji in 2019-when he was 11 years old- was a state record holder for the year. He then went on to take record-winning animals again in both 2020 and 2021.

Nathan took his bears using a Remington Youth Compact 20-gauge. He also had the advantage of the collective experience and expertise of his family members. His father has been bear hunting since 1991; family members Heidi Wiitanen and her son Jonathan are enthusiastic supporters of their passion. The household hunts each year in northern Minnesota, both on 60 acres of private property and on

Elite continued on 3



Fourteen-year-old Nathan Kaiser took a big bear during his hunt. Its measurement score was 20 and a half inches. The achievement granted him membership to the Boone and Crockett Club.
Pioneer photo by Amelia Roessler



Looking in the Mirror

by Jonah Stafford

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Turn in bad work or not do it at all?

As I go through my young adulthood, I have been presented with lots of choices. Many of these decisions are small: Do I get a \$5 smoothie at the River Hills Mall or do I just drink the water I have waiting in the car? In an academic context, a quick decision-making process does matter: Do I email the instructor whose assignment has me struggling, do I turn in bad work, or do I not do the assignment at all? Last year, I opted for the first choice because a college education actually costs money (and lots of it); in high school I would've picked one of the latter two options nine times out of ten. One or two flimsy Cs in the gradebook weren't gonna hold me back from graduation. Thanks to those choices, though, I graduated with a 3.615 GPA. I still got to wear the honor student medal around my neck as I walked across the stage, but I wasn't getting any free ride scholarship to Yale. Some of my lower grades can be attributed to my struggles in math and science classes, but sometimes, especially during the pandemic, I just did not care. I am happy to report I have done every assignment in college...or at least that's what I could say if I didn't have zeroes for two sketchbooks from my Two-Dimension Foundations art class. A leopard can't change its spots but I managed an AB (equivalent to an A-) in the class, so taking a much-needed break from that type of coursework and allocating my energy elsewhere wasn't exactly disastrous. But then again, after making the dean's list my first semester, I found myself stranded less than 1/100th of a GPA point from it second semester. During spring semester, I had the biggest courseload of my academic career, but if I had pushed myself just a bit more, I could've had a perfect streak of dean's list placements. I don't regret putting my mental health first that one time, but that awkward GPA situation was a result. Not everything in life is as black and white as academia so I'll explore this concept further with a couple more real-life examples.

As some of you may recall from my birthday column last week, I have changed my hair color several times over the years. Currently, for my third color of the summer, I am rocking a semi-botched box red dye covering hair that was bleached without any other real planning. Hair grows back, so a color disaster is mostly inconsequential but it does leave room for regret. I recall the day I

went back to school in eighth grade after dying my hair blue: I fervently wished I could undo it. Even though most of the comments I received about my hair were compliments, I was uncomfortable with the attention I was getting, so that was a consequence of my own actions. If you change something about yourself, even if it's temporary, people are gonna notice. I'm pretty sure that the past few times the other Pioneer staff members have seen me I've had a different hair color (this summer has been a journey) so I've gotten little comments about that. I'm cool with it now because I'm an adult, it's my life, and if people's observations become overwhelming, I can change my hair yet again. Unfortunately, sometimes things aren't that simple.

When it comes to writing for a newspaper, everything is permanent: the ink on the pages will be there long after I'm gone. The Waseca County Historical Society is home to archives of the several newspapers that have served this area over the years. That is why the historical society is the source for much of the Pioneer's "Looking Back" content. Many of the newspapers I've read while working on the archival column are no longer in print: the Janesville Argus is no more, there is no Waseca Daily Journal, etc. But news shared in those papers will continue to live on through the Waseca County Pioneer. I may not know who Ms. Katy Peterson (fake hypothetical name) who served on the Waseca school board in 1972 is- but some of you do and that's the beauty of preserving history. So yes, a bad word choice or other mistake I make when writing will live on forever. But future generations will also get to know Jonah Stafford as a writer of his time- 2022 is the present now, but the choices I make in my writing have a lasting impact. And that's why I must do my best to make sure my writing is accurate and detailed: some day my writing could be the only record that an event happened or a person lived, especially considering the finite access we may have to the internet or social media. Even for those of us who aren't writers the things we do have permanent consequences: for example, we should always treat others with kindness because we never know what they're going through. But for now, I hope that through my writing in the Pioneer and beyond, I can leave a positive impact that lasts.

Motorbike valve springs in a guitar

This column goes out to all the rock and roll fanatics.

If you ever get me in the mood to talk about music, trust me...I become a huge geek. I used to be able to name every single track from Kiss's first eight studio albums in order, how many copies each album sold in the US, which songs hit the top of the charts in certain countries, and more. I was that big of a Kiss fan in high school, especially the song "Shout It Out Loud."

The one thing that fascinates me more than anything is the gear that guitarists use. I've done research on guitarists like Ace Frehley (Kiss), Andy Scott (Sweet), Mick Mars (Mötley Crüe), and even Steve Miller to try and emulate their style and sound. I started off learning Steve Miller Band songs because my first guitar was a Stratocaster, the same model of guitar that Miller used. Eventually, I learned how to imitate his twangy sound the best I could with what equipment I had.

But one guitarist who stands out to me as far as their gear is concerned is Brian May. You may have heard of the band he plays for, Queen. But did you know that the guitar he's used since the band's inception is one that he built with his own hands? Very



Well, like I said...

by Michael Roy

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few modern guitarists, if any, can claim they made their instrument. But May can.

His guitar, nicknamed the "Red Special," was first built in August 1963, when he was 16. The main reason why he built one instead of buying one was the brands that were available at the time were too expensive for him. So, with the help of his father, he constructed it with many different materials.

The neck of the guitar was constructed with wood from a nearly century old fireplace mantel that the family got for free. According to May, a family friend was about to throw the mantel away. The neck was hand-shaped, a process that was made difficult due to the age and quality of the wood. Worm holes were found in the guitar's neck, which May filled with matchsticks. He and his father finished the neck

by using an oak fingerboard and nacre buttons as position inlays. (Position inlays are the dots that are scattered on guitar fretboards.)

The two then used blackboard (strips of soft wood between two plywood skins) for the body, oak inserts (constructed with wood from a table) in the top and bottom layers, and applied a mahogany veneer on the top, giving the guitar a gorgeous red color.

The coolest part about the guitar to me is that the bridge was made with aluminum and the tremolo system (the metal part that the strings come out of) was constructed with a hardened steel knife edge and two motorbike valve springs. Talk about using what you got and having ingenuity!

I could go on, but I'm sure I've already confused a lot of people with all my terminology. All the casual person needs to know is that Brian

May's Red Special guitar is cool, innovative, and unique. I believe that alone is why Brian May is a revered guitarist, not only for how well he plays the instrument, but how well he constructed it.

I don't name May among my top five favorite guitarists. But the blood, sweat, and tears he applied to make such a gorgeous instrument provide justification to put him in the top ten.

The instrument's unique tone is very difficult to emulate without having a Red Special. He's treated the instrument like more than a guitar, imitating trumpets, horns, and clarinets with it.

Without the Red Special, I don't believe songs like "Bohemian Rhapsody" or "We Will Rock You" would sound as rocking as they do.

This week in Music

On August 22, 1980, Queen released its third single "Another One Bites the Dust," the third one off their chart-topping album The Game. The song was the group's second and final number one hit in the US, with "Crazy Little Thing Called Love" (off the same studio album) the first one to top the chart. "Another One Bites the Dust" was also one of the few songs written solely by bassist John Deacon.

I prefer to see my food

As I'm sure you all had eventful weekends, I can tell you mine was nothing short of memorable.

I wear contacts. Rarely do I ever wear my glasses, especially not out in public because I find them a slight nuisance sometimes and prefer to just wear my contacts. Well, last Friday I worked a closing shift at the bar and wore my contacts, like I always do.

Now, this story is in no way a discouragement to wear contacts or meant as a way to scare contact wearers. I plan to continue wearing my contacts for a long time even after this event, which was very preventable.

You see, when I had put in my contacts on Friday night to go to work, they were a little dry still from having been worn until four a.m. that morning. Knowing me, I thought they would just be fine after wearing them for a bit, so I didn't bother with them. Once I got to work, my right contact started getting fuzzy spots, a sign of dryness. Most of the time, the spots would disappear after a couple of blinks so once again I didn't bother with it. As the night progressed, the spots became consistent and soon my whole contact or eye had glossed over. It was as if someone had drawn a fuzzy screen over my eye. Everything was blurry.

I would turn to get someone's drink or count out pull tabs and I would shut my right eye with the dry

contact, wishing I had brought some contact solution or drops with me to work. Which, of course, I hadn't. So the night went on, with me forcing my right eye open and giving it no choice but to cooperate so that I could continue working. Thankfully it was busy enough where I would get distracted and not think about it.

When I got home I took out my contact and to my surprise my eye was still blurry, still fuzzy. It was as if I had not even taken out my contact. Exhausted and knowing I had to get up early the next morning to travel four hours up north to visit my grandparents, I went to bed praying that my eye would clear up in the morning. I was not so lucky.

I woke up that Saturday morning not being able to open my right eye, but I was still able to open my left with a little difficulty. My right eye hurt, as if something was in it. It hurt to move it around, looking sideways or up or down. It hurt to blink, to squeeze my eyes. My right eye was constantly tearing up, and the tears stung my eye before rolling down my cheek.

The three-and-a-half-hour drive in the car did not help. Luckily, I was able to sleep a little bit, but when I couldn't I experimented with the pain, figuring out what hurt and what didn't in case I had to see a doctor. When my mother caught me silently crying in the backseat from the pain, she had my dad stop and pick up



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

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drops, none of which helped ease the pain or discomfort.

When we finally made it to my grandparents' cabin (my sister had to walk me to the door), I went to lay down, thinking I could fall asleep and wake up cured. When I couldn't go to sleep, I tried scrolling through my phone. When I couldn't even get my good eye open to look at my phone, I decided I needed help and went to get my parents-stumbling my way down the stairs and into the kitchen.

I was then ushered into the car and driven to an eye clinic in town, which thankfully had numbing drops. I opened my eyes for the first time in hours and was grateful to be able to see again, although I knew it wouldn't last long. The doctor informed me that my contact had gotten so dry that it had almost stuck to my eye so that when I took out my contact, it had taken a layer of my eye with it. Thankfully, there were no scratches or anything so I was sent home with lube drops and told to ice it and wear glasses for the next week. And I guess eventually my eyesight will come back.

So all day Saturday I spent "blind." I couldn't open my bad eye

because it hurt too much to move it, and I couldn't open my good eye because then my bad eye would move. It was an interesting day, I will tell you that.

My sister made a TikTok of me, besides the multiple pictures that she took without my knowledge because I couldn't see her taking them. I will admit that they are quite comical, so I wasn't mad.

Fishing blind is also interesting. First I had the trouble of getting down to the lake and onto the dock. With my mom leading me, and my dad having a fistfull of my sweatshirt in the back in case I fell, I shuffled my way down the steps. As for the fishing itself, it wasn't bad: I just had my sister tell me when I needed another minnow-which was rare as I didn't catch anything all night.

Thankfully Sunday I could open my good eye more and by Monday I could open both eyes. Being blind was not fun and I give kudos to anyone with sight trouble. It was all right for one day but when I couldn't see whether I was eating a potato or a piece of hamburger, and when I stabbed myself with a carrot, I learned that I would much prefer to see my food.

Slow down, you're doing fine

Things are returning to a "normal" amount of chaos.

And that's almost harder than just sheer madness. Let me explain. Starting this newspaper, even with the great help we have, meant I didn't really do anything else, all day, every day, for a period of three months. Which meant I didn't really have time to stop and let myself think about what we were doing.

It was just bam, one task after another after another.

My best friends Kyle and Anastasia are going through this right now. They're hitting the home stretch of a huge project they've been working on for 2 years.

I visited them this weekend, although "visited" is a bit of a stretch. Kyle's parents, (I consider them all family) let me stay with them when I want to come visit.

This weekend felt like an appropriate time to get away.

Kyle looked tired. I felt that.

I wish I could say it wasn't "many," but many times over the last several months people have said the same thing to me.

I now know what seeing that look feels like-that is, I know how the people who told me I look tired, felt.

With my work life returning to just most of every hour of the day, I've had some time to stop and think.

As I spoke with my friend John



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

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Conway the other day about the work necessary to start the Pioneer, he made a good point: "Only for a season," he said. "Only while it's necessary."

He reminded me there's a reason for a day of rest.

Well, I still worked this weekend but I did get a break. And some much needed time with friends, away from the office.

It's odd. I have many great relationships with a great number of people here, but the thing is, most of those relationships are intertwined with my work life. That's something I love, but also something that is important to step away from, from time to time.

My best friends, who live almost an hour away, do not care one lick about what John did at FCA last week. Or didn't do rather, because, for the first time in 30 years he took a sick day.

Which means there's no pressure to write or talk about anything that happened this weekend.

There's a song I first heard in April, while on vacation, not so surprisingly with my friends Kyle, Anastasia and family. The lyrics still ring in my head, "Slow down, you're doin' fine. You can't be everything you wanna be before your time."

When I start to worry I'm not doing enough, I sing that tune internally and think about how much we've accomplished and remember: "One thing at a time."

It's funny, when I played baseball and was pitching, the trick I found to "get in the zone," was internally thinking of song lyrics to one or two songs. One for when things were good and another for when I was in a jam. It's funny how sports and life just go hand in hand sometimes. I was reminded of this as one of our new, talented, young journalists interviewed Zoie for an Archery story. She spoke about getting "in the zone," and how everything else fades away in those moments. I think that's a secret to life: Find something in life that you can do which quiets all the

noise.

Oh, also, I told myself I would include the Internship breakfast in this column. More accurately I just need to thank our incredible staff who worked for us through this program (although they would have been staff regardless). Jonah Stafford's attitude warms the soul. His personality really comes through in his columns (and his writing, for the most part). I enjoy his down-to-earth, heartfelt columns.

Amelia Roessler is a free spirit whom we truly enjoy having in the office. Our booth at the fair wouldn't have been what it was if not for her (Honestly it just wouldn't have happened.).

Amelia learned a lot this summer, while also teaching all of us around her. She is hardworking and dedicated, and somehow has fun while doing all of it, all at the same time.

I feel very fortunate to have these two, and all of our great staff, new and old, here at the paper.

My advice to these two interns, and really any young person is simple. Follow your passion, find your gift and pursue it. It's not only what a person ought to do, but it's their responsibility to do whatever it is they're best at in life. The challenge is finding what that "gift" may be and having the courage to pursue it.



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Zoie Thompson eyes the target. Thompson holds 26 statewide records and one worldwide record: shooting 149 out of 150 in a competition called the “15 Arrow Match.”

■ Thompson
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as she does. She'll be meeting with her level five USA coach soon to update her training schedule, but shoots four to five times each week in addition to two to three strength training sessions. As compared to competing, Thompson does not find practice particularly enjoyable. "She thrives on competition," says her mother, Stacy Thompson. Practice is typically done alone, but even when others are there shooting Thompson doesn't feel truly tested. So few archers in our area shoot at Thompson's level of skill, she says she often doesn't feel truly challenged until she's competing nationally. "I don't really feel pressure that often," Thompson observed regarding high level competitions. "I get nervous sometimes, but not really pressured." She has also been a member of the North Central Elite Archers for four years. NCEA is an archery team with approximately fifty members from around the nation – and one from Denmark – which offers members four yearly camps where they work with five national coaches.

