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WASECA
COUNTY
PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

No. 13 Vol. V \$2

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Thursday, March 26, 2026



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Food Drive

Pre-orders for May 16 New Richland Garden Club plant sale

Pre-Sale orders for the Super-tunias, used by the New Richland Garden Club in the city garden on Hwy 30, are being taken now until Saturday, April 11. These are drought and heat tolerant with continuous bloom through Fall. Four colors are offered this year: pink, Silverberry white, fuschia, and Jazzberry (deep pink). Call Barb at 507-463-3306 to order or with questions. Available for pickup at the annual plant sale Saturday, May 16, at city hall.

Salad Luncheon at Waseca Legion on Friday, March 27

There will be a Salad Luncheon at the Waseca Legion from 11 a.m. till 1 p.m. on Friday, March 27. Cost is \$10 per person; proceeds go towards the Waseca American Legion Auxiliary.

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@farmamerica.org.

Early Childhood Fair at the Waseca Intermediate School Friday, 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” Friday, March 27

Rotary Adult Prom, “Dancing Through the Decades” at Starfire Event Center from 6:30 to 11 p.m. on 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.

Natalie Reynolds Wolff at the Waseca Art Center March 28

A gallery opening at the Waseca Art Center will feature artist Natalie Reynolds Wolff at the Harguth Gallery and the high school show in the Beckmann from 2-4 p.m. on March 28.

A word from
The Word

For I will satisfy the weary soul, and every languishing soul I will replenish.

Jeremiah 31:25



Ag awards presented during Farm and City Luncheon

By **DEB BENTLY**
News Editor

More than 250 people attended the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism’s “Farm and City Awards Luncheon” on March 19 at Farmamerica. The annual event announced people selected for three important awards to leaders in local agriculture.

Chamber president Mikhail Rostislavovich welcomed the crowd and thanked them for helping strengthen the bond between “the most important forces shaping our community: agriculture and business.” He went on to observe, “Agriculture is not just one of our industries, it is the backbone of our region and the heartbeat that drives our schools, our businesses, and our families forward.”

Emcee for the gathering was Jamie Beckstrand, chair of the Chamber’s agribusiness committee.

The first recipient announced was Debbie Roemhildt, who received the Waseca County Distinguished Agriculture Leadership award. Roemhildt was recognized for 21 years of organizing the Farm Bureau’s annual Farm and Home Safety Day, held in September on the county fairgrounds. All fifth-graders attending schools within the county are invited to attend. Roemhildt spends five or more months communicating with schools, speakers, presenters, and participating organizations in order to bring the event to fruition.

Vicky Singlestad, who introduced



Members of the Tyler and Stephanie Huber family, named the Waseca County Farm Family of the Year for 2026, include Tyler and Stephanie and their children Brynn, 7; twins Barrett and Briar, 4; and Beau, 7 months.

Roemhildt, observed that, along with all the planning and preparation comes troubleshooting on the day of the “camp.”

“Something always happens,” she observed lightheartedly. “The weather doesn’t cooperate, or the helicopter is behind schedule, or there’s a last-minute change to the delivery and serving of the food.” Yet, Singlestad said, Roemhildt copes with the difficulty and keeps the day on track.

In addition to the safety day, Roemhildt has shown leadership as a member of the Isosco Township Board and in a wide variety of roles at her church.

Waseca County’s Outstanding Young

Farmers for 2026 are Sean and Tammi Holmes. The couple are raising their children Terrance (TJ) and Brianna on a farm run by cooperation among generations, including Sean’s parents, Bob and Wendy, and his uncle, Tom.

According to a brief biography published in the event’s program, “Farming has always been central to the Holmes family, but growth and sustainability have required thoughtful decisions. In 2008, recognizing that the farm was not large enough at the time to support two families, Sean founded Holmes Ag Supply.”

Awards continued on 9



BEHAVIOR ADVICE - Alzheimer’s Association member Alisha Krueger and Executive Director of Caregiver Services Kelly Boeddeker gave a Dementia-Related Behaviors class on Wednesday, March 18, 2026. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Caregivers offer advice for dealing with difficult behaviors

By **BEN REVERMANN**
Staff writer

Caregiver Services of Waseca offered an informational session regarding behaviors frequently exhibited by people experiencing dementia the afternoon of Wednesday, March 18. After she was introduced by executive director Kelly Boeddeker, guest speaker Alisha Krueger shared information from the Minnesota and North Dakota Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association. Krueger is attending the University of Minnesota, Mankato, working toward a Doctor of Occupational Therapy degree. Boeddeker and Krueger made it clear the session was designed so anyone affected by Alzheimer’s Disease could learn about it and get answers to their questions from trained professionals.

About 15 people attended; nearly all were senior citizens. Krueger explained she would be providing information to help caregivers “deal with” or “manage” behaviors exhibited by those with dementia.

She began by letting people know many such behaviors are “a form of communication.”

She went on to say victims of the disease “have trouble knowing what’s real and what’s safe.” She clarified that people with dementia will have good or bad days, and that it’s helpful to know the person when trying to under-

Caregiver continued on 5

Upcoming construction dominates meeting

By **DEB BENTLY**
News Editor

During their regular meeting on March 17, an apparent uptick in large-scale construction projects prompted the members of the Waseca County Board of Commissioners to follow a recommendation from Adolfson and Peterson (A & P) Construction to produce a “Letter of Intent” to Wells Concrete to reserve a production slot for pre-cast concrete panels to be used in phase 2 of the construction of the county justice center.

A & P staff explained the pre-

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

cast concrete industry has experienced a “sudden jump” in demand which has expanded the typical wait time between placing an order and receiving delivery from 6 months to 9 months.

Presenting Wells Concrete with a letter of intent, it was explained, would help preserve the tight construction schedule which would have the pre-cast concrete panels installed during the December-to-

March winter season of late 2026 into 2027.

As previously reported in the Pioneer, the anticipated cost of the justice center is \$28.6 million. Construction plans call for staff to be able to occupy the building beginning in February of 2028, with all work, including outdoor pavement, landscaping, and the demolition of the current law enforcement center complete by September of 2028.

County administrator Michael Johnson explained the letter of intent is only that—a letter. “No check

is expected, no money will be paid out. The letter simply reserves us a spot in our planned production time frame.” The county’s expected contract with Wells Concrete will be for about \$1.8 million.

The majority of the actions taken during the March 17 meeting addressed projects for the upcoming construction season.

Commissioners approved the recommendation of County Public Works Director and Engineer Jim Kollar that the county accept the

County continued on 4

WASECA SCHOOL BOARD

Use of data, technology, addressed at meeting

By **MELISSA DUNN**
Staff Writer

During the March 19 regular business meeting of the Waseca school board, Intermediate School (WIS) Principal John Huttemier took a break from conferences to give a building report. Huttemier shared about the successful sixth-grade Math Masters competition, the annual Nacho Average Student Day, and the tech-free morning meetings and morning walk-and-talks. “We actually have the opportunity just to talk to each other. It gives our teachers a chance to see which kids are ready to go for the day,” Huttemier said. “It’s exciting to share what the kids are doing. It’s needed to create the kids we want in this community.”

Huttemier, who has been the principal at WIS for 15 years, next talked about the WIS vision card and how staff members are focusing on being data-driven in the content areas of reading and math. He explained results from the annual Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs) and other assessments are used to analyze whether changes need to be made in the scope and sequence of classroom teaching. Huttemier also spoke about the importance of teaching kids to manage friendships and respect in the age of technology. “What’s changed is how relationships exist now,” he said. “I think as a whole, our kids are better equipped to work with other human beings than they were back in 2010.”

Superintendent Eric Hudspith mentioned that partners from the Minnesota School Board Association would be available to assist with the board’s self-evaluation on a few dates in May and June; he offered to email available dates out board members. Hudspith also said the board would be invited to tour all of the district buildings in late April or May to talk about the long-term facility maintenance projects planned for each.

Business manager Andrew Adams presented the revised 2025-2026 budget for board approval with little to no change. Other action items included approval of a contract with Director of Technology Brian Hering. Head wrestling coach Jake Janike and state tournament wrestlers Matt Veroeven and Slade Barnett also spoke about their experiences.

Story
idea?

507-837-6767



Compostings

by Al Batt

An Irish possum

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
I'm staying busy.

Oh, yeah? Doing what?

Trying to look busy.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. Spring is when you can step outside, and char your rear end while freezing your nose at the same time. A silly old poem I learned in my boyhood is "Spring is sprung, the grass is riz. I wonder where the birdies is. They say the birdies on the wing, but that's absurd. I always thought the wing was on the bird."

Spring is when my entire world chirps. I saw the first returning robin of the spring. He was easy to see. He had his tongue stuck to a flagpole.

I was a couple of days younger than I am today when I grew weary in the afternoon. I was tired but wasn't sure why. Then I realized the cause. It was all the walking I've done, and I'm not even counting moonwalking. I'd walked and talked, and I walked the line, on sunshine, on the water, on by, the walk, on, on eggshells, tall, in Memphis, like a man, by myself, like an Egyptian, in your shoes, to New Orleans, on life, this way, it off, on the wild side, after midnight, the floor over you, the dog, and done some of it shuffling off to Buffalo while wearing boots that were made for walking—and other songs I've forgotten. Uffda! No wonder I was tired.

I'VE LEARNED

All the good chemistry jokes argon.

I went to the Helium Museum. I can't speak highly enough about that place.

Twist ties change direction in mid-twist or mid-untwist.

I put a bow on my wife's old car and gave it to her for her birthday. She was surprised.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

An opossum is an Irish possum. Someone born in '33 was 45 in '78. That has got to be a record.

My father said, "When one door closes, another door opens." He was a wonderful man, but a terrible cabinetmaker.

How do you get red wine out of a carpet? You don't. You get red wine out of grapes.

NATURE NOTES

The shadows were bending in the afternoon under the weight of

the sun when I heard the dark-eyed juncos making toy ray gun sounds. Pew, pew, pew! The gray birds with white bellies and outer tail feathers are called snowbirds because they usher in the snow. The junco, looking like a gray bird that crash-landed in a can of white paint, is a common spring and fall migrant throughout Minnesota and Iowa, and a common winter visitor in all of Iowa and the southern part of Minnesota. A junco's eyes are dark, and the bill is a light pink. Females are a lighter gray. I see more of the darker-colored males than the females during the winter. Females are more common in the southern states, overwintering as far as northern Mexico. The males risk harsh winters in the north in order to get a head start on the spring journey back to their breeding territories in northeastern Minnesota and Canada. They are sometimes accompanied by American tree sparrows that appear to be wearing tie tacks without neckties. It's a good look and one I may emulate. This sparrow breeds across northern Canada and Alaska, and despite having "tree" in its name, it's a ground bird. It forages and nests on the ground.

A reader asked where goldfinches first show spring colors? That's a tough question about a wild canary that refuses to answer questions. You'd think the state bird of Iowa would be more forthcoming. This is a wild guess, but I am going to say Dublin, Georgia. Yeah, that's it, Dublin, Georgia. I'll bet yellow feathers abound there. Oh, wait a second. My sweet wife, The Queen B, just told me that this was a plumage question and not a geographical question. I told her I knew that. Please don't tell her anything different. It'll be our little secret. There are many colors on a bird's palette. The first signs of a male American goldfinch's molt into a breeding plumage show around the head. The pale edges of the wing feathers wear and fade, and the bill color begins changing to a pale orange. This progresses with more yellow and black feathers around the head and more yellow on the body. It creates expectations, and I welcome the sight of the tiny birds that have become flying dandelions.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"The day the Lord created hope was probably the same day He created Spring."—Bernard Williams. Be kind.



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

Blue-collar industry, black tie image

When you read this, I will already be home, but as I am writing it, I am at the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs, and feeling a bit out of my element—although not in a completely bad way.

My husband John and I are here for the National Air Duct Cleaners' Association (NADCA) annual convention. And yes, it IS a real organization; John has been a member for three decades or so.

What mystifies both of us, though, is why an organization representing an obviously blue-collar industry has booked its event at a venue that clearly promotes a very black-suit-white-tie image for itself. For crying out loud, there's a chandelier above our bed.

It's roughly a 12-hour drive from the Waseca area to Colorado Springs. We took it all in one day, and so it was past 9 p.m. when we arrived. The entry to the Broadmoor complex occupies an area about the size of a large city block. The entry begins a couple hundred feet in front of the building. There, at the beginning of a U-shaped drive decorated by such a long line of brightly-lit trees it might as well have been daytime, we were instructed to stop our car next to an elegant little gate house and we were welcomed. We provided our names; it was established we were booked to stay for the night, and a tag was placed on our windshield.

We were given solicitously polite instructions about the next step,

which was to pull forward to the valet parking area.

Under and around a canopy, the drivers of four or five other vehicles were being assisted by a small hive of employees wearing uniforms which included caps. We pulled forward to a logical spot. While the valet answered someone else's questions, I stepped over to a bank of luggage carts and began pulling one toward our car.

I was stopped nearly immediately. The valet we had spoken with stated kindly that only employees were meant to move the carts. Always politely and never in a way that offended, he persistently located himself so that it would be he who lifted our luggage from the trunk and rolled it inside. He tagged our cart and handed us half of the card, directing us inside to the registration area, stating that the cart would be delivered directly to our room.

Once we were checked in, John dashed off to an arranged meeting with some business acquaintances. I was greeted by another uniformed individual who showed me where the elevators were, suggested that I might wish to go up ahead, and assured me she would meet me there.

When we were both at the room, it was the reverse of what had happened out front. She persisted in being the one who removed the items from the cart and placed them in various suitable locations around the room. She asked whether I would



Deb's room at the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs, Colorado features a chandelier. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

like to see either of the suitcases placed on a luggage stand, when I said yes, that might be helpful, she suggested it might stand in the closet for convenient, out-of-the-way access.

