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WASECA
COUNTY
PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

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Thursday, April 23, 2026



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Sports

New Richland American Legion Auxiliary meeting Thursday, April 23
The New Richland American Legion Auxiliary will hold their meeting at the New Richland Library at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 23.

On the Cover at Indian Island Winery Friday, April 24
On the Cover will perform at the Indian Island Winery from 6-8:30 p.m. on Friday, April 24. Harrison and Jon play acoustic covers of your favorite hits from the '80s, '90s and today.

Barnyard Babies at Farmamerica April 25
Farmamerica is holding a Barnyard Babies event from 10 a.m. till 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 25. Take a tram ride to our historic 1930s barnyard, where adorable baby farm animals await! Meet a variety of farm animals and enjoy up-close, hands-on interactions the whole family will love. Purchase tickets at <https://farmamerica.ticketspice.com/barnyard-babies>.

Free Children's Lavender Field Painting at Waseca Art Center April 25
Artist Peggy Paulson will lead a free children's Lavender Field Painting class from 1-3 p.m. on Saturday, April 25. Pre-registration is required so materials can be prepared. Visit the Waseca Art Center website.

Books and Brews at Half Pint Brewing Company April 25
It's the perfect combo of bookworm babble and beer. Pick up a copy of the book at the library, then meet us out to discuss the book at Half Pint Brewing Company at 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 25. The book, "A Marriage at Sea" by Sophie Elmhirst. Food and drinks not provided but can be purchased.

Creating Advance Funeral & Cremation Directives at Waseca Senior Center April 27
A panel of experts led by Dennis, Steffel, Omtvedt Funeral Home will share their knowledge on how to set up powers of attorney and wills, make healthcare and long-term care decisions, and create funeral/cremation directives at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, April 27. Meal provided by Lutheran Social Services/Meals on Wheels.

Ellie Palmer at Waseca Public Library Monday, April 27
Ellie Palmer will give an author talk at the Waseca Library at 6 p.m. on Monday, April 27. Palmer is known for her witty Minnesota romantic comedies. Free and open to the public.

A word from
The Word

Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them.

Psalm 127:4-5



MASTERING THE MARSH - Numerous fire vehicles became stuck in the mud throughout the firefighting efforts, so the MN DNR's MarshMaster arrived to reach the areas other equipment could not.

Fire chars 200 acres of area wildlife preserve

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Twelve firefighting departments and about 100 firefighters assisted in controlling a blaze that charred about 200 acres of open grassland and marsh located east of Rice Lake in the Findlay Wildlife Management Area the evening of Thursday, April 16. The fire was first reported to the Waseca Fire Department (WFD) at about 7 p.m. According to information shared by the WFD, the first crew arriving on the scene "determined the fire had spread to a large region" and sent word backup should be requested.

According to Waseca fire chief Jason Forshree, the DNR and Waseca County Sheriff's Department are investigating the cause of the fire, which no longer posed a danger by 11:30 p.m.

Fire continued on 4

Secret Service member speaks at Rotary Club, school

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

"It is—and it isn't—what you see in the movies," comments 2009 Waseca High School graduate Caleb Davies, whose post-secondary education in criminal justice led to his current career with the Secret Service.

Davies provided presentations both at some Waseca High School classes and for the Waseca Rotary Club on Thursday, April 16.

Having been with the Secret Service since 2016, Davies stated his job has better and worse elements, but the more enjoyable ones outweigh the undesirable ones.

He made the decision to seek the job during his early career, he said, because he sees it as a way to genuinely serve and "give back" to society.

Among the positive elements of his role, he listed a wide variety of opportunities. At the current time, he is working out of a Twin Cities office where his primary focus is the agency's original assignment—the one Abraham Lincoln created it for—the investigation of counterfeit currency. Other divisions working out of the same building, he said, scan the internet for evidence of various crimes, focusing closely on international crimes against children.

He admits he "nerds out" when it comes to detecting counterfeit money and trying to locate and charge individuals and agencies who commit the crime.

He explained "field agents" like himself can also find themselves drawn back into the more famous role of security and protection. "This past weekend I was part of an operation in Miami," he told the Rotarians. "I found myself standing in a stairwell for 12 hours."

During other security operations, he has found himself in the movie-scene-like settings the public is more familiar with—standing within feet of presidents or national leaders, constantly assessing the vicinity for any threats and ready to respond at a moment's notice.

During Donald Trump's first term, one of his primary assignments was protecting the Jared and Ivanka Trump family; the couple has three children. His role was to be in the family's company, including transporting the children to school and back. He mentioned being almost like part of the family, even helping the children learn to ride bicycles.

While on Jill Biden's protection detail, part of his job was to spend time in college classrooms, since Biden was a college instructor. She also went on trips to locations around the world; being part of the team that traveled with her afforded Davies the opportunity to visit noteworthy locations.

He mentioned he keeps a world map at home, and takes pleasure in putting a pushpin into each new location he's visited.

He also described some less pleasant aspects of the job, including a time when he was on protection detail outside a then-unoccupied house. A woman he described as "mentally unwell" approached his parked vehicle,

Speech continued on 6

Young local archers score well at state competition

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Members of the Waseca Archery Club junior team scored exceptionally well at the Minnesota State Archery Association (MSAA) indoor tournament the weekend of April 11 and 12 in Hutchinson with 10 members taking first, second or third place in their divisions. According to the MSAA, the tournament drew nearly 140 competitors in youth divisions from around the state.

Club youth coach Aaron Hanson comments he is deeply impressed by the whole team's dedication, focus, and hard work. "It's been tremendous watching their progress," he says. "There's been a lot of growth since the beginning of the season."

Hanson explains archery competitions are divided between an indoor and outdoor season. Each setting poses slightly different challenges, but focus and self control are always central to aiming and shooting with consistency. "The pressure is real," he observes. "It can be very daunting." Doing well, he says, requires "a way of calming yourself and shutting everything else out."

Along with that come the physical coordination and stamina that are built through practice; Hanson notes that youth members have a weekly group practice, and that participants who also choose to practice on their own tend to show the most success.

"I am super proud of this team," he comments, noting that members not

Archers continued on 5



BULLSEYE - Payton Smith, 10, raises her state tournament plaque above her head after taking first place in the cub female bowhunter freestyle class at the Minnesota State Archery Association indoor competition on April 11 and 12. Sixteen members of the Waseca Archery Club junior team took part, earning numerous first, second and third place wins.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Janesville Sip-n-Shop Springtime Market has chilly start

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Janesville Springtime Market Sip-n-Shop took place during a sunny but chilly Saturday, April 18. Shoppers could see the work of crafters, vendors and bakers in one place, and sample some wine while they were at it.

The event took place at the BTO Event Center at 130 North Main Street in Janesville. The wine was courtesy of the Bar Next Door, but this was just a wine tasting, the actual Bar Next Door is down a half block across the street. Shandee, the gal working the wine counter said, "I'm usually here for events like this, I've been working there since they opened in November. You'll love the food, they have smash burgers and flatbread pizzas."

As shoppers entered the event center, they found the Dreaming Flamingo and their handcrafted wares. Owner Anne Travis was warm and friendly, her motto "Made with love in MN" had that Min-



FLAMINGO DREAMS - Anne Travis, owner of The Dreaming Flamingo, was just one of the numerous vendors who attended the BTO Event Center's 'Sip and Shop' happening in Janesville on Saturday, April 18, 2026.

nesota nice added in. She had books that looked like the old Bobbsey Twin mystery books, but were instead journals with small sections of the books' pages still inside. Said Travis, "We use the cover of the book and add blank sheets, it adds such a nice touch and gives the journal personality." She had old puzzle pieces used as refrigerator magnets, and she also has a big presence on Face-

Sip-N-Shop continued on 5



Compostings

by Al Batt

‘I wish we’d been given more time’

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS’ CLUB MEETING

I was on the TV show “Hoarders” once, but I can’t tell you what happened.

Why not?

I don’t want to give anything away.

DRIVING BY BRUCE’S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. We weren’t in the eye of the storm. We were in the nose of the tornado. No damage done here, but I wish we’d been given more time between the last blizzard warning and the first tornado warning.

I felt as if I were traveling 35,000 feet high at 500 mph, wishing I were in a plane, while seated in an airport waiting for another flight. Three house sparrows landed near me and fed on the detritus left by humans. I watched them until they flew away. Their flight was earlier than mine.

I was happy to be last in line at a church potluck. Someone must be last. The deviled eggs would be nothing more than a faint memory by the time I neared the food. The world bends each day. It doesn’t always bend my way.

THE PLATTE RIVER

I worked along the Platte River near Kearney, Nebraska. The waterway’s name comes from the French word “platte,” meaning “flat.” In 1889, Bill Nye wrote about the Platte: “It has a very large circulation, but very little influence. It covers a good deal of ground, but is not deep. In some places it is a mile wide and three-quarters of an inch deep.” “A mile wide and an inch deep” is used to describe people with superficial knowledge.

THOSE THRILLING DAYS OF YESTERYEAR

As a boy, I was never hungry, I was starving. My mother tossed me a cold potato to eat. My father enjoyed the musical stylings of Little Jimmie Dickens, who sang, “Take An Old Cold Tater And Wait.”

A cold potato represents a quick, reliable and filling nourishment, which provides sustenance while waiting for a meal.

I’VE LEARNED

On May 1-3, 2013, Ellendale, Minnesota reported a snowfall of 17.3 inches when I shoveled snow while barefoot and wearing a T-shirt and shorts.

I spoke at the Friends of Minnesota Barns Annual Meeting at Oliver Kelley Farm in Elk River, and learned that in 1987, nearly 70,000 historic barns were standing

in Minnesota; by 2000 there were fewer than 52,000. In 2024, an estimated 39,000 remain. Preservation Iowa says Iowa once had over 200,000 barns, with approximately 60,000 remaining.

Some people still mistake Superman for a bird or a plane.

MSP Airport water refill stations were used 9.1 million times in 2025, reducing an estimated 780 pounds of single-use bottles every day.

BAD JOKE DEPARTMENT

"Waiter, there's a funny film on this soup!" "What did you expect—Citizen Kane?"

NATURE NOTES

I was up at the whipcrack of dawn. Birdsong spilled into the morning. It’s spring training for male birds. When there is music on my doorstep, I’m not on Bourbon Street. I’m listening to the morning chorus. Not all are morning birds. Crows are vocal before alarm-clock time, opening their day with conversation. Robins call at first light. I stayed in a hotel with a parking lot so well-lit that a robin serenaded guests most of the night. Some might grumble about that cheery singing before the caffeine has kicked in, but the dawn chorus delights me. The reasons for the songs are the need for continual reminders of territorial ownership, an endless advertisement for mates, and to proclaim survival. Birds don’t swipe right or left—they sing to find a mate. Why sing so early? Sound travels better at dawn than later in the day, and there is less competing noise. Who wants to sing in competition with a lawn mower? Early morning is a poor time to feed, as the light makes hunting difficult, and insect prey can become inactive during the morning chill. I listened to a brown thrasher, and I could almost hear Perry Como crooning, “Oh! It’s a good day for singing a song, And it’s a good day for moving along. Yes, it’s a good day, how could anything go wrong? A good day from morning till night!” Dusk brings out more territorial singing than mate enticing. Catbirds, cardinals, robins, brown thrashers, owls and great crested flycatchers add their spirited voices to an evening’s soundtrack.

MEETING ADJOURNED

“Have compassion for everyone you meet, even if they don’t want it. What seems conceit, bad manners, or cynicism is always a sign of things no ears have heard, no eyes have seen. You do not know what wars are going on down there where the spirit meets the bone.”—Miller Williams.



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

Managing to sit still and take in the flowers

I’m trying something new: sitting still.

I had a bunion removed from my left foot last Friday. As I write this, I have not yet seen the results, because my instructions are to leave the voluminous wrappings in place until my first post-operative visit, three days in the future.

When I walk, I am supposed to keep the weight on the heel area of my left foot; it has been left to me to decide whether I need any supports as I move around—a cane or walker, for example. I am getting around quite well, I believe. But it probably looks like I am in pain as I toddle along, concentrating on where I am placing the weight when I use my left foot.

I feel fortunate to have had the surgery and be bunion free for the first time in two or more decades. The problem had always just been that my left foot was funny looking until the last few months, when I was beginning to experience pain as I walked. It turns out, though, that I am not very good at sitting still—I

will just get settled, then realize there was something I would have liked to have taken care of.

Oh well, “four to six weeks” will soon be over.

Just maybe I will sit still long enough to appreciate my spring flowers. True to the promise of the little green sprouts a few weeks ago, I now have a long line of blooms: the hyacinths are a hundred or more tiny blossoms cooperating to look like one fist-sized bundle of color. Fortunately I don’t have to choose which I like more—their eye-catching brightness or their gentle airborne perfume. When the wind isn’t blowing it away, the scent of the hyacinths is enough to make passersby stop in their tracks and take a deep breath.

The daffodils and tulips command attention for their sheer numbers. The general impression is of giant, randomly distributed dollops of paint, but as soon as one takes a moment to look at individuals, it becomes a matter of transfixing detail. Not only each flower, but each petal has an elegance all its own. The daf-



Deb can’t help observing that hyacinths, like this one currently blooming in her flower garden, are a hundred flowers working together to look like one.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

fodils have a flat background with a frilled ring which extends forward. One is led to wonder how a flower ever got the idea to look like that

The tulips—alternatingly bright red or yellow—are remarkable examples of engineering. They open and close depending on the amount of sunlight, yet the delicate petals never seem out of alignment.

I might also manage to sit still to listen to the increasing variety of bird song. It comes back so gradually, one

might convince herself it’s been here all along. Up at the cabin last week, we heard trumpeter swans and even sandhill cranes—and while it’s a pleasure to identify those individual sounds, the whole symphony can be quite a delight, if only one takes a moment to listen.

Time will tell how I do on this matter of sitting still while I convalesce, but I admit I don’t hold out much optimism for myself on that count.

Unremarkable and (mostly) okay with it

I miss Caribou Coffee. As I sit here sadly sipping my Starbucks coffee, I mourn the long distance relationship I have with the deliciousness of Caribou. Starbucks just doesn’t taste as good to me.

But that’s beside the point of this column.

I have been thinking recently about success. I got a LinkedIn notification that one of my college classmates was just recognized as one of Editor & Publisher (E&P) Magazine 2026 Tomorrow’s News Trailblazers. While I was extremely happy for her, I then scrolled further to witness more successes of other classmates and acquaintances.

While I understand that social media, even LinkedIn, is curated to show just the good or great parts of life, I still find myself comparing. These people are making something with their lives and being celebrated because of it. Even in the newspaper, we celebrate the unique and hard-working individuals who have found success. But what about the common man? The people who work hard and don’t receive any special attention?



