



Compostings

by Al Batt

What rhymes with orange

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
My doctor told me to eat more jelly doughnuts.

Are you sure the doctor told you to do that?

Well, he said, "Cut back on the ice cream," but I knew what he meant.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. The treachery of disguise is inherent in chocolate chip cookies and oatmeal raisin cookies. Each one pretends to be the other. If you like chocolate chip cookies, you'll choose an oatmeal raisin cookie. If you like oatmeal raisin cookies, the cookie chosen will be a chocolate chip.

It's the time of the year when everyone needs a tax break, and my grandmother said she was going to the poor farm. Local governments, often at the county level, created poor farms to address their responsibility to the poor. Many people—due to age, disability or circumstance—needed care. Poor farms in Iowa were generally phased out during the mid-20th century. Grandma never had to move to one.

I'VE LEARNED

The average U.S. family of four tosses out \$2,913 worth of food (\$728 per person) each year, according to a 2025 EPA report. This accounts for 11% of a total annual household food budget and is nearly double the cost of household food waste (\$1,500) in 2010.

The paper towels by the gas pumps are there to wipe away the tears after a fill-up.

Wind turbines typically require a minimum cut-in wind speed of 6–9 mph to generate power. They reach maximum output at 25–35 mph and shut down at 55 mph to avoid damage.

The U.S. and New Zealand are the only two countries that allow drug companies to advertise prescription drugs directly to consumers.

Wyatt Earp once sold gold bricks that were rocks painted yellow.

A study conducted by Legacy Healing Center combined measures that included smoking, exercise, fruit and vegetable intake, overdose deaths, sleep, obesity, diabetes, poor mental health, park access, hospital ratings, air pollution, insurance coverage, cancer mortality, heart disease mortality, alcohol consumption, and health-related search interest to determine which states were in fine fettle. Utah was the healthiest state, helped by the lowest smoking rate in the study at 6.0%, and the lowest alcohol consumption at 1.35 gallons per person per year. Colorado comes in second,

driven by the lowest physical inactivity rate and the lowest obesity rate. Vermont takes third thanks to first-place finishes for vegetable intake, sufficient sleep, and low diabetes. Minnesota is fourth with the lowest heart disease mortality rate in the ranking, along with strong results for sleep and physical activity. Iowa was 25th and Wisconsin 29th. West Virginia was last just behind Kentucky and Louisiana.

Humpty Dumpty did all his own stunts.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

What happens when you're naked in public and the elevator doesn't work? You will encounter stares.

My son asked, "What rhymes with orange?" I replied, "No, it doesn't."

Our township lost its electric power. The residents were delighted.

NATURE NOTES

The feather report was for a 99% chance of common grackles. That report nailed it.

It's nearly impossible to describe a Baltimore oriole male without using the word "orange."

French fry gulls (ring-billed) flew toward a fast-food restaurant.

I watched a robin picking worms, paring its world to its essence. Northern house wrens brought hustle and bustle to the yard. These joyful songsters might be smaller than their names. I walked at Myre-Big Island State Park with a friend from Grand Junction, Colorado, and looked at spring ephemerals, tiny flowers that emerge in early spring and disappear when the tree canopies fill with leaves. Hope in bloom.

I watched trumpeter swans in a blackened farm field, standing out sharply like a freshly painted white line on a dark highway. Many bird species have a brood patch—a vascularized patch on their breasts where they had plucked feathers to provide warm skin to apply to the eggs. Swans don't have a brood patch. Trumpeter swans incubate eggs with their webbed feet.

Several species exhibit anting behavior wherein birds rub ants on their feathers and skin. I see it regularly in blue jays and grackles. A common belief is that anting controls parasites, such as biting lice and feather mites, which live in a bird's plumage. Another theory is that, during anting, the ants rid themselves of their formic acid, allowing the birds to eat them without harm. The parasite removal makes sense to me because I've seen birds performing the same actions when using cigarette filters and mothballs.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"The best way to be happy is to be kind to someone."—Debasish Mridha.



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

Green cotton balls glued to a giant card

I took Highway 169 from Mankato to St. Peter the other day.

I had left plenty of time for my drive and felt no pressure to speed, but that didn't seem true of the drivers around me. Even though I was traveling at the speed limit, other cars zipped past me as though I was an impediment and an irritation. That was when I realized my intended 8 a.m. arrival at my destination had me on the same road as commuters hurrying to arrive on time.

If I could have had my way, I would have been a passenger rather than a driver, and we would have driven more slowly.

You see, all around me the hillsides glowed a hundred different shades of green in the morning sun—as though each tree had been given exclusive rights to its own color. I looked at the cars speeding past me and wondered how they could be racing around that way, apparently passive to the beauty and peace the green hillsides represented to me.

Later, on the way back from St. Peter, I pulled off on side roads a couple of times trying to capture a photo of those hills. I had to wait

a long time between each frame because there was so much traffic, and I was hoping for a picture without any cars.

Even my best shots, acquired with what felt like considerable patience, have at least a few vehicles in them.

Photos, of course, cannot be perfect representations of what we see. I knew as I took them that my pictures would not capture what had captivated me—that the hills looked almost fuzzy with green—as though if a giant hand reached out and brushed them, they would softly give way under the weight and then bounce back upright as the hand moved on. Green cotton balls glued to a giant card.

All the differentiated colors forced me to ignore the forest and consider the trees—how many thousands of them were working together to make what looked like one giant blanket. Their trunks dark, rigid and several yards apart down below, while up above the greening branches tickled each others' fingertips, as though shyly introducing themselves in secret.

Probably the effect would not have been so profound on a



On Highway 169 coming from St. Peter, Deb pulled over to try to capture a photo of the hills that glowed a hundred different shades of green in the sun.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

cloudy day, but with the sun shining, I wanted to be the giant who could brush her hand across the treetops.

As my various attempts at taking a photo without cars in it turned out to be disappointments, I couldn't help thinking about how selective our attention can be. I had no trouble appreciating the hillsides despite feeling, at times, surrounded by cars. Like AI editing a photo, my perception focused on what I wanted to look at and simply "deleted" the traffic.

My frustrations also led me to think perhaps I could wait until a point later in my drive homeward and find another bank of trees away from all the hubbub. After all, I would be driving past other rivers and other hills.

I did stop in more isolated places and snap a few pictures of

wooded hillsides, but they did not have the vibrancy that had emanated from the much higher, steeper hills along the road to St. Peter. The smaller hills did not dominate the view in front of me and rise to the skyline like those along the Minnesota River. They also did not seem as thickly wooded, sending no impression of puffy cotton balls.

The result is that, even with a few vehicles showing in the frame, the photos I took along the road to St. Peter have the strongest hope of representing the grandeur, variety and heartlifting glow I felt on my morning drive. I have seen enough of wooded hills to know that, next time I go to St. Peter, the view will likely still be grand, but it won't be the same.

Making hard decisions at each stage of life

I don't know why I thought it would get easier.

Life decisions are hard, no matter what stage of life. When you're young, at least for me, making a decision about life feels daunting and final. You're told everything you do now affects how your life is going to be when you're older, so choose wisely. Make sure to choose healthy foods, decide to exercise and do healthy things with your body, and choose a career or education that will make sure you're successful. You know, the easy things.

When you're young it feels like grownups always know what to do. They give advice and seem all-knowing. They have years of experience under their belt. Whether the youth decide to listen... But as younger people watch adults in their lives, it seems like grown ups have all the tools to make decisions easier for them. Which I guess is mostly true.

But I realize life decisions never get easier. Financial decisions, family choices, planning for retirement and aging, helping aging parents. The people in the sandwich generation with aging parents and growing children I'm sure have a lot of big life choices and hard



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

decisions to make daily. When do you talk to your parents about finding them a home or help? How do you help your child choose and succeed in college? What's the best plan for retirement?

Jacks' mother was in town this past weekend, and Jack had asked her if she had planned on retiring anytime soon. She explained to us how she had met with her financial advisors and talked through what life could look like for her and her husband depending on how much longer she worked and how much they continued to save versus spend. Going through some of the details and thought processes, I realized I had no idea how much goes into it. I thought you just worked until you had enough saved to live comfortably for the rest of your life, but there are so many more considerations. Jack's mom explained how she

wanted to travel once she retired and had time, so even that meant she would have to work longer or save more.

My grandparents have it made—they bought an RV that is small enough for them to handle, and big enough to fit the two of them and the dog comfortably on long road trips. They hop in and off they go, traveling around the country at the pace they want, driving only four to five hours a day and stopping at state parks to explore the land and nature. They spend days, and even weeks if they want, traveling and visiting long-distance family. That's how I would do it.

Jack's mom also talked about a family friend of theirs who is worried about her parents as they age in northern Minnesota. The dad is tired of shoveling his driveway and wants to get an apartment so

they don't have to deal with it anymore. But they already live in a one-floor house with a small yard, pretty manageable for an older couple one would think—at least compared to other options. An apartment would possibly include stairs, less space, and about the same amount of cost.

Who knows when it's the best time to talk to parents about what they want as they grow older? I know some don't mind going to an assisted-living place for social reasons and to not have to take care of as much stuff. I also know that some are fiercely independent and wish to stay that way, despite the number of health and age factors that might be making it more difficult.

Needless to say, I'm realizing those older than me are sort of just like me — still trying to make their way in life and make hard decisions for them and those they love. Good luck to us.

My Determination: "We always think there's enough time to do things with other people. Time to say things to them. And then something happens and then we stand there holding on to words like 'if.'" — Fredrik Backman, A Man Called Ove

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email: news@wasecacountypioneer.com

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Mail: PO Box 578, Waseca MN 56093

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■ Forum

from Page 1

panied by a decrease in taxes on in-person sales. The move, he said, would not only encourage buyers to return to stores and malls, the lower sales tax would also encourage businesses to locate in Minnesota.

He proposed stricter enforcement of laws which prohibit businesses from hiring persons who have no legal residency, claiming that some businesses profit unfairly when they cut costs by illegally paying much lower wages in cash to such persons. "They're stealing from us," Lindell stated of companies which reduce their tax burden this way while also being able to sell their goods at a higher profit.

He suggested Minnesota could strengthen its education system by following steps taken in Mississippi to bring about the "Mississippi Miracle," a set of steps which moved the state's education system ranking from 49 in 2013 to 16 in 2025. The Mississippi system, he said, entailed a return to basics along with other important

moves. This included, he said, working to remove undocumented residents—and especially those who do not speak English—from classrooms so that they no longer "hold the rest of the class back."

"Are the teachers' unions going to fight it?" he asked rhetorically. "You bet they are." Reduced costs from his changes, he claimed, "would save millions upon millions in property tax."

In the field of agriculture, Lindell said his policies would include "breaking up the monopolies" held by large agricultural manufacturers and suppliers. Saying to farmers, "It's ridiculous that you can't do repairs on your own tractors," he claimed they have been victimized by national and international corporations.

Regarding the inner city, he said he would investigate fraud and work to ensure ineligible individuals, including undocumented residents, do not receive income from social services programs. As for the homeless, he would work toward establishing housing for them, getting treatment for those with addictions, and helping all to find employment.

A prominent theme among the speeches of all three candidates was

voter fraud. Lindell claimed a group of leaders from around the country has been acquiring evidence to show that voting machines can be manipulated to provide inaccurate results. "It's all true," he said of claims surrounding the fraud. "The evidence is coming out now. We will open it up and be sure the rightful winners will be put in place."

Secretary of State candidate Wendy Phillips referred to current office holder Steve Simon as "very corrupt," and claimed that "the more we open Pandora's box, the more ways we recognize we are being cheated."

Phillips stated many of her highest priorities if she should gain office would have to do with "fixing" the election process. This would include ending or reducing mail-in voting, requiring identification at voter polls that provides proof of eligibility, and purging the voter rolls of duplicate listings and deceased individuals. This would lead, she claimed, to a voting system that is "hard to cheat and easy to trust."

She also said she would work toward taking down "the abomination that is currently flying over our state capitol."

Senate candidate Royce White

spoke with great energy, telling those in attendance the country is headed for a constitutional crisis. "We are at a pivotal moment," he stated, "when we have to decide whether we are going to give our country back to the communists or stand firm and say 'enough is enough.' Implying that, at least partly due to voter fraud, many of the people sitting in office are not their rightful representatives Royce claimed, "You are being taxed without constitutional representation."

Admitting he is somewhat "intense" for some voters, Royce claimed "I am the person for this time and these circumstances."

He also stated "I can't find a handful of senators who are not traitors." Saying those currently in office are using their positions to build their financial portfolios, Royce warned voters not to take the "convenient" path of business as usual. "The real problem is us," he claimed. "We're too soft."

"But I'm not soft. I think we're headed for a constitutional crisis. These are extremely dangerous times."

"The question is, do we think the situation is dire enough to let the government do what needs to be done."

Pinnacle Pro Wrestling at the Mill Event Center May 9

Pinnacle Pro Wrestling will compete at the Mill Event Center from 6-10 p.m. on Saturday, May 9. They will crown the first ever PPW Women's Champion. Also featuring Paul Virk vs. Kit Sackett.