The amount of time this 15-year-old spends on archery means she misses opportunities at school and leisure time with friends. "Archery comes first, over everything," Thompson emphasizes. She does maintain strong grades, typically earning As and Bs in school. Her first year of high school was harder than middle school, she admits, but she shows no signs of letting up. With all of her dedication and success, Thompson doesn't believe she has a special talent. "It's 100% skill: All of it comes from practice," she says. As to why she dedicates that time and effort into archery? "I fell in love with it."

Thompson began archery when she was seven years old. She'd wanted a Nerf Rebel bow, but her grandfather bought her a toy bow with real arrows. Since it had pointed arrows her dad took her to

Waseca's archery club to use it. The club told her she couldn't use a toy at their site, but she still got to shoot using a borrowed bow. The love Thompson has for the sport came instantly, she says. She shot with the borrowed bow for several months before receiving her first compound bow that Easter. The winter she turned nine, Thompson began competing. That year, she remembers winning second place at a state competition. Thompson attended the Vegas Shoot in Las Vegas, known as the world's most prestigious indoor archery competition, for the first time at age 11 and has gone every year since, except in 2021 when it was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Not every memory Thompson has of archery is positive, of course. She recalls shooting at a competition among friends around the age of eleven, when the girl in charge of score-keeping gave herself extra points and docked Thompson unfairly. Thompson signed off on the scorecard without reading it fully and didn't realize the discrepancy until it was submitted. The experience taught her to pay attention to detail, which Thompson says sometimes drives her to perfectionism.

In addition to her intensive personal training, Thompson also helps teach. She holds a Level 1 USA Instruction certification, which allows her to help lead beginners' classes in the winter, despite being only 15 years old herself. Thompson smiles when she talks about this aspect of her sportsmanship experiences. "I like to share my knowledge with the younger ones," she says.

Thompson works hard, but it would be impossible to go as far as she does at her age without the support of her parents. "I feel like her dad and I are willing to support her, get her to the tournaments, get her equipment, her training – as long as she puts in her time," says Stacy. Few would consider this unfair given how quickly these expenses can pile up. Why do they do it? In addition to supporting their daughter's passion, "We think she has a talent, and a future."

■ Elite
from Page 1

nearby public lands.

Nathan has been helping with the hunts—or at least the hunting process—since he was 4 years old.

Bear hunting season in Minnesota opens September 1 and goes through October 15. Licensed hunters can begin "baiting" in mid-August: that is, they can choose a likely location and begin setting out food and treats that will draw bears to the area. Animals can only be shot once the season begins.

As a small child, Nathan says he

was enthusiastic about bear hunting, but could not receive a license until he reached the minimum age of 10. Until then, he was the "spray bottle" kid, spraying sweet-smelling liquids around the baiting area with the intent that the scent would be taken by air movement and would alert bears to the presence of the bait.

Family members Tom, Heidi and Jonathan joined Nathan at the July 22 event. Said the family, "We are unbelievably proud of Nathan. He knows that the planning and hard work are necessary to a successful hunt, and he's glad to do his share. He is also a patient, determined hunter who takes the time to figure his odds and make well-thought-out choices."

Dear Editor

Looking forward to your coverage of county news. Your Northland Star-Eagle is an excellent paper; I'm sure your county coverage will be just as complete. I'll keep both subscriptions. Thanks to you and your staff for your hard work. Local news is the basis of an informed population and a founda-



tion of democracy. Keep up this important work.

Jane Bluhm, Waseca

Meet your neighbor, Carol

Name: Carol Brooks	on Disney+ channel
Birthplace: Mankato	Favorite Food: Pizza
Age: 73	All Time Favorite Movie: <i>Titanic</i>
Hometown: Waseca	Favorite Sports Team: Vikings
Family: Kids Shelly (Chris), Eugene, and grandkids Taelor, Wyatt, and Corbyn	Favorite musical artist: Carrie Underwood
Occupation: Retired, former IT and inventory control worker	My favorite activities when I was growing up: Roller skate, church youth group (softball)
Hobbies: Quilting, sewing, and gardening	My biggest pet peeve: Rude people
My dream vacation would be: Germany	The best advice I've ever received: Hang in there
The best thing about small town living is: It's like you're family. You have a lot of friends, and it's peaceful.	If I could have lunch with any one person, living or dead: Abe Lincoln
Last Good Book I Read: <i>Harry Potter</i>	Something about me that would surprise people: I'm shy
Favorite TV show: Anything	



Blaine and Carol Brooks have been together for 45 years. they were elected VFW Commander and Auxiliary President at the same time.

■ BEST
from Page 1

support from the city, with Janesville residents happy to keep the hardware store in town.

Mayor Andy Arnoldt talked about the revolving loan funds that the city's economic development authority has been offering to businesses like "Home Sweet Home Remodeling." "We've been giving out money to local businesses that apply for it," he stated. "It's been a well-received program with great success."

City Office Manager Andrea Moen joined the meeting for a few minutes to share the city's plans for its new water and electric automatic metering infrastructure.

"We've been switching out water meters throughout the whole summer," she explained. "We plan on finishing the water meters this year. But due to supply chain issues, we will have to wait another two years for the electric meters to be installed."

The next stop of the afternoon was Gidgets, an embroidery store owned by Janesville native Bridget Gehring. Waldorf Mayor Rob Wilkening was surprised to see shirts with a logo for "Waldorf Days" sitting in boxes within view of the front door. He, along with other members of the BEST group, asked Gehring to explain the processes of screen printing and creating decals.

"I do a lot of it on the computer," Gehring answered. "The clients give me a general idea, I make it up, and we go back and forth until they are satisfied with the final product."

When asked how she built up to creating the significant number of products she sells in a short amount of time, she replied, "I learned a lot on the fly. I'm not afraid of a challenge."

Despite starting within a year of the Covid-19 pandemic, she says that her business has been booming with orders coming in nearly non-stop since she opened. "We're running out of space in our small shop to store stuff. I'll need to expand soon."

"I've been blessed by God for all of my success," she continued. "It's been great having support from the local schools and business."

"You have something extraordinary going on here," Hoffman told Gehring. "It's not often you see a business as unique as this in a small town like Janesville."

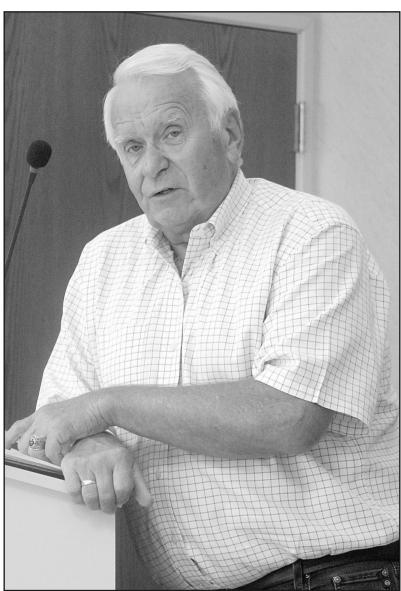
The last part of the tour took place at Dairy Queen. Before anyone went to order any ice cream, Mayor Arnoldt said, "It's on me."

Todd Adamek, owner of Dairy Queen, originally came from the town of Montgomery. However, when he met his wife, a Janesville native, they decided to buy the place from the Cowdin family - who also owned a liquor store next door - in the late 2000s.

"I used to work a corporate job," he shared. "But ever since we bought the business, I've never been happier. I love what I do here, running an ice cream shop. It's always been an honor to serve the people of Janesville, too."

Arnoldt then shared a story about when his family used to own the Dairy Queen in town. "It was one of my first jobs," he said.

Everyone's story on the tour showed that Janesville is a town not to be overlooked. As BEST member



Todd Adamek, left, talks to the BEST group about his time as owner of the Janesville Dairy Queen. Bob Hoffman, right, kicks off the tour with an introductory speech.

"I've been blessed by God for all of my success here. It's been great having support from the local schools and businesses." – Gidgets Owner Bridget Gehring

Hoffman put it, the town has a lot going for it. Waldorf Mayor Rob Wilkening agreed.

"You are between Mankato and Waseca, two thriving towns," Wilkening pointed out. "Mankato is especially booming in population. I wouldn't be surprised if Janesville became a suburb if it isn't already."

But the future of Janesville is uncertain. Hoffman asked if the city was thinking of becoming a bedroom community for Mankato or trying to stand out on its own and bring in some industry. Community devel-

opment director Marley Rohwer didn't have a confident answer.

"We have zoned off an area of the city for industrial use, but we are not sure if it will stay that way," she responded. "That's something we'll have to consider in the future."

One thing is for sure, though. Janesville will continue to grow; the town has already experienced people from Mankato looking for a home in a smaller community to raise their families and be sure that their kids are getting a quality education.

■ Nelson
from Page 1

ley, 9; and Brolin, 6) live in town, and did even when Brock's job as assistant assessor in Steele County had him commuting to Owatonna every day.

But even with all those connections, becoming qualified to serve as county assessor takes a lot of effort. The state requires at least five years of training and offers three levels of certification for the position. Assessors and their assistants must be well acquainted with the process of appraising property, but they must also be intimately familiar with the system used to determine the "taxable value" of real estate. In addition to all the training, testing, and certifications, Brock also served as assistant to the Steel County assessor for most of 5 years.

Reasons people have to visit the assessor's office include getting specific information about the characteristics of their property, for example the square footage of their home or the current market value. Members of the public might also speak with the office to appeal the assessed value it has on record. "If people believe we have overlooked something,

we can schedule an appointment to visit the property and reevaluate our records," Brock explains.

Most of what keeps the staff of the Waseca County Assessor's office, including three appraisers and one assessment technician in addition to the assessor himself, are the jobs of "classifying" and "valuing" all property in the county.

The two words are, perhaps, more complicated than they might seem. As for determining the fair market value of a piece of property, that task is based on well-known standard characteristics: size, location, quality, age, and other factors which are then modified by what is selling during the sales study period.. Perhaps the hardest part of maintaining accurate records on property value is keeping up with markets, which fluctuate depending on a range of factors. For example, last year, "Values were up 20% over previous years."

As for "classifying," that, too, is surprisingly complex. Brock explains that most people are familiar with some of the common classifications: residential, commercial, industrial or agricultural. What they typically have no reason to know is that the state asks assessors to place properties in as many as 57 different "classes." Among those that most people might not think of are marinas, bed and breakfast facilities, manufactured home parks, rental

"Even though your property value has gone up, that doesn't automatically mean your taxes will be higher." – Brock Nelson, County Assessor

properties and even "seasonal restaurant on the lake."

Brock explains that, although the state does not receive any of its income based on residential property values, it still regulates the process of assessment to "make sure we're treating people uniformly and fairly" from county to county.

In keeping with "uniform" treatment, the state also requires that someone from the assessor's office be physically present on every parcel of property in the county at least once every five years. The visit is intended to assure that any records on file are in alignment with the actual state of the property. "Things change," says Brock. "The property might not be maintained well, resulting in a lower market value. There might be additions or improvements which increase its market value."

"The physical visit is a practical way to assure we're being fair," he continues. "We're not out there to 'stick it' to people. We're trying to determine what the property would sell for if it were on the market."

Any resentment people feel when the assessor informs them that their property value has increased, Brock explains, is misplaced.

"Even though your property value has gone up, that doesn't automatically mean your taxes will be higher," he says. He further explains that property values are a relative number used to divide the "tax burden" across all property owners.

Entities which receive income based on real estate values are cities, counties, and school districts. Those organizations plan their budgets for a given year based on expected costs. "So the amount of taxes property owners pay is their relative share of that budget," explains Brock. "People who own a lot of real estate, or who own particularly valuable property will pay taxes based on that value."

"But if everyone's property value has risen, then the proportion of tax they pay will not necessarily mirror that increase."

OBITUARIES

Pamela Vaughan

Pamela Dianne Vaughan, age 61 of Waseca, died at her home on Monday, August 15, 2022.

Born in Waseca on May 12, 1961, Pam was the daughter of James and Dianne (Bauman) Bartelt. She attended school in Waseca and graduated with the class of 1979. She later went on to attend cosmetology school in Minneapolis. Pam was married to Lyle Vaughan on August 11, 1995 in Waseca. Over the years she worked at the RP Hair Center, at Deb & Company, and most recently at Wiste's Meat Market in Janesville. She enjoyed flowers and gardening and was a member of the Waseca American Legion Auxiliary where she enjoyed marching with the parade squad.

Pam is survived by her husband, Lyle of Waseca; three sons, Drew (Stephanie) Bartelt of Owatonna, Kyser (Emily) Bartelt of Austin, and Zanik Bartelt and his fiancé Kayla of Spartansburg, South Carolina; seven grandchildren, Wilow, Chayce, Sawyer, Knox, Freya, Lincoln, and Kolt; and siblings,



Pamela Vaughan

Dennis (Carol) Bartelt, Doug (Julie) Bartelt, Cindy Bartelt, Becky (Matt Harguth) Sommers, and Lisa (James) Hayes. She was preceded in death by both of her parents.

A visitation will be held from 4-7 p.m. on Saturday, August 20, 2022 at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca. A private family interment will take place at a later date.

Gary Tetzloff

Gary Lee Tetzloff, age 72 of Waseca, unexpectedly passed away at his home on Wednesday, August 10, 2022.

Born in Waseca on August 23, 1949, Gary was the son of Laverne and Laurice (Miller) Tetzloff. He attended school in Waseca before enlisting in the United States Navy. He served his country for eighteen years throughout the Vietnam Conflict, and was awarded a Purple Heart. After returning to Waseca Gary became a life member of the Waseca VFW, was involved as a member of St. John Lutheran Church, and enjoyed fishing, playing pool, listening to music, playing the accordion, and spending quality time with his family and friends. Gary was married to Patt Jones on May 15, 1999 at St. John Lutheran Church in Waseca.

Gary is survived by his wife, Patt of Waseca; two step-sons, Shawn Ablan and Scott Ablan; many nieces and nephews; and many step-grandchildren. He was



Gary Tetzloff

preceded in death by his grandparents and his parents.

A memorial service will be held at 4:00 p.m. on what would have been Gary's 73rd birthday, Tuesday, August 23, 2022 at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca. Visitation will be held for one hour before the service at the funeral home.

Dorothy Buker

Dorothy Marie Buker entered Christ's eternal kingdom on August 14, 2022, at the age of 90 years.

She was born on February 6, 1932, in Waseca to Albert and Emma (Krienke) Risto. Dorothy was a wonderful mother, wife, and friend who spent her life taking care of others. She was a well-loved member of the community and her church.

Dorothy lived a full life. She was a member of her church choir and ladies aid at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Alma City. She was also a member of the VFW Auxiliary #1642 and American Legion Auxiliary #228 both of Waseca.