While moving briskly back and forth, she pointed out the espresso machine, and mentioned that "housekeeping has brought up some ice for you." If I wanted more, she said I had only to dial zero on the phone, ask for housekeeping, and more would be delivered promptly.

As she was finished and was leaving, I thanked her for her assistance and guidance—but only realized persons like her are often given tips after she was well out of sight.

Others may be accustomed to this sort of experience, but my typical in-

teractions with hotels require, shall we say, a much more independent approach.

If I have an excuse, it might be that I had only just finished a 12-hour car ride, it was becoming fairly late, and I was perhaps a bit dazzled by the chandelier along with, well, the whole ambience of the space.

My point is probably strengthened by the fact that one of the very first things I did after the door closed was to take a picture. "My gravel-road family." I thought to myself, "will get a kick out of this."

So much excitement, even though the current extent of my adventure is having arrived in town and checked into a hotel. Maybe I'll go try on one of the two elegant, soft-collared white robes hanging in the closet...

The strong community, support of parents

I've continued on the train of learning new things.

The parent magazine I work for is currently working on putting together its "Everything Baby" edition, where the magazine is just filled with stories and resources about pregnancy and newborns.

As I put together the resource guide filled with information on adoption, birthing centers, parenting classes, fostering, breastfeeding, and more, I just can't help thinking: Do these readers know they are receiving information about pregnancy and babies from an unmarried, childless 22-year-old? I just think it's slightly ironic.

One mom I interviewed asked me how old I am and whether I have any kids. "You sound young," she commented, since we were chatting over the phone. She went on to ask how I became involved with a parenting magazine. I explained I completed a journalism major and when I went job hunting, this particular magazine



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

was one of very few in the area that was hiring. While the majority of the people at the company I work for are indeed parents, it's funny that out of the five editors writing stories, only one is actually raising children: We go to her for all our easy parenting questions.

But news reporters don't have to "live" everything they write about. We don't have to be firefighters to write about a fire, for example. I work to provide accurate and helpful information to the magazine's readers—I get information directly from parents and parent resource

centers, and I do extensive Googling.

While the idea of physically birthing a child still scares me at this age, I do find myself in awe just at the sheer number of resources available for moms and parents with newborns and growing families. Anything from different styles of birth, to classes, to postpartum grief and support groups—if a parent is struggling, there's someone out there to help. It's a nice thought.

Even a lot of the parents I've ended up talking to for the magazine have started businesses themselves aimed at helping parents and being a

resource and place of support. The parenting community is tightly knit, I'm learning. Or maybe I just think that because I am so invested in it and constantly work to learn more about it.

Anyway, it hit 80 degrees here last week, so I've been trying to spend more time working outside. Thankfully, our apartment has numerous areas where one can enjoy the sun and still be connected to WiFi. It honestly seems outrageous that it's already so hot, but I guess I won't complain too much. Although I can't help thinking these warm days aren't as uplifting as the first warm days in Minnesota that bring hope with the new sunshine. They're like coming out of a winter cave and being able to stretch your legs and kiss the sun. Here, I just enjoy a warm day.

My Determination: "I would keep her, and raise her, and love her, even if she had to teach me how to do it." — Vanessa Diffenbaugh, The Language of Flowers

How long will teens hate Mom and Dad

I have been enjoying a great number of stories via Audible this year. Audible is an application which reads stories to the listener.

Editor Deb talked to me numerous times about the benefits of listening to stories opposed to reading them. (Not that she or I don't still read.)

I am a busy body and do enjoy reading. A few years ago I started reading regularly, every night, as a new, old hobby. Last year I only managed a small handful of books. I was slacking.

On my drive back from Florida, in January, Deb's voice was speaking to me in the back of my mind. So I downloaded Audible and listened to two books during my 23-hour, two-day drive.

Over the past month I have listened to two more books and am not slowing down. As a 'busy body' I find car rides, walks and gym workouts perfect for listening to stories. One of my favorite parts about life is listening to people tell stories. It makes even more sense now why Audible is perfect. I had missed the feeling one has when fully engulfed in a good story. I imagine it might be similar to a drug addict's cravings. Or maybe just that strong craving one may have for a milk shake.



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

I have been spending more time with my father this year. I read somewhere a couple years ago that when a teenager reaches the age of 14 or 15 they start to 'rebel' against their parents. Apparently, a teen's instinct makes them ignore and push against everything their mom or dad tells them. I guess this is a way to 'learn for oneself.'

This same article went on to explain that this lasts until age 28 or 29 when the individual then realizes their parents are not the enemy—that they really are doing the best they can, and that parents really do have more life experience.

I don't know if this is why, but I've started playing cribbage with my dad twice a week as well as going to church with him on Sundays. My dad really is the best cribbage player in the world. And I'm the second best. There is no arguing

with me on this.

My dad and I spent thousands of hours playing cribbage together during my youth. I think we started around my age of 10. Dad remembers playing cribbage with his dad who died when he was only 10 or so.

Cribbage is a card game played to 121 points on a board with small finger nail length pegs used to track points on a small board with holes in it. The pegs are moved one at a time as players score points.

Growing up we played together on my dad's, dad's cribbage board, the same one he brought with him to Alaska during World War II. Dad let me use the original wooden pegs. The other two were lost and replaced long ago. I have never used any other cribbage board with pegs that move in as smoothly as those do. To this day I recall my dad telling me

how important it is to treat that board and those original pegs with care. "You don't know how easy it is to break them." He told my 10-year old self.

We track our wins and losses on a yellow legal pad at his house and a PHB law office legal pad when we play at my house.

Every time we have played this month my dad has reminded me how proud he is of me. I'm really grateful for this time with my father and I urge really everyone who still has parents alive or adult children alive to spend time with them. It is truly invaluable time. Priceless.

I've even taken to inviting my dad to outings with my friends. And I wasn't the first one to do this. My friends often invite their parents. Parents are now quite literally, part of the friend group. It makes me smile to think back to teenage years when the thought of hanging out with your friends and parents would make me cringe. Now, my friends and I actively try to include them in our game nights.

How the turn tables. (That is a play on words my friends like to say in place of, how the tables turn.)

WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

SERVING THE WHOLE OF WASECA COUNTY
including the communities of Waseca, Janesville, New Richland, and Waldorf

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Wendt Sisters at the Indian Island Winery on Saturday, March 28

The Wendt Sisters will be performing at the Indian Island Winery from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 28. They perform everyone's favorites.

Watercolor Bunnies Class at the Waseca Arts Council March 31 or April 1

A class in painting watercolor bunnies will be offered on March 31, from 5 to 7pm OR April 1, from 1 to 3 p.m. Cost: \$30 Members / \$35 Non-members. Local artist Cherie Jacobson will guide painters through this new watercolor technique that lets the water do the work. Supplies will be provided.

Maudy Thursday Worship Service April 2

Christ the King Lutheran Church is hosting Maudy Thursday Worship Service at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 2.

All You Can Eat Fish dinner at Waseca American Legion Friday, April 3

The Waseca Sons of American Legion will have and all you can eat fish dinner from 5:30-7 p.m. on Friday, April 3. Includes coleslaw, dinner roll and endless fish. \$15 adults, 8 and under \$8.

Good Friday Worship Service April 3

Christ the King Lutheran Church is hosting Good Friday Worship Service at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 3.

Jigsaw Jam at the Mill Event Center April 3

There will be a Jigsaw Jam at the Mill Event Center at 6 p.m. on Friday, April 3. Teams of four with no age requirement. Includes 500 piece puzzle and four drink tickets. Must register online.

Easter Winter Farmers Market at Farmamerica April 4

A winter farmers market will be at Farmamerica from 8 a.m. till noon Saturday, April 4. Find locally grown, baked and made while supporting our local producers. Farmamerica is located at 7367 360th Ave., Waseca.

Spring Craft Show at Starfire Event Center Saturday, April 4

A Spring Craft Show scheduled from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 4 at Starfire Event Center in Waseca will feature a range of vendors and chances to visit with the Easter Bunny. Find out more on the Starfire Event Center Facebook page.

Johnny Frost and the Heatseekers at Indian Island Winery April 4

Johnny Frost and the Heatseekers will perform at Indian Island Winery from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 4. They perform seven decades of music.

Smokescreen at Boxcar Bar April 4

Musical group Smokescreen will perform at Boxcar Bar at 9 p.m. on Saturday, April 4.

Janesville Food Shelf serving those in need

By **DEB BENTLY**
News Editor

The Janesville area food shelf has typically distributed nearly 55,000 pounds of food to nearly 850 households each year over the past few years, reports organization director Kay Gottschalk.

The food shelf has its own entry door toward the south end of the west wall of Trinity Lutheran Church in Janesville, off the alley. Its hours are Thursdays from 1 to 3 p.m., with additional time on the second Thursday of the month from 6 to 7 p.m. It is also open on the first and third Saturdays of each month from 1 to 3 p.m.

According to Gottschalk, a food shelf has existed in Janesville since 1991 or before, although it moved around a bit prior to finding its current location. Volunteers come from churches in the Janesville area.

Donations to the food shelf are especially valuable from now until April 6, since the facility will benefit from a "Fight Hunger" campaign by the organization Minnesota FoodShare. Money raised statewide by FoodShare will be distributed among 300 participating food shelves; the proportion each shelf receives will be based on the number of people it served and the dollar value of donations it received, including both cash and food.

Gottschalk indicates she is grateful for the number of donations the food shelf receives from local residents. Another important source is a relationship with Kwik Trip north in Waseca, which gives weekly donations of supplies.

As with most area food shelves, the organization also relies on a distribution system known as Channel One, based out of Rochester. Channel One acquires food from various businesses and large-scale food producers at reduced prices, then distributes them among regional food shelves at



BASKETS OF FUN - Teams of children from area schools frequently help pack baskets to be delivered to clients at the Janesville Area Food Shelf, located in Trinity Lutheran Church with its own outside entry door. Baskets are prepared at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

prices far below retail.

Food shelf volunteers man the facility during its open hours, and also take care of soliciting and picking up donations, and stocking shelves with supplies.

"There's a lot of work behind the scenes," comments Gottschalk.

At Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter, the food shelf distributes about 60 seasonal baskets which include the makings of a traditional holiday meal, complete with special donations from the Waseca County Dairy Association. Teams of local schoolchildren frequently help with the task. Gottschalk says anyone wanting more Dula infor-

mation or wishing to make a donation can access the organization's Facebook page, or contact her via phone or email at 507-521-1107, janessville-foodshelf@gmail.com.

Money is the most flexible type of donation thanks to the low prices available through Channel One, but for those wishing to donate food, she says some of the most high traffic products are canned meats; canned mandarin oranges or pineapple; spaghetti sauce; and baking materials such as sugar, flour and oil. Clients also look for hygiene items including paper towels, toilet paper and tissues.



FIGHTING HUNGER - From left: Dot Gornitzke, organization leader Pam Goehring, Don Behrns, co-leader Larry Goehring, Lori Dalhoff, and Rose Loken were volunteering at the New Richland Food Shelf on Tuesday, March 17, 2026. March is National "Fight Hunger Month."

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Food Shelf sees 90 households per month

New Richland Area Food Shelf volunteers grateful for support from locals

By **BEN REVERMANN**
Staff writer

The New Richland Area Food Shelf helps anywhere from 275 to 280 people—about 90 households—each month, according to one of its leaders, Larry Goehring. He goes on to say all supplies are available due to community donations. "We have circulating in and out of here between 800 and 1,000 pounds of food every month—that's on average for the past six months. We hold food drives all year and two in December, and activity always goes up during the holidays. The State Bank of New Richland has helped out a lot, many times they will match donations, and that's very generous. We also get donations from Wagner Foods, area churches and the general public." He said there are two different types of donations, "The food itself—which we get many times in bulk—or cash."

He goes on to clarify "Receiving cash donations gives us the power to purchase from Channel One what we

need for a fraction of the cost of buying it in a grocery or discount store. We are also eligible for March Minnesota FoodShare dollars." Channel One is a food distributor located in Rochester which receives food from many sources and distributes it, at below retail prices, to food shelves across southern Minnesota.

March is "Fight World Hunger" month. A statewide organization called Minnesota FoodShare is carrying out a drive to support about 300 food shelves across the state. Local organizations keep track of donations of money and food received and numbers of people served during March and through April 6. Those numbers are reported, and all participating shelves receive funds from the statewide campaign in proportion to their reported numbers. The FoodShare campaign increases the value of donations made through April 6.

The New Richland Area Food Shelf is located at 101 Broadway Avenue South in New Richland. Its open hours are from 3 to 6:30 p.m. on the

first and third Tuesdays of each month.

Larry and his wife Pam have been co-leaders of the food shelf ever since they were asked prior to 2009. Larry explains: "We're Lutherans. Our minister said, 'You two need something to do and New Richland needs a food shelf. Can you help?'" When it began, the food shelf was located in the education wing of New Richland's Trinity Lutheran Church.

It moved to its current location in 2015, when the State Bank of New Richland donated the building, a former hotel, built in 1890. Along with the building came some funds to update and renovate a space for the food shelf. Larry goes on to say the downtown location and the space offered by the building have been of tremendous benefit to the food shelf's operation.

There was chatter in the kitchen and both Larry and Pam introduced their help for the day, Dot Gornitzke, Don Behrns, Lori Dalhoff and Rose Loken are among many who volunteer. Said

Larry, "We operate with all volunteers; we have at least 12 regulars and we couldn't do it without them. We couldn't afford to operate otherwise."

The New Richland Food Shelf website states, "Anyone is welcome. No one will be asked how much money they make. A person can come whenever he/she needs food. No one will be asked for a financial donation. The shelf also takes paper products and toiletry donations as well."

