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Youth of the Year

Correction: A recent article regarding the MNPrairie human services collaborative currently operated by Dodge, Steele and Waseca counties mistakenly stated the MNPrairie organization is undergoing dissolution. The statement was inaccurate in that MNPrairie will continue to exist, but beginning early in 2027 will be operated by Dodge and Waseca counties only.

Guided Beer and Pizza Pairing at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm Thursday, March 12

There will be a Guided Beer and Pizza Pairing at the Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 12. Each 4oz. Pour has been carefully matched with specialty pizzas created for this event. Call or text 715-523-0857 for tickets.

Soil Water Conservation District (SWCD) 2026 Board Meeting March 12

The SWCD will be holding its monthly board meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 12. The meetings will be held in the SWCD offices located at 300 North State Street - Door 4.

Free Children’s Class at Waseca Art Council Saturday, March 14

A free class at the Waseca Art Council will teach children 8 and older clay "Scratchboard" Sgraffito on Saturday, March 14, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Limit to 10 students. Due to class preparation requirements, please register by March 12. Sgraffito is similar to scratchboard art but on clay. Kids will create a design by removing black underglaze and revealing a design of their choice. Supplies will be provided.

Winter Farmers Market at Farmamerica Saturday, March 14

There will be a winter farmers market at Farmamerica from 8 a.m. till noon Saturday, March 14. Find locally grown, baked and made while supporting our local producers. Farmamerica is located at 7367 360th Ave., Waseca.

St. Patrick’s Day Celebration at the Mill March 14

There will be a St. Patrick’s Day celebration at the Mill with music starting at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 14. Complete with Sacred Heart Mass and a noon lunch.

Farmamerica Pizza and Puzzles March 14

There will be a Pizza and Puzzles event at Farmamerica at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 14. Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm included with admission price. Register at <https://farmamerica.ticketspice.com/march-pizza-puzzles>.

A word from
The Word

Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.

Isaiah 46:4



KEEPING THINGS MOVING - Berry Pallets, owned and operated by Richard Berry and his son Curtis, has been located at the far southern end of Fourth Street Southwest in Waseca since 2012.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Berry Pallets

Waseca pallets ship internationally

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Six semi loads of lumber a day. Berry Pallets, located at the far southern end of Fourth Street Southwest in Waseca since 2012, builds a million pallets a year and has numerous international connections. The company, owned and operated by Richard Berry and his son Curtis, “shops” for lumber in U.S., Canadian and even Brazilian markets. Its plant builds one line of pallets to specifications which allow them to be shipped anywhere in the world.

“If it’s a type of pallet, we can build it,” says Richard. The company website states pallets can be as small as 24 inches square, or as long as 8 feet.

Berry Pallets has about 70 employees who do their work assisted by dozens of different machines, ranging from handheld nail guns to one about 100 feet long which scans the quality of a piece of wood, assesses how it can best be used, and then saws it appropriately—within seconds.

“These days they make some very sophisticated machines with precise measuring abilities,” observes Richard. “They can really help speed up production.”

A walk through the company’s 76,000 square foot construction area takes visitors from one type of surprise to another, presenting speeds, scales, and systems which inspire both awe and curiosity. One question which introduces itself is where so many pallets are used.

Richard explains the bulk of the company’s customers are food producers and distributors located within about 250 miles—an area defined by Sioux Falls on the west, Des Moines to the south, Madison Wisconsin to the east and the Twin Cities to the north, according to the company website.

There are numerous reasons, Richard says, why so many pallets are needed. For one, he says, “merchandise moves on pallets.” Thanks to the many times a pallet full of product might be picked up and put down—from the production floor to storage, from storage to a loading dock, from a loading dock

Pallets continued on 5

MNPrairie separation is complex, time consuming

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

Tara Reich, executive director of the collaborative human services agency referred to as MNPrairie, reported to the Waseca County Board of Commissioners during their March 3 meeting regarding steps currently underway to reconfigure the organization.

MNPrairie was established in 2014 when Dodge, Steele and Waseca counties put together an agreement to form a collaborative and consolidate the funds that support it, including funds from the three counties and money the state usually provides individual counties to support human services.

In March of 2025, Steele County commissioners voted to withdraw from the collaborative, even though the joint powers agreement all three counties had signed did not give them the authority to dissolve the organization. Dodge and Waseca counties communicated regarding the circumstances and, in December of 2025, voted to allow Steele County to withdraw. A timeline of one year was set for the full separation, at the end of which Steele County would again be in charge of its own human services programs and funding while Dodge and Waseca would continue forward as a collaborative.

Reich summarized the steps that are underway to meet the Jan. 1, 2027 target. The process has many facets. For one, the State of Minnesota Department of Human Services must separate records, funding, and much more—Reich mentioned there are more than 20 sets of records which must be extricated from one another at the state level.

She reported the state office has not committed to being able to complete all the steps by January.

She also mentioned that Steele County has not yet hired a director of human services, which slows down communication and the decision-making process.

An important factor is dividing the 180 current staff members between the two future agencies. Some employees were with Steele County before the 2014 consolidation, or have been working mostly with Steele County clients. Reich stated she is doing what she can to assure agency workers their positions are secure, but says it is logical that employees are “doing the math,” and taking steps to avoid any chance of becoming unemployed.

“It’s a big loss,” Reich observed of each staff member who leaves, mentioning that it often takes one to two years before any new employee is comfortable with and skilled in all the elements of a position.

She told the board she is meeting with representatives from Steele County at least once a month, and that she will be reporting to the commissioners of both Dodge and Waseca counties every quarter.

“It’s going as well as it can,” she said of the complex process, mentioning that Steele County leaders are being cooperative and responsive.

Band-O-Rama fills gym

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Waseca High School “Band-O-Rama” performance in the gymnasium on Monday, March 2, featured more than 180 students from grades 5-12 and included three different directors: Selma Kleinsmith, band teacher from Waseca Intermediate School, who led both fifth and sixth grades; Anders Peterson, director of both the seventh- and eighth-grade bands; and Devon Lawence directing both the Concert and Symphonic Bands.

The show filled the entire high school gym, featured 13 songs and lasted just under an hour with two performances including all bands combined for the first and last songs.

Each student pitched in once the show was over by carrying chairs and musical equipment back to the band or classrooms as parents found their vehicles outside or waited for their student to finish helping.



The Waseca school system's fifth- through twelfth-grade bands took part in the Band-O-Rama in the high school gymnasium on Monday, March 2, 2026. More than 180 student band participants and many family members were present for the performance.
Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

Council hears about power lines, liquor sales

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

During the Waseca city council meeting the evening of Tuesday, March 3, council members heard from Anna Thill and Zach Rogers, representing Xcel energy. The two summarized a project underway in town where poles are being replaced with either new wooden or steel poles. Thill explained the project’s purpose is simply to replace the poles; the voltage being transmitted will remain the same.

Work is already underway along 14th Street and is expected to continue into the summer. Thill also reported that letters summarizing the project were already sent to all residences located within 100 feet of the work area. When asked by council members whether work crews would be cutting or trimming trees located on private property, Thill stated confidently that that wouldn’t be happening.

Coborn’s/Cashwise Liquor was fined \$750 for two instances of underage sales which occurred there in the past year. An employee has been charged with the sales and pleaded guilty. Two representatives from the company appeared at the council meeting, vice president of legal operations Kristi Shultz, and asset protection manager K.J. Harnack.

The two stated a commitment to carry out 24 internal “sting” operations at the Waseca store in the next year, with underage individuals going in to attempt purchasing either alcohol or tobacco products. Based on that assurance, the council imposed the \$750 fine, but did not rescind the company’s license, a step it could have taken based on city ordinance.

Kevin Lee and Terry Nelson presented on behalf of North Memorial Ambulance, providing statistics and information on area operations, which cover not only Waseca County, but also both Faribault and New Prague. The agency’s base location is in Waseca at 1508 4th Street NE. Lee and Nelson reported there are two ambulances available 24 hours a day, with employees on two twelve-hour shifts from 5 a.m. through 5 p.m. and also 7 a.m. through 7 p.m. During peak hours there are seven trucks available throughout all locations. Typical 911 response time for Waseca is about 7 minutes, with inter-facility transport at 8 minutes. The two said the company had responded to nearly 1,700 calls from February 2025 to February 2026.

Council members approved a resolution authorizing staff to apply for 2027 federal community grant funds; the hope is that any money received will help jump-start construction of water and sanitary

Council continued on 14



Compostings

by Al Batt

Smelling salts for the ears

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
I got new eyeglasses at Costco. They look good. How do you like them?
I like them. Now I see everything in bulk.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE
I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. He was a familiar stranger while I was in college. I'd seen him around. He was from New Jersey and was a friend of a friend. A group of us was lounging around. We were in a lounge area of the college, so we had to lounge around to keep from being expelled. "Hey, any of youse guys want to drive me to my bar?"

It turned out that his name was Louie, and he wore the countenance of a guy who could be happy if he wasn't careful.

He didn't own a bar. The bar he wanted a ride to was a place where he went to shoot pool. He'd much rather shoot pool than attend classes—the hours were better and so was the pay.

He explained that the bar was in a rough neighborhood and he needed someone to drive him there in his car and then pick him up later because he didn't want to park his Cadillac at that location. He feared it would be vandalized or stolen.

My ears perked up when I heard "Cadillac."

I was one of the "youse guys" and volunteered.

I drove a land barge to and from a pool hall.

When my mother called and asked me how I was doing in college—that's what she asked, "How are you doing in college?"—I proudly answered, "I'm driving a Cadillac."

I'VE LEARNED
Blueberries lower blood pressure unless you look at the price of the blueberries.

I can communicate with fish because I have mental tilapia.

It takes a nurse longer to find a vein than it does a mosquito.

Why is "dark" spelled with a K, and not a C? Because you can't C in the dark.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

The unknown baker was named John Dough.

Dear Optimist, Pessimist and Realist. While you were all arguing about that glass of water, I drank it. Thank you. Signed, The Opportunist.

Face the facts, aliens never visit Earth. They've read the Yelp reviews. Only 1 star.

IN LOCAL NEWS
I paid my respects to Whitey Hagen at Community Lutheran Church. My mother told me that we should leave the world a better place

than it was when we got here. When his brother Dick died from cancer, Whitey, with the help of Hank Thompson, started the Geneva Cancer Auction in 1985, which has raised major funds for cancer research. Whitey left the world a better place.

The Steele County Historical Society's "Land, Air, Water: Celebrating Conservation and Preservation in Steele County" exhibit is open. The Owatonna Izaak Walton League is celebrating 100 years of service, the Steele County Soil and Water Conservation District is celebrating 80 years of operation, and there is a display of the Wahpekute Dakota history in the area.

NATURE NOTES
There was a lot of whining in the yard. No, it wasn't all from me. It was the oft-repeated chi-call of a red-bellied woodpecker, which sounds whiny. It's a call to stop, look and listen. Woodpeckers drummed. They banged out love notes in Morse code or woodpecker code on resonant limbs. Downy and hairy woodpeckers can be hard to tell apart. Downies are smaller and have short bills. Hairy woodpeckers have bills more like chisels. Nuthatches went around a tree trunk searching for food, as if they were stripes on a barber pole. A cardinal cranked up his spring song, a loud, whistled series of notes sounding like "cheer, cheer, cheer" or "birdie, birdie, birdie." That's smelling salts for the ears.

Chipmunks scurried about as if they had misplaced their lists of things to do today.

White-tailed deer can run 30 to 40 mph, never once qualifying for a NASCAR event. They can leap up to 8 feet high. Wild strawberry leaves are lovely to see. The leaves stay green over the winter.

For most of Minnesota and much of Iowa, December is typically the snowiest month of the year. January is second, February third and March is the fourth snowiest month, but you never know.

Acrobatic squirrels engaged in a merry chase of tag. Squirrel and rabbit chases take place as part of the courting process. Gray squirrels mate twice a year, typically from December to February and June through August. Fox squirrels mate twice a year, generally from December to February and June through July. The eastern cottontail rabbit breeding season runs from March to September.

Male goldfinches begin molting from their muted, drab plumage into vibrant mating colors in mid-March. Watch the state bird of Iowa, and you'll see some splotchy feathers on goldfinches during the in-between stages of a molt.

MEETING ADJOURNED
Every person you meet is in need of a kind word.



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

The flowers have broken ground

I happened to look down, and there they were.

The daffodils, tulips and hyacinths along the front wall of my house have broken ground and are declaring to the world that life goes on.

They're only about an inch tall, but they have shown year after year that, once they're above ground, there's no stopping them. The leaves have seen sunlight and are using chlorophyll to change solar rays into food, so as certainly as winter will become spring, they will continue to grow. A hard frost may freeze their tops, but the stored energy that allowed them to send up the leaves will allow them to keep coming. A blanket of snow is only a few hours of muted sunlight to them. Soon the new leaves will be reminding the grass what a rich and beautiful color green is, and all the other flora will be following their example.

I cannot call myself a gardener, but I am someone who appreciates the message of abundance and resilience wrapped inside a seed.

I recognize that science can list the processes which allow a tiny, inert piece of matter to transform into a seedling and then a plant. But in the deepest sense, science cannot explain it. I do not understand how anyone who has experienced the renewal and revival of spring could believe this long-sustained wonder came about by chance.

Before you begin to worry for me, I know it's only the second week in March. I know March is classified as the "snowiest" month, and I know the freezing temperatures are not all behind us.

But a small gathering of robins hopped across my yard recently, and I heard the song of a red-winged blackbird this morning.

As my emerging tulips, daffodils and hyacinths proclaim, the



The emergence of this hyacinth and many other plants along the south wall of her house has Deb Bently soliloquizing about spring.

This particular leaflet is less than an inch tall, but already has a shape similar to an opening flower bud.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

basement of winter is behind us and we are climbing the stairs into spring. The frost is coming out of the ground, the shallow edges of the lakes are thawing, the temperatures across time are trending upward.

No wonder cultures from earlier times crafted myths to explain the seasons and their differing features—all these changes really do

feel like an awakening, or a reunion, or like finding something valuable that had been misplaced.

For me, the message sent by my emerging spring bulbs is, "See? We came back."

And even though my answer is, "I always knew you would," I can't help also thinking, "I'm glad you reminded me."

Learning to live positively, living to learn

I realized last week as I was wailing about my illness that you might turn to columns like mine to learn something. After all, these people able to publish their columns in news spaces must know something if they're able to get their silly words published, right? (Let me tell you, I just know the publisher. And I'm the one that puts all the parts—the ads, articles, photos and headlines—together to create the finished newspaper each week.)

I assume it's rare that you learn anything from mine, as I sure don't.

I listen religiously to the KLAN Power Trip Morning Show. While those grown men are often silly, they once had a goal to learn something new every day, and I loved that. As I've explained before, I got into journalism because I am always curious and will forever want to learn new things. And I try to adopt that mentality to turn things positive in my life. Am I invited to a meeting that has nothing to really do with my work? Great, I'll learn about what other people in my company do and what they're



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

working on. Am I avoiding chores or things I don't want to do? I'll learn how long it takes to actually do them or the most efficient way to complete the task. Am I stuck in a conversation with a person I either don't know or don't really like? That's fine, I'll learn who they are, what they are passionate about, what makes them human. What can I learn from them?

You probably still haven't learned anything from this column, so let me see what I can share with you so you can walk away having read something new to you.

Caffeine makes a world of a difference for me. I can be in a sad state spiraling downward while staring wistfully at the rain outside, but once the caffeine hits, I can be as hopeful and as inspired as a

sunny day. I learned that this is because caffeine not only stimulates dopamine (the pleasure, motivation, and reward neurotransmitter in our brains) but it also simultaneously blocks the receptors that cause fatigue. I also learned that regular consumption of caffeine may, in some cases, cause a lower risk of depression.

But you might have known that. Hmm, let's see what else.

I learned, scrolling on Instagram, that it is bad to "power walk" your dog, but instead you should let them on a "sniffari." According to the post, a 20-minute sniff walk can be equivalent to an hour of aerobic exercise for your dog and that it is especially helpful for puppies, elderly dogs, injured dogs, and dogs on restricted exercise because it

gives them stimulation without physical strain.

Here are some fun ones I found on the internet:

There's a statue of Jason Voorhees, the "Friday the 13th" serial killer, chained to the bottom of Crystal Lake in Crosby, Minnesota. Abraham Lincoln was a licensed bartender.

Around 90 % of the world's population lives in the Northern Hemisphere.

Over 60% of the world's lakes are located in Canada.

The real name for a hashtag is an octothorpe.

So hopefully you were able to learn something this week as I have. Some people might disagree, but I find learning fun. Plus, it's good for the brain.

Maybe I will try to continue to find new things for us to learn in my column every week. Or perhaps you will just have to continue to read about my ramblings of no importance.