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

I guess it just felt easier to find extraordinary success in college, as I was always working to achieve something that would make me proud. Write a thesis to get an honors medal. Join the school’s newspaper and work my way up to Managing Editor. Do homework to get an A. Spend four years working to get a degree.

And now? Having a full time job doesn’t necessarily mean I’m not working towards anything, but I’m not really working towards anything. Right now, there’s no room for me to grow or get promoted, and I’ve learned all the parts of the job I need to do. So while I work on getting better at the things I do, the tasks seem to become monotonous. There’s no easy goalpost I can use to show I’ve

achieved tangible success anymore. At least not like my peers.

While I might not be as successful as others, I try to remind myself that we all take a different path in life. I might not have crazy success in work I can be proud of, but my volleyball team won our competitive league. I earned a raise at the magazine (yay no longer working for less than minimum wage!). I finished my bookclub book in only a few days. I have been consistently going outside and going to the gym.

So while I might not be publicly recognized for an award, or featured in the newspaper for my hard work, there are successes in life I can be proud of.

And sometimes I ponder whether I

want to work myself to death in order to gain those loud successes like I did in college anyway. While I would love to have something to offer to families and friends to say, “Look! I did this cool thing and I think you could be proud of me,” it sometimes seems like it would be better to say “eff it” to success and overwork and just go out and explore the world to find joy and experience life before I can’t anymore.

My grandpa will probably read this and think my ramblings are underlying thoughts of me wanting validation, a reflection on my self esteem. Maybe it is, maybe it isn’t.

Being far from my family and friends, it’s easy to find myself more independent, trying to celebrate the little things with myself since I can’t with the ones I love. But I’m growing, and I’m learning, and I’m trying to celebrate the successes that aren’t extraordinary. Because what is life without a little whimsy?

My Determination: “I’m just so damn tired of watching myself and every single other woman tie ourselves in knots so that people will like us.” — Gloria, “Barbie”

Just friends who have not met

Over the past month I have had numerous health complications.

This past week I battled Influenza B. A visit to the doctor Thursday confirmed this. Despite having what I described as the worst sore throat of my entire life, the doctor was impressed my throat looked so good. I will share my fool-proof, four-part sore throat treatment plan.

Lots of honey.

Ginger and turmeric tea. With additional ground ginger and turmeric added. (And more honey)

Lots and lots of water. I mean literal gallons. While sleeping, my rule is this: each time I wake up, I drink an entire bottle of water before going back to sleep.

Cough drops and sore throat spray.

The majority of the past eight or nine days has been spent sleeping and recovering from said influenza.

During this time there was some drama at the game store. A rarity. (I own a game store, PlayIt Forward Games in Austin.)

The store was hosting a “pre-release” event this weekend—actually a series of three events, beginning Friday night. My game store sells mainly Magic the Gathering (a card game), Pokemon (also a card game), Dungeons and Dragons accessories (a role playing dice game) and other various gaming accessories including used board games. The events this weekend were for a Magic the Gathering release of its newest set.

Alex, basically the store manager, was running the event of 30 or so



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

people. One of the matches went to time. Meaning the players couldn’t finish their three games in 50 minutes, so they had 5 turns to finish their game and then everyone would move onto the next round. Alec, another employee, walked back and informed the players of this. When Alex went to check on them a few minutes later, he found out they had ignored the request to go to turns. So Alex kindly informed them their match was done: 28 other players would not continue to wait on them.

One of the store’s regulars was quite upset by this. This same regular lectured me last week about how important it is to start events on time because people’s time is valuable. But here he is, getting upset because a match is ending early to respect people’s time.

Alex was quite rattled by this, so I did my best to console him when I talked to him. He did the right thing. He laughed when I shared the story about the person who complained loudly. We really can’t make this stuff up.

More store drama. Another customer wanted to pick up the product early. I told him the price, he paid it, then mes-

saged me numerous times over the weekend to tell me the price was “egregious.” Even though our prices were reasonable enough that we sold out on the products he wanted within 24 hours, he labeled it “egregious.” That led to my decision that in the future I will be less accommodating with discounts: As a former employee, Mr. “Egregious” had been paying a reduced price on his purchases. I told my staff via our group chat that we are no longer giving discounts to anyone other than current store staff. They responded and said we have a problem with customers feeling entitled to special privileges. Another customer called me yesterday because he was told he couldn’t walk behind the counter, go to the customer book and put purchases on a tab—all without telling anyone what he was doing. Now I know the person, so this scenario made me chuckle a little bit. I have known this customer nine years; he is my friend. He’s also only 21, because I met him at the previous iteration of the game store. So in my eyes, he’s still a teen. Picture, in my mind’s eye, a kid, walking behind the ice cream counter, serving himself, not paying, and throwing a fit

when an employee scolds him for it.

Growing up in New Richland, I remember going to the Dew Drop Inn Cafe. Numerous times customers helped themselves, walked behind the counter, or even waited for the lady working because the place was swamped. Yes, customers just helped out. The game store has that feeling a little bit. I’ve employed, at least in a part time role, a dozen regulars during the past two years. I think about the Dew Drop whenever a past employee who is now a customer walks behind the counter to help out.

People often ask me what the game store is like.

I tell them it’s like a bar for nerds: Instead of serving alcohol, we sell games and gaming accessories. I also describe the place like a school lunchroom. There are always people cycling in and out, just stopping by, or staying for the entire day.

It really is a special place.

“We are an open mixing place for the general public, but we are strongly committed to bringing together people who may not normally spend time together in the hope they will become friends, seeking deeper relationships with each other and with the community. A sign I once saw in an old café window proclaimed, ‘There are no strangers here, just friends who haven’t met,’ and that pretty much captures what we’re about.”

— Ray Oldenburg, Celebrating the Third Place: Inspiring Stories About the “Great Good Places” at the Heart of Our Communities

WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

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GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

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Paw Patrol Party at New Richland Public Library April 28

Join us for a paws-itively good time as we celebrate our favorite neighborhood rescue dogs at the New Richland Library at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 28. Kids will play games and make Paw Patrol-inspired crafts. For ages 4-6.

Conversations Around Dementia at New Richland Trinity Lutheran Church April 28

The Trinity Lutheran Church of New Richland is having Conversations Around Dementia from 6:30-8 p.m. on Tuesday, April 28. Learn valuable information on key topics of concern affecting families living with memory loss. Presented by Dustin Lee. To RSVP call 507-465-3635 by April 26.

Agriculture Career Education (ACE) day at Farmamerica Thursday, April 30

Seventh and eighth graders from around the region will attend Ag Career Education Day at Farmamerica throughout the business day on Thursday, April 30. Area businesses are invited to set up displays meant to show area middle school students that inviting, interesting careers are available within driving distance of their home towns. For more information, contact Kari Wadd at Farmamerica kari@farmamerica.org or call 507-835-2052.

Salad Luncheon at First Congregational Church Friday, May 1

There will be a Salad Luncheon at the First Congregational Church from 11 a.m. through 12:30 p.m. on Friday, May 1. Choose from over 30 different salads and bars. \$12 per person.

Waldorf Petal Pushers plant sale Waldorf Community Center Saturday, May 9

The Waldorf Petal Pusher are having a plant sale at the Community Center from 8-11 a.m. on Saturday, May 9. For sale will be annuals, perennials, and garden related items.

Grandparent/granchild reading activity New Richland Public Library May 14

The New Richland public library reading activity featuring the book, "The Lion Who Stole my Arm," by Nicola Davies, recommended for students in grades 3-5 at 6:15 p.m. on Thursday, May 14. This is for grandparents to spend time with their grandchildren. Read the book, both show up and get free refreshments while you discuss the book with others.

Soil Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board Meeting May 14

The SWCD will be holding its monthly board meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 14. The meetings will be held in the SWCD offices located at 300 North State Street - Door 4.

Peppers offer 4-H pancake breakfast

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

More than 220 guests attended the Waldorf Peppy Peppers 4-H Club pancake breakfast at the community center on Sunday, April 12, with free will donations accepted. Proceeds go directly to the club and help kids go to camp and other club outings. Out in front of the community center were children struggling against the wind to hold up a sign alerting passing drivers.

Inside, protected from the wind, were people feasting on eggs, sausages, and pancakes with all the fixings. The kitchen was full of people serving and stocking food, with others out in the dining area gathering plates and wiping tables. Once they were finished eating, children with sticky fingers were running around among the tables, doing what kids do.

Laura Wenzel and Nikki Chicos were helping 4-H members take tickets at the door and keep track of the head count. Said Wenzel, "We're seeing good numbers this morning, a lot of people came out."

Natalie Roeker, a member of the Peppy Peppers said, "We have 38 people helping out this morning with 28 youth 4-H members. What we'll do this morning is whatever we bought for breakfast that's left over, we donate to the New Richland Food Shelf. The money raised goes to helping cover the cost of camps our club members are in. Not only that, we also purchase Christmas gifts for the wishing tree and com-



PANCAKES HERE - On behalf of the Waldorf Peppy Peppers, Jace, Nash, Kaisley, Kenny, Marvin, Kendrick, and Kaeson were struggling against the wind to display a sign to attract passing motorists. They were advertising the group's pancake breakfast at the Waldorf Community Center on Sunday, April 12, 2026.

Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann



PEPPY PANCAKES - From left: Landon, Nikki, and Owen Chicos, accompanied by Laura Wenzel, were manning the ticket table at the Waldorf Peppy Peppers Pancake Breakfast at the community center on Sunday, April 12, 2026.

plete Thanksgiving food bags for the New Richland Food Shelf."

So what's up next for 4-H? Roeker continued, "We'll be decorating a hay bale at the county fair along with our club scrapbook

and banner entries." She also wanted to remind everyone, "There'll be no meeting in May due to many families helping out with spring planting."

Historical Society display leads in diverse directions

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

"Think about it." Perhaps the overwhelming message of the current display, "This Old Thing," at the Waseca County Historical Society (WCHS) is that, rather than being entirely in the past, "history" has profound effects on our everyday actions and choices. Along with being a chronicle of what life used to be like, it is also continually connected to who we are, how we think, and what we choose.

Each of four staff members at the WCHS set out to select, from a collection of more than 270,000 items, a single one which had a profound personal impact for her.

While it may seem four items will not engage a visitor for long, that particular outlook does not take the "think about it" factor into account.

"Each of us chose something that, once we had seen it, we couldn't forget," observes WCHS executive director Amy Simmons. Posted alongside the four distinctly different items are historical summaries, personal comments, thought-provoking questions and varying amounts of

information about the original owners.

Because the WCHS staff would like, as much as possible, to preserve their selections as a surprise for those who visit, this article introduces only one of them, a 190-year-old wedding dress selected by assistant curator Anna Simmons, whose family includes a line of seamstresses who have always enjoyed making their own clothing.

Her coinciding interests in fabric and history led her to select the oldest textile in the collection, an elaborate cotton dress with voluminous sleeves worn by Lavinia Sleeper for her wedding in 1836.

Simmons points out that the dress illustrates changes in customs. Made of cotton, off-white in color with a subtle rusty red pattern printed throughout, no modern viewer would immediately recognize it as a wedding dress. Its broad sleeves and various elegant touches make it clear it is not for everyday wear, but contrary to modern practice, it was expected that the dress would be kept and worn for suitable future occasions.

The dress also speaks loudly regarding Lavinia Sleeper, who was so petite the museum had to use a child-size mannequin to display



CLASSIC TEXTILE - Waseca County Historical Society staff members pose with one of the four featured items from the current display, "This Old Thing." Pictured here with a 190-year-old wedding dress are (from left) Elizabeth Anselmo, Anna Simmons, Amy Danielson and Pauline Fenelon.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

the dress. Facts and information about the dress, the time in history which influenced its style and appearance, and what is known about the dress prior to its joining the museum's collection around 1980, are displayed with it. Also posted are questions for reflection--invitations to "think about it."

Items selected by fellow WCHS staff members include similar opportunities; it would be difficult to think of four items more different from one another, yet the connections they share are strong and clear.

Visitors are also offered a chance to peruse a computer listing, complete with photos when

appropriate, of the museum's many artifacts, to select and post their own "unforgettable" choice, and then, directly or indirectly, to influence possible future WCHS displays.

"We wanted to give people a different perspective on history," comments data and library manager Elizabeth Anselmo. "It's not all in the past." Suggesting that reflecting on historic items can lead thinkers down moral, social, spiritual and deeply personal pathways, WCHS staff members encourage area residents to come experience the surprises, humor, character and sentiment represented by the "This Old Thing" display.

WASECA SCHOOL BOARD

Board hears new projects

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writerr

During their regular business meeting on April 16, members of the Waseca school board heard from Junior-Senior High Principal Justin Johnston. Johnston spoke of the outstanding things students have achieved this year, highlighting senior Layla Keith who earned a full ride scholarship to St. Thomas for all four years and Deron Russell who was awarded an athletic scholarship.

Johnston said that next year, in collaboration with the Area Learning Center (ALC), the secondary school is looking into offering engineering design and architectural design classes. Students from the ALC are also able to attend drivers' education classes at the high school during the fourth hour session. Johnston spoke of an ALC student coming over to the high school to join the select choir, and another taking part in the welding class. Mentioning that whether they earn credits at the ALC or junior senior site, students receive "A Waseca school district diploma," Johnston went on to say. "We tell the kids whichever route works best for them to get to that finish line, we want to provide that."

Superintendent Eric Hudspith reported that Minnesota State Mankato has partnered with XRP Robotics to bring some robotics opportunities to southern Minnesota. Hudspith said ALC workbased learning teacher Eric Mix will be attending a 'train the trainer' session in June in preparation for offering robotics at the ALC this next school year.

A number of students will be participating in community agriculture projects this taking advantage of a grant awarded to agriculture teacher Robin Tidd.

During discussion of the Junior-Senior High locker room bid, Hudspith reminded board members not on the facilities committee that the locker rooms on the south side were not upgraded in the last building renovation. Hudspith reported the bids came in under budget and the project will begin this summer.

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OBITUARIES

Geraldine Lienke

Geraldine Grace "Gerri:" (Schlaak) Lienke, age 78, of Waldorf, MN, passed away peacefully on April 18, 2026, in her home surrounded by her loved ones after a brave battle with cancer.

Gerri was born on October 30, 1947, in Waseca, MN, the daughter of Marvin and Grace (Truebenbach) Schlaak. She was the oldest of three girls and was raised on a dairy farm. Gerri attended New Richland High School, where she graduated before beginning a life centered on family, faith, and hard work.

On December 10, 1966, she was united in marriage to Dave Lienke at St. Peter's Church in New Richland. Together, they built a life on a dairy/hobby farm outside of Waldorf, where they raised their four children and shared 59 years of marriage.

Gerri worked for 10 years at the Waldorf Municipal Liquor Store and later dedicated 26 years to Crystal Valley Co-op. She was also active in her community, serving on the Board of Directors for Steele-Waseca Co-op for 21 years and as a board member for Freedom Township for 12 years. She was a faithful member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Alma City.