Along with the food shelf, the building at 101 S. Broadway has housed the New Richland Historical Society since about 2001, according to Pam. She indicated a room festooned by pictures and vintage clothing. "This is the historical society's museum and I'm organizing." She pointed out pictures painted directly onto the wall, with wooden frames that were installed afterward to give it that "hanging painted canvas" look. She also showed black and white photos of what the place used to look like back when it was a hotel.

Area food shelves benefit from statewide campaign

By **DEB BENTLY**
News Editor

During the month of March, the Twin Cities based organization FoodShare holds a major fundraising drive to provide financial support for about 300 participating food shelves around the state. Local shelves keep track of the number of people served and donations received during the target dates—this year from March 1 to April 6—and provide a summary report to the organization.

Funds raised by FoodShare during this "Fight Hunger" campaign are then distributed among the organizations in amounts relative to their reported numbers.

Because the FoodShare drive creates an opportunity to get additional donations based on donations received, local food shelves work to increase awareness and encourage giving during the target dates. The FoodShare website indicates the Waseca, Janesville and New Richland food shelves are taking part in the program.

The organization Feeding America reports that nearly 550,000 Minnesotans are facing hunger. About a third of these individuals are under the age of 18.

FoodShare states that Minnesota's charitable food system (food shelves and food banks, meal programs, etc.) is running "at capacity," and goes on to list numerous contributing factors, including rising food prices, growing inflation rates, and slowing wage growth. Information available on the FoodShare website states, "Massive leaps in food shelf attendance over the last five years suggest emergency food assistance providers will continue to be a critical resource to communities across the state."

Information on the site also states the annual numbers of visits to food shelves are now 150% higher than they were prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, with growing numbers of seniors becoming eligible for services.

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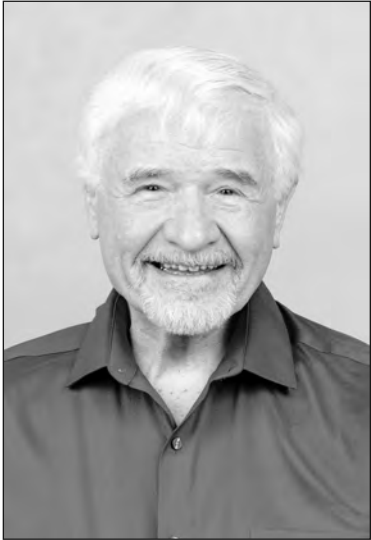
Michael Clemons

Michael Anthony Clemons, known to many as Mick, was 79 years old when he died unexpectedly in the early morning hours of Sunday, March 15, 2026 at the Mayo Clinic's St. Mary's Campus in Rochester, Minnesota. He had been diagnosed with a brain tumor (glioblastoma) the Tuesday before. Jehovah our God was full of mercy for him and he did not suffer.

Mick was born in Mankato, Minnesota on January 22, 1947, to his parents Milton and Winifred (Muldoon) Clemons. He spent his early years happily visiting his loving Grandparents Mike and Kate Muldoon on a farm near Madison Lake, Minnesota and often spoke about his wonderful memories of them. He spent his entire life living in Waseca, Minnesota. He went to Sacred Heart School, and graduated a Scarlet. Mick attended Mankato State University and graduated with a degree in Business. He was the first person in his family to attend college.

He worked from an early age in the Clemons School and Charter Bus family business. He first started with cleaning buses and when he was a senior in high school he started driving school bus routes. He actually drove classmates to school and would sometimes be late to his first class which was chemistry. During the summer he worked at the Birds Eye plant in Waseca making Cool Whip to earn money to pay for college. He also had many fond memories of his time building and repairing the Chicago North Western Railway between Waseca and Mankato. After graduation he joined The Hartford Insurance Company in Duluth, Minnesota as an adjuster, later moving to their Rochester office for two years. On February 7, 1975 he quit to work full time as a part owner of the family business which he dedicated his life to for 41 years before his retirement in 2016. He loved the school kids and charter groups. He treasured all the friends he made along the way. He was always cheering on his teams or artistic groups, whether they were from Waseca, Mankato, Shattuck-St. Mary's in Faribault, the Twin Cities, or the Rochester College Choir. He truly enjoyed all the marvelous trips he took them on to nearly all 48 continental states. He took many long extended charter trips with Waseca and area groups to all three coasts of the United States. He was a true bus driver.

On March 3rd of 1977 he met his wife Beth of 47 ½ years on a Chanhasen Theatre bus trip. They were married in 1978 and had two wonderful sons. His boys followed



Michael Clemons

in the early years of his footsteps working for the family business. Mick was a member of Sacred Heart Church. He loved riding bike with Beth on the many Minnesota bike trails and working out at Snap Fitness. He loved to travel. He and Beth were able to go to Ireland and meet many wonderful family members and do a great deal of family history research, which he adored. He was very close to his father-in-law, Eric Parkyn, who taught him how to weld and build fences.

They spent many hours together tinkering on projects. More than anything he adored his wife, children, their spouses, and his grandbabies.

Mick is survived by his wife Beth Clemons; his sons, Lucas (Hephzibah "Eppie") Clemons and Marcus (Tanxing Tang) Clemons; three grandchildren, David, Linden and Abigail Clemons; and four siblings, Mary Kay (Dan) Kortum, Judy Conway, Jeanne (Vance) Swanson, and Lisa (Dave) Byron. He was preceded in death by both of his parents and brother Patrick Clemons. He is also survived by a special Uncle Patrick (Beverly) Muldoon and special first cousins of his father, James (Mary Kay) Myers, Jerry Myers and Wayne Winjum.

Beth has just finished chemo and radiation treatments for cancer. We are asking as a family that, if you are sick, please mask up and send your condolences from a distance.

Mass of Christian Burial was held at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, March 20, 2026 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca, with Father Glenn Freichs officiating. Visitation was held at the church from 11:00 a.m. until the time of the Mass at the church. Interment followed at Sakatah Cemetery in Waterville. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Services in Waseca handled the arrangements. dsfuneral.com

Jim Peterson

James Arvid Peterson, age 84, of Waldorf, MN passed away peacefully with his loving family by his side on March 22, 2026

Born on September 23, 1941, in Waseca, MN he was the son of Arvid and Pearl (Sutlief) Peterson. Jim grew up in rural Waseca, attended a country school, and later graduated from Waseca High School. After graduating from high school, Jim worked throughout his career at B&S Grain, Winegar Inc, and Berneke Construction.

On November 27, 1963, he married Bernadine Borglum at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church in Easton. Jim and Bernadine moved to Waldorf, where they settled down and raised their

four children. Jim proudly served on the Waldorf Fire Department for 40 plus years. He was a longtime member of St. Joseph Catholic Church and on the cemetery board for many years. He took pride in caring for and maintaining the church and cemetery.

In retirement, Jim enjoyed traveling, gardening and helping on the farm.

Jim will be lovingly remembered by his wife, Bernadine; children: David (Amy) Peterson, Marijo (Paul) Beckstrand, and Glee (Larry) Merritt; grandchildren: Terri Peterson, Tyrel (Mandy Holden) Peterson, Rae (Matt) Trcka, Brianna (Kevin) Braith, Haylee (Brian) Stockowitz, Amy (Josh) Brown, Jamie Beckstrand, Trevor (Tara) Beckstrand, Travis

Beckstrand, Alicia (Steph) Root, Alex (Haley) Merritt, Avery, Aaron, and Aiden Merritt; 19 great-grandchildren, siblings, Bruce (Connie) Peterson, Jan Bartz, and Kathy Karsten; sister-in-law, Martha Phillips; along with many nieces, nephews, and extended family, and his puppy, Andy.

He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Bill Peterson; and brother, Jerry Peterson.

A Memorial Mass will be held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, March 28, 2026, at St Joseph Catholic Church in Waldorf, MN. A visitation will be held on Friday, March 27, 2026, from 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM at St Joseph Catholic Church in Waldorf, MN and one hour prior to the service at the church. Burial



Jim Peterson

will be at St Joseph's Community Cemetery in Waldorf, MN.



SCOUTING FOR GOOD - After inviting Waseca residents to set donations out on their doorsteps for collection the morning of Saturday, March 21, area scouts picked them up from all around town for delivery to the Waseca Area Food Shelf, bringing in more than 2,000 pounds of food and a few hundred dollars. Participating groups were Scout Troop 85, Troop 1085, and the Cub Scouts. Photo courtesy of Becky Petsinger.

Scouting for food brings in a bonanza

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Brisk activity the morning of March 21 delivered a rich bonanza of donations to benefit the Waseca Area Food Shelf. After delivering notices of their annual "Scouting for Food" initiative to homes all over Waseca across the past few weeks, area scouts scoured the town for donations left on doorsteps, collected them, and brought them to a first-stop gathering at Grace's Garage.

Cindy Kolarer, executive director of the Waseca Area Food Shelf, explained, "As soon as everything is sorted we'll know how much we collected. We don't weigh it here at Grace's Garage, we have the proper scales over at the food shelf and we'll weigh it there. But I would say we have around 2,000 pounds collected.

We won't know the actual number till later in the week. We have also gotten cash and check donations, at least a few hundred dollars worth."

Kolarer expressed gratitude to the Scouts and volunteers for the annual drive, mentioning it is especially helpful that it takes place during "Fight Hunger Month," when the organization Minnesota FoodShare supplements donations.

Adult and youth volunteers were carrying not only totes and bags full of food, but also bags of toilet paper and cleaning products. Said Scout Leader Nicole Busse, "We have been handing out flyers and putting notes on doors all over town for weeks now. We have all of Waseca mapped out and the kids got an early start today with their collec-

tions and the parents doing the driving. We're not just looking for food, we have also asked for paper products like for school, baby formula, baby diapers, tissue paper and other toiletries. With this 70-degree weather we couldn't have asked for a prettier day."

Becky Petsinger, one of the event's organizers, summarized the day's schedule: "Usually our collection goes through noon, then we'll finish sorting everything and finish up. We have one active scout from troop 1085, at least eight kids from Troop 85 and around 20 members from the Cub Scouts helping and volunteering their time. We also get some of the parents sprinkled in to help with driving and heavy lifting." As she said that there were children being children everywhere, some were loud, some were quiet

but they were all happy and laughing, Petsinger continued, "These kids are developing a sense of ownership over this; they get that feeling of community service and that changes attitudes towards town pride as they get older. But it hasn't just been the people that are here today that have been helping, the whole town of Waseca has been kicking in so much by way of food and cash donations. Please, if you know any children who might be interested in Scouting, get the word out, they could always use new members!"

All scouts in Waseca would like to thank VFW post 1216, Austin, MN, the Wow Zone in Mankato and the United Way Partner Agency and New Country Minnesota 100.5 for all scouting related updates.

Steven Frederick

Steven Otto Frederick, age 76 of Waseca, died on the evening of Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at his home.

Steve was born in Waseca on July 16, 1949, to parents Orlin and Ann (Gostomczik) Frederick. He attended Sacred Heart School in Waseca and graduated with the Scarlett class of 1967. On August 16, 1969, Steve was married to Kathy Marie Larson at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Albert Lea. He spent many years driving tractor and farming before beginning to work in construction for Mid-State Reclamation. He was a member of the former Eagle's Club in Waseca and was a long-time member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca.

Steve enjoyed following Nascat, snowmobiling, hunting, meat processing, cooking, and playing cards.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 56 years, Kathy Frederick of Waseca; three daughters, Wendy (Chris) Swenson of Billings, MT, Joanne Frederick of Waseca, and Kristen Frederick of Waseca; and one sister, Roxanne (Tom) Jes of



Steven Frederick

Plymouth.

He was preceded in death by both of his parents and an infant daughter, Deborah Frederick.

A private family graveside service will be held at Calvary Cemetery in Waseca. A public celebration of Steve's life will be hosted by his family from 2-6 p.m. on Friday, April 3, 2026, at the Waseca American Legion. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca is handling the arrangements. dsfuneral.com

County from Page 1

\$48,000 bid of the Mankato firm Widseth to design and oversee the construction of a "re-use facility" to be constructed at the county recycling center south of Waseca along State Highway 13.

The county has received a \$225,000 grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency toward the construction of the facility, which will be used to store and display items brought in for disposal which still have usable life left in them. Items diverted from the waste stream will be given to interested parties at no charge. The grant is based on the expectation full cost for the facility will be about \$300,000, with the county responsible for about \$75,000. Widseth's proposal includes having specifications for the project, which will include the re-

location of a few elements currently located at the construction site, by the end of June.

Kollar also received approval for his recommendation that Crane Creek Asphalt be awarded a \$1.08 million contract to increase safety measures along 6.7 miles of East Elysian Lake Road (CSAH 3) from County Road 14 to State Highway 60. Kollar mentioned the stretch of CSAH 3 has a typical vehicle count of about 2,000 a day.

The project would include paving the highway's shoulders, adding shoulder rumble strips, and installing ground-in wet reflective markings. During his summary, Kollar reported the project has been approved for as much as \$750,000 in federal highway safety improvement funding, with much of the remainder to be covered by state funding sources.

Kollar's recommendation for a similar project on Old Highway 14 was also approved. He reported that an 11-mile stretch of Old 14 leading into the western edge of

Waseca is also eligible for federal highway safety improvement dollars. This piece of highway, Kollar reported, sees about 2,600 vehicles a day. The plan is to give the road 6-foot-wide paved shoulders, rumble strips, and ground-in wet reflective markings.

The \$1.7 million project was awarded to Nielsen Blacktopping of Kasota. Cost for the work will be covered by a combination of federal and state-based funding.