My Determination: "Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever." - Mahatma Gandhi.

WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

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GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

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Sheriff Advocates



ADVOCATES - Steele, Freeborn and Waseca county sheriffs Lon Thiele, Ryan Shea, and Jay Dulas, respectively, were among sheriffs from across Minnesota at the State Capitol on March 4, talking to lawmakers about modifications and additions to Minnesota laws.

Comedy Show at the Indian Island Winery March 14

There will be a comedy show at the Indian Island Winery at 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 14. Ian Pope will star as the opening act with Dante Powell headlining, complete with storytelling and punch-lines.

Robin’s Nest Watercolor Class at Waseca Arts Council March 17 or 18

A Robin’s nest watercolor class will be offered at two times: Tuesday, March 17, 5 to 7 p.m. OR Wednesday, March 18, from 1 to 3 p.m. Cost: \$30 Members / \$35 Non-members. Local artist Cherie Jacobson will guide participants through painting a robin’s nest with beautiful blue eggs. Supplies will be provided.

Caregiver Services Dementia-Related Behaviors class Wednesday, March 18

Waseca Area Caregiver Services having Responding to Dementia Related Behavior’s class presented by Alzheimer’s Association from 2:15-3:15 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18. For more info contact Kelly Boeddeker at wasecacs@outlook.com or 507-201-7033.

Waseca County Farm & City Luncheon at Farmamerica March 19

The county farm and city luncheon at Farmamerica will begin at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 19 to acknowledge the hardworking individuals who continue to move our ag industry forward. Tickets are \$20 per person and must be purchased in advance at the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism. The deadline to purchase tickets is March 9. Must have a ticket to attend.

Spring Multi-Sale at the Mill Event Center March 19 to 21

Area families and individuals can book a table at the Mill Event Center for a gigantic indoor multi-family sale. Buyers will find a wide variety of items at bargain prices. Takes place noon to 6 p.m. March 19; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. March 20; and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 21. For more information contact The Mill at 507-461-1434.

Burger/Fish Fry at Waseca Legion on Friday, March 20

The Sons of the American Legion is hosting a burger/fish fry for the Waseca High School bands from 5:30-7 p.m. on Friday, March 20. Cost is \$10 and includes fries. Waseca Jazz Band will provide music, desserts and drinks available for purchase.

Rosemaling Bread Board Class at Waseca Arts Council March 21

Participants will paint a rose-maling design on a bread board during a class at the Waseca Arts Council on Saturday, March 21, from 10 a.m. to noon. Cost: \$35 Members / \$40 Non-members. All supplies are provided. Limit to 12 students.

WIS teacher receives haircut

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

In honor of “I Love to Read Month,” Joey Wollenburg—Mr. Wollenburg as he’s known to his students—got a special haircut the morning of Tuesday, March 3. The “barber” was Waseca Intermediate School (WIS) student Logan Riehm, a fifth grader who is now officially an amateur hairstylist.

“I let my hair grow out for at least six months,” said Wollenburg. “My sister, Tracy Nowacki is here.” She was setting up hair cutting implements on a table. Wollenburg positioned himself in a chair ready, willing and able to go. He was draped with a professional style black apron to protect his clothes from rogue hairs. The apron was provided by hairstylist Nowacki, “I’ve been cutting hair for 27 years by now, I’m the owner of “Li'l Bit of Hair Magic” which is located across from the old Itron building.” She showed Logan, the junior barber, how to turn on the hair clippers and demonstrated what he was to do to cut hair.

The members of Logan’s fifth grade class were present for the event; they all took seats talking quietly and excitedly amongst themselves. Logan said about his selection, “I read some books, a lot of books. The rule is if you’re caught reading, you get issued a ticket and it goes into a bucket. They drew my name out. The book I was reading when I got caught was ‘Dead End in Norvelt.’” Asked what style of haircut he was planning for Mr. Wollenburg, he revealed, “I am giving him a reverse mohawk.” All WIS students who were “caught reading a book” were eligible for the drawing.

Alongside the first clipper was a second one. Said Nowacki, “I thought I should bring two just



IN LOGAN'S HANDS - Fifth-grader Logan Riehm got to decide the style of WIS teacher Joey Wollenburg's haircut on Tuesday, March 3, 2026. Logan was among many students 'cited' for reading a book during the school day; his name was drawn from a large collection of kids who were also 'caught' reading in school.

in case one breaks. I’ve got combs, brushes, hair-spray, everything he needs.” She bent down and asked Logan, “Are you cutting down to the skin?” Logan nodded yes.

Andy Riehm, Logan’s father, was also there; this retiree from both the Army and the Waseca Federal Prison said, “Logan has been busy, last week he got to ground guide a 767 into the terminal at the airport in San Juan using those orange wands.” Andy showed a video of Logan directing the plane on his phone, then continued, “After that he got to scuba dive with stingrays and sea turtles. Then he took the Flying Dutchman zipline on the island of St. Maarten; that’s a drop of over 2,800

feet. Logan’s got a lot going on.”

The actual haircutting only took five minutes. Mr. Wollenburg sat patiently as Logan shaved a clear line from the front of his head straight to the back. Wollenburg said, “It’s nice with these kids because they’re into it. I don’t mind getting this haircut and living with it because it rewards reading and this is able to sneak even more reading in. This is our seventh year doing this and I’m pretty sure we’ll do it next year.”

After brushing the hair off both of them, the two posed for a photo. Logan was proud of the haircut he chose and of course Wollenburg was a great sport; he was smiling too.

Proposed park plan assesses needs, hopes

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

As part of a process meant to establish a five-year maintenance and improvement plan for county parks, facilities director Brian Tomford offered information during the March 3 meeting of the county board about each of 9 spaces owned by the county, summarizing how the public tends to use them, and what repairs or improvements will likely be called for over the next few years.

Tomford identified the main focus of the proposed plan to be “developing and improving” rather than expanding the size or number of parks.

Putting together a maintenance plan, he told board members, will be useful for establishing budgets and applying for outside sources of funding—including money assigned through state programs as well as grants offered by various agencies. A regular pattern of maintenance, he said, should also reduce the need for “reactive” repairs and simultaneously increase public engagement with the various facilities.

His summary began with Court-house Park, located south of Waseca mostly in Wilton Township. Court-house is the county’s largest park, more than 170 acres in size. Located on its grounds are cabins, “primitive” campsites, a public restroom with showers, riding and walking trails, a disc golf course, a pavilion and playground. The pavilion is frequently used for weddings and family gatherings; music performances have oc-



A new boat ramp was installed at Blowers Park in 2024, allowing access to Moonan Marsh and Watkins Lake.

curred on the grounds and school or education functions take place there.

Possible improvements for Court-house Park, Tomford suggested, include widening the road leading into the park, developing a second entrance from the south, replacing or improving the playground equipment located there, improving signage and possibly adding a pickleball court. He also suggested the level of usage the park receives might merit constructing an enclosed interpretive center where educational information could be posted and shared and indoor events could take place.

Blowers Park is just over 80 acres in size; it is located northeast of Waseca on the line between Woodville and Blooming Grove townships. Tomford listed features there including a pavilion, playground, volleyball court, horseshoe pits, walking trails, a bathroom and access to waterfowl hunting and fishing. His summary mentioned that a permanent “cornhole” bean bag game is also due to be installed there.

Blowers Park, he suggested, would benefit from a new pavilion with light and electric outlets, the planting of some maple trees, improved playground equipment and a trail that meets Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.

Eustice Park is just over 50 acres in size and spans the Little Cobb River west of Waldorf in Freedom Township. The park currently offers a pavilion, playground, hiking trail, access to wildlife viewing and a



Brian Tomford

bathroom. Among the improvements Tomford suggested are a pavilion—which would require the addition of electricity—upgrades to the playground, a permanent “corn hole” bean bag game, an ADA pathway, and ongoing improvements to the trails.

Goose Lake Park is about 50 acres of forested land adjacent to Goose Lake west of Waseca in Woodville Township. The park has a boat launch which allows access to Goose Lake. Tomford commented that the most common uses for the park are walking the trails and viewing wildlife. Hunting is allowed in the park. Under an agreement with an organization named Great River Greening, the woods on the land are part of a five-year “forest improvement” program.

Tomford’s suggestions for Goose Lake Park were to improve the road and trails and upgrade the boat launch.

Okaman Park is a narrow 11-acre strip of land along the shore of Lake Elysian at the county’s northern edge

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WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

County addresses justice center, road construction

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

During their March 3 meeting, members of the Waseca County Board followed the recommendation of Adolfson and Peterson (A & P) Construction to approve releasing specifications for a \$28.6 million justice center to contractors so that bids can be submitted and a contractor selected in time for the first elements of construction to begin this year.

A & P representatives explained that, with the March 3 approval of the design schedule, the first bid package would be released within a few days. Contractors in this round would be asked to submit bids on shaping the site, laying site utilities, and placing the footing and foundations. A second round of bids would be released for work to begin in mid-August and continue through the winter. The second round would include installation of pre-cast concrete.

The construction plan calls for staff to be able to occupy the building beginning in February of 2028, with all work, including pavement, landscaping, and the demolition of the current law enforcement center complete by September of 2028.

In response to a question from commissioner Brad Milbrath, who stated he has heard from constituents asking whether efforts to reduce the cost of construction will lead to the need to expand the facility “in a few years,” county facilities management director Brian Tomford stated he has met with all department heads, and has been told they can work with the planned spaces.

As described in previous County Pioneer articles, the new justice center structure will be about 125 feet on a side, three stories in height, and will house the county’s courtroom and court offices as well as the county corrections, county attorney, sheriff’s and emergency management departments. The facility will include a “class one” jail—one authorized by the Department of Corrections to house prisoners for no more than 72 consecutive hours.

Though a general layout for the interior spaces of the new structure has received preliminary approval, A & P staff stated final approval of square footages and smaller details is likely to be an “ongoing process” as construction begins and continues.

Also in advance of the 2026

County continued on 4

Parks continued on 14

OBITUARIES

Darlene Witt

Darlene Luverne Witt, age 87 passed away at her home on Friday, March 6, 2026 in Waseca.

Born on November 30, 1938 at the family home in Waldorf, Darlene was the daughter of Victor and Irene (Ewert) Witt. She attended Waldorf High School. Throughout her life, Darlene worked various jobs, most notably as a machinist for Owatonna Tool Company.

She dedicated more than forty years to OTC before retiring. Darlene was also a faithful member of St. Ann Catholic Church in Janesville.

Darlene took pride in keeping things neat and tidy. She enjoyed spending time outdoors tending to her yard and always made sure her car was spotless. In her free time, she loved playing cards especially rummy riding her moped, playing bingo, and trying her luck with scratch-off tickets. She also cherished the time spent with her family and friends.

Darlene is survived by her sister, Annie Recknor of Wells; special friend, Jane Schwicker-



Darlene Witt

ath of Waseca; many nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Victor and Irene Witt; and brothers, Orville, Donald, and Elvin Witt.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at St. Ann Catholic Church in Janesville. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the church. Burial will follow at Janesville Cemetery. Dsofuneral.com

Timothy Danberry

Timothy John Danberry, age 62 of Janesville, passed away at his home surrounded by the love of his family on the morning of Monday March 9th, 2026.

Tim was born in Mankato on Nov 11, 1963, to Wallace and Cecilia (Devlaeminick) Danberry. He grew up in Janesville and attended Janesville Public School.

He married Amy Bollman on April 6th, 1984.

Tim began his career in farming, also in April of 1984, with Dill Company where he remained on staff through multiple mergers until he retired from Crystal Valley Co-op after 35 years in 2019. Throughout his career Tim wore many hats. He started as a manual laborer, custom applicator, and eventually he became a salesman. He always took great pride in his work, won many awards, and created lifelong friendships along the way.

Tim and Amy raised their family in

the same home Tim grew up in. Their home became the gathering place for many things over the years including Bollman family Christmas', Sunday morning coffee, and weekly poker games with his friends.

As a family they spent many summers vacationing in Alexandria, MN where Tim passed on his love of all things fishing to his children and eventually his grandchildren.

Later on, he also looked forward to traveling to their home in Jamaica as often as possible.

Tim had a genuine love for life and people. He was always happiest when he was surrounded by family. It never mattered what they were doing as long as they were together.

Tim is survived by his wife, Amy of Janesville; three children, Amanda (Ben) Danberry-Schnepf and their son Trevell of North Mankato, Zach (Edyth) Danberry and their son Deegan of North Mankato, and Mike (Jenny) Danberry and their children Hailey, Bryan, Chloe, and Blake of Waseca; Siblings Dianna (Frank)

Johnson of Waseca, Brenda (Steve) Melchior of Janesville, Jeff (Theresa) Danberry of Janesville, and Lisa Burley of Mankato; Siblings by marriage, Pete Bollman, Penny Winter, Donna Martinez, Tim (Kelly) Bollman, Tom (Nancy) Bollman, Terri Goyne, Mary Bollman, Jody Hall, and many well-loved nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Malerie Danberry; both of his parents; and three brothers, Roger, Wallis Jr, and Brad; parents-in-law, Carol & Peter Bollman; brothers-in-law, Chuck Bollman, Johnny Martinez, Jeff Goyne, and Darwin Winter, and sister-in-law, Janett Bollman. And Bob.

Visitation was held at the Janesville Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service on Wednesday, March 11, 2026. The day began with a prayer service held at 4:00 p.m. and visitation continued until 7:00 p.m.

A public graveside funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Thurs-



Timothy Danberry

day, March 12, 2026 at the Janesville Cemetery. Following the graveside service friends and family are invited to attend a reception held at the home of Mike and Jenny Danberry (5731 340th Avenue, Waseca, MN 56093).

Leslie Wells

Leslie "Les" Wells, age 82, of Waseca passed away on Sunday, March 1, 2026 at Mayo Clinic Health Systems - St. Mary's Campus in Rochester.

Les, sometimes known as "Whip," was born on October 10, 1943 in Clinton, Missouri, to Leland Wilsie and Edna Marie (Henry) Wells. During his school years, Les was active in the Boy Scouts. Following high school, he enlisted in the United States Army, proudly serving from 1964 to 1967 during the Vietnam War.

Les dedicated many years of service to his community. He was a charter member of the Waseca Police Reserves, serving from November 20, 1973 until January 31, 2004 — more than 31 years of commitment. He was also a longtime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars for nearly 61 years and faithfully served as chaplain at the Waseca VFW for over 20 years.

Les volunteered in many roles throughout Waseca. He provided security at the Waseca County Fair for more than 20 years and worked evening front gate security at Kiesler's Campground. For many years, he was also a familiar and friendly face as a school crossing guard, where he was beloved by students and families alike.

His faith was an important part of his life. Les was an active member of his church, where he served as a communion steward, usher, liturgist, and



Leslie Wells

member of the leadership team. He was always willing to lend his voice as a scripture reader during special services such as Good Friday and Christmas Eve.

He is survived by his niece, Shannon (Troy) McNear; his nephew, Skyler Mallicoat; four grand-nephews; nine grand-nieces; nine great-grand-nephews; and five great-grand-nieces.

Les was preceded in death by his parents; his sisters, Rose Mary "Rorie" Murphy and Beulah Rodney; his grand-nephew, Duncan McNear; and his niece-in-law, Vanessa Mallicoat.

Memorial service for Les will be at 2:00 PM on Friday, March 13, 2026 at Faith United Methodist Church in Waseca. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the church. Burial will follow at Woodville Cemetery with military honors. Dsofuneral.com



BATTER UP - The New Richland Area Sportsmen's Club fish fry at the New Richland City Hall featured over 220 people on the evening of Feb. 27. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Sportsmen's Club fish fry draws more than 200

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

More than 220 people attended a New Richland Area Sportsmen's Club fish fry at the New Richland City Hall the evening of Friday, Feb. 27.

Volunteers numbering 20 or more worked at every phase of the event, from frying and serving the fish to delivering additional pieces to diners at their tables. Those enjoying the

meal were asked to contribute a free-will donation.

According to Sportsmen's Club leadership, the event's focus was calling attention to the need to replace trees dying in unfortunate numbers at the city park located on the shore of St. Olaf Lake. So far, 23 trees have died and been removed. To date, three have been replaced using funds supplied by the Sportsmen's Club.

Money taken in at the fish fry will

be used toward replacing additional trees. Along with that, information was shared with members of the public, inviting them to "sponsor" individual trees and the cost of planting them.

The cost per tree is dependent on what type of tree is chosen based on variables that include donor choice as well as factors contributing to tree survival, including soil type, amount of sun, moisture levels and perhaps

others.

Parties who sponsor a tree will have their names placed on a plaque, and will be able to include a brief statement, perhaps memorializing a loved one or sending a message about the park or its trees.