Gerri found her greatest joy in spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren. She enjoyed gardening, fishing, playing cards, visiting with friends and loved ones, and embracing life in the country. She also cherished being a fur-mom to her beloved feline companion, Lin-



Geraldine Lienke

coln.

She is survived by her husband of 59 years, Dave Lienke; four children, Kim (Jeff) Brinkley of Franklin, TN, Shannon (Darnell) Alexander of St. Louis Park, MN, Bridget (Erik) Wiebold of Lebanon, TN, and Bill (Katie) Lienke of Sioux Falls, SD; and ten grandchildren. She is also survived by her sisters, Audrey Weiske of New Richland and Sandra (Randy) Shaw of Worthington, many brothers and sisters-in-law, along with many nieces, nephews, and other loving relatives.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Marvin and Grace Schlaak; her parents-in-law, John and Eileen Lienke; and her brother-in-law, Jon Weiske.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 AM on Thursday, April 23, 2026, at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Alma City. Visitation will be held two hours prior to the service at the church. Burial will follow at Alma City Cemetery.

Dsofuneral.com

Dorothy Clayton

Dorothy Jean (Ewest) Clayton, age 85, of Waseca, passed away on Saturday, April 18, 2026, in Waseca.

Born on October 17, 1940, Dorothy was the daughter of Leonard and Mamie (Kruger) Ewest. She attended Waseca Public Schools and graduated with the class of 1958.

On September 3, 1960, Dorothy was united in marriage to Donald Clayton at Trinity Lutheran Church in Wilton. Together they built a life centered on family, faith, and farming.

After many years working alongside her husband as a dedicated farm wife, Dorothy later worked for nineteen years in the bakery at Hy-Vee. She also spent many summers working at Birdseye, helping with corn and pea processing. She took pride in keeping an active home, always busy mowing the lawn and caring for her surroundings.

She found great joy in life's simple pleasures. Dorothy enjoyed quilting, embroidery, baking, and gardening, and spent many years working alongside her husband on the farm, a role she took great pride in. She loved playing cards, traveling on bus tours, backyard bird watching, and was a devoted fan of the Minnesota Twins. Above all, she cherished following her grandchildren in their many activities.

Dorothy was a devoted member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Wilton and was active in the church's Ladies Aid.



Dorothy Clayton

She also served as a leader of the Riverside Ramblers 4-H Club.

She is survived by her children: Brenda (Mike) McConnell, Bill (Sofy) Clayton, Larry (Cindy) Clayton, and Sandy (Chad) Schumacher; nine grandchildren; and eighteen great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Donald; and her parents, Leonard and Mamie Ewest.

Dorothy will be remembered as a loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother who cherished her family and found happiness in life's everyday moments.

Funeral service for Dorothy will be at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 25, 2026 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Wilton Township, Waseca County. Visitation will begin three hours prior to the service at the church. Burial will follow at Woodville Cemetery.

Dsofuneral.com



SPRING CLEANING - The New Richland Garden Club's Barb Finseth, Kris Pfeiffer, Stacy Bethke and Garden Club President Eleanor Schlaak were getting the garden across from the high school ready for spring on Thursday, April 9, 2026. Said Schlaak, "All our annuals are doing good so far this year." For those interested, the Garden Club will have its plant sale from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 16.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Garden club anticipates spring

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

During their April meeting, members of the New Richland Town and Country Garden Club planned for the upcoming planting season, including scheduling a work session on Thursday, April 9 to remove any remaining plant debris from the flower garden along Highway 30.

Each year, club members work collaboratively with the City of New

Richland to plant and maintain both that garden and some flower beds located near city hall. Large sized planters displayed along the Broadway business district are maintained by a different group.

Club members are also working toward their yearly spring plant sale, set to take place the morning of May 16 in the New Richland city hall community room. Club member Barb Finseth reported the number of pre-sale orders for "supertunia" plants is among the highest the club

has ever received. Preorders closed on April 11. Numerous other types of plants will also be offered during the sale.

As planning for planting and maintaining the club's gardens continued, members discussed ways they might be able to increase the number of members—or at least to find individuals willing to help with planting and weeding projects.

A member offered to work with city staff to see whether the club might have its own listing on the

city web page. Members also agreed to look into other possibilities and report back at the May meeting.

Those in attendance also discussed ways to improve the appearance of the large garden, proposing that either an interested volunteer or a lawn mowing service might be engaged to reduce undesirable tall plants visible behind the flowers. The plan to arrange the flowers in a way that would be reminiscent of an American flag was also refined.

Grace Lutheran salad luncheon has community in mind

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Grace Lutheran Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) held a salad luncheon at their church along East Elm Avenue in Waseca on Friday, April 17. The dining room was nearly full to bursting with 75 guests within the first half hour.

Linda Born, who was taking tickets at the door, said, "We're equipped to take up to 125 at a time, but we're not quite there yet." It was only 11:30 a.m. and the lunch went on till 1 p.m., "So," added Born, "we'll probably see a few more through the door yet." Either way, she admitted to being impressed with the early numbers.

Event organizer Kathy Maxon was hard at work next to the serving tables set up near the kitchen. She summarized, "We have 35 salads here today. No matter what kind of salad a person wants, they can get it here. There are 12 ladies volunteering, cleaning tables and setting them.

There are also ladies in the kitchen and going around asking patrons if anyone needs anything." She pointed nearby and said, "We also offer a to-go option for those on the run. We bought the buns from Walmart, all the salads were donated, that includes the labor, from those members of the Women of ELCA."

While she gave a quick tour of the proceedings Maxon added, "We do these salad luncheons not just for the fundraising, but for the community. In town here, and usually at one of the churches, there is an event like this every week, be it salads or potato bars. These events should be held every weekend, and it doesn't matter which church it's at. Waseca needs the fellowship, everyone does. People need to get out and talk more, meet up with people. The next luncheon we have at Grace will probably be the egg bake in the fall." She said thank you to some people who were getting up to leave and added, "Even during our regular church services we try to



FOR THE COMMUNITY - The Grace Lutheran Women of the ELCA held a salad luncheon to a full house on Friday, April 17, 2026.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

have something simple, to give people a place to go, we might only have coffee, bars or cookies, but even that's something, gets people in here, for us to meet them."

The variety of options on the table included everything from coleslaw to taco salad, strawberry fruit salad, deviled egg salad and deviled eggs.

Assorted potato salads, broccoli sunflower seed salad, spinach, mandarin orange, tuna, super salmon salad, marshmallow salad (both pink and green) and many more. All proceeds for the day went to missions, added Maxon, "Not just the local mission, but the nationwide one as well; we donate to both."

■ Fire

from Page 1

Firefighters used vehicles ranging in size from ATVs to tankers to navigate the area, using backpack water tanks to douse flames and air blowers to confine the fire to areas where its fuel had already been exhausted.

Efforts to access and combat the blaze were hindered by the marshy terrain, Forshee said, with numerous vehicles among the 50 or so in use getting stuck in wet ground. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources was contacted, and was able to transport its "Marsh Master" vehicle to the area by about 10 p.m. Since the Marsh Master is amphibious, has tracks instead of wheels, and can float in water, Forshee said it was

very useful in navigating the needed territory.

He also observed that the ground-level moisture helped slow the spread of flames, keeping them from reaching all the way to the roots of plants, as was the case during the wildfire in March of 2024, when about 1,600 acres were burned. "Back then it was so dry we could drive wherever we wanted," Forshee recalled.

Winds were also less of a factor, with breezes in the vicinity of 10 mph rather than the much higher speeds of 2024. Lower winds and a slower spreading fire meant no extreme measures were needed to protect homes and buildings, as had been the case two years ago. Forshee mentioned that an unexpected shift in the wind during the evening did cause firefighters to change their efforts from preventing the spread of flames toward the NNE to protecting

against southward movement.

Firefighting departments which assisted the WFD on April 16 included the Department of Natural Resources, Ellendale, Elysian, Fari-bault, Janesville, Kilkenny, New Richland, Owatonna, Medford, Morristown, and Waterville. Forshee also expressed gratitude to other agencies which made important contributions to the efforts, including North Memorial Health Ambulance and personnel from the Waseca Police

Department, Waseca County Sheriff's office, 911 dispatchers, Waseca Fire Auxiliary, and the state fire marshal's office.

"We're always grateful for the support of the community," Forshee continued, mentioning that Barney's Drive-In in Waseca opened especially for the purpose of providing food for the firefighters and members of the fire department auxiliary delivered beverages and snacks to people working at the site of the fire.

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Answer: All passenger vehicles must have rearview mirrors. When it comes to vehicles like rental moving trucks, which do not allow a view through a rear window, they must have an additional side mirror. Pickup trucks, often used for hauling, must also have an extra side mirror. This side mirror helps you see clearly when ob-

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■ Archers

from Page 1

only performed well as competitors, but enjoyed the social aspects of the gathering, spending time with young archers from around the state, sharing their ideas and experiences, and showing respect for their fellow competitors and the rules and expectations of the tournament.

Listed below are the name, placing, class and score achieved by each of the junior team members who placed. In youth divisions, participants shoot 60 times, with a possible score of 5 earned by touching or being within the center circle of the target. For further refinement of scores, it is noted how many times the arrow touches the “x” at the very center of the target. When the numbered score is identical, the count of times the x was touched becomes a determining factor.

Placings:

Wanli Chen, first in cub male freestyle with a perfect score of 300 and touching the x 59 out of a

■ Sip-N-Shop

from Page 1

book.

The Learning Place featured bags of assorted small toys. In a bag marked “Mushroom Kingdom,” there were little fairytale pieces including mushrooms and wizard hats, but very small. Other things were mixed in like small beads or sprockets, these things were poured into a bowl or large container and mixed around to give someone a textural feeling to relax. Think of those bonsai trees with the small boxes of sand some people place on their office desks:

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possible 60 times.

Josie Hagre, first in young adult female freestyle with a score of 293 and touching the x 34 times.

Payton Smith, first in Cub female bowhunter freestyle with a score of 288 and touching the x 21 times.

Cadence Stenzel, first in youth female bowhunter freestyle with a score of 282 and touching the x 25 times; also second in youth female freestyle with a score of 291 and touching the x 25 times.

Danika Hanson, in young adult female bowhunter freestyle with a score of 291 and touching the x 32 times.

Nolan Monson, second in cub male bowhunter freestyle with a score of 278 and touching the x 17 times.

Hugh Courtney, second in cub male bowhunter freestyle with a score of 295 and touching the x 24 times.

Austin Smith, third in young adult male freestyle with a score of 299 and touching the x 54 times.

Nolan Hanson, third in youth male bowhunter freestyle with a score of 291 and touching the x 32 times.

When they are stressed, they rake the sand with a small rake or shovel, these are similar, only bigger pieces and no plants. Other kits were unicorns, dinosaurs and video games.

Food was offered by Panta Ta Ethne, a restaurant featuring Puerto Rican Cuisine. The business has been open since 2021 and has food, dessert and soda.

Other displays were by Calico Pony Sales out of Trimont, Minn., What Nots by Jane and her hand made pottery and ceramics. Terra Tallow, which gets their tallow from a farm in Cambridge that uses White Faced Hereford cows. They make lotions and hand creams. Cecelia Schueler and her Kaotic Kreations sold earrings, wine glass charms, pillowghans, (which are afghans that fold up into pillows) dreamcatchers, chap stick holders and coasters.

Nicole Paur for Paur’s Pantry was on hand with many assorted chocolates and a generous offering of free chocolate samples. She was happy to answer any questions.

The Janesville Springtime Market Sip-n-Shop will hold an event like this again, so keep an eye out.



PLANTING THE WELCOME SEED - The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors welcomed Southfork Seed as a new member. Southfork Seed is owned and operated by Dan and Tara Harguth.

Chamber Ambassadors welcome Southfork Seed

WASECA, MN — The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors are proud to welcome new member Southfork Seed to the Waseca business community.

Southfork Seed, owned and operated by Dan and Tara Harguth, is a local agricultural business dedicated to supporting area farmers through high-quality seed products and related services. Specializing in crop seed solutions such as corn and soybeans, Southfork Seed helps growers select the right genetics and

products for their fields—contributing to improved yields and overall farm success.

As an agriculture-based business, Southfork Seed focuses on Golden Harvest seed and Syngenta seed care, including GHX. The company plays an important role in the region’s agricultural community by offering expert guidance, dependable supply, and personalized service tailored to local growing conditions.

“We are excited to welcome

Southfork Seed to the Chamber,” said Robin Dulas, Executive Director of the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce. “Their commitment to supporting local farmers and strengthening our agricultural economy makes them a valuable addition to our business community.”

Board of Directors President Mikhail Rostislavovich added, “Agriculture is at the heart of our region, and businesses like Southfork Seed help ensure its continued success. We are proud to have them as part

of the Chamber.”

“We are thrilled to have Dan and Tara join the Chamber and connect with other local businesses,” said Jodie Thompson, Membership Chair. “Their expertise and dedication to serving our farming community will make a positive impact.”

For more information on Southfork Seed, call 507-461-0329, email southforkseed@gmail.com, or find them on Facebook.

Majeski appointed to Waldorf Council

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Waldorf city council meeting took place during a tornado warning on a rainy and windy Monday, April 13. The next council workshop will be at 7 p.m. May 18. The Waldorf Days committee will meet at 5 p.m. May 11; Mayor Rob Wilkening invited everyone interested to attend.

With the recent death of council woman Carrie Ferch, Wilkening swore in new council member Jim Majeski. Also new were three volunteers for the Waldorf Fire Department, Garrett White, Tyler Schnoor and Emma Novak. The council discussed providing the Waldorf fire chief with a yearly stipend, but only on condition the fire department be represented at every city council meeting. The council

WALDORF CITY COUNCIL

agreed to inform the fire department of this discussion and future opportunities.

The council decided to accept a bid of \$110,000 for new playground equipment from Flagship Recreation of Lake Elmo, Minn. Other bids received were from Midwest Playscapes for \$132,000 and Pro Playgrounds for \$93,000. The park committee has already raised \$48,000 through grants and fundraising.

City maintenance worker Ron Fischer was given permission to sell the old sewer pumps from the city well house for scrap. A total of \$3,038.32 was not collected for water/sewer, bringing the total

amount of unpaid bills since the beginning of the year to about \$15,000. Costs of operating the water system are covered by city funds, “But,” said city clerk, Sherri Sandry, “This account should be self-sustaining.” There were fifteen no pays with seven partial payments. There was a suggestion about raising the rates to encourage payment.

The council voted to send Mayor Rob Wilkening to the League of Minnesota Cities banquet in Rochester in June. Wilkening is a nominee for the statewide C.C. Ludwig Award, which acknowledges Minnesota mayors who have gone above and beyond the call of duty.