Dorothy is survived by her children: Bonnie (Jim) Britton, David (Mavis) Buker, Mark (Barbara) Buker, and Dale (Nancy Hagen) Buker; eight grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; sisters-in-law: Anita Risto and Arlene Buker; many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Preceded in death by her husband, Gerald; parents, Albert and Emma Risto; and brother, Alfred Risto.

Visitation will be from 3:00 – 5:00 PM on Sunday August 21, 2022 at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral Homes in Waseca. Visitation will continue for one hour prior to the



Dorothy Buker

service at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church on Monday.

To honor her life, a Christian Funeral will be held at 11:00 AM on Monday August 22, 2022 at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Alma City. We invite anyone who knew Dorothy to attend. Burial will take place following the service at Woodville Cemetery in Waseca with a reception at the Waseca VFW to follow.

Memorials preferred to Colony Court Activity Fund. Pallbearers will be Dorothy's grandchildren: Jason Britton, Brian Britton, Joshua Buker, Laura Buker-Morsching, Jonathan Buker, Daniel Buker, Jeremiah Buker, and Andrew Buker.

Waseca Boys' Soccer Car Wash



The Waseca Boys Soccer team held a car wash and bake sale over the weekend at the Bomgaars parking lot. Team members Lucas Vasquez, Jorge Ruiz, Victor Feeley, Logan Heyer, Eddie Gallegos, JD Delgado and a few others pose here with their cleaning supplies.

American Legion Corn Feed



Rachel Cornelius, Gregg Johnson, Ann Fitch, Jason Stenzel and Erin Rossow pose while working the Rotary Club's corn feed at the Waseca American Legion from 11-1:30 on August 11. This was the first fundraiser for the Rotary Club in seven years; the group sold fully cooked ears of corn, cookies, and water.

Pioneer photo by Amelia Roessler

Child's History of Waseca

Continuing from Chapter 14...

Nearly all the other settlers on the upper Le Sueur were subpoenaed as witnesses. After a trial, which lasted three or four days, three of the five were found guilty and the other two were discharged on motion of the prosecuting attorney. The whole trial was a good deal of a farce. If one of the party was guilty of a crime, all were guilty. We asked to be allowed to prove that the claim jumpers were committing willful and malicious trespass upon lands belonging to the arrested parties, and that only necessary force was used to expel the trespassers; the request was refused. Those found guilty appealed to the district court and were in due time discharged without costs on account of error in the proceedings before the justice.

Immediately after the justice trials, Cornell, through his satellites, commenced suit before the land officers at Winona, and the contesting parties and their witnesses were compelled to make several trips to Winona. After about a year of expensive litigation, the matter was compromised and settled, the McDougall brothers giving up one forty and taking another.

During the troubles that grew out of that affair there was actual danger of bloodshed. Some of the men went armed. Cornell became so alarmed that he did not show himself in the settlement for a long time. In early spring (1856) several house bodies were erected on the Wilton town-site, but on the night of the 19th of April, 1856, they were all torn down, literally razed to the ground. I re-

member the date, for that was the night of my wedding day, and some of the boys remarked that "They couldn't lay that devilry onto Pat." As to who did the evil deed, probably no one knows, or ever knew, except those that engaged in it. This occurrence and the general hostility of all the surrounding settlers to the Wilton speculators, prevented any further growth during the summer following.

Chapter 15

Attempted division of county – Circulation of remonstrance – Tramp on foot through Medford, Clinton Falls, Blooming Grove and Woodville

The last chapter necessarily carried this history into the year 1856. There are other matters that took place that winter that belonged to both years. It is intended to keep the history of each year by itself, as far as possible, but there are some matters that cannot be separated by months without destroying the thread of the narrative. Of such matters will this chapter relate.

First Election

The first election in Steele county, of which the present Waseca county was then the larger part, territorially, was held October 9th, 1855. The Le-Sueur precinct, as it was called, included the south half of this county and the township of St. Mary; the polling place was at the residence of Chris Scott, the farm now belonging to Mr. Carmody in Wilton. Twenty votes were cast. The north half of the county, then called Swavesey, also held an election at the same time, but I have been unable to learn how

many votes were polled there at that time. Only one hundred seventeen votes were cast at that election in the territory comprising the counties of Steele and Waseca. The following officers were elected: County commissioners, S. B. Smith, Wm. Allen and M. P. Ide (Mr. Ide lived then in what is now Blooming Grove); register of deeds, Chas. Ellison; sheriff, Wm. F. Pettit; treasurer, David Sanborn; surveyor, John W. Park; clerk of the court, F. W. Fisk; county attorney, John M. Bliven (then a resident of what is now Blooming Grove); judge of probate, F. B. Davis; assessors, David Lindesmith, Chas. Thompson, and Luke B. Osgood (Mr. Osgood lived on the line between Janesville and Iosco); justices of the peace, Simeon Smith and Curtis Hatch, of the north part of the county, and John Jenkins, of the south part.

Originally the territory of Minnesota was divided into nine counties. By act of the territorial legislature, Wabasha county originally occupied all that portion of Southeastern Minnesota east of a line running due south from a point on the Mississippi river, known as Medicine Bottle village at Pine Bend. Dakota county embraced all the territory west of Wabasha county and up said river and the north branch thereof to its source, and thence west to the Missouri river. In 1852, Hennepin county was carved out of Dakota county, and, in 1853, Goodhue, Fillmore, Scott, LeSueur, Rice, Sibley, Blue Earth and Nicollet counties were carved out of Dakota and Wabasha counties. Rice county, by that act, included all of what is now Steele

county and townships 105, 106, 107, and 108, range 22, of what is now Waseca county. Blue Earth county, by the same act, included the townships in ranges 23 and 24, of what is now the larger portion of Waseca county.

By legislative act of February 23, 1854, the counties of Houston, Fillmore, Wabasha and Goodhue were changed, and the county of Winona was organized. By act of Feb. 20, 1855, the counties of Olmsted, Dodge, Mower, Freeborn, Faribault, and Steele were created and the boundary lines of the old counties changed. By that act, Steele county then contained ranges 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24, and townships 105, 106, 107, 108 – a territory twenty-four miles north and south and thirty miles east and west. The geographical center of the county, as then bounded, was near the western line of the township of Meriden.

The county seat of Steele county was not designated, nor the county fully organized by the statute until Feb. 29, 1856, although county officers had been elected in the fall of 1855.

In the month of December, 1855, I made a trip of Auburn, Iowa, for supplies. In January, 1856, shortly after my return, the settlers in the western part of what was then Steele county learned that Messrs. Cornell, Pettit, Abbot & Co., of Owatonna, were endeavoring to get the territorial legislature, then in session, to divide Steele and Dodge counties so as to make three counties of the two – the same way we now have them.

Continued next week.



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Ashley Arett

Solving problems

Arett, PHB’s newest addition

By JONAH STAFFORD
Staff Writer

Ashley Arett, a recently hired paralegal and law student, has recently joined the staff of Patton, Hoversten, and Berg (PH&B) law office in Janesville. Arett is from Austin, Minnesota, but grew up overseas while her father served in the military. She now lives in Mankato with her three children.

A college student later in life, Arett received her bachelor’s degree in legal studies from Bethany Lutheran College in 2021. She is now continuing her studies at Hamline University School of Law with the goal of becoming a lawyer, a process which typically takes three years. Once she finishes, and after passing the state’s bar exam, she will be able to practice law in Minnesota as an attorney.

Prior to her first time working as a paralegal at PH&B, Arett worked in compliance, special education, and as a firearms dealer. She also performs weddings as an ordained minister. Even before studying law as a professional, Arett said that law “has always been relevant to whatever job I had.”

Arett’s first job in law was for Southern Minnesota Regional Law Services in Mankato, which provides legal aid to those who cannot afford an attorney.

As a paralegal for PH&B, Arett said she “functions as a person of contact between the attorney and client.” Because a paralegal is less expensive than an attorney, Arett said that individuals can save themselves money by using a paralegal in the preliminary steps of a legal process.

She explains that being a paralegal entails a lot of writing, drafting, and communicating. Because law has “its own language,” Arett finds her degree in legal studies to be an advantage, though it is not necessarily required to work as a paralegal in Minnesota.

When looking for an internship, Arett filled out a contact form on PH&B’s website. Instead of describing a legal problem, though, she submitted her resume, along with a note saying “I do not have a legal problem but I would like to come solve them.”

While another internship opportunity meant that she had to turn PH&B down initially, it became a top choice for a law firm to work at when planning her post-graduation career and Arett started working there last November.

While working for PH&B, Arett said that she “just fell in love” with Janesville, adding “I want to buy a house here and live here forever.” During her lunch break, Janesville residents can often find Arett at her favorite spot in town, The Purple Goose Eatery and Saloon.

Key legal issues in Arett’s work as a paralegal include estate planning and administration, probate files, and agriculture-based transactions.

No matter what the legal challenge, Arett says that “clients are the center of my world.”

As she continues her pursuit for justice in the best interest of PH&B’s clients, Arett is committed to remaining a member of Janesville’s community for years to come.

“This is where I want to be and this is what I want to do,” said Arett.

Lakeside Golf Course Turning 100



The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce is celebrating the 100th birthday of the Lakeside Golf Course this Saturday, August 20. The group presented a Century Award this past Tuesday to the golf course’s Pro Manager Matt Hauge for 100 years of business in Waseca.



MOVING INSIDE - Rain and thunderstorms didn’t stop the Waseca American Legion’s party on Saturday, August 6. Left, Nicki Benzic and Harper Stenzel enjoys the frog pond, while American Legion manager Liza Buker poses in front of the wheel.

Can’t stop the party at American Legion

By JONAH STAFFORD
Staff Writer

Although the “Red, White & Blue Outdoor Summer Party” was not able to live up to its name in one way—it had to be moved indoors due to rain—the August 6 gathering at the Waseca American Legion did turn out to be a “party,” as promised, with a variety of activities aimed at attendees of all ages.

According to Post manager Liza Buker, this year’s event was the first of its kind for the Legion, and drew in about 150 people. “I hope we’ll try it again next year,” she said, adding that she hoped future events would not have to move indoors.

Like nearly any party, the August 6 event offered food, including locally sourced sweet corn with butter from the Hope Creamery for sale. Waseca-based food truck Blake’s Better Spread was stationed outside the post selling cowboy tacos, bratwurst, hot dogs, French fries, and cheese curds.

The first three hours of the party, from 3 to 6 p.m., featured kids’ carnival games, where for \$1 each, adventurous youngsters could put their skills to the test. Games included frog pond, ball toss, ring toss, spin the wheel, and yard-zee (a larger version of the Yahtzee dice game).

Nicki Benzic, who facilitated the frog pond game, said that she has been involved in the American Legion since she was five years old, due to her grandfather, World War II veteran Arlington Hillman’s membership in the organization.

At 7 p.m., the focus of the party shifted towards adults, who enjoyed a performance from singer Andy Tuckett.



THAT’S GOOD - Louise Bagle and Kevin Dickey enjoy some corn from the Waseca American Legion’s “Red, White, and Blue Outdoor Summer Party.” Pioneer photos by Jonah Stafford

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Now is a great time to Join Waseca Scouts!

Cub Scout Pack 86 welcomes boys and girls in grades Kindergarten - 5th grade. Your scout will work through a series of age-appropriate adventures that is fun for the whole family. It's fun, hands-on learning and achievement that puts kids in the middle of the action and prepares them for today - and for life!

For youth ages 11-17, join Scouts BSA Troop 85 (boys) or Troop 1085 (girls)! Scouts at this level are ready to practice their outdoor skills, do community service and engagement, and develop as youth leaders. Youth will lead their own activities as part of the Troops and work their way toward earning Scouting's highest rank, Eagle Scout!

Come to our **REGISTRATION EVENT** on **SEPTEMBER 12th AT 6:00PM** to learn more about how Scouting is the perfect activity for your child! We will be at the Scout Building located at the Waseca County Fairgrounds.

For more information, please contact:
Cubmaster Larry Sipe (507-676-7956 or revsipe@gmail.com) or Scoutmaster Shawn Pomeroy (612-416-7076 or pomeroy.shawn@gmail.com).

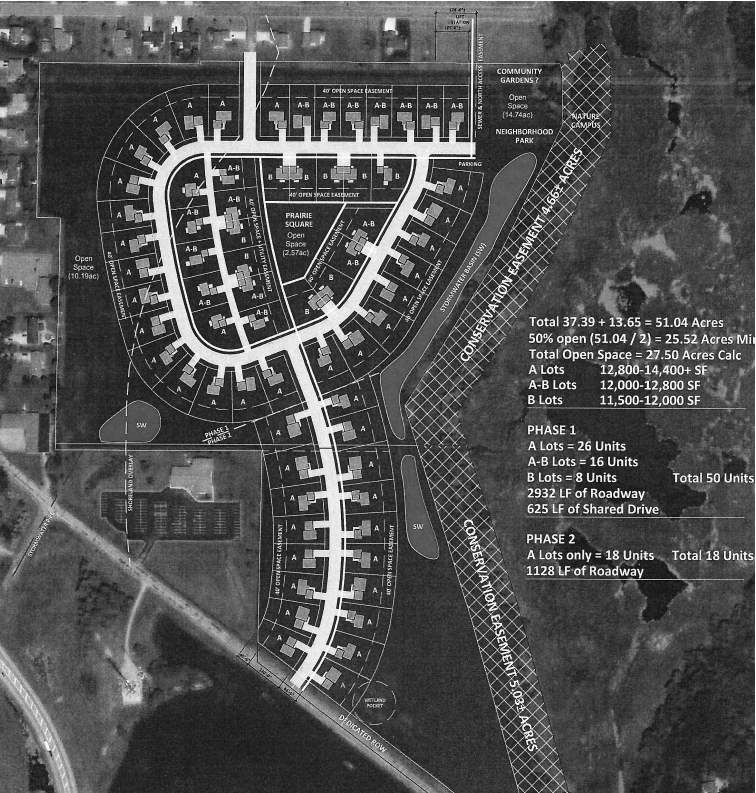
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Gaiter Lake talks have been tabled until January 2023.

Council to interview candidates Sept. 7

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editorial Assistant

Updates on the recent state legislative session were heard and discussion of the THC moratorium continued during the regular meeting of the Waseca City Council August 16, 2022.

THC is the psychedelic component in marijuana. The current state law allows sales of THC products with no more than five milligrams in a single serving or more than 50 milligrams per package.

The owner of Waseca Smoke Shop and Vape presented concerns to the council which could have been alleviated with the explanation of Ordinance 1102 (the moratorium). A back and forth between the owner and Councilperson John Mansfield led to Mayor Roy Srp suggesting a public hearing be held, which will happen at the next city council meeting on September 7.

Draft ordinance 1102 involving a moratorium on THC products, written by assistant Waseca City attorney Chris Kennedy, explains that the imposed moratorium will not affect current Waseca businesses.

Any business currently in Waseca selling products containing THC can continue to do so. The moratorium prevents any outside businesses or persons interested in opening up shop in Waseca from doing so for at least 12 months, or until the council comes to a decision regarding the sale of THC products.

A special meeting/work session was approved for September 7 to conduct interviews in order to fill the open council seat left from Ted Conrath's resignation. Three applicants, James Ebertowski, Stacey Schroerer, and Robert Tackett, were present to introduce themselves in person to the council.