Anyone interested in helping with the tree replacement efforts can learn more by calling the Sportsmen's Club at 507-475-1444.

Exchange Club recognizes Youth of the Year finalists

The National Exchange Club program honoring Youth of the Year continues to highlight the very best of Waseca's young leaders, as the Waseca Exchange Club proudly announces four of its 2026 Youth of the Year Finalists.

Youth Service Committee Chair Lyndsea Bulfer said, "More than 40 local students submitted applications for this year's program. Applicants completed a detailed application and wrote an essay describing their most significant accomplishment to date. After careful review, six outstanding students were selected as finalists. It was an incredibly difficult selection process."

The Youth of the Year program honors exceptional high school students who have demonstrated excellence in academics and leadership. These students serve as role models to their peers through outstanding scholastic achievement, respect for self and others, and ambitious career goals.

Each club-level winner will receive a \$500 scholarship from the Waseca Exchange Club. The overall winner will be announced at the May Scholarship Awards Recognition Night in May. That student will then advance to the District-level competition, with the potential pathway to the National competition, where three students are each awarded a \$15,000 scholarship. In total, the National Exchange Club



YOUNG LEADERS - More than 40 local students submitted applications for this year's Youth of the Year program celebrating young leadership. Six were selected as finalists.

has awarded more than one million dollars in scholarships through the Youth of the Year program.

Two of this year's finalists include:

Ellery Waldron

Ellery's most significant accomplishment was being named captain of two sports programs in which she has invested years of hard work and dedication. Her leadership both on and off the field reflects her commitment to teamwork, perseverance, and excellence.

Catherine Olson

Catherine identified being selected for Homecoming Court as her most significant accomplishment. The experience reinforced for her that her peers view

her as a role model and leader, strengthening her commitment to lead with integrity and purpose.

"Youth of the Year represents everything Exchange stands for, service, leadership, and the belief in the limitless potential of young people," said Mikhail Rostislavovich, President of the Waseca Exchange Club. "These students are not only achieving academically, but they are setting an example for others through character and ambition. We are extremely proud to recognize them."

The Waseca Exchange Club remains committed to investing in the next generation of leaders and celebrating the students who exemplify excellence in both character and achievement.

■ County

from Page 3

construction season, board members approved the recommendations of county engineer Jim Kollar in letting bids for a number of road improvement projects.

County Road 60 (390th Avenue) between the west county line and the U.S. Hwy 14 interchange will be rehabilitated to a 10-ton standard. The road will be brought up to a 10 ton standard at a cost of \$220,000. Crane Creek Construction was the successful bidder.

A one-mile segment of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 6 between 240th and 250th Avenues west of New Richland and 2.6 miles of CSAH 15 (portions of which are named 288th Avenue, 120th Street and 290th Avenue) through Otisco between CSAH 23 (W. Wilton River Road) and Minnesota Highway 13 will also be rehabilitated to the 10-ton level. The two projects will be completed by Ulland Brothers, Inc. at a cost of \$1.725 million.

Sir Lines-a-Lot was the successful bidder to restripe 82 miles of county roads this summer at a cost of \$100,000.

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Council looks at internet issues, water supply

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

During the New Richland city council meeting the evening of Feb. 9, Nick Sorenson, energy manager for Fidium Fiber Internet (formerly Consolidated) requested permission to complete the installation process in New Richland to provide fiber internet. Said Sorenson, "All underground, nothing aerial. We'll be replacing the plastic but everything else should be the same. Should take about a year."

RadioLink internet has asked to negotiate a continuing arrangement to keep company equipment on the city water tower. The previous contract expired and the equipment has been there rent free for almost five years. A water tower inspection last summer found a violation with improper wiring and improper grounding regarding the RadioLink equipment. The council took the contract into consideration.

The city has arranged for J&R Water Utility Service to "exercise" valves and place GPS marking on main shut-offs. The price for the service, which is expected to require about 3 days, will be \$150 an hour or \$1200 a day.

The city will be spending nearly \$1,000 to purchase paint for restriping on some city streets—the cost for 25 gallons of white paint is \$650; 15 gallons of yellow paint will be \$345.

The Steeple event center applied for a license to serve alcohol during events on its property. The owner of 213 N Broadway requested that the lot, as well as the city-owned property behind it, be rezoned. The owner's goal is to be able to build a fence at the property line to maximize storage space available for an HVAC business.

Ambulance staff reported having completed a Feb. 21 training session for the agency's new monitor. The fire department reported its members had completed a required safety training; the department responded to one medical call for the month.

Bob Johannsen, Care Center Administrator, informed council members new carpet will soon be installed in the facility's common area, entryway and chapel. The staff break room will also be remodeled. Johannsen stated, "Our new team is really working out well, I'm feeling good about who we're hiring."

Regarding the city water supply, Shell Johnson reported chloride numbers are temporarily elevated because of salt entering the water system from roadways. She mentioned repairs to the electrical and heating systems at the water treatment plant are proceeding well.

NEW RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL

Waseca County 4-H opens registration for free tree project

Waseca County 4-H is inviting local youth to grow their future - literally - by signing up for the 2026 Free Tree Project. In partnership with Neighborhood Forest, 4-H is providing free tree saplings to children ages 5–18 to plant in honor of Earth Week.

The deadline to reserve a free tree is Friday, March 13. Parents and guardians can register their children online at z.umn.edu/Free-TreeWaseca26.

"Our goal is to instill a sense of magic and wonder for the planet in our youngest community members," says Amy Nelson, 4-H Extension Educator. "By giving a child their own tree to plant and care for, we are giving them a hands-on lesson in stewardship that lasts a lifetime."

To ensure the project's success, 4-H asks families to "check their space" for sunlight and "check their tools" to ensure they can plant and water the sapling upon arrival. Specific tree species will be announced by Neighborhood Forest closer to the event.

Earth Day Celebration: April 22
The trees will be distributed during a community-wide Earth Day Celebration on Wednesday, April 22, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Waseca County East Annex (Door #1).

The celebration is open to the entire public, regardless of whether they reserved a tree. The event will feature:

- Youth Activities: Fun games, crafts, and educational stations.
- Community Partners: Local organizations will be on hand to provide activities and environmental information.
- Volunteer Opportunities: Youth (6th grade+) and adults are needed to help staff the event.

Call for Community Organizations
Waseca County 4-H is currently seeking local organizations to host a table at the celebration. There is no cost to participate, and it is a fantastic opportunity to reach an anticipated crowd of 150–200 residents. Interested groups can sign up at z.umn.edu/EarthDay26Participation.

For more information on the Free Tree Project or to volunteer, please contact Amy Nelson at dobbe007@umn.edu or call the Waseca County Extension Office at 507-835-0600.

The 4-H program is funded through a partnership of federal, state, county and private resources



EARTH DAY CELEBRATION - Rhett W poses with his free tree he received in 2025 through Waseca County 4-H's project where they partner with Neighborhood Forest to give youth free trees to plant in honor of Earth Day. Sign up for the 2026 program is now taking place.

and is part of the University of Minnesota Extension.

About Neighborhood Forest: Neighborhood Forest began with a simple mission: to give very child the joy of planting and watching their very own tree grow. What started with 4 schools in Minneapolis, in 2010, has grown to over 3,500 schools, libraries, and youth groups spanning all 50 states and 7 Canadian provinces. We have also successfully conducted pilots in Mexico, Ghana, Haiti, and Uganda. Today, Neighborhood Forest continues to inspire children to plant trees, care for nature, and help create greener, healthier neighborhoods. Learn more at <https://www.neighborhoodforest.org/>

Staff reports share news about school programs

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writer

The first staff spotlight during the Waseca School Board's March 5 work session was LuAnn Ross, the autism specialist for the district. Ross, who has been with Waseca schools for 20 years, told the board she deals with all of the highest level of needs among the special education students, including the physically and developmentally impaired whether they qualify with autism or not. Ross currently has a caseload of nine students, most of whom have one-on-one paras because of their need level; her classroom is located in the high school even though her students might vary in age from 11 to 22.

The second staff member to speak about his program was high school band instructor Devon Lawrence, who shared information about the marching band trip to Disney World this past January. The board heard of many positive educational experiences, but the highlight of the trip was the performance of the marching band in the Magic Kingdom parade.

Superintendent Eric Hudspeth gave an update on the revised budget; the district intentionally will spend down some restricted funds but the overall general fund will have little or no change. Hudspeth also mentioned his work with the Minnesota School Board Association (MSBA) for the board to complete a self-evaluation in the next few months.

WASECA SCHOOL BOARD

ZED by Duane M. Abel



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■ Pallets from Page 1

onto a truck, followed by mirror image steps at the other end—pallets often don't last very long, especially since they are carrying a lot of weight and being manipulated by forklifts.

Along with that, food producers and distributors must follow strict quality control and cleanliness standards. If some type of loose powder or spilled liquid contaminates the wood of a pallet, food handlers don't want to risk any type of crossover between products, and so remove the pallet from use.

Richard feels his point is well illustrated by the motto of Woodpack Global, a national organization of companies like his: "Pallets move the world."

Thanks to upgrades and expansions over the past decade or so, the Berry Pallets building might send the impression the business is fairly new, but in fact it's been part of the county's economy since Richard started a hobby business in his garage in 1989.

He claims that, having grown up on a dairy farm, working was the only way he could think of to spend his time. So along with a full time job at Cargill in Mankato, he began a hobby business of cutting up and selling firewood. It quickly became a pattern that, when he would ask for an old pallet or two as scrap, he would be told to "take them all," since the companies found them too battered or dirty to continue using.

Not one to waste things, he realized he could disassemble the damaged pallets and use the parts to make usable ones. He got together a truckload of presentable product and found a buyer in the Twin Cities. Then he used the money from his first few sales to purchase an air compressor and nail gun. By continuing to invest his profits back into his production methods, he says it took only six months until he needed more space, and had a building constructed on his parents' farm near Silver Lake. As his system of reinvestment continued, he soon had a

thriving business and a set of employees, all while still working full time at Cargill.

He mentions this was manageable because his wife Kathy and his parents helped supervise the finances and the production floor when he was away. He also invested a lot of his own time working evenings and weekends.

Within a few years, Berry Pallets had built five structures on the family farm and had landscaped a large outdoor parking area for semi-trailers. Along the way, the business began processing new lumber for use in making pallets.

By 2011, Richard says he realized a rural location had too many setbacks to allow further growth for the business. For one thing, not many employees were willing to commute 11 miles "to the middle of nowhere" for work. For another, seasonal weight restrictions on some of the rural roads created enormous complications when raw materials needed to be acquired or product needed to be shipped. He also recognized his operation would be more efficient if, rather than spreading production across five buildings, he would consolidate it under one roof.

He decided to locate near Waseca, and found the space where the company is now located. When the new site first opened, he says he had 16 employees, some of whom had been with him for decades. But even while he continued to expand his workforce, he was looking for ways to speed up production to meet customer needs.

Enter some of the amazing machines now in use at the plant. One of them is specially designed to pick up and disassemble a used

pallet in a few seconds, leaving the usable parts available to make "combination" units—a mixture of old and new boards which some of his customers are glad to buy because of their lower cost.

The new location allowed him to expand his product line; the company now has two semi-trailer sized kilns. In order for pallets to be used across international boundaries, the cores of their wood must be heated to a minimum of 140 degrees for at least 30 minutes—ensuring the death of any insects or other living contaminants. Once treated, the pallets can be stamped with a symbol indicating they are approved for international use.

Richard also takes pride in the low ecological impact of his business. He points out wood is one of nature's most renewable resources and that, when disposed of, it does no harm to the environment. In fact, he mentions, his plant produces more than a semi-load of sawdust every day. An area farm has a system of magnets to remove any residual pieces of metal, then uses the sawdust as animal bedding.

"To use an old dairy saying," jokes Richard, "we milk the cow very dry around here. There's almost nothing we don't repair or recycle in some way."

So as quiet as things may seem at the south end of Fourth Street, Berry Pallets of Waseca is a thriving, growing business meeting regional and even international needs. "Our customers have very exacting standards," observes Richard. "We've developed the systems and products that meet those needs."

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The Pastor's Column

Rejoice Sunday

By PASTOR MICHAEL GRANNIS

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Rejoicing in the midst of mourning... it seems like an oxymoron. Yet this is the theme of Laetare Sunday (the Fourth Sunday of Lent). Laetare means "Rejoice." It is the first word in the Latin translation of the historic Introit for that Sunday of the Church year. Some congregations change the colors for this service from violet to rose (pink) in order to highlight the "rejoicing" theme. Together with the third Sunday in Advent, these two Sundays lift up a thankful cry of rejoicing in the midst of what are otherwise considered more somber seasons of the Church year.

But what reason do we have to rejoice? Well, we are children of our heavenly Father, and children of promise, born of the Jerusalem above (Galatians 4). We have been made beloved children in the waters of Holy Baptism according to His word of promise. Our sins are forgiven. The sting of death has been "unstung." Satan's accusations against our sins don't hold water (that is, baptismal water). Why? Because we are united with Christ in Holy Baptism.

By Baptism into Christ we are children according to the promise. We are blessed with the promised Holy Spirit. We are promised the forgiveness of our sins. We have the sure promise of resurrection from death. We look forward to the promised "life of the world to come." Faith in Christ receives the benefits of all of these baptismal promises. That means that regardless of whatever dire, demoralizing, or deathly situations God's

people face, nevertheless, we may rejoice all the while. Why? Because we have been redeemed from the sorrows of our sins, the sorrows of this world, and the sorrows of hell.

As children of God, the Church of God is our spiritual mother; it is the Bride of Christ, and the Jerusalem from above. As beloved children of our heavenly Father, we are beckoned to "nurse and be satisfied from her consoling breast." The Gospel of forgiveness, resurrection, and salvation is the milk we are invited to drink. And not just a little mind you, but we are to "drink deeply with delight from her glorious abundance." It not only brings us consolation in the midst of our sorrow, but it gives us cause for rejoicing even in the midst of mourning.

We drink of this milk, when we gather together in Jesus' name to hear, remember, and rejoice in the salvation which He has gained for us. We drink of this milk when we confess the true faith we have in the God of Creation, Redemption, and Sanctification. We drink of this milk when we study and read the Holy Bible at home or with fellow believers. We drink of this milk when we sing Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs that proclaim the saving work of Jesus for us.

I pray that this season of Lent is a "satisfying" and "consoling" season for you; a season of reflection and repentance, mourning over sin and rejoicing in the Gospel. Rejoice and believe the Good News. Drink deeply with delight from the Church's glorious abundance.

Living forever, now.

IN BRIEF

Puzzle Competition at the Indian Island Winery March 21

There will be a puzzle competition at the Indian Island Winery from 1-5:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 21. Gather teams of up to four and don't forget to buy tickets online.

Natalie Reynolds Wolff and High School Student Art at Waseca Art Center March 21

Work by artist Natalie Reynolds Wolff and by area high school age students will be presented at the Waseca Art Center beginning Saturday, Mar. 21 through May 1. There will also be an opening reception from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 28.

Annual Farmamerica Meeting on March 27

Farmamerica will hold their annual members meeting at 1 p.m. on Friday, March 27. The public is welcome to attend to reflect on the past year and share updates on what Farmamerica has been up to. Voting members are encouraged to attend and participate in the election of new board members. Please RSVP by calling 507-835-2052 or email hilary@farmame-

rica.org.

Early Childhood Fair at Waseca Intermediate School March 27

The 44th annual Early Childhood Fair will take place in the WIS gymnasium from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, March 27. For parents with children 0-5, this event is free to attend and will have baby animals, activities, crafts and lots of free items.

Waseca Rotary Club "Adult Prom" March 27

Rotary Adult Prom, "Dancing Through the Decades" at Starfire Event Center from 6:30 to 11 p.m. on Friday, March 27. Hors d'oeuvres, drink ticket, professional photos and dancing with music by The Silver Alchemist. Tickets are \$60 for one, \$100 for two.

Winter Farmers Market at Farmamerica on Saturday, March 28

A winter farmers market will be at Farmamerica from 8 a.m. till noon Saturday, March 28. Find locally grown, baked and made while supporting our local producers. Farmamerica is located at 7367 360th Ave., Waseca.



YOUNG LEADERS - A committee of young Waseca area professionals has formed to find ways together to give back to the community. The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce will oversee and guide the committee in its work.

Young Professionals of Waseca Committee

"The next generation of Waseca isn't coming, it's already here.

As the Young Professionals of Waseca committee, we're excited to bring together energetic, driven young adults to build stronger connections, spark new ideas, and invest in our professional growth opportunities, and collaborative projects that make Waseca a vibrant place to live, work, and thrive. Together we are creating momentum for a brighter, more connected Waseca, join us and let's shape what's next!"- YPOW President Jay Bulfer.