Barna Properties purchased the Palmer Bus building and would like to use half for storage and the



Jim Majeski

other half for themselves. They requested permission to remove the grass in the back, install gravel and a chain link fence. Mayor Wilkening suggested performing a yearly inspection as a condition. The council did not vote on this issue.

Utilities approves Bent Tree North Wind Farm

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission approved a site permit for the Bent Tree North Wind Farm in Freeborn County. The up to 153-megawatt project received strong local support after a year-long application and review process.

The project is designed to help meet growing demand for renewable energy and advance Minnesota’s mandate to achieve 100% carbon-free electricity by 2040. Developed by Wisconsin Power & Light Company, Bent Tree North will include up to 34 turbines primarily located in Freeborn County, with wind access

buffer easements extending into Waseca and Steele counties.

Following extensive public engagement — including public meetings, comment periods, and an Administrative Law Judge report — the Commission approved the permit with conditions addressing environmental protection, wildlife monitoring, agricultural impacts and worker compensation.

“Bent Tree North Wind Farm is an example of a well-crafted project plan that respects local landowners, has the support of the community, and will generate a significant amount of carbon-free electricity,” said Commissioner John Tuma. “It

also highlights how far wind technology has come — we can now generate similar energy with far fewer turbines than the original Bent Tree Wind Farm in 2011.”

The project received broad support from regional organizations and the public. Labor unions, clean energy groups, and local business and economic development organizations all filed supportive comments citing local economic benefits, compatibility with agricultural operations, and renewable energy and reliability benefits.

Construction is expected to begin in the third quarter of 2027, with commercial operation planned for

late 2028.

About

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission regulates three cornerstone service industries in Minnesota’s economy: electricity, natural gas and telephone. The Commission’s mission is to create and maintain a regulatory environment that ensures safe, adequate, and efficient utility services at fair, reasonable rates consistent with State telecommunications and energy policies. It does so by providing independent, consistent, professional, and comprehensive oversight and regulation of utility service providers. Learn more at mn.gov/puc.

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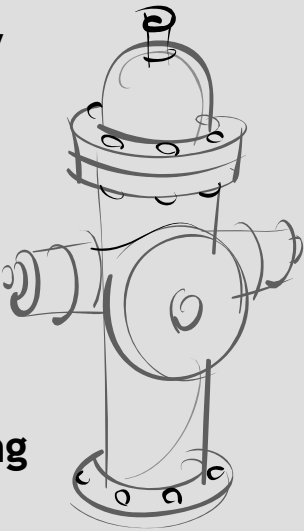
Water Hydrant Flushing!

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

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The Pastor's Column

“Rick says”

By PASTOR RICK WULF
When I was a kid, I remember this goofy game we played. You probably played it, too. The object of the game was to perform goofy motions and then get the other participants to copy those goofy motions...as long as you said magic words first. You know what words they were. “Simon Says”. That’s right. Play along with me. Simon says, touch your toes. Simon says tug your ear. Simon says jump up and down. Keep reading the rest of this sentence. Wait! Simon didn’t say! Gotcha. But I guess you’re going to keep reading. But that’s okay, because I actually want you to!

I think back to that silly game that I know you probably still play with your kids, grandkids, or kids you babysit. These memories bring up a really interesting thought. Do we want people to mimic—to copy us? Because the truth is, whether we want them to or not, people will naturally copy the people that come before them.

Follow along with me for a moment. Maybe you’ve heard the phrase, “Do as I say, not as I do.” I’m so confused by this statement because it goes against everything we are naturally taught growing up. So, when we see someone “talk the talk, but not walk the walk”, it sparks a confusion inside of us.

This is precisely why the Bible commands and calls us to live a life worthy to be imitated. To be copied. I know...heavy, weighty, overwhelming. Might I just give a few quick examples from Scripture and then help lighten the burden so you feel you can live a life worthy to be imitated:

1 Corinthians 4:16, “I urge you to imitate me.”

Hebrews 6:12, “We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.”

Hebrews 13:7, “Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.”

Romans 11:1, “Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.”

Philippians 3:17, “Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do.

1 Timothy 4:12, “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

Titus 2:6-7, “Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity...”

1 Peter 5:2-3, “Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them— not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but

being examples to the flock.

Philippians 4:9, “Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me— put it into practice.” I know, tall task. But the Bible gives us this incredible responsibility (and might I add opportunity) to train up other Jesus-followers well. To love one another and to want to see them experience all that God has for them is an incredible task. So, what if you don’t feel up to it? What if you feel it is too hard of a task? Here are some things to think about.

1. Paul didn’t feel he was adequate for the task either. He was a murderer and he felt he had completely disqualified himself, and yet he knew God was using him (1 Timothy 1:1516). He even felt that God’s immense patience with him was an example of how God can use anyone. Let that sink in. God’s patience with you is a reminder that God can use anyone! God can use you, despite you. Your story is one of God’s miraculous works and he wants you to share it with others. Don’t worry about your faults—everyone has them.

2. We don’t set an example in our own strength. I think this is where we get tripped up. We know us, our inner struggles, our secret sins, and our deepest insecurities. This is why we don’t say, “follow me to follow me”, but rather “follow me to follow Christ”. If I’m honest, I feel very unqualified. But I don’t read anywhere in Scripture that says, “Perfection is required.” If that were the case, we’d never be able to learn from anyone. Why? You guessed it. Nobody’s perfect! So, we learn from Jesus first and take His light yoke and easy burden (Matthew 11:30). Don’t worry about your fears—everyone has them.

3. We are simply called to love God and love others. As we live out the greatest commandment (Mark 12:29-31), it makes us want to instill the best of us in others. This is why Moses told the people to teach these things to their children everywhere they went (Deuteronomy 6:4-9). The idea of teaching the things of God to our kids isn’t foreign. We do it all the time. We teach them to play the sport we love, to take up the hobbies we love, and to do things we love. Why not share your faith and your love for Jesus with them and others? Why not use your spiritual gifts to build the Church of God? Simply put your faith into action every day.

So, I guess Simon Says isn’t really a kid’s game after all. It’s a calling for you and me to imitate Christ and then for others to do likewise. It’s something we get to do. It isn’t a game, but it sure is fun!

As I close, let’s go back to how this article began. But since my name isn’t Simon, let’s change the name of the game to Rick Says. So, Rick says, “Get out there and set an example for others to follow.” God bless you as you do so. You’ve got this.



SHARING COFFEE AND CONCERNS - Among those who attended the most recent session of "Coffee with Representative Tom Sexton were, from left: Ron Wood, Tami Reuter (MRCI), Brad Milbrath, Sexton, Bernie Gaytko of Keen Bank, and Chamber President Mikhail Rostislavovich.

Coffee with Sexton discusses nuclear waste

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Nuclear energy was the starting point for an April 17 session of Coffee with Representative Tom Sexton at the Waseca Chamber of Commerce offices, attended by Chamber President Mikhail Rostislavovich, Waseca County Commissioner Brad Milbrath, Ron Wood, Bernie Gaytko and Tammi Reuter of Minnesota Rehabilitation Center Inc. (MRCI).

Sexton shared information about two Excel Energy nuclear plants in Minnesota. There is a cask fee regarding used nuclear material. He compares it to a silo commonly seen on many farms. These silos, which are filled with spent nuclear waste, are then filled with cement and stored on site at the nuclear power plants. Yucca Mountain is a Nevada federal institution built underground 100 miles northeast of Las Vegas. It was built with the intention of storing nuclear waste, but was never used. The cost is \$350,000 per cask to store on site, which comes with a charge called a cask fee. Sexton added, “Canada is storing nuclear

waste 90 miles north of our Minnesota border, and we’re all just fine.”

One question was, “Has there been discussion on relief from the Paid Family Medical Leave Act? A nearby business has around 70 employees and they cannot grow because of that, they are currently looking to Sioux Falls for expansion.” Sexton replied, “Yes, Sioux Falls is going like gangbusters. A lot of businesses near the border can’t make the finances work out in Minnesota.” Sexton then pointed out, “Yes, Cargill is leaving, Target has quietly left, after buying out their lease, and a number of those analyst type jobs have gone over to India. It feels like we’ve already passed the breaking point. But the other side of the aisle doesn’t like to be told “I told you so.”

Tami Reuter of MRCI nonprofit was present. Online the MRCI mission statement reads: “Supporting people with disabilities and disadvantages in building independence at home, at work and in the community through personalized support and real opportunities.” MRCI

lobbies on behalf of individuals with learning disabilities. Her goal, keeping in mind all the fraud that is going around, is to make sure MRCI is maintaining the highest possible standard of care for those with disabilities in her care and to not let “a few bad apples” destroy opportunities for everyone.

Reuter was concerned about the new mandates which state that in order for MRCI to stay in business they must have 30 days of cash on hand to re-evaluate and keep their license, payroll, etc. Reuter is concerned that it is hard to keep that much money on hand when they are unable to raise their rates, nursing homes cannot either. She is a business (non-profit) and would like to stay viable. “So far” continued Reuter, “we have been able to sustain the extra loopholes we’ve been asked to jump through. That is not the case for some of our peers, who don’t have the funds or ability to weather that.” She added that the paid family medical leave act has also had a negative effect.

Sexton was asked about the

mining up north, “Under the Biden administration, the Department of Interior came out and said, “We’re removing 225,000 acres of available mining areas. This was a rule made by a federal agency. Now with the new administration, this federal rule was removed. Since we have the toughest state laws, the mining industry can literally file for permission from the state of Minnesota without running into those federal rules. As these companies go through their permitting process, if they follow the step by step procedures, it’s really up to that agency to approve. There are a lot of applications that are ready to go through now and are.” Sexton held up his phone and referred to the Nike labor laws, “We saw what Nike was doing in other countries with those lax labor laws. That same thing is going on with mining in Africa.” He held up his phone, “Those mines are giving us these. There are bad humanitarian laws, and we can’t just ignore them, we as a first world nation need to be more responsible.”

■ Speech

from Page 1

said that she had been watching him and noting his activities, and tried getting access into the house. Davies said her behavior was attracting attention to a point where people were watching and even filming the exchange. Moments like that, and being positioned in a stairwell for hours on end, he joked, might be enough to make a secret service

agent “question your career choices.”

When it comes to what Davies called “forward operations,” that is, times when a team must go ahead of a traveling dignitary to ensure safety during a trip, Davies mentioned that the Secret Service team relies heavily on local law enforcement. Their knowledge of their landscape, their local residents, and of potential hazards make them invaluable as partners in the operation.

For anyone considering a career with the Secret Service, Davies said the pay for a starting agent is about \$130,000 a year “for what we do and

for what we might be called upon to do.”

But the path to employment is not an easy one. “The application process usually takes about 9 months,” he described. He mentioned the first step is to take a specialized test. For those who do well, there is a “panel interview,” and then again, for those who pass muster, there is a “polygraph test” apparently meant to measure how well candidates handle stress in tense situations. Davies said his polygraph test lasted four hours—and was considered short. Other agents told him of polygraph inter-

views that lasted 8 hours or even went into a second day. “They’re designed to be uncomfortable,” Davies observed.

He also described how, over the long term, agents tend to be cycled into and then out of the high-stress protection roles and the lower stress field agent positions.

“The mission never ends,” he observed, but then pointed out how one’s role in the mission tends to change.

“We’re part of it, whatever role we take,” he said.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH 2200 4th St NE, Waseca 507-835-2235 Service times 9:30 a.m. * * * * *	507-833-0017 Sunday worship 10 a.m. * * * * *	New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * * * *	12-18 * * * * *
4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH 605 4th St NE, Waseca 507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker) Worship Sundays 10 a.m. * * * * *	CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS 1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca 507-835-4640 Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m. * * * * *	VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Brian Schanil Pastor Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School Tuesdays: The Shepherd's Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark * * * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 412 N. Main Street, Janesville Pastor Jason Wolter Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:30 a.m. Worship * * * * *
FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-3167 Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m. * * * * *	GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 1221 8th St SE, Waseca 507-835-2213 Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. * * * * *	ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Father Glenn Ferichs Friday - 10 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays p.m. Mass Sunday - Mass at 8 a.m. * * * * *	JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 401 N. West St., Janesville Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship * * * * *
CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH 309 6th St NE, Waseca 507-835-9176 Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship 10:15 a.m. Wednesday Eve Worship 6:30 p.m. * * * * *	CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY 900 14th Ave SE, Waseca 507-833-1082 Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening 6:30 p.m. * * * * *	FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod Waldorf, Minnesota Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Larry Sipe Sundays: Worship 8 a.m.; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and adult bible class * * * * *	BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 43089 180th St., Morristown Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Summer worship hours, (10:45 a.m. Worship, winter) * * * * *
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 Sundays 9:00 a.m. * * * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship * * * * *	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Worship * * * * *	ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH 307 W. 2nd St. Janesville 10 a.m. - Mass * * * * *
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. * * * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Otisco, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship * * * * *	ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday — 9 a.m. Worship * * * * *	FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 Owen St., Janesville Pastor Sarah Krolak * * * * *
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. * * * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Mary Iverson Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting * * * * *	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship * * * * *	ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship * * * * *
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 a.m. * * * * *	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 * * * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Smiths Mill, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship * * * * *
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 * * * * *	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 * * * * *



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Janesville

25 years ago



- The JWP softball team will be young, but these returning letterwinners will bring a year of experience to the squad. (From left) are: Katie von Holtum, Maria Schultz, JoAnna Krienke and Sarah Priem. Priem will be on the mound for Thursday’s season opener when St. Clair comes to town.

- The Waseca Exchange Club has selected the following as Youths of the Month. The recipients are Amber Lines and Earl Flitsch. Lines has been active in band and speech. She is a member of the German Club and has been involved in stage production. She is active in the community through, youth group member, 4-H and YSL. She is the daughter of Ken and Donna Lines. Flitsch has been a member of the German Club and German American Partnership Program. He has been involved in hockey and golf. He has been active in his community as a hockey referee and volunteers at church. He is the son of Ron and Penny Flitsch.

50 years ago



- These three Sportsmens Club members combined their talents to build 34 wood duck houses. From left they are Dave Barbknecht, Dan Zellmer and Ed Roozen. Lamperts in Janesville donated some of the wood for the profect. The houses will be mounted 8-12 feet off te ground in sloughs surrounding Janesville. The Smiths Mill-Janesville Sportsmens Club hopes to have the houses up in time for the nesting season. The houses are a little more elaborate than they look from the outside. A screen is mounted on the inside so that the young ducks can scramble up to the hole. The design is purposely deep enough so that coon cannot reach to the bottom of the house to get at the birds.