A final recommendation from Kollar was for refurbishing much of the blacktopping on the Waseca County Fairgrounds, beginning from the entry along Third Street Northeast and extending southward to the vicinity of the fire department's onion ring stand. The lowest responsible bidder for the project was WW Blacktopping of Mankato, which proposed to complete the work for \$75,500.

Kollar mentioned that the terms for the bid made clear that the project cannot interfere with the fair, so that the bidder must either agree to

have the project finished by May 23, or not to begin until July 20 or later. Kollar informed commissioners that early correspondence with the bidder indicates the company's intent to perform the work in the earlier window, weather permitting.

Also among his presentations during the March 17 meeting, Kollar introduced engineering supervisor Josh Smith and engineering technician Andrew Graupman, both of whom had worked closely with the county's 2025 pavement rehabilitation on a six-mile stretch of County Highway 3 north of Waldorf.

Kollar reported that the county and the construction contractor, PCi Roads LLC, were both recognized for excellence in execution of the project during a March 11 meeting of the Concrete Paving Association of Minnesota, held at Breezy Point Resort. More information about this award will appear in a future edition of the Waseca County Pioneer.

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March 31 meetings to introduce youth leadership program

On Tuesday, March 31, Waseca area business owners, employers, community members, and parents are invited to attend an informational meeting about The Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities (CEO) program, an innovative initiative of the Midland Institute for Entrepreneurship. <https://www.discoverceominnesota.com/MN>

The CEO program is a community-driven model that partners with local schools to provide high school students with real-world, hands-on business experiences. Through this unique approach, students develop an entrepreneurial mindset, explore local career pathways, and build essential professional skills that prepare them for future success.

More than just a traditional class, the CEO program immerses students outside the classroom, connecting them directly with area businesses and organizations. Participants gain firsthand insights into the local economy while launching and operating two real businesses of their own, guided by experienced men-

tors.

Currently, the CEO program includes 74 programs across 350 high schools nationwide. In Minnesota, there are seven active programs, with two additional programs set to launch in Fall 2026.

Two informational sessions will be held on March 31:

- 1:00 PM – 1:30 PM at Waseca Lakeside Golf Club
- 6:00 PM – 6:30 PM at Waseca High School Performing Arts Center (PAC)

Kris Noble, Growth Specialist with the Midland Institute for Entrepreneurship, will provide an overview of the CEO program and lead a discussion on its impact on students and communities.

Community members interested in learning more about how this program can benefit Waseca and support the development of future business and community leaders are encouraged to attend.

For more information, please contact: Waseca Area CEO Volunteer Steering Committee: WasecaAreaCEO@gmail.com

Waseca native named to S.D. board of pardons

Aaron Pilcher, a 2004 graduate of Waseca High School, is the newest member of the South Dakota Board of Pardons and Paroles. Pilcher has worked as a prosecutor, former defense attorney and is co-founder of a halfway house in Huron, S.D.

Pilcher’s legal practice is in Huron; he was chosen to serve on the parole board by Gov. Larry Rhoden. The governor, attorney general and state Supreme Court each choose three parole board members; each appointing office must choose at least one lawyer.

The South Dakota Senate promptly approved Pilcher’s appointment.

Sen. Tamara Grove, R-Lower Brule, said Pilcher’s experience on both sides of the criminal justice system gives him unique qualifications to make decisions on parole and give recommendations regarding clemency. She also pointed to his role as a longtime supporter of Beadle County’s drug court program, and his role as a co-founder of Hope House, a sober living home that opened in Huron in 2022.



Pilcher

“He understands rehabilitation, but he also understands justice,” Grove said.

The parole board’s nine members can grant early release to inmates, and serve as a screening panel for pardons and commutations. Pardons clear an old crime or crimes from a person’s public record; commutations reduce the sentence of current inmates.

The board can recommend clemency in either of those situations, but under the state constitution only the governor can grant it.

Childhood fair will be family event

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Area families with young children are encouraged to come acquire information, ideas and free gifts at the area Early Childhood Family Education Fair set from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, March 27 at the Waseca Intermediate School.

Sponsored by the Waseca school district’s Family Education Center, the evening features activities and displays of interest to young children, including games, baby animals, and even a free book for each child in attendance. The event simultaneously allows parents to connect with organizations, businesses and services pertinent to early childhood, that is, ages 0 to 5.

Area public safety officers, health care providers, youth organizations, education agencies and more will be available to interact with children while also providing adult-level resources and ideas. The event is open to the public and free to attend. Organizers point out family members should attend together, since all ages will find something to their liking.

Among those with resources to share will be Sam Holicky, a member of the Family Health Team of the Waseca County Public Health Department. Having attended the event



HELPING - The Early Childhood Family Education Fair on Friday, March 27 at the WIS will feature information, ideas and free gifts for families and young children. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

numerous times, Holicky says she recommends it highly not only because of the educational fun it provides for children, but more importantly for the resources and assurance it can provide for parents.

Holicky acknowledges a great deal of information can be found online, then mentions “parents must often sort through large amounts of information to find what is accurate and trustworthy.” The locally relevant, personal conversations the fair can initiate, she suggests, can be helpful to those looking for a place to turn to.

“The Early Childhood Fair brings a variety of local resources, including Public Health, into one convenient place, helping both new and experienced parents connect with agencies and professionals who sup-

port their child’s healthy development.” She goes on to say the resources pertain to every phase of early growth—prenatal to preschool.

Public Health is a county department which provides services to people of all income levels. Its display at the EC Fair will center around early childhood, but its services are relevant for individuals of all ages, including offering parents help with children all the way through young adulthood.

The Public Health booth at the EC Fair will be focusing on nutrition and hydration, according to Holicky. She mentions the intent is to share information about the new federal nutrition guidelines, which she says will have effects in many aspects of daily life, including the Women In-

fants and Children (WIC) program, school meals, and recommendations from health care providers.

The new guidelines, she summarizes, “shift toward a ‘real food’ approach that emphasizes whole, minimally processed foods,” adding “It is important that parents and caregivers understand what is changing and why.

“We hope to give WIC families and our wider community clear, practical information that supports healthier choices at home and in every setting where children eat and drink.”

But whatever type of guidance or assistance families are looking for, Holicky suggests they will find a path to useful, locally available support at the March 27 fair.

New exhibits debuted at ‘Business After Hours’ event

Farmamerica held a special Business After Hours event in partnership with the Waseca Chamber on Thursday, March 12. The evening celebrated the debut of two innovative, new exhibits designed to engage visitors with the evolving story of agriculture in Minnesota.

Chamber members and exhibit partners gathered for an evening of networking and refreshments while getting an exclusive look at the exhibits before they open to the public.

Guests got a first look at:

- 360-Degree Ag Career Experience Room – An immersive environment designed to introduce students and community members to the wide range of career opportunities available in today’s agriculture industry. This interactive space highlights the technology, innovation, and leadership shaping modern agriculture.
- E-15 Ethanol Exhibit – A dynamic exhibit focused on informing consumers about E-15 fuel.

These exhibits represent two of the latest ways



AFTER-HOURS FUN - A special Business After Hours event was held at Farmamerica on March 12. The evening was filled with networking and exclusive exhibit looks.

Farmamerica is working to connect consumers and the next generation of leaders with accurate information, hands-on experiences, and meaningful opportunities within Minnesota’s agriculture industry.

Farmamerica looks forward to welcoming schools, families, and community groups to experience the new exhibits.

Farmamerica is a non-profit agricultural interpretive center that connects people with the evolving story of agriculture through educational hands-on experiences like historic farm tours, day camps, and family-friendly events, partnerships, and community engagement. The 360-acre Farmamerica site is located right off Highway 14 on County Road 2, west of Waseca, MN.

Caregiver from Page 1

stand his or her needs.

She showed that dementia can change the way cells in the brain

look and work, making it hard for individuals to understand the world around them, or to communicate what they are thinking and feeling.

Krueger advised caregivers never to take behaviors personally, even when they seem like messages of distrust or hostility. She listed “anxiety and agitation, sharp words, bouncing legs, aggression and anger, verbal or physical outbursts, suspicion and delusion.” An example was offered in the form of a video sharing the experiences of a woman who had become her mother’s caretaker. The mother suspected her of driving to the bank and stealing money.

Krueger warned that reacting in a negative way can affect both parties and make proper care more difficult; she said it is important to stay calm and not “trigger” the patient. She let everyone know there are both internal and external causes for behaviors. Patients might act out because they are experiencing some unmet need which they do not have the words to express, including pain or physical discomfort; they may need a bathroom break or be hungry. The presence of a stranger, a loud or unfamiliar noise, or even lighting may be causing discomfort.

The cause might also be something very difficult to identify, including emotions or memories whose source the patient has trouble reconciling. Krueger suggested, “Even if the reality they think they are experiencing isn’t true, to them it is.”

Before considering extra or changed medications, Krueger said non-medical approaches should come first, including confirming physical and emotional comfort, including going to the bathroom. Familiarity with the person is very useful in finding solutions. When one woman’s family learned she was having trouble going to sleep because she worried that the chickens had not yet been fed, caregivers were able to “shoo the chickens” into their pen for the night and the woman could get better rest.

Krueger offered a checklist for caregivers. The first approach, she said, is to “detect and connect,” in other words, use the individual’s history to deal with problems. “You must bring yourself into their reality, not them into yours. Approach them calmly and carefully, keep your voice low, don’t go in aggressive. Avoid correcting them—correction may cause agitation. Redirect instead of correct.”

Second: Taking care of physical needs, especially if an individual seems calm and at ease, but suddenly becomes aggressive. Try to determine what’s causing physical discomfort. “Are their clothes too tight? Do they need the bathroom? Is it too loud where they are?” Krueger also suggested asking medical providers to test for a urinary tract infection (UTI), because this is a common problem for those living with dementia.

Third: Focus on the emotion instead of the facts. “Offer comfort, let

them know you’re there and try to make them comfortable. Even if they are wrong about something that didn’t happen, their emotions are 100 percent real. Redirect their energy to a more relaxing activity, doing puzzles, music or sitting in a relaxing place. If they are not reacting in a positive way, let them alone for a while; sometimes that works as well.”

Fourth: Review and plan for next time. “Many times these dementia related behaviors are reoccurring. What are the warning signs this may happen again? What responses worked well? Do they need to be taken out of the room first to calm them down or do you calm them down then bring them out of the room? When is a good time to step in? What has worked in the past? Does it help to have familiar faces around?”

Focus on what they can do, “Did your patient fold clothes as a homemaker? Then let them fold clothes. If they’re comfortable doing that activity and it can be done in a safe manner, go for it.”

When help is needed, “These behaviors can be hard on a caregiver. Sometimes patients can become violent, putting not only the caregiver in danger, but entire families. Sometimes guns need to be removed. Police officers are getting training when it comes to Alzheimer’s patients.” There is also a free 24-hour helpline for dementia related concerns: 800-272-3900.

Third: Focus on the emotion instead of the facts. “Offer comfort, let

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The Pastor's Column

Fickle spontaneity

By FR GLENN FRERICHS

Many years ago, I officiated a wedding for a young couple in a small town. Later that evening, I attended the reception, where I didn't know many people. Shortly after the meal, I started preparing to leave quietly because the next day was packed with activities. Just then, a gentleman sat next to me and began a casual conversation about faith. Within a few minutes, we were engrossed in discussion about everything from theology to modern culture to architecture. The person had been struggling with aspects of faith in his own life, and our two-hour conversation was both fascinating and inspiring. The experience was so moving that it still stays with me more than 20 years later. Some of life's best moments come from spontaneity: meeting new people, unexpected conversations, gatherings of friends for celebrations, and more. Anyone who pays attention to life's opportunities will also understand that misguided spontaneity can sometimes do more harm than good to ourselves and those around us.

As we enter the most holy of weeks, we hear of crowds spontaneously celebrating Jesus as he triumphantly enters Jerusalem on a donkey, as had been prophesied many centuries earlier (Zach

9: 9). The entire city buzzed with energy as they laid cloaks and branches before him, calling out

"Hosannah to the Son of David." One can only imagine the enthusiasm of the crowd, seeing that Jesus was to be in their midst again. Some of the Pharisees, recognizing what was happening, told Jesus to rebuke them. Jesus' response: "I tell you, if they keep silent, the stones will cry out" (Lk. 19: 40).

Scripture also tells us that this social frenzy, which began the

week, will also lead to confusion, betrayal, chaos, and violence. As Jesus continues his triumphant procession from the top of Mount Olives toward the Temple, he can see the city before him. As he nears the city, Jesus weeps amid the many shouts of joy, recognizing how the city has fallen into sin, ignorance, and blindness. He had taught them, performed miracles, cast out demons, and even raised three people from the dead.

As his impending death approaches, there is a sense that all he has worked for is being celebrated one moment and falling apart the next. "Jerusalem, if you only knew what makes for peace but now it is hidden from your eyes" (Lk 19: 41).

The same fickle spontaneity that drives the crowd to celebrate Jesus' arrival would soon lead them to resent Jesus: even to choosing that Barrabas be released from prison, Peter denying the Lord three times, and for the crowd to cry out that Jesus be crucified. Jesus sees this; he willingly bore our changing emotions and spontaneous actions to the cross, and now invites us to become one with him as we celebrate Holy Week in 2026.

Each of us has probably experienced spontaneous moments in our lives that created memories we will never forget. The events that the Church will commemorate this Holy Week are no different. The triumphal entry, passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus will always live on. The difference lies in how each of us allows it to change our hearts. Many denominations will sing the Exultet at Easter, which recalls, "O happy fault that merited for us such a glorious redeemer." May these events, relived by the Church this coming week, serve as a prayerful source of meditation and grace for the days ahead.