Representatives from Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership working with the Gaiter Lake/Lewer Property development gave a presentation during the special meeting and the topic was tabled until January of 2023.

Presentations

Shane Zhart from CGMC (Coalition of Greater MN Cities), a nonprofit, nonpartisan organiza-

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

tion that represents more than 100 cities outside of the Twin Cities metro area, updated the council on what happened during the latest state legislative session.

Zhart mentioned challenges from the session such as redistricting, 2022 being an election year, and unfinished business from 2021 which includes "Hero Pay" and depleted unemployment insurance funds. According to Zhart, opportunities were squandered because a lot of legislative work was put towards unfinished business from 2021. There were no major budget bills passed besides the agricultural omnibus bill giving relief to farmers who went through the 2021 drought. The bonding bill was also not passed which means that infrastructure projects will have to wait.

Zhart explained that the one "bright spot" from the session is the Border-to-Border Broadband Grant Program which includes \$50 million for broadband internet. He stated that in 2023, a significant legislative turnover can be expected with at least 47 new legislators and a potential change in control. According to Zhart, CGMC will play a critical role educating new and returning legislators on Greater Minnesota issues.

The council expressed interest in making a resolution encouraging a special session of the state legislature. Council member Jeremy Conrath reminded the council of the desire to invite and speak with representatives Petersburg and Jansinski.

With the announcement that Mayor Srp will not seek another term as mayor, he thanked the Waseca community. "I couldn't feel more blessed to have been the mayor of this community," Srp lamented, "I've tried to do the best I can to listen to you folks. This is your city hall and we are your employees."

With his meetings now numbered, Srp's wife joked he's going to have to 'hoe to the end of the row'.

Board looks at \$5 million in projects

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

NRHEG school board members began the process of arranging for about \$5 million in facility improvements during their August 15 regular meeting. Both the district superintendent and the chair of the school board referred to the "exciting" prospect that some long-awaited projects are moving forward.

The largest single anticipated expenditure is nearly \$1.5 million for parking lot improvements and expansion, with work likely to begin the summer of 2024 at both the Ellendale and New Richland sites. In Ellendale, additional paving to the south of the main building will reportedly improve traffic flow for parents who are picking up and dropping off their children. Some leveling of the ground and improved drainage will also reduce problems with water pooling and potentially leaking into the building.

At New Richland, the parking area east of the school would be "reclaimed and resurfaced," while also being expanded southward onto some property purchased by the district in 2019. Additional street markings and crosswalks are also likely to be part of the improvements.

Other, smaller projects of various types may begin as soon as funds are available, presumably in November of this year. Among such projects are

replacement of aging exterior and interior doors. Other intended tasks pertain to the electrical, mechanical, and ventilation systems. They include repairs and equipment replacement, in some cases on equipment which has exceeded its anticipated life expectancy.

The list of projects under consideration is based on a comprehensive study of the district's buildings and grounds completed in January of this year by SiteLogiQ, a planning and engineering company located in White Bear Lake. The study indicated up to \$12 million in potential improvements in various categories including mechanical and electrical systems, ventilation, lighting, and structural concerns.

According to NRHEG Superintendent Michael Meihak, the results of that assessment were taken into consideration by school staff and the various improvements were prioritized, leading to the selected projects.

With the assistance of financial advisors PMA of Albertville, the district has worked out a plan to finance the projects which calls for the district to borrow money against future income, while also raising property taxes.

Roughly half the money needed to repay the loans will come from an annual allotment of about \$350,000 which the school receives from the state toward maintaining its facil-

NRHEG SCHOOL BOARD

ities. The plan is to use a significant part of that annual allotment—which can be used only for maintenance—toward paying down the cost of borrowing. The other half, Christopherson explains, would continue to be used for on-going work and improvements.

The other half of funding for the projects would come from local property taxes and from state credits. According to Jake Berg, spokesperson for PMA, the owners of a \$200,000 home would pay an additional \$66 in taxes each year; a \$100,000 home would see a \$26 annual increase. Because of special credits offered under state law, the taxes charged on homesteaded agricultural land would actually decrease slightly, with state funds making up the difference.

District Business Manager Karla Christopherson explained to board members during Monday's meeting that it is "fiscally responsible" to arrange for these projects at this time.

According to financial advisor Berg, the annual inflation rate on construction costs can be as high as 20%, meaning that the price tag for the scheduled projects increases by roughly \$250,000 each year. That amount vastly outweighs the 3- to 4-

percent yearly cost of interest for borrowing about \$4 million.

Berg also pointed out that the state tax credits for agricultural projects essentially means that the state is helping fund the work. "We're missing out on state aid if we don't act on this," he said.

A public hearing regarding the projects and their funding will be held at the NRHEG secondary school on August 29.

In other business, board members approved student handbooks applying to athletic programs and to standards of behavior at the elementary and secondary schools.

Lunch prices were increased by 10 cents per meal. Board members discussed the financial advantage to the district which occurs when families qualify for free and reduced price meals. Also mentioned was the expectation that more students will begin accessing the school-provided meals at the secondary site, since the addition of a food director will lead to additional offerings in the lunch line, including "a la cart" items like hamburgers or pizza.

More than \$1,000 in donations were acknowledged: \$900 from Best Buy for the purchase of graphing calculators and more than \$200 for protective book coverings from the NRHEG Parent Teacher Organization.

Welcome to the department, Quentin Arndt

Police department interviews first candidate for chief, fire department fills one vacancy

By JESSICA LUTGENS
Staff Writer

The New Richland City Council moved to interview the only individual (at the time) that applied for the Chief of Police position during its first meeting of the month on Monday, Aug. 8. City Administrator Tony Martens was absent for the meeting but submitted a memo stating that the individual is a solid candidate for the job, and the council agreed to hold the interview the week of Aug. 15.

The police report was read by Assistant City Administrator Sara Jo Vulcan, and it stated that the New Richland Police Department responded to 94 calls for service in the month of July, bringing the total number of calls for the year to 838. Night to Unite, which was originally scheduled for Aug. 2, has been moved to Tuesday, Aug. 23 at 6 p.m.

The police report was approved.

Present for the fire department report was Fire Chief Josh Moen, who stated that the NREFD responded to two calls in July - one fire call that ended up being a false alarm, and one medical call. A new member for the department, Quentin Arndt, was approved pending background check. A discussion was had regarding the sale of the department's primary pumper truck and purchase of a new pumper truck.

"I feel it is in our best interest to look towards something else," Moen said, adding that there is already an interested party in central Minnesota for the department's current pumper truck.

The council reviewed the numbers provided by Moen showing funds available for the purchase of a new truck, estimated to cost around

NEW RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL

\$550,000, which were in the process of being confirmed by auditors at the time of the meeting but show sufficient funds available for the purchase. The council moved to advertise the current pumper truck for bids for two weeks; the motion carried with a unanimous vote. The report was approved.

In the ambulance report, it was stated that the New Richland ambulance has had 115 runs this year as of Aug. 4. One new member was approved pending a background check, and a refresher course for Jeff Johnson to be paid for by the city was approved. Damage to the current ambulance rig has been found under the current graphics wrap on the rig,

and the council approved \$2,800 for a new wrap. Cost for repairs to the damage under the wrap were unknown at the time of the meeting. However, Ambulance Director Sarah Sundve is working on obtaining a rig to use while New Richland's is worked on so the city will not have to go without an ambulance rig. The council also approved assistance from six members of Waseca's North Ambulance during the months of Sept.-Oct. The report was approved.

Before adjourning, the council discussed financials for July, which were a cause of concern for Councilperson Jody Wynnemer and Gail Schmidt. An issue with Medicare payments to the ambulance was discussed, and the council agreed to table the approval of July financials until the next meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Bus driver positions filled

By MICHAEL ROY
Publisher

Tim Engel, a district manager of Palmer Bus Service, spoke to the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton School Board on the district's bussing situation on Monday, August 15. He shared he has found four of the five drivers required for the school district's bus routes. "One is fully licensed, and the other three are working on getting them," he added.

Engel filled the fifth position temporarily by adding two substitutes who have committed to driving throughout most of September.

With everything going a bit smoother for Palmer Bus Service, Engel was happy to report that they wouldn't have to combine any routes at this time. "We will be able to pick up where we left off in May," he stated.

He requested to change one route on the north end of town, dropping a stop at the corner of Meadow and Savannah lanes and moving a stop at Meadow and Prairie lanes to the corner of Prairie Lane and West Elysian Lake Road.

"This will make it so we save about 15 to 20 minutes a day on our route," Engel said. "That adds up throughout the school year."

He also pointed out that the Meadow-Savannah stop were within the school district's one-mile walk radius. "It's the only stop that is within a half-mile range of the

JWP SCHOOL BOARD

school."

Board member Tim Johnson was worried at first about moving the Meadow-Prairie stop to a busy road like West Elysian Lake Road. "That corner doesn't have many houses," he stated. "It can get pretty cold and windy out there in the winter."

However, board member Tim Oelke thought it wouldn't hurt to implement those changes. "We can try it out and see what happens," he stated. "We can always change it back to this way if we don't like it."

Superintendent Update

Superintendent Jeremy Erler updated the school board on the construction updates around the school. Despite the project of replacing the air conditioning around the school lagging behind, Erler said they are making progress with it every day.

"We still haven't received our chiller and air exchanger," he added. "We won't be able to get it in time for the school year."

Because of that, the district is looking into get a temporary chiller and air exchanger from United Rental at no additional expense to it. "It will be an expense to our contractors since it was their responsibility to get those here in the first place."

The school district is also installing new ceilings throughout the ele-

"We will be able to pick up where we left off in May." — **Tim Engel, Palmer Bus Service District Manager**

mentary and high schools, with Erler noting that the preschool and kindergarten classrooms passed inspection. It is also finishing waxing of floors and will be moving everything back to classrooms by the weekend.

Other Business

The school updated its Covid-19 Preparedness Plan for the 2022-23 school year. Erler stated that the plan was fully updated until last Friday when the CDC made a few changes to its guidelines. "Minnesota hasn't accepted those changes yet," he explained. "But one they do, we'll make those changes in our document also."

He clarified that only minor changes were made in quarantine measures and testing.

The board also approved substitute pay rate increases for the 2022 school year. The pay rate increases were heavily based on what the Mankato School District decided for pay increases. The only deviation from their plan was the pay of substitute teachers, which was originally \$150 a day. The board agreed to only increase pay by \$15 instead of \$50, which Mankato's district decided.

"\$15 is how big of an increase Waseca is doing for their substitute teachers," Erler explained. "I think we should do the same increase to still be competitive."

Erler then brought up the topic of reusing graduation gowns. "I've had many people mention this topic to me, and the discussion has gone back and forth," he stated. "My concern is once we get them after one night of graduation, zippers may get torn and we can't replace them, among other issues."

Board member Laura Seys mentioned that one topic of discussion is providing the choir with robes to use for concerts. It's one way the school district could reuse the gowns. "The problem is if the district buys them, colors change if you're not using the same company," she added.

Board member Tim Oelke agreed it could cause potential issues, such as having to buy in bulk. "I think it's worth looking into," he stated.

The final item on the agenda was to accept a \$500 donation - with many thanks - from the Steele-Waseca Coop Electric. The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

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Karst returns to recorders office

By RACHEL LOVERINK
Staff Writer

Newly-hired staff members at the Waseca County Recorder's office have been able to begin their jobs with confidence for quite some time now, all thanks to Linda Karst's willingness to step in and teach them the ropes.

As the former Waseca County Recorder, Karst knows just how important it is for things to run smoothly in this line of work. So, when asked to come back just two-and-a-half months after officially retiring, she jumped in head first. She loves that she can work as little or as much as she would like, calling it a "bonus."

"I think they're pretty happy to see me," she said. "They needed some help and I was glad to give it."

Karst says that being semi-retired suits her. And, since a leisurely pace is a somewhat new lifestyle for her, she says she has been spending time with her extended family and retired friends. (Somewhere, tell us when she began working in the recorder's office, when she became recorder, and how long she remained in the position. Mention what month (apparently this year) she retired.)

"It is the best of both worlds," she said. "I'm planting flowers, and catching up on projects at home. I'm involved in Relay for Life and that's going to take up a lot of time for the next several months."

Back at the office, she claims it's her "absolute pleasure" to help new staff members learn the ins and outs of various procedures, always assuring that accuracy remains paramount. She says verifying information is what makes her tick; fortunately, from what she can tell, her proteges seem to be quick studies.

"I had been there quite a few years learning, but the office has new employees now and it takes a while to learn legal descriptions," she said. "It won't be long and I'll work myself out of my part-time job. They're catching on pretty fast."

Providing this all-inclusive crash course on office logistics is no easy task, but it's one that must be ap-



Linda Karst

proached with confidence. Karst adopted this exact mentality while helping begin a new program before tendering her resignation as the Waseca County Recorder (give month).

"I spearheaded the Fraud Prevention program because I want the residents of Waseca County to feel safe when it comes to protecting one of their biggest investments, their home," she said.

She added, "My predecessor started getting the recorder's office into digital copies and newer technology," she said. "Since then, we've upgraded even more by implementing eRecording."

In addition to riding the technology wave, she certainly had her fair share of switching office plaques. But, by no means was it her life's mission to rise to the top. Things just sort of worked out in a nice, natural progression.

"I didn't really plan on being the Waseca County Recorder," she said. "I enjoyed being the deputy recorder and having a boss in the office. I wasn't sure I wanted the responsibility of being the recorder."

Although an admittedly scary change, she eventually decided that becoming department head was "the next step." So, she took the plunge and ran for election a total of four times.

"I definitely think the job chose me," she said.

And now, as she gets an outsider's view of the accomplishments and changes she supervised, she says she feels very grateful to a co-worker who started her down the path to becoming recorder.

"I couldn't read a map much less draw a legal description when I first started," Karst said. "I was looking for part-time work because I had a young family. The years flew by and after being in the same office, it does become a part of your identity." This was especially true, she says, of when she took office as Waseca County Recorder.

Waseca County local election filings

Election filings for local city offices closed Tuesday evening, August 16, at 5 p.m.

According to the secretary of state's website, here are who has filed to run in Waseca County:

WASECA Mayor
Kevin Chindlund
Gary M. Conrath
Matthew Petsinger
Randy Zimmerman

City Council Ward 1
Jeremy Conrath
Special Election for Ward 1
Stacey Schroeder
Robert Tackett

City Council Ward 2
James Ebertowski

Council Council Ward 3
Daren Arndt
Chad A. Schlueter

WASECA SCHOOL BOARD (Elect 4)

Alyssa Bowers
Scott Deml
Robert Dickerson
Dave Dunn
Andrew J. Isker
Theron Avery Kruger
Jonathan J. Michels

Charlie Priebe
Katie Youngberg

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONER District 3

Blair Nelson
District 4
DeAnne Malterer
District 5
Brad Krause

COUNTY SHERIFF
Jay Dulas
Trevor Kanewischer

COUNTY ATTORNEY
Rachel Cornelius (i)
Brenda Miller

SOIL AND WATER SUPERVISOR District 2
Matthew Sommers
District 3

Larry Muff
District 4
Gregg Rosenthal

JANESVILLE Mayor
Andrew Arnoldt (i)

City Council
Daniel Frenk
Melissa Kopachek (i)
Ivan Maas

JWP SCHOOL BOARD (4)
Kevin Born
Katie Cahill (i)
Sherri Daschner (i)
Joan Olson
Lauren Tester
Special Election School Board
Tim Burke

NEW RICHLAND Mayor
Chad Neitzel (currently a New Richland council member)
Christina Petsinger - came in second to Mayor Gail Schmidt in the 2020 election.