Mother's Day Brunch at Trinity Lutheran Church of Janesville Sunday, May 10

The Janesville Trinity Lutheran Church will have a Mother's Day Brunch from 9 a.m. through noon on Sunday, May 10. Adults \$12, Children 5-10 \$6 and 4 and under free. They will serve pancakes, French toast, sausage, ham and scrambled eggs. Courtesy of Pack and Troop 89.

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.

Waseca County 4-H Garage sale at Fairgrounds starting Friday, May 15

A gigantic garage sale at the 4-H building on the county fairgrounds will be from 3:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Friday, May 15; 3:30 to 8 p.m. Saturday, May 16; and 7 a.m. through 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 17.

New Richland Town & Country Garden Club Sale May 16

The New Richland Town and Country Garden Club's annual plant sale will be from 9 to 11:30 a.m. the morning of May 16 at the New Richland City Hall community room. Annuals, perennials, rhubarb, hostas and houseplants will be among the offerings. Those who ordered supertunias in advance will be able to pick up their plants.

Waseca Choral Concert at Performing Arts Center May 16

The Waseca Choral's spring concert "Surprise!" will feature a wide variety of choral pieces at 6:30 p.m. on May 16 in the Waseca Junior Senior High School performing arts center. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$7 for youths age 12 and under.



ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT - Jeff Parkinen, Jackie Peters, Jim Cozan, Executive Director of Caregiver Services, Kelly Boeddeker, Sharon Jones, Joan Dehn, and Gail Meyers were volunteering at the all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast at the VFW on Sunday, April 26, 2026.
Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

So many pancakes, so little time

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Waseca Care Giver Services hosted an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast at Sweet-Sommers VFW post 1642 on Sunday, April 26. There was also an accompanying bake sale where donations were accepted.

Darnell Anderson was manning the door, the Commander for the VFW, he said, "As far as numbers go, we've had 75 through our doors this morning." On the menu were French toast, biscuits and sausage gravy, sausage and bacon. Said Anderson, "This is for the Caregivers, and the bake sale, a lot

of that was donated."

Kelly Boeddeker Executive Director for the Waseca Caregiver Services said, "This is our annual breakfast, just like last year. Once we did a walleye feed but it's usually just a morning thing. I myself had a little bit of everything except the pancakes; it was all delicious." The Caregiver Services agency provides many services focused on the elderly, but has recently been expanding to include all ages. Their goal: "It is our mission to provide a holistic approach in supporting aging adults and their family caregivers with the goal of maintaining community living and a positive quality of

life."

From the kitchen came the sound of dishes being washed. From the dining room came the sounds of forks on plates, or spoons stirring coffee. Jackie Peters was manning the bake sale, it was close to noon and she said, "Got a little bit left, some cookies and some cakes, sold a lot."

Boeddeker added, "The proceeds for today go towards all our programs, the veterans, dementia, all of it. I would also like to give a big shout-out to Blain Brooks and his wife Carol for all their help in organizing everything for today." With that she grabbed a towel and got back to work.



Jackie Peters helped customers at the Waseca Caregiver Services all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast at the Waseca VFW on Sunday, April 26, 2026.
Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

County explores community health, jail questions

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

During their meeting on April 21, members of the Waseca County Board asked county sheriff Jay Dulas to prepare a summary regarding changes that will be needed as the county transitions from its current status as a jail approved to take in, hold, and keep inmates for a year and longer, to a short-term holding facility which must transfer longer-term inmates elsewhere. Board member Brad Milbrath, who finished a 12-year term as county sheriff in 2022, asked for close attention in Dulas' report regarding ways to ensure corrections department staff, lawyers, and others will have ready access to inmates who are part of the county's justice procedures.

Dulas' presentation was placed on the schedule for commissioners' June 16 meeting.

Sarah Berry, director of the county public health department, provided a

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

brief update regarding the opioid advisory committee. A group of nearly 20 community members and county professionals meet regularly and make decisions about distributing money which will be paid to the county for the next 20 years or so as the result of numerous lawsuits against certain pharmaceutical companies which profited from opioid medications that led to a nationwide addiction crisis which still has many ongoing repercussions.

The county is one of many thousands of public service units receiving the settlement money, and because payment amounts are based on population, the amount the county receives is smaller than many other counties and cities. Still, county administrator Michael Johnson told commissioners, the county has more

than \$339,000 to distribute under the program; annual payments to the county under the lawsuits will continue for about another 20 years. A stipulation is that money is to be used to fund community based projects, and cannot be used to subsidize existing programs or staff wages.

Barry reported the advisory council has set itself a target of allocating about \$50,000 a year toward projects. The council requests applications from area organizations, individuals and groups and awards funding based on numerous criteria. The \$50,000 amount for 2026, she said, has been reached.

Board members also heard from MNPrairie executive director Tara Reich, who shared that work toward redistributing the staff and assets of the organization is ongoing. MNPrairie was established in 2014 when Dodge, Steele and Waseca counties put together an agreement to form a collaborative and consolidate the funds that

support it, including funds from the three counties and money the state usually provides individual counties to support human services. At Steele County's request, the three-county agency is now being reconfigured into two separate entities—a Steele County Human Services Department and an ongoing collaboration between Waseca and Dodge counties. The process is scheduled to be complete at the beginning of 2027, but the time frame will be influenced by changes and separations which must occur at the state level—over which no one in any of the counties has any control.

Reich told commissioners it is her intent to provide quarterly reports which keep them current regarding ongoing services and initiatives, and brought in three department managers—Tina Rentz of Adult and Disability Services, DeAnn Boney of Income and Health Care Assistance, and Patricia Harrelson of Childhood and Family Services.

■ Earth Day
from Page 1

chery, 9, Xander, 9, and Brady, 6. Said Bilitz, "We're from the other side of Janesville, thought we'd come and check it out, see if we might learn something."

Mariana Izaguirre, Community Health Worker for the Waseca County Public Health department had a table set up with activities for kids and a spinning wheel. She explained, "Kids spin the wheel, then depending on where that lands, they get an environmental health question. If they answer that question cor-

rectly they get to pick a prize from the treasure chest." She pointed to a box with surprises inside.

Alexis Myers, from 4-H was at the next table showing kids how to make a clay pot that closed. "We want the kids to be able to take their seeds that they win here, put them into the clay pots they've made and take that home with them." She picked up a white clay pot still in production and said, "See, before the clay dries, we can close their pot up and the seeds stay safe inside until they get home." There were three kids making pots.

Audrey Gray and Violet Jewison were next to that; they had packets of lima beans, paper towels, bottles of water and clear plastic bags. Said Jewison, "We give the kids a lima

bean, they wrap it in a paper towel to keep it wet. We put that in a clear bag and once they see it's starting to sprout, then they can plant it in the ground. You can plant these anywhere, but if you plant it in your yard where you mow like some kids have done, just remember where it is and tell your parents so they don't mow it over."

Last but certainly not least were Alexis and Kim Olson: On their table were handfuls of assorted pipe cleaners and a big yellow box of Cheerios (not the honey-nut kind). Said Alexis, "We take the pipe cleaners, and we thread the Cheerios along them. Once you get a ring of them you can hang it anywhere and watch the birds show up to feed."



FOR THE BIRDS - Alexis and Kim Olson helped children build bird feeders out of Cheerios and pipe cleaners at the 4-H Earth Day Celebration at the East Annex on Wednesday, April 22, 2026..
Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

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OBITUARIES

Robert Kelling

Robert "Lyle" Linn Kelling, age 73 of Waseca, died at his home on the morning of Wednesday, April 22, 2026.

Lyle was born in Waseca on September 25, 1952, to parents Lyle W. and Ella E. (Kruger) Kelling. He attended Waseca schools and graduated with the Bluejay class of 1970 before continuing his education at St. Olaf and later the University of Minnesota. On July 2, 1977, he was united in marriage to Nancy Andrejewski at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca, and together they raised two daughters. Lyle worked in customer service at Brown Printing for many years and made many lasting friends there. He attended church in Otisco for much of his adult life. Lyle loved taking road trips to anywhere and everywhere, and he was an avid sports fan (particularly the Gophers) and he never tired of tuning in to Sports Center on ESPN or catching any game he could. He will continue to be greatly loved and sorely missed.

Lyle is survived by his devoted wife of 48 years, Nancy Kelling of Waseca; two daughters, Abby (Randy) Bartz of Waseca and Sagan (Curt) King of Winnebago; four grandchildren, Ryley, Brandon, Wyatt, and Harper Bartz; a sister, Donna (Gary) Feucht of Burnsville; and siblings-in-law James (Kris) Andrejewski of Woodstock, GA, and Corinne Kelling of Minnetonka. He was pre-



Robert Kelling

ceded in death by both of his parents; his parents-in-law, Paul and Mary Andrejewski; two brothers, Gordon Kelling and Jim (Kathy) Kelling; and two sisters-in-law, Julie Andrejewski and Vicki Andrejewski.

A prayer service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, May 1, 2026 at the State Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca. Friends and family are encouraged to wear University of Minnesota Golden Gophers gear in honor of Lyle. Visitation will be held for one hour before the prayer service at the funeral home. Friends may join Lyle's family for continued celebration at the Waseca American Legion following the service. dsfuneral.com

Young learners build Lego libraries

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

In celebration of National Library Week, the Janesville Public Library held a Lego Club event on Monday, April 21. With six children coming and going, all under the age of 10, the table was a flurry of block-building activity.

Head Librarian Kelly Koplen was checking out books and supervising the little ones as they played, "I didn't know how many children were going to show today. It looked like they wanted free play, but on days they need help, I do have building prompts and goals for them to reach." She was right, they were doing just fine with their projects on their own.

There were four at the table, with a little blond-headed girl coming and going, "Because," she shyly said, "I don't want to build



BRIGHT BUILDERS - Lochran, 8, Roaran, 10, and Warren, 7, were part of the Lego club construction hour at the Janesville Public Library on Tuesday, April 21, 2026.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

right now." Roaran, 10, however had his production line working full flow, "I am building a flying library, it can also drive on the ground." His project had four wheels, a chair to sit in and a steering wheel.

Next to him was Warren, 7. "I'm going to build a car with a house on the side. We can fit six people in here and they will watch The Wheel of Fortune." He looked around for a moment, leaned over a little and whispered, "It's my favorite show; I watch it all the time."

Across the table from the two gentlemen was Lochran, 8. She was constructing a federal building, "I'm kinda just building a library, a kind of driving library." She was asked what kind of books could be acquired in such a fine establishment as hers, and she replied, "I would maybe have The Babysitters Club books in it. Maybe Harry Potter too."

Roaran added, "I want Percy Jackson books, and the Kane Chronicles, or just anything by Rick Riordan, he's my favorite author." Warren was nodding his

head in agreement when Roaran added, "I also think my house should have a rocket booster." Warren agreed.

A woman close by named Ashley was supervising all the children while also holding a little blue-eyed baby on her lap. She mentioned, "This is our first time in Janesville." She went on to explain she and her children have taken part in children's activities at numerous local libraries. She said the Janesville facility seemed to have the most room for Legos.

Bryan Post analyzes stress in parent and child relationships
April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Bryan Post is a nationally recognized consultant who is called in when adoptive or foster care parents are considering ending their roles as parents because they are having trouble managing a child's behavior. Post provided a two-day seminar on April 23 and 24 for area social workers, foster parents, and other interested individuals at the Eagles Club in Owatonna.

His talk the morning of April 23 looked at the "brain science" involved in a typical high-energy exchange between a parent figure and a child whose life has included past traumatic events.

"And I get the worst of the worst," Post commented regarding his clients' experiences. He described one 14-year-old who was exposed to family violence from the time he was born to age 6, when his mother died. After that, he experienced physical abuse, was removed from the home, and from ages 7 to 14 ended up in 12 different placements, including numerous hospitals.

Post described one exchange in which this child, given the pseudonym Aaron, had been told he would be allowed to use electronics "later, if his behavior was good." Aaron had reacted with extreme anger, spilled beverages, and broken the television.

Post told the group that, although Aaron's behavior seemed to radiate defiance and anger, the brain science behind the exchange was actually all about fear.

Brain chemistry was central to his analysis. He mentioned the amygdala,

part of the brain stem, which releases the hormone cortisone when activated.

"When it receives cortisone," Post said, "the brain freezes first, for a fraction of a second, then makes the decision whether to fight or flee."

Post went on to explain that being told to comply with a request in order to receive a reward—what seemed like a calm situation without any threat in it—would be interpreted very differently in Aaron's brain. "Electronics are a calming mechanism," Post revealed, pointing out Aaron was likely seeking a way to withdraw from some stress factor. "He was seeking control, but was denied it.

"To an immature brain, waiting seemed like a threat."

One of Post's central points throughout the talk was that, once people are under stress, their thinking becomes confused and distorted and their short-term memory is deactivated.

For those who have experienced trauma, the process goes one step deeper. Post stated that conflict leads to stress, people experiencing stress are no longer thinking clearly, and, for those who have experienced trauma, their brain chemistry regresses back to the time when the trauma was at its worst.

Even adults, Post stated, "can regress as far back as infancy."