- Nine Janesville High School students would-up the year’s competition at the District Six Speech Contest, Saturday, April 3. None of the Janesville’s contestants placed in the top three in any of the categories, so no one advances to regional competition. This District contest followed competition at the Mankato State Festival in late March. Although there were no winners, Deb Dauk and Peg Hoehn did advance from preliminary competition to the finals where, before a panel of three judges, they were given a final opportunity to improve their standings. Participants in Speech Contest work this past season were Peg Hoehn in Extemporaneous Reading; Deb Dauk, Deb Guse and Belva Britton in Humorous Interpretation; Becky Kopischke in Serious Poetry; Sandy Sexton in Serious Drama; Carol Schultz, Sharon Guse and Marie Borneke in Serious Prose.

- Steve Dimmel, Janesville, president fo the Farm and Home Association, welcomed the members to its twenty-second annual banquet on April 6. Al Trahms, Janesville, introduced Waseca County Extension Director, Roger Wilkowske, who spoke about the pioneer leaders of Waseca County and the United States. Wilkowske concluded that “the horse and buggy days weren’t so bad.” Looking toward the future of agriculture, he stated, “The impossible is done by people who didn’t know it couldn’t be done.” Pastor Allan Grundahl of New Richland related his experiences in agriculture while serving in Rhodesia.

75 years ago

- Joe’s Shoe Store, owned and operated for 28 years by Joe and Bea Stephan was sold recently tot he couple’s second youngest son, Joe Jr. Joe Jr., 35, and his wife, Portia officially took over ownership of the main street business here on April 1 and intend to continue running the business in the same manner as before –selling fashionable footwear for all ages and repairing shoes. In addition Joe’s parents, although retiring, will help out on occasion at the store. Joe, Jr. and his wife formerly lived in Mankato where Joe was employed for several years at Bretts Department Store and once owned his own barbershop. The former and new owners of the Janesville Shoe Store are the parents and brother of Pat Nakladal, Waseca. Pat and her husband, Ray, are the owners and operators of Ray’s Family Shoe Store on North State Street.

- The Alton Wide Awakes 4-H Club met on Monday evening, April 2, at the Britton school with twenty members and eight parents present. Roll call was answered by a task done most and a riddle. A hay ride was planned for Friday evening, April 13, and all members are to meet at the Eugene Glynn home. After the hay ride television will be enjoyed by the members. Games were played, followed by lunch served by the Joe Keely family. The next meeting will be on Monday, May 14.

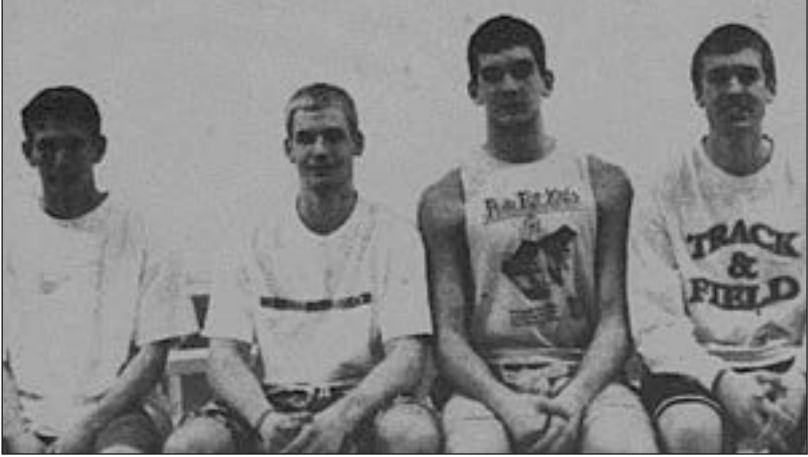
100 years ago

- Arrangements for building a park in Hawaii brought to light the fact that a small area of land in this country is owned by Great Britain. It was dedeed to the British government in 1877 by he late A.S. Cleghorn and his wife, and has remained British territory ever since. It stands a peculiar instance of British-owned land in American territory.

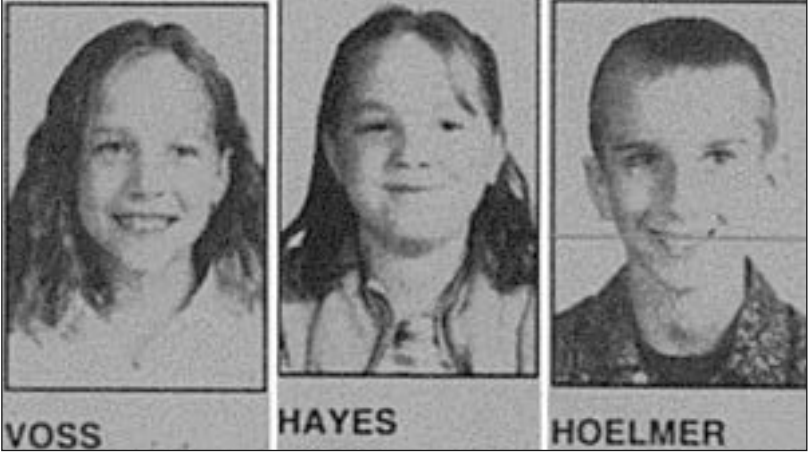
- The inmates of the county poor farm were sitting in the assembly room waiting for the Thanksgiving dinner. Two old men were talking about other Thanksgiving days when they had been better off. “Well,” said one, “it don’t seem as if I have a thing to give thanks for this year.” “Oh, I don’t know,” replied the other, as the odor of roasting turkey filled his nostrils, “I have only two teeth in my mouth, one in my upper jaw and one in the lower, and thanks be to the Lord, they meet.”

Waseca

25 years ago



- These four Bluejay letterwinners will be leading the Waseca track and field team this spring. (From left) are: Doug Nelson, Scott Weske, Joe Isder and Rick Kobylinski. The Bluejay trackstars are hoping for some warm weather as they open the outdoor season by hosting their annual Waseca FCA Invite Thursday.



- “A Recipe for a Perfect Day” Amy Voss: A perfect day would be sunny and warm. I would play on the trampoline with my neighbors. It would be grassy and I would pick flowers. At lunch I would eat macaroni with cheese with juice.

Hannah Hayes: A perfect day is a day when everything is bright, like flowers blooming in the spring. The weather would be warm, and you could eat watermelon.

Nicholas Hoelmer: A perfect day would be if I woke up and played on the computer. Then I would watch cartoons. Then I would have pancakes for breakfast. Then I would go outside and build a snowfort. Then I would have a friend over and have a snowball fight and go in and have supper. Then I would have a sleepover.

- Jose Guadalupe Trujillo: Priscilla Arevalo and Guadalupe Trujillo of Waseca are proud to announce the birth of their son, Jose Guadalupe Trujillo, born March 22, 2001, at the Waseca Medical Center. He weighed nine pounds, four and one-half ounces. Maternal grandparents are Julian Arevalo and Herminia Arevalo of Waseca. Paternal grandparents are Fransisco Trujillo and Isabel Trujillo of Mexico. Great-grandparents are Julian Arevalo Sr. and Josefina Arevalo of Weslaco, Texas.

50 years ago

- To the Editor: We, of Girl Scout Troop 192, want to thank you for the very interesting tour of Waseca’s Daily Journal, which you gave us last week. We discovered many new and fascinating aspects to the “making of the newspaper.” It was very helpful too, in fulfilling a requirement for the “My Community” badge. We want to thank Miss Wendland, too, for explaining the AP machine to us. We appreciate your taking the time to give us so thorough a tour. -Carol Rutledge, Shirley Raetz, Tracy Engel, Kay Baker, Kathleen Tesch, Janet Kirk, Brenda Juberien, Rebecca Coffin, Lisa Thissen, Debbie Raetz, Diane Mixley, Kellie Miller, Jenifer Wligoski, Becky Rutledge, Lisa Christians, Tammy Behsmann, Wendy Sell adn Kim Troidahl.



- When our roving reporter took a stroll through the Waseca County Court House early one afternoon this week, he found these three “lovelies” at work in a small room in the basement. They were busy gals, but consented to take “time off” to pose for the above pix. Meet from left, Deb Denn, Shirley Lundquist and Jan Knutson. They are part of a team that provides personal, loving and dedicated service to many Waseca county residents. Shirley Lundquist is the full-time senior nurse of the Waseca County Public Health Nursing Service. Last Nov. 1 she started 15th year on the job. Jan Knutson, part-time R.N., has been “on the job” for about a year. Deb Denn is the part-time secretary. She divides her working day between the Nursing Service and the County Zoning office. Others on the Nursing Service staff are Virginia Roesler, part-time R.N., and Arlene Alexander, part-time Nurses’ aid.

75 years ago

- Mr. and Mrs. George Barry celebrated their 24th wedding anniversary Saturday evening, March 1. Those who joined them for a social evening were Mr. and Mrs. James Morgan, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Armstrong and family and Mr. and Mrs. Peter Fos. A lunch was served at the close of the evening.

- It seems that even a snow storm can’t stop a party. Last Friday night Billy Fitzsimmons was host to about 22 Sacred Heart students. Cards and other games were played. Everyone found out what is going to happen to him in the future by having his fortune told. After this, lunch was served. A fun-filled evening was spent by all. Marlene Root entertained about 15 of her friends Saturday night. The kids spent the evening dancing and playing various games. The bring the party to a perfect close a delicious lunch was served.

- Seven of eight fish houses remain on Clear Lake and the council is considering setting fire to them. They are so badly frozen in that they cannot be moved and it is doubtful if the lower portion of some of them will burn. Game Warden Huber of Owatonna is to be contacted before action is taken.

100 years ago

- Carpets and rugs, to wear well at all, should be made, so far as wearing surface is concerned, wholly from wool. This is one reason why oriental rugs are so durable. Also the wool used in the oriental countries usually came from sheep that lived in a rugged country.

- The magnolia is so-named in honor of Pierre Magnole, a French botanist of the early Seventeenth century. The meaning of the word magnolia is high-souled.

New Richland

25 years ago



- The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Eggwhite Knowledge Bowl team scored 131 points in the region tournament at Loyola High School in Mankato April 4 to win the region title. Eggwhite will represent NRHEG at the state competition at Craguns Resort near Brainerd May 7-8. They competed against 27 other area teams, surpassing second place Minnesota Valley Lutheran by 21 points. Members of the team pictured here with their first place trophy are Paul Drube, Amy Sack, Darren Howell and Kristin Jessen. Matt Xavier was not present when the photo was taken.

- The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton third quarter honor roll was released this week by Dean of the students Mike Meihak. “A” Honor roll: 8th Grade; Jenna Bartelt, Kristin Brady, Ashley Gerdts, Nicole Oftedahl, Amanda Rosen. 7th Grade; Tyler Balow, Michale Borneke, Dustyne Kruse, Andrew Majeski, Daniel Sprengeler. 6th Grade; Heather Fennert, Liza Hall, Taylor Jahner, Betsey Priem, Scott Stenzel.

- Brad and Karen Meyer of Harrisburg, South Dakota are the parents of a son born Friday, April 6, 2001, at Avera McKennan Hospital, Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Ryan T., as he has been named, weighed 8 pounds, 5 ounces and was 20 ½ inches in length.

50 years ago

- Lee Mendenhall, Vocational Agricultural Instructor and FFA advisor at New Richland-Hartland schools, has been selected as the 1976 official tour leader for the Minnesota FFA Goodwill People-to-People tour to Europe and the Soviet Union.

75 years ago

- Private Gene A. Amley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Amley, Ellendale, has graduated from the 11th Airborne Division Switchboard Operators Course, here. Pvt. Amley, a member of 2nd Battalion, Headquarters Company, 503d Airborne Infantry Regiment, entered the Army at Minneapolis.

- Mr. and Mrs. Herman J. Olsen (Lois Kroeger) living near New Richland are the proud parents of a son, Larry John, born Saturday, May 12, at the Naeve hospital, Alber Lea. The baby weighed 7 pounds, 2 ½ ounces.

- Wilbert Jeddeloh who took out a building permit last year to build a garage south of Kaufman’s Cafe started work on the project Wednesday this week.

Child’s History of Waseca County

Cont. CHAPTER XI, 1855. Death of Henry Howell—First settlers in Blooming Grove, Janesville, and Byron.

M. P. Ide, son of Col. J. C. Ide, with his young wife, was among the 1855 settlers of Blooming Grove, on section 14 or 15. He afterwards moved to Wilton, enlisted in Company F, Fifth Minnesota regiment, infantry, served during the war, and afterwards lived near Morristown.

Simeon Smith was another of the 1855 settlers. He located on sections 31 and 32, in the month of June. He was an honest, industrious, well-to-do man, who lived to see the wilderness, which he found here, blossom as the rose. He died November 6, 1872, aged 78 years, honored and remembered by numerous friends and acquaintances.

Alfred C. Smith, son of Simeon, with his young wife, accompanied his father, and made a claim on section 5, of Woodville, where he lived until his father’s death, when he took charge of his father’s estate. It might be well to remark in passing, that Mr. A. C. Smith has the honor of being the father of the first white girl born in the county. Her name is Lovica. She was born October 15, 1855, and is now Mrs. H. N. Carlton. Ole Knutson, now of Renville county, also settled in Blooming Grove in 1855.

The first death among the old settlers of the township was that of Henry Howell, a native of England. He was returning from Faribault with his brother

Jonathan, and, when about half a mile east of Morristown, got out of the sleigh to walk and thus warm himself. His brother, unbeknown to him, stopped in Morristown, and he continued towards home on foot. Jonathan, after waiting awhile, supposing Henry had proceeded homeward, drove home, only to find that he had not arrived. The next day, after considerable search, his body was found near the Bassett farm, a mile south of Morristown, with life extinct. He no doubt became bewildered on the prairie, and, being rather thinly clad and the night a cold one, soon froze to death. He left surviving him three daughters.

Editorial Note - Upon rum-maging through the vast library of contents here at the Star Eagle, I stumbled across a very old blue book titled, “Child’s History of Waseca County Minnesota for Fifty Years, 1854-1904.”

After thumbing through the first several pages it was determined this book was too interesting to go back on the shelf. So, it was used as a stand for a computer monitor. Several months later, after finding a more suitable stand, I opened the book to show a reader who stopped into the office. After reading about the Horse Thief Detective Association, I made the decision that this piece of history should not be lost to time. Since then the Star Eagle has included, “a little bit of this and a little bit of that,” from the book.

Unearned runs lead to loss for baseball Bluejays

Take away the top of the first inning and it would have been a great game for the Waseca High School baseball team.

As it was, it turned into a disappointing loss.

The Bluejays gave up four unearned runs in the top of the first and went on to fall 9-6 to St. Peter at Tink Larson Field last Thursday.

"It was a little sloppy," said Larson, a retired hall of fame coach who still assists with the Bluejays.

How sloppy?

Seven of the Saints' nine runs were unearned.

Hayden Stencel started on the mound for Waseca and, after the first, pitched three solid innings. But by then the damage was done.