Mikhail Rostislavovich- President of the Waseca Chamber of Com-

merce, and Robin Dulas- Executive director will be overseeing the committee and guiding them as they launch this new committee. Mikhail said he could not be prouder of the commitment this group has made to helping the young businesspeople of Waseca, and Robin and I are so excited to watch the committee grow.

This committee is created by Jay Bulfer, of Growing Roots Chiropractic sitting as the President, Riley Lynch of Bomgaars, Ellie James an attorney at Patton, Hoversten and Berg, Jen Losen of Matthew Pet-singer Agency, American Family In-surance, Andrew Gonzales of

Edward Jones, Jamie Beckstrand an Ag and Commercial Business Banker at United Prairie Bank, Eli Lutgens of the Waseca Pioneer, and Brett Wickersheim a Dentist at Waseca Dental Care.

Every committee member has voiced their reasons for joining, and the resounding answer is they want to give back to the community. Most of them were born and raised here, and are now here to help the future generations grow and thrive in this community. Andrew Gonzales stated he "joined the committee to have the opportunity to share ideas, learn from others, and contribute to mean-

ingful initiatives that strengthen our local business environment."

Ellie James stated she wants an active role in supporting community members expand their professional networks and develop their business. Brett Wickersheim commented that he is excited to join other young professionals who also want to keep Waseca as a place where families and businesses can flourish. If you are curious about our committee feel free to reach out to us either through the Chamber, or with us directly at YPofwaseca@gmail.com

National Outstanding Young Farmers



HONORED - Todd and Meghan Selvik of Waseca were named one of the top four winners of the National Outstanding Young Farmer Conference held in Hershey, Pennsylvania in the beginning of February. Other Waseca farmers that were there to congratulate them were, from left, Scott and Peggy Hildebrandt, Todd and Meghan Selvik, Vicky and Scott Singlestad, Kelly Boeddeker and Mike Singlestad.

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CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH 2200 4th St NE, Waseca 507-835-2235 Service times 9:30 a.m. * * * *	507-833-0017 Sunday worship 10 a.m. * * * *	New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * * *	12-18 * * * *
4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH 605 4th St NE, Waseca 507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker) Worship Sundays 10 a.m. * * * *	CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS 1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca 507-835-4640 Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m. * * * *	VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Brian Schanil Pastor Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School Tuesdays: The Shepherd's Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark * * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 412 N. Main Street, Janesville Pastor Jason Wolter Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:30 a.m. Worship * * * *
FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-3167 Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m. * * * *	GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 1221 8th St SE, Waseca 507-835-2213 Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. * * * *	ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Father Glenn Ferichs Friday - 10 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays p.m. Mass Sunday - Mass at 8 a.m. * * * *	JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 401 N. West St., Janesville Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship * * * *
CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH 309 6th St NE, Waseca 507-835-9176 Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship 10:15 a.m. Wednesday Eve Worship 6:30 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. * * * *	FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod Waldorf, Minnesota Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Larry Sipe Sundays: Worship 8 a.m.; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and adult bible class * * * *	BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 43089 180th St., Morristown Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Summer worship hours, (10:45 a.m. Worship, winter) * * * *
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 Sundays 9:00 a.m. * * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship * * * *	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Worship * * * *	ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH 307 W. 2nd St, Janesville 10 a.m. - Mass * * * *
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. * * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Otisco, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship * * * *	ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship * * * *	FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 Owen St., Janesville Pastor Sarah Krolak * * * *
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. * * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Mary Iverson Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting * * * *	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship * * * *	ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship * * * *
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 a.m. * * * *	SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH 111 4th St NW, Waseca Father Glenn Ferichs 507-835-1222 Worship Sundays 10:00 a.m., Tues. and Wed. at 8:30 a.m. and Thurs. at 7 a.m.; Saturdays at 5 p.m. * * * *	THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS Brad Donner, Branch President Waseca, Minnesota www.Lds.org Sunday - 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School Wednesday - 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Smiths Mill, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship * * * *
REAL LIFE CHURCH 620 W Elm Ave, Waseca	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 * * * *	NORTH WASECA LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA 404 30 120th St, Waseca Pastor Sarah Krolak 507-234-6463 Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship, Second sunday "Young at heart" Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. confirmation * * * *	NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.

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Janesville

25 years ago

- LeAnn Slama, Minneapolis, received her bachelor’s degree in psychology from Metropolitan State University during Metro State’s 67th commencement ceremony on Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2000 in the Grand Ballroom of RiverCenter’s Touchstone Energy Place in St. Paul. Slama is the daughter of Mark and Rita Slama of Janesville. Metropolitan State University is the only MnSCU state university in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. It offers quality programs leading to baccalaureate and master’s degrees.

- Doug Larson will present a Christian music concert for students at Trinity Lutheran School on Tuesday, March 6, at 1 p.m. Using easy-listening Gospel music, traditional hymns, action praise songs and stories, Larson shares the love of Jesus Christ with elementary students. His unique presentation style, humor and smooth baritone voice make this an enjoyable concert. He has release six recording projects and two songbooks. Larson’s music ministry takes him throughout the nation motivating individuals and families to build better relationships with each other and with God. The ministry is based in Truman.

- The Mankato Campus Foundation provided over \$108,000 in scholarships to 220 South Central Technical College students during its annual awards ceremony held Monday, Feb. 5, on the North Mankato Campus. Local Janesville students receiving scholarships were: Angelie Anderson from Hickory Tech Accounting and Glen A. Taylor Foundation; Larry Flaten from Reliant Energy Minnegasco; Marlene Goettle from the Glen A. Taylor Foundations; Wesley Peterson from Jones Page Jacobson; Cory Schnepf from SCTC Foundation; Gary Seys from Reliant Energy Minnegasco and SkillsUSA-VICA; AND Shawna Wheelock from Nicollet County.

50 years ago



- The JHS wrestlers who helped win the third place trophy in the district tourney at St. James are shown with Coaches Mike Niemczyk and Gary Von Hotum. From left the wrestlers are Pat Eustice, Tim Johnson, Mark Benedict, Mark Shultz, Jim Schultz, Jim Williams, Mike Jewison, Hank Eustice, Dave Trahms, Pat Sheeran, Joe Jewison, Dan Halverson, Greg Jewison and Don Wiebold.

- The February meeting of the Tri-Square 4-H Club was held at the Bob Pratt home. We held our annual box social. The meeting was brought to order by President Shelly Prail. The secretary and treasurer’s reports were read and approved. The roll call was “What is Your Favorite Bi-Centennial Color?” The members were told to bring back any Bi-Centennial Stickers money for selling them by the next meeting. Share the Fun was discussed. It will be held April 10. The 4-H Pancake Supper was discussed. It will be held April 10. The 4-H Pancake Supper was discussed. It will be held February 21 at the Hartley School in Waseca. The meeting was then adjourned. The box social then began. The auctioneer, Bob Prail, auctioned the pretty boxes off to the highest bidders. Lunch was enjoyed by all. Our next meeting will be at the Gene Gerdts home. Reporter Jeff Huelsnitz.

- Members of the Birthday Club gathered at the home of P.A. Janson on February 22, for a potluck dinner. During the afternoon, Pfeffer was played at two tables with Mrs. Sib Kahnke awarded the high score prize. Mrs. Clara Truman, consolation and Mrs. Tillie Mullerleile the draw prize. Supper was served, after which all departed wishing Mr. Janson many more happy birthdays.

- I would like to thank everyone for the cards and gifts they sent and for their visits while I was a patient at St. Joseph’s Hospital. Your thoughtfulness was really appreciated. Thank You. Tina Abraham

75 years ago

- “The Unfinished Task,” a sound motion picture will be shown at the Trinity Lutheran church, Janesville at 7 and 8:30 Sunday evening, Feb. 26. The film is a dramatic story of the clashing of two worlds, the world of a successful businessman, who despite his active church membership, worships at the shrine of material success and the world of his son, who turns his back on a complacent and comfortable Christianity and over his father’s violent protest, decides to go “all out for Christ.”

- The Elsiean-Janesville unit of the Farmers Union will hold its regular meeting Monday evening, February 27 at the community building in Elysian, 8:15 p.m. The secretary advises colored slides of the 1956 Rose Bowl parade will be shown. Also, a bus trip to the Twin Cities will be planned and a Farmers Union insurance representative will be present.

- George Stunk Jr. had a crack at the Bowlerama jackpot on WCCO-TV last Sunday afternoon. Like Curt Walther who had the opportunity a couple weeks ago. Junior found that lone pin hard to pick off-especially with the announcer introducing him with a woman’s name.

100 years ago

- Arthur Born, of Janesville, was arrested Monday in that town on a charge of forgery on complaint of Clyde James. This is the second time Born has been charged with forgery. When arraigned in Justice court at Janesville Tuesday, he waived examination and was bound over to appear before the district court at the March term. His bond was fixed at \$2,000 and yesterday he was endeavoring to get the amount.

- Patsy Cahill completed his term at Hotel Wadd last Saturday, paid a \$400 fine and returned to Janesville. Half the money collected in liquor fines is turned over to the county revenue fund and the other half goes into the law enforcement fund.

- The latest proof of ingratitude on part of the French people is an appeal by a French writer for an alliance of European nations to oppose the Untied States. Uncle Sam is getting the usual treatment accorded the man who mingles in a family quarrel. The sacrifices we made to save France, England and the rest of the group from destruction appear to be entirely forgotten by these European ingrates.

Waseca

25 years ago



- Hilary Huebl and Randy Mulcahey are happy to announce their engagement. Parents of the couple are Chuck and Linda Huebl, of Waseca and Richard and Carol Mulcahey, of Janesville. Hilary is a 1992 graduate of Waseca High School, and a 1993 graduate of Cosmetology Training Center, of Mankato. She is employed at Styl-ists of 2nd Avenue in Waseca. Randy is a 1988 graduate of Janesville High School in Janesville. He is employed at Corporate Graphics in North Mankato. A July 14, 2001, wedding is being planned.

- Jody and Greg Hicks of Waseca are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Makayla Jo Hicks, born on February 26, 2001, at Immanuel St. Joseph’s Hospital in Mankato. Mikayla Jo weighed seven pounds, eleven ounces. Mikayla is welcomed home by her brother, Alex, age three.

- The Waseca Junior High School Science Olympiad team placed second at its regional competition held in Red Wing. The competition was held Feb. 10. A total of seven teams competed and Red Wing finished first. Waseca team members are Brady Donner, Mike Harinen, Samantha Ladd, Sky Macklay, Maria Werner, Gail Gorski, Jim Oblak, Jenny Watts, Scott Wittrock, Tierney Bagan, Janelle Byer, Katie Groh, David Harinen, Kelly Linnihan, Peter Jacobson, Chris Miller and Nikki Nelson. Waseca had medalists in five of the 10 events. Students had to place in the top three of an event to earn a medal. Mike Harinen, Linnihan Nelson Watts, Groh, Wittrock, Byer, Gorski and Warner earned medals.

50 years ago

- Navy Fireman Recruit Robert J. Edwards, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald F. Edwards of Morristown, was graduated from recruit training at the Naval Training Center, San Diego. Classes include instruction in seamanship, military regulations, firefighting, close order drill, first aid and Navy history.

- The Minnesota Wood carvers association will hold its 10th Annual Show in the Signal Hills Shopping Center on South Robert Street at Butler Avenue in West St. Paul. Wasecan Les Loomer is a member of the association. The two-day show will be held on Saturday, March 20 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 21 from noon to 5:00 p.m. The show, staged by the 250 members of the Association, will include marquetry, carving-in-the-round, basrelief, turning, sculpturing and just plain whittling. The show is open free to the public and no selling of work, tools, or materials is permitted.

- The memorial flag of Hugo T. Ewert will fly over the Waseca County Courthouse from March 1 through March 15. Ewert was born Dec. 21, 1894 and died Nov. 27, 1975.

75 years ago

- Savings Bond purchases in Waseca county were \$169,612 of \$11,462 above January of a year ago. Waseca county has a quota of \$1,391,000 this year attaining 12.1 per cent of it in the first month. Percentage-wise only one county, Scott, exceeded Waseca in what is known as the ninth district. Scott county reached 12.5 per cent of its quota in January but the quota is \$559,000 less than half that of Waseca county.

- Mrs. Christ Haldorson, 75, mother of Mrs. Everett C. King of Waseca died this morning at 9:30 at the Gillette hospital in Mondovi, Wis. She had been in poor health but her death was hastened by a fall down a basement stairs two weeks ago. She broke two shoulder bones in the fall. Funeral services will be held at Mondovi Saturday of Sunday.

- In answer to many inquiries about whether or not persons can use fish houses for angling for pan fish until Feb. 28, the answer is “Yes,” according to County Auditor Art Brisbane. He called the state department of game and fish to ask the question he had been asked many times recently. The department told him a person may angle from a fish house or shelter which has the proper window set up between Feb. 15 and 28. But houses and shelters must be off the lake before Feb. 29 or they will be confiscated or destroyed by game wardens, Brisbane said.

100 years ago

- Holland Norton, former Waseca boy, is making a name for himself in debating circles at Carleton College, and the announcement that the negative college team, of which Holland is a member, will debate against the North Dakota Agricultural College team at Northfield on next Wednesday, March 3, was received here with a great amount of interest.

- Ross Studer will dispose of his personal property at public auction on the old Thomas McGuire farm, seven miles northeast of Waseca, Monday, March 1st. He has purchased the Jacqua store building at Elysian for which he paid \$1,150 and will open a confectionery there next month. He will also handle bakery goods.

- John E. Coughlin, former well known Waseca boy who has been practising law in Faribault since graduating from Creighton University in 1923, is now in partnership with Lucius A. Smith, one of the leading attorneys of Faribault. The firm name is Smith & Coughlin. Mr. Smith has been the county attorney of Rice county for the past seven years and Mr. Coughlin is now serving as assistant county attorney.

New Richland

25 years ago

- The New Richland-Hartland Elementary students gathered pennies for patients during the month of February. They collected 63,486 pennies (\$634.86) for the drive which will help fund research to find a cure for Leukemia and Lymphoma. The students in Cathy Stringfield’s second grade classroom collected \$95 worth of pennies, which proved to be the most collected by any class.

- Matt and Roxanne Brey of Watertown, South Dakota, are the parents of a daughter born Wednesday, February 21, 2001. Amber Marie, as she has been named, weighed 7 lbs. 2 oz. She has a brother, Jeremy, 2 years old.

50 years ago



- Mrs. Orville Boettcher of New Richland is pictured here with four of the hundreds of quilts she has made since she was 15 years old. She demonstrated the colonial art of quilting to the New Richland-Hartland FHA members recently.

- Thirty women gathered at the New Richland Care Center, Monday afternoon to discuss forming a Richland Care Center Auxiliary. Everyone was enthusiastic and election of officers was held under the direction of Mrs. Myrna Raymo, temporary chairwoman. Officers elected were Mrs. Milford Rugroden, president; Mrs. Harry Anderson, first vice president; Mrs. Art Stensrud, second vice president and Mrs. Lil Anderson, third vice president.

75 years ago

- Mrs. J. P. Mortensen now has 14 great grandchildren. The two most recent arrived at Blackduck; a little girl, Pamela Ann, at the Leonard Miller home and a boy at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Krueger. Mrs. Miller is the former Marcella Krueger, daughter of the Edward Kruegers of New Richland, and they have two boys besides the new daughter. Donald Krueger is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Krueger (Ruth Mortensen) of Blackduck, their family consists of two boys and one girl.

- At the completion of the latest semester at St. Olaf college, Northfield, where they are students, the names of Paul Martinson and Lowell Johnson appeared on the honor roll. Paul, a senior, received a B rating and Lowell, a junior, received an A, for that semester. Lowell has been on the honor roll since his entry into college.

Child’s History of Waseca County

CHAPTER IX, 1855. Lost man on the prairie – Heinrich F. Bierman out two days and nights without food – Michael Anderson in Otisco – Others come in 1855.