So, though Aaron could not have expressed the circumstances using words, being told to wait felt like a loss of control, a loss of control felt like a threat, a sense of threat caused his brain chemistry to mirror what it had been when he was being abused, and

his "fight or flight" response was to lash out.

"A stressed child is an emotionally regressed child," Post told the group. "And they regress back to the age of their biggest trauma.

"As an adult, your job is to recognize the body in front of you is 14 years old, but right now you are interacting with someone who is intellectually about 3 years old.

"Would you discipline a 3-year-old the same way you discipline a teenager?"

Describing trauma as trapped negative energy, Post said the adult's job is to help the child build inner calming mechanisms which were not built earlier in his or her life. Though it may go against the adult's instincts, Post said, the way to respond to an outburst like the one described is to look for a way to reassure and comfort the child who may appear angry and resentful on the outside, but deep inside, is actually hurt and frightened.

Spilling drinks and breaking things, Post pointed out, are not unexpected behaviors when dealing with a 3-year-old. Though people might be tempted to end their relationship with a teenager who behaves that way, their reaction is quite different if they can recognize the behavior, in many ways, is being initiated by the brain of a toddler.

The most important response, he suggested, is to pause, take a deep breath, and be calm.

"The outburst is already over, you can't undo it.

"No amount of shouting or resent-



BEHAVIOR HELP - Bryan Post, a consultant who assists when adoptive or foster care parents are considering ending their role as parents due to a child's behavior, hosted a seminar for area social workers, foster parents, and other interested individuals.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bentley

ment will fix the television or take back the swear word.

"The important thing is how we move forward from here."

Recognizing that the outburst came from a place of fear, he said, the first priority is to ensure children feel safe. Remembering their brain chemistry is identical to what it was during the worst time in their lives, Post said, the adult accomplishes at least two things by remaining calm—modeling a mature response and projecting a sense of safety.

His goal as a family counselor, Post explained, is to break the cycle which can eventually lead adults to consider ending their parental roles. He described it as a tightening circle in which the child's behavior leads the adults to attempt to impose control. The efforts at control escalate the children's stress, perpetuating the behaviors.

"If you are trying to win, you are already in a power struggle, which means two dysregulated entities are facing off.

"The one who has the worst history is the one who regresses the most quickly and deeply."

To break the cycle, Post said, adults must learn to react, not with their heads, but with their hearts.

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The
Pastor's Column

Finding similar responsibilities

By Fr. GLENN FRERICHS

As a young person, one memory that has always stayed with me is hearing about a new startup in my hometown. The first 5-8 employees were extremely committed to its success. They also had a reputation for having fun and working well together toward their common goal. The town watched the company grow until a larger company eventually bought it out to expand the operation.

As the larger company hired more employees, the original staff took on greater responsibilities, and many new people were hired. As the company grew, it became clear that some people were highly committed to the company's success, while others were either there to do little more than their job or simply to collect a check. As work ebbed and flowed from season to season, the leadership would rely heavily on those committed to the company's success to carry them through difficult times.

The scripture readings used during the Easter season often focus on the early church and how she navigated the need for growth and the seemingly overwhelming forces in society that sought to close her in. These readings are always particularly inspiring. The Acts of the Apostles provides a stunning testimony to the quality and character of the early Christians as their faith was tested in a world often hostile to this new message of salvation.

Stories such as the martyrdom of St. Stephen, the speeches of Saint Paul, and the countless acts of charity practiced by the early Christians demonstrate their commitment to Christ and show that they never sought the easy way out or settled for a more comfortable path. Their intention was to live lives completely in the will of God.

Saint John Chrysostom—a fourth-century saint nicknamed the golden tongue for his eloquent and powerful preaching—once spoke about the early Christians,

saying: "They ignored the danger of death.. they forgot how few they were, they never noticed how many were against them, or the power or strength or wisdom of their enemies. Their power was greater than all of that: theirs was the power of him who had died on the Cross and risen again."

With the legalization of Christianity in 313 AD, the Church began to grow by leaps and bounds because people were drawn to the love and care Christians showed for one another and to the integrity they upheld both publicly and privately. The Church is much larger today than it has ever been; some estimates place it at 2.6 billion members. Like the company whose members began to show different levels of commitment as it grew, the Body of Christ can be both strengthened and compromised. The actions of those around us should never cause us to lose faith.

Some years ago, someone said it is often a good idea to look to the faith of our grandparents as an example of how to live. Each generation carries its strengths and its limitations. Like that company that began with just a few highly motivated and dedicated people and grew into something large, so too does Christ and the church rely on your love and commitment to serve him, proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ and bringing others to himself.

As we look at the world the early Christians sought to convert and the courage that carried them forward, we see a similar responsibility today. Perhaps these words from Jesus are more relevant than ever,

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matt 28:18-20



Waseca FFA member Oriana J. performed with the band which consisted of musicians from all around the state.



The Waseca Dairy Evaluation team consisting of (from left) Sophia L., Claire B., Hannah S., and Charley K., received a Silver ranking at the state FFA convention on April 21 and 22. Along with that, Charley placed eighth overall in the category as an individual.



Waseca FFA members who attended the state convention on April 21 and 22 at the University of Minnesota included (from left) Ryan H., Maci A., Brooklyn F., Claire B., Oriana J., Olivia E., Hannah S., Liah A., Sophia L., and Charley K.



Members of the Waseca FFA Livestock Evaluation team (from left) were Ryan H., Olivia E., Oriana J., and Liah A. The group achieved a Silver ranking at the state convention.



Maci A. and Brooklyn F. were named the "Best Informed Greenhand Team" during the statewide FFA convention, which was held April 20 and 21 at the University of Minnesota. "Greenhands" are first-year FFA participants.

Waseca FFA sends two teams to state

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

The Waseca FFA Livestock and Dairy Evaluation Teams earned silver rankings during competition at the FFA organization's statewide convention held April 20 and 21 at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus. The two-person team of Macy A. and Brooklyn F. was named the Best Informed Greenhand Team. Greenhands, explains Waseca FFA Advisor Robin Tidd, are first-year members in FFA, typically still of middle school age.

According to Tidd, FFA competi-

tions are divided between Leadership Development Events (LDEs) and Career Development Events (CDEs). She explains LDEs focus on helping individuals develop skills—for example, public speaking or parliamentary procedure—which may be useful in any career field individuals go on to pursue. CDEs build skills that are specific to agricultural careers.

While 10 students attended the state convention, the Waseca FFA has about 30 student members who spend the year attending monthly chapter meetings, helping with community events, and competing in CDE and LDE contests.

Students begin signing up for teams in September and attended their first competition in October and took part in two contest days each month through April. Some students, Tidd said, will concentrate on a single topic or category while others diversify in the hope of making it to high-level competition in more than one category. At least this year, one of Waseca's teams had qualified for state already in October.

Across the year, Waseca had

teams in a wide array of categories, including Horse Evaluation- Varsity (2 students); Livestock Evaluation- Varsity (4 students) and JV (5 students); Dairy Evaluation- Varsity (4 students); Soils- Varsity (4 students); Employment Skills (2 individuals); Milk Quality- Varsity (4 students) and JV (3 students); and Best Informed Greenhand (3 students).

Along with competing, one state-level participant applied for and was accepted to be part of the FFA State Band, which provided music at events during the convention.

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4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH 605 4th St NE, Waseca 507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker) Worship Sundays 10 a.m. * * * * *	CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS 1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca 507-835-4640 Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m. * * * * *	VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Brian Schanil Pastor Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School Tuesdays: The Shepherd's Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark * * * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 412 N. Main Street, Janesville Pastor Jason Wolter Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:30 a.m. Worship * * * * *
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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. * * * * *	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 * * * * *	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) * * * * *
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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: 1ewaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. * * * * *	SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH 111 4th St NW, Waseca Father Glenn Ferichs 507-835-1222 Worship Sundays 10:00 a.m., Tues. and Wed. at 8:30 a.m. and Thurs. at 7 a.m.; Saturdays at 5 p.m. * * * * *	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 * * * * *
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WASECA COUNTY

PIONEER

FARM & AGRICULTURE SPECIAL

Cropping season 2026: a perspective

The La Niña fades; Will southern rust be a problem again this year?

By MARK BERNARD
Staff Writer

The 2025 cropping season was another one most farmers were thankful when it was over. Little did we know that heavy rainfall would create more headaches at harvest once again. As always, spring brings a new beginning. We'll get out our tea leaves to offer some insight for this cropping season.

We're coming off yet another bizarre winter. The La Niña in place finally faded and despite being colder than the winter of '24 – '25, snowfall accumulation was again below normal by roughly 10". Rain fell mid-month in October allowing for decent fall tillage. Total snowfall measured about 42.3" at the ranch and 42.2" in New Richland. Normal seasonal snowfall at the SROC in Waseca is 52.3". The light snow cover allowed the frost depth to reach 26" at the SROC in Waseca. After three winters in a row with sparse, sporadic snow removal required, snowblowers have become lawn ornaments.

Ice out on St. Olaf and Beaver Lakes was March 22nd. The soil was also frost-free at the SROC in Waseca on March 22nd. A warmer than normal February and March with 81° at the SROC on March 31st had everyone excited about an early spring. 5" above normal temps for the month allowed anhydrous to be applied and some small grain to be seeded before rains in early April. Like last year, March was the first month since November with above normal precipitation. Heavy snow March 14th and 15th helped March regain its crown as the snowiest month of this past winter.

April precip has been significant but not excessive to this point. The temperature has had peaks and valleys as well. This allowed some corn planting to begin before the 10th. Also, not unlike 2025, there were the odd soybean fields planted. Planting this year has taken on a more aggressive approach despite low crop prices and higher fertilizer costs. Seedbeds and subsoil moisture levels have been nearly ideal. Tile is working. Temps along with the calendar date have been favorable. When this reaches print, some will be done planting, some will have a good start, and others won't haven't started.

If we continue to receive precipitation locally, it could delay planting on those remaining acres. April temps have trended slightly above normal as of this writing. A slightly drier than normal May last year, a wetter than normal June, followed by an extremely wet July and much wetter than normal August set us up for leaf disease issues. However, those leaf diseases weren't necessary always the main concern as wet soils in April likely set us up for anthracnose stalk rot and top dieback. Crop insurance

claims were common. April 2026 precip as of April 28th was 3.64" in New Richland and at the ranch 2.79" with 2.12" at the SROC in Waseca as of April 27th. Normal for the month of April at the SROC is 3.3".

Some have wondered about the impact of high fertilizer prices. Much of the broadcast phosphorus and potassium was purchased last fall, avoiding the recent price hikes. Low commodity prices already had many operators cutting back especially on phosphorus. In many cases, their soil test P levels were adequate so cutting back or forgoing one year's application and using starter fertilizer to get by worked. That can't go on forever. Many have a 50:50 corn/soybean rotation, however. Unless their soil test P levels are very low, the percent chance of a response in soybeans to applied phosphorus fertilizer is very low. It's realistic that they could cut back on broadcast phosphorus on many fields planted to corn one more year without impacting yields significantly.

What do the growing season temperature and precipitation outlooks look like? Released April 16th, NOAA's 30-day May outlook for our area shows an equal chance of above normal temperatures and even odds of above or below normal precipitation. Also released on April 16th, NOAA's 90-day outlook (May through July) for is calling for even chances of above or below normal temps and even chances of above or below normal precipitation. Our soil moisture is in similar shape to last year at this time. Tile lines are running, and the soil profile is full in many places. Transitioning into an ENSO-neutral period coming off a La Niña event, with an El Niño developing late summer into fall could lead to more normal growing season conditions. Let's hope it means less smoke from Canadian wildfires as well.

The April 21st edition of the Drought Monitor has drought in SW MN and much of north central and northeastern MN. Much of Nebraska, Kansas and South Dakota are all likely to remain under moderate drought for the near future.. The April 16th Drought Monitor showed some abnormally dry areas south of the Illinois River in IL extending into northern IN, and NW Ohio. These drier conditions in IL, IN and OH have them well ahead of normal on corn planting. While some areas are facing planting delays, the percentage is offset by well ahead of average progress in the western corn belt where it remains drier, particularly in NE, SD and MN.

Insect pest potential due to the largely open winter is a mixed bag. Conditions for survival of corn rootworm eggs, particularly for western corn rootworm, may be somewhat diminished.



With the ahead of schedule planting pace nationally and continued global political/economic uncertainty, potential for profitability leaves a lot to be desired. As we said last year, we're still playing small ball. Depending on how the weather systems distribute precipitation, some delays could be inevitable. No reason to panic if it does.

Like last year, light snow cover during the heart of winter and below zero stretches in December and January likely didn't aid their survival. Sticky trap data tended to support that suspicion last year across a variety of rotational scenarios. Waterlogged soils with wet conditions in the canopy during July and August possibly didn't help their cause either. Sometimes it's not easy being a corn rootworm.

Unlike many midwestern states, soybean aphids continue to be an issue worth watching in MN. The ability of winged adults to fly from one area and infest another plus their enormous reproductive capacity maintains their status as a potential force to be reckoned with. In 2025, there were large numbers of beneficial insects that were up to the challenge. The massive numbers of Asian lady beetles that were winter houseguests bear that out. However, there were plenty of soybean aphids left moving from soybeans to buckthorn last fall. Don't rule out spraying your house again this fall for unwanted houseguests.