City Council
Jason Casey (incumbent)
Loren Skelton (incumbent)
Robert Delafosse

NRHEG SCHOOL BOARD
Amy Ihrke (i)
Rich Mueller (i)
Aaron Phillips
Richard Schultz (i)
Pat Theuer

WALDORF Mayor
Rob Wilkening (incumbent)
City Council

Dave Bottin
Carrie Ann Ferch
Melissa Sorbo

ELYSIAN Mayor
Tom McBroom, Sr. (i)
James Kaufman
City Council (2)

Dante Rand
Dennis Schnoor
Liz Hartzler
Bryan Suemnick

WEM SCHOOL BOARD
Jon Bakken
Brenda Heuss
Gary Michael
Troy Tolzman

WOODVILLE TOWNSHIP Town Supervisor

Rodney Born
Town Clerk
Andrew Miller
Joel Weber

Olson sentenced to 8 years after burglarizing 16 homes

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Staff Writer

Luke Duane Olson, 36, who pled guilty to committing burglaries of 16 homesteads in the Janesville area during the fall of 2021, was sentenced to more than 8 years in prison during a sentencing hearing in Waseca County Court this week. Ten months already served have been credited to the time sentenced, and a minimum of two-thirds of the sentence must be carried out in prison, after which Olson may be eligible for supervised release. The sentence also includes financial restitution, details of which will be agreed upon at a separate hearing on November 22 at 1:30 p.m.

While County Attorney Rachel Cornelius asked the court to impose the eight-year sentence as prison time, Public Defender Jeremy Clinefelter requested Olson serve the time as probation, with the stipulation that any violation of the terms lead to imprisonment. Clinefelter claimed that Olson's status as custodial parent of his three children aged 12 to 16, his

cooperation with law enforcement during the investigation of his crimes, his remorse, and complications from the pandemic which interfered with his search for psychiatric treatment during the parole for a previous conviction all helped justify the request.

During a personal statement, Olson claimed that the ten months he has spent in jail since his arrest during which he was unable to see his children as eye-opening. "I want to be a better person for my children and community," Olson said. However, Judge Harris decided due to his age and criminal history that there was not sufficient cause to depart from sentencing guidelines and expressed doubt whether his remorse was due to the impact of his crimes or his arrest and incarceration. "You are a public safety issue," Judge Hanson said in response to the defense's request. Even prior to the 2021 crimes, Olson had a criminal record including attempted burglary, DUI, arson, and violations of previous probation terms.

Chemical usage and alcohol were named as factors in Olson's previous crimes; prior to his arrest last fall he had not undergone treatment for dependency even though it was a stipulation of his previous parole. During his ten months in jail awaiting sentencing, Olson has been receiving treatment for generalized depression and social anxiety which he claimed contributed to his substance abuse. In his bid for probation, Olson had been approved for an inpatient substance dependency and mental health support program. However, County Attorney Cornelius noted for the court that the prison has a chemical dependency program available to those sentenced for three or more years.

Several victims of Olson's crimes were present in the court to give statements. Brad Carlson described repeated visits by Olson to his property and expressed that he'll wonder for years to come whether things he is missing were stolen during the burglaries. "I do believe he took great advantage of trust from my



Luke Olson

mother, who wants to believe there is good in everyone," Carlson stated. Sharon Haley also spoke on behalf of her family. "We are fortunate to live in Waseca County where we believe we have trustworthy neighbors and friends, but he has created a sense of fear, a lack of trust." Each victim impact statement which was read or presented to the court emphasized the emotional toll of Olson's crimes over the financial aspects. These crimes, it was said again and again, created anguish, pain, frustration, and a loss of security.

CERT offering hazard training

PRESS RELEASE

FEMA's definition is: CERT program is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. This FEMA program provides a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens will be initially on their own and their actions can make a difference.

Waseca County has had a CERT team since 2015. Currently, we have 54 members from Waseca County. We would encourage more interest from people in New Richland, Janesville and Waldorf to become involved in preparedness and providing initial help and support for their communities.

We are initial helpers when our local law enforcement, fire, EMS and other agencies are overwhelmed after a disaster or large incident where more hands and help is needed. Waseca County CERT members will respond to help wherever needed in our county.

CERT teaches us how to assess and assure our own home preparedness and emphasizes safety for ourselves, our families and our homes before we respond to assist others.

We teach about hazards that may impact our communities. CERT training prepares citizens to serve as first responders until

emergency personnel arrive.

We offer free initial training yearly and participants receive a free backpack filled with initial supplies (such as hemet, goggles, tools, radio, first aid supplies) that may be needed. We teach everything from how to shut off home utilities to initial medical care to search and rescue plus more.

Throughout the year, we have some exercises or education at our monthly meetings where members keep refreshed on what their training has been.

CERT members may also help at parades, traffic control at incidents like multi-vehicle crashes or even at pancake breakfasts. We are a volunteer group who desire to assist our communities in a variety of ways.

Our next classes will be in September on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30-9:30 PM. The dates are:

September 12, 13, 15, 19, 20, 22 and 27

The 27th is our final exercise and graduation session. It is important to attend all of the sessions.

For further information or questions or if you would like to sign up, please contact:

Denise Wright, Waseca County Emergency Manager at 507-835-0694 or you may email her at denise.wright@co.waseca.mn.us.

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editorial Assistant

A new domain name dominates the future at the regular Waseca Board of Commissioners meeting August 26, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

Action Agenda
Right now, the Waseca county's website domain is www.co.waseca.mn.us, which is planned to change in the future. Through many steps with the federal government, all of the websites of Waseca county will be under the same domain name, "Waseca-

county.gov". Although the county will keep both names for a while as they transition, the push to change the domain to a "gov" is due to a risk in funding if it is not changed. The new domain name was approved with a motion from Malterer/Harguth.

Dan Larson from MRC (Minnesota Rural Counties) presented to the board concerning Waseca county joining MRC. MRC is a platform built specifically for rural communities so that their voices can be heard at the federal level in government. MRC works closely with AMC (Association of Minnesota

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Counties) to look at growing and the positives of communicating between rural and metro entities. The price for the county joining MRC is on a sliding scale depending on the population of the county, but it was estimated Waseca county's price between \$2,500 and \$2,700 annually. There will be a deeper discussion with more information on this topic at the next board meeting.

The acceptance and approval of contracts and final payment for the

pavement in front of the Conagra facility and the lot surfacing at the Solid Waste and Recycling Center prove that there was savings in both of the projects, of which will go back into the state aid fund where it was taken from.

Administration Announcements

The courthouse is very close to being done with still additional projects to look at.

There is a new public health nurse to take over for the departing health nurse and two positions for public health nurses are still open.

Waldorf Days set for Aug. 26-28

The City of Waldorf will be hosting "WALDORF DAYS & All School Reunion," taking place in Waldorf, Minnesota on August 26, 27, 28, 2022. Everyone is welcome!

Friday: Firemen's Burgers & Sweet Corn followed by dance ("Red Dirt Road"),

Saturday: Antique Military Vehicle, Fire Truck, Car & Tractor Display, Axe Throwing, Shooting Range, Rock Climbing, Gravity Wagon Basketball ~ Coffee & Donuts, Bake Sale, Bingo, Registration

Packet Pickup ~ Buy Raffles Tickets ("Lottery Ticket Tree," Quilts & Baskets), Buttons for the prize drawings, Waldorf-Pemberton Colts T-shirts, "A Touch of Waldorf History" books, Postcards & Notes featuring "Old Waldorf" ~ Silent Auction of a New & Unique "Waldorf Water Tower" Wall Hanging ~ Food Trucks ~ Vendors & Crafters ~ Bean Bag Tournaments, Kiddie & Grand Parade, Firemen's Waterball Tournaments, Waldorf History & Artifacts Exhibits, Electric Train Setup, Photo

Booth Fun, All School Reunion Program, Pre-paid Community Dinner (6-8 pm @ \$20 per ticket) with dinner music ("In a Bind," Becky Borneke's Trio), Teen Dance ("Double D Music Squad DJ," Pre-Street Dance Entertainment (MyGlobalDJ), Street Dance ("Maiden Dixie Band"), Fireworks, & More!

Sunday: Polka Church Service ("Jolly Ramblers"), Pancake Breakfast,

Tour "The Pink Schoolhouse", Tour JR's Barn.

Go to Facebook "Events" or info@cityofwaldorf.com for further information.

Call Minnwest Bank/Waldorf at 507.239.2166 to Register & Pre-order Buttons & Tickets for the Saturday (27th) "Community Dinner." (Dinners must be pre-ordered & paid). "Earlybird" Registrations received by May 1st will be eligible for \$50 cash drawings.

Call Judy Joecks at 507.317.1345 to enter the Parade (no entry fee).

Got news? • 837-6767 • news@wasecacountypioneer.com



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently
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Rooster crows and rollercoaster rides

I have (at least) two unusual traits.

One: I can crow like a rooster—and I mean just like a rooster. My crow is so believable, roosters crow back. In fact, since crowing is the way they establish dominance in the chicken yard, I have had a rooster come fight with me to show I had no business crowing in his territory. It’s come in handy in a surprising number of ways.

Within the first week of school, I warn my students that if they fall asleep in my classroom, I reserve the right to either spray them with water or crow while standing near them. It doesn’t stop the occasional nap from happening, but the rest of the class often has a lively discussion as to whether we should use the crow or the water as our rude awakening.

Feel free to ask me about it if we’re ever in the same place—I can crow “at the drop of a hat.” The confused expressions as people look around to find the rooster are often quite enjoyable.

The other odd trait is that I love roller coasters. The faster, the steeper, the more loops and curves, the better. I have a sister-in-law who lives in the north suburban Chicago area, not far from Six Flags Great America. She feels the same as I do about thrill rides, and so we get together a few times every year and indulge our impulses.

I was there last week. Thanks to some drizzle and the (unmet) threat of rain later in the day, I had one of the best ride days ever. By Chicago-area standards, there was “no one” there. We walked right onto rides that we would otherwise have waited an hour for. We

moved from ride to ride as if we owned the place: Being a tiny bit damp wasn’t even an inconvenience, given the access it provided.

With my sister-in-law and me that day were two 11-year-olds, both first-timers at the park. One of them had a temperament like ours—ready for any of it. The other was less certain. It didn’t matter how many times we pointed out that literally millions of people had ridden the loops and curves and survived, she chose not to try. We respected that: if there was any disappointment, it was only the fun she was missing out on.

Strolling through the nearly empty park as we were, we walked seven miles on day one. We were able to get onto an extraordinary number of rides varying from an ornate two-level carousel to a coaster that takes riders from 0 to 60 in a few seconds using a pneumatic mechanism that sounds something like a cannon. Wow, what a day!

Some of us had sore feet, so perhaps it’s a good thing the crowds were larger on our second day at the park. We ended up standing in line for a higher percentage of the time—not something I would ordinarily claim as an advantage.

But also on day two, our uncertain rider decided she would give the thrill rides a try. And guess what? She loved them.

It was a great trip. Even better than the rides were the shared time and anticipation. Even though the seven-hour drive (one way) sometimes has me wondering why I do it, I never seriously question my choice. After all, I’m crazy—about roller coasters.

Parents, please take one giant step back

By ANN FITCH
Guest column

Parents, I know your little darlings mean the world to you and you would do anything you can to help them succeed in life; but there is a point where your help becomes a crutch. I know it because I lived it. My parents bailed me out of problems that I created because they loved me and man did I appreciate it! However, there was one area of my life that they never interfered in: my job. Not once did they ever call my employer for any reason, even when I got canned from Hy-Vee in high school (that’s a whole ‘nother story).

Moms and dads, please consider following these general tips for helping your children with their employment journey.

Do help them fill out their first job application.

Do Not fill it out for them.

Do help them prepare for the interview.

Do Not sit in on the interview with them.

Do help them practice conversations with their supervisor, like asking for time off or even how to quit a job.

Do Not call their employer and ask for time off for them.

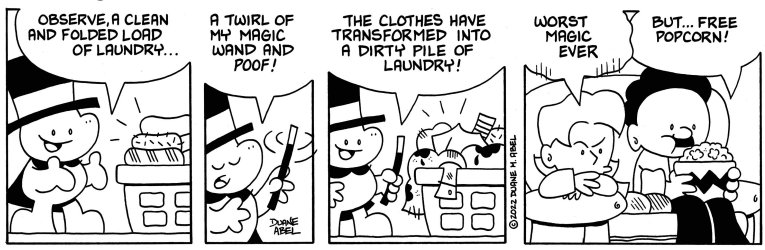
I am sure it can be difficult to hold yourself back from stepping in to help your children, but they will be much more confident individuals if you give them the tools they need to succeed at being employed. As a parent, if you find yourself lacking the tools to pass on to them, learn together. There

“As a parent, if you find yourself lacking the tools to pass on to them, learn together.”
— Ann Fitch

are some great resources out on the internet. Indeed has an excellent YouTube channel that gives short tutorials on how to engage with your employer. If you want to participate in a practice interview, call our Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce office as we are happy to help you with that. 507-835-3260.

Teenage employees are a vital part of our economy; the opportunity to make money is a real taste of independence for them. You will be of greater service to your children if you help them acquire the maturity to handle their own employment issues as early as possible, thus setting them up for better opportunities throughout their work life. If by age 18 they can navigate simple employment tasks on their own, they will be positioned to identify when and how to ask for a promotion, a compensation increase, or other career benefits. Sometimes there are advantages to being a hands-off parent.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



www.corkeycomics.com

Marching Jays garage sale



A cutout of band director Devon Lawrence stood outside the 4H building at the fairgrounds welcoming people to their garage sale, held August 11, 12, and the 13th which ended with a Marching Jays Parade from Bomgaars to the Fairgrounds.

Marching Jays garage sale

By JONAH STAFFORD
Staff Writer

At the end of last week, August 11-13, a garage sale was held at the 4H building in the Waseca Fairgrounds, supporting the Waseca Marching Jays. The garage sale is an annual fundraiser, taking community-donated items and selling them for bargain prices to raise funds for the band.

The Marching Jays, who describe themselves as “one of the longest run-

ning competitive marching bands in Minnesota,” completed two weeks of intensive band camp from the end of July to early in August.

Right outside the 4H building, a cardboard cutout with Waseca Band director Devon Lawrence’s face on it held a sign that read “Join Waseca Bands,” humorously and effectively drumming up interest in the school’s music program.

After band camp, the Marching Jays

themselves worked the garage sale, but band parents, such as Gabriela Beltran and Jaime Nevalainen also lent helping hands, selling merchandise by the bagful and helping load furniture into patrons’ vehicles.