PLAY-BY-PLAY - From left: Jim Boerboom, Chamber of Commerce President Mikhail Rostislavovich, Brad Milbrath, Christa Wadepkamper, Minnesota Representative Tom Sexton, Christina Kreutter, Bernie Gaytko, Waseca City Manager Carl Sonnenberg, and Gary Worke attended the Coffee with Tom Sexton event at the Waseca Chamber of Commerce offices on Friday, March 13, 2026.

Oil prices, budget, part of monthly session

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

All seats were occupied during a session of "Coffee with Representative Tom Sexton" at the Waseca Chamber of Commerce offices on Friday, March 13. In attendance were Jim Boerboom, Chamber of Commerce President Mikhail Rostislavovich, Waseca County Commissioner Brad Milbrath, Barefoot Lane owner Christa Wadepkamper, Minnesota Representative Tom Sexton, Christina Kreutter, Bernie Gaytko, Waseca City Manager Carl Sonnenberg, Gary Worke and Linda Borne. Borne is retired, but Sexton comically reminded her, "You'll never be retired from paying your taxes."

Sexton handed everyone present about 20 pages of printed information, then proceeded to provide a detailed summary of the state's budget plans, allowing everyone to follow along. He pointed out recent increases in oil prices have two major causes—the military action in Iran and the fact that America is now exporting more oil. The US is also very productive when it comes to refining oil. He said, "A barrel of oil comes in a 40-gallon barrel measurement, and that barrel amount can produce up to 42 gallons of gasoline once everything is added

and refined." He believes the cost of oil should come back down soon, but cautioned, "US oil companies make more money exporting it than selling it here."

Numerous persons at the session commiserated over difficulties they have finding and hiring good employees. Some stated they had been advertising open positions for some time, but received no applications. Complaints were also registered that the Paid Family Medical Leave (PFML) program further complicates the hiring process. Regarding PFML, Sonnenberg passed along an experience from a local business owner: "A small business that only has four or five people, and one person who takes leave for 12 or 20 weeks, what does that mean for that business? That has a huge impact." Sexton elaborated, "It also means your other people can't take their vacation. It's an impact on all employers."

Christina Kreutter, who is familiar with staffing said, "I started in temporary staffing. I worked for Doherty, did a lot of day labor recruiting for six years before joining Jostens in Owatonna in human resources. When I started there were 500 employees doing order processing and call center positions. A lot of those jobs went off-

shore and when I left, there were only about 200 people still there and many of those were remote. I joined Home-town and from there I was looking for a local community with the same values and found Waseca. At my job right now, we have four on leave and that reduces our workforce by 10 percent. This is hitting us and other businesses really hard. There are currently 13 states that are taking part in Paid Family Medical Leave."

Gary Worke asked, "The Federal Government has said they're going to potentially withhold \$250 million in funds to the state of Minnesota. I hope they do because we need to get this fraud thing sorted out. I was disappointed to hear that in order to counter that, the governor is planning on expanding our bureaucracy in St. Paul. We didn't have fraud and abuse until later years and a lot of that happened when we went to statewide control of the payment systems in St. Paul. Before that we had local county officials overseeing the payments to make sure they weren't fraudulent. I would suggest we maybe back track on that a little. We were doing that 15 years ago."

Sexton agreed that was a good idea. Another person suggested each county hire a fraud investigator.

Borne asked about the status of the Inspector General position for Minnesota. Sexton replied, "I am keenly involved in that fight. That passed in the senate with 60 votes to 7, overwhelming support and bipartisanship. The house, however, was evenly divided. We are pushing hard so we don't have to get this pushed through the senate again. But as of right now we cannot get it out of our committee. The biggest thing the governor does not want is the law enforcement portion of the independent office of Inspector General such that that element could go and arrest somebody for being complicit with fraud." There were gasps in the room and one guest asked, "That's the reason the governor doesn't want an inspector general?" To which Sexton nodded yes.

Wadepkamper, owner of Barefoot Lane, would like to open a bakery in town. She shared frustration that the Department of Agriculture is taking six weeks to approve her plans, leaving her unable to move forward. "How is a small business supposed to open when we're paying all our bills but can't start construction when we're waiting that long?" she asked. Sexton said to send him the information, and he would draft a letter to send over and see what he could do.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



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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. * * *	LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN Wilton Township Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor Services 6 p.m. Saturday * * *	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 * * *
SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH 111 4th St NW, Waseca Father Glenn Ferichs 507-835-1222 Worship Sundays 10:00 a.m., Tues. and Wed. at 8:30 a.m. and Thurs. at 7 a.m.; Saturdays at 5 p.m. * * *	REAL LIFE CHURCH 620 W Elm Ave, Waseca * * *	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 * * *	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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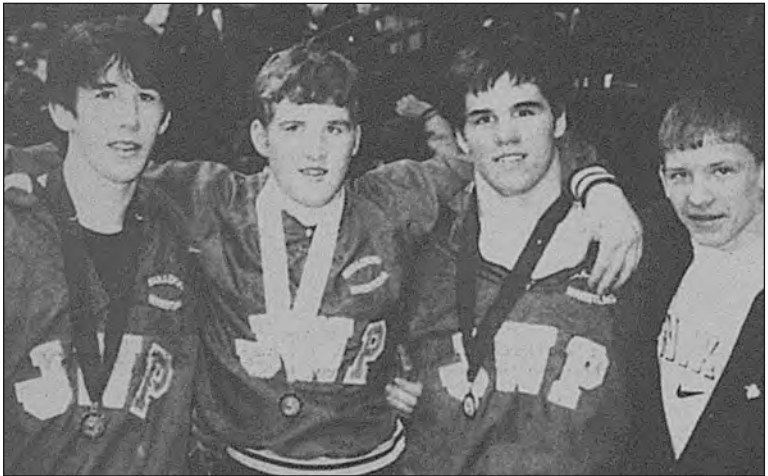
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Janesville

25 years ago

- Four members of FFA at Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School recently attended a career development event at South Central Technical College on Ag Sales. Juniors Ben Burns, Tim Quast and Jody Ewert and senior Josh Isebrand worked together as a team to finish third in the competition, just two points away from a chance to compete in the state championship. Each of the participants first attended an individual practicum and were required to do an individual presentation. Following that, the four of them worked together on a one year marketing plan for a greenhouse. "The judge said we were the most creative," said Ewert. Individually, Burns placed second out of 20 individuals and Ewert came in eight. Only teams were able to advance, however. "This was a good learning experience," said Quast. "I'll definitely do it again." Ewert and Burns agreed, adding that next year they intend to win.

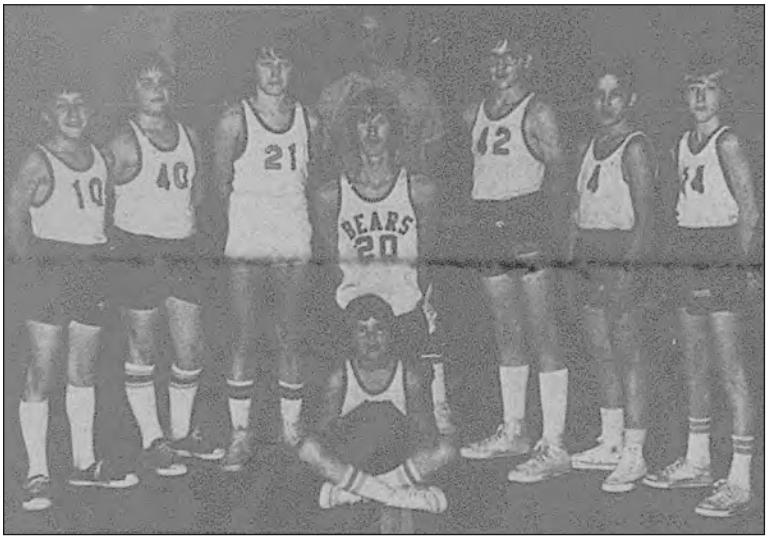
- Sarah Groh, daughter of Joe and Kathy Groh of Janesville, has been accepted for admission into Minnesota State University, Mankato, Walt Wolff, director of admissions, announced this week. Groh will graduate from Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School in June of 2001.



- JWP wrestlers finished off a successful season at the state tournament two weeks ago. Bryan Monahan placed 6th, Travis Gunso-lus came in third and Jon Wheelock was the first place champion. John Beelow was one match away from placing.

- Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton senior, Jon Wheelock, won two matches over the weekend when he competed in the Senior Wrestling Classic. Minnesota teams won all four matches against Wisconsin all-stars. The teams wrestled at River Falls (Wis.) Friday with Minnesota Maroon defeating Wisconsin Red 23-18 and Minnesota Gold downing Wisconsin White 43-6. The series moved to Augsburg College Saturday with the same results. The Minnesota Maroon crushed Wisconsin White 48-3 and the Minnesota Gold upended Wisconsin Red 32-19. Wheelock was a member of the Minnesota gold team. He won 22-10 Friday and 6-4 Saturday. Wheelock was selected as the 189-pounder for a Minne-sota all-star team that will compete against a western Pennsylvania all-star team in the Dapper Dan Classic at March 24 at the University of Pittsburgh. Wheelock, who wrestled for coach Mike Niemczyk at JWP, is the son of Keith and Gwen Wheelock of Janesville. He is coming off a 35-0 senior season and the 189-pound state championship.

50 years ago



- Coach Larry Milow is shown here with his "C" basketball team. Seated in front is Ted Johnson. From left, the rest of the squad: Joe Williams, Brad Haus, Richie Johnson, Kurt Trahms, Mark Schultz, Mike Galler and Billy Bartelt. The team took consolation in the Faribault Jaycees 8th grade tourney recently. After losing 40-30 to the Consolidated Catholic School of Faribault, the Cubbies defeated Morristown 29-26 and Faribault Public 40-27 in the consolation finals. Kurt Trahms was named Most Valuable Player in the Tourney. Jim Kenyon is also on the squad but was not present for this picture.

- The last Latin banquet will be held Saturday, March 13, at 6:30 p.m. in the Elementary Gym. Latin banquets began back in 1960 under the supervision of Mr. Luknie. Since that time Mr. Driscoll, Mrs. R.C. Hot-tinger and Mrs. McDonald have kept up the tradition. Bill Hoversten, a former Latin student, and past president of the Latin Club, will be the guest speaker. Mr. Hoversten is a lawyer associated with the firm of Patton and Hoversten, Waseca. Mrs. McDonald will be retiring at the end of the school year, so it should prove to be a very special event. If you wish to attend the banquet, contact a Latin student. Tickets are lim-ited, and the event is always a sellout.

75 years ago

- Winners in the Land O'Lakes butter efficiency contest for 1955 were announced at the company's annual meeting in Minneapolis last Wed-nesday, third place, out of some over 300 contestants in five states was Otto Vogler of the Janesville Creamery. His score was 99.80%. The top score was 99.84. For his efforts, Vogler received a Gruen wrist watch, electric coffee maker, electric clock and a large picnic food and beverage cooler. The efficiency contest, started by Land O'Lakes in 1925, is the only one of its kind in the world. The top score the first year was 95.5%. It wasn't until 1931 that a score of 99 or better was obtained. In 1946, 91 operators attained this mark and last year 126 had a score of 99 or better.

- Dr. L.A. Kanke, for many years a dentist in Janesville, died suddenly at his home Monday, March 12. Death was attributed to coronary throm-bosis. He was 63. Funeral services will be held this morning (Thursday) in St. Ann's Catholic church at 9:30 with Rt. Rev. Monsignor English officiating. A complete obituary will be published next week.

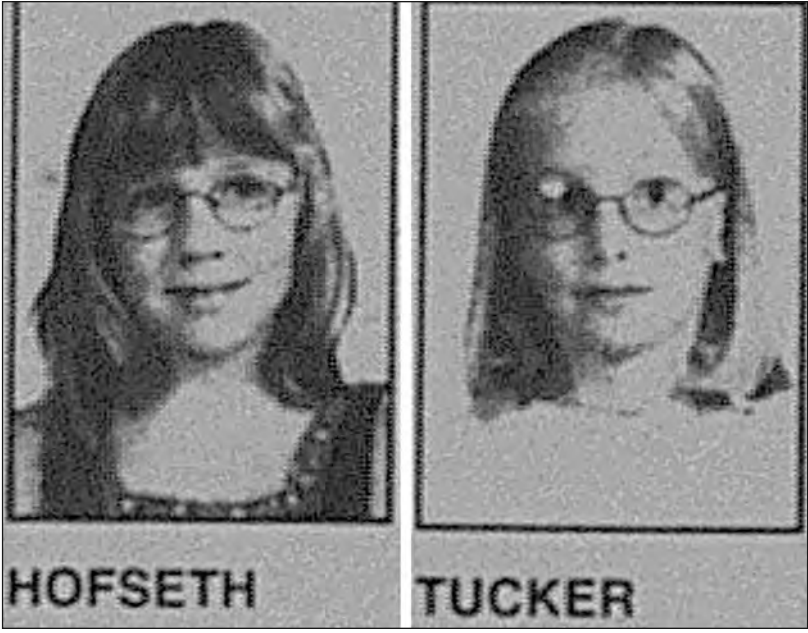
100 years ago

- A Janesville man went into one of the well known chain restaurants in Minneapolis last week and ordered an oyster stew from the card. When it was brought to him, he fished around in a sizable bowl of milk and found three poor little cringing oysters almost drowned. That may have been an oyster stew in Minneapolis, but it would have been the cause of a riot in Janesville.

- Coming down from the cities last week a young lad about twelve years old started a conversation with a Janesville citizen. The local man asked the boy in what town he lived and whether of not it was a big place. "I live in Montgomery. It's not such a very big place, but it sure is a good town." was the prompt answer. There's a young fellow who is going to do Montgomery some good one of these days.