Migratory insect pests such as black cutworm are also on the radar. There have been some significant cutworm moth captures already in area traps this April. Larvae from earlier flights may hatch the last week of April, be leaf feeding the 1st full week in May, and have the potential to cut corn plants by the 3rd week of May. They could continue cutting corn until early June. Many of the corn hybrids with above ground Bt provide control of black cutworm. Not all however, and with sweet corn or the ever-increasing interest in non-GMO corn, cutworms could be a factor. Even soybean stands can be occasionally reduced enough to require control measures. Zero Bt protection

there.

Tar spot, the perennial corn leaf disease darling of social media, print media and the coffee shop, made another later season appearance in area cornfields. Many of the hybrids being grown have also exhibited improved tolerance over those planted just a few years ago. Tar spot had much of its thunder stolen this past year by southern rust and anthracnose. Southern rust was first identified around July 19th locally. Fungicides were largely effective against this disease when applied in a timely fashion. Too many discovered it later and anthracnose was also present in many of the same fields. In those cases, later fungicide applications were largely unrewarding.

Will southern rust be a problem again this year? Since it doesn't overwinter here, the spores must blow in from the south from living plants for infection to occur. It also needs 80° temps with high relative humidity once the spores get here. However, like many other leaf diseases, it's a potential problem that bears watching. The causal organism still needs to be present, it needs a favorable environment for disease development and a susceptible host. Timing of fungicide applications are also important. Too early and it loses efficacy by the time protection from the fungal pathogen is needed. Applied too late and the damage may have already been done.

The anthracnose mentioned can manifest itself in several forms including leaf disease, stalk rot and top dieback. The stalk rot and top dieback infection likely happened in earlier vegetative stages of growth. It was common to see some hybrids suddenly die prematurely this past September. Many of the hybrids had low

tolerance to anthracnose stalk rot. It hadn't been a major issue for many years. In some growing seasons, the symptoms appeared late enough so that it functioned as a desiccant without causing yield loss. The well above normal temps this past September pushed the crop to maturity extremely rapidly making substantial yield losses common in many cases.

Where anthracnose was severe, the pith tissue inside the corn stalk disintegrated. Fortunately, harvest went quickly, void of long stretches of windy, wet weather. The outer part of the stalk also exhibited a dark black discoloration. This has been particularly noticeable in cornstalk bedding from our personal experience. Spraying foliar fungicide for anthracnose leaf blight is effective but spraying it for stalk rot is not. The best bet is planting hybrids with good tolerance/resistance to anthracnose stalk rot. It's evident the memo was received. This year, many selected hybrids with good anthracnose ratings in mind.

With the ahead of schedule planting pace nationally and continued global political/economic uncertainty, potential for profitability leaves a lot to be desired. As we said last year, we're still playing small ball. Depending on how the weather systems distribute precipitation, some delays could be inevitable. No reason to panic if it does. Plenty of adapted hybrids and varieties available should that occur. Some favorable weather conditions afterwards wouldn't hurt. While sometimes it's better to be lucky than good, sometimes you make your own luck by managing the variables you can control.

Century farm award winners honored

The Minnesota State Fair and the Minnesota Farm Bureau are proud to recognize 68 Minnesota farms as 2026 Century Farms. Qualifying farms have been in continuous family ownership for at least 100 years and are 50 acres or more. Century Farm families receive a commemorative sign, as well as a certificate signed by Minnesota State Fair and Minnesota Farm Bureau presidents and Governor Tim Walz.

Since the program began in 1976, more than 11,000 Minnesota farms have been recognized as Century Farms.

Family farms are recognized as a Century Farm when three requirements are met. The farm must be: 1) at least 100 years old according to authentic land records; 2) in continuous family ownership for at least 100 years (continuous residence on the farm is not required); and 3) at least 50 acres and currently be involved in agricultural production. 2026 Century Farm families are listed by county, then by the farm's city or township, family or farm names and year of original purchase:

Aitkin County
Aitkin, Hasselius Family Farm, 1893

Tamarack, Johnson/FuQua Farm, 1915
Anoka County
Andover, The Holasek Farm, 1923
Benton County
Foley, Piotrowski Farm, 1915

Blue Earth County
Amboy, Zenk LLC, 1884
Eagle Lake, Terrell Farm, 1924
Carver County
Norwood Young America, Harms Brothers Farm, 1924
Norwood Young America, James Hermann, 1925
Chippewa County
Maynard, Sederstrom Farm, 1923
Montevideo, Frank's Farm, 1898
Montevideo, Lynne's Farm, 1925
Montevideo, Zempel, 1925
Cottonwood County
Westbrook, Horky Legacy Farm, 1895
Dakota County
Randolph, Doug Willie Farm, 1909
Rosemount, Greg and Sandi Fox Farm, 1925
Faribault County
Blue Earth, Franke Farms, 1870

Freeborn County
Albert Lea, Bagley Farm, 1884
Albert Lea, Oak Park Stock

Farm – Thomas W. Jones & Elizabeth I. Wulff, 1874
Houston County
Caledonia, David & Lynn Myhre Family Farm, 1922
Houston, The O'Donnell-Randall Farm, 1925
Jackson County
Worthington, Duitsman Farm, 1919
Kandiyohi County
Lake Lillian, Magnuson Farm, 1876
Lac Qui Parle County
Bellingham, Nelson Family Farm, 1926
Bellingham, Nelson Farm, 1926
Madison, Wollschlager, 1925
Le Sueur County
Kilkenny, Hackett Farms, 1924
Lincoln County
Tyler, Henry's Hill, 1926
Martin County
Ceylon, Albremer LLP, 1915
Fairmont, Steuber Farm, 1900
Granada, McAdams Family Farm, 1922
Meeker County
Dassel, Forsberg Farms, 1901
Mower County
Dexter, P.W. Jensen, 1893
Taopi, Voigt Family Farm, 1920
Nicollet County

New Ulm, Palmer Hill, 1926
Nobles County
Wilmont, Fath Family Farm, 1925
Olmsted County
Hayfield, Gilbertson Farm, 1860
Rochester, Schwanke Farm, 1913
Otter Tail (East) County
New York Mills, Ehnert Farms, 1920
Otter Tail (West) County
Fergus Falls, Brause Slough, 1922
Fergus Falls, Kort Farm, 1925
Pennington County
St. Hilarie, Yonke Farm, 1926
Pine County
Hinckley, Sikkink Angus, 1916
Hinckley, Toering Farms, 1902
Pine City, Dave and Jody Karas Dairy, 1926

Pipestone County
Pipestone, Crawford Farm, 1862
Redwood County
Morgan, Wolfgang Spaeth, 1926
Renville County
Sacred Heart, Sietsema Family Farm, 1926
Rice County
New Prague, Joseph F. and Eileen C. Skluzacek, 1891
Rock County
Beaver Creek, Crawford Family, 1874

Luverne, Scott Family Farm, 1873
Roseau County
Greenbush, Anderson Farm, 1907
Wannaska, Jacobson Farms, 1926
St. Louis County
Iron, Takala Farms, Inc., 1919
Kelsey, Simek's Farm, 1925
Sherburne County
Zimmerman, Jensen Farm, 1925
Sibley County
Gaylord, Kuphal Farm, 1916
Le Sueur, Harder Farms, 1920

Steele County
Owatonna, Walter & Emma Bueckler Farm, 1924
Owatonna, Duane Dewell Schroeder, 1925
Owatonna, Ebeling Family Farms, 1926
Owatonna, Spindler Farm, 1926

Swift County
Danvers, Nagler Farm, 1926
Todd County
Eagle Bend, Ofstedahl Farms, 1913
Traverse County
Wheaton, Willard & Helen Wahl, 1919
Wabasha County
Kellogg, Sullivan Farm, 1875

Waseca County
New Richland, Anderson Farm, 1926
Wilkin County
Barnesville, Maier Farms, 1926
Winona County
St. Charles, Heim Farms, 1921
Information on all Century Farms will be available at the Minnesota Farm Bureau exhibit during the 2026 Minnesota State Fair.

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Sean Holmes, who farms in Freedom and Wilton Townships, is Waseca County's "Outstanding Young Farmer" for 2026. He is pictured here with his wife Tammi and their children Terrence (TJ) and Brianna.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Waseca's Outstanding Young Farmers

Sean and Tammi Holmes prestigious award announced at annual Luncheon

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Sean and Tammi Holmes are the fourth generation of the Holmes family to own and work property in Freedom and Wilton Townships. They are glad to be teaching their children, T.J. and Brianna, to enjoy the "freedom at a price" which comes with living in the country.

"We have a large yard, along with a few chickens, and we're showing the next generation it takes hard work to keep it tidy and take care of them," observes Sean, who was named Waseca County's Outstanding Young Farmer for 2026.

Sean and Tammi have been married since 2012. Tammi grew up in Mankato; her only connection to country living before then was occasional visits to an uncle's nearby farm.

Perhaps the classic "get to" for young farmers is driving a tractor, something T.J. has been doing already for a year or two. Sean says he cherishes the same memory from his own childhood.

"Farming is a family affair," he says, sharing memories of growing up under the care of his parents, Bob and Wendy. Naming some of the many things a farmer must learn to

balance—seed choices, fertilizers, weather, and markets—he comments on how decades of learning are really only a beginning and describes growing up on a farm as "on the job training."

Sean could now be said to farm tens of thousands of acres, since in addition to operating the family farm, he serves as a consultant to dozens of farmers across a 40-mile radius.

"I go over their farm with them acre by acre," he says of the services he offers. "We review more than 400 line items to help make decisions."

His advice is informed both by his visits to his clients' farms, and by his experience on his own acres: "I've worked the same types of soils," he says, going on to say he feels a strong connection to the land, and so informs his clients about sustainable methods and products.

Having provided his clients with his analysis, Sean also offers products including seeds and inputs, along with services like custom spraying, fertilizer application, and more as needed.

Sean takes his selection as the county's outstanding young farmer as a message that his neighbors, clients and business associates have

been pleased with the work he does and the suggestions he provides.

"I believe they would describe me as accommodating," he speculates when asked about his clients' perception of him. "I hope they find me knowledgeable and helpful, and they know I am looking out for their best interests."

"I hope they can tell I truly care about them and their success."

Looking at the future of farming, he foresees more and more movement toward methods which include strong stewardship of the soil. Reduced and modified tillage, the use of cover crops, and leaving more residue on fields over the winter are among the approaches he says will help protect against what he perceives as a growing problem of erosion from both wind and water runoff.

He says he would like to see southern Minnesota farmers "on the forefront" of the transition to the more sustainable methods.

It is a matter of pride among the Holmes family that, during the 1950s and 60s, Sean's grandfather Eugene was acknowledged as a national champion in the then-emerging art of contour plowing. He attended national events, and was even part of a

delegation that visited the United Kingdom. Family lore is that Eugene shook hands with two U.S. Presidents: Eisenhower and Nixon.

One of his most cherished goals, Sean says, is to follow in those footsteps, protecting the land and preserving it for the next generation. He admits being a farmer has always presented landowners with tremendous challenges, and expresses his admiration for those who came before him. When he thinks of hardships, he says he remembers hearing stories about the '93 flood, the "hog crash" of the 1990s, the numerous times family machinery got stuck in "the slough," rushing to make emergency repairs so planting or harvest could continue, and more.

He observes that those stories make him realize farmers walk a very fine line with financial advancement on one side and potential failure on the other. "It's thanks to the hard work and dedication those other generations showed that my family and I are even on the farm today," he speculates. "It's enough to make a person feel real appreciation, and to realize the importance of passing it on."

Tyler and Stephanie Huber named Waseca's Farm Family of the year

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Tyler Huber says he and his wife Stephanie feel honored by their recognition as the Waseca County Farm Family of the Year, particularly because they know they were selected from among "a community of strong farm families" who he believes are nearly all working hard and focusing effort on protecting and preserving the land.

Tyler and Stephanie married in 2018 and live together in the house once occupied by Tyler's grandfather, who brought the Huber family name to Minnesota from Indiana in 1928. Like most classic farmhouses, Tyler says it's had a few additions built on over time, and now provides space for the farm's fifth generation: Brynn, 7; twins Barrett and Briar, 4; and Beau, 9 months. In addition to caring for their family, Stephanie works as a registered nurse.

Tyler and Stephanie both describe being glad their children are growing up in a farm setting, where they have the pleasures and responsibilities of being present as generations work together on shared projects, ranging from picking up sticks in the yard to repairing and maintaining machinery, to the large-scale endeavor of harvest. Even at age 4, Stephanie observes, Barrett's favorite place to be is "out in the machine shed with his dad."

Tyler remembers many parallel experiences from his own childhood. "Picking rock is ingrained in my mind forever," he says, when asked to list some of the chores he helped with alongside his father, grandfather, and siblings. He was one of four who grew up on the farm; he remembers helping with harvest al-

ready at age 8 or 10, when he would drive the farm's John Deere 620 tractor to pull wagons to the elevator.