Celebrating the end of band camp and the beginning of their competitive season, the Marching Jays later embarked on a short parade Saturday afternoon, marching from Bomgaars to the fairgrounds.



Intended for immature audiences

ECHOES FROM THE
LOAFERS’ CLUB MEETING
What have you been up to?
I’ve been building a ship in a bottle.
Wow! How do you get in the bottle?
DRIVING BY BRUCE’S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I pressed the button on my garage door opener and 18 field crickets moved into the garage. There were no crickets seen retreating. The most common cricket in these parts is the field cricket. It has a shiny, black body.

I led tours into a gold dredge in Alaska. It was a giant mechanical gold pan. In 1942, gold mining suffered a setback when the War Productions Board issued Order L-208, which forced the closure of all gold mines in the U.S. for the duration of World War II. After the war was over, few mines re-opened. I enjoyed my visits to the dredge until I hit my head on the “Watch your head” sign. It stung like the dickens. I heard crickets and saw stars. I told everyone to go on without me and take my canteen. I was probably looking down when my melon was mashed. Stepping into fresh cow pies at an early age had taught me to watch my step. Looking down at my feet has paid off. Just last week, I found a dime. I haven’t hit my head on a gold dredge’s “Watch your head” sign for years.



Compostings

by Al Batt
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SCHOOL DAZE
I built a toothpick bridge for school. It was a dog’s breakfast, but sturdy as long as nobody touched or stared at it. Someone sat on it on the school bus. It failed the architectural test. It was a total loss and I was unable to get help from FEMA.

I’VE LEARNED
Dogs have taught me that when life stinks, I should roll on it.

The distance to the floor increases with my age.

I can remember everything like it was yesterday except yesterday.

Most election ads are intended for immature audiences.

Noah believed in climate change.

ASK AL
“Who were the Spice Girls?” All, Old and Pumpkin.

“Were you ever a cowpuncher?” No, but I made a face at a goat once.

“Why is a ship’s speed measured in knots?” To keep the ocean tide.

“How smart are crows?” They are smarter than chickens. That’s why no one has ever heard of Kentucky Fried Crows.

“What’s the biggest problem with our educational system?” That it

awards diplomas to people who think the earth is flat.

“How can I tell if a watermelon is ripe?” Knock on it. If it says, ‘Come in,’ it’s ripe.

BAD JOKE DEPARTMENT
The man put his grandchild in a room with a rotary telephone, an analog watch and a TV without a remote. He gave the boy directions on how to operate each one written in cursive. He’s being charged with child abuse.

Last week at the grocery store, I saw a man slipping celery into other people’s shopping carts. He was a stalker.

One of my teachers, Mr. Bergner, asked me what the difference was between ignorance and apathy. I told him I didn’t know and I didn’t care.

What goes “Ha, ha, ha, thud?” A man laughing his head off.

The man’s wife left him because he was balding. “It’s hair loss,” he said.

NATURE NOTES
I asked a UPS driver about deer. He said that in the 22 routes he’s aware of, he knows of no brown truck that has collided with a deer.

This is likely due to cautious drivers and the crepuscular habits of deer, which feed mainly from before dawn until several hours later, and again from late afternoon until dusk.

Ken Bertelson of Albert Lea told of a funeral procession where the hearse had to come to a complete stop because of a stubborn wild turkey.

Judy Hellie of Clarks Grove found a katydid. Her 4-year-old grandson suggested feeding it grass. Judy looked it up and found katydids eat grass and leaves. Her grandson said, “Finally, I’m right.”

Ken Nelson of Clarks Grove wondered how long bald eagles live. The oldest known bald eagle in the wild was at least 38 years old when a car hit and killed it in New York in 2015. It had been banded in 1977.

LOCAL SHENANIGANS
I had the pleasure of speaking to the Sons of Norway of Owatonna and the Sunde family at the Le Sueur River Lutheran Church, which afforded me the joy of listening to Pastor Charles Espe speak on the area’s history and Matt Groskreutz play the church organ.

FROM THE MAILBAG
Bob Hargis of Wyoming wrote, “One of the fun parts of living in Wyoming is there are very few lines for anything. DMV had only one guy ahead of me, (it) took 10 seconds as he forgot his wallet.”

MEETING ADJOURNED
One kind word can warm three winter months.

Sisters start boutique

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editorial Assistant

The Phoenix is an online clothing boutique based out of Waseca which was started in June by sisters Tannea and Tanika Johnson. The business offers two ways to shop. Items can be selected from the company’s Facebook page and then picked up from the sisters’ house. The second option is to wait for one of their “pop-up shops” held about once a month at various locations in town. Their most recent event was from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, August 6, in the space behind The Bar on Main.

“Pop up shop is basically once a month. We rent a location and bring a selection of clothes—more product than we normally have,” explained Tannea. Since the company is so new, the sisters believe it is important for people to see the items in person and have the opportunity to try them on. The Phoenix’s offerings include a lot of plus-sized and affordable items. “We both love fashion,” said Tannea during the August “pop-up.” “I know I don’t like to spend

a lot of money on things, so one of our goals is to keep things reasonably priced. Our most expensive item here is only \$42.”

The sisters say they started The Phoenix because they both love to shop and wanted something affordable. This way too, they could make their own style and their own varieties of aesthetic, as they work to expand size ranges, styles, and the brand.

The clothing they sell is acquired from wholesalers. One of their suppliers is a couple in Kansas who make the clothes themselves. Because the sisters love shopping, their business is almost a hobby for them. They describe their work as almost like shopping for other people.

Both sisters have full-time jobs in addition to their boutique. Tannea works at Federated Insurance and Tanika bartends and helps out at The Mill. The Phoenix is something they enjoy doing in their free time, and so they look forward to putting together more Saturday “pop-up” events.



SISTERS - Tannea and Tanika Johnson decided to go into the boutique business together. The Phoenix has pop-up shops once a month and offers items via Facebook.



IN 1947 - Mildred (Babe) Didrickson Zaharias, present U.S. and British women's golf champion, and according to sports writers, the greatest all-around woman athlete of all time, announced that she was turning pro to accept a \$300,000 motion picture offer "which I could not very well reject." Left to right: Babe Didrickson Zaharias, her husband George, and her business manager Fred Corcoran of Boston, after she argued her contract with Corcoran who will manage her affairs.

Argus archives

100 years ago: 1922

-While watching from his lofty perch, it has come to the knowledge of the Steel Tower man: That if you want to do right you must be right. That a sour stomach never makes a sweet disposition. That no matter how bad off you are you might be worse.

-The Janesville Tigers traveled to Faribault last Sunday and trimmed the Engineers 5 to 4. The Gilday brothers composed the battery for the home gang and performed like a pair of major leaguers. Peterson and Manahan were on the points for Faribault. Fine work boys, keep it up.

-This place received a visit last week from Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Rice of Omaha. They drove into town in a Ford coupe and while here out of curiosity looked the town over. The reason as explained by Mr. Rice was that over forty years ago when a lad of nine years of age he resided in Janesville.

-Business is brisk with trunk patrolmen around this vicinity and in other sections of the 7,000 mile system of so-called Babcock roads covering all Minnesota, according to a new bulletin today from the state highway department.

-In spite of the fact that it was the busiest part of the season on the farm and that F. D. Morrill's threshing machine had been operating in the neighborhood all the week, a large and enthusiastic crowd assembled at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Garlick on Wednesday evening, the occasion being the regular meeting of the Old Town Farm Club.

-No "freak" vegetables will be given prizes by judges at the Waseca County Fair, Waseca, August 28-30. The "funny" potato with a big head, and arms and legs like a fat boy, will be thrown out by judges, even before the judging begins. The big potato, two or three times as big as it ought to be, will have no better chance of winning a ribbon. Only smooth, even, well-sized potatoes, of pure-breed will be accepted by show officials.

-Last week, Albert Fetchenheur, who resides west of Waldorf, threshed 984 bushels of rye from 24 acres, an average of 41 bushels to the acre, considered an extraordinary yield.

-Judging by the vote being collected by The Literary Digest, there are a large number of people in this country who favor the modification of the eighteenth amendment to permit the lawful manufacture and sale of light wines containing ten per cent and beer containing 2.5 per cent alcohol.

-It is pleasing to note the youthful appearance of our highly respected townsman and citizen, Mr. W. E. Heath. Always an early bird and imbued with the spirit of the morning sunrise and its resplendent glow, he now emulates his life-long custom with renewed intensity and vigor showing and demonstrating that in spite of advancing years he is growing perceptibly younger in thought and purpose and spirit.

-WANTED: used upright pianos in exchange for Phonographs or Player-pianos.

75 years ago: 1947

-Major Harold Crowell, Service Unit Director for the Salvation Army in the state of Minnesota, made the following announcement today to citizens of Janesville. "The Salvation Army will establish in Janesville, a local Service Unit, with its own local committee, fund, and program."

-The Pemberton consolidated school has now completed their faculty, and is almost ready for the opening of school on September 2.

-Sunday morning around 3:00 a.m. August Schraeder was awakened by unusual noises next door to his place of business. He investigated and found there was someone moving about in the Glamm Cafe. He called Marshal Gomsrud and together they entered the cafe. There they found Charles Soheunemn when to his surprise Scheuneman grabbed his gun from its holster and ordered both the marshal and Schraeder to stop where they were Scheuneman leaving the gun in the place then left the building. Sunday afternoon the deputy sheriff came over and placed him under arrest.

-The Cardinals mopped up on the local businessmen here Sunday, in a loosely played baseball game, by a score of 16-8.

-The Waseca County Library story hour conducted by Nellie Yantes at ten o'clock Tuesday mornings is given for children only and not adults. Janesville children have become so interested in the Story Hour that they have requested that the same be continued through the hot weather period.

-Sales of Series E savings bonds in Minnesota during July showed an increase of almost \$400,000 over a year ago, making a net gain for the first seven months of 1947 of \$12,800,000 over last year.

-Although total traffic in the long daylight hours in July was five times as great as at night, more serious accidents occurred in the hours of darkness. Twenty-one were killed in motor accidents in Minnesota between dusk and dawn and 16 in the daylight hours according to reports compiled by the State Highway Department.

-Flax Price Support is Given: the purchase price for flaxseed under purchase agreement in the county is \$5.83 per bushel. Purchase agreements as well as loans will be available to farmers as a means of supporting prices for the 1947 flax crop, Edward V. Doyle, chairman of the Waseca County Agricultural Conservation committee revealed today.

-While snoopin' around the Old Burg, it has come to the Knowledge of the ARgus Pencil Pusher: that our dream has come true-- the new sidewalks on Main Street are finished-- and boy, try and beat 'em!

-The Janesville Board is required by law to charge \$110.00 tuition for First through Sixth grades and \$165 tuition for Seventh and Eighth grades for non-resident pupils for the school years of 1947 and 1948.

Waseca archives

100 years ago: 1922

At a special meeting held Tuesday, the county commissioners voted to offer \$75,000 worth of ditch bonds for sale on Sept. 19. The proceeds of these bonds will be used to pay for construction of Main No. 2 of County Ditch No. 15.

Waseca won the deciding game of the series with Waterville at the fairgrounds last Thursday by the lop-sided score of 16 to 2. The locals took a liking to Bliss's offerings and scored most of their runs in the second and seventh innings when they batted around, scoring five runs in the second and eight in the seventh.

C.B. Kenny, a theatrical man from the Iron Range, has bought the New Garden Theatre in this city and will reopen it next Saturday. On Saturday, Sunday and Monday he will present Harold Lloyd in "A Sailor Made Man."

Fred W. Popp of the firm of Sterling & Popp left last Friday on a fishing trip to Miller Lake in Aitkin county. He was accompanied by J. H. Groh, a traveling salesman. On Saturday they landed 9 large pick-erel, weighing from 9 to 19 pounds. The 19-pounder was brought home and has been on exhibition in the Sterling & Popp meat market. The big fellow put up a game fight and Fred had one time of his life landing him.

Walter Stavenau, a farmer residing west of Elysian in LeSueur county, was arrested Monday on a charge of chicken stealing preferred by S. R. Adams. A resident of Janesville township. Adams claims that on the night of August 8th his chicken yard was visited and 250 chickens, old and young, were stolen.

FOR SALE-- Spring Duroc Boars sired by Cherokee Sensation. First prize winner at Minnesota State Fair

75 years ago: 1947

Records supplied by Supt. R. E. Hodgson at the Southeast Experiment Station here shows that two and 22 hundredths of an inch of rain fell today in showers which broke about midnight and continued much of the night and into the forenoon hours. It was the first rain in Waseca since July 17 when three-tenths of an inch fell.

The Public School will open on



IN 1972 - "What the Well Dressed Girl Will Wear" was displayed at the Junior Style Show at Wolf & Habein's Thursday evening. Models pictured, all Waseca girls, are, left to right: Nanette Johnson, Marion Gallagher, Patricia Luther, Shirley Kopischke, Betty Powell, Geraldine Kahnke, Patricia Gallagher and Beverly Fretham.

Tuesday morning, Sept. 2 at 8:45 a.m. with school being in session only until noon. The school year officially begins with a teacher's workshop to be held during the week beginning August 25.

Herbert Streitz, president of the Waseca Junior Chamber of Commerce, announced at the meeting Monday evening that he had been asked by the state board to appoint men to two state committees. Howard Ragan was appointed on the state awards committee, and Dale Kritzer was named on the Veterans affairs committee.

Several changes have been and are being made in Waseca business places. Next week Saturday, Dolliver Beaumont and Raymond Ward of Owatonna will open a Fruit Market on south State street, across from the South Side School.

The next issue of the State Library magazine will carry a story on the language classes conducted by the Waseca County Library system this summer. It is the first project of its kind on record in the state.

Football practice for both Waseca high schools will get underway next week Monday with the issuing of suits and equipment by coaches L. H. Krough for Central school and Peter Kramer for Sacred Heart school.

50 years ago: 1972

The University of Minnesota Technical College in Waseca was host to the Overall College Advisory Committee Meeting on Wednesday. The schedule included a class visitation and a tour of newly remodeled

facilities at UMW; a noon luncheon with Norman Foote, consultant for UMW, as guest speaker; and a business meeting.

The Waldorf Peppy Peppers 4-H Club held a family night on Monday Aug. 14 at the American Legion Hall in Waldorf. A potluck supper was enjoyed by everyone. A program was then held beginning with Flag Pledges. President Deb Spangler introduced the leaders of our club and our guest speaker for the evening; Ron Orth.

June "Dairy Month" milk production in Minnesota totaled 919-million pounds, or approximately 107-million gallons, and was two percent greater than the output for the same month in 1971.

Congressman Ancher Nelson announced this noon at a luncheon at the Powell House that the Federal AViation Administration today approved a federal matching grant of \$179,000 for the improvement of airport facilities in Waseca. The funds will help buy land for a new runway and clear zones as well as for construction of a tow away and aprons.

Pat Hanson, mother of nine children, was among the graduates from Mankato State College at Commencement Exercises Friday afternoon. Pat received a B.S. degree in recreation and park administration and a minor in physical education.

LOST and FOUND: 2 Guernsey heifers strayed from Clifford Bathke farm, 7 1/2 miles NW of Waseca.