Waseca

25 years ago



- Student Writes: My Grandparents:

Hanna Hofseth: My grandparents put the GRAND in grandparents. They all love to have me over. Sometimes I'm with my cousins, or with my par-ents I love it just the same. I think they're special because they will never forget me, and they love me so much. One more thing I want to say is, I love them all too.

Katie Tucker: My Grandma takes me, my sister and cousins to Camp Snoopy almost every year. When we don't have school my Grandma some-times makes cookies with me. My Grandma goes to the Mall of America every year. She takes us to the Library and Art Center. Every year for my birthday, she makes me a birthday cake. When we go to her house to eat. My Grandma lives in Waseca. For Thanksgiving she makes turkey, stuffing, jello, buns, apple pie and a lot of other stuff. My Grandma is special because she is nice to me and I love her a lot.

- New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva graduate Matt Petsinger achieved his goal of becoming a national wrestling champion Saturday at Greeley (Col.). Petsinger, who earned All-American honors for the fourth consecutive year wrestling for Mankato State University, captured the 157-pound championship at the NCAA Division II Championships. Petsinger defeated fourth-ranked Alan Cartwright of Nebraska-Omaha 3-1 in the semifinals. He then edged second-ranked Lazaro Reinoso of Carson-New-man 10-9 in the title match, scoring the winning point on riding time. Re-inoso, the defending national champion, wrestled for the Cuban team at the last Olympic Games. Petsinger, who finished his senior season with a 63-3 record, is only the fifth wrestler in school history to be named All-American in four seasons.

50 years ago

- The Daughters of the American Revolution have recently an-nounced that Jane Foels, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Foels, of rural Waseca has been selected by the judging committee as the Good Citizen to represent District 1 in the State of Minnesota. Seven Dis-trict Good Citizens will be guests of the Minnesota Society of the Daughters of the American Rev-olution at the State Conference on Tuesday, March 9, at the Curtis Hotel in Minneapolis. The Minne-sota winner will be announced at the State Conference.



- The Waseca County Sheriff's office has received a number of com-plaints recently from farmers in the area who claim that vehicles are being driven in their alfalfa fields during the hours following daily school closing and or early evening hours. Sheriff Don Eustice warned today that anyone arrested for such and offense will be prosecuted and full restitution will be demanded to be paid to the farmer for his loss. The Sheriff is requesting that anyone seeing such a violation should jot down the license number of the vehicle if possible, then contact the sheriff's office.

- A two car accident that resulted in moderate damage and no injuries was reported to the Waseca Police Department shortly before 11 a.m. Tues-day. Involved in the mishap, that has been blamed on slippery streets, was Joyce M. Brown, 410 2nd Ave. SE and Robert R. Borchert, New Richland. The accident reportedly occurred at the intersection of 2nd St. and 2nd Ave. SW.

75 years ago

- John Vincent Barden and Willard Seewald officially took over Rural Routes 3 and 4, respectively, Monday morning. Their appointment to the post was announced by a department order, says Postmaster D.M. Coughlin. Both men successfully passed a civil service examination held some time ago. Their appointment fills vacancy caused by the death of H.S. Kingsley, a year ago, and the retirement of John Cunningham. Upon Cunningham's retirement, H.S. Kingsley had transferred from Route 4 to Route 2. At that time Herbert Polsfuss, a substitute carrier, was named temporary carrier of Route 4. At the time of Kingsley's death, R.J. Buckley, Sr. transferred from Route 3 to Route 2 and Howard Chard, another substitute, was appointed as temporary carrier on Route 3. Both of the newly appointed carriers are married men and veterans of World War II.

- Al Scadden, who traveled out of Waseca for Armour & Co., for many years has purchased the Bramer Store at Matawan. He took possession March 1. The store was purchased from A.F. Bramer. Scadden succeeded the late Harold Frenz on the Armour territory out of Waseca. He left Ar-mour to enter the tire business at Mankato about seven years ago. He and his family have resided in Mankato ever since, although he returned to the selling business with Decker in recent years.

- Cleo LeMoine, who recently operated a tavern at Benson, Minnesota, last week completed purchase of the Hill Top Inn, located on the west shore of Clear Lake in Waseca, from Nick Harding who had operated the estab-lishment for some time. The new owner took over last week. Mr. LeMoine has had long experience in tavern operation and before locating at Benson, had run similar businesses in various parts of the northwest. The new owner said he intends to make extensive repairs and renovations at the Inn in pre-pARATION for the summer business. Mr. LeMoine is unmarried.

100 years ago

- Roses are employed in China for scenting tea leaves. In Nanking they are also generously used by baker for giving aroma to cakes and pastry. Brewers produce a rose-scented liquor; a candy made of sugar and rose leaves is a popular confection. During the flowering season, vast numbers of the petals are preserved.

- Punkin pi iz the sass ov Nu England. They are vittles and drink, they are joy on the halfshell, they are glory enuff for one day, and are good kold or warmed up. I would like to be a boy again, just for sixty minitts, and eat myself phull ov the blessed old mixtur. Enny man who don't luv punkin pi want watching cluss, for he means to do sumthin mean the first good chance he can git.-Josh Billings.

A paragrapher thus points out the effect of ceaseless, remorseless change-even upon the English language: "In the olden days 'pay dirt' referred to gold-bearing soil, not to the drama." Nor, our brother might have added, "to matrimony and subsequent alimony."

New Richland

25 years ago



- Lacey Peterson and Megan Tappe were congratulated by Georgia Dinneen Tuesday on being selected Girl's State rep-resentatives for New Richland by the auxiliary unit of the Andrew Borgen Post #75 of the American Legion. Dinneen is the unit's Girls State chairperson. The girls will spend a week in June at Bethel College, learning about government and citizenship.

- Army Reserve Pvt. Jeff Adams has graduated from the combat engineer advanced individual training (AIT) course at Fort Leonard Wood, Waynesville, Missouri. The soldier learned to perform basic combat construction and rigging operations. Adams is the son of Ev and Judy Adams of Janesville.

- Minnesota State University Moorehead recently released the Dean's List in recognition of academic achievements during fall semester 2000. Among the students named on the deans list was Julie Lund of Janesville.

- Katrina (Anderson) and Keith Carter of Robinson, Illinois, are the proud parents of a son born Monday, February 26, 2001. Trevor Jack, as he has been named, weighed 9 lbs. 9 oz and was 21 1/2 inches in length. Trevor has one brother, Tyler Keith, 3 years old.

50 years ago

- Marie Folie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Folie of Clarks Grove and granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Kofstad of rural Hartland, placed first in the State Contest in Accounting and Related I. Marie will be going to the National Contest of the Office Education Association in Topeka, Kansas in May where she will compete for national honors. Marie is a senior at Albert Lea High School and is employed in the office of the Al-bert Lea Clinic.



- District Instrumental Contest Starred performances were given by these New Richland-Hartland High School band members. They are from the left, front: Sue Espe, Donna Peterson, JoAnn Hagen, Lori Madson, Gary Billing; middle: Sue Mucha, Kim Olsen, Susie Stafford, Teri Ent-wisle, Pam Walstrom, Kay Smith; back: Tammy Rosenback, Donna Walstrom, Karin Edwards, Shelly Smith, Lori Ent-wisle, Naomi Hokanson, Judy Tollefson, Lori Smith, Shirley Kormann, Karen Truebenbach, Kris Hagen, Marsha Herbst and Marlene Tappe.

75 years ago

- Mr. and Mrs. Lester Walstrom of Vista community are the parents of a daughter born to them at the Memorial hospital, Waseca, Thursday, April 12.

- In a candlelight wedding ceremony at the Clarks Grove Bap-tist church, Monday, Arlene Loretta Wright, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene I. Wright, Hartland, became the bride of Edward D. Miller, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Miller, Ellendale.

- The meeting of the League of Women Voters at the home of Miss Dorothy Huseby Tuesday evening consisted of the annual business meeting and election of officers. Officers for the new year are: Mrs. Melvin Demmer, president; Mrs. George Clunis, vice president; Mrs. Ralph Borchard, secretary; Miss Ethel McGrath, treasurer; Mrs. Carlyle Hovig, elected director; Mrs. E. A. Kisor, chairman of the nominating committee.

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Five WHS icemen named all-conference

Five Waseca Bluejays have been named to the 2025-26 Big South Conference boys' hockey all conference team.

Senior Jude Gehring and juniors Henry Huttemier, Josiah Schmidtke, Otto Schoenrock and Griffin Storey were all named to the first team. Bluejay senior Jackson Dahl received all-conference honorable mention.

Waseca won the overall Big South Championship with a 6-2 victory against the other division winner, Luverne.

The 2025-26 Big South Conference boys' hockey all-conference team:

- Ben Hartquist 11 Luverne
- Jaxon Lais 12 Luverne
- Landyn Lais 12 Luverne
- Maddux Domagala 12 Luverne
- Riley Kamm 12 Minnesota River
- Nate Tews 11 Minnesota River
- Jude Gehring 12 Waseca
- Henry Huttemier 11 Waseca
- Josiah Schmidtke 11 Waseca
- Otto Schoenrock 11 Waseca
- Griffin Storey 11 Waseca
- Hunter Larson 11 New Ulm
- Carson Uecker 11 New Ulm

Honorable mention

- Jacob Allen 11 Marshall
- Klay Beemer 12 Fairmont
- Will Bergman 11 Luverne
- Gavin Hoven 12 Luverne
- Brody Nordby 12 New Ulm
- Jackson Dahl 12 Waseca
- Dominic Pavelko 11 Worthington



ALL-CONFERENCE — The Bluejays' Griffin Storey (22), left, brings the puck up the ice during Waseca's section semifinal game. At right, Henry Huttemier (5) embraces a teammate. Storey, Huttemier, Jude Gehring, Josiah Schmidtke and Otto Schoenrock made the Big South all-conference team. Jackson Dahl received honorable mention.

Photos by Kennedy Lynch

B PeeWees drop two at state tourney

The Waseca B PeeWees boys' hockey team dropped both games in the state tournament two weekends ago in Lakeville.

The locals lost their first game 1-0 to Orono, which went on to finish fourth. The lone goal of the game came with 2:21 remaining in the third period.

The Waseca PeeWees lost 5-1 to Edina in the consolation bracket to finish the season with a record of 34-17-1.

Cloquet-Esko-Carlton won the championship, defeating Osseo/Maple Grove 5-4 in the title game.

Also competing were Hermantown, Woodbury and Mankato Gold.

The PeeWees became the first Waseca Hockey Association team to qualify for a state tournament

The team included Blake Neegaard, Blake Steinber, Kamden Goettl, Nick Ferris, Korbin Collins, Easton Corchrn, Ethan Jackson, Drew Schmidtke, Jakub LaCanne, Easton Schlueter, Beckett Foels, Hudson Grunwald, Carson Osborne, Lucas Johnson, Drake Bubak and Jace Ulschmid.

The boys were coached by Auston Larson and Griffen Wangen.

All-conference

2025-2026 All-Gopher Conference Wrestling

Wrestlers of the Year

Boys - Liam Sommer 10 Kenyon-Wanamingo

Girls - Adriana Kunz 8 Triton

Boys' all-conference team

Liam Sommer 10 Kenyon-Wanamingo

Ryan LaCanne 12 Kenyon-Wanamingo

Bryan Jacobson 12 Kenyon-Wanamingo

Logan Trump 12 Kenyon-Wanamingo

Derek Miner 10 Westfield

Brady Murphy 12 WEM/JWP

Kavan Sheehy 11 WEM/JWP

Owen Schlaak 9 NRHEG

Ryan Schlaak 11 NRHEG

Jace Ignaszewski 10 Maple River/USC

Brayden Mithun 12 Maple River/USC

Hunter Garness 12 Triton

Luther Johnson 9 Medford

Bentley Miller 10 Westfield

Austin Niebuhr 10 Maple River/USC

Gäbriel Ramirez 10 Kenyon-Wanamingo

Honorable mention

Brenden Masso 9 WEM/JWP

Tanner Milewski 11 Medford

Luke Johnson 12 Kenyon-Wanamingo

Grahm Jacobson 8 NRHEG

Myles Thompson 12 Kenyon-Wanamingo

Kolt Bullerman 12 Maple River/USC

James Weqner 11 Medford

Easton Busho 7 Westfield

Girls' all-conference team

Adriana Kunz 8 Triton

Kayle Langford 12 WEM/JWP

Bre'Ana Masso 11 WEM/JWP

Honorable mention

Anaelyse Skidmore 8 WEM/JWP

Sportsmanship Award

Ben Scheffler 9 Kenyon-Wanamingo

Alex Walser 11 Maple River/USC

Tanner Milewski 11 Medford

Wyatt Larson 12 NRHEG

Josie Tuftle 7 NRHEG (girls)

Kaiden Adreon 9 Triton

Mckinly Blanchard 8 Triton (girls)

Trenton Huber 11 WEM/JWP

Payton Miller 9 WEM/JWP (girls)

Elijah Butteris 8 Westfield

Final dual meet standings

Kenyon-Wanamingo 6-0

Maple River/USC 5-1

WEM/JWP 4-2

Westfield 3-3

NRHEG 2-4

Triton 1-5

Medford 0-6

WBA 7th-grade girls first again



That 2025-26 Waseca Basketball Association 7th-grade girls' team. Front from left: Avery Hill and Madyson Bailey. Middle row: Leilla Johannson and Macy Nelson. Back: Coach Eric Teders, Peyton Teders, Elliana Grannis, Brynda Rupe, Meah Hoy, Charlyze Johnson, Coach Brian Rupe. The 7th-grade girls went 5-0 and were champions in the RYBA tournament.