Learning to recognize chores and responsibilities as an opportunity, Tyler admits, was a gradual process, but he now treasures the memories both of working for his own family's operation, and then being called upon to earn a little extra money and to build community connections when he and his siblings were teenagers and were sought out to help with projects on nearby farms.

He also recalls certain advantages when he was looking for traditional teen jobs at stores or factories, since business owners seemed to like hiring "farm kids" because they understand the importance of being responsible and reliable.

Tyler and Stephanie's children are also able to share in a three-generation experience, since Tyler's parents Larry and LuAnne, who now live in Waseca, are frequently at the farm to help with projects or visit.

In 2019, Tyler expanded the traditional farming operation that included growing corn and soybeans as well as raising about 60 head of steer, to also working with Beck's Hybrids, which has agencies in 23 states. Beck's offers seeds and crop inputs, along with services that continue into the growing season, including providing customers with seeds for replantings at no additional cost. The company has been the right choice for him and his way of doing business, Tyler says, because it is family owned, farm centered and faith based.

Starting the business, he says, provided additional income that made it possible for him to be on the farm full time, rather than seeking supplemental income at a more traditional

job.

This means, he describes, that his springtime planting season is probably even more hectic than for a typical farmer, since he is not only preparing to get his own crops in the ground, he is ensuring his customers' needs have been met. As the summer proceeds, he uses his round baling equipment to make about 200 bales for use on his farm, and about 1,500 more for those who choose to hire him. The baling equipment, he says, is expensive and "temperamental," so many find it advantageous to hire the work done.

When "Mother Nature throws us a curveball," he also helps troubleshoot emerging situations with crops purchased through Beck's. "The company promises farmers they'll have a crop," he observes, "even when that means using a different hybrid or changing from corn to soybeans."

Toward the end of the summer, Tyler and representatives from Beck's often visit with some of his 40 or so customers to view their fields and perhaps begin conversations regarding the following year.

A September customer appreciation event leads into harvest time. The completion of one growing sea-



Tyler and Stephanie Huber were named Waseca's Farm Family of the year for 2026 during the annual Farm and City Luncheon.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

son leads almost directly into planning the next one, so conversations about next year's crops begin around November.

Stephanie speculates that being recognized as the Farm Family of the Year is an indication people have appreciated Tyler's ways of doing busi-

ness and recognize "how much of himself he pours into his work."

Looking toward the future, Tyler says his priorities are making sure the farm remains financially viable and the land is preserved and protected for future generations.

"In 2028, my family will have

been farming in Waseca County for 100 years," he mentions. "That's a gigantic milestone that makes me want to raise my kids on the farm and leave things so that they can take over someday, just like the previous generations did for me."

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Bluejays leave runs unscored

WHS baseball team drops 4-2, 12-inning decision to Blooming Prairie

The opportunities were there for the Waseca High School baseball team.

The only thing missing was a key hit.

Hits, however, were tough to come by for both teams last Friday as the Bluejays lost 4-2 to Blooming Prairie in 12 innings at Waseca's Tink Larson Field.

"It was a good game," said Larson, one of the Bluejays' assistant coaches. "We had several opportunities to score, but weren't able to execute."

Owen Honstad and Hayden Stencel pitched well for the Bluejays, according to Larson.

Honstad, Logan Reger and Kallen Glynn doubled. Stencel, Riley Mitchell and Kamerin Ferch also hit safely. Jaiden Schafer scored both Bluejay runs.

A day earlier, the Bluejays had a rough time at Fairmont while falling 12-0 in five innings.

"It was a long night in more ways than one," said Larson.

There was about an hour delay in the second inning due to lightning. "On top of that, the game didn't go well," said Larson. "Fairmont has a good hitting team and they put together a big inning. We had just three hits, but we were making contact as we had only one strikeout against us and that was in the final inning."

Waseca hits went to Schaefer, Stencel and Glynn.

Wetzel and Ferch pitched, with Wetzel taking the loss.

Fairmont struck out only twice.

On Tuesday, the Bluejays put together one of their most complete performances of the season with a

12-2 victory over Worthington in a five-inning road contest.

Waseca wasted no time setting the tone, plating three runs in both the first and second innings to jump out to an early 6-0 lead. The Bluejays continued to apply pressure late, adding three more runs in the fourth and fifth innings to secure the run-rule win.

At the plate, Waseca's offense was both productive and efficient, tallying 15 hits and eight RBIs. Reger led the way with a standout performance, going 3-for-4 with three runs scored and two RBIs. He was one of several Bluejays to record multi-hit games, including Schaeffer, who went 2-for-3 with two runs scored and an RBI, and Honstad, who added two hits and a run driven in.

The Bluejays also showcased

aggressive base running throughout the game. Schaeffer swiped five bases, while Honstad added three stolen bases and Reger chipped in two, consistently putting pressure on the Worthington defense.

On the mound, Reger delivered a dominant outing to earn the win. The right-hander threw a complete five innings, allowing just five hits and two earned runs while striking out seven and walking only one. He was efficient throughout, throwing 73 pitches with 45 strikes and facing just 22 batters. Reger consistently worked ahead in counts and limited hard contact, keeping Worthington off balance all game.

Defensively, Waseca was sharp, committing no errors and backing up their pitcher with clean, disciplined play.



SAFE AT SECOND — Waseca's Logan Reger celebrates a stand-up double during the Bluejays' game against Blooming Prairie at Tink Larson Field last week. Photo by Jim Lutgens



MIXED RESULTS — The WHS softball team has had its struggles this spring, but included was a doubleheader sweep at Worthington April 18. Above left, the Bluejays' Madison Roessler hauls in a foul ball from her catcher's position against TCU. At right, Hannah Rugger delivers a pitch. Photo by Jim Lutgens



WHS track boys win at TCU

Mansfield sets record at Hamline

The Waseca Bluejays track and field teams turned in an impressive all-around performance at the TCU Invitational in Montgomery April 20, highlighted by dominant sprinting, strong relay efforts, and stand-out 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. Senior Jordan Johnston led the way with a first-place finish in 11.53, followed closely by teammates Jonah Worke (2nd, 11.65) and Ayden 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 feet 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,

Track continued on 9

Softball Bluejays struggle, sweep

First-inning runs lead to loss against St. Clair after WHS girls take two at Worthington

Inclement weather affected the length of the game, but probably not the outcome.

The Waseca High School softball team had some struggles last Friday while falling 8-3 at St. Clair in a game shortened to six innings.

"That was unfortunate," said WHS coach Amanda Sommers.

The Bluejays put the first run on the board, but St. Clair took control from there.

"We need to hit the ball better and

have less base running errors to win games," said Sommers.

Five Bluejays collected one hit apiece: Avery Barto, Hannah Rugger, Hannah Sommers, Lauren Grant and Anna Benson. Barto doubled. Rugger and Benson each had one RBI.

The Bluejays struck out five times and walked three times while committing two fielding errors.

Rugger took the pitching loss. She yielded five runs on six hits, with

five strikeouts and four walks.

The Bluejays swept a doubleheader at Worthington April 18, winning 18-0 and 15-8.

Madison Roessler was the offensive leader, going 3-for-3 with three RBIs. Hannah Sommers doubled twice and drew a walk, Anna Benson had two hits, and Teague added one hit while driving in four runs. Ali Mader, Grant and Sophie Hillman contributed one hit each.

The Bluejays were sharp defen-

sively, committing one error, while striking out six times and drawing six walks.

Rugger was the winning pitcher, allowing only one hit through four innings. She fanned six and walked one.

Rugger exploded offensively in game two, registering four hits, two of them doubles, and driving in two runs. Totalling two hits each in were Mader, Barto, Roessler and Benson. Roessler had three RBIs. Hannah

Sommers, Grant and Teague had one hit each.

The Bluejays fanned twice and walked twice while committing three fielding errors.

Barto pitched the first 4 2/3 innings for the win, with Hannah Sommers throwing in relief. They combined for nine strikeouts and two walks.

"I was very pleased with our girls

Softball continued on 9



STRONG OUTING — JWP's Lyla Simonson delivers a pitch during the Bulldogs' 6-4 victory over NRHEG at Janesville last week. Photo by Jim Lutgens

Softball Bulldogs finish first in Rochester JM Invitational

The spring sports season is one in which a large number of games are played in a relatively short timespan.

You don't have to tell that to the JWP High School softball team.

The Bulldogs played four games in one week, capped by a championship in Saturday's Rochester John Marshall Invitational, where they defeated Lake City 4-3 Rochester JM 3-2, improving to 7-4 for the season.

Raylen Blasing led the way against Lake City, going 2-for-5 with a double, an RBI, a stolen base and a run scored. Haylee Appel and Sophie Okins also doubled, Okins going 2-for-4 with two runs. Kaylee Langford was 3-for-3 with a walk, Lila Simonson 2-for-4 with an RBI.

Simonson pitched. She allowed three earned runs on 11 hits, fanning four and walking four.

Lily Quast was 2-for-3 with a double, Langford 2-for-3 and Hudson Miller 2-for-3 against JM. Okins tripled, Ryleigh Donner doubled. Ewert and Simonson added one hit each.

Donner went the distance in the circle, yielding two earned runs on four hits. She struck out five and walked

two.

The Bulldogs traveled to Randolph Thursday and lost 10-0 in a game in which they struggled defensively.

"It was a tough loss with some windy balls in the air, miscommunications, and errors," said JWP coach Brianne Eldred. "However, they put the bat on the ball; that was impressive. We need to get stronger physically and mentally and trust each other too. We are a few errors shy of staying with them for seven innings."

Blasing went 2-for-3. Appel, Ewert and Simonson had one hit apiece.

Simonson, Claire Loeffler and Donner pitched, with Simonson taking the loss.

The Bulldogs picked up a big Gopher Conference win last Monday, defeating NRHEG 6-4 at Janesville.

Blasing had another big day with the bat, going 2-for-3 with a double, three RBIs and three stolen bases. Okins and Avery Carda were 2-for-3 with a double, Simonson 2-for-3. Ewert, Miller and Brielle James each contributed one hit.

Simonson pitched all seven innings, giving up three earned runs, with seven strikeouts and five walks.

No. 9 Cotter halts win streak for WHS netmen

Bluejays run season record to 5-4

The Waseca Bluejays boys' tennis team continued its strong play last Monday, earning a 5-2 victory over the Lake City Tigers on the road. Behind a sweep in singles and a resilient performance in doubles, the Bluejays improved to 4-3 on the season.

Waseca set the tone early by dominating singles play, winning all four matches in straight sets. At No. 1 singles, Henry Huttemier delivered one of his most complete performances of the season, overpowering Maddox Shones 6-0, 6-1. Huttemier controlled points from the baseline and dictated tempo throughout the match.

At No. 2 singles, Armaan Bhatti turned in another strong showing, defeating Cade Oliver 6-3, 6-0. Bhatti's consistency and ability to limit unforced errors proved to be the difference as he pulled away in the second set. Keenan Collins followed suit at No. 3 singles with an identical 6-3, 6-0 victory over Andrew Berger, using steady groundstrokes and strong court awareness to stay in control.

Korbin Collins rounded out the singles sweep at the No. 4 position, earning a 6-3, 6-4 win over Ivan Chen. Collins faced his toughest test of the day but responded well in key moments, closing out the match with composed play down the stretch.

In doubles, the Bluejays secured a pivotal win at the No. 1 spot. Allen Kopetzki and Nolan McQuery showcased resilience and teamwork in a dramatic 6-4, 7-5 victory over Elliott Lukes and Patrick Kennedy. After taking the first set, the Waseca duo found themselves trailing 5-1 in the second set before mounting an impressive comeback, winning six of the final seven games.

Lake City picked up wins at No. 2 and No. 3 doubles, as Izayah Johnson and Michael Eklund defeated Brighton Rugger and Carson True, while Corbin Field and Everett Dinsmore topped Nick Nelson and Jacob Harguth.

Overall, the Bluejays' dominance in singles play proved to be the difference, giving them the edge in the team score despite Lake City's



STREAK SNAPPED — The WHS boys' tennis team had a brief winning streak snapped by No. 9 ranked Wionona Cotter last week. Above left, the Bluejays' Allan Kopetzki serves. Above right, Keenan Collins hits a two-handed backhand.

Photos by Jim Lutgens



efforts in doubles.

The junior varsity squad battled to a 3-3 tie.

The next day, the Bluejays traveled to St. Peter and won 5-2 over a Saints team that came in 7-4.

After Huttemier, Bhatti and Keenan Collins won at the top singles spots and Nelson and Jesse Wobschall prevailed at No. 3 doubles, the Bluejays had a 3-1 lead but

had to wait as the remaining matches all went to three sets.

Korbin Collins won 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 at No. 4 singles.

True and Rugger battled to a 6-1, 4-5, 7-5 decision at No. 2 doubles. Kopetzki and McQuery fell 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.

The JV won 5-2.

The Bluejays faced No. 9 ranked Winona Cotter on Thursday and lost

5-2 at West Hills Indoor Tennis Center in Owatonna.