25 years ago: 1997

Ever since it first opened its doors in December 1960 Lake Shore Inn

Nursing Home has been on the cutting edge of its industry. This year the home was given the Business of the Year Award by the Waseca Chamber of Commerce.

It has been a long time coming, but the \$500 per child tax credit is nearly a reality for the tax-weary Minnesota families! Now that it has been passed by both the House and Senate and embraced by the President, 1997 is the year in which the \$500 per-child tax credit will finally become law.

Births: Eileen Ann McIntire, Ryan William Bodin, Cheyenne Joyce Baker

Not every 18-year-old gets the opportunity to own his own business. Cory Connors not only has this opportunity, he is also getting free training from his father, Craig-- the other half of C&C Plumbing, the business they recently opened together.

The Minnesota Department of Economic Security reported its record-breaking unemployment rates continue. The seasonally adjusted rate dropped from 3.3 percent in May to 3.2 percent in June. The rate was down from 4.1 percent a year ago in June.

Ulschmid, Breck are Lakeside champs: Carol Ulschmid captured her fourth consecutive women's title and fifth in the last six years. Jayson Breck claimed the men's championship in the first year he has played in the top flight. Seventy-four men competed in seven flights, while just eight ladies turned out to do battle.

Star archives, New Richland

100 Years Ago -- August 25, 1922

-The committee in charge of the livestock exhibits for Dairy Day at New Richaland, September 21, has been very fortunate in securing L. V. Wilson head of the Live Stock Extension work at the University of Minnesota to do the Judging of the dairy cattle at the Dairy Day celebration at New Richland on Thursday, September 21. They have also secured E. T. Winship of Owatonna president of the State Holstein Breeders Association, and A. J. McGuire, head of the State Creamery Association to deliver addresses

-Errors by second basemen, Roehrick and third basemen, Stronsky, gave New Richland a four to two victory of Faribault last Sunday on the Faribault diamond. The game was a contest of pitching skill between Ernster and Lindberg and the honors were equally divided with each team gathering seven hits. Ernster was given air-tight support and the contest was won on the remarkable fielding of the New Richland players.

-When Joe Stadulski let the league-leading Owatonna team down with three hits Monday at the Waseca county fair he deserved to win the contest by a shut-out. The score was 7 to 1 in favor of the New Richland Champs.

-Resignation of Neil H. Swanson, director of the news service and investigation department of the Minnesota Farm Bureau federation, was announced today. Mr. Swanson resigned to become city editor of the Minneapolis Journal. "The country newspaper has been the best friend the Minnesota farmer and his organization have had," Mr. Swanson said. "It would be impossible to give the home paper too much credit for the part it has played in making cooperative marketing a success in Minnesota. It deserves the gratitude and the

support of every farmer and every farm organization."

75 Years Ago -- August 21, 1947

-Leverne "Bob" Nock jumped into national prominence in the sporting world at Vandalia, Ohio, when he placed first in class D in the Grand American trap shoot, the only Minnesota winner. As a trophy of his ability, Bob is sporting a beautiful Elgin watch, handsomely engraved and valued at at least \$100.

-The Harley Norbys who live in Freeborn county near the county line were losers to the extent of about one hundred chickens by the chicken thief route either Friday or Saturday night. They noticed their flock seemed smaller than usual and took inventory.

-Edward Lange was here the latter part of last week on a visit to his father, William Lange and his sister, Mrs. Percy Jensen. Ed has been operator of the creamery at Aitkin for the last year. Previous to that he was a field man in the northern district for the Land O' Lakes Creameries, Inc. Aitkin is a town of about 2,500 population. In a recent month the creamery made more than 109,000 pounds of butter. This is more than many creameries make in a whole year.

-Grading of Highway No. 13 between here and Albert Lea is approaching completion. The road will soon be passable in dry weather but doubtful after a rain. Graveling operations have begun at the south end and the crew is gradually working north, having reached a point south of Hartland.

-Drivers license forfeitures set a new high record in July when 2,095 persons lost the privilege of operating motor vehicles, the Minnesota Highway Department reports. Largest totals in any previous month was 1,545 in October, 1946. Waseca county has four licenses revoked and one suspended in July, the Department informs the Star. A list of the names is on file with Sheriff R. G. Lowe and is open to public inspection.

50 Years Ago -- August 24, 1972

-Girl Scout leaders are needed if New Richland is to have a scouting program for 1973. As to date, there are ive leaders and seven more are needed. There are approximately ninety girls in New Richland who would like to belong to a troop.

-The Hartland Fire Department sponsored a two hour fire school, Sunday afternoon. Five fire departments, Alden, Freeborn, Clarks Grove, Twin Lakes, and Albert Lea were in attendance. The firemen learned how to extinguish a fire in a burning car and rescued the occupant, which was in the instance of this practice, a dummy. They also learned to repair a ruptured hose, replace a hose, carry and roll a hose and other basic fire fighting procedures. The firemen's wives enjoyed a demonstration on cutting and arranging flowers given by Norma Bell at the Community Center. A steak fry was enjoyed in the late afternoon by the firemen and their families.

-The Albert Lea Civic Music Drive for the 1972-72 season for Freeborn county was underway as the chairwomen from surrounding towns outside Albert Lea attended a coffee at the home of Mrs. John R. Peterson, Civic Music president.

-Minnesota's Horse Breeders association released today that 23 competitors will be involved in Horse Plowing competition at Farmfest-USA, September 17. Horse plowing competition begins at 11 a.m. Four classes of competition will take place- (1) walking plow class, (2) sulky plow class, (3) gang plow class, (4) triple gang plow class. Two judges chosen by the Minnesota Horse Breeders Association will judge the actual plowing and one

judge will inspect and judge the equipment and horses.

25 Years Ago -- August 14, 1997

-Chaluay Chohanavig of Nakhon Pathon, Thailand, arrived at O'Hare Airport in Chicago on Wednesday, August 6. Chaluay was one of two chaperones with 110 AFS students from Thailand spending the 1997-98 school year in the United States. At a motel in Chicago, Ervin and Bernice Himmerich of New Richland met Chaluay. From Chicago he accompanied the Himmerichs to Arkansas where they visited their daughter and her family a few days. Chaluay spent the 1970-71 school term attending New Richland-Hartland High School, as an AFS student. Ever since his experience as an AFS student, Chaluay has been active in the AFS Exchange Student Program in Thailand. In the spring of 1971, he was a member of the graduating class at New Richland-Hartland High School with Gary Himmerich.

-Benito Vela Jr., 28, of New Richland, pleaded guilty to first-degree assault Monday to charges that he assaulted three year old Michael Sykes, March 29. His trial was to begin Tuesday in Waseca. According to his attorney, J. C. Pegg, Vela did not want to put the child through the trauma of a trial. Vela stomped on the child's stomach, according to court documents. He told authorities relationship problems with the boy's mother drove him to hurt him. After the assault the child was taken to Waseca Area Medical Center, transferred to Immanuel-St. Joseph's Hospital. Massive internal injuries were discovered and Michael was airlifted to the pediatric intensive care unit at the University of Minnesota Hospital. He was released some time ago. Vela, who has been jailed on \$50,000 bail since the incident, will be sentenced October 14.

Good food, high spirits

By JONAH STAFFORD
Staff Writer

Members of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas from Waseca's Sacred Heart Catholic Church gathered at University Park Tuesday, August 9 for a potluck, where they celebrated their religious sisterhood through the sharing of delicious, homemade goods.

The Catholic Daughters, who are part of one of the largest women's organizations in America, meet monthly (except for July) and are patrons to a variety of national, state, and local charitable and religious causes.

One national cause the Catholic Daughters support is Habitat for Humanity, a non-profit which builds houses for those in need. About four years ago, the Catholic Daughters were recipients of a grant through the non-profit, which allowed them to build a home in Owatonna.

The Catholic Daughters also raise funds to support Minnesota seminarians. Finally, Sacred Heart's Catholic Daughters support their church and school with fundraisers and advocate for pregnancy options in Faribault.

One special project for the Catho-



Sacred Heart Catholic Daughters Sue Harguth, Shirley Kern, Pat Foley, Carmen Battenfeld, Connie Ockwig, Joan Ignaszewski, Deb Pereault, and Lori Mikaelson posed for a picture at their potluck last Tuesday. Not pictured, but also present, was Judy Thomas.

Photo by Jonah Stafford

lic Daughters is "Socktober," a month-long donation event in October, that collects socks for area people in need.

"We're a big sisterhood," said Pat Foley, who acts as regent for the Sacred Heart Catholic Daughters. She added that in the Catholic

Daughters calendar, Tuesday's potluck was the first meeting of the year and that the organization's members pray for each other often.

Members of the Catholic Daughters present at the potluck Tuesday included the aforementioned Foley, Sue Harguth, Shirley Kern, Carmen

Battenford, Connie Ockwig, Joan Ignaszewski, Deb Pereault, Lori Mickaelson, and Judy Thomas.

The Catholic Daughters have a rich and storied history in the Waseca community. This year, Sacred Heart's Catholic Daughters are celebrating 75 years of sisterhood

Should I speak, or keep quiet?

By SANTIAGO RAMIREZ

The lack of topic is not my topic today, but I identify with the title of an old publication made by a Colombian journalist that I love to read; the headline said: Topic for a topic; for lack of someone to ask me, from a Spanish preacher I learned that it is good to write the issues that come to mind in the notes of the cell phone for when the memory fails (more common than I would like to recognize), and so I started to do it. When I hear, see, think or experience something, it is normal for me to write on my cell phone the idea or words that help me to remember the idea I want to share easily. That said, there are a couple of topics in the pipeline that I long to talk about, but not today.

On the other hand, when it comes to writing, it is almost impossible to separate reality from the subject matter. Each word carries the burden of the context from which one is speaking and to which one refers. The artistic manifestations in any presentation want to say something; they are not manifestations per se; they have a starting point and a destiny; whether it reaches the destination is another matter, but in the author's mind, there is a destiny.

Faced with this reality, the pleasure of writing can quickly turn into a headache because when writing, the freedom experienced when doing so confronts the writer with the counterpart. I mean, the dialogue, which seems unilateral, back and forth, in the mind of a writer is bilateral, every word, every comma, every point, the addressee is responding, and that is why very rarely the draft ends up being the publication piece, because in the mental discussion that the exercise involves, the responses that the writer himself propitiates, redirect, correct, and mark the final cause of the conversation.

Faced with this truth that at least I experienced, I find the challenge of publishing a major one, and I wonder if it must be because of my cowardice. Should I speak, or should I keep quiet?

Have you ever faced that question? What have you done? What has been your response? I find that the answer is not always the same; there are times when keeping silent is the best way to love, and there are other times when speaking is the best way to love; the filters to answer these questions are infinite, and I find them entirely personal, each one must face them, and those are the ones that haunt me today.

Finally, we Christians have committed a colossal mistake that afflicts us and that today, in particular, hurts me in the depths of my soul: we play at being God. Faced with the painful problems that life presents us with, we give solutions that we say are Christocentric and not; we enter into levels of argumentation that make us believe we are right and are not.

Have you ever had to live in a situation where lies and silence reigned under the banner of 'this is the best option to protect the hearts of others'? Have you ever had to live your daily life pretending that nothing happened when everything happened? In the love of the Lord, I want to tell you something that I need to hear: to live carrying the weight of the silence of that burden does not correspond to you; the love of God has already conquered that silence, the freedom of God exceeds our expectations.

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30 (ESV)

La falta de tema no es mi tema el día de hoy, pero me identifico con el título de una vieja publicación hecha por un periodista colombiano que me encanta leer, el titular decía: Tema para un tema; a falta de que alguien me lo pregunte, de un predicador español aprendí que, es bueno escribir los temas que se le vienen a uno a la cabeza en las notas del celular para cuando la memoria falle (mas habitual de lo que quisiera reconocer), y así empecé a hacerlo. Cuando oigo, veo, pienso o vivo algo, es normal que escriba en mi celular la idea o las palabras que me ayuden a recordar fácilmente la idea que quiero compartir. Dicho lo anterior, hay un par de temas en el tintero de los cuales anhelo hablar, pero no hoy.

Por otra parte, a la hora de escribir, es casi imposible separar la realidad, del tema que se aborda. Cada palabra lleva la carga del contexto desde el cual se está hablando, y hacia el cual uno se refiere. De hecho, las manifestaciones artísticas en cualquier presentación quieren decir algo, no son manifestaciones per se, sin vida, tienen un punto de partida y un destino, ya que llegue al destino, ese es otro tema, pero en la mente del autor hay un destino.

Ante esa realidad, el placer de escribir fácilmente se puede tornar en un dolor de cabeza, porque a la hora de escribir, la libertad que se experimenta al hacerlo, enfrenta al escritor con la contra parte. Me explico, el dialogo, que parece unilateral, de aquí para allá, en la mente de un escritor es bilateral, a cada palabra, a cada coma, a cada punto, el destinatario le está respondiendo, y es por eso que muy rara vez el borrador termina siendo la pieza de publicación, porque en la discusión mental que supone el ejercicio, las respuestas que el mismo escritor se propicia, redireccionan, corrigen, y marcan el cause final de la conversación.

Frente a esta verdad que al menos yo experimento, encuentro mayúsculo el desafío de publicar, y me pregunto si ha de ser por mi cobardía, ¿debo hablar, o debo callar?

¿Alguna vez se ha enfrentado a esa pregunta? ¿Qué ha hecho? ¿Cuál ha sido su respuesta? Yo me encuentro con que la respuesta no es siempre la misma, hay momentos en que callar es la mejor manera de amar, hay otros en que hablar es la mejor manera de amar; los filtros para responder esas preguntas son infinitos, los encuentro completamente personales, cada quien debe enfrentarse a ellos, y son esos los que me acechan hoy.

Ya para terminar, los cristianos hemos cometido un error muy grande que nos aqueja, y que hoy en particular me duele en lo profundo del alma: jugamos a ser Dios. Ante los dolorosos problemas que nos plantea la vida, vamos dando soluciones que decimos cristocéntricas, y no lo son, entramos en unos niveles de argumentación que, nos hacen creer estar en lo correcto y no lo estamos.

¿Alguna vez ha tenido que vivir una situación en la que la mentira y el silencio reinaron bajo la bandera de: 'esta es la mejor opción para proteger el corazón de otros'? ¿Alguna vez ha tenido que vivir su día a día pretendiendo que nada pasó, cuando todo pasó? En el amor del Señor le quiero decir algo que yo mismo necesito oír: vivir llevando el peso del silencio de esa carga no le corresponde, el amor de Dios ya venció ese silencio, la libertad de Dios excede nuestras expectativas.

Venid a mí todos los que estáis trabajados y agobiados, y Yo os haré descansar. Llevad mi yugo sobre vosotros, y aprended de mí, que soy manso y humilde de corazón, y hallaréis descanso para vuestras almas, porque mi yugo es fácil y ligera mi carga.