Avery Wetzel went 2-for-3 for the Bluejays, with Logan Reger and

Owen Honstad each going 2-for-4. Stencel also hit safely. Kameran Ferch scored twice.

Two days earlier, the Bluejays were blanked 3-0 by Tri-City United at Montgomery.

"It was a pretty good game," said Larson. "We just didn't get any hits."

Riley Mitchell was the lone Bluejay to get a hit, singling in the seventh inning.

Honstad started and pitched five innings while taking the loss. He gave up two earned runs on five hits, with two strikeouts and no walks. Stencel pitched in relief.

"Honstad and Stencel each pitched well," said Larson. "We just couldn't get any run support for them."



THE DELIVERY— Waseca's Hayden Stencel delivers a pitch during the Bluejays' game against St. Peter last week at Tink Larson Field. Photo by Jim Lutgens

Softball Panthers mow down Hayfield

The Hayfield Vikings came out swinging the bats last Thursday at Legion Field in New Richland, plating two runs in the top of the first inning.

The NRHEG softball team had a good answer.

The Panthers batted around the order in the bottom of the first, scoring 10 times on their way to a five-inning, 21-6 Gopher Conference triumph.

"The girls were very aggressive at the plate tonight," said NRHEG coach Wendy Schultz.

But it wasn't the only thing the Panthers did well. They were also very aggressive on the base paths, stealing six bases, and the defense was more than adequate, totaling two errors to eight for the Vikings.

"The battery of Izley Boerner and Addy Stadheim shined," said Schultz. "Adde caught a couple of tough popups to help us end a few innings. I'm proud of the girls' great attitudes and hustle."

Boerner was the winning pitcher, allowing four earned runs on 10 hits, with three strikeouts and a walk.

The Panthers, meanwhile, struck out only once while amassing 15 hits.

The leaders: Faith Phillips 3-for-4, two runs, three RBIs; Ezra Boerner 3-for-5, three runs, three RBIs; Olivia Berg 2-for-2, three runs, two stolen bases; Brooklyn Sommer 2-for-3, triple, two runs, two RBIs; Kyera Eustice 2-for-4, three runs, four RBIs; Quinn VanMaldeghem 2-for-4, three runs, three stolen bases; Stadheim three runs; J.Rossing two runs.

The previous night, the Panthers ran into defending state champion United South Central and lost 19-0 in three and a half innings at Wells. USC pitcher Mariah Anderson did not allow a hit or a walk while striking out 12. The Panthers also hurt themselves with nine errors.

"Unfortunately, there weren't too many highlights," said Schultz. "Hats off to USC. They played like a state championship team. We knew it was going to be tough getting hits off Mariah, but defensively we struggled too."

The Panthers shut out Kenyon-Wanamingo 4-0 last Tuesday at Legion Field.

Boerner was sharp in the circle, throwing a seven-hit shutout, fanning eight and walking two.

Chloe Stork was 2-for-3 with two RBIs. Sommer doubled. Berg, Phillips and VanMaldeghem added singles.

"It was a team effort earning the win," said Schultz. "The girls played great defense, committing only one error." Boerner and Stadheim continued to play well. Addy stays consistent behind the plate, blocking most everything."

A day earlier, the Panthers were edged 6-5 in a nonconference game at Southland, where the Rebels walked it off with a run in the bottom of the seventh - after NRHEG tied it with two runs in the top of the inning.

"This was a well played game, defensively, offensively, pitching and catching," said Schultz. "I was proud of the way the girls played. They are getting better and better each game. We may not have gotten a tally in the win column, but lots of good things happened."

Eustice and Phillips had two hits each, including a double, while driving in a run. Ezra Boerner was 2for-3. Stork singled and drove in two.

Izley Boerner gave up three earned runs on seven hits. She struck out four and walked one.

The Panthers ran their record to 4-3 overall and 4-1 in the Gopher Conference.



VERSATILITY – The Bluejays' Reese Rodriguez competes in the triple jump last week at the WHS track. She also ran a leg on Waseca's first-place 4x400-meter relay. Photo by Debbie Rodriguez

Tracksters 1st, 5th in WHS invitational

Mansfield sets school record

In a meet with many highs for the Waseca High School track and field teams, Will Mansfield soared the highest.

Mansfield cleared 14 feet, 9 inches, barely missing at 15 feet, setting a new school record as the Bluejays finished second in the seven-team Waseca Invitational last Tuesday.

"It was a good meet with great temperatures," said Waseca coach David Abel. "We had a lot of personal bests."

According to Abel, Mansfield is already displaying the form that got him to last year's state meet.

"He's been really consistent and motivated this season," said Abel.

Tovin Grannis also had a memorable night, winning the 110-meter high hurdles in 16.18 seconds and the 300 intermediates in 39.2 while taking second in the high jump at 6-0.

"Tobin had a great night," said Abel. "He's really coming on early this year. We're excited about the rest of the season."

The Bluejays' other first-place points came from the 4x100 relay team of Jonah Worke, Jett Rohl, Ayden Kath and Johnson, which won with a time of 44.22.

Taking second were Malachi Noble, 400, 55.99; Landon Rutt, 3200, 10:45.22; and Toby Jeske, discus, 149-3.

Other top-five finishers for WHS: Jeske, third, shot put, 41-0 and

third, triple jump, 38-5; 4x200 relay, third, 1:35.39 (Kath, Noble, Rohl, Sam Selthun); 4x400, third, 3:39.95 (Noble, Sunny Mei, Grannis, Tomas Vasquez); 4x800, third, 9:13.73 (Mei, Rutt, Brady Tlougan, Vasquez); Johnston, fourth, 100, 11.64; Mandon Madsen, fourth, discus, 129-11; Worke, fifth, 100, 11.71; Owen Rupe, fifth, discus, 125-6 and fifth (tie), high jump, 5-6. Fairmont's boys took the team title with 133 points. The Bluejays had 126.5, followed by Byron with 107, St. Peter 98, Minnesota Valley Lutheran 75.5, New Ulm 46 and Blue Earth Area 19.

The lone win for the WHS girls was in the 4x400, which Stella Omtvedt, Maren Schimming, Reese Rodriguez and Ellie Kopischke combined to win in 4:22.05.

Also in the top five: Kopischke, third, 800, 2:33.74; Omtvedt, third, 1600, 5:47.54 and fifth, 700, 2:27.18; Savanna Vagts, third, high jump, 4-8; Schimming, third, pole vault, 6-0; 4x800 relay, fourth, 10:50.12 (Taylor Markeson, Schimming, Quinn Yoder, Ava VanDenHemel); Markeson, fifth, 3200, 13:05.13; 4x100, fifth, 53.71 (Elizabeth Aboki, Vivian Mader, Angelica Lopez, Addie Zimmerman).

Girls' team standings: St. Peter 170, Byron 129, MVL 94.5, Fairmont 93, Waseca 57.5, New Ulm 37, Blue Earth Area 27.

Doubles sweep lifts St. James past ALHS boys' tennis team

The Waseca High School boys' tennis team was edged 4-3 on a windy last Thursday at St. James.

The Bluejays rallied to win in two of the four singles matches, but it wasn't enough as the Saints swept at doubles.

Singles results: 1. Andrei Rivera (SJ) def. Henry Huttemier 6-1, 6-3; 2. Armaan Bhatti (W) def. Rylan Meyer 7-5, 6-1; 3. Keenan Collins (W) def. Tristan Shores 3-6, 6-1, 10-7; 4. Korbin Collins (W) def. Dylan Vite 6-0, 6-0.

Doubles: 1. Caleb Fast and Nate Ciske (SJ) def. Allen Kopetzki and Nolan McQuere 6-2, 6-1; 2. Noah Sauer and Steffan Wegner (SJ) def. Carson True and Bryghton Rugger 6-1, 6-3; 3. Kalen Hanson

and Felo Panjoj def. Joe Calhoun and Jesse Wobschall 6-0, 6-0.

The Waseca junior varsity won 3-2.

Earlier in the week, the Bluejays hosted Worthington and won 6-1.

At singles: 1. Huttemier def. Daelen Sithad 6-0, 6-2; 2. Bhatti def. Moises Sebur 6-0, 6-2; 3. Kopetzki def. Colson Olhmanson 6-4, 6-3; 4. Ryker Fricke def. McQuery 7-6 (5), 4-6, 10-1.

Doubles: 1. Collins and Collins def. Christian Miranda and Phineas Landers 6-3, 6-0; 2. Rugger and True def. Ben Potts and Benjamin Marquardt 6-0, 6-2; 3. Calhoun and Wobschall def. Moo Wah and Abran IBarra 6-1, 6-2.

The Bluejays' JV lost 3-1.



CONCENTRATION – The Bluejays' Allen Kopetzki hits a forehand. Photo by Jim Lutgens

JWP baseball team tops Medford, 7-5

The JWP baseball team defeated Medford 7-5 last Thursday at Janesville.

The Bulldogs totaled seven hits, two apiece by Chase Gerdts and Parker Gearity. Caleb Quast, Yale Johnson and Ayden Peterson also hit safely. Gearity drove in two runs. Johnson doubled. Gavin Bauer walked twice and stole two bases.

Gerdts was the winning pitcher, allowing two earned runs on five hits, with seven strikeouts and two walks. Seth Dahlberg pitched in relief, striking out two in one inning.

Rasche's sixth-place finish paces Lady Jay golfers at St. Peter

The Waseca High School girls' golf team competed in the St. Peter Invitational at Shoreland Golf Club last week.

The Bluejays finished sixth among six schools, totaling 471 strokes for 18 holes.

Byron was first with 385, followed by St. Peter at 397, Blue

Earth Area 402, Fairmont 423 and Redwood Valley 437.

Waseca's Madison Rasche finished with a personal-best 95, good for sixth place overall. Also shooting a career best was Elli Hoban, who made the top 20 with a 110.

Alexa Welander and Ashley Fliflet both carded 137 for their

round and Maddie Root carded a 129, all three improving their round scores from earlier this year on 18 holes and continuing to show progression and improvement in their golf game.

"Team building and camaraderie was built and fostered," said Bluejays coach Bill Dwinells. "Fun

was had by all the Bluejay lady golfers in St. Peter."

The girls finished seventh among seven teams in an invitational at Lakeside Golf Course Monday.

Hoban and Root shot 58 for nine holes.

The boys took fourth. Individually: Karter Selvik shot 42,

Avery Selvik 43.

"We took away a lot of positives on a windy day," said Dwinells. "As always, there are things we need to work on going forward to improve our scores individually and our performance as a team."

The Bluejays host St. Peter today at 4:30.

Slight crosswind doesn’t slow JWP/WEM tracksters

Under near-perfect temperatures, the JWP/WEM track and field teams turned in another standout performance at the Mountain Lake last Thursday. There was a slight battle with a crosswind, but that did little to slow the Bulldogs' progress.

The boys' squad raced to a first-place finish, while the girls powered their way to second among six schools, capping an impressive day for the program. Bulldogs athletes secured top spots across multiple events, and a surge of personal records underscored the team's continued growth.

With ideal conditions and undeniable drive, the Bulldogs continue to build momentum this season.

"Your hard work is showing," said Bulldogs coach Sam Schruin. "Keep up the great work!"

Finishing first for the JWP/WEM boys: Gavin Atherton, 100 and 200; James Morgan, 400; Grady Grohman, shot put and discus; Gavin Weedman, triple jump; Daulton Bauer, long jump; 4x400 relay (Cash Wenker, Morgan, Weedman, Tyson Kronbach); 4x800 (Teagan Mulder, Weedman, Kronbach, Wyatt Jans.

Other places for the boys: Bauer, third, 100 and third, 200; Ethan Einertson, fifth, 100; Jans, third, 3200; Dawson Slechta, fifth, 110 hurdles and fifth, 300 hurdles; Aiden Gruber, fourth, 300 hurdles and third, high jump; 4x100, third (Morgan, Leighlan Harris, Trey Richards, David Mielke); Aidan Rider, fourth, shot put and fourth, discus; Christian Reyes, fifth, shot put; Cole Bartz, second, discus, third, high jump and third, long jump; Mulder, fifth, high jump; Mulder, second, pole vault; Demian Reyes, fourth, pole vault; Weedman, second, long jump; Bauer, second triple jump; Kronbach, third, triple jump; Mulder, fourth, triple jump.

First for the girls: Kyla Schlingmann, 100; Sarah Bulman, pole vault; Addison Condon, long jump and triple jump; 4x100 (Rachel Mielke, Nevaeh Weimert, Katie Olson, Condon).

Also: MaKaela Westphal, second, 100, fifth, 200, fourth, 400 and fifth, pole vault; Mielke, second, 200, second, 300 hurdles and third, long jump; Condon, third, 200; Weimert, third, 400, third, 800, second, 1600 and fourth, triple jump; Jacelynn Mulder, fourth, 100 hurdles; Anne Adams, fifth, high jump; Schlingmann, fourth, long jump; 4x200, third (Hailey Heinz, Schlingmann, Kwynn Krause, Kayleigh Donner); 4x400, second (Schlingmann, Mulder, Krause, Adams); 4x800, fourth (Alenka Jans, Clare Groh, Magdalen Rauenhorst, Krause).

NRHEG girls 1st, boys 3rd at Medford

It doesn't get much closer than this.

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School girls' track and field team captured the title by the slimmest of margins in last Tuesday's Medford Invitational, totaling 139.5 points to 139 for second-place Kenyon-Wanamingo/Goodhue. Rounding out the field were Blooming Prairie with 129, Triton a 71, Medford 45.5 and Minnesota State Academy 10.

The Panthers captured five firsts, by Clara Buendorf, triple jump 29.9.5; Julieann Wobbrock, 1600, 5:51.76; Gabby Schlaak, high jump 5-0; and the 200-meter relay team of Chloe Riewer, Buendorf, Schlaak and Ellie Clark, which won with a time of 1:54.86.

Riewer competed a strong night, taking second in the 100 in 13.54 seconds, second in the pole vault at 7-6 and third in the long jump at 15-4.5.

Also placing second: Scarlett Chance, shot put, 28-11; Lauren Johnson, triple jump, 26-8; and the 4x800 team of Holly Bartness, Ella Jenö, Gia Cazares and Wobbrock; they clocked 11:36.47.

Other places: Anika Ladlie, third, high jump, 4-8; Schlaak, third, 100 hurdles, 17.08 and third, 300 hurdles, 53.03; 4x100 relay, third, 58.05 (Buendorf, Peyton Frye, Schlaak, Johnson).

"It was a wonderful night for a track meet and for the girls to get the victory," said NRHEG co-head coach Larry Nydegger. "There were some personal-best performances and we were able to get more than one scorer in some events, which really helped the girls get that win."

The NRHEG boys took third, one point out of second place. Triton's boys won with 166 points, followed by Kenyon-Wanamingo/Goodhue with 118, NRHEG 117, Medford 82, Blooming Prairie 35 and Minnesota Academy 5.