About the first day of July that first summer, just after sunrise, while near the cabin door and looking south across the prairie toward the headwaters of Big Boot creek, I saw what appeared to be, at first sight, a lone Indian coming towards me. Living alone, as I did that summer, I always watched the approach of strangers with some curiosity. I soon discovered that the man was not an Indian, but an unarmed white man. It was half an hour or more from the time the man was first seen to the time when he arrived at the cabin. In the meantime breakfast had been prepared for two. As the traveler stepped to the open door, he politely lifted his hat and said, in excellent German, “Guten morgen,” and asked me if I could speak German? Finding that he could make himself understood, he went on to say that he left Owatonna two days before, expecting to reach this settlement the first day. He lost the trail soon after leaving Owatonna, and wandered off in a south-westerly direction. As nearly as could be made out, he must have reached Beaver lake, where the first night overtook him. The next day, he traveled in a westerly direction, and night overtook him on the bank of Big Boot creek, on section 12, town of Byron. He had not partaken of any food after leaving Owatonna. The mosquitoes and flies had bled him on his face and neck, which were covered with blotches, and he looked as though he had been sick. That morning, about daylight, he had heard the cow and sheep bells, on the Sutlief ranch, and, as the morning sun

lifted the curtain of night, he was overjoyed to see smoke issuing from the cabin stovepipe, and again to hear the sound of bells in the stock yards. He ate sparingly of bread and new milk for breakfast and then lay down to sleep. At noon he awoke, much refreshed, and during the afternoon helped about the work until evening, when I went with him to the house of Mr. Greening, three miles distant. He was Mr. Heinrich F. Bierman. He directly made a claim in sections 13, in Wilton, and 18, in Otisco., where he made his home the remainder of his life. He was a most excellent citizen. His death was accidental, being caused by a fall from a wagon, December 22, 1882. His widow at this writing resides in Waseca, and his children, five in number, are all residents of this state. Very soon after Mr. Bierman’s arrival, one of those odd characters ofttimes found in communities, made his appearance, and with him came his brother and brother’s family. John Jenkins, the odd genius, was a bachelor from Herkimer county, “Old York State,” as any one would learn on the very shortest acquaintance with him. David J. Jenkins, his brother, had a fine family. “Uncle John,” it was given out, had some money, while David was blessed with wife and children, but no money to speak of. “Uncle John” bought a part of the Scott and Plummer claims, on sections 24 and 13, in Wilton. David made no claim at first and lived with his family on Johns’ claim, each having a cabin, although all ate at the same table. More will be said of these people further on, but here suffice to say that, at the present writing, David J. Jenkins’ family are living near Janesville, while “Uncle John” enlisted in the Fifth Minnesota Infantry and died at Iuka, Miss., August 21st, 1862.

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State, but at what cost?

Panthers win section, lose VanMaldeghem to injury

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Things could not have started much worse for the NRHEG girls' basketball team.

Standout senior Camryn VanMaldeghem, recently announced as a Miss Basketball Minnesota finalist, was called for a foul about 3 seconds in, resulting in three Hayfield/Schaeffer Academy free throws.

But things got worse.

About a minute later, VanMaldeghem was whistled for another violation, putting her on the bench for most of the first half.

How could things get worse? Don't ask.

Soon after returning to the court, VanMaldeghem - who was averaging 30.2 points per game - went down with what turned out to be a very serious, season-ending knee injury.

Talk about overcoming adversity.

The Panthers - thanks to the collective efforts of several players who picked up the slack - stayed with Hayfield/Shaeffer Academy and held on for a memorable 64-62 victory Thursday in the Section 1A championship game at the Rochester Mayo Civic Center.

The top-seeded Panthers, who improved to 27-4, advanced to their second consecutive and seventh overall berth in the state tournament. The Vikings, seeded second, finished the season 22-8, four of the losses coming to NRHEG.

"We said it's not going to be easy," said Panthers coach Onika Peterson. "Hayfield is very well coached, they do a lot of things well. We knew it was going to be a dogfight. Did we expect this kind of a dogfight? No. But, again, it's just one play at a time. With Camryn going down, we had a lot of kids step up. It was nice to see the kids say we still got this, we can still do this. I'm just impressed with their resiliency all year long. I'm so proud of them. This is a real special group. I've never had a group like this. They care about each other."

Most of the first half was touch-and-go for the Panthers, who gave up too many free throws and easy baskets while not finding a rhythm on offense.

Ezra Boerner and Clara Buendorf hit key threes for

the Panthers, who trailed 14-13 after 10 minutes of play. The rest of the first half was back-and-forth, with the Vikings pulling ahead by as many as nine points. But it wouldn't stand. Threes by Buendorf, Boerner and Gabby Schlaak helped pull the Panthers within 37-32 at halftime.

The second-half was a nonstop battle, the biggest lead 45-40 by the Vikings with 13:10 left to play. Again the Panthers refused to fold, and it was 45-45 with about eight minutes remaining and 50-50 after pair of Quinn VanMaldeghem free throws with 5:54 left. Schlaak and Buendorf picked up their fourth foul along the way but they also hit some big baskets, and the Panthers had a chance to go up by three from the free-throw line - but missed both attempts.

Boerner sank a free throw with 4.2 seconds left, and a late, long three-point shot by the Vikings was off the mark - and finally the Panther faithful could breathe easily.

"I am unbelievably proud," said Peterson. "I can't say enough positive things about these girls. They fight for each other, their resiliency, their effort and their grit is second to none. Tonight was a whirlwind of highs and lows, emotions, and frustrations. The girls never quit. They didn't quit on each other, and they didn't quit fighting."

Quinn VanMaldeghem, Camry's twin sister, wound up leading the Panthers in scoring with 18 points. Buendorf scored 16, Boerner 15, Schlaak six, Camryn VanMaldeghem four, Emelia Stadheim three and Chloe Stork two.

Peterson said she was pleased with the supports shown for the Panthers.

"NRHEG travels so well," she said. "Community is everything. Being from a small town, it's amazing to see so many people show up and want them to succeed. Anytime you have a team get to state, it's a huge accomplishment."

Camryn VanMaldeghem said it was great to see the team rally after her injury.

"I had so many mixed emotions, but I'm happy," she

Panthers continued on 7



ON TO STATE — Above, members of the NRHEG High School girls' basketball team celebrate with the championship trophy after defeating Hayfield/Schaeffer Academy for the Section 1A championship last Thursday at Rochester. Below left, the Panthers' Camryn VanMaldeghem gets a post-game hug from coach Onika Peterson. Sophie Stork is in back. Below right, VanMaldeghem goes up for two during her brief stint in the game.

Photos by Eli Lutgens



Bluejays' Russell a finalist for Mr. Basketball

The top 10 candidates for this year's Minnesota Mr. Basketball award were officially announced last Monday.

The list includes Deron Russell of Waseca, as well as two players who are signed with the University of Minnesota.

"It is an incredibly great honor and appropriate for Deron to be recognized as a Mr. Basketball top 10 basketball finalist!" said Waseca High School boys' basketball coach Seth Anderson. "He has left his mark on basketball in Minnesota and been a great representative of what it should look like on and off the floor."

So far this season, Russell is averaging 30.5 points, 6.7 rebounds, 2.5 assists and 2.5 steals per game, shooting 47 percent on two-point field goals, 31.1 percent on threes and 82.4 percent on free throws.

Top 10 list for Minnesota Mr. Basketball (future college):

- Nolen Anderson (UMN)
- Dothan Ijadimbola (Drake)
- Kale Misegades (SMSU)
- JoJo Mitchell (UST)
- Jayden Moore (UND)
- Pierce Petersohn (Va. Tech, football)
- Derron Russell (NDSU, football)
- Cedric Tomes (UMN)
- Christian Wiggins (ISU)
- Hamze Yusuf



TWO POINTS — The Bluejays' Ethan Hiller (0) goes off the glass for two points during Waseca's section tournament win over Sibley East last Tuesday at Waseca. Photo by Jim Lutgens

Jays advance again to section title game

Russell scores 51 to power Waseca boys past Glencoe-Silver Lake, 91-79

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The section championship game has become quite comfortable for the Waseca High School boys' basketball team.

So it should not come as a surprise that the Bluejays are going again.

The third-seeded Waseca boys emerged a 91-79 victor over No. 2 seed Glencoe-Silver Lake at Minnesota State-Mankato Monday night. It was the 13th consecutive victory for the Bluejays, who improved to 22-7 for the season and avenged an earlier-season loss to GSL. The Raiders finished 22-7.

"We were really gritty tonight," said Bluejays coach Seth Anderson. "We played a great second half."

Much of the hoopla prior to the game surrounded the offensive prowess of the Raiders, who were averaging 84.2 points per game and topping 90 points 10 times. But that only lasted so long.

It was a slow start for the Bluejays, who trailed 20-9 without seven minutes played.

But Deron Russell and the Bluejays came back. Boy did they come back.

Russell finished the first half with 21 points and the Bluejays scored the final eight points while narrowing the gap to 42-39 at halftime.

But they weren't done yet.

The Bluejays tok the lead on a pair of Russell free throws at about the five-minute mark, but they were just warming up. With Russell pouring in points, hitting the 40 mark with about seven minutes left, it seemed the only question was, can Russell break his own single-game school scoring record?

Yes.

Russell went to the free-throw line twice in the final

"We were really gritty tonight. We played a great second half."

— Waseca head coach Seth Anderson

moments and converted all tries, finishing the night with 51 points and creating a rematch of last year's section final against Belle Plaine. The winner of that game advances to state.

Waseca totals against GSL: Ethan Hiller 13P, 5R, 4A, 3S; Russell 51P, 4A, 1S; Cyrett Long 3P, 7R 1S; Wyatt Hager 7P, 5R, 1S; Owen Honstad 7P, 3R, 2A, 1S; Owen Rupe 4P, 3R, 1A; Toby Jeske 6P, 4R, 1S.

It looked like Maple River had a stellar defensive game plan for stopping Russell. But it didn't much matter.

Others - namely Long and Honstad - picked up the slack as the Bluejays turned a 35-28 halftime deficit into an 80-60 victory in a quarterfinal game at Waseca Thursday.

The game was special for more than one reason. Maple River is Anderson's alma matre, and it was the 250th career coaching victory for Anderson and assistant coach Richard Guse.

The Eagles' defensive efforts were most noted in the first half as they held Russell to two points through halftime. But the Bluejays began the second half with defense of their own, the full-court-pressure variety, and

Bluejays continued on 7

Season ends at Nicollet for NRHEG boys' basketball

Having faced a strong Nicollet squad a couple weeks earlier, the NRHEG High School boys' basketball team was looking to narrow the gap this time around.

The Panthers did. Sort of.

The NRHEG boys, who lost 95-50 to Nicollet two weeks prior, narrowed the gap considerably, but not enough to make a difference in the outcome as the Raiders claimed an 84-69 decision in a Section 2A tournament game at Nicollet last Tuesday.

The fifth-seeded Raiders improved their record to 23-6 and advanced to face No. 4 Mayer Lutheran in the section quarterfinals. The Panthers, seeded 12th, finished 10-17.

"We were looking to bounce back from

the first time we played them," said NRHEG head coach Dan Schmidt. "We had a couple of very tough practices preparing for this game and how we wanted to defend them, based on how the previous game went, and saw some things on film."

While pleased with the Panthers' defensive efforts, Schmidt's squad struggled offensively in the first half, with turnovers leading to a 31-22 halftime deficit.

That continued in to the early stages of the second half, as it took us nearly 6 minutes to get the Panthers' first points of the half. In that time, Nicollet went on a 14-point run to open up a 23-point lead.

"At that point, the lid came off the basket,

and we started creating open shots for each other, and knocking them down," said Schmidt. "I think we definitely had a case of nerves tonight, with the way we played on the offensive end, but we never quit, and I couldn't be happier with the effort they played with tonight. For a young team to go out and battle the way they did this year, they should all hold their heads up proudly. While we finished the year 10-17, we accomplished quite a bit."

The Panthers hosted their first home play-off game in eight years and picked up their first playoff win in seven years, scoring 15 to 20 points more per game, despite losing 34 points per game from the previous year's

squad.

"We're set to return our entire team next year," said Schmidt. "And most importantly, this is a group of players that really enjoys being on the court together. We've talked a lot about the bond that you make playing sports, and how that lasts, and you can see it with this group. The future is bright for Panther sports with this group leading the charge!"

Mack Gilliland, in his first game back from a broken thumb, led the Panthers in scoring at Nicollet with 16 points. Dom Olson and Calvin Nissen scored 15 each, Brendan Schmidt and Brooks Gilliland six apiece.

Full NRHEG individual statistics: A.J. Deen 2P, 3 rebounds, 1 steal; Olson 15P, 3R, 1 assist, 1S; Nissen 15P, 3R, 6A, 1S; Brooks Gilliland 6P, 3R, 2A, 2S; Fynn Baumann 3P; B.Schmidt 6P, 3R, 1S; M.Gilliland 16P, 2R, 2A, 3S; Brock Holland 1P, 6R; Sean Lassahn 2P, 1R, 1A; Zander Hanna 2P, 1R, 1A.

The 2025-26 Panthers included juniors A.D. Deen, Olson. Brooks Gilliland, Baumann and Schmidt, sophomores Nissen, Jackson McGannon, David Deen, Lassahn, Hanna and Levi Whiteside, and freshmen Mack Gilliland, Holland, Alec Wyrum, Memphis Schlaak, Kasey Jewison and Andy Nelson.



DRIVE TIME — Above, JWP's Mikayla Wheelock (11) goes to the basket for two points during the Bulldogs' section tournament game against Tri-City United. Below, the Bulldogs' Jacelynn Mulder (20) shoots for two.

Photos by Jim Lutgens



Season ends in heartbreak for JWP girls' basketball team

It was an outstanding season for the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School girls' basketball team. It's too bad it had to end the way it did. The Bulldogs, seeded No. 2 in Section 2AA, led from the opening tipoff until the final minutes before finally falling 52-46 to third-seeded Central of Norwood-Young America last Monday at Minnesota State-Mankato. "It was a very tough way to end the year," said Bulldogs head coach Brandon Goebel, whose team finished with a record of 21-8. "Obviously, we did not play how we needed or wanted to play. Unfortunately, that is sports. There can only be one winner and it's not always who is the better team it is who plays better any given night. Unfortunately for us, Central made more plays then we did down the stretch." Down the stretch, it was 46-46 with about a minute to play, the game's first tie since it was 0-0. The Raiders scored, but the Bulldogs turned it over on the ensuing in-bounds play. Unfortunately, the Bulldogs misfired on a late three-pointer and then fouled Central's best player, who made both free throws. Bulldogs' individual leaders: Katie Olson six points, six rebounds, two steals; Kwynn Krause eight rebounds; Nevaeh Weimert 21 points; Mikayla Wheelock six points, 11 rebounds;

Ashlynn Wolff seven points, seven rebounds; Jacelynn Mulder six points. The Bulldogs will graduate seniors Olson, Weimert, Wheelock, Krause, Ellie Morsching and Aubrey Adams. "As far as the seniors go, I could not have asked for a better group of girls," said Goebel. "They were truly such a joy to be around and work with. That is what hurts the most. They were so deserving of making a far playoff run and now they wont get the chance to experience it. Throughout the years, they have done everything I have asked from them and more. This group is going to be very difficult to replace. I do believe that they have laid the foundation for our underclassman, and are leaving our program in a better place than when they got here. They will truly be missed in the years to come." The 2025-26 squad also included juniors Jaidann Mulder, Raylen Blasing and Hudson Miller, sophomores Ella Lamont and Haylee Appel, freshman Ashlynn Wolff, and seventh-graders Alese Wolf and Jaclynn Mulder. Goebel was assisted by Emily Olson, Liz Kvebak and Andrea Kronbach. The managers were Victoria Blomstrom, Lily Quast, Brenna Hed and Emeri Murphy. Central advanced to face No. 8 seed Glencoe-Silver Lake for the section championship and state tournament berth.



LEADERSHIP — At left, JWP boys' basketball coach Nick James monitors the action during a recent home game for the Bulldogs. At right, seniors were recognized prior to a recent game against Tri-City United. From left: Daulton Bauer, Caleb Quast, Zander Terbeest and Michael Walker.

Photo by Jim Lutgens



JWP boys reach section finals

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Just one victory. That's all that stands between the JWP boys' basketball team and the state tournament.

The Bulldogs advanced to the Section 2A championship game Monday with a 71-58 triumph over Nicollet at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter.

Seeded No. 1 in the section and rated No. 4 in the state in Class A, the Bulldogs earned a spot in the finals against Springfield or Madelia Wednesday, March 11 at 6 p.m. at Minnesota State-Mankato. The winner there moves on to state.

"We jumped up on them early," said Bulldogs coach Nick James. "We were able to fight off a small run in the second half. I thought we did a nice job defensively, making them work on offense. I thought we pushed the ball well, which wore them down. Now it's on to the section finals."

The boys from JWP trailed only once against fifth-seeded Nicollet, 6-4. From then on it was all Bulldogs.

Sophomore Gavin Bauer, apparently fully recovered from a leg injury that slowed him earlier this season, scored 17 points in the first half as the Bulldogs assumed a 41-24 cushion at the intermission. Senior Gavin Bauer, Daulton's

"We jumped up on them early."
— JWP coach Nick James

brother, added six first-half points, with Gavin Weedman scoring seven.