Gymnasts enjoy success

The 2025-26 Waseca High School gymnastics season was defined by consistency, depth, and heart. The team of 13 gymnasts represented four different schools, and with the addition of six seventh-graders, the Bluejays were able to field a full JV squad this year, a huge step forward for the program.

"In my 10 years as head coach at Waseca, this is one of the most hard-working teams I've had the privilege to coach," said Bluejays coach Kim Wendland. "These athletes showed up to every practice and every meet ready to give their best and support one another. Their commitment and teamwork led to remarkable consistency, as we averaged 130 points per meet throughout the season."

With strong leadership from captains Katelyn Weber and Hannah Parks, the team continually pushed itself to learn new skills, break personal records, and gain new skills on every event. This season, the Blejays earned their highest team score in the past 10 years — an impressive 135.425 And senior Layla Keith set a new school record on floor with a 9.6.

WBA 5th-grade girls



The Waseca Basketball Association 5th-grade girls team placed third in the recent RYBA tournament. Front from left: Blakelee Hofmeister, Cora Schleicher, Kinsley Nelson and Gemma Eaton. Back from left: Coach Stephanie Martin, Kira Peltz, Bryal Nelson, Sophie McDonough, Adelynn Hanson, Morgan Pena and Coach Gregg Feldkamp.

All-conference

Girls' Basketball All-Big South Conference Black		Journey Swanson St. James 12th
Emma Martin Belle Plaine 10th	Kendall Malmgren St. James 8th	
Reese Drake Marshall 12th	Haidyn Sammons Windom 12th	
Taleigha Bigler Marshall 12th		
Avery Schneckloth Marshall 12th		
Avery Fahl Marshall 12th		
Brooklyn Lewis New Ulm 12th		
Maggie Joyce New Ulm 10th		
Kylie Southworth St. Peter 11th		
Ella Schmiesing TCU 12th		
Leah Brustad New Ulm 9th		
Honorable Mention		
Danielle Nubile Marshall 11th		
Ella Dirks St. Peter 11th		
Ava Miller Waseca 9th		
Kallie Thaemert Belle Plaine 11th		
Reese Rodriguez Waseca 10th		
Girls' Basketball All-Big South Conference Gold		
Lola Lundquist Blue Earth 12th		
Brylee Miller Fairmont 12th		
Bria Williamson Fairmont 10th		
Zadi Farmer JCC 9th		
Taya Johnson Luverne 10th		
Jaydn Kor Pipestone 12th		
Amyra Mahik Pipestone 10th		
Black Division Standings		
Marshall	12-0	
New Ulm	10-2	
St. Peter	7-5	
Belle Plaine	6-6	
Tri-City United	5-7	
Waseca	2-10	
Worthington	0-12	
Gold Division Standings		
Fairmont	14-0	
Pipestone	11-3	
St. James	11-3	
Windom	6-8	
Luverne	6-8	
Jackson County central	5-9	
Blue Earth Area	3-11	
Redwood Valley	0-14	

A fraud report you paid for that taxpayers can't read

By SEN. JOHN JASINSKI

Friends and neighbors,

Late last year, in an effort to appear like he is taking action on fraud, Gov. Walz hired a consulting firm called Optum to dig through \$9.4 billion in Medicaid claims across 14 programs considered high-risk for fraud. The report came back showing that better policies and safeguards could have saved more than \$1 billion over the past four years. Shocking, I know.

But when the report was released, Gov. Walz had huge chunks of it blacked out. And not just a few sensitive details. Entire sections. Looking at it conjures up images of what a top-secret NSA file might look like.

The Department of Human Services is invoking state data privacy law to justify the redactions. I find that argument unconvincing. Legislative audit reports, which also look at system vulnerabilities and make policy recommendations, are already available to the public. The governor's administration is doing the same work but trying to keep it secret.

You paid for this report, and you deserve to know what's in it. The House passed a bill by a wide margin (107-27) to at least give legislators access to the full version. That's a start. It now heads to the Senate. I'm pushing for public release.

Transportation committee discusses the future of self-driving cars

The Senate Transportation Committee has been working through several proposals about how Minnesota should handle autonomous vehicles, which let cars operate without a human driver. It is looking increasingly likely these vehicles are going to play a large role in our society in the very near future, so we need to start laying the groundwork.



Jasinski

I'm supporting a simple, sensible framework: companies like Waymo get authorized by the state, carry proper insurance, follow traffic laws, and provide a plan for how first responders should interact with their vehicles.

But there are other proposals that go much, much, much further in terms of excessive regulation, reports, and rules. One would require a licensed driver to sit behind the wheel and be ready to take over at any moment, in every autonomous vehicle, no matter what. Which of course sounds crazy. The whole point of an autonomous vehicle is that it drives itself.

During the committee discussion, I put it this way: it's like authorizing cell phone use, but only if the phone is attached to the wall with a cord.

Minnesota should be setting smart rules that protect people and set up a commonsense foundation for autonomous vehicles, not impose such over-the-top rules and regulations that they never take hold here. We're still at the frontier of what these vehicles can be, and already Democrats want to cripple them with regulations.

Thank you!

As always, it is a privilege to serve you. If you have any questions or want to share your thoughts about what is happening at the Capitol, please reach out any time!

High School Jazz Band entertains at Legion event

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

A well-attended Burger and Fish Fry at the Waseca American Legion the evening of Friday, March 20, was hosted by the Sons of the American Legion. Outside, the Legion parking lot was full; inside it was shoulder to shoulder with people scrambling to find places to sit while waiting for their orders to arrive.

Those who made it inside and were lucky enough to find a seat were treated during their dining to musical selections from both the Waseca Junior and Senior High School jazz bands. Some of those high school kids not playing up on stage were busy bringing orders to people or helping out by clearing tables or taking orders. There was also a



BURGERS AND JAZZ - Folks attending the Burger and Fish Fry sponsored by the Sons of the American Legion the evening of March 20 were treated to a live dinnertime performance by the Waseca Junior Senior High School Jazz Bands.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

meat raffle going in the lounge side of the building where the adult beverages were being served, and most of those seats were also taken.

The young musicians, who performed

until 7:30, were directed by high school band leaders Devon Lawrence and Anders Peterson. Afterward, musician TJ Brown took over on stage in the lounge.

Waseca County Sheriff Jay Dulas announces he will seek re-election this November

"It has been a tremendous honor to serve as Sheriff of Waseca County," shares Sheriff Jay Dulas. "I am proud of the work our department has accomplished together and the strong relationships we have with our communities. I am announcing that I will be seeking re-election as your Waseca County Sheriff."

Dulas was elected to the office, whose term is four years, in November of 2022. This year's election will determine whether he continues in the office for another term beginning in January of 2027.

Dulas has spent his career in law enforcement and public service, dedicating his work to protecting the citizens of Waseca County. As sheriff, he has focused on maintaining a professional and responsive sheriff's office while strengthening partnerships with communities, schools, city police departments, and emergency services.

"I believe that strong communica-



HOLDING OFFICE - Waseca County Sheriff Jay Doulas was first elected to office in November of 2022. He is running for re-election to determine whether he continues in the office for another four-year term beginning in January of 2027.

tion and collaboration with our communities are essential to effective law enforcement," Dulas said. "Our staff works hard every day to provide the highest level of service while ensuring that Waseca County remains a safe place to live, work, and raise a family." Throughout his time as sheriff, Dulas has emphasized public safety, transparency, and strong support for the staff who serve the county, crediting the success of the sheriff's office to the dedication and professionalism of the entire department. "I am incredibly proud of the men and women of the Waseca County Sheriff's Office," Dulas said. "Their commitment to protecting our communities and serving our residents is something I am honored to be a part of."

Dulas also expressed gratitude for the trust and support he has received from residents throughout the county.

"I am thankful for the confidence

of the people of Waseca County have placed in me," Dulas said. "I will continue working diligently to ensure that our Sheriff's Office remains focused on service, safety, and community partnerships."



Sean Holmes was named Waseca County's Outstanding Young Farmer during the March 19 Farm and City Luncheon sponsored by the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism. Sean and his wife Tammi help operate an intergenerational farm while also running Holmes Ag Supply.

With them in the picture are Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism president Mikhail Rostislavovich and executive director Robin Dulas (left) and (right) Jamie Beckstrand, chair of the organization's agribusiness committee and emcee for the recent Farm and City Luncheon.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently



Debbie Roemhildt was honored for distinguished agricultural leadership in Waseca County. In addition to other roles, for the past 21 years Roemhildt has organized the annual Farm and Home Safety Camp offered to all county fifth graders each September. Pictured with her are leaders from the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, the organization which organized the event and the awards. Pictured are president Mikhail Rostislavovich and executive director Robin Dulas (left) and (right) Jamie Beckstrand, chair of the organization's agribusiness committee and emcee for the recent Farm and City Luncheon.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Awards

from Page 1

The business offers seed, crop protection products, fertilizer, and custom application services. Sean has served on the Waldorf Fire Department for 19 years; he

and his family are members at Trinity Lutheran Church in Janesville.

Selected as the University of Minnesota Waseca County Farm Family of the Year are Tyler and Stephanie Huber, who farm south of Waseca and are raising children Brynn, 7; twins Barrett and Briar, 4; and Beau, 7 months.

In addition to running the farm, Tyler works with Beck's Hybrids and Stephanie

works full time as a registered nurse.

Tyler is the current vice president and a 13-year member of the Waseca County Free Fair board.

Serving meals and helping with various tasks for the luncheon were members of the Waseca and NRHEG FFA clubs, accompanied, respectively, by advisors Robin Tidd and Barb Roesler. During a few moments at the podium, the FFA

members revealed that each club has two competitive teams which will be taking part in state-level competition on April 12.

Organizers of the Farm and City Luncheon expressed their gratitude to area agencies which provided sponsorship for the event: Waseca County; Minnwest Bank; FM Bank; Conagra/Birds Eye; Keen Bank; Mid-State Mutual Insurance; United Prairie Bank; iWealth; Crystal Val-

ley; Farmamerica; Compeer Financial; Ameriprise Financial-Kevin Walter; American Family Insurance-Matthew Peterson Agency; Huey's Farm Seeds; Mediacom; Patton, Hoversten and Berg; University of Minnesota Southern Research and Outreach Center; Thrivent Financial-Diane Beckmann; and True Land MN-Adam Knewtonson.

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

District Court Seal

List continued on 11

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	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
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	KEATON NIKOLEY JASON J FOLIE 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
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	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 090250700 SECT- 25 TWP-107 RANGE-023 80.00 AC 80.00 AC S1/2 OF SW1/4	2025	\$6,762.75	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
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	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
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	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
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 172090280 CLEAR LAKE HEIGHTS CLEAR LAKE HEIGHTS LOT-016 BLOCK-006	2025	\$151.29
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	NICOLAS A POEHLER 420 11TH ST SE WASECA MN 56093	RP 172090260 CLEAR LAKE HEIGHTS CLEAR LAKE HEIGHTS LOT-017 BLOCK-006	2025	\$166.75
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 172090150 CLEAR LAKE HEIGHTS CLEAR LAKE HEIGHTS W10 FT OF LOT 10 & ALL LOT 11 BLK 5	2025	\$106.03
TODD'S RENTAL LLC 119 1ST AVE WALDORF MN 56091	RP 161000100 ORIGINAL PLAT ORIGINAL PLAT LOT-005 BLOCK-002	2025	\$106.64	RH RENTALS LLC 29531 128TH ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 173010490 GOODSPEEDS ADDITION GOODSPEEDS ADDITION LOT- 021 BLOCK-002	2025	\$236.64
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	RH RENTALS LLC 29531 128TH ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 173760440 JENKINS ADDITION JENKINS ADDITION N 1/2 OF LOT 12 EX E 150 FT BLK 13	2025	\$122.74
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 173760430 JENKINS ADDITION JENKINS ADDITION S 1/2 OF LOT 12 EX E 150 FT BLK 13	2025	\$120.97
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	TYLER SCOTT MICHAEL GEORGE 201 4TH AVE NE WASECA MN 56093	RP 173760630 JENKINS ADDITION JENKINS ADDITION W 1/2 OF LOT 1 BLK 14	2025	\$995.49
ARARAT LLC 408 7TH AVE SE WASECA MN 56093	WASECA CITY 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 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
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 NEELD 202 11TH ST SE 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
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 174530520 MCNAMARAS ADDITION MCNAMARAS ADDITION LOT-001 BLOCK-004	2025	\$1,333.32
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	B BUYSSE 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
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	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
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	FOUAD ELHARFAOUI 23461 GEOFFREY CT OAK PARK MI 48237-2012	RP 17100550 ORIGINAL PLAT ORIGINAL PLAT LOT 7 & N 6 IN OF E 90 FT OF LOT 8 BLK 5	2025	\$2,336.24
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	MADL PROPERTIES LLC 108 8TH ST NW 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
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	RH RENTAL LLC 29351 128TH ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 171002810 ORIGINAL PLAT ORIGINAL PLAT N 1/2 OF LOT 2 BLK 17	2025	\$103.99
				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

List continued on 12

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	\$1,024.86
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
RH RENTAL LLC 29351 128TH ST WASECA MN 56093	WILTON TOWNSHIP 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
RH RENTAL LLC 29351 128TH ST WASECA MN 56093	WOODVILLE TOWNSHIP 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

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
COUNTY OF WASECA)

SS
)

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

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

Mary Jo Stangler

Notary Public

Important Information Regarding Property Assessments

This may affect your 2027 property taxes.

The Board of Appeal and Equalization for Alton Township will meet April 15, 2026 from 9am to 9:30am at Alton townhall. The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor, and to determine whether corrections need to be made. **All questions, concerns, or issues MUST be addressed to the County Assessor's Office PRIOR to this meeting. Their direct phone number is 507-835-0640.**

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APRIL 12, 13, 14, 15, 2026 from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

NO Consignments on April 16th and 17th!

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CITY OF WASECA

2ND AVE SW, SIDEWALK, & STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT
(CITY PROJECT NO. 2026-01, 2026-04, & 2026-06)

On Thursday, April 16th, 2026, at 2:00 p.m., the CITY OF WASECA will open and review all electronic bids received for the **2ND AVE SW, SIDEWALK, & STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**.

Estimated major quantities are as follows:

REMOVE CURB & GUTTER	471	LF
REMOVE SEWER PIPE (STORM)	469	LF
REMOVE WATER MAIN	261	LF
REMOVE BITUMINOUS/CONCRETE/STREET PAVEMENT	1,376	SY
MILL BITUMINOUS SURFACE	585	SY
TYPE SP 9.5 WEARING COURSE MIX (3;C)	175	TON
TYPE SP 12.5 NON-WEARING COURSE MIX (3;C)	80	TON
CONCRETE STEPS & RAMPS	189	SF
METAL RAILING	52	LF
12-18" STORM SEWER PIPE	360	LF
8" PVC WATERMAIN	262	LF
CONSTRUCT DRAINAGE/SANITARY STRUCTURES	41	LF
6" CONCRETE WALK	3,600	SF
8" CONCRETE DRIVEWAY PAVEMENT	111	SY
CONCRETE CURB & GUTTER B618	207	LF
CONCRETE CURB & GUTTER B618 WITH SILL	264	LF
PAVEMENT STRIPING	1,133	LF

Together with other related items of work, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications.

Digital Bidding Documents are available online through BidVault (<https://connex.rtvision.com/contracts>). Bids will only be accepted electronically via BidVault and only registered planholders will be allowed to bid. There is no cost to register on the BidVault website or download the project bidding documents. The cost to submit a bid is \$35.00. Bid Documents may also be viewed at the City of Waseca Engineering Department located at 508 South State Street in Waseca (507-835-9730).

Bid Security of 5% of the amount of the Bid must accompany each Bid in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

The successful bidder must be a "responsible contractor" as defined in Minnesota Statutes Section 16C.285, subdivision 3.

The City reserves the right to retain the deposit of the lowest Bidder until the PERFORMANCE BOND and PAYMENT BOND have been executed and approved. No bidder may withdraw a Bid within sixty (60) days after the bid opening date.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all Bids, waive irregularities and informalities therein, and award the Contract to the best interests of the City.

Direct any inquiries to Nathan Willey, the Waseca Director of Engineering, at (507) 835-9716.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

The Waseca County Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing at the Waseca County East Annex (Commissioner's Room), 300 N. State Street, Waseca, MN 56093 on Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.to consider the following item:

A. **Calonett Venues LLC** requests setback variances for their parcel (PID:12.016.0200 and 12.016.0300) in Section 16 T107N R22W of Woodville Township. The parcel is zoned A-1 Agricultural Protection, and the variances are pursuant to the requirements in Section 6.07(C) Agritourism of the Waseca County Unified Development Code (UDC).

B. **Dean A Buker and Michael L Buker** request a variance for their parcel (PID 12.032.0900) in Section 32 T.107N R.22W in Woodville Township. The applicants' new pole shed will be placed approximately 36 feet from the Road Right of Way of 330th Avenue, their request is for a variance of 39 feet. Section 6.03 and 6.08 of the Waseca County UDC requires a front yard setback of 75 feet. The parcel under review is zoned A-1, Agricultural Protection District.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

WASECA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

The Waseca County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at the Waseca County East Annex (Commissioner's Room), 300 N. State Street, Waseca, MN 56093 on Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.to consider the following items:

A. **Calonett Venues** requests a Conditional Use Permit to use an existing building on their parcel (PID: 12.016.0200 and 12.016.0300) as an event center. The parcel is in Section 16 T107N R22W of Woodville Township and zoned A-1 Agricultural Protection Zoning District. The request is pursuant to the requirements in Section 6.08 (C) (37) of the Waseca County Unified Development Code.

B. **William Harguth Trustee and Eileen Harguth Trustee (Lessor) and Josh Berman (Lessee)** request for a Conditional Use Permit to engage in cannabis cultivation on their parcel (PID: 12.032.0500) in Section 32 T107N R22W of Woodville Township and zoned A-1 Agricultural Protection Zoning District. The requested use will be pursuant to Section 6.08 (C) (40) and Section 6.16 (C) of the Waseca County Unified Development Code, MS 342 and MN Rule 9810.

C. **Request for Amendments to Article 7** of the Unified Development Code (UDC). Waseca County requests amendments to the above article of the UDC pertaining to nuisance control and enforcement

D. **Request for Amendments to Section 6.22** of the Unified Development Code (UDC). Waseca County requests amendments to the above section of the UDC pertaining to Shoreland Overlay District Standards.

E. **Request for Amendments to Section 3.09** of the Unified Development Code (UDC). Waseca County requests amendments to the above section of the UDC pertaining to Special Events Permits.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Notice is hereby given that the Waseca County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing at 9:30am on Tuesday April 7, 2026, at the Waseca County East Annex (Commissioner's Room), 300 N. State Street, Waseca, MN 56093 to consider the following items:

A. **Richard Schultz** requests for a Conditional Use Permit to construct a Single-Family Dwelling on his parcel (PID: 07.017.0800) in Section 17 T105N R22W of New Richland Township. The parcel is zoned I-General Industrial. The request is pursuant to the requirements in Sections 6.19(C)(23) and 6.17(C)(1) of the UDC.

B. **Ryan Lee and Kimberly A. Kast** request an amendment to an existing Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for an agritourism-related business on their parcel (PID: 02.015.0300). The amendment will remove their existing parcel from the 1988 recorded CUP and subsequent amendments.

The staff reports and Board Memorandum on these items will be available at the Waseca County Planning and Zoning Office, 300 N State St., Waseca during regular business hours 8-4:30, and will be on the county website www.wasecacounty.gov at the agenda tab by April 6, 2026. Oral comments will be accepted at the meeting. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all Waseca County services, programs and activities.

Tina G Wilson, Planning and Zoning Administrator

Important Information Regarding Assessment and Classification of Property

This may affect your 2026 property tax payments.

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeal and Equalization of the Freedom Township shall meet on Thursday, April 16, 9:00am -9:30 am, at the Freedom Township town hall. The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor, and also to determine whether corrections need to be made.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor’s office to discuss your concerns. If you are still not satisfied with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local board of appeal and equalization. The board shall review the valuation, classification, or both if necessary, and shall correct it as needed. Generally, an appearance before your local board of appeal and equalization is required by law before an appeal can be taken to your county board of appeal and equalization.

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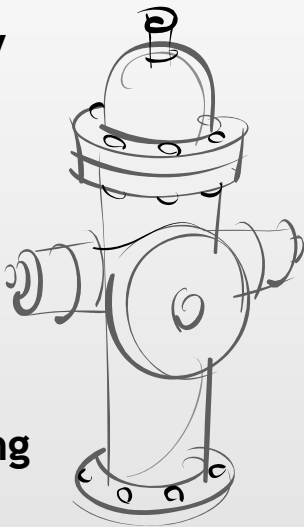


Water Hydrant Flushing!

The City of Waseca’s Water Utility
will be flushing fire hydrants
beginning Monday, April 27th

Utility workers will be moving:
Southwest to Southeast, then
Northwest to Northeast...

Rusty water may be evident during
this time and shortly after...



MORE INFO → Call Utilities Offices @ 835-9718



NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the Waseca City Council held a public hearing on **Tuesday, March 19th, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.** in the City Hall Council Chambers, 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093 and adopted the following Ordinances:

ORDINANCE NO. 1136 – Rescinding and Replacing the City of Waseca Comprehensive Plan, October 2013

ORDINANCE NO. 1137 – Modifying Waseca City Code Chapter 121: Lodging Tax Section 121.01 Definitions, Section 123.03 Imposition of Tax, and Creating Section 121.16 Tax Administration

Complete copies of Ordinances 1136 and 1137 are available for public inspection in the office of the City Clerk at 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

Published in the *Waseca County Pioneer* on March 26th, 2026

Julia Zuehlke
City Clerk



MCAN

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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 BINGO
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
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CITY OF WASECA
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the **City of Waseca City Council** will hold Public Hearings at **7:00 p.m., on Tuesday, April 7, 2026**, in the **COUNCIL CHAMBERS of CITY HALL** located at 508 South State Street in Waseca, Minnesota.

The purpose of the Public Hearings is to gather information regarding the following:

- **ORDINANCE NO. 1135:** Proposed text amendments to Chapter 52: General Water and Sewer Provisions, Chapter 91: Health and Safety; Nuisances, Chapter 94: Streets and Sidewalks, Chapter 151: Subdivisions, Chapter 152: Sign Regulations, and Chapter 153: Airport Zoning of the Municipal Code.
- **ORDINANCE NO. 1138:** Proposed annexation of approximately 335 acres of City-owned Airport and Wastewater Treatment Plant land (Parcel ID No. 097500010, No. 090130510, No. 090130650, No. 090130560, No. 090140600, No. 090130500, and No. 090140500) which includes approximately 1.3 acres of adjacent dedicated street right-of-way, all lying within St. Mary Township in the County of Waseca, Minnesota. Upon annexation, the properties will be zoned RR-S (Rural Service District).
- **ORDINANCE NO. 1139:** The owners of the properties at 711 & 715 North State Street are requesting the rezoning of their properties (Parcel ID No. 171520380 and No. 171520370) from R-2 (Urban Residential District) to B-3 (Neighborhood Transition Business District). The purpose of the rezoning request is to facilitate an expansion of the existing funeral home business. The total area of this rezoning request is approximately 1.45 acres.

Complete copies of the proposed ordinances are available in the office of the City Clerk located at 508 South State Street in Waseca, Minnesota.

Those interested in commenting may appear in person or by counsel or may submit written comments to the City of Waseca at 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

Upon request, accommodations will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Waseca services, programs, and activities.

Published in the *Waseca County Pioneer* on Thursday, March 26, 2026.

Jon M. Froke
City Planner

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

CITY OF WASECA
2026 CONCRETE STREET REPAIRS PROJECT
(CITY PROJECT NO. 2026-10)

On Thursday, April 16th, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., the CITY OF WASECA will open and review all electronic bids received for the **2026 CONCRETE STREET REPAIRS PROJECT**.

Estimated major quantities are as follows:

DOWEL BAR	578	EA
DRILL & GROUT DOWEL BAR	1,071	EA
DRILL & GROUT REINFORCEMENT BAR (EPOXY COATED)	602	EA
FULL DEPTH CONCRETE REPAIR	2,741	SY
ADJUST FRAME & RING CASTING	17	EA

Together with other related items of work, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications.

Digital Bidding Documents are available online through BidVault (<https://connex.rtvision.com/contracts>). Bids will only be accepted electronically via BidVault and only registered planholders will be allowed to bid. There is no cost to register on the BidVault website or download the project bidding documents. The cost to submit a bid is \$35.00. Bid Documents may also be viewed at the City of Waseca Engineering Department located at 508 South State Street in Waseca (507-835-9730).

Bid Security of 5% of the amount of the Bid must accompany each Bid in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

The successful bidder must be a “responsible contractor” as defined in Minnesota Statutes Section 16C.285, subdivision 3.

The City reserves the right to retain the deposit of the lowest Bidder until the PERFORMANCE BOND and PAYMENT BOND have been executed and approved. No bidder may withdraw a Bid within sixty (60) days after the bid opening date.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all Bids, waive irregularities and informalities therein, and award the Contract to the best interests of the City.

Direct any inquiries to Nathan Willey, the Waseca Director of Engineering, at (507) 835-9716.

58th Annual Irish Celebration Saturday, March 14



LUCK OF THE IRISH - The Irish American Club of Southern Minnesota celebrated its 58th annual celebration on Saturday, March 13. After an Irish Mass at Sacred Heart and the crowning of the 2026 Mr. and Mrs. Emerald Isle and Grand Marshal at the church, many followed the Parade of Clans over to the Mill where there was a full day of festivities and the Miss St. Patrick and Miss Irish Rose Queen Pageant. Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann

Chamber welcomes Waseca County Farm Bureau

The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors are pleased to welcome the Waseca County Farm Bureau as a new member of the Chamber. The Farm Bureau is a grassroots organization dedicated to supporting and advocating for agriculture, promoting agricultural education, and strengthening rural communities. Through leadership, outreach, and policy engagement, the Waseca County Farm Bureau works to enhance the quality of life for farmers, ranchers, and the broader community.

“We are excited to welcome the Waseca County Farm Bureau

to the Chamber,” said Katie Gonzales, Ambassador Chair. “Their commitment to agriculture and community aligns perfectly with our mission, and we look forward to supporting their efforts and seeing their continued impact in Waseca County.”

Robin Dulas, Executive Director of the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce, also shared her enthusiasm: “Agriculture plays such a vital role in our local economy and heritage. Having the Waseca County Farm Bureau as part of our Chamber strengthens our network and provides valuable opportunities for



GROWING ROOTS - The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors welcomed the Waseca County Farm Bureau as a new member of the Chamber. The Farm Bureau is dedicated to supporting and advocating for agriculture.

collaboration and education within our community.”

Mikhail Rostislavovich, Board of Directors President, added, “We are proud to welcome an or-

ganization that represents and advocates for one of the most important industries in our region. The Waseca County Farm Bureau brings a strong voice and

passion for agriculture that will benefit our Chamber and community as a whole.”

The Waseca Area Chamber Ambassadors look forward to

building a strong partnership with the Waseca County Farm Bureau and supporting their continued success.