At singles: 1. Logan Granseth def. Huttemier 6-1, 6-1; 2. Everett Engler def. Bhatti 6-0, 6-0; 3. Keenan Collins def. Carter Kneusel 6-2, 6-4; 4. Korbin Collins def. Oliver Engler 3-6, 6-3, 10-8.

Doubles: 1. Hamilton Brewer/Zeke Jaworski def. Kopetzki/McQuery 6-1, 6-1; 2.

Michael Row/Hunter Schroeder def. Rugger/Nelson 6-0, 6-0; 3. Damon Miller/Guiherme Favarete def. Joe Cahoun/Dawson Goodlander 7-5, 6-0.

The JV lost 4-1. Jesse Wobschall was the lone JV winner for Waseca.

The Bluejays ran their record to 5-4 overall and 2-0 in the Big South East.

Baseball Bulldogs win three straight

It was three up and three down last week for the JWP High School baseball team.

Starting with a 1-0 victory in a pitcher's duel at NRHEG Monday, the Bulldogs completed a 3-0 week with nonconference wins over International Falls and Mayer Lutheran.

On Saturday, the Bulldogs bested Mayer Lutheran 13-3 at Janesville, ending the game early with a six-run sixth inning.

Caleb Quast and Blayne Wandrie had two hits each for JWP, with one apiece added by Parker Gearity, Chase Gerdts, Seth Dahlberg, Ayden Peterson, Yale Johnson, Jaxon Wolff and Blake Bure.

Peterson and Wandrie doubled.



IN THERE – Gavin Bauer of the JWP baseball team slides safely in to second with a stolen base during the Bulldogs' 1-0 victory at NRHEG last week.

Photo by Jodi Wayne

Gerdts and Wandrie both drove in two runs.

Dahlberg went the distance on the mound, allowing on earned run on four hits, with one strikeout and two walks.

The Bulldogs defeated International Falls 10-3 at Janesville Friday in what has become an annu-

al contest with their Northern Minnesota counterparts.

Quast and Gavin Bauer were both 2-for-4. Dahlberg, Gerdts, Wolff and Wandrie had one hit each. Bauer scored three times and drove in three runs. Dahlberg and Gerdts doubled.

Zander Terbeest pitched the first 4

1/3 innings for the win, with Bauer throwing in relief.

Gerdts shined on the mound at NRHEG, allowing only four hits through seven innings. He struck out eight and walked four.

The Bulldogs also had four hits, one each by Quast, Gerdts, Johnson and Wolff.

Bulldog track teams face tough foes at mega-meet

Atherton, Condon pace JWP/WEM track teams at Lakeville North

Say this about the JWP/WEM track and field teams: they're sure not afraid of competition.

The Bulldogs faced foes from throughout Southern Minnesota in Saturday's Mega-Meet at Lakeville North, where the boys finished eighth and the girls seventh among 15 squads.

Gavin Atherton had a big day, winning the 100-meter dash while taking second in the 200.

Gavin Weedman was fifth in the long jump and seven in the triple jump.

Ethan Einertson, Wyatt Jans, Tyson Kronbach and Weedman teamed for sixth in the 4x400 relay. Jans, Mulder, Kronbach and Weedman were eighth in the 4x800. Also taking eighth were Aiden Gruber, triple jump; and Trey Richards, pole vault.

Belle Plaine won the boys' team title with 169 points. Lakeville North was second with 109. The Bulldogs had 31.

Addison Condon paced the JWP/WEM girls. She won the long jump and triple jump, and led off the second-place 4x200 relay team that included Katelyn Olson, Rachel Mielke and Nevaeh Weimert.

Olson took second in the long jump and joined Mielke, Condon and Weimert for third in the 4x100.

Also: MaKaela Westphal, 4th, 100 and 5th, 200; Magdalen Rauenhorst, 7th, 3200; Weimert, 8th, triple jump

Chaska's girls won with 95 points, followed by Elk River with 72. The Bulldogs totaled 54.

On Tuesday, a dominant showing saw the boys' team capture first in the Blooming Prairie Invitational, finishing well ahead of the competition, while the girls' team secured a strong second. Athletes across the board delivered impressive performances, recording numerous top finishes and personal bests.

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year in both events, down to the hundredth of a second.

Schruin and his staff also pointed to a promising trend of athletes stepping into new events, with several posting marks that set the stage for future breakthroughs.

"The team's potential continues to expand with each meet," said Schruin. "Under ideal weather conditions, the meet served as both a competitive success and a strong reflection of the Bulldogs' growing momentum."

Placewinners for the boys: Atherton, 1st, 400 and 2nd, 100 and 200; Jans, 1st, 1600; Grady Grohman, 1st, shot put and discus; Weedman, 1st, long jump and triple jump and 2nd, 800; Gruber, 2nd, 300 hurdles and 4th, high jump; 4x400, 2nd (Einertson, Kronbach, Weedman, Jans); Daulton Bauer, 2nd, long jump and 3rd, 100, 200 and triple jump; 4x200, 3rd (James Morgan, David Mielke, Leighlan Harris, Richards); Richards, 3rd, pole vault; Einertson, 4th, 100 and 800; Kronbach, 4th, 3200; Brennan Welvaert, 4th, 3200; 4x800, 4th (Parker Smith, Charlie Denis, Cash Wenker, Charles Adams); Cole Bartz, 5th, 200; Dawson Slechta, 5th, 300 hurdles.

For the girls: Weimert, 1st, 100 and 200; Mielke, 1st, 300 hurdles; 4x400, 1st (Westphal, Mielke, Jacelynn Mulder, Nevaeh Weimert); Condon, 1st, long jump and triple jump and 2nd, 200; 4x100, 2nd (Kyla Schlingman, Alese Wolf, Olson, Westphal); Mielke, 3rd, long jump; Sarah Bulman, 3rd, pole vault; Weimert, 3rd, triple jump); Kwynn Krause, 4th, 800; 4x800, 4th (Rauenhorst, Alenka Jans, Welvaert, Krause); Wolf, 4th, long jump; Welvaert, 5th, 3200; Mulder, 5th, 300 hurdles.

WHS golf girls seventh, boys fourth in recent rounds

The Waseca High School golf teams were both in action Monday, April 20.

The girls played at New Ulm Country Club, where they finished seventh among seven squads with 237 strokes for nine holes. Marshall

won with 199.

Leading the Bluejays were junior Elli Hoban and sophomore Maddie Root, both shooting 58.

"We did however take a lot of positives away individually from our travel to New Ulm for golf,"

said WHS head coach Bill Dwinells.

The WHS boys were home to host a seven-team Big South event. They finished in fourth with 180 strokes. St. Peter won with 151.

Juniors Karter Selvik and Avery Selvik led the Bluejays at 42 and 43.

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

■ Softball

from Page 8

at Worthington," said Coach Sommers. "Our bats came alive and we limited our errors on defense. We played hard despite the brutal weather conditions and pulled out two wins! This was a great day of

softball for our Lady Jays."

The Bluejays were blanked 10-0 at St. Peter April 16.

Grant had two hits, Chloe Roemhildt one as the Bluejays struck out eight times and did not draw a walk. They had three errors defensively.

Rugger was the losing pitcher.

The Bluejays hosted Tri-City United April 14 and lost 14-6 after surrendering seven first-inning runs.

"After that we settled down and did some positive things, and battled until the very end," said Coach Sommers. "I was proud of the girls and how they reacted after that tough start to the game. But it was tough to overcome that strong first inning by TCU and we had too many errors on defense."

Hannah Sommers had three hits, including a double, and Rugger doubled twice. Ellery Waldron tripled

and Roemhildt doubled. Adding singles were Barto, Mader, Teague and Roessler.

The Bluejays, who fanned nine times and walked twice, had six field errors.

Rugger started in the circle but did not get through the first inning. Barto pitched the next six innings in relief.

■ Track

from Page 8

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.

With the exception of Mansfield, who competed in the Hamline Elite Meet, the Bluejays were in Elgin Friday for the Plainview-Elgin-Millville Winged Foot Invitational.

Mansfield represented Waseca well, breaking his own school record while placing second in the pole vault at 14-10.

The Waseca boys took second at Elgin with 142 points, second to

PEM's 157. Seven schools participated.

Grannis was a double winner, taking the 300 hurdles in 41.01 and the high jump at 6-2.5. Jeske tossed the discus 144 feet for first, adding a fourth in the shot put.

Worke, Rohl, Johnston and Noble won the 4x200 in 1:34.13 and Worke, Rohl, Kath and Johnston finished first in the 4x100 in 44.4. Ryan Yoder, Mei, Rutt and Feldkamp clocked 9:42.33 for second in the 4x800.

NRHEG nine rebounds from 1-0 loss to JWP

Panthers top International Falls, Mayer Lutheran

The NRHEG High School baseball team won big over International Falls 12-2 at Reese Field in New Richland on Saturday.

International Falls opened the scoring in the first inning after Dakota Schlaak induced Jens Bilben to hit into a fielder's choice.

An International Falls error helped NRHEG tie it in the bottom of the first.

A single by Dakota Schlaak gave the Panthers the 2-1 lead in the bottom of the second.

A double by Ryan Schlaak and a single by Wyatt Larson helped NRHEG extend the lead in the third.

Schlaak earned the win for NRHEG. The pitcher surrendered two hits and two runs (zero earned) over six innings, striking out three and walking six. Emmitt Olson took the loss for International Falls. The starter went five innings, allowing nine runs (eight earned) on 10 hits, striking out three and walking five.

The Panthers amassed 13 hits. Dakota Schlaak set the tone at the top of the lineup, going 3-for-4. Sean Lassahn, Larson, and Brock Holland each collected multiple hits for NRHEG. Brooks Gilliland coaxed two walks. Overall, the team had patience at the plate, tallying six walks for the game. Mack Gilliland stole two bases. NRHEG turned one double play.

"Dakota pitched a good game," said Panthers coach Marcus Fischer. "He threw strikes, and worked the batters into swinging for contact. The defense did a nice job behind him to make the plays. Our bats were strong this game. All but one of the nine batters got at least one hit."

The Panthers topped Mayer Lutheran 7-3 Friday at Reese Field.

NRHEG got on the board in the third inning after Mack Gilliland tripled, scoring two runs.

Brooks Gilliland singled down the right field line on the sixth pitch of the at-bat, which helped the Panthers tie the game at three in the bottom of the fourth.

NRHEG took the lead, 6-3 in the bottom of the fifth thanks to singles by Lassahn and Ryan Schlaak.

"We continued to focus on winning one inning at a time."
— NRHEG coach Marcus Fischer

Brooks Gilliland earned the win, allowing one hit and three runs (zero earned) over five innings, striking out six and walking four. Owen Wayne pitched two innings of zero-run ball for NRHEG.

Schlaak and Brooks Gilliland each drove in two runs. Lassahn led NRHEG with two hits in three at-bats.

"The boys played a pretty good game," said Fischer. "They got the bats going a little bit when they needed to, and continued to get on base and move base runners around. Brooks pitched a good game. Mayer Lutheran's outfielders made some nice plays in the beginning of the game to keep us from doing much damage. We continued to focus on winning one inning at a time."

Last Monday, the Panthers fell 1-0 to JWP in pitcher's duel at Reese Field.

Both teams were strong on the mound, but JWP was just a little bit stronger at the plate.

Mack Gilliland started the game for NRHEG and allowed no earned runs on three hits in seven innings, with 12 strikeouts and one walk.

The Panthers lost despite out-hitting JWP. Calvin Nissen, Sean Lassahn, Ryan Schlaak, and Mack Gilliland each collected one hit.

JWP scored the game's only run on a third-inning passed ball.

Chase Gerdts was the winning pitcher. He struck out eight and walked four.

Gerdts, Jaxon Wolff, and Caleb Quast each collected one hit for JWP.

After a Tuesday game at Blooming Prairie, the Panthers are in action today at Medford.



TOUGH LOSS – Mack Gilliland of the NRHEG baseball team rears back and fires a pitch against JWP at Reese Field last week. Gilliland and the Panthers lost 1-0 despite a complete-game three-hitter by Gilliland, who struck out 12 and walked one.
Photo by Jodi Wayne

Softball Panthers pound out the runs

NRHEG rebounds from loss to JWP

Officially, it was a game as the NRHEG softball team faced Martin Luther/Granada-Huntley/East Chain/Truman last Tuesday.

In reality, it was more like batting practice for the NRHEG girls.

The Panthers pounded out 21 hits and scored 16 earned runs while waltzing to a 19-5, four-inning triumph at Truman.

"The girls were very aggressive at the plate," said Panthers head coach Wendy Schultz.

Four players totaled three hits apiece and four others had multi-hit games as NRHEG improved its season record to 5-4.

The Panthers were led by Quinn VanMaldeghem, a senior playing her first season of high school softball, who went 3-for-3 with a home run, four RBIs and four runs scored.

Senior Chloe Stork was also 3-for-3, driving in four runs, scoring twice and stealing two bases.

Brooklyn Sommer and Addy Stadheim were both 3-for-4. Sommer scored twice and drove in two runs. Stadheim scored two times and had three RBIs.

Olivia Berg was 2-for-3 with four runs and three stolen bases. Izley Boerner, Faith Phillips and Emelia Stadheim were all 2-for-4. Kyera Eustice added one hit.

Boerner pitched, allowing two earned runs on five hits. She struck out four and walked three.

"The girls had 21 solid hits," said Schultz. "Quinn used her speed to get an inside-the-park home run. We were aggressive on the base paths, stealing seven bases. We played almost error-free defense. The battery of Izley and Addy were consistent, as usual."

On Monday, the Panthers played at Janesville and lost 6-4 in a Gopher Conference game.

"Hits were hard to come by," said Schultz, whose team hit safely only four times.

Emelia Stadheim doubled. Sommer, VanMaldeghem and Boerner had one hit apiece. Boerner drove in two runs. VanMaldeghem scored twice.

Boerner took the pitching loss, giving up three earned runs on seven hits, with three strikeouts and a walk.

"We had some miscues on defense that ended up in runs scored for JWP," said Schultz. "The girls continued to battle throughout the whole game. We'll continue working hard and plugging away."

The Panthers fell to 4-2 in conference play.



BETWEEN THIRD BASE AND THE PLATE – NRHEG catcher Addy Stadheim chases JWP's Raylen Blasing as Panthers first base player Chloe Stork backs up the play last week at Janesville, where the Panthers fell 6-4. They bounced back the next day for a 19-5 win at Truman.
Photo by Jim Lutgens



Lavon Jewison

Panthers perform well at Blooming Prairie

Jewison clears 6-4 for first place in high jump as NRHEG boys finish fifth

The weather conditions were ideal for a track and field meet, and the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Panthers took advantage of it.

Several personal-best marks were achieved by both the girls and boys at the seven-team Blooming Prairie Invitational last Tuesday, where the NRHEG girls finished fourth and the boys fifth.

St. Clair/Immanuel Lutheran won the girls' title with 144 points, followed by JWM/WEM with 133, Mankato Loyola/Cleveland 112, NRHEG 89, Blooming Prairie 81.5, USC/AC 24 and Medford 22.5.

The Panther girls claimed two firsts, by Julieann Wobbrock, who won the 3200-meter run with a season-best time of 12:27, and Gabby Schlaak, who clocked 17.1 seconds to win the 100 hurdles.

"There were some very good performances against some of the area's top track and field teams."
— NRHEG coach Larry Nydegger

Scarlett Chance took second in the shot put at 30-3.5 and second in the discus at 80-4.5, both personal-best marks.

Chloe Riewer was second in the 100 in 13.3, a season best.

"The weather made for good performances against some very strong competition," said Panthers co-head coach Larry Nydegger. "We had many personal-best performances."

JWP/WEM dominated the boys' meet with 180 points. Following: St. Clair/Immanuel Lutheran 112, USC/AC 105.5, Mankato Loyola/Cleveland 84, NRHEG 68.5, Medford 37 and Blooming Prairie 15.

The NRHEG boys had several highlights, led by Lavon Jewison, who won the high jump at 6-4.

Wyatt Tuttle, Gavin Lewison, Quen Meyering and Hudson Chrz won the 4x200

relay in 1:41.16.

Nathan Hager, Jewison, Brendan Schmidt and Meyering teamed for second in the 4x100 in 48.59 seconds.

Lewison sailed a personal-best 19 feet for third in the long jump, while Chrz ran a personal-record 18.7 for third in the 110 hurdles. Jacob Karl was third in the 800 in 2:14 and third in the 1600 with a time of 5:04.37.

"There were some very good performances against some of the area's top track and field teams," said Nydegger. "It was nice to see Gavin finally get to that 19-foot mark in the long jump. Lavon continues to have good performances in the high jump."

The Panthers have two meets this week, at JWP Tuesday and their own Panther Invitational today.

No. 9 Cotter halts win streak for WHS netmen

Bluejays run season record to 5-4

The Waseca Bluejays boys' tennis team continued its strong play last Monday, earning a 5-2 victory over the Lake City Tigers on the road. Behind a sweep in singles and a resilient performance in doubles, the Bluejays improved to 4-3 on the season.

Waseca set the tone early by dominating singles play, winning all four matches in straight sets. At No. 1 singles, Henry Huttemier delivered one of his most complete performances of the season, overpowering Maddox Shones 6-0, 6-1. Huttemier controlled points from the baseline and dictated tempo throughout the match.

At No. 2 singles, Armaan Bhatti turned in another strong showing, defeating Cade Oliver 6-3, 6-0. Bhatti's consistency and ability to limit unforced errors proved to be the difference as he pulled away in the second set. Keenan Collins followed suit at No. 3 singles with an identical 6-3, 6-0 victory over Andrew Berger, using steady groundstrokes and strong court awareness to stay in control.

Korbin Collins rounded out the singles sweep at the No. 4 position, earning a 6-3, 6-4 win over Ivan Chen. Collins faced his toughest test of the day but responded well in key moments, closing out the match with composed play down the stretch.

In doubles, the Bluejays secured a pivotal win at the No. 1 spot. Allen Kopetzki and Nolan McQuery showcased resilience and teamwork in a dramatic 6-4, 7-5 victory over Elliott Lukes and Patrick Kennedy. After taking the first set, the Waseca duo found themselves trailing 5-1 in the second set before mounting an impressive comeback, winning six of the final seven games.

Lake City picked up wins at No. 2 and No. 3 doubles, as Izayah Johnson and Michael Eklund defeated Brighton Rugger and Carson True, while Corbin Field and Everett Dinsmore topped Nick Nelson and Jacob Harguth.

Overall, the Bluejays' dominance in singles play proved to be the difference, giving them the edge in the team score despite Lake City's



STREAK SNAPPED — The WHS boys' tennis team had a brief winning streak snapped by No. 9 ranked Wionona Cotter last week. Above left, the Bluejays' Allan Kopetzki serves. Above right, Keenan Collins hits a two-handed backhand.



Photos by Jim Lutgens

efforts in doubles.

The junior varsity squad battled to a 3-3 tie.

The next day, the Bluejays traveled to St. Peter and won 5-2 over a Saints team that came in 7-4.

After Huttemier, Bhatti and Keenan Collins won at the top singles spots and Nelson and Jesse Wobschall prevailed at No. 3 doubles, the Bluejays had a 3-1 lead but

had to wait as the remaining matches all went to three sets.

Korbin Collins won 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 at No. 4 singles.

True and Rugger battled to a 6-1, 4-5, 7-5 decision at No. 2 doubles.

Kopetzki and McQuery fell 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.

The JV won 5-2.

The Bluejays faced No. 9 ranked Winona Cotter on Thursday and lost

5-2 at West Hills Indoor Tennis Center in Owatonna.

At singles: 1. Logan Granseth def. Huttemier 6-1, 6-1; 2. Everett Engler def. Bhatti 6-0, 6-0; 3. Keenan Collins def. Carter Kneusel 6-2, 6-4; 4. Korbin Collins def. Oliver Engler 3-6, 6-3, 10-8.

Doubles: 1. Hamilton Brewer/Zeke Jaworski def. Kopetzki/McQuery 6-1, 6-1; 2.

Michael Row/Hunter Schroeder def. Rugger/Nelson 6-0, 6-0; 3. Damon Miller/Guiherme Favarete def. Joe Cahoun/Dawson Goodlander 7-5, 6-0.

The JV lost 4-1. Jesse Wobschall was the lone JV winner for Waseca.

The Bluejays ran their record to 5-4 overall and 2-0 in the Big South East.

Baseball Bulldogs win three straight

It was three up and three down last week for the JWP High School baseball team.

Starting with a 1-0 victory in a pitcher's duel at NRHEG Monday, the Bulldogs completed a 3-0 week with nonconference wins over International Falls and Mayer Lutheran.

On Saturday, the Bulldogs bested Mayer Lutheran 13-3 at Janesville, ending the game early with a six-run sixth inning.

Caleb Quast and Blayne Wandrie had two hits each for JWP, with one apiece added by Parker Gearity, Chase Gerdts, Seth Dahlberg, Ayden Peterson, Yale Johnson, Jaxon Wolff and Blake Bure.

Peterson and Wandrie doubled.



IN THERE – Gavin Bauer of the JWP baseball team slides safely in to second with a stolen base during the Bulldogs' 1-0 victory at NRHEG last week.

Photo by Jodi Wayne

Gerdts and Wandrie both drove in two runs.

Dahlberg went the distance on the mound, allowing on earned run on four hits, with one strikeout and two walks.

The Bulldogs defeated International Falls 10-3 at Janesville Friday in what has become an annu-

al contest with their Northern Minnesota counterparts.

Quast and Gavin Bauer were both 2-for-4. Dahlberg, Gerdts, Wolff and Wandrie had one hit each. Bauer scored three times and drove in three runs. Dahlberg and Gerdts doubled.

Zander Terbeest pitched the first 4

1/3 innings for the win, with Bauer throwing in relief.

Gerdts shined on the mound at NRHEG, allowing only four hits through seven innings. He struck out eight and walked four.

The Bulldogs also had four hits, one each by Quast, Gerdts, Johnson and Wolff.

Bulldog track teams face tough foes at mega-meet

Atherton, Condon pace JWP/WEM track teams at Lakeville North

Say this about the JWP/WEM track and field teams: they're sure not afraid of competition.

The Bulldogs faced foes from throughout Southern Minnesota in Saturday's Mega-Meet at Lakeville North, where the boys finished eighth and the girls seventh among 15 squads.

Gavin Atherton had a big day, winning the 100-meter dash while taking second in the 200.

Gavin Weedman was fifth in the long jump and seven in the triple jump.

Ethan Einertson, Wyatt Jans, Tyson Kronbach and Weedman teamed for sixth in the 4x400 relay. Jans, Mulder, Kronbach and Weedman were eighth in the 4x800. Also taking eighth were Aiden Gruber, triple jump; and Trey Richards, pole vault.

Belle Plaine won the boys' team title with 169 points. Lakeville North was second with 109. The Bulldogs had 31.

Addison Condon paced the JWP/WEM girls. She won the long jump and triple jump, and led off the second-place 4x200 relay team that included Katelyn Olson, Rachel Mielke and Nevaeh Weimert.

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"We showed clear signs of continued growth," said Bulldogs coach Sam Schruin.

One of the day's most remarkable highlights came from Weimert, who claimed first in the 100 and 200. In a rare display of precision, she matched her exact personal record times from last

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— Coach Sam Schruin

year in both events, down to the hundredth of a second.

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Ellie Kopischke, and VanDenHemel, which captured first place in 10:36.39.

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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.

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Worke, Rohl, Johnston and Noble won the 4x200 in 1:34.13 and Worke, Rohl, Kath and Johnston finished first in the 4x100 in 44.4. Ryan Yoder, Mei, Rutt and Feldkamp clocked 9:42.33 for second in the 4x800.



CERTIFICATION

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
) SS
COUNTY OF WASECA)

I, Julia Hall, City Clerk of the City of Waseca, Minnesota, do hereby certify that the attached Resolution No. 26-22 is a true and correct copy, taken from the original thereof, passed and adopted by the Waseca City Council on April 21, 2026.

Julia Zuehlke
JULIA ZUEHLKE, CITY CLERK
CITY OF WASECA, MINNESOTA



CERTIFICATION OF MINUTES RELATING TO EQUIPMENT PORTION OF
GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2026A

Issuer: City of Waseca, Minnesota

Governing Body: City Council

Kind, date, time and place of meeting: A regular meeting held on April 21st, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., at Waseca City Hall, 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

Members present: Councilmembers Mark Christiansen, Jeremy Conrath, Darin Arndt, Stacey Schroeder, Gary Conrath and Mayor Randy Zimmerman
Members absent: Councilmember James Ebertowski

Documents Attached: Minutes of said meeting (pages):

RESOLUTION NO. 26-22

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE AND SALE OF
EQUIPMENT PORTION OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS,
SERIES 2026A

I, the undersigned, being the duly qualified and acting recording officer of the public corporation issuing the bonds referred to in the title of this certificate, certify that the documents attached hereto, as described above, have been carefully compared with the original records of said corporation in my legal custody, from which they have been transcribed; that said documents are a correct and complete transcript of the minutes of a meeting of the governing body of said corporation, and correct and complete copies of all resolutions and other actions taken and of all documents approved by the governing body at said meeting, so far as they relate to said bonds; and that said meeting was duly held by the governing body at the time and place and was attended throughout by the members indicated above, pursuant to call and notice of such meeting given as required by law.

WITNESS my hand officially as such recording officer on April 21, 2026.

Julia Zuehlke
City Manager

Councilmember G. Conrath introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, which motion was seconded by Councilmember S. Conrath:

RESOLUTION NO. 26-22

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE AND SALE OF EQUIPMENT PORTION
OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2026A

A. WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes, Sections 410.32 and 412.301, authorize cities to issue certificates of indebtedness or capital notes ("Equipment Obligations") within existing debt limits for the purpose of purchasing capital equipment; and

B. WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes, Section 412.301 subsection (e) provides that if the amount of the Equipment Obligations to be issued to finance such equipment exceeds 0.25% of the market value of taxable property in the city, the Equipment Obligations shall not be issued for at least ten days after publication in the official newspaper of a council resolution determining to issue them; and if before the end of that time, a petition asking for an election on the proposition signed by voters equal to ten percent of the number of voters at the last regular municipal election is filed with the city clerk (manager), the Equipment Obligations shall not be issued until the proposition of their issuance has been approved by a majority of the votes cast on the question at a regular or special election; and

C. WHEREAS, this Council (the "Council") of the City of Waseca, Minnesota (the "City") proposes to issue certain Equipment Obligations to purchase a fire truck (the "Equipment") in an amount which exceeds 0.25% of the market value of taxable property in the City; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City, as follows:

1. Purpose. That it is necessary and expedient for the City Council to issue Equipment Obligations, in the approximate principal amount of \$2,235,000, to finance the purchase of the Equipment for the City. Such Equipment Obligations shall make up a portion of the City's General Obligation Bonds, Series 2026A (the "Bonds"), which Bonds have been authorized to be issued by this Council on the date hereof.

2. Amount. The amount of the Equipment Obligations is hereby determined and declared to be in excess of 0.25% of the market value of taxable property in the City, as shown in the calculations below:

Estimated Market Value (2025/2026)	\$774,733,300.00
0.25%	\$1,936,833.25
Issuance Amount	\$2,235,000.00

3. Publication. The City Manager is authorized and directed to publish this resolution in the official newspaper of the City.

4. Time. At least ten days shall elapse after publication in the official newspaper of the City of this resolution before the Equipment Obligations may be issued.

5. Reimbursement. The City proposes to undertake the acquisition of the Equipment and to make original expenditures with respect thereto prior to the issuance of reimbursement bonds, and reasonably expects to issue reimbursement bonds, in one or more series, for the Equipment in the approximate amount of \$2,235,000 to reimburse all or a portion of the expenditures made for eligible costs of the Equipment.

4911-6251-79191

Other than (i) de minimis amounts permitted to be reimbursed pursuant to Section 1.150-2(f)(1) of the Regulations or (ii) expenditures constituting preliminary expenditures as defined in Section 1.150-2(f)(2) of the Internal Revenue Service has issued Section 1.150-2 of the Income Tax Regulations (the "Regulations"), the City will not seek reimbursement for any original expenditures with respect to the foregoing Equipment paid more than 60 days prior to the date of adoption of this resolution. All original expenditures for which reimbursement is sought will be capital expenditures or costs of issuance of the reimbursement bonds.

Upon vote being taken thereon, the following members voted in favor thereof:

Council Members Christiansen, J. Conrath, Schroeder, G. Conrath, Arndt and Mayor Zimmerman

and the following members voted against the same:

None

whereupon the resolution was declared duly passed and adopted

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NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the Waseca City Council held a public hearing on Tuesday, April 21st, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093 and adopted the following Ordinances:

ORDINANCE NO. 1142 – Vacating Easements in Fox Meadows 2nd Addition

Complete copies of Ordinance 1142 is available for public inspection in the office of the City Clerk at 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on April 30th, 2026

Julia Zuehlke
City Clerk



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	2
3	4	5 Burger Night 5-7 pm	6 6pm Bar Bingo	7 7pm BINGO	8 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	9
10 Breakfast VFW 8:00am to noon Your Host VFW Baseball Team	11 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting	12 Burger Night 5-7 pm	13 6pm Bar Bingo	14 7pm BINGO	15 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	16
24	25	26 Burger Night 5-7 pm	27 6pm Bar Bingo	28 7pm BINGO	29 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	30
31						

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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

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

LEGAL NOTICES

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 Mortgage 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

STATE OF MINNESOTA
IN DISTRICT COURT
COUNTY OF WASECA
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Civil Division
Case Type: Quiet Title
Court File No. 81-CV-26-291
County of Waseca, a Municipal Corporation,
Plaintiff,
vs.
The Unknown Heirs of Howard W. Chard; the Unknown Heirs of Alice J. Chard; the Unknown Heirs of Philo C. Bailey; the Unknown Heirs of Lurinda C. Bailey; the Unknown Heirs of William Hoover; Connors Ready Inc., a Corporation under the laws of the State of Minnesota; Jane R. Dunn; Linda S. Grant; Millennium Telcomm, LLC, a Limited Liability Company under the laws of the State of Minnesota; SBA Towers II, LLC, a Limited Liability Company under the laws of the State of Delaware; SBA Towers V, LLC, a Limited Liability Company under the laws of the State of Florida; Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, a trust company chartered by the State of New York; and all others claiming any estate, title, or interest in the property described in the Complaint, Defendants.

SUMMONS
THIS SUMMONS IS DIRECTED TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

1. **YOU ARE BEING SUED.** The Plaintiff has started a lawsuit against you. The Plaintiff's Complaint against you is on file in the Office of the Court Administrator of the above-named Court. Do not throw these papers away. They are official papers that affect your rights. You must respond to this lawsuit even though it may not yet be filed with the Court and there may be no court file number on this Summons.

2. **YOU MUST REPLY WITHIN 20 DAYS TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS.** You must give or mail to the person who signed this Summons a **written response** called an Answer within 20 days of the date on which you received this Summons. You must send a copy of your Answer to the person who signed this Summons located at 215 East Elm Avenue, PO Box 249, Waseca, MN 56093-0249.

3. **YOU MUST RESPOND TO EACH CLAIM.** The Answer is your written response to the Plaintiff's Complaint. In your Answer, you must state whether you agree or disagree with each paragraph of the Complaint. If you believe the Plaintiff should not be given everything asked for in the Complaint, you must say so in your Answer.

4. **YOU WILL LOSE YOUR CASE IS YOU DO NOT SEND A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE COMPLAINT TO THE PERSON WHO SIGNED THIS SUMMONS.** If you do not Answer within 20 days, you will lose this case. You

will not get to tell your side of the story, and the Court may decide against you and award the Plaintiff everything asked for in the Complaint. If you do not want to contest the claims stated in the Complaint, you do not need to respond. A default judgment can then be entered against you for the relief requested in the Complaint.

5. **LEGAL ASSISTANCE.** You may wish to get legal help from a lawyer. If you do not have a lawyer, The Court Administrator may have information about places where you can get legal assistance. **Even if you cannot get legal help, you must still provide a written Answer to protect your rights or you may lose the case.**

6. **ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION.** The parties may agree to or be ordered to participate in an Alternative Dispute Resolution process under Rule 114 of the Minnesota General Rules of Practice. You must still send your written response to the Complaint even is you expect to use alternative means of resolving the dispute.

7. **THIS LAWSUIT MAY AFFECT OPR BRING INTO QUESTION TITLE TO REAL PROPERTY** located in Waseca County, Minnesota, legally described as follows:
See Exhibit A attached hereto and made a part hereof.
The object of this action is to obtain a judgment that Plaintiff is the owner, in fee simple, of the above-

described real property, and that none of said Defendants have any estate or interest therein or lien thereon. Dated this 22nd day of April, 2026.
PATTON, HOVERSTEN & BERG, P.A.
By: Keith L. Deike (#148635)
215 E. Elm Ave., PO Box 249
Waseca, MN 56093-0249
(507) 835-5240
keith.deike@phblawoffice.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff
EXHIBIT A
County of Waseca vs. The Unknown Heirs of Howard W. Chard et al.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION
Auditors Addition to Block 1, Bennett's Addition and Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 12 & 13, Subdivision of Block 1, Bennett's Addition and Lots 1, 2 & 3, Subdivision of Block 1, Trowbridge Addition, Waseca County, Minnesota.

COUNTY OF WASECA
All of Auditors Addition to Block 1, Bennett's Addition and Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 12 & 13, Subdivision of Block 1, Bennett's Addition and Lots 1, 2, & 3, Subdivision of Block 1, Trowbridge Addition, as said plats are drawn and recorded in the office of the County Recorder of Waseca County, Minnesota; described as follows:
Commencing at the northeast corner of the NE ¼ of Section 18-T107N-R22W which is marked by a 5/8" rebar cap and stamped SJT 22705 having grid coordinate of North

190421.16 feet, East 344892.80 feet, Minnesota Department of Transportation County Coordinate System North American Datum of 1983, 1996 adjustment; thence North 89°57'00" West on a grid bearing, a distance of 134.00 feet on the north line of said NE ¼, to the northeast corner of said Auditors Addition to Block 1, Bennett's Addition which is the point of beginning; thence North 89°59'41" West a distance of 169.38 feet on the north line of said Auditors Addition to Block 1, Bennett's Addition, to the southeast corner of said Lot 13; thence North 00°09'03" West a distance of 115.00 feet on the east line of said Lot 13, to the south right-of-way line of 4th Avenue NW; thence North 84°56'46" West a distance of 171.56 feet on said right-of-way line, to the west line of said Lot 12; thence South 00°14'44" West a distance of 130.07 feet on the west line of said Lot 12, to the northwest corner of said Subdivision of Block 1 of Trowbridges Addition; thence South 00°28'23" West a distance of 290.32 feet on the west line of said Trowbridges Addition, to the southwest corner thereof; thence South 86°41'41" East a distance of 327.83 feet on the south line of said Trowbridges Addition and said Auditors Addition to Block 1, Bennett's Addition, to the southeast corner thereof; thence North 03°00'28" East a distance of 309.61 feet on the east line of said Auditors Addition to Block 1, Bennett's Addition, to the

point of beginning.

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on April 30, May 7 and 14, 2026

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Sacred Heart Marathon



The Sacred Heart School Marathon fundraiser took place on a windy Wednesday, April 22, 2026. First place was Cole Christensen.



Second place for the Sacred Heart School Marathon fundraiser was Auggie Malecha, pictured in green, on Wednesday, April 22, 2026.



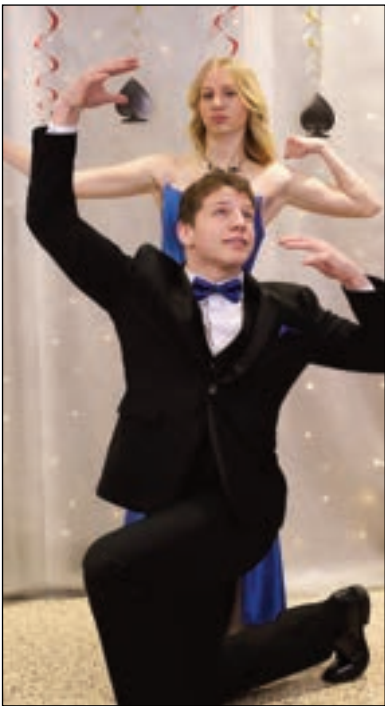
Third place for the Sacred Heart School Marathon fundraiser was Owen Rohe on Wednesday, April 22, 2026.



Waseca Sacred Heart held a marathon fundraiser on Wednesday, April 22, 2026. They had over 200 participants and raised \$42,500. Dinner was provided by Fischer Family Farms, hot dogs/brats and Morgan's provided the burgers; 212 Waseca provided drinks. There were also cookies, bars and chips.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Waseca High School Prom 2026



Waseca High School held their prom on Saturday, April 25. The grand march was held in the gym at 6 p.m. and the theme was Las Vegas. Photos by Jadyn White

Leaders join Waseca Exchange Club in Blue Ribbon Campaign for child abuse prevention

WASECA, MN — The Waseca Exchange Club is proud to share that both Amy Klobuchar and Tom Sexton recently showed their support for the Blue Ribbon Campaign, a national initiative led by the National Exchange Club to raise awareness for the prevention of child abuse.

Though attending separate events in Waseca, both leaders took notice of the Blue Ribbon pin worn by Exchange Club President, Mikhail Rostislavovich. Upon learning about its significance, each expressed immediate interest in joining the effort by wearing a pin in support of the cause.

Representative Sexton emphasized the importance of expanding awareness beyond the local level, affirmed that a statewide proclamation recognizing Child Abuse Prevention Month would be a meaningful step toward ensuring more communities engage in the conversation and the work of prevention.

Senator Klobuchar echoed the importance of the initiative, noting, “This kind of project is near and dear to my heart,” as she proudly donned the Blue Ribbon in solidarity with the campaign.

The Blue Ribbon Campaign

serves as a visible reminder of the community’s responsibility to protect children and support families. Throughout the month of April, the Waseca Exchange Club has led efforts to promote awareness through proclamations, courthouse lighting, and community engagement.

“This is an issue that rises above politics,” said Mikhail Rostislavovich, President of the Waseca Exchange Club. “The safety and well-being of our children should never be a partisan matter. It is encouraging to see leaders from both sides come together to support the Blue Ribbon Campaign and stand united for prevention.”

The Waseca Exchange Club encourages community members to join the effort by wearing blue, displaying blue ribbons, and engaging in conversations that promote awareness and prevention. Proceeds from local Blue Ribbon initiatives support the Exchange Club Center for Family Unity, which provides education and resources to strengthen families and prevent child abuse.

For more information on how to get involved, please contact the Waseca Exchange Club.



NEAR AND DEAR - L to R: Minnesota Representative Tom Sexton, US Senator Amy Klobuchar, Exchange Club President Mikhail Rostislavovich

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