The second half saw the Raiders go on a 10-1 run to pull within 52-39 at the 11:19 mark. But that's as close as it got. Parker Gearity, Caleb Quast and several other players scored as the Bulldogs pulled away for their 27th victory of the season against three losses.

Gavin Bauer finished with 21 points, seven rebounds and five assists. Daulton Bauer scored 18 to go along with seven assists and five steals. Weedman scored 15, Daulton Bauer 14, Quast 13. Gearity had six points and six rebounds.

Nicollet finished the season 23-7. The Bulldogs reached the section semifinals with a 92-65 victory over ninth-seeded Cleveland at St. Peter High School on Thursday.

The JWP boys led 40-21 at halftime and cruised in the second half, ending the Clippers' season at 13-14.

"It felt good to have everyone back to close to full strength," said James. "We shot the ball better and thought we did a nice job in transition. Defensively, we really did a nice job making them work for

things. I am hoping we can keep building on last night and keep it going."

The leaders: Gavin Bauer 25P, 10R, 5A; Daulton Bauer 21P, 6R, 5A; Weedman 15P; Jaxon Wolff 11P; Quast 8P, 7A; Gearity 6R.

Carson Lyon scored 24 for Cleveland.

The Bulldogs shot 56.9 percent on two pointers, Cleveland 36.3 percent. JWP outscored the Clippers 30-12 on three-pointers and made 10 of 13 free throws to Cleveland's 4-for-8. Cleveland had a 20-8 edge on second-half points, but the Bulldogs outscored the Clippers 16-12 on points off turnovers and 54-32 in points in the paint. JWP outrebounded Cleveland 49-48 and had 16 turnovers to 18 for the Clippers.

The Bulldogs opened the section tournament Tuesday with a 78-59 victory over 16th-seeded Truman/Mountain Lake/Granada-Huntley/East Chain/Martin Lutheran at Janesville.

T/ML/GH/EC/ML finished the season 8-19.

It wasn't a great start for the Bulldogs, who led 37-34 at halftime, but they won going away.

"We didn't shoot the ball well at all in the first half," said Coach James, whose team made one of 12 threes and four of 13 free throws in the first half. Truman came out and played incredibly well, going 5-for-11 on threes, and most were heavily guarded or deep."

Daulton Bauer led the way with 35 points, nine rebounds, four assists and six steals. Gavin Bauer returned from a knee injury and totaled eight points, one rebound, one assist and two blocked shots in five minutes on the court, sparking the Bulldogs to a 19-3 run.

"We were hoping to give him one more day of rest," said James. "He'll be good to go in the next game."

JWP individual totals: D.Bauer 35P, 9R, 4A, 6S; Michael Walker 1R; Gearity 2P, 9R, 3A, 3S; G.Bauer 8P, 1R, 2A, 1S, 2B; Quast 16P, 2R, 2A, 2S; Maddex Bauer 4R, 1A, 1S; Zander Terbeest 1R, 1A, 1S; Tyson Kronbach 4P, 5R, 2A; Weedman 4P, 3R, 4A, 3S.

While the Bulldogs were outrebounded 41-37 and made six three pointers to seven for T/ML/GH/EC/ML, JWP held a 27-2 edged in transition points and 33-7 margin in points off turnovers.

Monday's semifinal winners advanced to play for the section championship and state tournament berth Wednesday, March 11 at 6 p.m. at Minnesota State-Mankato.

Three WHS gymnasts named all-conference

Big South Conference Gymnastics All-Conference 2025-26			
Black Division			
Lillie Schultz 10 Martin County Area			
Layla Keith 12 Waseca			
Bella Lazzu 10 Worthington			
Sophia Sampson 12 St. Peter			
Lucy Thier 11 Worthington			
Jada Milbrath 8 Worthington			
Jadyn Montgomery 11 Martin County Area			
Gold Division			
Kaysa Douty 11 Pipestone Area			
Mariah Anderson 12 Blue Earth Area/ United South Central			
Sophia Berger 12 New Ulm			
Aubrey Romsdahl 8 New Ulm			
Katelyn Weber 11 Waseca			
Brooklyn Dykstra 10 Worthington			
Ellie Clark 9 Waseca			
Shyann Murphy 8 Marshall			
Marley Phomsatry 9 Worthington			
Alania Blomberg 12 New Ulm			
Avarey Sellner 12 New Ulm			
Parker Stallman 8 Blue Earth Area/ United South Central			
Brynn Green 9 Redwood Valley			
Clara Brinks 12 Jackson County Central			
Vivian Brockberg 12 Pipestone Area			
Haedyn Cole 8 Blue Earth Area/ United South Central			
Braelyn Boogerd 11 Jackson County Central			
Halle Myers 8 Redwood Valley			
Marrs Thone 8 Luverne			
Kianna Winter 12 Luverne			
Emma Cowell 9 Luverne			
Lily Brinkman 8 Jackson County Central			
Katie Thram 12 Redwood Valley			
2026 Championship Results (at Gold)			
Worthington Defeated Blue Earth Area in the Championship			



Keith

■ Bluejays

from Page 6

it turned the game around quickly. "Our 1-2-1-1 press got us back into the game," said Anderson. Honstad and Long each sank six threes, scoring 22 and 20 points, respectively. "Cyrett Long and Owen Honstad had incredible nights shooting the ball," said Anderson. Russell finished with 17 points, Hager 10. Hiller pulled down 12 rebounds. The Eagles, seeded sixth, finished the season 15-13. Individually for the Jays: Hiller 8P, 12R, 3A, 3S; Russell 17P, 6R, 6A, 5S; Long 20P, 1A, 2S; Hager 10P, 6R, 6A, 1S, 1B; Honstad 22P, 2R, 2A, 3S; Riley Mitchell 2P; Rupe 1P, 1A, 1S; Jeske 2R.

"Our 1-2-1-1 press got us back into the game." — Seth Anderson

If the Bluejays were hoping for a little more time to rest Russell's aching ankle, they got it in last Tuesday's 76-34 victory over Sibley East in a Section 2AA tournament game at Waseca. The Bluejays outscored the Wolverines 12-0 in the opening minutes. It was 32-20 at halftime. Then Waseca started the second half on a 16-0 run and put the game out of reach while sending it to running time. Russell, coming off an injured ankle that had him in a boot, played only about four minutes of the second half while still leading the team with 22 points. Earlier in the week, he was named one of 10 finalists for Minnesota Mr. Basketball. He was also a top-10

finalist for Mr. Football, the sport he'll play at North Dakota State University. Honstad had a big game for the Bluejays, scoring 20 points. Hiller was the big man on the boards, securing 16 rebounds. Jeske had nine points and four rebounds. Individually for the Bluejays against Sibley East: Hiller 8P, 16R, 1A, 4S; Russell 22P, 1R, 1A, 3S, 1B; Long 3P, 5R, 3A, 1S; Hayden Stencil 3P, 2R; Hager 2P, 2R; Honstad 20P, 2R, 1A, 2S; Brody Dufault 3P; Mitchell 1R; Rupe 4P, 3R, 1S; Caleb Wulf 2P; Jeske 9P, 4R, 1S; Brayden Nelson 1R. Will Ferterl scored 13 for Sibley East, which finished 5-22. Riley Bussler had 10.

■ Panthers

from Page 6

said. "I'm so proud of my teammates. What did Quinn VanMaldeghem have to say. "It's awesome," she stated. "But with Camryn out right now, that's what I'm worried about." She wasn't as worried about the Vikings. "We weren't very far away from them, and we knew we could do it," said Quinn. And Quinn's message to her sister? "Stat strong." The Panthers, seeded fifth in the state tournament, will face fourth-seeded Hillcrest Lutheran Academy in the state quarterfinals Thursday, March 12 at Maturi Pavilion.

Local students earn accolades

Minnesota State Mankato Announces 2025 Fall Semester Dean's List:

Waseca
Aspen Ascherman, High Honor List
Taylor Barber-Flatau, Honor List
Caylie Blowers, Honor List
Erika Bowers, Honor List
Kendall Bowers, High Honor List
Theresa Breck, High Honor List
Mallory Bruhn, High Honor List
Jack Conway, Honor List
Dahminik Deutsch, Honor List
Tegan Flatau, Honor List
Payton Garza, Honor List
Dominic Grunzke, Honor List
Charli Harguth, Honor List
Brayden Hesch-Priem, Honor List
Philip Jacobson, High Honor List
Audrey Johnson, High Honor List
Samantha Kopecky, Honor List
Josie Madson, Honor List
Julie Martin, Honor List
Troy Mitzel, Honor List
Lily Peterson, Honor List
Addison Pfeifer, High Honor List
Victoria Possin, High Honor List
Levi Root, Honor List
Haylee Sommers, Honor List
Isabella Sorenson, High Honor List
Cherilyn Thissen, Honor List
Solomon Wilson, Honor List
Ethan Yeater-Crosby, High Honor List
Ryan Zimmerman, Honor List
New Richland
Julia Churchill, Honor List
Severin Eads, Honor List
Brenlee Knudson, Honor List
Addison Loken, High Honor List

Jamie McShane, High Honor List
Chloe Riewer, High Honor List
Aidan Schlaak, Honor List
Tayler Schmidt, High Honor List
Kloe Wacek, Honor List
Kayden Warke, High Honor List
Katy Zimmerman, Honor List
Janesville
Claire Adams, High Honor List
Kaden Baker, Honor List
Luke Cahill, High Honor List
Coral Cousins, Honor List
Eric Daschner, Honor List
Morrigan Douglass, Honor List
Zach Groll, Honor List
Kylee Hanks, Honor List
Onikia Herme, Honor List
Annabelle Hofteig, High Honor List
Autumn Joyce, Honor List
Alison Olson, Honor List
Faith Olson, High Honor List
Morgan Roemhildt, High Honor List
Shawnee Tinaglia, Honor List
Sammi Wehking, Honor List
Ethan Winters, High Honor List
Waldorf
Faith Miller, High Honor List
The following student received a degree from Milwaukee School of Engineering Fall 2025:
Benjamin Diedrich, from Waseca received a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering with High Honors
Normandale Community College of Bloomington announces 2025 Fall Semester Dean's list:
Colby Hoof, Waseca MN
Kirkwood Community College of Cedar Rapids announces 2025 Dean's List honors:
Noah Vahlsing, Waseca MN
St. Cloud Technical & Community College Fall 2025 Dean's list honors:
Rosa Gamez, Janesville MN

SMIF seeking applications for Early Literacy grants

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), in partnership with publishing companies Capstone and ABDO, is accepting applications for its Early Literacy Grant program. This grant is designed to support early literacy efforts that enhance school readiness for children birth to age eight by providing children with books. Nonprofit organizations working with these children and their families in SMIF's 20-county region are encouraged to apply. This funding opportunity seeks to support organizations working with children, youth and families that have been historically underserved and under-resourced due to structural inequities. Priority will be given to proposals that center children, youth and families who experience disproportionate barriers related to income, race and ethnicity, geography, language or access to culturally responsive supports. Proposals that strengthen parental awareness of early literacy needs including communication and language development, include a parent education component, offer new and creative ways to reach children, youth and families and/or collaborate with other organizations to provide literacy enhancements will also be prioritized. "Birth to age eight is a critical learning time" shared Kelly Fluharty, SMIF Early Childhood vice president. "When we invest in early literacy, we invest in children's confidence, curiosity and lifelong opportunity. How we show up for children in these earliest years shapes not only their futures, but the health and vitality of our communities. I am grateful to our partners at ABDO and Capstone for helping us strengthen our region through literacy."

sota roots run deep. This community is truly something special and we're proud to enter into our 24th year of partnership with Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation to support children's literacy," said Gail Beer, Capstone vice president of customer relations and operations. "Research shows that access to books is critically important in a child's development. SMIF is making a difference for the children in our community and Capstone remains honored to be a part of it." "Donating books to the Early Literacy Grant is always a highlight of our year," said DeMar Borth, COO for ABDO. "Each book is an opportunity for a child to learn, connect and grow." In 2002, Capstone helped launch the BookStart program, working with SMIF to distribute thousands of books to children in the region over a period of fifteen years. In 2018, the Early Literacy Grant was formed as a new collaborative effort between SMIF and the two Mankato-based publishing companies to put even more books into the hands of young children. SMIF has also previously partnered with both Capstone and ABDO on collectively distributing more than one hundred thousand books across the region through grants and programming. Applications are due to SMIF by March 17, 2026 at 2 p.m. The book pickup dates for awarded organizations will be held on June 16, 17, 24 and 25, 2026 in Owatonna. For more information or to apply, visit www.smifoundation.org. For questions about what SMIF might fund, contact Margaret Radel, Early Childhood Project & Grants Coordinator, at 507.455.3215 or email at margaretr@smifoundation.org.

Students of the Month:
Brilliant Bluejays


Briggeston
Kindergarten


Miles
1st Grade


Abel
2nd Grade


Brolin
3rd Grade


Johan
3rd Grade


Kinsley
Kindergarten

Staff of the Month:
Stellar Staff


Mrs. Guse
School Counselor


Mrs. Altman
2nd Grade Teacher


Mrs. Royce
3rd Grade Teacher


Mrs. Krueger
1st Grade Teacher


Mrs. Wolfe
Kindergarten Teacher





WELCOMED - The Waseca Area Chamber Ambassadors welcomed Car Tire & Auto Center as its newest member. Car Tire & Auto provides comprehensive automotive repair and tire services.

Chamber Ambassadors welcome Car Tire & Auto

The Waseca Area Chamber Ambassadors recently welcomed Car Tire & Auto Center as its newest member. A trusted, locally owned business with deep roots in the community, Car Tire & Auto Center provides comprehensive automotive repair and tire services for cars, trucks, SUVs, and vans. Car Tire & Auto Center offers a full range of services, from routine maintenance and diagnostics to major repairs. Their skilled technicians handle everything from oil changes and brake service to engine

repair, suspension work, and tire sales, installation, and maintenance. Known for honest recommendations, fair pricing, and transparent communication, the team is committed to keeping customers' vehicles running safely and reliably. "We are excited to welcome Car Tire & Auto Center to the Chamber and celebrate a business that is so clearly dedicated to quality service and community values," said Robin Dulas, Executive Director of the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism. "Their reputation for de-

pendable, customer-focused automotive care makes them a wonderful addition to our Chamber membership." The Chamber Ambassadors were proud to recognize the business and its commitment to serving Waseca area drivers with professionalism and integrity. "Car Tire & Auto Center is a great example of a locally owned business that takes pride in its work and in building lasting relationships with customers," said Jodie Thompson, Membership Chair. "We are thrilled

to officially welcome them and look forward to supporting their continued success." With a focus on quality workmanship and preventative maintenance, Car Tire & Auto Center strives to provide a service experience customers can trust every time they visit. For more information about Car Tire & Auto Center, visit them in Waseca or find them at cartire-andauto.com or on Facebook.