The biggest highlight for the boys was the performance of Lavon Jewison, who cleared 6-6 in the high jump for first place and a new school record.

Brendan Schmidt cleared a personal-best 11 feet for first in the pole vault.

Gavin Lewison finished first in the long jump at 17-5. Nathan Hager, Lewison, Wyatt Tuttle and



HANDOFF — The Panthers' Nathan Hager, left, takes the handoff from Gavin Lewison during last week's Medford Invitational, where the NRHEG girls finished first and the boys took third.

Photo by Larry Nydegger

Quen Meyering combined for first in the 4x200.

Other places: Jacob Karl, second, 1600, 5:10.95 and second, 800, 2:17.93; Noah Weller, second, discus, 116-3; Kasey Jewison, third, 1600, 5:17.6 and third, 800, 2:22.97; 4x100, third (Hager, Lewison, Tuttle, Meyering).

"We saw some strong performances, with several season bests," said Nydegger. "Lavon, Jacob and Kasey really led the way with the scoring and it was exciting to see Lavon get the school record."

Wheelock, Bulldogs slip past Medford

The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School softball team defeated Medford 13-12 last Thursday.

Mya Wheelock led the Bulldogs, going 3-for-3 with a double, an RBI and one run scored.

Raylen Blasing was 2-for-4 with four stolen bases and three runs scored, Kayle Langford 2-for-3 with two walks and two runs.

Adding one hit each for JWP were Sophie Okins and Lyla Simmonson. Haylee Appel walked twice. Avery Carda scored two runs.

Simonson went the first 4 1/3 innings in the circle, giving up three earned runs on four hits, with two strikeouts and five walks. Claire Loeffler went the final 2 2/3 innings for the win.

The Bulldogs play at Randolph today and at United South Central April 30 at 4:30. They're home to face Granada-Huntley/East Chain May 4.



ONE-HITTER — NRHEG's Owen Wayne delivers a pitch for the Panther baseball team. The senior pitched a five-inning one-hitter as the Panthers blanked Hayfield 10-0 at Reese Field last week.

Photo by Jodi Wayne

Wayne, Panthers shut out Hayfield

It's not difficult to tell when Owen Wayne is on the mound for the NRHEG High School baseball team.

It usually results in a Panther victory.

That was the case at Hayfield last Thursday as the senior pitched a complete-game one-hitter as NRHEG rolled to a 10-0, five-inning Gopher Conference victory.

Wayne never gave the Vikings a chance while striking out six and walking one on 56 pitches.

"He pitched a great game, throwing his fastball in great locations, and coming back with great off speed," said NRHEG coach Marcus Fischer.

The Panthers were also tough offensively totaling eight hits, many of them in key situations.

"We hit the ball when runners were on and had solid bats all

around," said Fischer, whose team struck out only twice, giving the Panthers three in their last two outings.

"That is a big improvement from last season," said Fischer.

Wayne, Mack Gilliland and Sean Lassahn had two hits apiece for the Panthers. Gilliland doubled, drove in three runs and scored twice. Lassahn also doubled. Brock Holland and Calvin Nissen added one hit apiece, with Nissen driving in three runs.

Last Monday, the United South Central Rebels defeated the Panthers 13-0 in a Gopher Conference game at Jeff and Carol Reese Field New Richland, thanks in part to seven runs in the fifth inning.

"It was a tough game," said Fischer. "We were hitting the ball right at them."

The Rebels got on the board in the top of the third after Drew Bullerman was struck by a pitch, Seth Kayser singled, scoring one run, and Mitchell Meyer singled, scoring two runs.

USC scored seven runs on one hit in the top of the fifth. Josey Schroeder drew a walk, scoring one run, Mason Haugh was struck by a pitch, driving in a run, an error scored one run, a passed ball scored one run, Bullerman tripled, scoring two runs, and Kayser drew a walk, scoring a run.

Levi Whiteside stepped on the mound first for NRHEG. The starter allowed six hits and six runs (five earned) over three and one-third innings, striking out six and walking three. Nissen pitched in relief and gave up six earned runs. Riley Stevermer took the hill first for USC, giving up three hits and no

runs over five innings, striking out one and walking none.

Dakota Schlaak went 2-for-2 at the plate to lead NRHEG in hits. Brooks Gilliland had the Panthers' only other hit.

The Panthers turned two double plays in the game.

Drew Bullerman provided pop in the middle of the lineup, and led the Rebels with three runs batted in. Kolt Bullerman went 2-for-4. Haugh paced USC with two walks. Overall, the team had patience at the plate, collecting eight walks. The Rebels didn't commit a single error in the field. Meyer had the most chances in the field with four.

"Overall, it was a tough game," said Fischer. "We struck out only once, but the number of walks and errors cost us the game. Our pitchers were not able to find the strike zone."

Sprinters pace WHS boys to first place at TCU Johnston leads 1-2-3 finish in 100; Grannis sweeps hurdles, wins high jump

By JOE HEDERVARE
WHS Athletic Director

The Waseca Bluejays track and field teams turned in an impressive all-around performance at the TCU Invitational in Montgomery Monday, highlighted by dominant sprinting, strong relay efforts, and standout performances across both running and field events.

The Waseca boys captured the team championship, finishing first overall with 153 points, well ahead of Sibley East (87.33), Tri-City United (77.33), and LeSueur-Henderson/MNCS (50.33).

On the track, Waseca showcased exceptional depth in the 100-meter dash, placing six athletes in the top eight. Junior Jordan Johnston led the way with a first-place finish in

11.53, followed closely by teammates Jonah Worke (2nd, 11.65) and Aydan Kath (3rd, 11.79). The Bluejays' sprint dominance continued in the relays, where the 4x100 team of Worke, Jett Rohl, Kath, and Johnston captured first place in 45.59. Waseca also took the top spot in the 4x200 relay (1:38.20) and the 4x400 relay (3:46.33), completing a relay sweep on the day.

Tovin Grannis delivered one of the most impressive individual performances of the meet, winning the 300-meter hurdles (43.57), placing second in the 110-meter hurdles (16.44), and clearing 6'0" to win the high jump.

The distance crew made a strong impact as well. Landon Rutt led a 1-2 finish in the 800 meters, winning

in 2:15.22, with Tomas Vasquez taking second. Rutt also added a runner-up finish in the 1600 meters (4:59.10), while Ryan Yoder contributed across multiple events.

In the field events, Waseca dominated the discus with a sweep of the top three spots. Landon Madsen took first (131'3"), followed by Owen Rupe (2nd) and Toby Jeske (3rd). Jeske also placed third in the shot put (42'6.75"), leading a strong showing from the Bluejay throwers. William Mansfield added a win in the pole vault (13'6") and a second-place finish in the triple jump, while Jett Rohl took second in the long jump.

On the girls side, Waseca finished fourth as a team with 67 points in a competitive field, behind Tri-City

United (165.33), LeSueur-Henderson/MNCS (73.67), and Sibley East (68).

The Bluejays were led by Ava VanDenHemel, who won the 800 meters (2:42.34), and the 4x800 relay team of Stella Omtvedt, Maren Schimming, Ellie Kopischke, and VanDenHemel, which captured first place in 10:36.39.

Waseca also saw strong performances in the relays, with the 4x400 team finishing second (4:27.98) and the 4x200 relay placing third. Reese Rodriguez paced the sprint group with a third-place finish in the 200 meters.

In distance events, Quinn Yoder and Jenna Yoder added key finishes in the 800 meters, while Taylor Markeson placed third in the 1600

and added another top-six finish in the 800. Omtvedt also earned a runner-up finish in the 3200 meters.

In the field events, Maren Schimming placed second in the pole vault, while Savanna Vagts led the high jumpers with a fourth-place finish. Jacey Jensen and Kina Grannis contributed solid efforts in both the shot put and discus.

Overall, it was a strong showing for both Bluejay squads, highlighted by a boys team championship, multiple event titles, and numerous personal-best performances as Waseca continues to build momentum this season.

The Bluejays return to action on Friday, April 24 at 4 p.m. for the PEM Winged Foot Invitational in Elgin.

Wilkenson, Sandry pace NRHEG golfers

The NRHEG High School golf teams have been in action three times this spring, most recently April 16 against United South Central.

Olivia Wilkenson carded a 51 for nine holes to capture medalist honors and lead the NRHEG girls to victory. Also scoring were Alexis Olson 56 Hailey Staska 64, Addison Bauleke 64.

The NRHEG boys lost by 13 strokes. Panther scores: Reid Sandry 46, Matt Williams 55, Chuck Tufte 57, Blake Olson 57, Braxton Arnold 58, Shan Hansen 66.

The Panthers also faced USC April 13. Boys' scores: Sandry 44, Arnold 44, Hansen 51, Tufte 53, David Deen 57, Williams 57. For the girls: Wilkenson 56, Olson 62, Staska 68, Bauleke 69

Outstanding Student



STUDENT OF THE YEAR - Kloe Wadd, left, of Waseca, was recently honored at the University of Minnesota Crookston. In a post on Facebook, Kloe says, “I am beyond honored to share that I have been named the Outstanding Communication Student of the Year, becoming the first Ag Communications major in UMC history to receive this award! A huge thank you to my professors who nominated and voted for me, your belief in me means everything. It made this moment even more special to have my professor Jacob Bell present the award and share such meaningful words. I am truly grateful.”

County launches new notification system to enhance community safety

Waseca County has partnered with Regroup to launch a new mass notification system designed to keep the community informed and prepared during critical events. Updates can be delivered through phone calls and text messages ensuring fast, reliable communication regarding severe weather and public safety notifications when it matters most.

” We are committed to keeping our community safe and informed, said Denise Wright, Emergency Management Director. This system gives us the tools to share critical information instantly so everyone can take the right steps to protect themselves and their loved ones”

Wright also states If you previously signed up for the CodeRED notification system, they cannot guarantee your information is in the new Regroup system. Therefore, you are strongly encouraged to go to the Waseca County website, click on the Regroup link and complete the registration process. This way your current information will ensure you receive alerts the way you prefer.

Second annual National Home Visiting week is April 20-24

National Home Visiting Week, April 20–24, is an opportunity to celebrate and recognize home visitors and the positive impact they make on maternal and child health outcomes.

Home visiting connects pregnant and parenting families with young children to trained family support professionals who provide customized coaching and guidance through pregnancy and the early stages of a child’s development. Utilizing a variety of evidence-based models, home visiting supports healthy birth outcomes, increases family self-sufficiency, and helps children enter school fully prepared to succeed.

Home visiting programs are offered in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. In 2025, more than 284,000 families engaged in home visiting services across the U.S.

Healthy Families Minnesota South Central Counties (HFA) is excited to join in the celebration. Waseca County, one of the collaborative partners in HFA, takes pride in its home visiting programs. One of these programs, Healthy Families, is free for qualifying families and supports parents with goal setting, developmental milestones, and general parenting questions through the child’s first three years of life.

“HFA has the privilege of walking alongside families during some of their most important moments. The work we do strengthens parent-child relationships, promotes healthy development, and builds resilience that lasts for generations,” said Sam Holicky of Waseca County Public Health. “I’m proud of our team and the meaningful impacts!”

To support the 2026 National Home Visiting Week, U.S. Senators Chuck Grassley (R–Iowa) and Mark Warner (D–Virginia) issued a Senate Resolution to recognize the importance.

For more information about home visiting in Waseca County, contact Family Health Supervisor Sam Holicky at sam.holicky@wasecacounty.gov or 507–835–0685.



PLANTING THE WELCOME SEED - The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors welcomed Southfork Seed as a new member. Southfork Seed is owned and operated by Dan and Tara Harguth.

Chamber celebrates 50 Years of 4 Seasons

WASECA, MN — The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors celebrated 50 years of business for 4 Seasons Athletics on April 1st, recognizing the company’s long-standing commitment to the Waseca community.

4 Seasons Athletics was founded in April 1976 by Tom and Cindy Piche, who opened the store with a vision of providing high-quality sporting goods at affordable prices for local athletes and families. From the very beginning, they made community involvement a priority, supporting local schools, teams, businesses, and organizations. Early on, they also recognized a need for custom apparel and expanded the business to include screen printing and custom clothing, which quickly became a major part of their services.

Over the next 37 years, the business grew into a well-known local store offering sporting equipment, team uniforms, school apparel, custom screen printing and embroidery, letter jackets, and team gear. The store built long-standing relationships with area vendors and became known for supplying local school teams and community organizations. Through word-of-mouth, local advertising, and sponsorships of local sports and events, the business became a staple in downtown Waseca’s small business community.

In August 2013, after 37 years in business, Tom and Cindy Piche sold 4 Seasons Athletics to lifelong Waseca residents Jeremiah and Jaala Miller. The Millers continued the tradition of serving local schools, youth sports, and community organizations while modernizing the business by updating the website, expanding social media, and growing digital ordering and custom apparel services.

Today, 4 Seasons Athletics is owned and operated by Heather and Travis Blake, who purchased the business on April 1, 2025. The business continues to operate as a sporting goods store, custom apparel and embroidery shop, and screen printing and promotional products provider. They produce a wide variety of custom items including hats, shirts, jackets, team uniforms, business apparel, and tackle twill and embroidery products. The business also retails Waseca-themed apparel and team gear, continuing its long tradition of serving schools, teams, businesses, clubs, and organizations throughout the area.

The Waseca Chamber Ambassadors are proud to celebrate 50 years of 4 Seasons Athletics and thank them for their continued investment and dedication to the Waseca community.

To learn more about 4 Seasons Athletics, find them at <https://www.4seasonsathletics.com/> or on Facebook or call 507-835-5267.

Albert Lea-Freeborn to host statewide candidate forum

Albert Lea, MN — The Albert Lea-Freeborn County Chamber of Commerce will host a Statewide Candidate Forum on Tuesday, August 18, 2026, from 7:00–10:00 PM at Albert Lea High School.

This nonpartisan forum will bring together candidates who are running to fill key statewide and regional offices in Minnesota, offering community members a unique opportunity to hear directly from those seeking to represent them. The event will feature a moderated discussion, allowing candidates to share their perspectives on important issues impacting Albert Lea, Freeborn County, and the broader region. Attendees will gain valuable insight into candidate priorities, policy positions, and leadership approaches ahead of the upcoming election.

As part of the Chamber’s commitment to community engagement, community members will have the opportunity to submit questions prior to the event, helping ensure the discussion reflects the issues that matter most to local residents and businesses. Additional details on how to submit questions will be shared in the coming weeks.

