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LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY
No. 34 Vol. I \$2 Office at 103 South State Street, Waseca Friday, August 26, 2022

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Autumn Acres

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

The fourth annual car races sponsored by Tuscan masonic members have been rescheduled to Saturday, September 10. 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.

* * *

Farmamerica "Dirt Detectives" Sept. 10

Become a "dirt detective" as you get up close to Minnesota soil during this second-Saturday event at Farmamerica on Saturday, September 10. Visit our Soil Sleuths exhibit to get the dirt on all things soil. Experience hands-on, interactive activities, games, make-and-takes, and more!

* * *

Wiste's Meat Raffle, Taco Night Aug. 26

On Friday, August 26 at 5 p.m., Sweet-Sommers VFW Post 1642 and Auxiliary in Waseca will host taco night and a meat raffle sponsored by Wiste's Meat Market, Janesville. The raffle will start at 5:30 p.m.

* * *

RC Demolition Derby at Boxcar Aug. 28

The Boxcar Bar in Waseca will host another RC Demolition Derby on Sunday, Aug 28. Tech will be at 1 p.m. with the race beginning at 2 p.m. There will be a \$10 fee per entry. Spectators are welcome!

* * *

Correction

Last week's Waseca City Council article mentioned candidates for the open council position. John Clemmons was not listed and should have been. In addition, James Ebertowski was listed even though he is not a candidate.

A word from The Word

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

James 3:17



Jeff Adams volunteering at the Willow Bense benefit in Janesville last Saturday.

Rallying around the Bense family

By MICHAEL ROY
Publisher

The community of Janesville never fails to pull together and show support in tough times.

That's precisely what happened at the Willow Bense Benefit on Saturday, August 20. Supporters from all around the area rallied at the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton School to show their love for the Bense family.

A long serving line formed quickly already at the 11 a.m. start. For \$8, attendees could get a pulled pork sandwich, baked beans, coleslaw, chips, and a cookie.

Dozens of people at a time checked out the silent auction in one half of the high school gym while kids shot hoops for fun on the other side.

Among the more than 200 items in the silent auction were anything from backpacks to original paintings to signed sports memorabilia. There were even subtle tributes to Willow such as a chair made out of willow wood.

Melanie Morrow, one of Willow's teachers, was in charge of the "Punch

Benefit continued on 3

A way of life

Mittelsteadt starts online auction site

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

Auctions are a way of life for Tina Mittelsteadt, owner of Waseca's newest online auction site, WaSeekers.

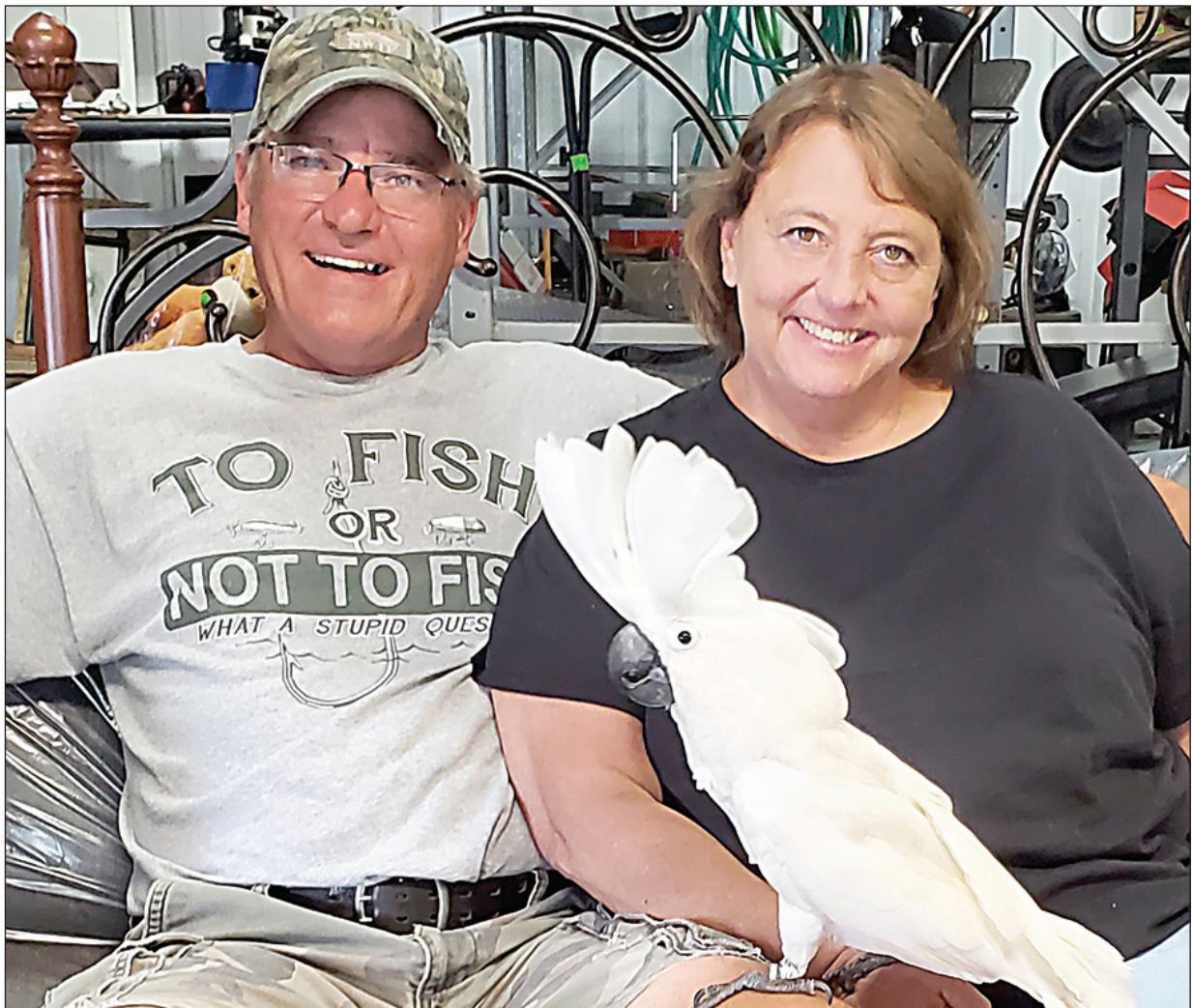
Growing up, Mittelsteadt attended auctions with her family. As an adult, she feels as if she leaves an auction without a full car, or two, she's done something wrong.

This experience comes in handy since WaSeekers sells about 175 items per auction, every other Wednesday.

Mittelsteadt says her goal is to soon be running auctions every Wednesday with the total number around 200 items. WaSeekers accepts consignments of nearly any types of items, as long as they are clean. Auctions are also supplemented with items Mittelsteadt has found—many of them exceptional or unusual in some way.

"I buy returned Amazon pallets, so when people ask why there's a beekeeper's suit for sale, that's why," Mittelsteadt explains.

But being a savvy auction goer and shopper is much different from running a business, something Mittelsteadt said she never saw herself



SUPPORTERS - Tina Mittelsteadt said her husband Todd is the number one supporter of her new business venture, WaSeekers. The second is her 23-year-old umbrella cockatoo, Sam.

doing.

"My life was healthcare - and then COVID hit and it was too much," Mittelsteadt observes. "I wasn't a person who liked physical work, but this business, auctions, I love this... At the end of the day I'm just exhausted from putting all this energy out there, but I love it. I thank the Lord and Ann Fitch for this opportunity. I truly believe this is God's plan for me and I'm incredibly grateful."

credibly grateful."

About a year ago the Waseca Chamber of Commerce and the Waseca Small Business Center offered a 10-week entrepreneurial program in which about five locals, now business owners, took part.

"I remember filling out the form and thinking, 'This isn't the sort of thing I usually do,' but instead of thinking about it and throwing the form away, I just sent it in," Mittel-

steadt said of her application for the program. "It was so out of character for me. I know I wouldn't have filled out that form if there wasn't a high power... and Ann Fitch from the Chamber pushing me."

Throughout the 10-week program Mittelsteadt said she formed sincere relationships, learned important business practices and was taught

WaSeekers continued on 6

New opportunities
Brooks elected VFW commander

By MICHAEL ROY
Publisher

In May of this year, Blaine Brooks was elected as the Commander of the Waseca Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1642, also known as the Sweet-Sommers Post.

"I was one of the nominees, and I took office in June," he explains.

Brooks grew up in the community of Meriden. His journey in the armed forces started when he joined the U.S. Air Force in 1968, serving during the Vietnam War until his honorable discharge in 1974.

Brooks was originally a member of the Owatonna VFW when a friend got him to join in Waseca. He has been an active member of Waseca's

VFW since 2015.

The way the VFW is structured is they have elected positions: Commander, senior vice commander, junior vice commander, quartermaster, and three trustees. These elected officials appoint members to other positions.

"I was senior vice commander for three years," Brooks explains. "I also served as the surgeon, which is an appointed position within the club."

"I initially joined the VFW to be part of the honor guard," he continues. "I've been on that for seven to eight years and served as an Assistant Sergeant of Arms. When the Sergeant of Arms cannot make it, I do his duties."

With the list of titles he's held in Waseca for the past few years, it's no surprise that he was elected as the VFW commander. He took over the position from Dennis Paulson who was the previous commander for five years. He will serve a one-year term.

A significant portion of Brooks' work is running the meetings. "I'm in charge of them," he states. "The quartermaster and I are in charge of anything we pay out."

Another part of his job is representing the post at VFW district meetings. "I also attend a few conference including one this fall and

Brooks continued on 3



DYNAMIC DUO - Carol and Blaine Brooks are entering a new chapter together. Carol was elected president of the Waseca VFW Auxiliary the same time that Blaine was elected Post commander. They will both serve one-year terms.

Pioneer photo by Michael Roy



Well, like I said...

by Michael Roy
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It's hard not to overthink

This week has been one during which it's been harder than usual to start my writing assignments for the paper. I have a one- or two-week spell of this problem once every few months.

My usual remedy is to start with the "briefs," the little 50-word or so descriptions of upcoming events. That way, I start on something small and before I know it, I'm working on one of the feature stories for the week. But I haven't had that luxury for the past month. If Plan A fails me, my Plan B is to start with my column, which is what I'm doing this week.

I usually find myself thinking about a lot during these times when I lack motivation to write. About three to four times a year, I get myself stuck in a rut where all I think about is where I am in life and, hypothetically, where I should be.

When I get myself in that mode of thinking, I usually take a few hours to destress by driving around and maybe picking up something to eat along the way. I haven't done that much lately because of gas prices. I don't want to pay almost \$100 a week for gas just to have the luxury of driving around and putting unnecessary miles on my car. I also do enough driving for work.

But without giving much thought to it, I went out to eat twice after sundown, once to Albert Lea and then the next day in Mankato after watching the Vikings game with my parents. And both times, on the drive back, bothersome thoughts kept running through my head while I played somewhat somber music. "When will you get a girlfriend?" "Lots of people your age are already married." "When are you going to clean up your car? It's a mess." "Why do you eat out so often when you can just as easily cook at home?" "Why don't you work out more?"

It's hard not to overthink, especially during periods of stress. But the important thing I always have to remember is life is not a race. We all get married on our own time, and I don't want to get into a relationship with just anybody. It's also very important to destress. If that means getting a five-piece chicken strip meal from Arby's, that's okay. The crucial part is to

keep from making it a regular thing.

Farewell to the interns

We will have two hard-working interns leave us for college after this week. It might be a while before you see the bylines of "Amelia Roessler, Editorial Assistant" or "Jonah Stafford, Staff Writer" again.

Amelia's last day was Friday, August 19. We spent the day holding an "emergency staff meeting" which involved consuming ice cream cake, taco salad offered by Becky Petsinger, offsetting the not-so-good nutrients of the cake with fruits and vegetables, and playing the games "Balderdash" and "Labyrinth." Amelia is returning to the University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities to take up her second year of studies.

Jonah left us in the middle of this week for St. Mary's University in Winona. He will take on the role of a writing tutor while he is in school. I wish him luck.

Amelia is one of the hardest-working individuals I have gotten to know. She took on an amazing array of tasks during the three-plus months she worked for us, ranging from writing stories to helping out with the billing. She was even the dedicated builder of Eli's massive desk! We need more Amelias in the world, specifically in the news-paper industry.

Jonah reminds me a lot of myself in 2019: shy, anxious, and bubbly, but having plenty of potential. Maybe someday he'll own a paper, too! But let's see how he handles being a writing tutor first. Baby steps.

I wish both of our summer interns luck throughout the school year. From what I understand, both want to work with us again. Amelia will still pitch in once in a while, while Jonah plans to still do his weekly column.

This week in music

In August of 1987, Mötley Crüe released the single "Wild Side" off of their album *Girls, Girls, Girls*. Although the single itself didn't chart, its MTV music video was a big hit. The song is also a regular on the band's setlist to this day.

It is also my favorite song that doesn't feature a guitar solo. The song's riff and melody are both good enough for me.

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

You'll never guess who I bumped into on my way to the optometrist.

Who?

Everyone.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I've been to Disney World once. It's supposed to be the happiest place on earth. The first family I encountered there had three young boys who were crying and screaming bloody murder. They must not have known where they were.

My wife and I heard Weird Al's song in which he pokes fun at a song that catapulted Billy Ray Cyrus to overnight success in 1992 with the release of his debut single, "Achy Breaky Heart," because the Oak Ridge Boys had passed on it. It gave my wife an earworm. She couldn't get "Achy Breaky Heart" out of her mind. If this happens to you, get to an emergency room or an urgent care facility immediately.

FAIR FARE

To a country bumpkin like me, food vendors at fairs offer everything but banana oil. I bring a jug of Adam's ale (water) and I don't mull over my culinary choices. I have favorites, go-to goodies—a Bruno's corn dog, Merrill's popcorn, Waseca Fire Department's onion rings, a malt from a dairy stand and a maple nut ice cream cone. The two people ahead of me in line ordered maple



Compostings

by Al Batt

copyright © 2022 by Al Batt

nut cones. The two behind me ordered one each. My phone rang. The caller told me he'd just enjoyed a maple nut ice cream cone and told me I should get one at the fair.

ASK AL

"How can I become more patient?" Wait for it.

"Do you play any musical instruments?" I tried playing the violin by using the Suzuki method. It sounded like a motorcycle in my hands.

"Are there any skyscrapers where you live?" No, the closest we come to that is a guy scraping the ice off the windshield of his old Buick Skylark.

I'VE LEARNED

The Flat Earth Society has members all around the globe.

I'm not the only one who responds vocally to a store's intercom announcements.

Driving on highways in Chicago takes its toll.

If one door opens when another closes, you had a bad contractor.

I never ask for gum. Beggars can't be chewers.

IN THE NEWS

Employee loses his job at the lint factory when his boss checks his

pockets.

Unintelligent amphibians inundate area roads. The county issued a dense frog advisory.

Hockey team will take to the ice this year despite nearly drowning during spring training.

BETTY WHITE AND ST. OLAF

Betty White, playing Rose on "The Golden Girls," told stories of her hometown of St. Olaf, Minnesota. There is no St. Olaf in the Gopher State. There is St. Olaf College, St. Olaf Township in Otter Tail County and St. Olaf Lake. I'm going to pretend Rose was from St. Olaf Lake. Why not?

NATURE NOTES

A gentleman from Gaylord told a wonderful story about his grandfather. His grandfather wore a coat much of the year. I understand that. My father-in-law put on an overcoat to eat ice cream in the summer. One spring, the teller of the story and his grandfather were doing hard work as the day warmed. The grandfather hung his coat on a fence post. When the job was finished, the two walked over to pick up the coat. They noticed a wren had placed a pile of

sticks in one of the coat's pockets. That meant the pocket had become a potential nest. The narrator reached to grab the coat for his elder. His grandfather said, "Leave it there. I can always find another coat."

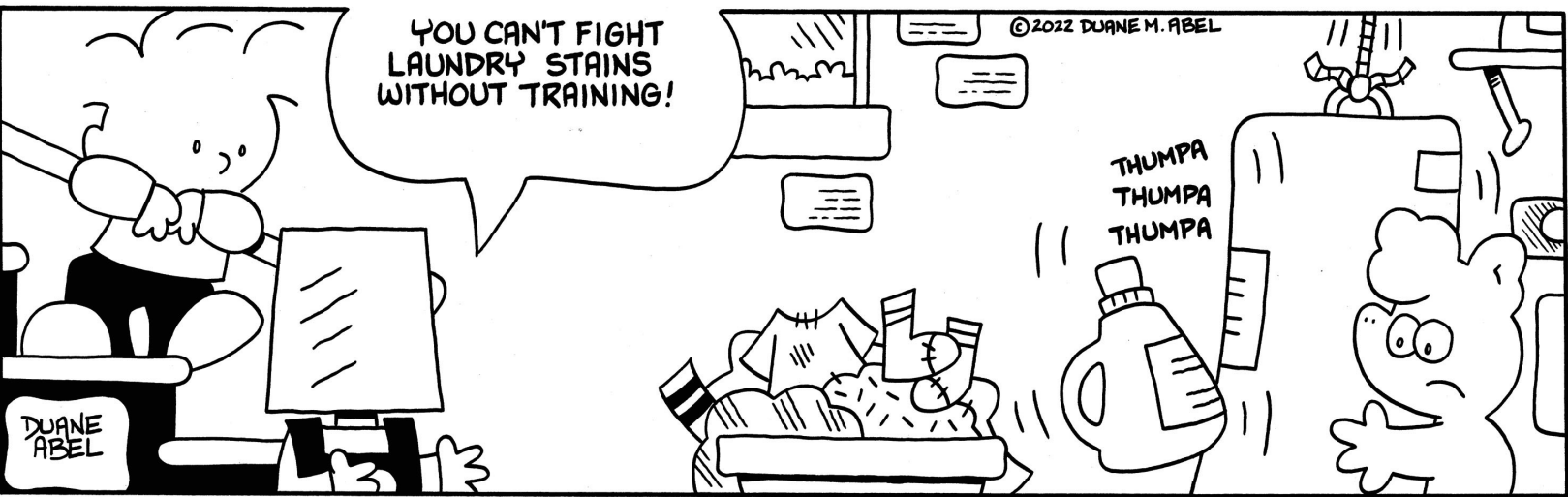
Common mullein is native to Europe, northern Africa and Asia, and was introduced to North America as a medicinal herb. In the 1700s, it was used in Virginia as a piscicide (fish poison). It spread rapidly and reached the Midwest by 1839 where it's found in neglected meadows, pasture lands, along fence rows, roadsides, vacant lots, wood edges, forest openings and industrial areas. In its second year, the biennial plants produce flower stalks 5-10 feet tall with small yellow flowers grouped on the leafy spike and maturing from the bottom to the top. The flowers attract a wide variety of insects and each plant produces 100,000-240,000 seeds. Goldfinches, indigo buntings and downy woodpeckers eat the seeds.

I watched a hawk perched on a utility pole, peering at a tractor moving ground in a farm field. Red-tailed hawks are common and they get to know the machinery that stirs up dinner. The field activities of tractors and combines chase rabbits, mice and voles from hiding. Gulls also enjoy the company of farm equipment providing comestibles in the form of grubs, worms and rodents.

MEETING ADJOURNED

The smartest people are the kindest people.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



www.corkeycomics.com

How Brown Printing began

I was sorry to hear that Bonnie Jean Bell, a granddaughter of the first Star publisher, C.W. Brown, passed away last week.

I was not, however, sad to talk with the great-granddaughter to C.W. Brown, Tammie Knauff.

Knauff, of course, is in publishing, working for a "churchy" publishing company out of Idaho.

I rather tactlessly asked how she was doing. (Her mom had just died.)

We spoke for a long time. She answered more questions than I could ask in those 22 minutes. Writing about C.W. falls in my category of "bucket list stories."

I must describe this day. It started with my being early to work. And everyone else being late.

The reason I was early on Monday is because, at the last minute, I had been invited to a Sunday afternoon Twins game. I got home at about 10 p.m. and went to bed immediately.

My good night's rest allowed me to get up even earlier than I normally do on Monday. Well, that gave me time to get everything ready for Grandma, who was starting her first day of work for the Waseca County Pioneer.

Grandma got started well, but she ran late, and so did Tristan Jensen, the staff member who has been taking on more and more responsibilities in our office.

After departing the Waseca office, I arrived in New Richland at about 10:15. I had wanted to be there at 9.

I went through emails and found one asking that an obituary be published for the granddaughter of a former Star publisher. My automatic internal query was, "Which publisher, Margaret and Emmitt, or LaVonne?"



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

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None of the above. Corydon William (C.W.) Brown.

As I walked out the door to get lunch at 12:15, the phone rang. The door was literally halfway open.

I went back inside to answer and on the line was great-granddaughter to C.W. Brown, Tammie Knauff.

We talked about many things, and I learned some information about the Brown family I would like to share.

C.W. Brown purchased what was then the North Star in 1903 and renamed it The Star in 1906 and served as the publisher on and off and on again until 1955.

C.W. had four children, the oldest being Donald Brown who fathered Bumps Brown, the founder of Brown Printing. C.W.'s only daughter, Doris, had Bonnie Jean (Bell) Hood, whose obituary is running in this week's paper.

C.W. also fathered two other boys, Leonard and B. Benjamin.

It is believed that Donald Brown owned the Waseca newspaper at some point.

C.W. loaned his grandson Bumps \$20,000 in order to start Brown Printing.

Both C.W. and his son Donald believed the future of printing was in newspaper print. Bumps believed the future was in printing everything else.

Well, Bumps told C.W. he couldn't pay back the loan unless the new

company increased its revenue by printing "everything." (Something C.W. was not happy about. Maybe that's why he left New Richland for nearly 20 years?)

Over its life, Brown Printing rose to be the third largest print manufacturing plant in the country. Brown Printing was eventually sold to the fifth leading printing business and subsequently closed. Supposedly, the company which purchased Brown Printing did so at just the right time. (I was told the Germans who owned Brown printing at this time were in need of cash and, if the offer had come at any other time, there would have been no sale.)

All this new information gave me a new perspective on my newspaper and its role. Bits and pieces of the story came to me through my conversation with C.W. Brown's great-granddaughter and with certain local residents who I, coincidentally, learned were acquainted with the Brown family. I hope that, after some conversations with other members of the Brown family, I can put together a more detailed account of C.W. Brown and his association with Brown printing.

During my phone conversation, I learned of a promising resource: C.W. Brown's grandson and namesake, Daniel Corydon Bell, whom his niece, Tammie Knauff, describes as being a "young 75." She told me

"Uncle Danny" knew C.W. personally and has many stories to tell. I look forward to speaking with him. Tammie told me she heard a lot of the stories second-hand, but Uncle Danny had a close relationship with C.W.

Part of the reason I describe the miracles behind this day is because the only reason I knew any of this information about the Browns prior to the day's conversations is because of my work in Waseca. Which is the only reason I have a larger staff to juggle—one was needed to expand into a second publication. And the only reason I was able to learn even more about the reported feud between the Brown brothers is because Sharon and Norman Eckart were friends with Bonnie, the granddaughter of C.W. Brown. Oh, and the only reason I was able to see Sharon and Norman and talk about all this on this particular day is because Tristan was covering an event for me and so when Sharon called to "tell me she had a statement to make," I was available to walk down to her house to see what she meant. And then I mentioned Tammie and was told how they knew Bonnie and the whole Brown family. Norm, like many residents of Waseca County, worked for Brown printing for many, many years. Norm said he still has a coin he received from Mr. Brown as a gift. And Sharon described sneaking out to play when they weren't supposed to be, with Bonnie.

Anyway, I like to say that we small town residents are truly blessed to live in such a special place. Days like this remind me why I do what I do, why those of us in the newspaper world continue to do what we do.

Dear Editor

Love your newsy, informative, interesting paper! We haven't missed an issue yet and don't plan to. We so appreciate the energy and engagement you bring to depicting local news. The paper is already a wonderful asset to the community. Keep up the great work!!



Kathy & Beth Rausch
River Falls, WI



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USPS No. 382-040, Address: 103 S. State Street

Mail: PO Box 578, Waseca MN 56093

DEADLINE: Noon Tuesday

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$55 County, \$65 MN • \$75 Outside MN

Published every Friday by E.J.L. Publications, Inc., and Periodical Postage paid at the Post Office at New Richland, Minnesota 56072. Entire contents copyright © 2022 E.J.L. Publications, Inc. and respective authors. Opinions expressed in editorials or letters to the editor are those of the individual authors, and do not necessarily represent those of the Pioneer or E.J.L. Publications, Inc. Letters may be edited for content or length. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to P.O. Box 578, Waseca, MN 56093



HICKORY TOURNAMENT - From left: Robin Bluhm, Gene Glynn, Mike Hintz, and John Gutfleisch



HICKORY TOURNAMENT - From left: Daughter and father Janice Hoverstad and Bob Barrie, and Denney Hofmeister, and Troy Burt.



HICKORY TOURNAMENT - From left: Rick Thomez, Deb and Jeff Juberien, and John Proehl



Lee Root, age 88, has been a club member for 55 years. He golfs every day sometimes twice a day, even through the summer's heat. He is joined by his regular golfing buddy Ted McDaniel.



MEMORABLE - A memorabilia table was on display during Lakeside Golf Course's 100 year celebration last weekend.

■ Anniversary

from Page 1

Memorabilia included a hand-written diary-style account of the construction and founding of the club. "Mr. Guy Everett stood on the south shore of Clear Lake – an idea taking shape in his mind," the unsigned account reads. "He says to mother, 'Let's take a ride around Clear Lake. I think it's time to build a golf course in Waseca.'" The same account notes that the population of Waseca at the time was 3,805. It also states that in 1918, two years after the quoted conversation, 300 shares were sold at \$35 to raise the money to build the clubhouse, which was constructed on a former potato field. Work on the course began in 1920, and was delayed by the cutting of the corn crop. In the 1920s, the golf course consisted of nine holes.

Waseca Lakeside board president Jayne Selvik explained that holes ten through eighteen were added in the 1970s. Helen Fowler, who has been a member of the club since 1940, reveals that the 10th green is at the location of the old clubhouse. In more recent history, large parts of the golf course were underwater during major flooding in 2016. To clear the water without damaging the course, the club had to rent large water pumps from a Minneapolis company, Selvik said. It caused some difficulties, but the club bounced back. During the height of COVID-19 restrictions, Lakeside actually benefited and gained new members as golfing was approved as a socially distanced activity, so long as people rode alone in golf carts. "Now, in a time when a lot of courses are struggling," Selvik added, "Lakeside is thriving, mostly due to quality management."

Meet your neighbor, Blaine

Name: Blaine Brooks
Birthplace: Waseca
Age: 74
Hometown: Waseca
Family: Kids Shelly (Chris), Eugene, and grandkids Taelor, Wyatt, and Corbyn
Occupation: Retired, former employee of EF Johnson/Cinch for 45 years.
Hobbies: Honor Guard for VFW, used to hunt (pheasant)
My dream vacation would be: England, Scotland, or Ireland
The best thing about small town living is: "Just that" community and friends
Last Good Book I Read: *The Hobbit*
Favorite TV show: Anything on the Discovery Channel
Favorite Food: Anything from Perkin's
All Time Favorite Movie: *The Longest Day*
Favorite Sports Team: Vikings
Favorite musical artist: Garth Brooks
My favorite activities when I was growing up: Playing softball at church
My biggest pet peeve: Rude people
The best advice I've ever received: "Never volunteer for anything in the service."
If I could have lunch with any one person, living or dead: Ulysses S. Grant
Something about me that would surprise people: I'm shy.



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

■ Benefit

from Page 1

Game," where those who paid \$5 could punch through wrapping paper covering a cup and win a mystery prize. "It's heartwarming to see so many people within the community come out to support the Bense family," Morrow states. "Willow was such a sweet girl." There was also another game which featured envelopes displaying a certain price; each contained a prize guaranteed to be worth the cost. Jessica Milbrett, a close friend to the Bense family, planned the benefit: "I just wanted to help," she states simply. The turnout was, in Milbrett's words, "fantastic." The volunteers in charge of collecting payment and serving the meal had little to no break, eventually selling out the food completely. The silent auction was a slam-dunk success, as were the various games played throughout the day. Over 200 people, according to Mil-



At the Willow Bense silent auction, donations totaled 202 items, including items given from throughout the county and across southern Minnesota.

Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

brett's estimation, took home prizes or purchases. "It truly was an amazing turnout from everyone in the Janesville community and surrounding areas," Milbrett said, who also mentioned that the Bense family is deeply touched

by the outpouring of support. "'Speechless' is a word they have been using a lot," Milbrett explains. "The family is very grateful for everything they've received from the community." With such a successful benefit, it's

to be hoped that the community support will be a source of comfort to the Bense family. "The shock is still prevalent for them," Milbrett concluded. "It takes time to heal."

■ Brooks

from Page 1

another one on the state level. "We also receive general orders monthly," he adds. "The orders include things that the state and national VFWs want us to accomplish, new laws, and things like that." But the most fulfilling part of his job is helping his community. "Part of my job is helping set up fundraisers for different things we support in the county," he states. "We support just about everything that goes on

from the caregiver services to youth baseball. And when we do events like breakfasts, they always get a portion of the funds raised." The Waseca VFW adds that they usually take a bit of a break because most of the events are based on volunteer work. "We need a certain number in the kitchen to do breakfasts and things like that. Otherwise, we are busy from September until late spring." Brooks wants to help the VFW receive more recognition during his time as commander. That includes getting more people involved, something that seems more difficult as days go by.

"Right now, the average age is all Vietnam Era that is doing all this stuff," he explains. "I recognize why younger people aren't getting more involved. It's the same reason I didn't right away: raising the family. We get busy. When my son was in hockey, I was the coach. I was too busy coaching to support the hockey club through the VFW. You just don't have the time to come into the club." He remains hopeful and states a goal is to get some more Gulf War and Afghanistan war veterans to join. "We're trying to get the in so they can support the youth. We understand they can't come to every meeting. If you can come and help out

one weekend a month, that's all we ask. "There are really no requirements to join," he continues. "We have sixteen in our group. If we had four more, we'd have enough." Waseca's VFW plays a vital role in the local community, but it also serves as part of a memorial rifle squad for Preston, a town in the southeastern part of the state. It's events like those along with the close-knit atmosphere of the club that they are relying on to garner interest. "We hope to promote the health and growth of the whole club," Brooks says.

New president after 17 years

Carol Brooks fills shoes of predecessor, mentor, Linda Johnson

By MICHAEL ROY
Publisher
The same time that Blaine Brooks was elected commander of the Waseca Veterans of Foreign Wars, his wife, Carol, was elected to be the local auxiliary's president. Growing up mostly in Waseca, Brooks is familiar with the community. She graduated from Waseca Central High School and attended church in town. With husband Blaine in the VFW, Carol decided to join the Auxiliary, becoming a life member September 25, 2019. After getting elected as president in May, she realized she had big shoes to fill. The previous auxiliary president, Linda Johnson, served for 17 years. However, instead of getting nervous, she embraced the call to lead the club. "I'm not afraid of a challenge,"

she states. "It was a little intimidating at first because so many people have more experience than me. But I've been getting the hang of it." Brooks was also close to Johnson, serving as secretary throughout the past year. "She was my mentor," she states. "She helped me learn the duties of all the positions within the auxiliary." One of her goals is to get the club get more familiar with the internet and social media. Her background in IT work will help with that. "I was able to start using the website to put information on there," she explains. "The auxiliary at the state and federal level required us to start doing that. I'm helping get the right people in place that know how to do the online Facebook page stuff." Another goal, which is top priority on Brooks's list, is to get more memberships. "Both the Auxiliary and

"I'm not afraid of a challenge. It was a little intimidating at first... But I've been getting the hang of it."
— Auxiliary President Carol Brooks

VFW have received awards for community service," she says. "We want to continue keeping those high standards. But to do that, we need to have members." The VFW and auxiliary support each other throughout every event, meaning Blaine and Carol Brooks will be working with each other for at least a year as both of them will be serving one-year terms at their respective positions. Blaine and Carol have learned to work with each other early on. "I met Blaine through friends during high

school," she explains. "He asked me out first, and we've been together for 53 years." Both are passionate about community service, something they hope pique the interest of others who are considering joining the VFW or the auxiliary. They are especially interested in getting younger members in. "Our members that come in through the auxiliary are faithful and passionate about what they are doing," Carol explains. "However, they are getting older."

OBITUARIES

Roman Koenigs

Roman Wilfred Koenigs, age 86 of Waseca, passed away late in the evening on Monday, August 15, 2022 at Thorne Crest Senior Living in Albert Lea.

Born on June 8, 1936 in Osage, Iowa, Roman was the son of Paul and Marie (Bissen) Koenigs. He attended Sacred Heart Elementary School in Meyer, Iowa, and graduated from McIntire High School, McIntire, Iowa before serving in the US Army from November 1955 to November 1957. During that time Roman was trained in International Morse Code. He also served in Korea where he earned the Rank of Sp. 4 and received an honorable discharge November 1957. After being discharged from the service Roman worked at the Stacyville Co-op Elevator for 7 years. He then went into Insurance Sales from 1965 to 2006. Roman married Ruth Ann Bartlett on June 18, 1960 and lived in Waterloo for 25 years. Roman and Ruth have 2 sons and 2 daughters. Roman and Ruth later moved to Waseca in 1993.

He enjoyed golf and was very lucky during his years playing golf, receiving three Holes in One! He also enjoyed cars, especially Mustangs. He was a member of the V.F.W., Lakeside Country Club, and Sacred Heart Catholic Church of Waseca.

Roman is survived by his wife Ruth of Waseca; children Kevin (Lynn) Koenigs of North Mankato, Carmell (James) Scott of Albert



Roman Koenigs

Lea, Christopher Koenigs of Albert Lea, and Susan Johnson and her significant other Richard Stoese of Northfield; seven grandsons; one granddaughter; seven great-grandsons; two great-granddaughters; siblings, Deo (Joan) Koenigs of St. Ansgar, IA, Jerry (Sandra) Koenigs of McIntire, IA, Elaine Ramberg of Hugo; and one sister-in-law, Bonnie Koenigs. He was preceded in death by both of his parents; one brother, John Koenigs; one daughter-in-law, Deby Koenigs; and numerous other special relatives.

Funeral services were held at 1:00 PM on Saturday, August 20, 2022 at the State Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca. Visitation was held for one hour before the service at the funeral home. Private interment took place at Calvary Cemetery in Waseca.

Bonnie Jean (Bell) Hood

Bonnie Jean (Bell) Hood was a caring mom, grandma, sister, and friend. She went to sleep in Jesus on August 17, 2022 in Boise, Idaho at the age of 76.

Bonnie was born in Waseca, Minn. to George and Doris Bell on May 23, 1946. She spent the first 13 years of her life experiencing adventures with her little brother, Danny, and cousins, before moving to Berrien Springs, Mich. She loved family, and this move brought her closer to even more cousins, aunts, and uncles.

After high school, Bonnie completed an LPN program in Hinsdale, Ill. She was a caregiver at heart and enjoyed her time working in hospitals and other facilities helping others.

Her family and friends will never forget her quiet, sweet spirit. Although reserved, Bonnie was one who loved to be social and have fun, but never liked being the center of attention. She loved watching sports and game shows, playing board games, and just spending time with her children and grandchildren.

Bonnie was preceded in death by her parents, George and Doris, and her nephew Don Bell. She is



Bonnie (Bell) Hood

survived by her children Todd (Jackie) Hood of Nampa, Idaho, Brian (Lisa) Hood of Richmond, Calif., Tammie (Kaleb) Knauff of Nampa, Idaho, her brother Danny (Carolyn) Bell of Bend, Ore., her nephew Cory Bell of Newport, Wash., and five grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations in Bonnie's memory to Caldwell Adventist Elementary School or Gem State Adventist Academy in Caldwell, Idaho.

Services will be held on Saturday, August 27, at 5 p.m. at the Gem State Adventist Academy Church in Caldwell, Idaho.

Mary Wynnemer

Mary "Margaret" Wynnemer, age 91, of Waseca, died on August 24, 2022, at Homestead Hospice Home in Owatonna.

Born on December 4, 1930, in Cristobal, Panama to Frederick and Alberta (Dodds) Grunewald. On January 15, 1951, Margaret was united in marriage to Donald James Wynnemer in St. Paul. She was a member of Grace Lutheran Church in Waseca.

Margaret is survived by her husband: Donald of Waseca; children: Donna (Donald) Lelah of Australia, Claire (Mike Phelps) Wynnemer of North Carolina, Mark Wynnemer of Tennessee, and Stacy (Jim) Vance of Waseca; six grandchildren; and six great grandchildren.

Margaret was preceded in death by her parents.

Graveside service will be 2:00



Mary Wynnemer

PM on Sunday, August 28, 2022 at Woodville Cemetery in Waseca.

Memorials are preferred to donor's choice.

Dennisfuneralhomes.com

Honey Hole

Bear bait is sweet business

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editorial Assistant

Cookies, trail mix, candies, gummies, ice cream and waffle cones, caramel, jelly. All of these are available at Tom Kaiser's bear bait business, Honey Hole Bear Bait, in Waseca. "You can't just go in and throw a box of donuts down and shoot them—they're smart and some will wait you out," Kaiser explains, fantasizing about the hunt and how the love of the hunt is what brought him to start his bear bait business back in June of 2022.

It was Kaiser's uncle who taught him to hunt and bear hunt in 1991, bringing him up to his cabin near Bemidji, where Kaiser has been hunting ever since. "I deer hunt, goose hunt, duck hunt, and everything. I'd give it up in a heartbeat all for the bear hunt," Kaiser says, a natural enthusiast. It was this love of the hunt that inspired him to create a bait business, selling all kinds of bear bait to hunters, guides, and anyone interested.

Honey Hole Bear Bait is located in a giant pole shed on the family property: The building is filled with barrels, totes, boxes, and bags of all kinds of sweets for the bears. According to Kaiser, there's some science behind choosing the food. Bears are just like humans in that they will eat junk food like donuts and such, but they like quality foods and everything sweet while avoiding spicy or sour foods. The sweets Kaiser sells are damaged or below-

standard products sold to him by the semi-load.

The wide selection allows hunters or guides to choose items which they believe will be inviting to bears at their locations. While hunters a relatively short distance away might be using corn and fish as bait, Kaiser says northern bears prefer sweets. He also states that the practice of baiting is beneficial, explaining that a bear bait site is likely to supplement the diets of forty or fifty bears—including a fair number of cubs—while leading to the harvesting of only one bear—if even one.

Kaiser says he started his business because he has always enjoyed the challenges and rewards of selecting the right baits. While his companions sometimes complained about the time he was taking, he would be examining sites to see what the bears seemed to have taken the most of, trying to figure out what worked the best and what the bears liked. Similar to most hunters, Kaiser has a lot of stories and is more than happy to share them. He also has some tips and tricks of the hunt. Anything from tying licorice to a tree and watching the bears struggle and climb on logs to get it, measuring the height of the bear by putting tape on a stick in the ground, to watching the bears get cookies stuck to their noses.

On the business end of things, Kaiser runs Honey Hole Bear Bait near Waseca because he knows there are no similar distributors south of the Cities; there are only three other large companies like his in the state,



Operators of Honey Hole Bear Bait, from left: Nathan and Tom Kaiser, Jonathan Gransee and Heidi Wiitanen.

Pioneer photos by Amelia Roessler

and all are well to the north.

Another plus for the business is inexpensive labor. Two young hunters, Kaiser's own 14-year-old son Nathan and Jonathan Gransee, the son of Kaiser's girlfriend Heidi Wiitanen help out by filling barrels for only five dollars a barrel. Kaiser explained the boys are not only earning some spending money, they are also acquiring a work ethic and learning about customer service,

managing money, and the many skills needed to own and operate a business. Wiitanen, who helps manage the business, and Kaiser wish to thank Heath Miller and Larry Johnson at Minnwest Bank in Waseca who told them that "Either you're absolutely brilliant or you're completely nuts," Whitey Thompson at Wet Signs, Ross at Minnesota Design Studio in Mankato and G & J Transport out of Medford.

Child's History of Waseca

Continuing from Chapter 15

The county was then very sparsely settled. Probably there were not 1,000 families or voters in all the territory of the three counties. The people of Waseca county were nearly all young farmers, just commencing life, and poor in goods, wares, etc. They did not feel able to support a county government while there were so few to pay taxes. A meeting of the settlers was held and I was selected to visit the people in all parts of the then county to secure signatures to a remonstrance and forward the same to Hon. George A. McLeod, then of Sibley county, our representative in the house, the Hon. Chas. E. Flandreau, then of St. Peter, our member in the council.

We made duplicate remonstrances for the settlers along the LeSueur and had them signed at our meeting. The next day I started for Owatonna and the Straight river settlement. It was a pretty cold day as I learned when I reached Owatonna, the thermometer registering 22 degrees below zero, at 4 o'clock p.m. The next day was intensely cold – so cold that the ordinary thermometer failed in its efforts to keep a correct record and I remained in Owatonna all day.

I soon learned that the people in Owatonna, with only two exceptions, were in favor of the division of the county. This I learned without divulging my mission, and the next day I started down Straight river, calling upon each settler as I proceeded and explaining our opposition to the division. Almost without exception,

each farmer signed the remonstrance. At Clinton Falls and Medford, I found active co-operation, and obtained the signatures of all I could see. In one day's canvass I had good strong lists which I forwarded to Messrs. McLeod and Flandreau, accompanied by a private letter from myself and one from Dr. Finch, of Clinton Falls, explaining to them the situation of affairs and the general condition of the people.

I left with the postmaster at Medford a copy of the remonstrance to be signed by those whom I had not seen and to be afterwards forwarded to Mr. Flandreau. I then struck across the country on foot, without road or track of any kind, in search of the Remund and Ide settlement, in what is now Blooming Grove. I had no guide except the government section posts, many of which were covered with snow drifts. It was 12 miles from Clinton Falls to Blooming Grove, then called the Bliven settlement.

The trip was a good deal more of a job than I had anticipated. Much of the way I encountered small groves and brush land where the snow was very deep and the crust not strong enough to bear my weight. After a hard day's work, I reached the house of a pioneer German, named Reineke, about 4 o'clock p.m. Like most of his nationality he did not fall in love with me at first sight, and to my salutation: "It is a wintry day," he replied "Ich verstehen sie nicht." This was one of the occasions in my experience which the few words of German I could speak served me

well, for neither he nor any of his family could, at that time, converse in English. As soon as he found that I could speak some German he shook hands with me and became very friendly. He invited me to remain over night, a proposition that I was only too glad to accept. He entertained me a portion of the evening with stories of the Fatherland, and then drifted into the difficulties he experienced in not understanding English. He seemed much pleased when I offered to write out the names of familiar objects about the house and farm in English, opposite the German names.

After a good night's rest and a hearty breakfast, having obtained his name to the remonstrance, I bade him "Lebewohl" and proceeded to visit the settlers in Blooming Grove, Mr. Reineke's farm being in what is now Deerfield, in Steele county.

I proceeded eastward until I struck the settlement known as Swavesey. The first residence I found was that of M. P. Ide, on what afterwards became known as the Patrick Healy farm. Mel, as he was called, turned out to be a Cornell man and could not be persuaded to sign the remonstrance. I put in the whole day going from house to house, and secured the signatures of all the other men in the settlement that I could find. It was a laborious job to travel about in deep snow, and night found me at the hospitable cabin of Wm. M. Gray, on section 33, in what is now Blooming Grove.

There was a greeting, a charm, a

hospitality, a feeling of fraternity among the pioneer settlers of Wisconsin and Minnesota – especially in the latter territory – entirely unknown at the present day. The stranger was always welcome to such accommodations and fare as the settlers possessed. All gathered around the same table and each served the other. Each told to the others his history, almost without reserve, and in one evening they generally knew more of each other and each other's affairs than men born and reared in the same town know of each other these days. Not only did they become acquaintances but they took a friendly interest in each other's welfare. There was a sympathy among them in which later additions to the population seem not to possess.

I spent the night very comfortably and agreeably with Mr. Gray and his family, and the next morning called upon his neighbors, Messrs. Simeon Smith, Alfred C. Smith and E. K. Carlton, obtained their signatures on the remonstrance, and proceeded homewards, arriving at the McDougall cabin just as darkness covered the prairie and grove.

My only compensation for the laborious tramp was the general satisfaction we all felt in the defeat, for the time being, of the proposition to divide the county. Alas! How little man knows of the future.

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School lunches are no longer free

By MELISSA DUNN
Contributing Writer

Waseca school board member Katie Youngberg spoke up during a discussion of the district food service at the August 18 meeting to emphasize that student meals will again be charged at prices similar to before the Covid pandemic. Due to federal funding, all student meals have been at no charge for the past two years.

District families are encouraged to apply for free or reduced price meals. Superintendent Eric Hudspith requests that even those who aren't certain they are eligible or who don't know if they will use any meals should complete the application available on the school website. Hudspith stated that Minnesota adjusts the income threshold each year; because of this, families which previously would not have qualified might do so this school year. He strongly urges parents to apply annually at a minimum, though they are encouraged to do so whenever their income decreases or number of household members increases.

Minnesota funds the school district's Title I, II, and IV programs based on the number of students who qualify for the free and reduced meals program in the district. Title I funds are used to strengthen academic programs in the district for students who are eligible for Title I reading and math. The Waseca school district is able to employ one teacher and three paras as a result of receiving Title I funds.

The purpose of Title II monies is to increase student achievement consistent with state standards, improve the quality and effectiveness of teachers, principals, and other school leaders, increase the number of teachers, principals, and other school leaders who are effective in improving student academic achievement. "To teach the

WASECA
SCHOOL BOARD

teacher," school board member Youngberg summarizes. The district has used Title II funds for professional development, a teacher mentor program, and paying for schooling for difficult-to-fill teacher positions such as industrial technology and emotional/behavioral disabilities. Title IV funds are for improving student academic achievement through activities and programs in the areas of effective technology usage, safe and healthy students, and a well-rounded education. Waseca Schools disperse Title IV dollars into their social/emotional curriculum, arts, and music. Families with students who have recently learned to play the ukelele on a school instrument can thank Title IV funds (or perhaps not). Anyone with questions about applying to the free and reduced meals program is encouraged to call food service director Ross Larson at (507) 835-3360.

Also of note, Superintendent Eric Hudspith discussed several updates to the district's strategic plan among the school board business presented at their August meeting. He stated that the district is still waiting for some data from Minnesota regarding academic results and will be able to share more specifics after August 25. "Still, there appears to be a general improvement overall, with Waseca's students scoring somewhat higher than the state average," he says. In his back-to-school update, Hudspith articulated his feelings of excitement for the upcoming school year. School activities have begun, and internal projects are wrapping up in each building. Hudspith stated that, after two years of disruption and uncertainty from the Covid pandemic, he feels a sense of renewal among staff members.

Hazard training

The Waseca County Emergency Response Team (CERT) has 54 members who volunteer to learn safety and response measures in case of major disasters, or to assist area agencies in case of an event which overtaxes their resources. Residents from the entire county are encouraged to take part in the team's annual training, which consists of seven three-hour sessions to be held on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings this coming September. In addition to the annual training, the group also holds refresher sessions throughout the year.

The first priority of the training is to show participants how to protect themselves, their families and their homes in the event of a major disaster prior to assisting others. Participants also learn emergency medical treatment. Sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the CERT program provides volunteers with a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations. As their operating priorities of "readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety and doing the greatest good for the greatest number" indicate, their skills can be immensely helpful when citizens may

not have access to traditional agencies, and when a trained response can make an important difference.

Members of the CERT team also volunteer to assist during large public events, providing traffic control or other assistance in response to multi-vehicle accidents or other tragedies, or wherever their services are requested by official agencies.

Those who complete the training receive a backpack filled with emergency response supplies including a helmet, goggles, tools, a radio and first aid supplies.

The Waseca County CERT program operates under the guidance of county emergency director Denise Wright. This year's training is set for 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. on September 12, 13, 15, 19, 20, 22 and 27. The final evening is the culminating exercise and graduation.

Residents from all areas of the county are encouraged to take part. It is important that participants attend all sessions. Anyone who wants more information should contact Wright either by calling her office at 507-835-0694 or emailing her at denise.wright@co.waseca.mn.us.

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Close ties

After shadowing Hoversten, Roslansky new addition to PHB

By JONAH STAFFORD
Staff Writer

Hayden Roslansky, 27, is one of the latest additions to Janesville's Patton, Hoversten, and Berg (PH&B) law office.

PH&B has a deep-rooted history in the Waseca, Owatonna, Janesville and Faribault communities. William Patton began practicing law in Waseca in 1948; he formed a partnership with William Hoversten in 1975. The two added Perry Berg (who was hired as an associate attorney for Patton and Hoversten in 1982) as a partner in 1992, thus forming the general practice PH&B law firm known to so many area residents.

Before becoming a full-fledged attorney, Roslansky learned much about estate planning and other legal practices by shadowing Hoversten, who has been practicing law for nearly 50 years.

Roslansky grew up in Lake Park, Iowa. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science with an emphasis in legal studies from Hamline Uni-

versity in Saint Paul before graduating from the Mitchell Hamline School for Law in 2019.

Earlier in his career, Roslansky worked as an intern and later a law clerk for social security and disability-focused law firms in the Twin Cities area. He also briefly did contract work while studying for the Minnesota Bar exam.

Upon passing the Bar, Roslansky became a licensed attorney last fall and began working at PH&B shortly after.

After his work in an urban area, newly licensed Roslansky was ready for a change of pace and began looking for job opportunities elsewhere.

"I wanted to find something closer to home, but still far enough away that I was doing my own thing," said Roslansky.

Currently living in Minneapolis with his girlfriend and two cats, Roslansky plans on moving to Mankato very soon and looks forward to spending more time in Janesville when his work no longer



Hayden Roslansky

demands such a long commute.

As an attorney, Roslansky now focuses primarily on estate planning and administration, but in keeping with PH&B's status as a general practice firm, he is trained and prepared to manage a wide range of tasks.

After about 9 months as a lawyer at PH&B, Roslansky reports that "it's been terrific." In particular, he highlights the great mentorship he's enjoyed from more experienced attorneys at the firm and engaging in the variety of types of law he's encountered while working at a general practice firm.

One of the most rewarding parts of Roslansky's job, he says, is that through estate planning, he is able to preserve the legacy of family farms and other familial properties. His experiences have helped him become acutely aware of the need for future-proof estate planning, especially for families.

"I don't think it is ever too early to look into an estate planning option," said Roslansky, adding that "our door is always open if people are curious."

Council urged to decrease budget

By MICHAEL ROY
Publisher

"We need to lower the tax levy," City Administrator Clinton Rogers couldn't have been any clearer when the Janesville city council discussed the preliminary tax levy on Monday, August 22. (Mayor Andy Arnoldt and Council Member Melissa Kopachek were not present.)

Rogers' concerns were legitimate. If the proposed budgets for 2023 stay the same, the city will need to increase the tax levy by 22.3 percent to cover the costs.

Rogers added that the city needs to decrease its preliminary tax levy since the amount is printed on property tax statements received by residents. Although the purpose of the "preliminary" number is to act as the council's "ceiling" - the maximum level taxes can reach that year - the county auditor provides the figure to the public.

"It will be the first thing they see on their statement," Rogers explained. "They will see that number and worry about their taxes being that high. I don't want to have to

present that to the public."

Historically, the city council has been able to set levy increases at about five percent. Council member Jim Mulcahey stated that such a low increase would make it impossible to carry through with many of the improvement projects currently being planned.

"Inflation will be a problem next year," he stated. "Because of that, I'd justify a ten- to twelve-percent increase."

Mulcahey remained hopeful, however, that final levy rates do not have to be as high as the initial numbers. For one thing, he pointed out, energy and food costs are leveling off. "They aren't increasing as much anymore. Maybe by December, when we have to decide final numbers, we could be down to eight or nine percent in tax levy increases."

The council's goal was to lower the preliminary tax levy to fifteen percent by September.

Members also looked through the street and parks portions of the 2023 general fund budget. The street

JANESVILLE
CITY COUNCIL

budget increased by 4.3 percent. Line items such as vehicle gas and tree removal accounted for a significant portion of the increase.

"Ash borer was detected in Lakeview Park north of town," public works manager Joe Ziemke elaborated. "We're planning on having to cut down some trouble trees."

The larger expected increase came from the parks portion of the budget: 87.4 percent. It surprised council member John Sprengeler and acting mayor Andy Ahlman.

The steep increase comes from a line item labeled "miscellaneous," which went from \$40,000 in 2022 to \$120,000. Mulcahey explained that the city's park board had requested more funds. "The rationale was money in the past few years has not been spent on our parks. We figured the more recreation we do, the better chance we can get some people from Mankato here. There is logic behind it, not just pie-in-the-sky ideas."

Ahlman understood, but agreed with Sprengeler that there needs to be more discussion on how much money the park board should receive. "That's quite the price hike," he stated.

Reports

Council member Mulcahey reported that the opening ceremony for the disc golf course is planned for the first week of October, the same time that Janesville's American Legion will celebrate an anniversary. Signs for the disc golf course will also be completed in the next month.

City Administrator Clinton Rogers stated that the League of Minnesota Cities is forming a policy committee on THC, a current hot-button issue for cities throughout the state.

Other Business

The council approved an application by Gerry Schendel to defer the assessment on his property for up to 30 years or until property ownership changes names.

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Waseca County local election filings

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

Since last week's publication Chad A. Schlueter reportedly is no longer running in Ward 3 after having accepted a position with the Waseca Police Department.

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
City Council Ward 3

Daren Arndt

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

PH & B

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Whistling to and fro

Bonnie Jean Bell, granddaughter to the first *Star* Publisher, C.W. Brown, has died

Bonnie Jean (Bell) Hood, a granddaughter of the first publisher of the *New Richland Star*, C.W. Brown died Aug. 17 in Boise Idaho at the age of 76.

Bonnie's mother, Doris Brown Bell worked for the New Richland Star and lived in Waseca until the early 1960's. Bonnie's first cousin was Bumps Brown, who owned Brown Printing at one time.

C.W. Brown purchased the North Star in 1903 from S.K. Gregg and M.E. Goodwin and on April 12, 1906, the newspaper was officially renamed *The Star*.

In 1919 the Star was sold to Donald C. Brown and Herbert Sievert. C.W. Brown later returned as publisher in 1938 after stints in Minneapolis, Fairfax, Lewiston and Albert Lea. He owned the Star until 1955 when he sold it to Emmett and Margaret Engesser.

Information from an article describing the sale in 1955 reads, "Mr. Brown, who has passed the 80-year mark, feels it is time to let down and so decided to dispose of his interest to Mr. Engesser. Mr. Brown has completed 64 years of newspaper and printing endeavors."

Brown's grandson and namesake, Daniel Corydon Bell, mentioned that, "Grandpa would walk to work whistling on the way there and the way back. They always knew when he was close to home."

Bonnie Jean was a writer for the *Star* for part of the time her family



C.W. Brown



Bonnie Jean Bell

DAUGHTER BORN LAST WEEK TO GEORGE D. BELLS
Thursday evening, May 23, at the Memorial hospital, Waseca a daughter weighing 6 1/4 pounds was born to Mr. and Mrs. George D. Bell (Doris Brown). The little one has been given the name, Bonnie Jean.

The front page of the May 30, 1946 edition of the *New Richland Star* included an article title: DAUGHTER BORN LAST WEEK TO GEORGE D. BELLS

Thursday evening, May 23, at the Memorial hospital, Waseca a daughter weighing 6 1/4 pounds was born to Mr. and Mrs. George D. Bell (Doris Brown). The little one has been given the name, Bonnie Jean.

owned it and her daughter Tammie still works in publishing.



Tina Mittelsteadt's niece Baylee has been helping prepare and run WaSeeker's online auctions throughout the summer.
Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

■ WaSeekers from Page 1

what she needed to know in order to create a successful business plan.

Mittelsteadt joked that the first draft of her plan, written before she received any coaching, included statements like, "This is how an auction makes me feel," or "I remember my favorite item I ever won at an auction."

"They taught me those sorts of things are motivation, not a plan," Mittelsteadt says.

The "they" she refers to includes the law office of Patton Hoversten and Berg, in addition to the Small Business Development Center, local business owners, and the Waseca Chamber of Commerce.

"They taught me what I needed to do to start and run a small business," Mittelsteadt recalls. "I think people need to know these resources are available right here in Waseca."

After securing a line of credit, finding a building, and setting up an online site, Mittelsteadt said the final step was finding pro-

ducts for her first sale, which meant bugging her friends and family for suitable items.

That first auction grossed about \$8,000, and was followed by five equally successful sales. Mittelsteadt's income from the auctions comes from her consignment fees: the majority of the proceeds are given to the clients who put their possessions up for sale.

Helping Mittelsteadt in this venture are her husband of 18 years, lifelong friend, and "victim of a drunken bar incident," Todd Mittelsteadt.

"I can't forget my incredibly supportive husband," Tina says with a smile. "He's my right hand... Even though he says I stalked him in order to date him all those years ago."

In addition, Tina's niece, Baylee, who visits during the summer, also helps out. "Normally we just lay in the sun and ride in the pontoon, but now we're working," Baylee jokes as she does her 'famous' eye roll. "Thanks Tina."

WaSeekers is actively taking consignments; the company's schedule includes two auctions in August. More information is available online at www.WaSeekers.com.

Two extra years

Eckarts surprised by neighbors

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

"I have a statement I'd like to make," Sharon Eckart said in a phone call to the *Star Eagle* this week. "I love my neighbors."

After an eventful weekend, which included the wedding of their grandson, Sharon and Norman came home Saturday evening to a freshly mowed lawn and a power-washed sidewalk.

"We were so worn out from the wedding and the whole weekend, it was so nice of them to mow the lawn," Norman explained. "Little did we know what they were planning."

Sunday evening the couple attended the Flame Theatre in Wells, watching *Where the Crawdads Sing*, a must-read book according to *Star Eagle* columnist, radio/podcast star, and NRHEG teacher Mark Domeier, which has also become a must-see movie according to the Eckarts.

Well, the pair returned home a little earlier than expected Sunday, finding their "surprise" nearly finished.

"Grandma, will you help me color it in?" 2-year old neighbor Quinn Quadd asked.

What she was "coloring" was a chalk mosaic nearly 15 feet long on the sidewalk of the Eckart home which proclaimed "Happy Anniversary." The couple celebrated 57 years of marriage Sunday, along with two years, "of life we weren't expecting to have together."

Two years ago in July, Norman Eckart – and along with him the entire NRHEG community, since he and Sharon are like family to everyone in town – had a scare; Norman



ANNIVERSARY - The Eckarts' neighbors surprised the couple by painting happy anniversary all along their sidewalk after mowing the area around and powerwashing the curb.

was rushed to the hospital via ambulance after suffering a heart attack that nearly took his life.

"I remember thinking if he made it to the hospital, it'll be a miracle," Sharon said in an interview with the *Star Eagle* more than two years ago.

"Are we gonna make it to our 55th anniversary?" Sharon asked at the time.

But Norm did make it to the hospital. And did survive to celebrate their 55th anniversary. And their 56th. And now their 57th.

Norm said at the time of his heart attack he felt as if he had been punched by Mike Tyson. It could even be argued that he died, since his heart rate dropped below 20, a threshold at which patients are considered dead. But he fought his way back.

The Eckarts were grateful then, and still are today, for the top notch care they received from the New Richland Ambulance Department and the staff at Mankato Hospital. Most of all, Sharon expressed her thanks to Monica Schutrop, who, alongside the ambulance department, received a life-saver award for her efforts that day. With the help of a LUCAS machine, Schutrop and company were able to bring Norman back.

"We love Monica," Sharon beams. "I stand by my statement that we wouldn't have Norm here today if it weren't for her."

"Every day is a blessing," Sharon continued. "We're fortunate to have



Sharon and Norman Eckart celebrated 57 years together Sunday, August 21, 2022.
Star Eagle photos by Eli Lutgens

kept him two years longer than we should have."

As for her neighbors and their elaborate tribute, Sharon says that's what makes life special in a small town.

"They're marvelous people," Sharon beamed. "It [the sidewalk art] made me feel so good."

And that's not the first time they've fooled us. Talk about something only in a small town. I've said it before and I'll say it again: Neigh-

bors are special. People here are special."

Sharon talked in great depth about her neighbors, specifically young Quinn, who can count all the way to 20, knows all her colors, and can read the house number on the Eckart home. To neighbor Quinn, she and her husband are "Grandma Sharon" and "Papa Norm."

"We are very blessed," Sharon concludes. "I just want to say thank you."

A hot start for girls tennis

Jays open their season 2-0

The Waseca girls tennis squad opened their season with wins over Worthington 6-1 on Tuesday, August 23 and 7-0 over Tri City United Thursday, August 18 in their opener.

In their home opener against TCU, Waseca's Sarah Robbins won in two sets over Sami Tiede, 6-2 and 6-1; Cece Huttemier defeated Lexi Hoefs 6-0 and 6-1; Sarah Haley defeated Ellie Adams 6-0 and 6-0; Takya Schoenrock defeated Clara Leonard 6-1 and 6-0. In the doubles portion of the match, Waseca's Addie Pfeifer and Mia Kanewischer defeated Ava Flintrop and Anne Cooper in the closest matches of the day 6-4 and 6-

4. Miranda Breck and Maddy Benson defeated Alice Schroer 6-0 and 6-3. Lauren Drexler and Paige Dufault defeated Avery Lerfald and Jacy Samerow 6-2 and 6-2.

On the JV side, the squads tied three matches to three. On the singles side, Ashton Jenzen won one and on the doubles side the teams of Ashton Jennzen and Elizabeth Roessler along with Vivan Mader and Tailyn Kaput were victorious.

The Jays continued their hot start Tuesday on the road against Worthington.

In the singles portion, Sarah Robbins was the lone loser of the night,

falling to Hannah McNamb in three sets. Robbins won the first match 6-2, but dropped the last two, 6-4 and 10-6. Winning in singles matches were Cece Huttemier over Taylor Nordseth 6-3 and 6-3. Sarah Haley defeated Brook Nordseth 6-3 and 6-1 and Schoenrock defeated Taya Oberloh 6-3 and 6-0.

In the doubles portion of the event, all three Waseca squads came away with sweeps. The duo of Pfeifer/Kanewischer defeated Bryn Donkersloot and Riley Nickel 6-4 and 6-1. Breck and Benson defeated Taylor Michelson and Savannah Rodriguez 6-1 and 6-2. Dufault/Drexler defeated Sadie Nickel and Makayla Phoungphet 6-2 and 6-2.

On the JV side, the Jays defeated the Trojans 5-0. Winning in doubles was the duo of Addie Bomsta/Roessler 6-1 and 6-0. Also winning in doubles were the duos of JanzenMader 4-0; Tailyn Kaput/ Pearl Moore 4-2 and 4-1; Esme Pearce/Paola Sandoval 4-1, 3-4, and 8-6; Drexler/Benson 4-0 and 4-0.

Headcoach Kyle Collins said the season is off to a good start. "The matches on Friday and Saturday will certainly bring some stiffer competition."

The Jays host Jordan and Farmington Friday August. 26 beginning at 9 a.m., with matches at 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

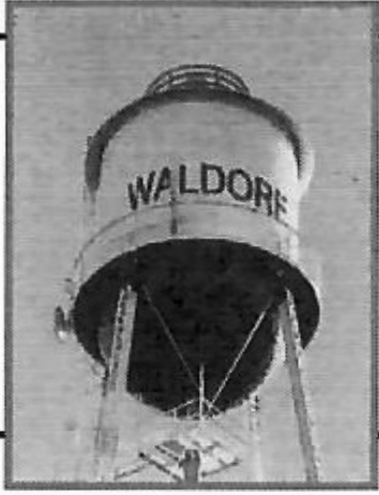
Vacation Bible School



Matalyn Petsinger enjoys Vacation Bible School hosted at Sacred Heart from August 9 through 11. Lisa Jorgenson reads to a group of attendees.



Pioneer photos by Amelia Roessler



WALDORF DAYS & ALL SCHOOL REUNION August 26 - 28, 2022

Friday, August 26

Time	Event	Where
5:30-8:30 p.m.	Fireman's Burgers & Sweet Corn	Fire Hall
	Mis Tres Flores Ice Cream Treats	Fire Hall
8:30-12:00	Fireman's Dance "Red Dirt Road"	Fire Hall

Saturday, August 27

Time	Event	Where
9:00 a.m. Start Time	Military Activities, Gravity Box Basketball, Axe Throwing (sponsored by DJ's Hideaway) Antique Car, Tractor & Truck Show	Main Street
9:00-11:00	Coffee & Donuts, Church Bake Sale	Community Center
9:00-12:00	Bingo-Sponsored by Am. Legion Post 587	Community Center
9:00-7:30	"Lottery/Money Tree" Donation Tickets	Community Center
9:00-7:30	"Buttons", "Quilts & Baskets" Donation Tickets	Community Center
9:00-7:30	Waldorf "Warriors" or "W-P" Colts T-Shirts	Community Center
9:00-4:30	Registration Desk-Pick up Pre-Reg. Packets	School
9:00-1:30	Waldorf History Exhibits & Trains by Phil "Buttons" & "2000" All School Reunion Video Buy Waldorf "Warriors" or W-P "Colts" T-Shirts Buy 1998 "Old Waldorf" Notes & Postcards Buy "A Touch of Waldorf History" Buy "2008 Centennial Cookbooks & Postcards	School
9:00-5:30	Silent Auction Item "Waldorf Wall Hanging"	School
10:00-1:00	Photo Booth Fun	School
9:00-5:00	Vendors-Crafters 11:00-11:45 "Mike's Brass"	School-South Lawn
11:00-9:00	Food Trucks & AJ's Onion Rings	Main Street
11:30-1:30	Kids Talent Contest & Other Activities	Main Street
12:00	"Bean Bags" Tournaments Begin	South End Bar & Grill
1:00 p.m. 2:00 Sharp	Kiddie & Grand Parade Lineup Parade Begins	County Garage
3:00	Fire Department Waterball Tournaments	
4:30	All School Reunion Program	School Gym
5:30-7:00	"In a Bind" (Becky Borneke Trio)	Community Center
6:00-8:00	Community Dinner (Preordered & Paid)	Community Center
7:00-10:30	Teen Dance "Double D Music Sound"	North Side of School
7:00-8:00	Pre-Street Dance Entertainment	MyGlobal DJ
7:30	Button, Lottery/Money & Legion Drawings	Main Street
7:30	"Quilts & Baskets" Drawings & Silent Auction Winner Announced	Community Center
8:00-12:00	Street Dance "Maiden Dixie Band"	Main Street
10:00	Fireworks (at Intermission)	In Town

Sunday, August 28

Time	Event	Where
10:00	Community Polka Service-Pastor M. Mathews "Jolly Ramblers" play before, during & after.	School Gym
11:00-1:00	Pancake Breakfast	Community Center
1:00-5:00	Tour "The Pink Schoolhouse" ~ Refreshments	Pink Schoolhouse
1:00-5:00	Tour "JR's Barn"	JR's Barn



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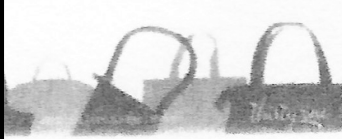


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Looking in the Mirror

by Jonah Stafford
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My days home are numbered

I’ve finally hit the part of the summer when my days back home are numbered. As of this writing, I’m down to 5 days (and by the time this is printed and in your hands, I’ll be down to 2). If my summer job were something else, it would probably be a lot easier for me to think about classes and not what I’ll be missing out on while I’m away. These past couple of weeks, many of the stories I’ve written have had a lot to do with new beginnings. Some recent interviewees for me include new legal staff, a new principal, new teachers, and a new pastor. That’s a whole lot of new for a town like Janesville! If there’s one regret I have about going back to Winona on Sunday it’s that I won’t be able to follow up and see what happens in real time as these new community members get more established in their roles and make Janesville a better place. Of course, I’ve had similar thoughts regarding changes in Waseca and New Richland, but now that I am starting to feel more like I’m part of the Janesville community, I can’t help thinking about how my time here is running out.

As I’ve said before, last year, leaving home was pretty easy for me. Why wouldn’t it be? I was going from unfamiliar surroundings to unfamiliar surroundings. It was settling into my new life as a student at Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota that was the real challenge. When you grow up in Hartland and see the same people every day for 11 years, being at a school with just over 1,000 peers you don’t know is definitely a change of pace. Attending bigger (and smaller) universities was definitely on the table for me during my college search, but what I saw when I went on my college visit a year and a half ago was a place that felt like home. Welcome Weekend was kind of awkward, but after hobbling my way into my first friendships and starting my first semester classes, I knew I had made the right college decision.

That’s not to say everything was easy: it definitely was not. For every rhetorical analysis essay or presentation about an influential person in the media, there was an uncooperative bunch of upper-classmen who ended up as part of my group project teams. For every fun-filled night of bingo at SMU, there was something due at 11:59 that I forgot about until 10. But, that’s just life!

Many times last year I was stressed out beyond belief, but I just had to keep going to keep my pursuit of my dreams on track. I’d certainly had challenges in high school: I can’t do math to save my life, but I was able to circumnavigate them easily through the act of not caring. It was easy to tell myself that algebra wasn’t important to me, since I didn’t plan to enter a job field that would make use of it. But now, I had to go out of my comfort zone to stay on the path I wanted. In order to get my public relations degree, I needed to do that two-dimensional art class I’ve talked about before (it’s actually a prerequisite to a graphic design class I’m starting next week) and it was an uphill battle. I have zero hand-eye coordination, but a portion of my grade hinged on “craftsmanship” scores. No longer were my writing, studying and test taking skills enough. If I wanted a

good grade I needed to cut precision cardboard squares with a razorblade! I made it through with an AB, but it was one of the hardest classes of my life. I still had fun, though, and brought a majority of my pieces with me home at the semester’s conclusion!

That same semester, I had an inverse experience with my beginning newswriting class. As someone who wrote for the student newspaper in high school and had even already crafted a couple of stories for my college’s newsblog, this wasn’t unfamiliar territory. Or was it? Though I had a slight head start when it comes to journalism, not all of my prior knowledge was correct, so I effectively hard-reset my writing process. Some things I did before were incredibly correct: walking into an interview with pre-written questions is a life saver! But I also had to learn to simplify my stylistic choices in a news context: especially regarding “inverted pyramid” stories, which are vehicles for more serious, hard news like accidents or crimes. There was also the infamous AP Stylebook assignment, where my professor gave us all 100 sentences which we needed to pick through for stylistic errors by the end of the week. I’m pretty sure only one person got an A on that, and it wasn’t me! The stories I turned in were massive successes and my favorite one got published on the Cardinal Newsblog for the world to see, but I managed to both retread familiar territory and learn new things.

After spending my summer doing local journalism, I’ve certainly strengthened my writing. I haven’t really held back much when it comes to my personal style and word choice, but after almost 4 months, I’d like to think that everything went over well for the most part. One of the most enjoyable parts of this was the massive influx of human interest stories I got to work on. When it comes to comfort, there’s nothing journalism-related that I like doing more than interviewing one person and writing about their life. With that come some caveats: if you’re writing about someone and it’s going to be published for a wide audience, you better have your facts straight and represent them fairly. Depending on the subject matter, handling people’s information with care can be a challenge, but through doing so many stories, I’ve become pretty well practiced when it comes to that. The main area I’d like to improve going forward and especially when I come back next year is covering events. I always have fun when I get to go to things, but being surrounded by so many people can be a little nerve wracking. I’ll definitely get more comfortable with that in time, but I’m pretty satisfied with how this all turned out.

It’s been a great summer serving this community on the Star Eagle, then Pioneer and Janesville Journal staff. I can’t wait to see you all again soon! I’m planning on coming back next summer, but this column will continue remotely and a few stories will probably find their way on to the newspaper pages as well, especially during breaks.

Best of luck to everyone during the year ahead!

Time to stop pretending and start studying

The curtain has almost closed on summer, with fall quickly approaching. For some of us this means school, for others harvest time, and for some it means nothing but the changing colors of the leaves.

For me, it means packing, leaving the comfort of home and heading to the Cities to once more become a student of the liberal arts, studying journalism and psychology with a Spanish language minor. Spanish really is the only class I have concerns with: psychology is fun and I’ve already had hands-on experience with journalism.

Speaking of, it’s been quite a summer in that aspect. In a very thoughtful and kind gift from Eli, my boss, I received all the issues of the Waseca County Pioneer that I have been a part of: six in total.

Looking back, I hadn’t realized the scope of everything I was going to do or be involved in. From scanning in copies to doing interviews and covering the city council meetings, there was a lot more to the journalistic role than just interviewing and writing. The number of connections you make is incredible. Bonding over old bus drivers in an interview, learning family ties and spouting



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler
copyright © 2022 by Amelia Roessler

endless The Princess Bride quotes at an editorial meeting combine to lead to some poignant memories.

As I add being a published writer to my repertoire, it feels weird to step away. Granted, I will still be writing columns and such, but to be going from an actual internship/job that resembles a career to going back to being a slightly immature college student is almost like wearing two different hats. Kind of like taking off a professional black fedora and putting on a beat up, worn-backwards ball cap. It’s just two different aesthetics. Although I’m sure I could get away with wearing a backwards ball cap at work, (right Eli?) I’ll just take it off when Blair walks through so that I don’t get picked on. One time, I was cold at work so I brought in my blanket (it wasn’t that cold in the of-

fice I just don’t like being cold) and everyone became concerned about the AC; it was very touching.

As a prank cooked up by Deb and Tristan, we decided we were going to bring in the weirdest little thing we could find and put it on the high shelf that runs the length of the office, then wait to see how long it took anyone to notice. As far as I know, I’m the only one who followed through. My Chewbacca PEZ dispenser is still standing next to the fake books.

My summer internship was not only valuable, it was fun. I’m hoping that writing and journalism and hours-long editorial meetings (complete with the rantings of the office’s neighbors and guests) will always be fun. Never a dull moment in the writing world.

Speaking of writings, can we take

a minute to appreciate the writings and works of Broadway. This past Sunday I went to see a performance of Wicked at the Orpheus and it was astonishing. My mother had scored good seats and I was able to see the actress spit. It was fantastic. I tell you, I cried, my mother balled, and my father laughed. It was an amazing performance and I am dying to go back and see it again someday. Hopefully I will be getting tickets to see Les Miserables at the Orpheus this winter. I saw it a couple of years ago with the “Music Listening” class that I took; it was probably the best performance I have seen on a stage—No offense to any of the other plays I have attended.

Now time for the performance of me pretending to have my stuff together and be a good student as I take a break from the wonders of the Waseca County Pioneer and NRHEG Star Eagle offices.

“It’s just life, so keep dancing through.”

— Stephen Schwartz, *Wicked*

Quote omitted from last week’s column:

“There’s none so blind as those who will not listen.” —Neil Gaiman

An exciting read



Enjoying story walk with Friends of the Library are, from left: Jace, Harper, and Laura Wenzel.
Photos by Tristan Jensen



Peggy Wiskocil starring as the lion



From left, Nellie, Eva, and Clara Buendorf enjoy a greeting from lion Peggy Wiskocil, who helped kids cross the road during the book walk.



Waiting in the park were Girl Scouts (in vests), from left: Violet Botten, Alexis Olsen, and Hazel Botten. Violet is a junior and Alexis and Hazel are cadets. Pictured with them are Rylie and Kendrick Cromwell and their grandmother Sheryl Panuska.

Friends of the library book walk

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Staff Writer

The New Richland Public Library hosted a Book Walk with the help of Sheryl Schanil, the Friends of the Library, and New Richland’s Girl Scouts for kids of all ages on Tuesday, August 9. Sheila Lutz started kids off from her position outside the library where she introduced them to A House is a House for Me by Mary Ann Hoberman, the book they’d be reading on their walk,

and showed them the route they’d take. For those not familiar, to set up a book walk, one takes apart a book and spreads the pages out, so that young readers can walk from page to page. The library’s book walk included over twenty book stops to read at, spread in the blocks between the library and the city park, each with props or displays to go along with the story fragment presented there. Peggy Wiskocil, dressed in a full-body lion costume, was posi-

tioned outside of Wagner Foods. She was there to grab people’s attention, to play and have fun with the kids, and also to help keep the kids safe at the various points where the book walk route crossed roads or driveways. “We really value our young ones,” she said. When kids passed Wiskocil, they’d walked about half the route. The book walk ended at the city park, where Kimberly Olsen, co-leader of New Richland’s Girl Scouts, waited with her

girls – Violet and Hazel Botten and Alexis Olsen. The Girl Scouts guided kids through the last book stops, positioned around the park, and helped to pass out the juice and treats waiting at the end. Each child who participated in the book walk was also able to choose and take home two free books to keep. Around twenty children participated in the book walk during the two hours it ran, each of them enjoying this unique way to read and play.

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Waseca’s newspaper archives

100 Years Ago – The Waseca Journal August 23, 1922
-Few people will dispute Austin’s position in the Southern Minnesota league after the mauling the Austing team gave Waseca Sunday, when they won the ballgame by a score of 12 to 1. The visitors outplayed the locals in every branch of the game, and their slugging was both terrific and timely. Chief Bzoscik, who pitched for Waseca, retired the Austin players in good shape during the first three innings. In the fourth inning they seemed to get onto his tricks for they simply murdered the bill. With the bases loaded Maynard’s three base hit brought in three runs. Dietrich and Meany knocked out a two base hit this same inning.
-A grade cow exhibit will be an outstanding feature of the National Dairy Show, to be held on the Minnesota State Fairgrounds, October 7 to 14. The decision to admit to entry an animal just outside the aristocratic circle breaks a precedent as old as the dairy show business in this country. Heretofore, blue blood lines always have been a first requirement for entry. “We are going to admit grades,” says W. E. Skinner, in charge of arrangements for the show, “because we realize that good grades play an important part in inducing farmers to keep better cows. That being rue, there is no reason why grades should not be a part of our Dairy Show, for the first object of the undertaking is to carry on the fight to eliminate the scrub animals that cannot pay for their salt.”
-R. H. Knight and a. L. Sjowall, barberry scouts employed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, began on August 11, a farm to farm

canvass in search of barberry bushes. This work was financed by a special act of Congress and is in progress in several counties in the southeastern section of the state, and by the end of the season it is expected that each farm will be canvassed in an endeavor to find and dig out all of the barberry plants. After this is done, it is hoped and expected that the black rust menace of the wheat crop will be greatly lessened, at least, if not exterminated.
75 Years Ago – Waseca Journal August 20, 1947
-A brand new automobile, stolen from George Nicolson in front of his residents in Janesville sometimes early Friday morning, was recovered in Watertown, S. D. At the same time Watertown officials have issued a warrant for the arrest of James Anderson of Waseca, charged with the theft. While details are missing it seems that the Wasecan was picked up on a charge of driving while under the influence of liquor, but escaped from the police.
-Members of the Waseca Horse Club Tuesday evening voted to continue efforts to have horse races included in the 1948 Waseca County Fair program. Sylvan Nolte, chairman of the horse race committee, will select a committee from the Waseca Horse Club membership, and they will seek a hearing at the next meeting of the Waseca County Fair board.
- Dr. J. F. Lynn reported his car stolen Monday noon when it was missing from the parking place in front of his office. As he was describing the car to the police a young man came along, sensed that something was wrong and made in-

quiry. He was looking for his father, who was supposed to have driven back to his farm south of New Richland, and was somewhat alarmed because their car was still parked where he had left it. A telephone call disclosed that the father had mistaken Dr. Lynn’s car for his own and had driven home, still unaware that he had the wrong car.
- Records supplied by Supt. R. E. Hodgson at the southeast Experiment Station here show that tow 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 real rain in Waseca since July 17 when three-tenths of an inch fell. There was another shower on Aug. 1 but only three-hundredths of an inch was recorded.
50 Years Ago – Waseca Daily Journal August 25, 1972
-The City Council last night agreed to contribute \$100 a month for the city and \$100 a month for the Water and Light Department to the Chamber of Commerce for assistance in locating industry for Waseca. The previous morning the Board of Directors of Waseca Development Corporation met and passed a resolution which would give \$100 a month to be used for business and industry prospecting, provided the City of Waseca and the Water and Light Department would each give a matching amount.
-Cletus Murphy told of his 30 years of service as a county agent for Waseca County Thursday at Rotary. Murphy graduated from the University of Minnesota with a BS degree in 1918 and went back in 1949 for his Masters degree. After

his retirement as county agent of Waseca, he has remained very active as a member of many clubs such as Toastmasters, Rotary, and still works on a farm.
-Brown Printing Company came to the City Council last night with a unique proposal. Brown Printing is asking the city to issue industrial revenue bonds. The concept apparently has been in use in other sections of the United States for some years and is now increasing in usage in middle America. The idea is that the city would issue the bonds which would be used to purchase some \$995,000 worth of new equipment for the Waseca plant. It was emphasized that the city would in no way be obligated to pay off the bonds and that it would not be associated with city funds.
-A new campsite will be allowed to tap into the city sewer system. Kal Kiesler, Waseca, is planning on building the campsite. Kiesler has 30 acres of land east of Waseca and an option to buy three and a half more. Kiesler plans to use about 15 acres to begin the campsite. The site is across from the Clear Lake Road where it breaks off from Highway 14 east. Kiesler plans to utilize 100 campsites to begin with.
25 Years Ago – Waseca County News August 19, 1997
- After receiving mainly positive comments at the county fair, the Waseca Aquatic Center task force has streamlined its existing pool plan to cut costs and has also consulted community fund raisers. Site grading was the first thing to be cut in half. The task force eliminated \$25,000 from what was originally a \$50,000 cost. Part of the grading included the undeveloped northeast park on 22nd Avenue where the



25 years ago - Father-daughter vocals
Kathryn Chandler and her father, Mike, performed everything from Charlie Daniels to Michael W. Smith at Sunday’s Gospelfest in Clear Lake Park.
Photo by Susan Smith