District Court
3rd Judicial District
01-CV-AP-26-3

District Court Seal

Names of Owners, Taxpayers & Interested Parties	Parcel # Description of Property	Year	Total Tax + Penalties
	ALTON TOWNSHIP		
BRANDON J SCHNEPP	RP 010170510	2025	\$5,534.27
35197 15TH ST	SECT- 17 TWP-107 RANGE-024 60.00 AC 60.00 AC SE1/4		
JANESVILLE MN 56048	OF SW1/4 & E1/2 OF SW1/4 OF SW1/4		
CHERYL TRAHMS	RP 010331000	2025	\$3,663.00
CHAPMAN TRUSTEE ETAL	SECT- 33 TWP-107 RANGE-024 78.00 AC 78.00 AC E1/2 OF		
116 JOSHUA CT	SW1/4 EX 2AC		
MANKATO MN 56001			
KARY M BREMER	RP 010360500	2025	\$2,070.02
5921 320TH AVE	SECT- 36 TWP-107 RANGE-024 7.00 AC 7.00 AC BEG AT A		
WASECA MN 56093-4806	PT 233.44FT W OF SE COR OF E1/2 OF SE1/4 THEN		
	W452.83FT THEN N723.35FT THEN E393.13FT THEN		
	S TO BEG		
	BLOOMING GROVE TOWNSHIP		
KEVIN L O'CONNOR	RP 020030300	2025	\$3,125.76
3637 250TH ST W	SECT- 03 TWP-108 RANGE-022 80.00 AC 80.00 AC S1/2 OF		
FARIBAULT MN 55021	NE1/4		
TAUSTON LAMONT	RP 020050650	2025	\$6,514.32
608 9TH AVE SE	SECT- 05 TWP-108 RANGE-022 7.00 AC 7.00 AC COM AT SE		
WASECA MN 56093	COR OF SE1/4 OF SW 1/4;THENCE W 400FT TO PT OF BEG;		
	THENCE W 500FT;THENCE N 610FT;THENCE E 500FT;THENCE		
	S 610FT +/- TO PT OF BEG		
	BYRON TOWNSHIP		
CLINTON GOUGE	RP 034510970	2025	\$389.44
1060 STATE ST	MATAWAN - LOT 6 BLK 13 & VACATED N1/2 3RD ST		
GARNER IA 50438			
NICHOLAS S PITAN	RP 034510490	2025	\$613.81
512 MAIN ST W	MATAWAN - LOTS 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 BLK 5 & VACATED S1/2		
MANKATO MN 56001	2ND ST, E1/2 ALLEY		
JOHN LINNIHAN III	RP 034510010	2025	\$76.48
6735 50TH ST W	MATAWAN - LOTS 1 2 3 & 4 BLK 1 & VACATED DIVISION ST		
WEBSTER MN 55088			
NICHOLAS S PITAN	RP 034510630	2025	\$44.00
512 MAIN ST W	MATAWAN - LOTS 16,17 & 18 BLK 5 & VACATED DIVISION		
MANKATO MN 56001	ST, S1/2 OF 2ND ST, W1/2 ALLEY		
JOHN LINNIHAN III	RP 034510060	2025	\$37.04
6735 50TH ST W	MATAWAN LOTS 5 & 6 BLK 1		
WEBSTER MN 55088			
NICHOLAS S PITAN	RP 034510530	2025	\$108.96
20723 MATAWAN AVE	MATAWAN 1.12 AC LOTS 5 TO 15 INC BLK 5 & VACATED		
NEW RICHLAND MN 56072	DIVISION ST, N1/2 3RD ST, ALL THAT 1/2 PART OF ALLEY		
	ADJACENT TO LOTS		
NICHOLAS S PITAN	RP 034510400	2025	\$208.59
512 MAIN ST W	MATAWAN - 1.93AC - LOTS 1 TO 18 BLK 6 & VACATED ALLEY,		
MANKATO MN 56001	DIVISION ST, N1/2 4TH ST, S1/2 3RD ST		
RICHARD J WOLSZON JR	RP 030320100	2025	\$976.80
661 N BIRCH ST	SECT-32 TWP-105 RANGE-023 - 160.00AC NE1/4		
ROYALTON MN 56373			
DANIEL LEON BOETTGER	RP 030340710	2025	\$138.27
4216 CO RD 1132	SECT- 34 TWP-105 RANGE-023 40.00 AC 40.00AC SW1/4		
CELESTE TX 75423	OF NW1/4		

List continued on 12

BRUCE E WOLFE 31999 180TH ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 080010100 SECT-01 TWP-106 RANGE-022 8.54 AC 8.54 AC COM NE COR OF SEC;THEN S 448FT;THEN S 33.01FT;THEN N 88DEGW 1150FT;THEN S20DEGW 414.98FT PT OF BEG; THEN S20DEG W 58.02FT;THEN N80DEGW 402.95 FT;THEN N 855.90FT;THEN S88DEG E 422.96FT;THEN S 859.61FT TO PT OF BEG	2025	\$1,968.82	MINI SODA PROPERTIES LLC PO BOX 714 DODGE CENTER MN 55927	RP 171130220 AUDITOR'S PLAT OF SE1/4 OF SE1 AUDITOR'S PLAT OF SE1/4 OF SE1 LOT-012 BLOCK-002	2025	\$908.64
EDWARD C BETHKE 15209 315TH AVE WASECA MN 56093-5719	RP 080030200 SECT- 03 TWP-106 RANGE-022 60.00 AC 60.00 AC N1/2 OF SW1/4 EX E20 AC	2025	\$2,341.92	DIANA S WELANDER ETAL SCOTT HOPKINS 205 10TH AVE NE WASECA MN 56093	RP 171200100 AUDITOR'S PLAT OF SE1/4 OF SW1 AUDITOR'S PLAT OF SE1/4 OF SW1 E1/2 OF LOT 3	2025	\$495.61
DANIEL A RYAN 31642 128TH ST WASECA MN 56093-5604	RP 080060650 SECT- 06 TWP-106 RANGE-022 2.91 AC BEG AT A PT 1602.00 FT SOUTH OF NW COR OF NE1/4, THENCE E368.63 FT, THENCE SOUTH 344.70 FT, THENCE SOUTHWESTERLY 368.63 FT, THENCE N344.70 FT TO BEG TRACT 1	2025	\$1,289.45	CINDY M FORDHAM 912 3RD ST SW WASECA MN 56093	RP 171260210 AUDITORS PLAT OF WARDS ADD ORG AUDITORS PLAT OF WARDS ADD ORG S50FT OF N210FT OF E123 1/2FT OF LOT 6 BLK 1	2025	\$846.34
OTISCO RENTAL LLC 29351 128TH ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 086010010 SUBDIVISION A TO VILLAGE OF OT SECT-17 TWP-106 RANGE-022 SUBDIVISION A TO VILLAGE OF OT LOT 1 EX N16FT OF S51.10FT OF W14FT OF E35.05FT & LOT 2 & LOT 3 BLK 1	2025	\$330.79	ROBERTA HEINRICHS OWEN PRECHEL 28351 128TH ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 171510550 BARNEYS ADD BARNEYS ADD LOT 4 & THAT PART OF LOT 3: BEG AT NW COR OF LOT 3;THEN S106FT THEN E24FT;THEN S27FT;THEN E36 FT;THEN N TO N LINE OF LOT 3; THEN W TO PT OF BEG BLK 6	2025	\$73.06
ROBERTA LYNN HEINRICHS 29351 128TH ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 080180710 SECT- 18 TWP-106 RANGE-022 6.30 AC COMM AT NE COR OF SE1/4;THENCE N89DEGW 1376.42FT THENCE S445FT TO PT OF BEG: THENCE S410FT;THENCE S89DEGW 669.50FT ;THENCE N410FT;THENCE N89DEGE 669.50FT TO PT OF BEG	2025	\$111.25	JEROME AHLES BRYNLEE E AHLES PO BOX 475 511 MORNIN ST HARTLAND MN 56042	RP 171520300 BENNETTS ADDITION BENNETTS ADDITION LOT 8 EX S17 1/2FT OF W85FT BLK 3	2025	\$1,174.06
FRANCES VASQUEZ 33402 110TH ST WASECA MN 56093	ST MARY TOWNSHIP RP 090250600 SECT- 25 TWP-107 RANGE-023 5.00 AC S453 FT OF N827 FT OF W288.5 FT OF N1/2 OF SW1/4 & S499.7 FT OF N1326.7 FT OF W174.35 FT OF N1/2 OF SW1/4	2025	\$365.13	KEATON NIKOLEY JASON J FOUE 312 9TH AVE SE WASECA MN 56093	RP 171550450 BROUGHTONS ADDITION BROUGHTONS ADD - LOT 13 & W8FT OF LOT 14 BLK 4	2025	\$2,459.87
KEVIN L O'CONNOR ORVILLE L STEINKE TRUSTEE 3637 250TH ST W FARIBAULT MN 55021	RP 090250700 SECT- 25 TWP-107 RANGE-023 80.00 AC 80.00 AC S1/2 OF SW1/4	2025	\$6,762.75	REDD SIMMS CHARLES J MATHERN 916 2ND ST SE APT A WASECA MN 56093	RP 171550020 BROUGHTONS ADDITION BROUGHTONS ADD BEG AT SE COR OF LOT 2;THENCE N130FT;THENCE W60FT;THENCE S 130FT;THENCE E60FT TO PT OF BEG IN LOTS 2 & 3 BLK 1	2025	\$1,343.89
KEVIN L O'CONNOR ORVILLE L STEINKE TRUSTEE 3637 250TH ST W FARIBAULT MN 55021	RP 090360550 SECT-36 TWP-107 RANGE-023 25.25 AC 25.25 AC NW1/4 OF SE1/4 EX 1AC & EX 13.43AC	2025	\$2,129.14	RH RENTALS LLC 29531 128TH ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 171550530 BROUGHTONS ADDITION BROUGHTONS ADD N 1/2 OF LOT 21 BLK 4	2025	\$125.09
WADE T LOTTON 1600 260TH AVE MINNESOTA LAKE MN 56068	VIVIAN TOWNSHIP RP 100050280 SECT-05 TWP-105 RANGE-024 10.81 AC 10.81 AC BEG NW COR OF NE1/4; THEN S89DEGE 297.31FT;THEN S 430.71FT; THEN S89DEGE 176.13 FT;THEN S414.58FT;THEN S89DEGW 21.40FT;THEN S30DEGW 570FT; THEN N89DEGW 158FT; THEN N 1340 FT TO PT OF BEG	2025	\$245.21	PATRICK ESCHENBRENNER 1100 15TH ST NW WASHINGTON DC 20005	RP 171550900 BROUGHTONS ADDITION BROUGHTONS ADD N 58 FT OF LOTS 21 & 22 BLK 5	2025	\$2,326.25
MATTHEW BULMAN 1758 215TH AVE MINNESOTA LAKE MN 56068	RP 100290210 SECT-29 TWP-105 RANGE-024 6.80 AC 6.80AC COM AT E1/4 COR OF SEC; THENCE S 87DEG W 1090.69FT TO PT OF BEG; THENCE S 03DEG E 276.34FT; THENCE N 84DEG E 108.21FT; THENCE 08DEG E 102.57FT; THENCE S 83DEG W 31.25FT; THENCE 06DEG E 261.58 FT; THENCE S 84DEG W; 142.41FT THENCE N 88DEG W 302.96FT; THENCE N 22DEG W 93.07FT; THEN N 05DEG W 590.00FT +/- THENCE S03DEG E 35.00FT +/- TO PT OF BEG	2025	\$1,791.82	RANDY L RITCHIE 900 LAKEVIEW AVE WASECA MN 56093	RP 172090140 CLEAR LAKE HEIGHTS CLEAR LAKE HEIGHTS LOT 10 EX W10 FT & LOT 9 BLK 5	2025	\$250.65
PRAIRIEVIEW SWINE LLC 20693 20TH ST WELLS MN 56097	RP 100320500 SECT- 32 TWP-105 RANGE-024 30.00 AC 30.00 AC NORTH 495FT OF S1/2 NE1/4	2025	\$3,273.50	RANDY L RITCHIE 900 LAKEVIEW AVE WASECA MN 56093	RP 172090280 CLEAR LAKE HEIGHTS CLEAR LAKE HEIGHTS LOT-016 BLOCK-006	2025	\$151.29
ANDREA K PETZEL PO BOX 13 WALDORF MN 56091	WALDORF CITY RP 161000540 ORIGINAL PLAT ORIGINAL PLAT LOT 11 EX S20 FT & LOT 12 BLK 4	2025	\$1,270.74	RANDY L RITCHIE 900 LAKEVIEW AVE WASECA MN 56093	RP 172090260 CLEAR LAKE HEIGHTS CLEAR LAKE HEIGHTS LOT-017 BLOCK-006	2025	\$166.75
TODD'S RENTAL LLC 119 1ST AVE WALDORF MN 56091	RP 161000100 ORIGINAL PLAT ORIGINAL PLAT LOT-005 BLOCK-002	2025	\$106.64	RANDY L RITCHIE 900 LAKEVIEW AVE WASECA MN 56093	RP 172090150 CLEAR LAKE HEIGHTS CLEAR LAKE HEIGHTS W10 FT OF LOT 10 & ALL LOT 11 BLK 5	2025	\$106.03
GERALD F ARMSTRONG JR 319 NORTH ST WALDORF MN 56091	RP 160032500 SECT- 03 TWP-105 RANGE-024 W50FT OF E250FT OF S 150FT OF N183FT OF NW1/4 OF NE1/4	2025	\$500.16	NICOLAS A POEHLER 420 11TH ST SE WASECA MN 56093	RP 173010490 GOODSPEEDS ADDITION GOODSPEEDS ADDITION LOT-021 BLOCK-002	2025	\$236.64
ROBERT D RUBLE 51718 170TH ST AUSTIN MN 55912	RP 160342000 SECT- 34 TWP-106 RANGE-024 BEG 33FT N & 33FT E OF SW COR OF SE1/4;THENCE E68FT;THENCE N 100FT;THENCE W68FT;THENCE S100 FT TO PT OF BEG	2025	\$1,650.88	RH RENTALS LLC 29531 128TH ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 173010490 GOODSPEEDS ADDITION GOODSPEEDS ADDITION LOT-021 BLOCK-002	2025	\$236.64
KATHERINE A GRINNELL 144 NORTH ST WALDORF MN 56091	RP 160341200 SECT- 34 TWP-106 RANGE-024 5.00 AC 5.00 AC IN SW1/4 OF SE1/4 EX 16.5 X 247.50	2025	\$2,469.67	RH RENTALS LLC 29531 128TH ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 173760440 JENKINS ADDITION JENKINS ADDITION N 1/2 OF LOT 12 EX 12 EX E 150 FT BLK 13	2025	\$122.74
NICHOLAS R & KRISTINA WOBIG 1103 4TH AVE SE WASECA MN 56093	WASECA CITY RP 171230290 AUD PLAT OF ALL LAND IN CIT LI AUD PLAT OF ALL LAND IN CIT LI E 110 FT OF S 90 FT OF LOT 11	2025	\$3,017.24	TYLER SCOTT MICHAEL GEORGE 201 4TH AVE NE WASECA MN 56093	RP 173760430 JENKINS ADDITION JENKINS ADDITION S 1/2 OF LOT 12 EX E 150 FT BLK 13	2025	\$120.97
ARARAT LLC 408 7TH AVE SE WASECA MN 56093	RP 171070170 AUD PLAT OF LARGE LOT 1 BLK 5 AUD PLAT OF LARGE LOT 1 BLK 5 LOT-017	2025	\$2,724.60	SOUTHERN MN RENTALS LLC PO BOX 255 JORDAN MN 55352-0255	RP 173760630 JENKINS ADDITION JENKINS ADDITION W 1/2 OF LOT 1 BLK 14	2025	\$995.49
JIMMIE A LARKIN 100 WOODLAND CREEK RD POTTSBORO TX 75076	RP 171270090 AUD REPL OF UNPLAT LAND IN NE AUD REPL OF UNPLAT LAND IN NE E60FT OF N100FT S265FT OF LOT 2 BLK 2	2025	\$1,195.31	KEN NEED 202 11TH ST SE WASECA MN 56093	RP 173780130 JENKINS SUBDIV OF BLKS 15 & 17 JENKINS SUBDIV OF BLKS 15 & 17 N57 FT OF E108 FT OF LOT 1 BLK 15	2025	\$2,260.57
NICOLAS A POEHLER 420 11TH ST SE WASECA MN 56093	RP 171080010 AUDITOR'S PLAT OF GOODSPEEDS A AUDITOR'S PLAT OF GOODSPEEDS A LOT-022 BLOCK-002	2025	\$1,837.03	CHRISTOPHER TOWNSEND BARBKNECHT PROPERTIES LLC 501 19TH AVE NE WASECA MN 56093	RP 174270260 LAKEVIEW ADDITION LAKEVIEW ADDITION COM 85FT N OF SE COR OF LOT 9, BLK 2, THENCE N 75FT;THENCE W 161.70FT;THENCE S 75FT;THENCE E 161.70FT TO PT OF BEG	2025	\$111.85
TROY MATZ CONSTRUCTION LLC PO BOX 266 118 N STATE ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 171170290 AUDITOR'S PLAT OF N1/2 OF SW1/ AUDITOR'S PLAT OF N1/2 OF SW1/ E104.70FT OF N187FT OF LOT 7 & W2FT OF N187FT OF LOT 8 BLK 1	2025	\$561.91	FOUAD ELHARFAOUI 23461 GEOFFREY CT OAK PARK MI 48237-2012	RP 174530520 MCNAMARAS ADDITION MCNAMARAS ADDITION LOT-001 BLOCK-004	2025	\$1,333.32
				B BUYSE PROPERTIES LLC 109 S STATE ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 174530320 NORTH LOON LAKE SUBDIVISION NORTH LOON LAKE SUBDIV # 1 LOT-009 BLOCK-004	2025	\$1,439.48
				GREGORY & BRENDA MOYER 312 2ND AVE NE WASECA MN 56093	RP 171002600 ORIGINAL PLAT ORIGINAL PLAT LOT 4 & W 11 1/2 FT OF LOT 5 & S 10 FT OF E 44 1/2 FT OF LOT 5 BLK 15	2025	\$769.52
				MADEL PROPERTIES LLC 108 8TH ST NW WASECA MN 56093	RP 171000550 ORIGINAL PLAT ORIGINAL PLAT LOT 7 & N 6 IN OF E 90 FT OF LOT 8 BLK 5	2025	\$2,336.24
				RH RENTAL LLC 29351 128TH ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 171001760 ORIGINAL PLAT ORIGINAL PLAT LOTS 13 & 14 & S 2.75FT OF E 90.75FT OF VACATED ST ADJACENT TO N LINE OF LOT 14 & ALSO W .50FT OF VACATED ST ADJACENT TO E LINE OF LOTS 13 & 14	2025	\$4,513.78
					RP 171002810 ORIGINAL PLAT ORIGINAL PLAT N 1/2 OF LOT 2 BLK 17	2025	\$103.99