Mateo 11:28-30 (BTX)

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Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee
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Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting
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* * *

TRINITY LUTHERAN
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* * *

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Wednesday — 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages 12-18
* * *

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Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship
Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship, 9:15 Worship w/bible Class, 10:30 a.m. Worship
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Frank Groskreutz
will be turning
~90~
on August 29! Anyone who would like to wish him well may send a card to him at his home at 904 8th Ave NW Waseca, MN 56093

SWEET-SOMMERS VFW POST 1642 CALENDAR EVENTS

August 2022						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 AIR FORCE DAY	2	3 6pm Bar Bingo	4 COAST GUARD DAY 7pm Bingo	5 Meat Raffle 5:30pm	6
7 Purple Heart Day	8 7pm Post & AUX Meeting	9	10 6pm Bar Bingo	11 7pm Bingo	12 Meat Raffle 5:30pm	13
14 Navajo Code Talkers Day	15	16 NATIONAL AIRBORNE DAY	17 6pm Bar Bingo	18 7pm Bingo	19 Meat Raffle 5:30pm	20
21	22	23	24 6pm Bar Bingo	25 7pm Bingo	26 Meat Raffle 5:30pm TACO NIGHT 5:00 - 7:00pm	27
28	29 Marine Corps Reserve Birthday	30	31 6pm Bar Bingo			

HOURS of Operation.
Sun. - Mon. Closed
Tue. - Wed. - 3pm to close
Thur. - 1pm to close
Fri. - Sat. - 11am to close
POST & AUX Meeting 7pm club open 6pm MEMBERS only. Mn gambling license number 00385

WaSeekers next online auction Aug. 24

ONLINE AUCTIONS WEDNESDAYS at 6 p.m.

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Retired Waseca Sign
Ducks Unlimited Drink Barrel
Mcculloch Mite-E-Lite portable generator
Retired New Richland Street Sign
Adirondack Wood Lawn Chairs

JENSEN AUCTIONS

Auction Order:
Racks First
-12PM Guns
-12:30PM Online & Second Ring (Household) Begins
Sunday, August 28, 2022 • 9:30AM

Location: 6746 Lemond Rd. Owatonna, MN 55060
Directions from Owatonna: Take Hwy 14 West 2.5 miles to exit 39th Ave. & Cy. 7, then go South 5 miles to Auction Site. Watch for Jensen Auction Signs

Tractors
Allis Chalmers 175 gas tractor 2 wd, 3029hrs, WF, homemade cab enclosure, 2 hyd. outlets, 3pt, 540 pto, 18-4-30 rear rubber 82%, 9.5, 15 rubber 80%, 7.50-16 new fronts, (excellent shape) SN:2378
Allis Chalmers 185 Diesel tractor, 2wd, 4410hrs, WF, cozy cab, 2 hyd. outlets, 3pt, 540 pto, 18-4-30 rear rubber 82%, 9.5, 15 front (new), (excellent shape) SN: 4859

Farm Machinery
Case 1818 gas skid loader, 1086hrs, w/ 44" material bucket, hand controls, 18 hp., Rops cab, (excellent shape) SN: GJ0018610
John Deere 7000 pull type planter, 4 row, 38" spacing, no fertilizer, bean & corn meters, SN: 104423A, JD monitor (very clean stored inside)
International Vibra Shank Field Cultivator wheel digger 18", with two manual wings
DMI 10" pull type chisel plow 7 shanks SN: 8266
Homemade flex drag cart
Oliver 14" wheel disk
John Deere 623 2 bottom plow

Trucks & Misc. Equipment
1978 Chevrolet C20 (Brown) 2wd, Flat Bed Truck 7x8' bed, 350 AT, air not working, 129,000 miles (Nice)
1995 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 271 Regular Cab (Red) 4x4, 8ft. Box w/ Topper, V8, AT, Air, Cruise, Alum. Wheels (High Miles & Some Rust)
1948 Chevrolet Grain Truck (Red), w/12" box & hoist, like new rubber 8-25-20, 12 volt system, cab solid (Always shedded)
Grain bin approx. 2000 bu. (to be removed by buyer)
16 Lund fishing boat w/ heavy hauler slide trailer & Johnson 25 hp motor (nice)
Chicken Coop 10'x12' (to be removed by buyer)
Yamaha YFM 200 DX 4-wheeler, 2wd (1 owner)
Homemade Dune Buggy w/Kawasaki 400 engine
John Deere 316 Lawn Tractors w/50" deck
Allis Chalmers 810 lawn tractor w/deck

Guns
Ruger MK II, May Pistol 22LR 10 Rd. Magazine
Mossberg Model 190 16ga. Bolt Action Shotgun
Savage Coast-to-Coast Model 843, 30x30 w/ Weaver Scope 1 i-5
Vintage Daisy Model 1894 BB Gun
Stoeger Condor Over/Under 12ga Shot Gun
Browning 22 Auto (like new)
Harrington & Richards Topper M48 410 Single Shot Gun
Sears Model 101-1380 410 Bolt Action Shot Gun
Wards Westernfield Model 368, 22SL-LR Single Shot Bolt Action

Shop & Misc.
Delta 10" miter & table saw - Industrial plus 5 hp gas power washer - (3) yard trailers - Lots of fishing tackle, rods and reels - Craftsman 6.5 shop vac (new) - Steel Corn Planter plates - (2) New 56" ceiling fans - Forks & shovels - Rolling metal picnic table - Metal yard cart - Miller 255 mg welder - Lincoln 225 stick welder - step jack - large two stage air compressor - (2) Reddy heaters - Johnson model J metal band saw - Lots of new flat metal & tubing - Metal rack - B/D 14" chop saw - Hossfeld metal bender - Welding table - Many hand tools - Torch set w/ cart - Bench vises - (2) chain hoist - Powermate belt sander & disc - Duracraft 6 spd. floor drill press - Dekalb metal sign - Fram filler dock - Sears 3 ton floor jack - (3) stock tanks - T post - (2) 300 gal fuel tank on stand - Many steel wheels - Old out house - Box corn sheller - Dump rack on steel - 9' horse digger on steel - Burch 2 row rotary hoe - Cement block, tile & brick - Chicken waters & feeders - Nail kegs - (2) 36" wood wagon wheels - Milk cans - Box Corn Sheller - Many egg pails - (2) lightning rods & balls - (2) wood porch poles - cheese boxes - Zip wood pop crate - Armstrong bottling Co. wood crate - Purina clothes pin bag - Wood block pulleys - (2) Homelite gas chain saws - 24" stone wheel - Land Measuring Wheel-Treadle Sewing Machine Bases - Stamped Tractor Wrenches - (2) Wheel Barrows - Kids Sted 6.2 Wheel Scooter - B/S Model 1, 2200 Electric Power Washer - House Casement Windows (1-8'x6' 2-7'6"x40" 2-5'2" x40") - American Gas Lamp - Cabela's 25 Snow Shoes - Fish House on Sled - Large Dog House - Homemade Steer Feeder on skids - Live Traps - Cattle Gates - Cattle Water - Werner 6 Step Ladder - 20' Alum. Ext. Ladder - 32' Wood Ext. Ladder - Murray Single Stage 21" 4.5hp Electric Start Snowblower - 2 Building full of used lumber

Household & Antiques
Antique Oak Veneer 2 Pedestal Dining Room Table w/ 4 Leaves & Pads - (4) Oak Chairs - Antique Oak Veneer Library Table 2 Pedestals - Red Wing Crocks 15gal, 10 gal, 5gal - Angel Collection - Small Wood Writing Desk & Chair - Singer Sewing Machine & Cabinet - Microwave - Nice Kitchen Items - Rooster & Hen Collection - Spice Rack - Like New Center Pieces - Pots & Pans - Blankets - Side Tables - Lamps - Idea Vintage VP Prose Doll - Ginny Baby Doll - Vintage 2-door China Hutch (55"x38"x15") - Oil Lamps - Board Games - Hurricane Lamps - Holiday Items - Pro Form 835 Treadmill - Schwinn Exercise Bike - Flatware & Box - Kids Table w/ 2 chairs - Box Fans - Tonka Dump Truck & Loaders - 60 years of stuff!

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Cindy Thorstad and Robert Breid recently celebrated Robert's 99th birthday August 13.

Bob, parts man Breid turns 99

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

"I'm proud of him," Bob Breid's oldest daughter Cindy Thorstad says with a smile. "He's one of my best friends."

Bob moved to New Richland from Wadena in 1948, a year after he married Doris [Volsen] whom he had met at a church event. As their relationship began, "Mom [Doris] told him she was 20," Cindy reveals. "She wanted him to think they were the same age," even though she was two years older.

With the promise of a job from an in-law, Bob packed up and moved, never expecting New Richland would become his forever home. But it did.

Together Bob and Doris raised two daughters: Cindy, now 74, and Sandy, now 69.

"He wishes he had had boys," Cindy jokes.

Bob is only the second generation of his family to live in America. His dad migrated as a child from Germany with his parents in the 1890s. The family settled in Wadena and took ownership of farmland for \$5 via the "homestead act."

"They were trying to get west to Wyoming for the wheat. That was big talk in Germany. But they ran out of money," Bob said.

Ferdinand, Bob's dad, met Annie (then 26) when he was 41; the two had six children together.

As the second oldest, Bob was asked to drop out of high school after one year and come work on the farm. "Dad didn't wanna pay for a farmhand, so he figured I could do it."

"It was hard work. 400 acres. 25 cows and hundreds of hogs... Hard work is the secret to long life, I say. "Back then \$175 a month as a farmhand was good pay and enough to live on."

But Bob didn't want to farm. "And Mom wasn't gonna be a farmer's wife," Cindy jokes.

The pair moved to Austin, shortly thereafter Bob was offered a job in New Richland at the farm repair shop now called Budach Implement.

"He never even met me before he offered me a job," Bob explains. "Who knew I was gonna stay there for forty years?"

"He" was Art Boi, owner of the implement shop.

"He treated me like a son," Bob glows. "I remember sharing lunch with him so many times. One day we just took off to Iowa for lunch and stayed for the whole day. And whenever Art went somewhere, he always brought something back."

Boi sold the shop to Gene Budach, and after Gene passed away, David Budach managed it until Gary Budach, the current owner, purchased the business.

"Ask Gary how bad I was," Bob jokes, claiming that stories about his exploits still circulate at the shop. Bob worked for the Implement, and later Budach Implement for four decades, until retiring in 1985 at age 62. He remembers living and breathing his job, often bringing projects home to be sure they were finished on time. "If something is worth doing, it's worth doing well," he comments.

"After 40 years, I finally stopped bringing my work home," he laughs as he tells about his eventual decision to retire. "My dad's health deteriorated at a young age so I always had 62 as the number in my mind as when I would retire."

But his resolve apparently weakened: While his health remained strong, Bob graciously answered the call to stick around part-time for some extended "retirement work."

Across his many years, Bob experienced significant changes.

"World War II was the biggest. I remember ration cards, but we lived on a farm so we had everything we needed. It was different back then. We didn't have to rely on stores for everything. But sugar was one thing we couldn't get enough of."

"I remember gas being \$1 for five gallons," he recalls. "I remember five grocery stores in town, five hardware stores, and always a good bakery. Back then, no one drove. You had to get everything in town. Times were different."

Bob said he purchased his driver's license for \$1 at the Wadena County courthouse in 1942 after driving to town on errands for the third week in a row. "Dad was sick and I had to drive to town. The third time around I figured I should go get my license."

When asked how he's made it to age 99, a milestone many never reach, Bob's answer is "Hard work and long hours."

"Don't forget the oatmeal," Cindy adds. "And your killer German chocolate cake."

Bob's wife passed away in 2014: they had been married 69 years. "There's no secret [to a lasting relationship]. We never argued, ever. We just always got along."

Although Bob changed bedrooms after Doris's death to avoid the big bed they had shared ("That's how much he loved Mom," Cindy interjects) Bob still lives on his own. He manages his own medications, and enjoys cooking and baking for himself. He also enjoys driving his 2003 Buick for a nice trip around St. Olaf Lake from time to time.

Bob starts his morning every day at 6; shortly thereafter he makes himself breakfast. He reads daily biblical devotions and is nearly as "religious" about watching Jeopardy. He makes himself lunch, and in the evening he and Cindy enjoy watching Twins (baseball) games together.

Still, life gets a little harder at 99. Bob has had his fair share of battles. Two knee replacements, both at the same time nearly a decade ago, triple bypass heart surgery, a gall bladder removal, and finally a stroke in 2012 which led to the use of a walker.

"I've had a lot of things go wrong. But I'm still rollin'. That's life. And I'm grateful for it."

Bob loves tractors, crafts, oatmeal and his favorite pastime, jigsaw puzzles.

Relatives recently bought Bob an electronic "tablet" for his birthday: He enjoys using it to play games. Bob does have a cellphone, a flip phone, which he always keeps nearby in case of emergencies.

"And his neighbor Terri checks on him," Cindy explains. "His grandson lives in town and visits a lot. And we talk nearly every day."

Between Cindy, Sandy, a helpful neighbor and Bob's grandkids, Bob—who admits he's a small-town fellow at heart—says he doesn't feel alone.

Oh and what life choices lead to 99 good years?

"Hard work. A good woman. And a great mama. Those are the secrets to a long, happy life."



Emily Knudsen and Anna Sexton accepting their plaques for participating in the Waseca County Internship



Denise Wright and Malloree McCarthy accepting their plaques for participating in the Waseca County Internship

MVAC thank you breakfast

Star Eagle one of five Waseca County participants in internship program

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

About 15 people, including Waseca County Commissioners Brad Krause and DeeAnne Malterer and several business owners were in attendance for a "thank you" breakfast put on by Minnesota Valley Action Council (MVAC) Thursday morning at North East Park in Waseca in recognition of their five college students who participated in a Summer Internship program throughout Waseca County.

The program, a mirror of the Martin County Internship program which has been in place for more than a decade, placed five college students as paid interns with Byron Law Office, the NRHEG Star Eagle, Waseca County IT Department, Waseca County Emergency Management Department and Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm.

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.

The program was supported heavily by Commissioner Malterer, who actually taught one of the students, Sage, an intern for Byron Law Office, during junior high school.

Also participating in the program were college students: Amelia Roessler and Jonah Stafford (Star Eagle); Malloree McCarthy (WCME); Anna Saxton (Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm).

"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," Malterer said.

The county has already committed to another year of the program, including more money for next year, an increase from \$35,000 to \$50,000 next year. The program pays interns \$15 an hour up to 29 hours per week at their respective businesses. Interns were given on site initiations with a representative from MVAC, Brooke Wiener, along with the local businesses' owner/manager.

As the celebratory breakfast, catered by Lush Cake of Waseca, came to a close, Wiener expressed



About 15 people, some of which are shown above, attended the Minnesota Valley Action Council thank you breakfast Thursday, August 11. Top photo, from left Brooke Wiener, Commissioner Brad Krause, Michael Johnson, Commissioner Dee Malterer, and Margy Hendrickson.

her gratitude for the program, which she was largely in charge of putting together. "Personally one of the greatest things about running this program was how willing this community was to make a difference."

MVAC, the non-profit in charge of this program, has been in operation since the Johnson Administration and was created during the War on Poverty in the 1960s. The group helps people of all ages with a focus on school age children and the elderly, but also do have programs which benefit people of all ages, including energy assistance for those in need of heat in the winter, as well as programs designed to help the unhoused or help people find gainful employment.

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