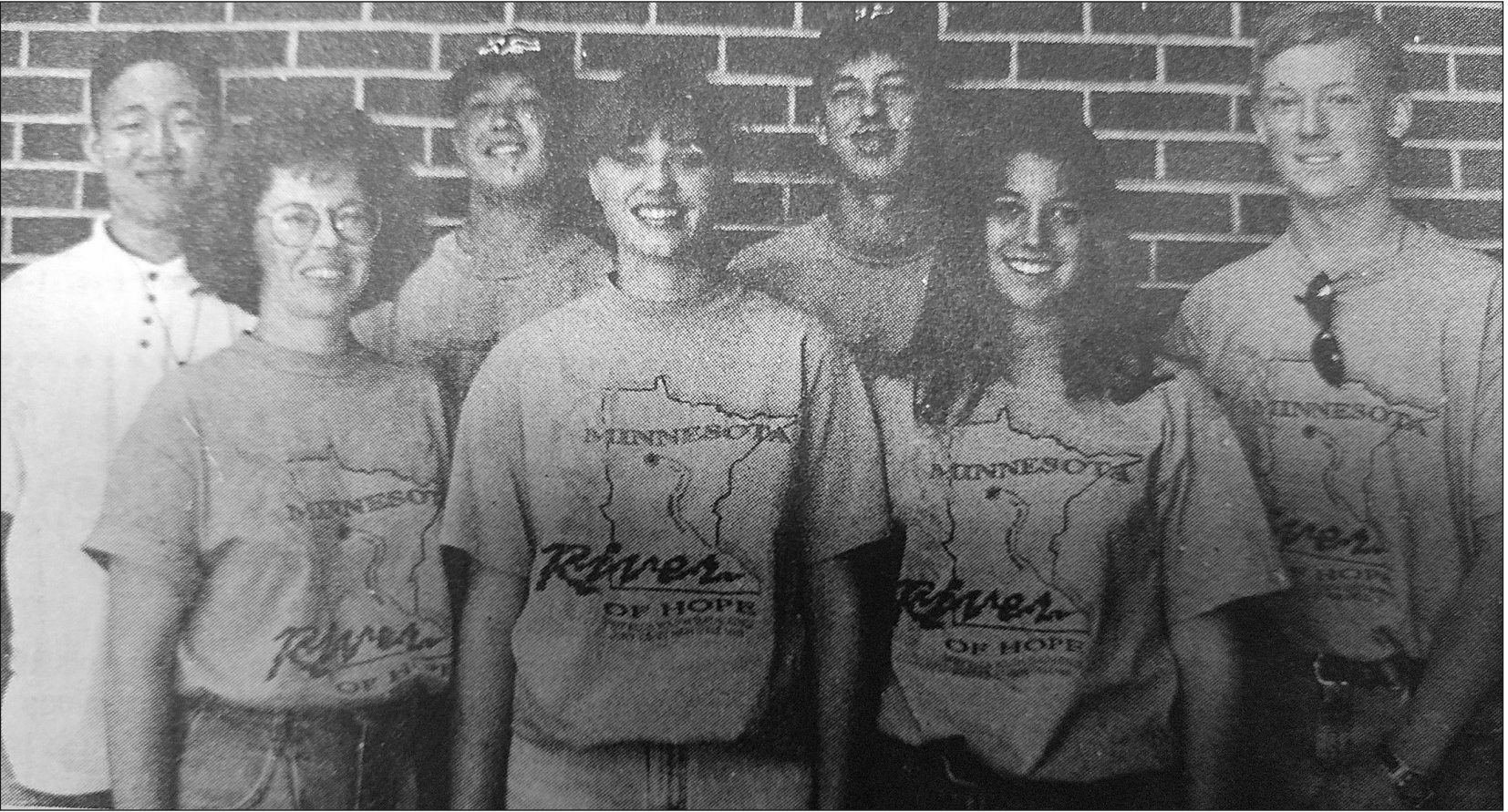
pool will be placed. That cost will be covered by the city. The main things that were eliminated from the plan are the sand volleyball courts and play area which together would have cost \$45,000. The goal of the task force was to reduce the cost of the first draft of the aquatic center designed by Johnson, Sheldon and Sorensen Architects from \$2,187,854 to a more reasonable amount. So far, the cost for that alternative has been reduced to \$1,723,873, park director Mark Bartelt said.
-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 was built by R. P. Madel Sr., and Boe Edstrom of Minneapolis. Madel’s son, R. P. Madel Jr., has been the first and only administrator. The day the door opened, all 60 beds in the new facility were certified by Medicare. In those days, Medicare standards were much higher than state standards and few nursing homes chose to meet them, especially on opening day.

Star archives, New Richland

100 Years Ago
1. Though the game played by New Richland on Sunday, previous to taking on Albert Lea, was a farce, it was not without its good points, since the boys got all the errors and hookworm out of their system. On Labor Day at Albert Lea they played a stellar game of ball, and the contest was a thriller with brilliant plays sparkling from all angles of the diamond. Altho Weeks had pitched the day pervious he was in good form and like a sharp shooter, put the ball where he wanted it on every delivery. His form was indeed rare for he got nine hits, eleven strikeouts and didn’t walk a man.
2. The New Richland community will keenly feel the loss of one of its prominent families when on October first, Rev. I. C. Campbell and family will leave for Spring Valley, Minn., to make their future home. Rev. Campbell and family came to New Richland the fore part of June, 1917, but was known here previous to that time, having had charge of a church at Freeborn, Minn., and on several occasions having delivered sermons here. With the exception of five months during the winter of 1918-19, which time they resided in Chicago, they have lived her continuously since 1917. During this period of over five years Rev. and Mrs. Campbell have become such a part of the life and welfare of the community that it will be hard to see them go.
3. Saturday morning Wm. Utpadel started to fill his silo. Everything worked alright until Charlie Steele unloaded the seventh load. Then it happened. It seems that a hatchet and bit brace were used in the corn field to make some repairs on the corn binder. Now the hatchet and bit brace found their way home on a load of bundles that were being hauled by Leo. Utpadel. Whether Leo knew of the hatchet and brace being on his load is not known. But W. C. Ginapp knew after the hatchet came through the feed rollers into the knives. In the twinkling of an

eye \$95 was the price of the extras the machine required after the noise and tractor stopped. The silo filler is an IHC, and these are built of boiler steel instead of cast iron, and that’s the reason that nobody was hurt, as this steel bends instead of breaks.
4. An Otisco township boy, Herbert Sponberg won honors at the State Fair this week when his Duroc pig entry took first premium over all other entries. The competition was keen and winning the coveted prize is considerable of an honor. Other winners among the junior exhibitors are Hazel Sheldon 2nd with Guernsey calf and Pearl Lewer ninth place with Holstein calf. The Freeborn county entry took first place in the Guernsey calf contest.
75 Years Ago
1. The first day of school at New Richland found three hundred eighty one pupils enrolled in the high and grade school, an all-time record. The first grade had the largest enrollment in the elementary grades with 36 pupils. The average elementary grade enrollment is about 28 pupils in each of the six grade rooms. In the high school there were 211 pupils present on Tuesday. The ninth and eleventh grades top this division with 45 pupils enrolled in each of those grades. Approximately 200 pupils are transported by the five buses.
2. The registered Holstein bull, “Winebrook Laddie Ormsby Barta” owned by Otto Tesch of Waldorf is a consistent winner and won the following awards at fairs this year: First senior yearling at Steele County Fair. First senior yearling and grand champion at the Freeborn County Fair. Earlier this year he was first senior yearling at the South Central Minnesota Black and White show at Garden City.
3. Eighteen Waseca County 4-H club members attended the State Fair this past week under the supervision of C. F. Murphy and Mrs. Doris Wyman, extension agents. Project work of nine other 4-H’ers



25 years ago
This group attended the 1997 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 23 - 27. They are front row left to right: Ranae Berg, Counselor with Luther League members, Jessica Perry and Amber Schroeder. The young fellows in the back are left to right: Brian Johnson, Ryan Paulson, Evan Berg and Jason Johnson.
Photo by LaVonne Meyer

was on exhibit. Six girls participated in the demonstration contests in the various homemaking projects. Those five participating who won blue ribbons were as follows: Mavis Armstrong – Bells of St. Mary’s – health; Dorothy Lind – Iosco Livewires – clothing; Vera Amundson – Iosco Livewires – silent bread; Lola Kanne and Ardis Sauferer – Thrifty Peppers – foods.
4. An important business change in New Richland took place Sept. 1 when the large business interests of the M. N. Johnson Mercantile Co. were transferred to the Allen Mercantile Co. Ethan Allen, who for the last nine years has owned a third interest in the Johnson Mercantile Co. has now assumed the sole ownership and management and has changed the name. During his nine years’ residence here, Mr. Allen has shown himself interested in the general welfare of the village. He has been president of the Sportsmen’s Club and of the Businessmen’s Club and thus far during this year has served as village recorder. He served two years during the last war in the navy and was in the far east.

50 Years Ago
1. The FFA General Livestock judging team from New Richland-Hartland high school scored only one point behind the top team, New Ulm in State Fair competition, Thursday, August 31. New Ulm had the top score of 815 and the locals’ score was 814. The next team was New York Mills with 807. There were 76 teams in competition.
2. Four members of the Waldorf-Pemberton FFA chapter exhibited livestock and swine at the Minnesota State Fair. Lynn Ewald showed the champion and reserve champion Shorthorn in the FFA division. Lynn also was awarded the champion herdsman trophy. Lynn exhibited four beef animals and took two firsts, a second, and a third. Lyle Roesler exhibited a pen of market hogs. He placed third out of 90 pens and in the individual market hog class he placed ninth out of 270 market hogs. Debbie Hoffmann showed a four-year-old Jersey cow and took a third place. Martin Tesch exhibited three dairy animals in the Holstein division and placed third, sixth and seventh in classes of approximately twenty animals in each class.

3. The Cardinals ran over Dodge Center, 30-8 in the opening game of the 1972 football season. They dominated the play in the first three quarters, building up a lead of 30-0. A number of underclassmen were given a chance to play in the fourth quarter when Dodge Center scored their only touchdown.
25 Years Ago
1. A 1995 graduate of New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School, Ann Bakken, recently completed a summer internship on the island of Java West, in the city of Bandung, Indoesia. She is the daughter of Richard and Mary Bakken of rural New Richland. Majoring in cross cultural studies for the medical profession at Toccoa Falls College, Toccoa, Georgia, Ann plans to continue her education at Winona State University to earn a degree as a registered nurse. “I plan to get a nursing degree and then go overseas,” Ann said.
2. Six area Luther League members and one counselor were among the thousands attending the 1997 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 23-27.

“River of Hope” was the theme for the 1997 gathering. Those attending were Evan Berg, Jason Johnson, Ryan Paulson, Amber Schroeder and counselor Ranae Berg, LeSueur River Lutheran Church; Brian Johnson, Vista Lutheran and Jessica Perry, trinity Lutheran, all in the New Richland area.
3. Interest in environmental improvements on Minnesota farms is strong among farmers themselves, if response to the new federal Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is any indication. The program is designed to encourage practices such as providing wildlife habitat, using grassed waterways, installing manure management facilities and capping abandoned wells. EQIP was established in last year’s federal farm bill to provide a single, voluntary conservation program for farmers, according to Tim Koehler, assistant state conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). It combines four conservation programs that existed under previous farm bills into one comprehensive scheme.

Krolak serving two area churches

By JONAH STAFFORD
Staff Writer

The Janesville and Waseca communities are welcoming Pastor Sarah Krolak of Faith and North Waseca Lutheran churches, who has recently completed her first month of service. Krolak is a recent graduate from the Lutheran School of Theology Seminary in Chicago, receiving a Master of Divinity and began the first call of her ministry on July 11.

Both Faith and North Waseca are affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), the church body in which Krolak was ordained on Saturday, August 20.

Krolak grew up in Rochester, Minnesota and previously received a bachelor's degree in English and Educational Studies from St. Olaf College in Northfield.

While Krolak was a college student, her mother became an ELCA pastor and soon comparisons were drawn between the two.

"People started asking if I was gonna be a pastor just like my mom and I said 'absolutely not,'" Krolak recalls.

While she first dismissed the suggestion as stereotyping, Krolak later realized the question had a deeper

source: "It wasn't because of my mom, it was because of me."

After graduating from college, Krolak spent a year teaching English to students in Slovakia. Though this position focused more on English education than any interest in pursuing the ministry, her teaching was through the ELCA and she was beginning to tiptoe closer to her eventual path in the ministry. While in Slovakia, Krolak said she had an "aha moment" in which she heard a voice telling her it was time for her to become a pastor; she enrolled in seminary soon after.

While starting as a pastor at Faith Lutheran and North Waseca, Krolak said she is most excited to get to know her members and see God's work through people in the communities she is serving.

Upon starting as a pastor, Krolak noticed her members' eagerness to expand her congregations' reach through new faith-based activities and has been working with them to turn their ideas into reality. On the second Sunday of each month at both churches, Krolak is now doing "Young At Heart" services, which are still for all ages, but especially written with children in mind. Krolak said



Sarah Krolak, a recent graduate from the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, is the new pastor for Faith Lutheran Church in Janesville and North Waseca Lutheran Church in Waseca.

Pioneer photo by Jonah Stafford

that this new type of service aligns with the desires of her congregations, who "really value children" and want "everybody to have a place of worship here."

The number one goal of Krolak's ministry, she says, is to "make sure people are loved really well."

"If people leave church and don't know that they are loved, we have missed the point," said Krolak.

Krolak recommends that young people with an interest in joining the ministry find people to talk to who will encourage and support them through self exploration and allow

them to feel comfortable asking "big questions."

Weekly Sunday services take place at North Waseca at 8:45 a.m. and Faith Lutheran at 10:15 a.m. Additionally, Pastor Krolak is available at her church office in Janesville from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays, for those who would like to stop by and meet her.

Additionally, Sunday School begins on Sunday, September 11 at Faith Lutheran.

"I'm really excited to be here and welcome visitors," said Krolak.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

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* * *

4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH
605 4th St NE, Waseca
507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker)
Worship Sundays 10 a.m.
* * *

FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
801 4th Ave NE, Waseca
507-835-3167
Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m.
* * *

CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH
309 6th St NE, Waseca
507-835-9176
Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m., Wed. 6:30 p.m. (for the summer)
* * *

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca
507-833-1703
Sundays 9:00 a.m.
* * *

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
314 4th Ave NE, Waseca
507-835-2647
Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m.
* * *

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca
507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net)
Worship Sunday 10 a.m.
* * *

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
300 E Elm Ave, Waseca
507-835-1709
Worship Sunday 9 a.m.
* * *

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
111 4th St NW, Waseca
507-835-1222
Worship Saturday 5:15 p.m., Sundays 8:00 and 10:00 a.m., weekdays 8:30 a.m. Tues., Wed. and Fri., 7:00 a.m. Thurs.
* * *

REAL LIFE CHURCH
620 W Elm Ave, Waseca
507-607-8245
Sundays 9 and 10:30 a.m.
* * *

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS
1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca
507-835-4640
Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m.
* * *

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
1221 8th St SE, Waseca
507-835-2213
Sunday worship 10:45 a.m., 6:00 p.m.
* * *

CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY
900 14th Ave SE, Waseca
507-833-1082
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening 6:30 p.m.
* * *

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship
Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters
Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship
* * *

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Otisco, Minnesota
Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study
Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship
* * *

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Mary Iverson
Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee
Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting
Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting
* * *

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Pamela Jensen
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship
* * *

LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota

Pastor Dan Kordahl
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting
* * *

VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kordahl
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship
* * *

VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Brian Schanil Pastor
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School
Tuesdays: The Shepherd's Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark
* * *

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Father Brian Mulligan
Saturday - 5 p.m. Mass
* * *

FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod
Waldorf, Minnesota
Rev. Michael Mathews, pastor
Sunday — 8 a.m. Worship; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School & Bible Class
* * *

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Freedom Township
Sunday — 9 a.m. Worship
* * *

ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Pastor Ava Adams-Morris
Waldorf, Minnesota
Sunday — 9 a.m. Worship
* * *

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC
Waldorf, Minnesota
Father Brian Mulligan
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship
* * *

TRINITY LUTHERAN
Wilton Township
Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor
Sunday — 10:30 a.m. Worship
* * *

THE CHURCH of JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
Brad Donner, Branch President

Waseca, Minnesota
www.lds.org
Sunday — 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School
Wednesday — 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages 12-18
* * *

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
412 N. Main Street, Janesville
Pastor Brian Johnston
Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship
Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship, 9:15 Worship w/bible Class, 10:30 a.m. Worship
* * *

JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
401 N. West St., Janesville
Pastor Kathy King
Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship
* * *

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
43089 180th St., Morristown
Pastor Kathy King
Sunday - 10:45 a.m. Worship
* * *

ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH
307 W. 2nd St., Janesville
Father Brian Mulligan
10 a.m. - Mass
* * *

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
300 Owen St., Janesville
Interim Pastor
* * *

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH
Alma City, Minnesota
Vacancy
Sunday = 1 p.m. Worship

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Smiths Mill, Minnesota
Vacancy
Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship
Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship
* * *

NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.

The Pastor's Column

No such thing as "normal"

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS

Some days are just normal days. Today may be one of them. Nothing too exciting going on, but it is another day. Prayer, Bible Study, meals, and rest. Perhaps a meeting or two, but all in all it feels like a normal day to me.

A lot of people are not okay with a day being normal. Many people think that normal is boring and desire to create a little excitement in their days or nights. There is nothing wrong with normal, nor is there anything wrong with excitement. The problem I see that people have is being content.

The funny thing is, people struggle to define what normal is in terms of life and living. It is a word that I hate to use in describing anything, because its definition can't be applied in universally understood terms. A normal life to one person maybe going golfing or fishing, for others it is waking up and taking 12 medications to survive the day. Normal is subjective and generally can best be defined by a clothes dryer. Normal on my dryer gets the clothes dry.

So let's move beyond understanding our days as normal and understand them in terms of God's kingdom. God created the day and the passage of time for us to be able to grow and live through. He gave us a start at birth and an end upon death, the time he has granted us in between is anything but normal.

Our days may feel normal to us,

but they are never normal in God's Kingdom. There is always something God is doing; He has a plan that makes our days and lives important to His kingdom. Can we learn to be content in not knowing all the details of His plan?

I think of the Apostle Paul in Philippians 4 when he writes, "I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength."

It is not normal to be content, rather it is something that we learn from faith in God. Contentment is knowing that God's plan is being worked out for all eternity.

Let us build our faith, learning to trust God's work and worship Him for all He has done and will do in our lives. I pray my days are not just normal, but that God would reveal to me how He is moving and working in my life and the lives of others around me. As I witness His movements, I will worship Him for being God.

Coming back Libraries bustle once more

Area libraries are full of people, a clear indication of the health of our local Waseca-LeSueur Regional Library System following a two-year pandemic-caused hiatus.

"In two months, we have had 4,477 people play with our educational toys and imaginative play costumes and props," observes Director Stacy Lienemann. "We kept these items out of the public areas for COVID reasons from March 2020 to April 2022." Now that the buildings are once again open, these popular items are back in play.

Lienemann also mentions, "We've had a great response to our summer reading program after two years of minimal participation" when the events were held virtually. "We knew that this summer was going to show us if people still valued our summer reading program," she said. "The message is clear that they enthusiastically enjoy coming to our libraries for events and they love to read."

The regional system includes the library buildings in communities across two counties: Waseca, New Richland, Janesville, Waldorf, LeSueur, LeCenter, Waterville, Elysian and Montgomery. The nine libraries share a director and funding, as well as programming, books and other materials.

In the past ten years the system focus has been on events for all age groups. "We have pursued grants that have allowed us to make our libraries a destination instead of an errand stop," Liene-

mann says.

In 2012, 8,219 people attended 371 events within the system. In the first six months of 2022, there have been 429 events which were attended by 9,264, putting the system on track to more than double its numbers from ten years ago.

These events come in many varieties: concert series, author talks, hands-on Science-Technology-Engineering-Arts-Mathematics (STEAM), crafts for all age groups, lifelong learning and history events. Activities are offered both virtually and in person.

"The library system's circulation numbers have mirrored the national trend of a steady decline from the Harry Potter era," states Lienemann. "In 2012, our circulation was 243,020 items. In 2018, we circulated 96,595 in the first six months and our total circulation was 203,268 for the year."

"2019 was a great circulation year for us, and we're not quite back to that level yet. We are on track to match 2018-level circulation numbers this year," she says.

The system has circulated 97,418 items in the first six months of 2022, while the second half of the year, currently in progress, generally does better as it includes two of the busier summer months.

Now that the doors are once again open and welcoming, it is not unusual to find the newspapers being read, the computers being used, and books, movies, games and adventure packs coming and going from the local libraries.



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Thank you all so very much for remembering me on my 100th birthday. It was a day to remember with all your cards and birthday wishes. Again, thank you all who made this day a very special event for me. Bless you all.
-Dolores Sommers

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. Min gambling license number 00385

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 (612-418-7076 or pomeroy.shawn@gmail.com)

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. & Cty. 7, then go South 5 miles to Auction Site. Watch for Jensen Auction Signs

Tractors

Allis-Chalmers 175 gas tractor 2wd, 3829hrs, WF, homemade cab enclosure, 2 hyd. outlets, 3pt, 540 pto, 18-4-30 rear rubber 85%, 9.5-15 rubber 80%, 7.50-16 new fronts (excellent shape) SN:2378

Allis-Chalmers 185 Diesel tractor, 2wd, 540 pto, 18-4-30 rear rubber 85%, 9.5-15 front (new), (excellent shape) SN: 4859

Trucks & Misc. Equipment

1978 Chevrolet C30 (Brown) 2wd, Flat Bed Truck 7'x8' 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, 12volt system, cab solid (Always shedded)

Yamaha YFM 200 DX 4-wheeler, 2wd (1 owner), Homedune Dune Buggy w/Kawasaki 400 engine

(2) John Deere 316 Lawn Tractors w/50" decks

Allis Chalmers B10 lawn tractor w/deck

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 Posie 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!

Tractors

Case 1818 gas skid loader, 1066hrs, w/ 44" material bucket, hand controls, 18 hp, Rops cab, (excellent shape) SN: GC0018610

John Deere 7000 pull type planter, 4 row, 38" spacing, no fertilizer, bean & corn meters, SN: 1040423A, JD monitor (very clean stored inside)

International Vibra Shank Field Cultivator wheel-digger 18', with two manual wings

DMH 10' pull type chisel plow 7 shanks SN: 8266

Homemade flex drag cart

Oliver 14' wheel disk

John Deere 623 2 bottom plow

Farm Machinery

White 508 3x18' semi mounted plow w/poly mold board covers - (looks great) SN: 45122

John Deere F145H 3x16 semi mounted plow (nice)

Flare Box w/ hoist and John Deere gear (nice)

(2) 7x14' flat hay racks

New Holland 55, 5 bar side rack

Winco Generator 540 pto, 1200 watt on cart (nice)

International LB 2 1/2 hp gas engine SN: B483901

Guns

Ruger MK II Mag Pistol 22LR 10 Rd. Magazine

Mossberg Model 190 16ga. Bolt Action Shotgun

Savage Coast-to-Coast Model 843, 30x30 w/ Weaver Scope 1 1/2 - 5

Vintage Daisy Model 1894 88 Gun

Stoeger Condor Over/Under 12ga Shotgun

Browning 22 Auto (like new)

Harrington & Richards Topper M48 410 Single Shot Gun

Sears Model 101-1380 410 Bolt Action Shotgun

Wards Westernfield Model 368, 225-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 vices - (2) chain hoist - Powermate belt sander & disc - Duracraft 6 spd. floor drill press - Dekalb metal sign - Fram Filter clock - Sears 3 ton floor jack - 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 Sleds & 2 Wheel Scooter - B/S Model L 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

Don & Betty Kramer Auction

AUCTIONEER'S COMMENT: After 60+ years Don and Betty are moving to Owatonna. Don farmed 40 acres and was meticulous about his equipment and Betty has collected some nice household items. Come take a look. See you on Auction Day! - Dennis

AUCTIONEER:
Dennis Jensen
Lic.#74-21-004
jensenauctions@gmail.com
Larry Born
Lic.#81-05400

TERMS: Cash or good check w/proper I.D. required. 10% buyers fee applies. All major credit cards with 4% convenience fee. All sales final and selling as is, where is. Everything must be paid for on auction day. Not responsible for accidents, verbal announcements take precedence over all printed materials. Lunch and Restroom on-site.

JENSEN AUCTIONS • 507-456-1210

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Lemonade



Neighbors Oakley Kahnke and Nicholas Nelson sell lemonade, freezies, and Kool-Aid from 10 to 4 p.m. in Waseca. Kahnke is saving up money for a new Lego and Pokemon set while Nelson is saving up for “inflation.”



Logan Schmidt, Noah Riedl, and Alexia Schmidt stake out their lemonade stand from 2 to around 5 p.m. in New Richland, with different delicious drinks and even homemade bead bracelets and keychains. The boys are saving for a PC while Alexia is hoping for a hamster.
Pioneer photos by Amelia Roessler



Lucy King enjoying the sunflower patch at Autumn Acres.
Photos by Brittany King Photography



Autumn Acres

Sunflowers at Autumn Acres

By JONAH STAFFORD
Staff Writer

A lively field of sunflowers was in bloom at Janesville’s Autumn Acres Farm, which was open to the public from August 3 to 14. Visitors were invited to take pictures with and of the sunflowers and enjoy their natural beauty.

Visitors also got to enjoy the relaxing ambience of the field through two sessions of Yoga in the Sunflowers, which took place the evenings of August 10 and 11.

Autumn Acres Farm is owned and operated by local couple Cheryl and Chad Bless, who since purchasing their original plot of

land from Cheryl’s grandparents in 2009, have grown it from a small family farm into an ever-expanding fall wonderland.

The sunflowers’ bloom came before the farm’s typical fall season, which will see the pumpkin patch opening on September 10. On September 24, Autumn Acres Farm will be hosting a Fall Festival featuring a variety of vendors, musical performances, and refreshments.

One more addition to the Autumn Acres events calendar this year is a ticketed Fall Date Night at The Farm, on the evening of October 14.

New Richland National Night Out



Firefighters attending New Richland’s Night to Unite August 23. From left: Curt Pederson, Alex Moen, Shannon Young, Craig Eustice, Corbin Pederson, Joe Isder, Dylan Arnold, Holden Arnold (polo shirt) and New Richland City Administrator Anthony Martens.



Cheerleaders raising money for a trip to nationals in Orlando Florida applied temporary tattoos. From left, Isabel Stadheim, Ariel Anhalt, and Julia Churchill.



Dylan Arnold lifts his son Holden up out of the firetruck



It was Richie Bennett’s birthday Tuesday. Ambulance Director Sarah Sundve holds Richie and Halejna.



Firefighter Alex Moen assists participants as they shoot targets with the department’s water hose, capable of letting loose up to 50 gallons of water per minute. For the kids, however, the capacity was reduced to about 10 gallons per minute.



Grillmaster, part-time New Richland police officer, and UPS employee Ryan Gehkre jokes with New Richland firefighter Craig Eustice.
Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens



Alex Moen holds his son, Reid, who at 4 years young is set to begin preschool this fall.



OH THAT’S GOING TO MAKE THE PAPER - Craig Eustice saunters over after firefighters are called together for a picture.

A night out, a little later than usual

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

More than 50 people attended New Richland’s third annual Night to Unite celebration Tuesday evening, August 23 at New Richland City Park.

The evening was first scheduled to coincide with the national event earlier in the month, but was postponed due to high temperatures. “Night to Unite” is meant to honor law enforcement officers and first responders, including medical personnel and firefighters.

“The weather was beautiful tonight,” New Richland City Administrator Anthony Martens said. “You can’t beat a free meal, some good fun and a chance to meet some new people.”

The event was mainly run by the New Richland Fire Department along with first responders, ambulance, and police volunteers. It was hard to tell exactly who the volunteers were with representatives from many local agencies attending simply because they wanted to.

Martens credited the three depart-

ments, highlighting Angela Gehkre for playing a big hand in the setup, as well as her husband Ryan, who served as this year’s grill master. Martens had manned the grill in previous years and claimed he was very reluctant to hand over the tongs.

Hot dogs donated by Neighbors Meats of New Richland were enjoyed on buns supplied by Wagner Foods. Chips were donated by the Willows along with cookies from Casey’s.

During the event, residents had the opportunity to vote for one of about 10 designs in the new city logo competition. The three highest vote-getters will go to the city which will make the final selection.

In addition to the food and voting opportunities, NRHEG cheerleaders were on hand giving away glow sticks, and free temporary tattoos while also accepting donations to fund their annual trip to the national cheer competition in Orlando, Florida. To fully fund the trip, the cheer team needs to raise about \$1,000 per person for a total of \$15,000.

Firefighters assisted kids in a tar-

get practice event with a fire hose typically used for “grass fires” which can shoot up to 50 gallons of water per minute, but was powered down to about 10 gallons per minute in order to make it safe for children to use.

The ambulance, as well as the police cruiser and fire trucks were also on display; many kids took advan-

tage of the opportunity to tour a police cruiser, ambulance, and fire truck. Several even got to test the sirens on the various machines.

This year’s attendance was significantly higher than last year’s: Martens said he hopes this annual event continues to grow better and better each year.

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