List continued on 13

CHRISTIAN T STEWART 1104 8TH ST SE WASECA MN 56093	RP 176070400 SOUTH VIEW ADDITION SOUTH VIEW ADDITION LOT- 013 BLOCK-003	2025	\$3,267.18
BRANDON J & JENNIFER R JUTZI 1217 6TH CIR SE WASECA MN 56093	RP 176070620 TOWER INDUSTRIAL PARK TOWER INDUSTRIAL PARK W 125FT OF LOT 1 BLK 2	2025	\$2,883.34
BORDERLESS VENTURES LLC WILLIAMS REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS PO BOX 21096 COLUMBIA HEIGHTS MN 55421	RP 176200035 TOWER INDUSTRIAL PARK TOWER INDUSTRIAL PARK W 125FT OF LOT 1 BLK 2	2025	\$97.76
MICHAEL M MUNTEAN 204 4TH AVE NE WASECA MN 56093	RP 176270080 TROWBRIDGES 2ND ADDITION TROWBRIDGES 2ND ADDITION LOT-008 BLOCK-001	2025	\$3,606.77
KRUPA-6 LLC 1313 N STATE ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 177010020 WAGNER ADDITION WAGNER ADDITION LOT-002 BLOCK-001	2025	\$17,422.18
MICHAEL POMMERENING 312 4TH ST SE WASECA MN 56093	RP 177040170 WINONA & ST PETER LAND CO 1ST WINONA & ST PETER LAND CO 1ST LOTS 9 & 10 EX N 60 FT BLK 2	2025	\$286.95
KATHLEEN BAILEY 304 4TH ST SE WASECA MN 56093	RP 177040070 WINONA & ST PETER LAND CO 1ST WINONA & ST PETER LAND CO 1ST S 1/2 OF LOT 1 BLK 2	2025	\$1,049.86
THOMAS O'CONNOR 417 7TH AVE SW WASECA MN 56093	RP 170180060 SECT- 18 TWP-107 RANGE-022 COMM AT SW COR OF LOT 2 BLK 2 R P WARDS ADDITION; THENCE S 48 1/4FT; THENCE E 64FT; THENCE N 48 1/4FT; THENCE W 64FT TO BEG	2025	\$155.93
KENT L BARBKNECHT 1412 2ND ST SE WASECA MN 56093	RP 170190300 SECT-19 TWP-107 RANGE-022 .17 AC .17 AC E 65FT OF S 116.86FT OF N 633FT OF E1/2 OF NE1/4	2025	\$1,364.25
KENT L BARBKNECHT 1412 2ND ST SE WASECA MN 56093	RP 170203400 SECT-20 TWP-107 RANGE-022 .09 AC .09 AC W 35FT OF S 116.86FT OF N 633FT OF W1/2 OF NW1/4	2025	\$99.68
WILTON TOWNSHIP			
RH RENTAL LLC 29351 128TH ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 117010400 WILTON WILTON - W1/2 OF LOT 6 & LOTS 7 8 & 9 BLK 25 & S1/2 VAC PEARL ST & VAC ALLEY	2025	\$54.11
JARON CHILDS W3045 COUNTY ROAD A TOMAHAWK WI 54487-9113	RP 110240400 SECT-24 TWP-106 RANGE-023 2.50 AC 2.50 AC N1/2 OF W1/2 OF NW1/4 OF SE1/4 OF SW1/4	2025	\$81.40
BILL J CONWAY 27603 100TH ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 110270500 SECT- 27 TWP-106 RANGE-023 10.00 AC 10.00 AC 10AC IN SE COR OF SE1/4 OF NE1/4	2025	\$2,716.96
WOODVILLE TOWNSHIP			
TREVOR R NELSON 37023 DOE AVE WASECA MN 56093	RP 122510320 ELKS PARK ELKS PARK LOTS 13 14 15 & N11 FT OF LOT 16 BLK 3	2025	\$237.56
RH RENTAL LLC 29351 128TH ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 122510060 ELKS PARK ELKS PARK LOTS 3 & 4 BLK 2	2025	\$76.90
ANGIE R ZILM 14399 HIGHLAND DR WASECA MN 56093	RP 123260370 MORNING SIDE MORNING SIDE LOT 8 & N1/2 OF LOT 9	2025	\$1,800.06
NICHOLAS MEISTER 905 CLEAR LAKE DR WASECA MN 56093	RP 124510080 MORNING SIDE MORNING SIDE LOT 8 & N1/2 OF LOT 9	2025	\$349.58
RH RENTAL LLC 29351 128TH ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 120110710 SECT- 11 TWP-107 RANGE-022 .58 AC COMM AT SE COR OF NW1/4 THENCE E270FT;THENCE S186FT; THENCE E362.05 FT TO PT OF BEG; THENCE E442.46FT TO N LINE OF HWY; THEN SOUTHWESTERLY ALONG HWY 466.13FT;THEN N TO PT OF BEG IN GOVT LOT 3 IN SE1/4	2025	\$73.06

PUBLIC NOTICE

Unclaimed personal property located at or from 1400 2nd Street SE, Waseca, MN 56093, Formerly addressed to Storage World, will be considered abandoned, and to be sold, disposed of, or other, unless claimed by the verified owner(s) by March 29, 2026. Claimant verified owner(s) shall reimburse incurred handling and clerical costs associated to each, their owned, personal property upon retrieval. Personal property claimant(s)

reply to 1400Waseca@gmail.com, or: Waseca Police Department, 303 S. State Street, Waseca, MN 56093. This notice is in accordance of Minnesota Statute 345.75

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on February

26, March 5 and 12, 2026

Got news?
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Chuck Huebel Broker	Joe Glynn Broker	Katie Roesler Executive Assistant	Jenny Goodlander Agent	Traci Schuch Agent

• **We'll Lead You Home** •



Rare find! 2 Prime down-town lots sold together! Ideal for offices, retail space, or bistro.

117 2nd St N
Waseca, MN
\$39,999



Meticulously maintained 3BR/2BA split-foyer in a great location featuring an open kitchen, dinette & living area w/ patio door to large maintenance-free deck. Kitchen offers granite counters, center island, recessed soft-close cabinets, Lazy Susan & roll-out shelves, plus newer appliances. Upper level includes 2BRs & full bath w/ primary access; lower level has spacious family room w/ gas fireplace & home theater, 3rd BR & bath. Triple heated attached garage, above-ground saltwater pool, shed, new carpet, and 2014 shingles & siding — move-in ready!

912 10th St SE
Waseca, MN
\$374,500



Remodeled 3-bdrm, 2-bath home; move in now! This home features a brand-new kitchen with stainless steel appliances, new laminate and ceramic tile flooring, updated insulation, a new furnace and AC, and a new sewer line.

312 2nd Ave SE
Waseca, MN
\$179,900

A great opportunity to own an updated home at an affordable price — don't miss out!



PENDING

Adorable two-story home tucked into a cul-de-sac in a great Janesville location, offering 3 bdrms & 3 baths. The main level features a spacious living room, open dinette & kitchen with peninsula seating, ample cabinetry, pantry, & patio doors leading to an inviting deck. Upstairs are two bedrooms & a full bath, while the finished basement includes a large family room, 3rd bdrm, & ¾ bath. Enjoy a landscaped backyard, plus a double attached finished & heated garage with cabinets & countertop — perfect for entertaining. This is a must-see home!

523 Allyn Cr
Janesville, MN
\$279,900

The Alton Township Board will be accepting quotes for hauling and spreading class 5 gravel and/or crushed rock with end dump trucks only.

The board will review quotes April 1, 2026 at 6:00 pm. The board reserves the right to reject any or all quotes and accept the offer the board feels is in the best interest of the township.

All quotes must be received by the clerk by 5:00 pm on Monday March 31, 2026.

Send quotes to:

Alton Township
Deb Westphal, Clerk
1711 370th Ave
Janesville MN 56048
Phone: 507-461-3245

E/CVAD 263
Filed In District Court
State of Minnesota
FEB 13 2026

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
)SS
COUNTY OF WASECA)

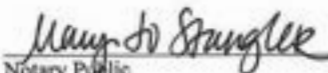
Tamara J. Spooner, being by me first duly sworn, deposes, and says that she is the Director of Property & Election Services of the County of Waseca; that she has examined the foregoing list, and knows the contents thereof; and that the same is true and correct.



Tamara J Spooner, Director of Election & Property Services

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 11th day of February 13, 2026

 MARY J STANGLER
NOTARY PUBLIC - MINNESOTA
My Commission Expires Jan. 31, 2031



Notary Public

SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642				March		2026
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Burger nite 5-7pm	4 6pm BAR Bingo	5 7pm BINGO	6 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	7
8 Breakfast VFW 8:00am to noon Your Host SENIOR CENTER	9 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting	10 Burger nite 5-7pm	11 6pm BAR Bingo	12 7pm BINGO	13 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	14 St. Patrick's Bingo 7 pm <u>BINGO</u>
15	16	17 Burger nite 5-7pm	18 6pm BAR BINGO	19	20 5-7PM OR SOLD OUT Walleye Dinner Your Host Sheriff's Posse	21
22 Breakfast VFW 8 AM TON NOON Your Host County Veterans service office	23	24 BURGER NIGHT 5-7PM	25 6pm BAR BINGO	26	27	28
29	30	31 Burger nite 5-7pm				

HOURS OF OPERATION

SUN.- MON. CLOSED

TUE.- 1pm to 11pm Tue. Is Lady's night 2 for one-Men Busch light \$2.50 from 4 to 6pm.

WED.- SAT.-1pm to 11 pm

POST & AUX MEETING 7pm club open 6pm MEMBERS only. Mn. Gambling license number 00385

Reining in tab fees and property taxes

By SEN. JOHN JASINSKI

If you've bought tabs recently, you probably noticed something frustrating: it cost more than you expected. Maybe your bill didn't go down from last year as much as you expected. Maybe it stayed exactly the same. For a lot of Minnesotans, that's been true for the last couple of years.

Why, you ask? In 2023, when Democrats had complete control of state government, they rewrote the formula for calculating license tab fees. They raised the base tax rate, and they also slowed down how fast your car is allowed to depreciate on paper.

So even as your vehicle loses real-world value, the state keeps taxing it like it's nearly new. Kelley Blue Book will tell you a three-year-old car has typically lost about 40% of its value. Under the current formula, the state treats it like it's still worth 90% of what you paid.

Because of the Democrats' law, tab fees are now staying stubbornly high year after year.

KSTP ran a story last fall about a driver from Plymouth who paid \$398 in 2024, \$398 in 2025, and \$398 again in 2026. Three straight years, not a cent of relief. I wish I could say that person's story is unusual, but it's not. I hear versions of it constantly around the district.

And here's some context on just how out of step Minnesota is with the rest of the region. Minnesota tab fees are 36% more expensive than Iowa, 366% more expensive than Illinois, 657% more than North Dakota, 728% more than Wisconsin, and 831% more than South Dakota (1). We're not even close.

I am working on a bill that would roll back the Democrats' tab fee increase and restore the formula to what it was before. It will mean real money back in your pocket. The goal is simple: a tab fee system that's fair, predictable, and actually reflects what your car is worth. My bill gets us closer to where we want to be.

Council from Page 1

sewer utilities to the West Interchange, or to support projects meant to alleviate inflow and infiltration in city lines. City Manager Carl Sonnenberg said various local agencies have submitted letters of support which will strengthen the applications.

The Waseca Fire Department recertified the fire extinguishers

Parks from Page 3

ant pathway.

Loon Lake Island is public land owned by the county. About three-fourths of an acre in size, it is accessible only by non-motorized watercraft. The island has some large, well-established trees which have been threatened in recent years by nesting cormorants; the birds' droppings are particularly acidic. When the materials seep into the soil, they kill the trees' roots. The county has received permission from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to continue efforts to control the number of cormorants both by removing what nests can be reached and by eliminating the birds prior to their nesting season.

Tomford noted during his presentation that county staff has devoted time over the past year to clearing buckthorn from the island's undergrowth. He mentioned he and his staff have looked into the possibility of primitive campsites on the island, but have been informed the island is not eligible for them because it does not have a bathroom. He noted, however, that there are signs members of the

The tab fee increase was one of many that Democrats passed when they had full control of state government. You'll recall that Minnesota had an \$18 billion surplus at the time. Many of us wanted to use that opportunity to provide people with some tax relief. Instead, they spent the entire surplus and raised \$10 billion in taxes and fees.

People are now paying the price for those decisions. My tab fee proposal will reverse part of the damage they caused, but there is certainly more. That's why my Senate GOP colleagues and I unveiled a broader relief agenda recently. The whole package is worth knowing about.

We also announced a proposal to rein in property tax increases for cities and counties over 2,500 people. If a local government believes it needs to raise property taxes above a certain threshold, our proposal says they must ask the voters for approval. Property taxes jumped by nearly a billion dollars last year, and homeowners have definitely been feeling the strain. Our bill will protect people against unreasonable increases.

Finally, we have proposals to eliminate state taxes on tips and overtime pay. This conforms to changes the federal government has already made, and it means more take-home pay for service workers and hourly employees.

Taken together, these bills address three areas that became much more expensive under one-party Democrat rule: wages, property taxes, and vehicle costs.

I've always believed the job of state government is to make Minnesota a place where people can afford to live, work, and raise a family. Right now, that's getting harder. These bills won't solve everything overnight, but they're a real good start.

Minnesotans have been waiting long enough for some common sense relief. These bills will give it to them.

Sincerely,
Senator Jasinski

at the airport. Specifications for a replacement fuel system there will be sent out soon for bids. Two airport hangar spaces remain available for rent.

A new refrigerator and freezer were purchased for the fire department's onion ring stand at the fairgrounds. Councilwoman Schroeder commended the Sleigh and Cutter committee for a successful parade and commented that the snowfall added a special touch, saying "It was very beautiful."

public visit the island. His only proposal for improving the island is to continue controlling the birds as long as necessary, and to plant new vegetation.

Mittelstaedt Park is about 40 acres in size and is located west of Janesville off County Road 19. Tomford describes it as a "large native grassy area" and summarizes public usage of it as viewing wildlife and hunting.

The proposed parks plan suggests the park should simply be maintained in its natural state.

Two other properties the plan suggests should be left as they are are Toners Lake and Gekeler parks. Toners Lake includes 11 acres of land and is accessible only because the county has an easement agreement with a private property owner. The county has located a small picnic area there for public use; otherwise the park is used mostly for wildlife viewing and hunting. Tomford reports there are no county maintained facilities at Gekeler Park, which is almost 24 acres in size and is located east of Highway 13 just south of the county recycling center in Otisco Township. He explains the acreage is completely surrounded by privately owned property, and so is not a good candidate for any sort of development at this time.



On the left, 6th grade leaders. On the right, 7th grade leaders.



8th grade leaders



Fact drill leaders



World problem leaders



JWP junior high math league competition

On Wednesday, February 25, 40 JWP junior high students competed at the annual 6-7-8 math league competition.

The day started with the fact drill competition. Sixth grader Nash James won the competition by posting a perfect score of 75!

Following the fact drill, each individual completed a grade specific booklet. The top five scores from each grade will be sent to Math League to compete against other schools in both Minnesota and the rest of the United States. The results will be posted in the coming months.

The top scorers from each grade:

Sixth Grade:
Felix Fellows, Nash James, Avery Hammett, Colton Budahn, and David Adams.

Seventh Grade: Charlotte Haekenkamp, Jackson Ling, Brody Bronstad, Waylon Schuch, and Amelia Schisler

Eighth Grade: Levi Possin, Emmett Cowdin, Dom Winters, Genna



Seventh Graders: Gus Roesler, Brock Groh, Waylon Schuch, Jackson Ling, Alese Wolff, Amelia Schisler, Liam Schisler, Charlotte Haekenkamp, Miranda Bonnifield, Brody Bronstad, Kyla Schlingmann, Raegan Daschner, and Broderick Robinson

Eighth Grade: Catherine Manthe, Levi Possin, Heaven Bielke, Sophia Donovan, Emmett Cowdin, Genna Mueller, Aubrey Anderson, Dom Winters, Ayden Bennett, Brydon Olson, Nathaniel Adams, Erika Eiertson, and Ava Place