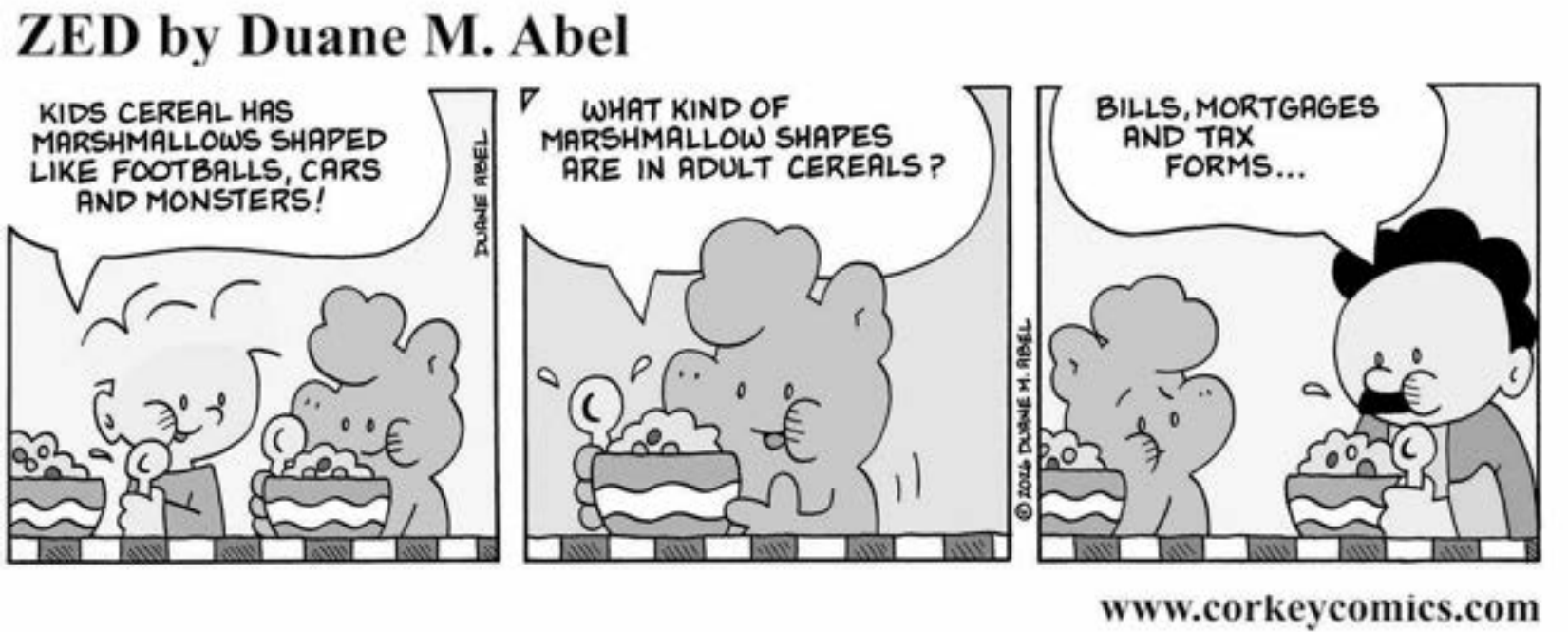
“This forum is part of our commitment to fostering an informed and engaged business community,” said Valerie Lockhart, Executive Director of the Chamber. “We believe it’s critical to provide a space where voters can hear directly from candidates and better understand how their decisions may impact our local economy and quality of life.”

The forum is free and open to the public. Community members, business leaders, and residents are encouraged to attend and participate in this important civic event.

Additional event details, including candidate participation and format specifics, will be announced in the coming weeks.

About the Albert Lea-Freeborn County Chamber of Commerce

The Albert Lea-Freeborn County Chamber of Commerce champions the success of local businesses by building strong connections, igniting collaboration, and delivering innovative support—helping to create a vibrant and thriving community.



‘Ask a Trooper’: driving in foggy conditions

Question: We are starting to see a lot more fog with spring time. Can you provide some advice for driving in those types of conditions.

Answer: This is a great topic. Here is some information from the National Weather Service for driving in fog. If you must drive in foggy conditions, keep the following safety tips in mind:

- Slow down and allow extra time to reach your destination.
- Make your vehicle visible to others both ahead of you and behind you by using your low-beam headlights since this means your taillights will also be on. Use fog lights if you have them.
- Never use your high-beam lights. Using high beam lights causes glare, making it more difficult for you to see what’s ahead of you on the road.
- Leave plenty of distance between you and the vehicle in front of you to account for sudden stops or changes in the traffic pattern.
- To ensure you are staying in the proper lane, follow the lines on the road with your eyes.
- In extremely dense fog where visibility is near zero, the best course of action is to first turn on your hazard lights, then simply pull into a safe location such as a parking lot of a local business and stop.
- If there is no parking lot or driveway to pull into, pull your vehicle off to the side of the road as far as possible. Once you come to a stop, turn off all lights except your hazard flashing lights, set the emergency brake, and take your foot off of the brake pedal to be sure the tail lights are not illuminated so that other drivers don’t mistakenly run into you.

You can avoid a ticket — and a crash — if you simply buckle up, drive at safe speeds, pay attention and always drive sober. Help us drive Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths.

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota send your questions to Sgt. Troy Christianson – Minnesota State Patrol at 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester MN 55901-5848. (Or reach him at, Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

Mortgagor: Bruce Hindt, a single man and Bobbie Medin, a single woman as joint tenants
Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for United Wholesale Mortgage, its successors and assigns
Dated: March 1, 2019
Recorded: March 4, 2019
Waseca County Recorder Document No. 317295

Assigned To: NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing
Dated: March 10, 2023
Recorded: March 10, 2023
Waseca County Recorder Document No. A333093

Transaction Agent: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
Transaction Agent Mortgage Identification Number: 100032412190364668
Lender or Broker: United Wholesale Mortgage
Residential Mortgage Servicer: Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing
Mortgage Originator: United Wholesale Mortgage

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The South Twenty (20) feet of Lots One (1) and Two (2) and the South Twenty feet of the West Half (W1/2) of Lot Three (3), Block Two (2), Wards Addition to the Village, now City, of Waseca, Minnesota, and the North Fifty (50) feet of Lots One (1) and Two (2) and the North Fifty (50) feet of the West Half (W1/2) of Lot Three (3), Block One (1), Lakeview Addition to the Village, now City, of Waseca, Minnesota, according to the Plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the County Recorder in and for Waseca County, Minnesota

This is Abstract Property.
TAX PARCEL NO.: 17.427.0010 & 17.702.0110
ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 123 8th St Se Waseca, MN 56093

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Waseca
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$148,566.00
AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE: \$145,072.47

That prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part;

PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: June 4, 2026, 10:00 AM

PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, 122 3rd Avenue NW, Waseca, MN

to pay the debt then secured by said Mortgage, and taxes, if any, on said premises, and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys' fees allowed by law subject to redemption within 6 Months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns.

DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: The date on or before which the mortgagor must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under Minnesota Statutes section 580.30 or the property redeemed under Minnesota Statutes section 580.23 is December 4, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: NONE

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Important Notice to Potential Bidders: Federal law administered by the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network ("FinCEN"), a bureau of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, requires certain residential real estate transactions

to be reported to the federal government. If you are the winning bidder at auction, you may be required to provide identifying information about yourself and, if applicable, any entity or trust purchasing the property. This information is required by federal law and must be provided to complete the sale. Failure to provide required information after the sale may delay or prevent issuance of the foreclosure deed.

Dated: March 18, 2026

NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing

By: HALLIDAY, WATKINS & MANN, P.C.
Attorneys for:
NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing
1333 Northland Drive, Suite 205
Mendota Heights, MN 55120
801-355-2886
651-228-1753 (fax)

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
MN25334.
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and May 7, 2026

Get your news in the Pioneer

- news@wasecacountypioneer.com
- Call (507) 837-6767
- Office at 111 W. Elm Avenue

Johnson APARTMENTS
507-456-9514
Operating in Waseca, Steele, Freeborn Counties
johnsonrents.com

Garage Sale
21443 160th Street, New Richland.
Large sale with household items, tools, antiques. April 23, 11 to 7: Friday April 24, 8 to 5: Sat., April 25, 8 to 3.

SUMMIT ON SECOND APARTMENTS
FOR RENTAL INFO CALL 507-201-3474

We are accepting applications for:

- 1 bedroom apartments**
Income guidelines apply Vouchers accepted
- 2 bedroom & 3 bedroom**
Rent based on income

Professionally managed by:

BRUTGER
EQUITIES, INC.

SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642 April 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6pm Bar Bingo	2 7pm BINGO	3 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	4
5	6	7 Burger Night 5-7 pm	8 6pm Bar Bingo	9 7pm BINGO	10 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	11
12 Breakfast VFW 8:00am to noon Your Host Sheriff's Posse	13 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting	14 Burger Night 5-7 pm	15 6pm Bar Bingo	16 7pm BINGO	17 Walleye Dinner 5-7 pm	18
19	20	21 Burger Night 5-7 pm	22 6pm Bar Bingo	23 7pm BINGO	24 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	25
26 Breakfast VFW 8:00am to noon Waseca Care Givers	27	28 Burger Night 5-7 pm	29 6pm Bar Bingo	30 7pm BINGO		
SUN.– MON. CLOSED TUE.– 1pm to 11pm Tue. Is Lady's nite 2 for one-Men Busch light \$2.50 from 4 to 6pm. WED.– SAT.-1pm to 11 pm						

CITY OF WASECA CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the **City of Waseca City Council** will hold a Public Hearing at **7:00 p.m., on Tuesday, May 5, 2026**, in the **COUNCIL CHAMBERS of CITY HALL** located at 508 South State Street in Waseca, Minnesota.

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

- **ORDINANCE NO. 1141:** Proposed text amendments to Chapter 154: Zoning of the Municipal Code.

Complete copies of the proposed ordinance 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, April 23, 2026.

Nathan Willey
Director of Engineering

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, May 5, 2026, at the Waseca County East Annex (Commissioner's Room), 300 N. State Street, Waseca, MN 56093 to consider the following items:

- A. **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.
- B. **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
- C. **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.
- D. **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.

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 May 1, 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

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, May 7, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. to consider the following item:

- A. Donna F Moore and Sonda R Herman request a variance from Section 4.03 Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) (D) regarding the maximum allowed dwelling size. The request is to increase the dwelling size from the allowed 800 sq ft to up to 1050 sq ft living space, to be located on parcel 12.015.0300 in Section 15, T107N, R22W, of Woodville Township. The parcel is zoned A-1 Agricultural Protection Zoning District and in the Shoreland Overlay District of Goose Lake.

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, May 7, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. to consider the following items:

- A. Daniel J Harguth requests a Conditional Use Permit to allow cannabis cultivation on a portion of parcel 12.032.0650 in Section 32, T107N, R22W, of Woodville Township. The parcel is zoned A-1 Agricultural Protection Zoning District. The requested use will be pursuant to Sections 6.08 (C) (40), Section 6.16 (C) and Section 8.03 – Cannabis Cultivation, of the Waseca County Unified Development Code, MS 342 and MN Rule 9810.
- B. Request for a Conditional Use Permit to construct and operate a Four (4) Megawatt Photovoltaic Solar Array. This project, RPMN 120th St Solar Phase 2, will be developed by Wildcat Renewables, LLC, who is requesting a Conditional Use Permit to construct and operate a Four (4) Megawatt Photovoltaic Solar Array on a portion (approximately 39.3 acres) of 148.91-acre parcel (PID: 05.001.0700) owned by Paul Davison Trustee and located in Section 1, T108N, R23W, of losco Township. The property is in the A-1 Agricultural Protection Zoning District.
- C. Request for a Conditional Use Permit for Essential Services. City of Janesville is requesting a Conditional Use Permit to construct an electrical Substation on the property located in Section 34 Township 108N Range 24 of Janesville Township. The request is pursuant to the requirements of Section 6.08 (C) (30) and 6.16(K) of the Waseca County Unified Development Code. The applicants' property identified by PID 06.034.0600, with the address TBD Old Highway 14, Janesville, MN 56048 is in the I General Industrial District.
- D. Request for Amendment to Section 6.23 of the Waseca County Unified Development Code (UDC). Waseca County requests an amendment to the above section of the UDC pertaining to Floodplain Overlay District Standards.

The staff report on this item 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 May 4, 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

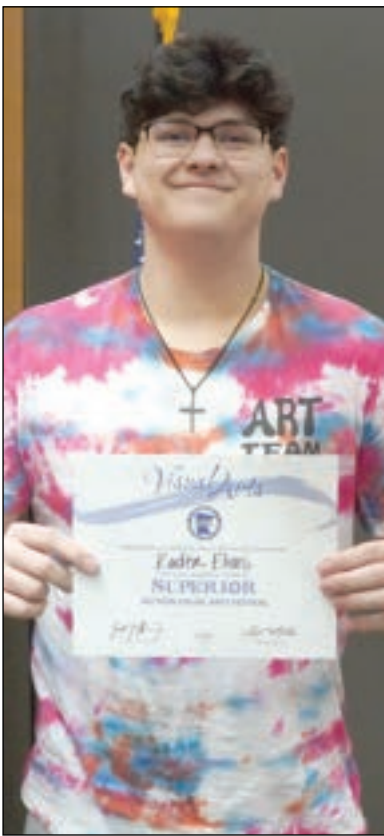
MN State High School Visual Arts Festival April 15



The Waseca Art Center took part in the MN State High School League Section 2A Visual Arts Festival on Wednesday, April 15, 2026.



Ali Mader, Excellent



Kaden Elias, Superior



Skyler Gilmore, Superior



Aera Zimprich, Superior



Isabella Garza, Superior



Sophia Hillsman, Superior



Jude Robinson, Superior



Brissa Lopez, Superior



Lane Jarrett, Superior



Kaliya Russell, Superior



Saphira Barnes, Excellent



Chloe Hagen, Superior



Amber Hagen, Superior



RyLynn Ferris, Excellent



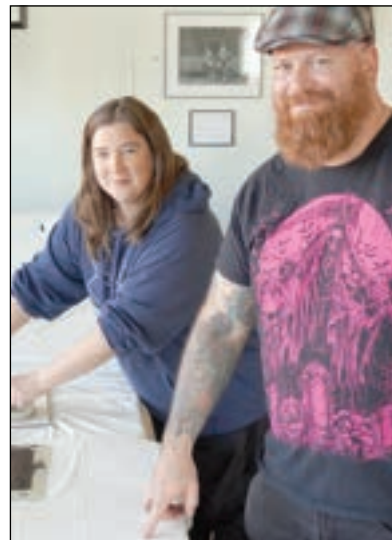
Anthony Montemayor, Superior



Lauren Holmseth, Superior



Delilah Veroeven, Superior



Pictured are Linoleum Print-making experts Constanza Carballo, who's been print-making since 1996 and Marco Aguevo, who's been doing it since 2021. They taught groups of students from the Waseca High School, and some visiting arts students from out of town.
Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann