# WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

No. 24 Vol. V $2 | Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca | Thursday, June 11, 2026


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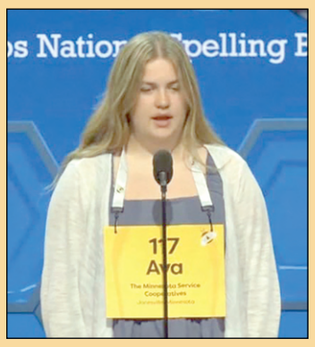

Spelling Bee

### Watercolor Flamingos at Waseca Art Center Thursday, June 11

Local artist Cherie Jacobson will guide through painting a cheeky and elegant Flamingo in vibrant colors from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 11. Supplies will be provided, $35 for members/$40 for non-members. Register here: https://www.wasecaartcenter.org

### Catholic Daughters salad luncheon at Sacred Heart June 11

The Catholic Daughters of Sacred Heart Church are holding a salad luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on June 11. More information is available at 507-461-4726.

### Soil Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board Meeting June 11

The SWCD will hold its next meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 11. All meetings are at the SWCD Offices, 300 North State Street, Door 4. Anyone can attend.

### Poor Cousin John at Club 57 June 11

Poor Cousin John will play at Club 57 from 6-9 p.m. on Thursday, June 11. They play live music with some instrumentals.

### Barnyard Explorers at Farmamerica June 12

There will be a Barnyard Explorers event at Farmamerica from 10 a.m. through 2 p.m. on Friday, June 12. A fun-filled, hands-on event where kids can discover the animals and learn their roles on the farm.

### The Jazz 10 at Indian Island Winery June 13

The Jazz 10 will perform at the Indian Island Winery from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 13. They play classic and modern jazz for dancing.

### The Space Force at Half Pint Brewing Company June 13

The Space Force will play Half Pint Brewing Company from 5-8 p.m. on Saturday, June 13. A buncha dudes playing songs that were overplayed before they were born.

### Taco Fundraiser at Waseca Christian Assembly June 14

There will be a Taco Fundraiser at the Waseca Christian Assembly from noon through 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 14. There will also be a silent auction, sports skills tests and a lemonade stand. Contact Pastor Ash Aboki at 507-833-1082 with questions. Waseca Christian Assembly is located at 900 14th Ave SE Waseca.

### *A word from The Word*

*If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin.*

***2 Chronicles 7:14***

## Waseca Graduation 2026

**GRADUATION - Left, Principal Justin Johnston speaks to the crowd of graduates during graduation on Sunday, June 8, at the Waseca High School. Middle, Rosalyn Sanchez waves to the crowd as she walks out with her diploma. Right, Ella Bulfer accepts her degree from Waseca School Board member Alyssa Bowers.** Pioneer photos by Deb Bently

# Waseca graduates 137 on Sunday

Resilient, determined, athletic, musical and talented are the words Waseca High School's senior class president Paige Dufault chose to describe the past 13 years of the seniors' lives as they sat for graduation on Sunday, June 7.

The motto selected by the 137 members of the Class of 2026 was "Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment, until it becomes a memory." The class flower was a yellow rose. The high school band played, directed by Devon Lawrence, played the processional, "Pomp and Circumstance."

"We are a class of many different ethnicities, teams, ensembles, and clubs," said Dufault. "The unity we've shared within these walls will always hold a special place in our hearts. No matter where life takes you, remember that Waseca will always be a place you can call home."

Class speaker Sadie Schimming encouraged her classmates to think about and thank the people who helped them get to this point in their lives. "Our commitment to each other, whether it's cheering on our sports teams, watching our bands and choirs perform, or congratulating our seniors as they graduate from high school, the community shows up and makes a difference."

Senior choir members joined the Select Choir to perform "Omnia Sol" and "Hlohonolofatsa," under the direction of Mrs. Megan Kreinbring.

Student Council President Layla Keith asked her classmates to consider the essential nature of "community."

"Now that today is actually here, it's clear that 'Waseca' isn't just a place we went to school—it's a place we grew up in. It's our home."

Principal Justin Johnston shared that the students have had a big impact on the school and community, and that it is now their time to widen that influence beyond the school walls.

"On behalf of all of us, thank you for the impact you have had on our school, our staff, and one another. We wish you nothing but success, health, and happiness in whatever path lies ahead.

And never forget: once a Blue Jay, always a Blue Jay."

Johnston gave special acknowledgement to the six students who had a grade point average of 4.0 or higher and the 75 students who graduated with honors.

After it was announced the students had completed all state requirements and were now officially ready to receive their diplomas, Superintendent Dr. Eric Hudspith and school board members took turns delivering the diplomas and shaking students' hands. The class escorts were John Hanson and Jake Nelson.

**Andres Vasquez smiles before the graduation ceremony on Sunday, June 7.**

# Vasquez earns top honors at Waseca

Andres Vasquez, 18, is one of Waseca's students who earned a 4.0 GPA. He is the son of Katie and David Vasquez of Waseca. His family also includes three brothers: Lucas, Tomas and Mateo Vasquez. Vasquez's future plans are to attend the University of St. Thomas to attain a degree in marketing.

During his time in school, Vasquez was involved in student council, Business Professionals of America (BPA), Show Choir, Jazz Choir, Select Choir, Sextets, Swim Team, Drama, Youth Community Impact Fund (YCIF) and the Art Team.

In the community, Vasquez was involved with the Waseca After School Help program, Waseca Mutual Aid, MN Valley Action Council, Christmas Caroling, 8th Grade Courage Retreat Leader and a part of the Sacred Heart Worship Team. Other activities or jobs he did were as a Waseca Colony Court Dietary Aide, Community Ed Lifeguard and Swim Lessons Instructor, Waseca Lakeside Club Lifeguard, Waseca Water Park Lifeguard and Starbucks Barista.

"I am very proud and happy to gain this achievement," says Vasquez.

He says his parents are very proud of him for the hard work he has put in over the past four years, and adds that they have always been there for him to push him to be the best he can be, which he is thankful for.

For tips and suggestions for younger students looking to excel in school, Vasquez says to apply yourself and put in the extra time to ensure your work is good.


**Honors** continued on 4


# Third annual Take a Kid Fishing event draws "capacity" crowd

**By BEN REVERMANN**
Staff writer

Saturday's weather was made to order for the Waseca Lakes Association's Take a Kid Fishing event at the Clear Lake fishing pier on Saturday, June 6. The wind was even nice enough to back off a little long enough to give plenty of prizes away and hopefully allow young anglers to take a few memories home. The event drew more than 130 participants who caught and released many fish, mostly sunnies.

Despite a bit of green algae in the water, young anglers could still see the fish below them. As his mother, Alyssa, held his fish for him to see, young Brantley Swanson couldn't help observing, "I caught it." They were fishing from the Clear Lake Pier. He wasn't shy, just squeamish when it came to taking the fish off the hook. His mother had no problem and within a minute Brantley was back to fishing with a grin on his face.

Maggie Hunt was fishing from the beach; her daughter Lauren caught her fish and posed for a photo. Maggie said, "Her dad was Justin Hunt, a deputy for Rice County that passed away in 2021." They seemed to be enjoying the day, as were many other anglers since the fish were taking hooks


**Fishing** continued on 4

**SUNNIE FUN - Brantley Swanson, with the help of his mother Alyssa, caught a fish during the Take a Kid Fishing event at Clear Lake Park on Saturday, June 6, 2026.** Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

## Compostings

**by Al Batt**

# I wish I were you

**ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING**

This is the best potato and ham soup I've ever eaten.

It's clam chowder.

This is the worst clam chowder I've ever eaten.

**DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE**

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I was moseying along in my car. I needed to be somewhere—important business—but I didn't need to hurry. Chuck Berry sang on the radio, "Crusin' and playin' the radio with no particular place to go."

The previous day, someone had sent me an email about something he'd seen on social media saying that there was a law being considered that would prohibit aimless or purposeless driving. There'd be no cruising around or driving with no place to go. Convertible sales would crash. I probably couldn't even listen to Chuck Berry. How could that be enforced? It's fake news.

I spent a long time in the hardware store. There was a sign reading, "Watch batteries." I watched, but they didn't do anything.

I took swallowing therapy. That was a surprisingly easy thing to swallow. Lorna Doone shortbread cookies held a prominent position in my therapy. They served as grub in a standardized test to evaluate mastication, oral transport and pharyngeal clearance of hard, quick-dissolving solid foods. Why Lorna Doones? First, lutefisk wasn't available in an adequate supply. Lorna Doones provide a consistent texture across clinical trials, are hard but rapid-dissolving, and allow appraisal of how a patient eats. I avoided premature spillage, poor tongue control and any residue left behind. Yay me.

**I BELIEVE**

In moments and memories.

You matter.

In hotdish architects.

Everyone is a celebrity.

In people who are skilled with a skillet.

It can hail cats and dogs.

**I'VE LEARNED**

After Charles Boycott, an English land agent, tried to evict a number of his tenant farmers in 1880, locals in County Mayo, Ireland, fought back by ostracizing him—leading to the term "boycott."

The best ability is availability.

If you want to feel like a kid again, look at a snow globe through a kaleidoscope.

Prices for the top 25 brand-name drugs increased by an average of 81% when they entered the U.S. market, according to a report from AARP's Public Policy Institute. In 19 other high-income countries, prices of those same drugs had fallen by an average of 13%.

**THE NEWS FROM HARTLAND HAROLD**

Buffet the Vampire Slayer opens to a hungry crowd.

Owner of a door company remembered fondly. "He could make an entrance."

"We might have what you want, but I doubt it," says the owner of the Disappointment Hardware.

Local dodgeball legend will be missed.

**BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT**

They told me I was gullible, and I believed them.

The nurse lost his job at the dermatology clinic for making too many rash decisions.

A friend had his name changed to Bjorn today. He wasn't Bjorn yesterday.

Genie: What is your final wish?

Boy: I wish I were you.

Genue: Ut's weurd but alrught.

**NATURALLY**

The bluebird nestlings were becoming bluer, a fawn followed its mother through the tall grass, indigo buntings sang "Fire, fire; where, where? Here, here; See it, see it?" incessantly, and spiderwort brightened the day. The deep-blue spiderwort flowers open in the morning and typically wilt by noon on hot days.

A catbird must have wanted me to see those things as it had begun singing outside my bedroom window before civil twilight began. How do catbirds produce their remarkable song? They have a voice box that's different from ours. It has two separate branches that are controlled independently, allowing the bird to make two distinct sounds at the same time. The catbird was singing a duet with itself. Town criers were responsible for making public announcements and acted as human loudspeakers when shouting things like, "12 o'clock and all is well," to reassure the public. The catbird is my town crier.

Multicolored Asian lady beetles had become rare in the house, but some stubbornly overstayed their welcome. I watched cedar waxwings feed feverishly on midges in May. Midges are small flies that resemble mosquitoes. Midges don't bite or transmit disease, but they create obnoxious swarms. Often referred to as lake flies, they're frequently mistaken for mayflies, which are much larger.

Blue jays belong to the Corvidae family, which is considered among the most intelligent birds in the world. That family includes ravens, crows, jays and magpies. Blue jays would do better in school if they would just apply themselves, but other birds do copy from their papers. Their migration remains a mystery. They don't all migrate, and it hasn't been determined why those that migrate do so when they do.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

The kindest word in all the world is the unkind word gone unsaid.

# Words are too powerful to use carelessly

## Why I choose not to use the f-word and some of its usual companions

## In My Humble Opinion

**by Deb Bently**

I don't necessarily take offense when people use coarse language in front of or around me. After all, from a surface perspective words are only sounds. I've shared before that the German word "Schlittenfahrt"– whatever it sounds like to a non-speaker, only means "sleigh ride."

Since I am a child of the sixties, it is quite likely I was raised to believe certain words are "bad," so that could be an underlying reason I don't use them. But now that I am in my sixties, I believe I have outgrown any childhood conditioning along those lines. There are rare occasions when I am quoting, providing an example, or perhaps trying to surprise my listeners, when I am willing to say the f-word and some of its usual companions.

But when a conversation takes place in front of me where such words are used freely and even repetitively, I find myself confused.

The f-word describer and the s-word noun have come to be non-specific synonyms for "bad." So if I make the claim I am angry (to use replacement words) about this "faking sheet," I am conveying nothing more clear than "I am angry about this bad bad thing."

Would the communication not be more clear and powerful if I used genuinely meaningful words? "It angers me that people post lies on social media." "I wish people who commit fraud would realize how badly their selfishness hurts others." "When people's driving endangers others, it makes me want to call the police and report them."

So there is one source of my confusion: Why do speakers resort to "faking sheet" when they could be genuinely expressing themselves?

There are those who would claim the vulgar words get attention or make a point.

I would respond that they do–but in a way that reflects negatively on the speaker. The "point" might be "I am too lazy to find more appropriate phrasing," or "I pay no attention to the sensitivities of the people who hear me speaking."

Because make no mistake, coarse words send a message of a coarse life–and for some people the words bring up memories of coarse treatment at the hands of people who used those words.

I know some people began referring to faking sheets in middle school, when it was an attempt to be "cool." Perhaps once middle and high school–and the need to impress others with shallow devices–was over, people continued using the words out of habit.

But is "habit" a good reason to continue speaking in a way that fails to deliver a clear message, is likely to be offensive to others, sends an impression of vulgarity, and is–I hope everyone recognizes–not evidence the speaker is "cool"?

In reference to the s-noun ("sheet") I am confused why folks would want that word in their mouths. We all know what the word refers to, what that smells like, how disgusted we are to find the s-noun anywhere around us. Why would anyone put it in their mouth?

And as for the f-word, it makes dirty something that, in a good relationship, is a very positive thing. It takes one of the strongest bonding elements a couple shares and pulls up images of alleyways, brothels and mistreatment. Why would anyone purposely invoke such darkness?

So there you have it–the reasons I keep "sheet" out of my mouth–can be mostly summed up by saying "because there are far better things I would rather have there."

## To Be Determined

**by Amelia Roessler**

# I think I can, I think I can

**Amelia and friends hiked Mount Huron in Colorado and made it to the summit at 14,006 feet in elevation.**

I crossed a big thing off my summer bucket list last weekend: Hiking a 14er.

A 14er is a mountain that exceeds 14,000 feet in elevation. It's not an easy feat and not something that everybody does, but it was on my bucket list as a new Coloradan to try at least one. Many Coloradans keep a checklist and cross them off as they complete each one.

We drove up Saturday to San Isabel National Forest, about three hours from Denver in the mountain range, and camped at 10,000 feet above sea level.

Camping in the mountains was something I didn't realize how much I wanted. To escape the big city and just be in nature and enjoy time with friends and be outdoors filled a part of my cup I didn't know was empty.

It was me, Jack, and four of his guy friends camping and hiking. Usually, one of their girlfriends would have come along, but they were all busy, so it was just me and five guys. It was fun to start a campfire, set up our tents, and just enjoy time as I watched them crack jokes and talk about fun past experiences they've had together. I even got to enjoy myself traipsing through the woods gathering downed wood as I left the guys to argue the best way to cook nachos over the fire.

We escaped the 100 degree heat in Denver, but I forgot how cold it was going to be up in the mountains, and as I am always cold, I felt I did not pack well. In our tent, I was sleeping in a borrowed sleeping bag right on the ground because I also did not have a sleeping pad. Needless to say, it was a cold and uncomfortable night in the tent where I probably got half an hour of sleep.

We woke around 5 a.m. and packed up the rest of our belongings before heading to the trailhead for our summit adventure. It took us eight and a half miles, over six hours, and 3,500 feet in elevation gained, so we completed our Mount Huron hike tired and hungry.

The eight miles was a round trip, so we hiked four miles up, up, up until we got to the summit at 14,006 feet. While the continuous and sometimes quite steep hike up was difficult, the views were endlessly breathtaking. I felt supported even though I was the slow one in the back of the pack, and we even saw a ton of wildlife. We spotted marmots fighting on the side of the mountain, little squirrels that weren't squirrels, a quail-looking bird sitting and squawking at us from a nearby rock, and even two white, fluffy mountain goats!

While the hike was fun and fulfilling, I will admit it was a lot harder than I had expected. I had known to expect some physical strains (my body was all out of fuel when we got to the top, scrambling over rocks since there was no real path at the summit), but the mental trial surprised me. Spending four hours going constantly up, hiking hard terrain in low altitude, was a battle I had more with my mentality than my body. As I had to continuously pause to catch my breath and lower my heart rate, sometimes it was hard to take that next step, and the next one, and the next one. I prayed and thought of the children's book my parents used to read me when I was a child about The Little Engine That Could. "I think I can, I think I can, I think I can," became my mantra as I fell behind the pack and had to pause more frequently than the guys. I even started singing the song from Hercules to myself: "You gotta get one foot in front of the other…"

And eventually, I made it. Past the tripping tree roots, over the rocks and steps, above the treeline (the trees end at around 11,000 feet due to lack of oxygen), up the steep and steeper paths to the top.

Now I can say I hiked a 14er.

My Determination: "I'm a damsel, I'm in distress, I can handle this. Have a nice day." — Megara, Hercules

# One of the best baseball games ever

## STAR GAZING

**by Eli Lutgens**

Last Saturday, May 30, 2026, I had the pleasure of enjoying some of the best baseball I have seen in a very, very long time.

In my life, I have witnessed or participated in some roughly 2,000 baseball games. Hundreds, maybe a thousand Twins games. Oh so many games played from little league and t-ball through town team baseball. I umpired baseball for five or six years; coached middle school baseball for two years, and wrote about and photographed many high school games for the newspaper.

My favorite games, prior to Saturday were:

1. My first playoff game, as a senior. We won 5-4 over St. Peter. Seeded 14, we upset the fifth seed. I had a RBI double in the first inning where we scored all five runs. Dempsey Tucker pitched all seven innings and I caught the final out, with the bases loaded, in the last inning as rain sprinkled down. A top-five life feeling that was. I played my entire senior season with a pit in my stomach, knowing this was my final time to play high school ball. I recall, as a youth, driving by the baseball field after a sad, season ending loss for the Panther baseball team. I asked my dad why the players were still there, sitting in the dugout. I recall one player sitting there with his head in his hands. It must have been an hour after the game ended.

"It's the final time those players will ever wear that uniform or play on that field," my dad told me. "They aren't ready to go home yet."

That pit in my stomach gave me something that I never had before. Or rather, it took away something, the nerves. I was more worried about never getting to play again than I was worried about failing. I was not a more clutch player during any other season than I was my senior season.

2. The David Freeze World Series Game 6. Freeze hit a game-tying triple for the Cardinals, who were down to their last strike against the Texas Rangers. Later in the night, far past my bedtime as I sat on the edge of my bed watching the game, Freeze hit a walk-off homerun, to which Joe Buck, son of legendary announcer Jack Buck, said, "We'll see you tomorrow night." An homage to his father Jack who had the same call when the Twins' Kirby Puckett hit a walk-off home run in Game 6 of the 1991 World Series.

After Saturday, I can now, definitively add a third game to round out my top three.

The Panthers, seeded number one in these 2026 Section Playoffs, lost to Adams 6-5 in the winners bracket last Tuesday. They toughed it out, though, and didn't give up. Winning two more games, they set up a rematch with Adams, where the winner would go on to play in the section finals Tuesday. I am writing this Tuesday morning, so I do not yet know how the finals went.

The Panthers went up 2-0 and coach Fischer was a little conservative. He left a run on the board, I felt. But also, he got an extra run by doing so, earlier in the inning by not being aggressive. (The head coach manages baserunners at third base. It's his job to tell the runners to head home on a close play or stay at the base.) Later, in the fifth, the Panthers added three more runs on clutch, timely hitting. It is great fun to watch those Gillilands play ball.

Fischer did what I can only describe as perfect baserunning coaching as he had a runner turn the base and at the last second sent him as the outfielder bobbled the ball. Most coaches would have easily held the runner, but Fischer waited until the last possible moment and was able to send that runner home. It was so fun to watch.

I talked to coach Fischer during the week about how important it was to keep his pitchers under 75 pitches, the count necessary to allow them to be eligible to pitch Tuesday. (Baseball has special rules about days of rest for pitchers.) He was aware already, but I couldn't help bringing it up: I stressed that the wins Saturday wouldn't matter if he didn't have anyone to pitch Tuesday.

What I didn't say and didn't have to because coach Fischer was fully aware, was that those games Saturday were important and that, if we don't win them, we won't get a chance Tuesday.

With the five-run lead, it was easy to pull starter Owen Wayne at 74 pitches. When Adams loaded the bases and made it a 5-4 game with no one out in the seventh, it was not obvious to bring Wayne back in. I have never seen a coach re-enter a starting pitcher after taking him out of the game. Most coaches don't even know they can do that. I do, because my dad pointed out a win or go home playoff game he wrote about in the 90s as a sports editor where a coach did something similar. A starting pitcher was getting rocked in the first inning so Coach pulled him. And then brought him back in to close the game.

That is exactly what Fischer did. The whole thing makes me so happy and emotional I could cry. It was beautiful.

As Fischer walked to the mound and made the pitching change, I walked from the stands back to the dugout. (I move around due to my back problems. It helps me not hurt so

**Baseball** continued on 4


WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

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GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

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### Bullypulpit Bluegrass at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm June 14

Bullypulpit Bluegrass performing at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm from 1-7 p.m. on Sunday, June 14. They play traditional bluegrass for your listening pleasure.

### Rock'n Car Roll-In at Boxcar Bar June 18

The Rock'n Car Roll-In will take place at the Boxcar Bar from 4-8 p.m. Thursday, June 18. Classic cars, motorcycles, food trucks and music.

### Melissa Schulz at Club 57 Thursday, June 18

Melissa Schulz will perform at Club 57 from 6-9 p.m. on Thursday, June 18. A classically trained pianist and vocalist and an in-demand performer across southern Minnesota and northern Iowa.

### Waseca Art Center Exhibiting Artists Reception June 20

The Waseca Art Center is hosting a reception on Saturday, June 20, from 2 to 4 p.m. for its exhibits from June 16 through July 24. Brian Quail's metal sculptures are incredible works of ingenuity, using scrap metal and found objects to make moving and meaningful pieces. Painter Gena Cohen's abstract expressionism paintings are a delight of color and movement.

### Julie Wood at Indian Island Winery June 21

Julie Wood will perform at the Indian Island Winery from 1-3:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 21. She plays acoustic classics.

### Nate Boots and Cargill Deluxe at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm on Sunday, June 21

Nate Boots and Cargill Deluxe will perform at the Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm for a Father's Day Music and Pizza fest from 2-8 p.m. on Sunday, June 21.

### Waseca Art Center's Summer Art Camp June 23-26

The WAC will be holding a Summer Art Camp at 9-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 23 through Friday, June 26. Kids will be taught K-3 by Karen Krause, Kaitlin Roberts 4-6 and Missy Donner 7-12. Limit 12 students per group. Register at www.wasecaartcenter.org or come into the art center.

### Whiskey Whiskers at Club 57 June 25

Whiskey Whiskers will play Club 57 from 6-9 p.m. on Thursday, June 25. They play the music you love.

### Special Olympics Friendship Wagon Train June 25

The Special Olympics Friendship Wagon Train will travel from Owatonna to Meriden for lunch, then to Waseca on Thursday, June 25. On Friday, June 26 they will travel from Waseca, to Wilton to New Richland and on Saturday, June 27, they will hold a special ceremony in New Richland. Souvenir hats and t-shirts will be available to purchase from the wagon train's Peddler Wagon at lunch stops, evening stops, and before they depart town each morning. For donations contact Monica or John Davis at 507-365-8064.

# Little Movers win the day

## Community ed event allows creative play

**By DEB BENTLY**
News Editor

After navigating a complex trail, a smiling preschooler dressed as Ariel from Disney's Little Mermaid stood defiantly in place, soft weapon prepared for battle. Her goal was to get to the castle, and the king–complete with sash and crown–was in her way.

This was a scene at "Little Movers: Adventure Series," a twice-a-month community education activity designed for preschoolers ages 3 to 6.

Event planner Ashley Robbins, who also coordinates the community ed gymnastics program, said her conception for the event focuses around giving children a reason to climb, balance, hop and run while also using their imaginations and simply enjoying themselves.

The 30-minute sessions meet in the upstairs gymnastics space at the Waseca Intermediate School, where various large-size cushions, obstacles, and a low-height balance beam are positioned to create an obstacle course above the springy floor. Young participants are guided and assisted by teenage participants in the gymnastics program.

The two sessions in June center around young royalty; the topic for July will be superheroes; for August it will be the circus. Children attending are encouraged to dress in costumes, hopefully put together using items they already have at home.

**CONQUERING ALL - The two June sessions of the Community Ed activity "Little Movers" have royalty as the theme. Joining the children on June 3 were Sleigh and Cutter King Brent Brass and Miss Owatonna Teen Linden Aarsvold. Below: A preschooler dressed as Ariel defeats the king to conquer his castle.**
Pioneer photos by Deb Bently

Families who want to register their children for Little Movers can do so using the Waseca community education website.

The young prince and princesses present at the June 3 session found themselves crawling through a tunnel, navigating a maze, walking across a rampart, using stepping stones to cross a moat, and then battling the king to gain access to the castle.

Sleigh and Cutter king Brent Brass found himself disarmed and defeated over and over again as the young prince and princesses worked their way through the course and came to him. Fortunately, a cushion nearly 3 feet thick was nearby for his inevitable falls.

Miss Owatonna's Teen Linden Aarsvold also took part in the event, also complete with sash and crown, and spent time visiting with the children and their helpers.

**Left, The Owatonna Legion with help from the Owatonna and Faribault Middle Schools, presented colors at the 90th Annual Meeting for the Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric on Tuesday, June 2, 2026. Right, Mark Foster won the second-place raffle, two $100 gift cards for Casey's and Grandpa Ole's Home Meats in Medford.**
Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann

# Nearly 1,000 attend SWCE annual meeting

**By BEN REVERMANN**
Staff writer

The Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric (SWCE) held its ninetieth annual meeting over the lunch hour on Tuesday, June 2 in Owatonna in the organization warehouse. According to Services Supervisor Randy Sobrack, the crowd numbered nearly 1,000, with about half being cooperative members. A central purpose of the meeting was to reveal the results of a recent election: Daniel Maas will be serving District 7; Ron Sommers will be serving District 8; Scott Carlson will be serving District 9.

The Owatonna Legion, with assistance from the Owatonna and Faribault Middle Schools, presented colors before everyone stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Those in attendance had the chance to win door prizes, enjoy complementary popcorn, mints and donut holes, and to mingle from 9 to 10:30 a.m.

Board President Rodney Krell and General Manager Syd Briggs shared announcements and introduced honorees, including member John Beal, who represented District 7 on the SWCE board for 24 years. Beal told the crowd: "I was born on Staten Island in New York. I was adopted by my father, Minnesotan Jay Beal who was also on the board. I have often said that growing up on a farm in Waseca County was a lot better than growing up on the streets of New York. I will forever be proud of Steele-Waseca, and all of you should be as well. I ask that you, all of you, keep attending these meetings, they are important. Get involved. Bless our police, bless our members, bless Steele and Waseca counties. Thank you for your support."

**HONORED - Randy Sobrack presented exceptional student Connor Louks from Ellendale with a Washington DC trip.**
Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

It was also announced that former co-op board director Gerri Lienke passed away on April 18 at the age of 78. She served for 20 years and was the first woman elected to the board.

Two students will be going to Washington DC thanks to the SWCE scholarship program, Connor Louks from Ellendale and Leighton Richter from Faribault. Said Richter, "I want to thank the board and all the members for this opportunity. This is once in a lifetime for me, I won't forget this. Thank you."

During an open forum question

**SWCE** continued on 7

**WASECA CITY COUNCIL**

# Council looks at skate park, airport

**By BEN REVERMANN**
Staff writer

The Waseca city council met in the evening of Tuesday, June 2.

During the June 2 meeting of the Waseca city council, city attorney Chris Kennedy presented legal information and local statutes on low power motorized vehicles. The minimum ages for drivers of electric motorcycles or E-motos is 16; motorized foot scooters is 12; E-bikes, 15; motorized bicycles, 15; golf carts, 16; ATVs class 1 and 2, 16; UTVs (side-by-sides), 16.

Kennedy also pointed out it is not legal to ride any of these units on the sidewalk.

Benjamin Possin, local resident, spoke of the Waseca skate park since he uses it frequently. Having heard the park is being resurfaced, he placed a request for an additional ramp to be installed, "and there is a large crack in the cement on the basketball side that needs tending to." He also called attention to the fact Mayor Zimmerman used to be a skateboarder. Councilman Christiansen was grateful for the public comment, especially on this topic.

Business transacted during the meeting included approval of the city's contract with the law enforcement Sergeant Officers' Union Agreement through 2028.

Council members approved a bid for installation of a Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) and Runway End Identifier Light (REIL) at the city airport. Work is expected to begin in mid-June and should be completed within a month. The total project cost is currently estimated at $461,586.

Also approved were a temporary liquor license for the Waseca County Ag Society for the Waseca County Fair July 8-12 and premises extension to the liquor license held by Katie O'Leary's bar for a Car Roll-in scheduled July 16 through August 20.

The council approved Party Wall Agreements for the open lot along North State Street per Mike Jevning and Oscar Marquez. According to an online source, the definition of a party wall: "A party wall is a shared wall or structure that stands on the boundary between two or more properties and is used or owned by multiple property owners."

During the meeting, Fire Relief discussed both the onion ring stand and the June fish fry. There is an opportunity for a full-time fire department event manager for anyone interested.

Councilwoman Schroeder reminded everyone of the Take A Kid Fishing event in Clear Lake Park on Saturday, June 6. Mayor Zimmerman mentioned Barefoot Lane Bakery has opened at 111 Second Street Northwest, sharing that the day he shopped there, the line extended out the door.

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# OBITUARIES

## Hilda Bergstrom

Hilda Bergstrom

Hilda Bergstrom, age 93, of Waseca, passed away peacefully on June 3, 2026.

Hilda was born on August 23, 1932, to Emma (Dallman) and William Kanewischer in Lehr, North Dakota. She attended Lehr High School and would later move to Jamestown, ND.

After moving to Waseca, Hilda worked at Wolf & Habien Grocery before beginning a long career at Brown Printing, where she worked until retirement. She valued hard work and took pride in the relationships she built during her years there.

She married her beloved husband, Roger Bergstrom, on June 4, 1993.

Throughout her life, Hilda found joy in many things. Her competitive side could often be seen while bowling or during a spirited game of Scrabble, where she enjoyed both the challenge and companionship. She had a special love for flowers and gardening, taking pride in creating beauty around her home and enjoying the colorful blooms of each season. She loved bird watching, especially cardinals, whose bright red color always brought her happiness. Hilda was also an avid sports fan and faithfully cheered on the Minnesota Twins, Atlanta Braves and Minnesota Vikings through every season.

Hilda treasured simple moments spent with others. She enjoyed gathering with friends over coffee and donuts/rolls, sharing stories, laughter, and companionship that meant so much to her.

Above all else, she cherished time spent with family and the memories created with those she loved.

Hilda is survived by her son, Ron Kanewischer, and daughter-in-law, Mary Kanewischer; stepdaughters Donna Rae (Bob) Gosh, and Sandy Brown; grandchildren Shane (Jean) Frisk, Trevor Kanewischer, and Aaron (Deanna) Kanewischer; and great-grandchildren Megan Kanewischer, Lexi Kanewischer, and Mia Kanewischer; as well as several step grandchildren and step great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Roger Bergstrom; her parents, Emma and William Kanewischer; her brother, Otto Kanewischer; sisters Elsie Kroetch, Martha Schweigert, and Hilma Schweigert; and other loved ones who welcomed her home.

A saying displayed in her room often brought her comfort and now brings comfort to those who loved her: "When a cardinal appears in your yard, it's a visitor from heaven."

A prayer service was held for family and friends at the State Street Chapel of the Dennis Steffel Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca, MN on Saturday, June 6, 2026; Pastor Ashley Kuhlman officiated. Interment is at Woodville Cemetery.

# Exchange Club learns of student experience

**By BEN REVERMANN**
Staff writer

The Exchange Club of Waseca met over the lunch hour on Tuesday, May 26. The speaker for the day was Zdenek Kavka, a foreign exchange student from Czechia. Vice President Jen Losen also celebrated her birthday.

The meeting was called to order by President Mikhail Rostislavovich and regular upkeep was tended to. Rostislavovich introduced Kavka, saying that, among the five exchange students he has hosted over time, "This one is special."

Kavka used a Power Point slide show as he shared information about his royal home town, Litomerice, in Czechia, "which is also called the Czech Republic." Said Kavka, "By royal it means that the town was begun by a king." There were nods of understanding in the crowd. He said Minnesota is three times bigger than his entire country. He also spoke of accomplishing, "Almost everything on my bucket list" during his visit this past several months. "I got to attend a basketball game, and Mikhail got us courtside seats. I've gone ice fishing now and that was wonderful; I caught a not-so-big fish. I attended a prom and visited Mount Rushmore." He has also, since his time in the northern state, "Improved on my English speaking, it has gotten very much faster since I've arrived."

He is anticipating a visit from his family beginning June 5. He told Exchange Club members he is hoping to give them a west coast tour. "If I return to the United States after I graduate, I want to see Mikhail again, but I also have a desire to see the east coast. I also would like to see a Twins baseball game and see Duluth before I go." He said he had every intention of keeping the brothers Mikhail and Dwight Tostenson in his life long after his return to Czechia: "These guys have treated me like family, they have taken me everywhere they go with them." He especially loved the "big and beautiful" house he is staying in. This was followed up with a presentation from Rostislavovich of a Certificate of Appreciation from the Waseca Exchange Club.

Rostislavovich highly encouraged, "Everyone, if you can open your home to an exchange student, I very much recommend it, it's so rewarding."

There will be an Exchange Club highway cleanup on June 4 at 5 p.m. The meeting place will be the Crystal Valley parking lot west of Waseca.

**THIS ONE IS SPECIAL - The Exchange Club of Waseca met on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, pictured from left: Club Treasurer Jeanne Sexton, President Mikhail Rostislavovich, foreign exchange student and speaker, Zdenek Kavka, and Vice President Jen Losen.**
Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

# County looks at library funding, land sales

**By DEB BENTLY**
News Editor

**WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

During their regular meeting on June 2, members of the Waseca County Board of Commissioners heard from county administrator Michael Johnson regarding various steps in changing the LeSueur-Waseca Library system from having formerly been listed as its own tax entity to now being funded and overseen through leadership from the two counties.

Waseca County property owners have formerly seen the library system as a separate entry on their property tax statements. However, it was recognized during 2025 that, although the library system is meant to be supported by property taxes, it is not meant to have as much independent authority toward levying those taxes as had formerly been taken.

Along with that recognition came the understanding that, going forward, levy amounts meant to support the library system will be under the county's umbrella–but according to Johnson's summary, the change is likely to lead to either only minimal change to tax amounts or possibly a slight decrease, since some tasks formerly paid for under the library's auspices will now be taken on by county offices: bookkeeping and payroll are examples.

Numerous meetings and administrative steps are underway during the summer to complete the transition, with procedural decisions requiring extensive communication and discussion between Waseca and LeSueur counties.

In separate business, director of county facilities management Brian Tomford updated board members regarding the county's efforts to sell two pieces of land, one known as "Glynn Park" and the other as "Manthy Park." Despite the names, neither property is included in park planning or future development because both are "landlocked," that is, they are surrounded on all sides by privately owned land, with no public access except by permission of those land owners.

Under state statute regarding the sale of such parcels, the county can offer the land only to owners of contiguous property. The first and second times the land is offered, the state also requires the county to specify "minimum bids" based on the parcel's assessed value. The county has already made two attempts to sell the parcels, and has so far not received a bid for either of them.

The property labeled "Glynn Park" is a rectangular, tree-covered parcel about 20 acres in size located in Alden township roughly four miles south of State Highway 14. Four parcels adjoin it, meaning only four parties are eligible to purchase it.

Property labeled "Manthy Park" is about 20 acres in size and has an irregular, roughly triangular shape. It spans the LeSueur River in St. Mary township slightly north of 320th Avenue and East of 50th Street, about 3 miles southeast of Janesville. The Manthy property comes with the stipulation that it must be maintained in its wooded state in accordance with accepted forestry practices. This parcel, too, is adjoined by four privately owned properties. One of the landowners is the state Department of Natural Resources.

Tomford asked commissioners for permission to offer the parcels for a third time, at a rate of roughly 50 percent of the land's assessed value: In the case of Glynn Park, $30,000. In the case of Manthy Park, $25,000.

Commissioners granted permission for this third round of bidding, but at least one suggested that, since the properties do not entail any expense for the county, there is a point at which the county might most logically maintain ownership, rather than continuing a process which might lead eligible bidders to continue waiting, hoping the requested minimum bid will continue to decrease.

During the June 2 meeting, board members also heard from Power On Midwest, an initiative involving numerous energy delivery companies including Great River Energy, ITC Midwest and Xcel Energy. The suppliers are cooperating toward the construction of a large-scale powerline not expected to be completed until 2034. At this time, information is being gathered about the path the line would follow from eastern South Dakota to other lines already in use north of Rochester.

Power On representatives explained that, of the several route variations being examined, none actually cross land within Waseca County. However, since research and communication regarding the right of way extends to one mile on both sides of any of the proposed routes, land on the county's southernmost edge does fall within the expected notification area.

When it is constructed, Power On anticipates the power line will use large-scale steel support structures with a "footprint" up to 50 feet wide at ground level, and spanning up to 145 feet of width at the top, about 175 feet above the ground. Due to their large-scale size, they can be spaced between 1,200 and 1,400 feet apart–in other words, needing fewer than five to cover a mile of distance.

Power On spokespersons also emphasized that their group is performing research and public outreach, and will then make a recommendation regarding what it finds to be the most practical path. The final decision, however, will fall to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, which is scheduled to issue its decision sometime in 2028.

## ■ Honors

from Page 1

What Vasquez says he will miss the most about high school is seeing his friends every day and singing in the Select Choir.

His favorite memories during high school were getting to sing on stage with the Select Choir, perform as Gomez in the school musical Addams Family (2025), doing the Baking for First Responders service project in student council and going to state three years in a row for BPA. Vasquez says some of his funniest memories from high school were the moments shared with his friends at the lunch table, during passing time, at sports games and on rides to competitions.

Choir and English were Vasquez's favorite subjects in school, with Science and Statistics being his least favorite.

He says his favorite teachers in school were Ms. Kreinbring and Ms. Nelson. "These two teachers saw my potential both as their student and as a person and always pushed me to grow and excel. Along with this, these teachers helped present opportunities to me that were helpful in shaping my future," says Vasquez.

Vasquez says he's looking forward to traveling to new places and experiencing different cultures.

In ten years, Vasquez sees himself traveling the world, meeting new people, going outside of his comfort zone and having cool new experiences.

Advice he would give himself as a freshman include, "Keep being consistent and keep being yourself. Your hard work right now will pay off in the long run!"

## ■ Baseball

from Page 2

much.)

I told Dan Stork, who was just outside the dugout, that this was the right call. (Not that I needed to.)

As I watched Owen pitch I said out loud, and to myself, "Owen's got this."

I don't know if it was superstitious, no it definitely was, but I said that after each out, before the next batter came up.

I was standing next to Owen's mom, who was taking pictures this entire time. I don't know if she could hear me, but I was trying to do my best to manifest whatever energy I could into the world to push the Panthers to victory. I could not and did not and would not let myself entertain the idea that Owen or the Panthers would lose.

Out after stressful out I watched it happen. As Owen made the final throw to the plate, I yelled–and so did everyone else. I didn't get many photos of celebratory moments because I was too busy being happy. Shortly after that I could hear Owen's mom crying tears of pure joy.

After Saturday no one can tell me baseball isn't the greatest sport in the world.

It may not be the most popular sport but it is "America's Greatest Pastime" for a reason.

After the game I talked to coach Fischer who told me, a little emphatically, how important it is to save his pitchers. "But it doesn't matter if we don't win this game."

The magic carpet ride, as coach Jeff Reese said after the win, ended for the Panthers Tuesday evening, 3-2, to JWP. My only comments on the game are that I am glad the game ended closely. The boys will come back better next year, feeling, correctly, that they are good enough to play in the state tournament.

## ■ Fishing

from Page 1

tossed in from both the shore and the pier.

Stacy Schroeder, from the Discover Waseca Tourism Board said, "This is so great, the Parks and Recreation guys were out here every day for the last three days grooming and cleaning. They really did a great job this year." She was surrounded by Waseca County royalty, Miss Waseca County Sleigh and Cutter, Jasmin Kotek. Miss Owatonna Maura Erickson and Miss Owatonna Teen Linden Aarsvold. Continued Schroeder, "We were given over a hundred tackle boxes from both "Fishing for Life," and "Northland Fish and Tackle" and those were out by 11 a.m."

Waseca fire chief Jason Forshee commented, "We're just here to help the kids have a good time. We had those 212 Waseca drinks, the blue ones, those were gone pretty quick. From the fire department it's just me here, everyone else was busy. Our relief organization donated cash and I'm glad they did, we got a really good crowd here today."

Waseca High School teacher Jake Janike attended with his wife Stephanie and daughter Harper. They had fishing gear spread around them on the slight incline overlooking Clear Lake, just a step or two under the shade of oaks. Jake came back from the rocky shore to the girls sitting in the grass and rebaited his hook, they took a moment to pose for a photo.

Jake said, "Harper won both a new fishing rod and a tackle box, we're very happy with that."

**At left, Jake, Stefanie, and Harper won a new fishing rod and tackle box during the Take a Kid Fishing event on Saturday, June 6, 2026. Right, Lauren Hunt, accompanied by her mother, Maggie, caught a sunnie while fishing from shore.**
Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann

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# Waseca Lakes Association communications

Dear Waseca Lakes Association Members,

Over the past several days, there has been discussion on social media regarding the harvesting of curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) on Clear Lake and questions regarding potential impacts to fish spawning. Because there is some misinformation circulating, we wanted to provide additional context on why this work is occurring and how it is regulated.

This marks the fifth year that Waseca County has mechanically harvested curly-leaf pondweed on Clear Lake. Curly-leaf pondweed is a non-native invasive aquatic species that grows aggressively in spring and can quickly dominate portions of the lake, impacting recreation, native plant communities, and water quality.

The management process is not arbitrary and involves several layers of review and oversight. Each year, a delineation survey is completed to identify areas of curly-leaf pondweed density and growth. Based on those findings, treatment areas are proposed and reviewed through a Minnesota DNR permitting process. The DNR establishes approved boundaries, treatment methods, and restrictions to minimize impacts to the lake ecosystem.

Importantly, DNR permits prohibit harvesting within 150 feet of shoreline areas, which are often the most sensitive fish spawning habitats. Harvest boundaries are provided through a GIS shapefile, and because the harvester operates using GPS tracking, there are built-in checks and balances to ensure harvesting remains within approved areas. In addition, annual reporting is required to the DNR documenting harvesting activities.

It is also important to understand how curly-leaf pondweed reproduces. Unlike many aquatic plants, curly-leaf pondweed does not primarily reproduce through plant fragments. Instead, it spreads through structures called turions (often described as seed-like reproductive buds). The timing of harvesting is intentional—occurring before turions fully develop and are released to the lake bottom—helping reduce future infestations.

Beyond recreational impacts, curly-leaf pondweed also contributes to internal phosphorus loading within Clear Lake. Because the plant grows early and dies off rapidly in early to midsummer, large amounts of decaying vegetation release phosphorus back into the water column. This nutrient release can contribute to algae blooms and reduced water clarity later in the season. Reducing curly-leaf pondweed density helps lessen this cycle.

After five years of harvesting, we are seeing encouraging results. Areas previously experiencing heavy densities have shown reductions over time, demonstrating that long-term management is making a positive difference.

We understand and appreciate the community's concern for fish habitat and lake health. Those concerns are important and are part of why these efforts are conducted under DNR oversight with science-based management practices. Our shared goal remains protecting the long-term health, recreation, and enjoyment of Clear Lake.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our lakes.

# Sexton's 2026 campaign holds kickoff in Waseca

**By DEB BENTLY**
News Editor

**KICKOFF - Speaking and mingling at the June 5 Tom Sexton campaign kickoff at Waseca's Mill Event Center were campaign chair Mikhail Rostislavovich, Jay Steffens, Tom and Jeanne Sexton, and Monica and Charlie Priebe.** Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

A steady crowd cycled through Waseca's Mill event center the evening of June 5 to speak with Tom Sexton, incumbent candidate for Minnesota's House of Representatives legislative district 19B, as he begins his campaign for the 2026 election. Sexton's opponent this November will be DFL candidate Zack Meyman, also a Waseca resident.

Sexton mingled among those in attendance answering questions and sharing experiences. During a brief speech, Sexton shared highlights from the recently completed legislative session.

Sexton referred to $9.9 million in funding for Waseca water infrastructure as "a big win" for locals. About $470 million was allocated statewide to meet similar needs in other cities. The funds will allow recipient communities to dig down to waterlines, repair problems with inflow and infiltration (I and I), and then reconstruct roads or sidewalks which were disturbed.

In Waseca, $1 million of funding is for the predesign, design, and property acquisition for an additional water tower; $8.9 million for I and I.

To address fraud, legislators created a state inspector general office. The new department, Sexton said, will have the authority not only to investigate possible cases of fraud, but to arrest and detain individuals they believe are guilty of a crime.

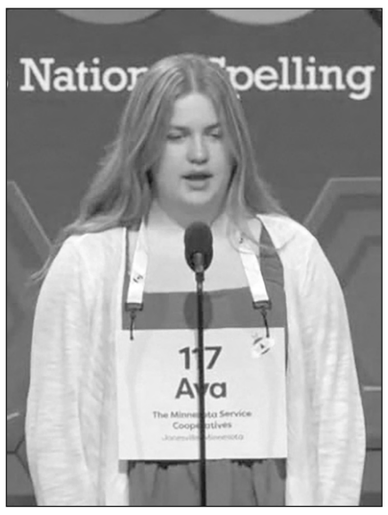
Another matter dealt with during the session was the financial status of the Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC), a Minneapolis hospital with specialized emergency and trauma facilities known for receiving and treating patients from all around the state. Partly due to federal cuts to Medicare and Medicaid, HCMC predicted financial losses of up to $50 million in 2026, and an operating deficit of about $1.7 billion over the next decade.

Sexton said the legislature determined that, due to its central role in statewide health care delivery, the HCMC could not be allowed to fail. The facility was granted one-time funding of $205 million. Simultaneously, a $500 million reserve fund was created to assist Minnesota hospitals in crisis which meet a strict set of criteria.

As he completes his first term of office with the Minnesota Legislature and works toward being elected for a second one, Sexton says he looks forward to continuing to serve the residents of District 19B. A major insight from his first term, he says, is that legislators and their teams face difficult decisions, but are genuinely dedicated to serving their constituents. He wants Minnesotans to know the level of behind the scenes teamwork at the Capitol is much higher than they might believe, given national conversations about partisanship.

"We really can and do work together," he says of the state's leaders.

## 8th Grader Represents JWP in National Spelling Bee




**A BUZZ IN SPELLING - Huge congratulations to JWP 8th grader Ava Place, who returned from representing South Central Minnesota at the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C.!**

**Ava earned her way to the national stage by winning both the JWP school bee and the South Central Minnesota regional bee. In doing so, she became the first student ever from JWP, Janesville, Waldorf, or Pemberton schools to compete at the National Spelling Bee! She was ultimately eliminated on the word Galahad, misspelling it as Galihad, only one single letter off! Even in a heartbreaking moment, Ava showed incredible respect, poise, and composure for the entire country to see.**

# Klobuchar urges USPS to change rule hurting newspapers

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) is calling on the United States Postal Service (USPS) Postmaster General David Steiner to reconsider their recent policy changes that plan to lower service standards and eliminate end-of-day mail collection at most of the nation's post offices, particularly in rural areas, disrupting service for local newspapers. For example, due to this policy change, the Kittson County Enterprise and Northeastern Minnesota's Timberjay newspapers expect some customers will have their papers delayed at least one additional day due to this policy change.

"I write to express concern about the impacts of the United States Postal Service's (USPS) recent policy changes on local newspapers and their subscribers," wrote Klobuchar.

"Local newspapers are already facing an existential crisis with ad revenues plummeting, newspapers closing, and many rural communities becoming 'news deserts' without access to local reporting. Minnesotans depend on local newspapers not only to find out the weather forecast or who won the big high school sports game, but also to keep them well-informed about local issues and hold local government officials accountable," Klobuchar continued.

"Dear Mr. Steiner:

I write to express concern about the impacts of the United States Postal Service's (USPS) recent policy changes on local newspapers and their subscribers.

The Postal Service's Regional Transportation Optimization (RTO) plan lowers service standards and eliminates end-of-day mail collection at most of the nation's post offices, particularly in rural areas. In January 2025, the Postal Regulatory Commission issued an advisory opinion raising serious concerns about the plan's negative impacts on rural communities while slowing mail delivery and failing to save costs. Despite the advisory opinion and opposition from postal workers and customers, USPS has continued to implement the policy which has resulted in disrupted service for local newspapers in Minnesota, especially those serving rural communities.

Local newspapers are already facing an existential crisis with ad revenues plummeting, newspapers closing, and many rural communities becoming "news deserts"' without access to local reporting. Minnesotans depend on local newspapers not only to find out the weather forecast or who won the big high school sports game, but also to keep them well-informed about local issues and hold local government officials accountable. The Postal Service's Regional Transportation Optimization plan — on top of its policy changes and rate hikes in recent years — has real impacts on local newspapers delivery, and local journalism and their subscribers are already paying the price. The United States Postal Service should be helping these local newspapers reach their communities, not making it more difficult for them to do their critical work."

# Web-based tours lead to local discoveries

**By BEN REVERMANN**
Staff writer

After learning about the Discover Waseca County app, I decided to give it a try. Begun as a project by Waseca Senior High School students in a social studies class, it has been expanded and broadened with information from a variety of sources to let visitors know about the history, shopping, parks, restaurants, churches and unique features in Waseca County and its communities. There are interactive maps, narration, pictures, videos and GPS mapping and guides.

With my choice of Janesville, New Richland, Waldorf and Waseca, I decided to use the app to find out more about Waldorf.

As I opened the app to install it on my phone, I was warned it might "take a few minutes" to load, but I found no problem and was done in under a minute. As I approached Waldorf from the north, the first prompt from the app was "Books by Judy Joecks." The app let me know Judy is a Waldorf native who put together a history of the town and shared a bit more information about her. With just a touch of a button, her books can be downloaded and read.

The next alert let me know about the town's creamery, Plum Valley, which closed in 1984 after 88 years; when it closed, it was the last one operating in Waseca County. The app informed me the creamery's name was chosen because "of a dense thick of plum trees that grew along the natural drainage ditch running to the northwest of the site."

As I reached 126 Main Street, another notice let me know that was once the location of a grocery store, Deml's Market, which was open until 1983.

The voice providing the narration was pleasant and didn't rush through the information. I recalled that John Hanson, Waseca teacher and lover of history, attended the Waldorf city council meeting in May, alerting council members of this new county-wide feature and three-year project. Many had not heard of it. Hanson let city councils know the tours can be set to share information based on location or on category. When looking for shops, he said, visitors would 29 of them, along with 33 different churches, and 25 different parks. The parks tour also describes the amenities offered at each park. The app offers histories of various highlighted locations and notable occurrences from throughout the county.

As I continued touring Waldorf, I came across a historic summary of the former Jan's Hardware, closed in 1999, and Ewert's Fairway which succumbed to a fire in 1957.

The app shared information about groups and organizations, too. I learned about Tractor Pull contests once held in town, and about the gardening club the Petal Pushers.

After learning all that, I discovered there was more to learn as I drove homeward. While focusing on the road, I'd forgotten the app was still running, so I was taken a bit by surprise when the app kicked in unexpectedly to let me know I was in the vicinity of the "Pink Schoolhouse." A quick history lesson let me know the structure "was built in Wilton Township to replace the one built in 1866. In 1951 the school closed and most of the students were transferred to Waldorf." Henry Bauman, who bought the building, promised to keep it as is because, "It's a landmark around here."

I had no trouble navigating the app and highly recommend it to anyone interested in local history and culture. I suggest giving it a try no matter what your interests–after all, you don't know what you don't know.

**SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642 June 2026**

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 6pm Bar Bingo | 4 7pm BINGO | 5 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm | 6 QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 5pm D DAY |
| 7 | 8 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting | 9 | 10 6pm Bar Bingo | 11 7pm BINGO | 12 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm WOMEN VETERANS DAY | 13 QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 5pm |
| 14 ARMY BIRTHDAY U.S. FLAG DAY | 15 | 16 | 17 6pm Bar Bingo | 18 7pm BINGO | 19 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm | 20 QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 5pm |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 6pm Bar Bingo | 25 7pm BINGO | 26 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm | 27 QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 5pm |

**HOURS OF OPERATION**
**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**

## The Pastor's Column

# Success or significance?

**By REV. MIKE COGLAN**

Do you remember being asked the question, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" I can still remember my first answer to that question. I said, "I'm going to be a scientist." This wasn't because I loved science; I just thought it would be cool to mix chemicals and make them explode.

Most of us never became what we dreamed of as children. As I got older, my goal shifted. I decided that I wanted to be "successful." To me, success meant business. So I studied business, earned a BA, CPA and an MBA. I wanted as many "A"s after my name as possible so I could be successful. I landed a promising career in downtown Chicago. By all appearances, I was successful. Yet at the age of 29, I was miserable.

I had an early midlife crisis. I looked down the road and I didn't like where I was headed. Even if I reached the pinnacle of my industry, I could see the day when I said the words of Solomon in Ecclesiastes 2, "Everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind."

It took a while to figures this out, but at the heart of my crisis was confusion between two things: success and significance. I thought I wanted to be successful, but what I really wanted, in my soul, was to be significant. I wanted to matter, and I wanted a mission in life that was larger than my own advancement.

And that's the heart of every midlife crisis. The world tells us that financial and material success will fulfill your heart's desires. But those things really only bring a moment of pleasure before leaving us asking, "Is that all there is?"

Psalm 46 contains one of the most important pieces of advice in the Bible. And if you are in a midlife crisis, or any crisis for that matter, this is your verse: "Be still, and know that I am God." If you are worried, stressed, ambitious, striving, whatever – be still. Know that there is a God. The psalmist knew that in the grand scheme of history, his life was only as significant as his place in God's kingdom, not his own kingdom.

The world constantly tempts us to pursue success while neglecting significance.

Most people would define success using three measurements. First, success means having money and possessions. We see large houses, expensive vehicles, and impressive lifestyles and conclude that those people are successful. Second, success means climbing the ladder. Promotions, bigger paychecks, greater influence, and increasing status are viewed as evidence that we are winning. Third, success means personal autonomy. Success is doing whatever you want, whenever you want. It is having enough money and freedom that nobody can tell you what to do.

There is nothing inherently wrong with money, achievement, or freedom. The problem is believing that these things can satisfy the soul. The psalmist reminds us that earthly accomplishments are fragile. Nations rise and fall. Economies change. Wealth disappears. Even mountains can crumble into the sea. If our meaning is tied to temporary things, our significance disappears when those things disappear.

That is why God says, "Be still, and know that I am God." Before we can discover true significance, we must stop striving long enough to remember that God is God and we are not.

The Bible teaches that significance grows out of a wholehearted relationship with God. While God's calling is unique for every person, there are several common marks of a significant life. Jesus completely reversed the world's value system when He said: "The greatest among you will be your servant." Most people believe significance comes from being served. Jesus taught that significance comes from serving.

When our primary goal is self-promotion, we may achieve success yet still feel empty.

Jesus invites us to see our lives differently. Instead of asking how our careers, resources, and talents can benefit us, we should ask how they can benefit others. Many people spend their working years accumulating possessions and their free time enjoying those possessions. But a life focused solely on comfort and consumption eventually feels hollow.

A life devoted to serving others becomes significant because it reflects the heart of Christ. Many people dislike their jobs because they cannot see a greater purpose in them. Yet God often uses our work to provide resources for His kingdom. Whether you manage a business, work a trade, teach school, or sell products, your labor gains eternal significance when it helps advance God's mission.

God has placed each of us in a particular setting for a reason. The world encourages us to see our current position merely as a stepping stone to something better. But God may have placed us exactly where we are because of the people around us. Your workplace, neighborhood, gym, and community are filled with people who believe that success is the answer to life's deepest questions. When they encounter someone whose identity is rooted in God rather than achievement, they notice the difference.

Customers become more than sources of income. Neighbors become more than competitors. Coworkers become more than people who help us advance our careers. They become people whom Christ loves. Every Christian is an ambassador for Christ. As we live faithfully, serve generously, and trust God, we point others toward Him.

The world tells us to pursue success. God calls us to pursue significance. Success is measured by money, status, and personal freedom. Significance is measured by service, generosity, and faithfulness.

When we stop striving long enough to listen to God, we discover what truly matters. A significant life is one that serves others, invests in God's kingdom, and points people to Christ. That kind of life leaves an eternal impact. "Be still, and know that I am God."

# Class President Paige Dufault's graduation speech

Good afternoon parents, family, friends, School Board Members, Superintendent Hudspith, Distinguished Guests, and Waseca Junior and Senior High School administration and staff. Thank you to the Waseca High School Band and director, Mr. Devon Lawrence. I am Paige Dufault, Senior Class President. On behalf of the Class of 2026, I would like to welcome you all to our Commencement ceremony.

While preparing to speak to you today I struggled to find the words that describe the past 13 years of our lives in only a few minutes. Some words that came to mind were resilient, determined, athletic, musical, and talented. We are a class of many different ethnicities, teams, ensembles, and clubs. At the end of the day though we all stand as one as the Class of 2026. The unity we've shared within these walls will always hold a special place in our hearts. No matter where life takes you, remember that Waseca will always be a place you can call home. What united us was never that we were all the same but in the ways in which we persevered, grew and celebrated together. Even though all of us don't see eye to eye on everything we have ultimately challenged each other and have become better versions of ourselves through the years.

My message to you today reminds me of a playlist. I know we all have our favorite songs somewhere on our phones that we play over and over again. Some of them are emotional, upbeat, or just played on repeat in the car. Think of the past 17-18 years of our lives as that. Some songs are your favorite memories like the football games, prom, concerts, competitions, and senior events. Some songs aren't our favorite like difficult tests, hard days, or disappointments. Some remind us of special people through our journey and some we've skipped over but later realized that they were important. In the end these all make up the soundtrack of our journey and a new playlist is about to be made. Some of us are heading to college, the work force, or other adventures we can't even imagine. But as every song contributed to the soundtrack of our high school years, every experience ahead will become part of a larger story.

As we head in different directions, we need to remember the family we have here. Our teachers have made it their goal over the years to make us feel loved and welcomed. Whether they know it or not, us students truly look up to them and are glad that teachers like them pour into students like us even when we didn't feel like doing the work or showing up to class. Thank you teachers for your patience with us these past few years and all of our shenanigans. I could go on and on but just to give you a few examples: showing up in your front lawn covered in peanut butter, being sent lots of pictures of dead animals, or splitting your head open because you tripped over one of one of our backpacks. Believe it or not, these things all happened to one teacher this year. I won't name any names; because I don't think Mr. Hanson would appreciate that. (pause) We will miss you teachers and staff that made us feel a part of a school like no other.

It's crazy to think that looking out into the crowd of my peers that I am looking at future electricians, healthcare workers, business people, pilots, and teachers. I've appreciated all that you have brought to Waseca and I believe that this class has made an impact on our community and someday the world. As we step away from today's normal, we step into a new normal that is ahead of us with new people, experiences, and challenges. But this class has formed a bond that will stand the test of time and a resilience that can overcome anything. To conclude, I want to encourage each of you with this. As our paths begin to separate, take chances. Learn from your mistakes. Support others. Chase opportunities that excite you and never stop growing. Just remember once a bluejay, always a bluejay. Congratulations Class of 2026!

# Class speaker Sadie Schimming's speech

Hello, and good afternoon class of 2026. I am honored to have the opportunity to speak in front of you today, one of the more important days of our lives.

Whether you're feeling sentimental, or are ready to race off the stage with your diploma, I encourage you to take a moment to think about the person, or people who have helped you to get to this turning point in your life. Your parents, grandparents, siblings, friends, teachers. When was the last time you thanked them for their support, their helpfulness, their commitment to you? I urge you to thank them for everything they've done for you before you leave high school, no matter what your future plans are.

They are the people who make our community in Waseca something to miss. Our commitment to each other, whether it's cheering on our sports teams, watching our bands and choirs perform, or congratulating our seniors as they graduate from high school, the community shows up and makes a difference. One of my favorite memories about our community comes from the Waseca Marching Classic- seeing what seemed like our entire town show up for the parade and cheer on the band is something I won't forget soon. Sometimes I think we don't realize how lucky we are to have a community like this. We don't realize that other places don't have such a close community who cares for one another. And when we do, we realize it far too late, once we no longer have a chance to really reflect on how special what we have is.

So I encourage you to do that now. Think about a time where you felt like the community had your back. Now think about a time when you did that for someone else. How difficult was it- really- to be a part of a community? To give just a smidgeon of your time for someone else? Not too terrible, right? How did it make you feel to be a part of something like that?

We are so lucky that it's so easy to be a part of a community here in Waseca, but on the next step of your journey, seniors, it might not be so easy. So I urge you to make a difference. Make it easy to be a part of a community everywhere you go. Be a person who spends their time for others, not just for themselves. Use your skills, your talents, and the things you've learned here at Waseca High School to make that difference.

Creating community doesn't have to be a grand gesture. You can build community by simply talking to your neighbors, volunteering at a food shelf every once in a while, or watching your favorite team play with your friends. I've learned so much about our community through my volunteering at the Neighborhood Service Center- even for just a few hours a week. In a world that is constantly becoming more digitalized and self-centered, you can make a difference, especially once we realize how truly easy it can be.

So, class of 2026: what will you do to make a difference?

Thank you for your time.

# Student Council President Layla Keith speaks

Good afternoon everyone. Before I begin, I want to congratulate the entire Class of 2026, and thank all the friends, families, and teachers who are here to celebrate with us today. It's hard to believe how far we've come! I think a lot of us at some point in the past four years thought this day was basically never going to come, but it turns out people weren't exaggerating when they said the past four years would go fast. I almost feel weird even saying such a "cliche" thing

now, but I'm not sure when it stopped sounding like advice and started sounding like reality. I can't remember when our favorite time of day slowly became 11:59, the last minute to turn in an assignment. Or how June 7th, the day we've talked about for years, somehow turned from something so far away into "two weeks away," then "five days away," and now... somehow that day is today. But now that it's finally here, just look around. How does it feel? For some of us, this might be the most exciting day of your life so far. For others, it might feel a little more complicated than that. For ME, as I look into the crowd right now, it doesn't seem right that you're all in Caps and Gowns.

One question I think all of us have been asked AT LEAST once throughout high school is, "What is your favorite part about living in Waseca"? And 9 times out of 10, the answer will be "the community". It's just an instant and easy answer for most of us. But when you think about it, that could mean a million things. The people, the schools, whatever. But what does that ACTUALLY mean?

When people say 'the community,' what they really mean is that there's always someone who knows you well enough to notice the little things, sometimes before you even do. In a good way, hopefully. It's the teachers who could somehow tell you didn't do the homework just by looking at your face. The classmates who said 'I got you' and then immediately asked you what the assignment was because they didn't have it either. But it's also the people who showed up not only for the big moments, but also the small ones. The games, the concerts, the panic at 11:45pm trying to finish an assignment that we swore we'd start earlier next time... and never did. There was always someone there for you. That's what people mean by community. Not perfection. Just

Presence. And the funny thing is, we probably didn't always appreciate it while it was happening either. We were too busy counting down to today. But now that today is actually here, it's clear that 'Waseca' isn't just a place we went to school—it's a place we grew up in. It's our home.

And a home isn't something you fully understand while you're still in it. You don't really notice how much it shapes you until right now. When you start getting ready to leave it. Because Waseca isn't just where we went to class or sat in traffic before school. It's where we figured out who we are. It's where we learned how to show up for each other, how to learn, fail and somehow grow up without even realizing it was happening. And now we're standing at this weird in-between moment. Everything familiar is about to change, but what we might forget is that everything we learned here will come with us.

So maybe the point isn't that we're leaving Waseca behind. Maybe it's that we're taking it with us. Every friendship, every lesson, every memory that made this place feel like home in the first place.

Now, as we all flip our tassels and say goodbye to a place that once felt so normal, remember that you're not really leaving it behind. No matter where life takes us from here, we'll always have the support of our community behind us. We've all laughed when Mr. Nelson says,

'Once a Bluejay, Always a Bluejay,' but it's true.

As we take our first steps into the next chapter, remember that you aren't alone, and you'll never be alone. You basically have an entire army of people supporting you and rooting for you every step of the way. So take risks, have fun, and celebrate this incredible accomplishment together. Congratulations, Class of 2026—we made it. Thank you.

## Attend the Church of your Choice!

**CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH**
**2200 4th St NE, Waseca**
**507-835-2235**
Service times 9:30 a.m.

* * *

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

* * *

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

* * *

**CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH**
**309 6th St NE, Waseca**
**507-835-9176**
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School/Fellowship 10:15 a.m.
Wednesday Eve Worship 6:30 p.m.

* * *

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

* * *

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

* * *

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

* * *

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

* * *

**SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH**
**111 4th St NW, Waseca**
**Father Glenn Ferichs**
**507-835-1222**
Worship Sundays 10:00 a.m., Tues. and Wed. at 8:30 a.m. and Thurs. at 7 a.m.; Saturdays at 5 p.m.

* * *

**REAL LIFE CHURCH**
**620 W Elm Ave, Waseca**
**507-833-0017**
Sunday worship 10 a.m.

* * *

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

* * *

**GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH**
**1221 8th St SE, Waseca**
**507-835-2213**
Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.

* * *

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

* * *

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

* * *

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

* * *

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

* * *

**LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH**
**New Richland, Minnesota**
**Pastor Dan Kordahl**
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting

* * *

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

* * *

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

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**ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH**
**New Richland, Minnesota**
**Father Glenn Ferichs**
Friday - 10 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays p.m. Mass
Sunday - Mass at 8 a.m.

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**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

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**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**
**Freedom Township**
Sunday – 9:15 a.m. Worship

* * *

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

* * *

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

* * *

**TRINITY LUTHERAN**
**Wilton Township**
**Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor**
Services 6 p.m. Saturday

* * *

**THE CHURCH of JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**
**Brad Donner, Branch President**
**Waseca, Minnesota**
**www.lds.org**
Sunday — 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School
Wednesday — 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages 12-18

* * *

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**
**412 N. Main Street, Janesville**
**Pastor Jason Wolter**
Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship
Sunday - 8 a.m.Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:30 a.m. Worship

* * *

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

* * *

**BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
**43089 180th St., Morristown**
**Pastor Kathy King**
Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Summer worship hours, (10:45 a.m. Worship, winter)

* * *

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

* * *

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**
**300 Owen St., Janesville**
**Pastor Sarah Krolak**

* * *

**ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH**
**Alma City, Minnesota**
**Pastor Robert Harting**
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship

* * *

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

* * *

**NORTH WASECA LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA**
**404 30 120th St. Waseca**
**Pastor Sarah Krolak**
**507-234-6463**
Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship; Second sunday "Young at heart"
Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. confirmation

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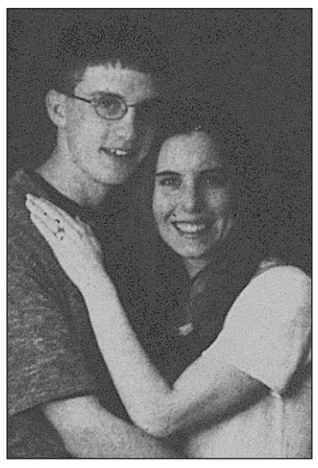
• Water & Waterline Repair
• Jetting, Camera & Locating
• Septic Services
• Snow Plowing

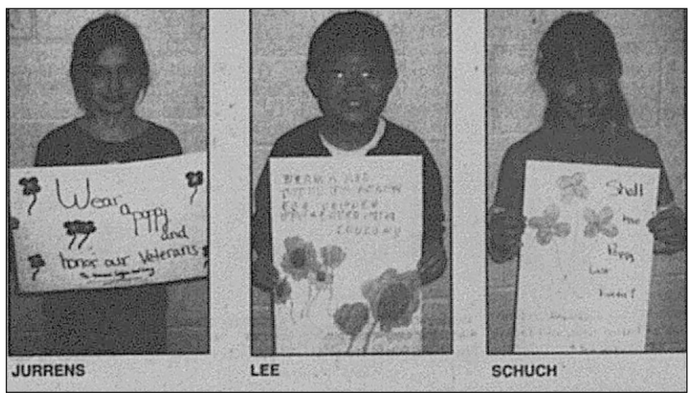
## Janesville

**25 years ago**



**- Laura Seys, daughter of Dan and Judy Seys of Janesville, and Joshua Witts, son of Foger and Gerdane Witts of Pemberton, wish to announce their engagement. Laura is a 1996 graduate of Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School and a 2000 graduate of Minnesota State University, Mankato. She le currently employed at Immanuel-St. Joseph's-Mayo Health System In Mankato. Joshua is a 1996 graduate of Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School and is currently employed at Witts' Electric. A Saturday, June 23, 2001, wedding is planned.**

- South Dakota State University's spring commencement exercises were held on Saturday, May 5. Rex Remington of Janesville received a bachelor of arts degree in arts and science. He is the son of Judy and Harlan Remington.




**- The American Legion Women's Auxiliary #587 of Waldorf recently sponsored a Poppy Poster Contest. The winners were Brittney Jurrens, first place; Ntomon Lee, second place and Katrina Schuch, third place. They are filh grade students in Mrs. Hoppe's room. Jurrens also won second place in the First District contest.**

- Ryan Frank has joined the United States Army under the Delayed Entry Program. The program gives young men and women the opportunity to delay entering active duty for up to one year. The enlistment give the new soldier the option to learn a new skill, travel and become eligible to receive as much as $50,000 toward a college education. After completion of basic military training, soldiers receive advanced individual training in their career job speciality. Frank, a 2000 graduate of St. Clair High School, will report to Fort Knox, Ky., for basic training. He is the son of Ann and Lonnie Frank of Eagle Lake.

**50 years ago**

- Mr. and Mrs. Lester Kruse of International Falls spent the week end with their parents, Mrs. Eva Armstrong of Janesville and Carl Kruse of St. Clair. They came to help Mr. Kruse celebrate is 80th birthday Saturday. About 50 relatives and friends met at the home of Mrs. Irene Stoffel, rural St. Clair to help Mr. Kruse celebrate his 80th birthday. On Sunday the Kruse's had an Armstrong family picnic at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Knuth of Mankato. Following the picnic the Kruse's returned to their home.

- May 12, Mrs. Gene Wiebusch entertained the members of her Bridge Club in her home at dessert and coffee followed by Bridge at two tables. Mrs. Bill Hoversten of Waseca was a guest. Prizes for the evening were awarded to Mrs. Velma Dahl and Mrs. Clifford Gardner. Mrs. Fred W. Arnoldt will be hostess at the next meeting May 26.

- The Janesville Mothers of Men in Service met May 7 in the American Legion Club Rooms, with 12 members and one guest, Mrs. Fritz Guse in attendance. The usual business meeting was held. Members that can are to come to the American Legion Club Rooms May 27 to help make wreaths for the graves. Following adjournment of the business meeting, cards were played at three tables with the high score prize awarded to Mrs. Tillie Mullerielle; second prize to Mrs. Elizabeth Blasing; consolation to Mrs. Eveline Clausen and the draw prize to Mrs. Linda Quast. Lunch was served by Mrs. Augusta Dumdei and Mrs. Ray Farley.

**75 years ago**

- The Janesville Fire Dept. was called to the Arnold Implement Co. Monday afternoon when an automatic washer caught fire in the building. The washer is owned by the Frank Hashners who live upstairs. It was in use at the time it apparently shorted and caught fire. Leo Welsh, on duty in the store, disconnected the electric cord and the fire was out when the department arrived. Welsh says the fire must have died quickly because the firemen arrived almost in a matter of seconds.

- The Southwest Alton Speedy Group met with Elizabeth Bucholtz at the Wally Santo home southwest of Janesville on Wednesday afternoon, May 23. The afternoon was spent hemming dish towels for the hostess. The main business of the meeting was election of officers with Mrs. William Westphal elected president and Mrs. Edgar Guentzel, secretary and reporter. The next meeting will be with Mrs. Adolph Priem on Thursday afternoon, June 28.

- The following received their diplomas as eighth grade graduates from the Trinity Lutheran Christian Day School in Janesville at the closing service at Trinity Lutheran church on Friday morning: Deanna Beelow, Shirley Beelow, Dale Cords, Paul Enger, Beatrice Gahler, Vera Guse, Charles Kopischke, June Lafayette, Sharon Lau, Margaret Milbrett, William Mueller, Regina Prail, Gary Roemhildt, John Schulenberg, Beata Schlie, Judith Schnoor, Lowell Schultz, LaJune Schwarz, Patricia Sommer, E. Steven Sonnenberg and Barbara Winter.

**100 years ago**

- One thing in favor of the man who marries these days is that the styles enable him to know pretty well beforehand what he is getting. -Belle Plaine Herald.

- The young man's fancy may run to thoughts of love at this time of the year, but the old man dwells on whether there's still enough coal in the bin to last out. Ellendale Eagle.

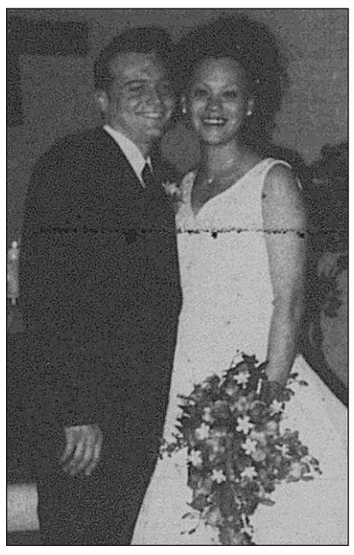
- In the days of long ago, a sign bearing the following legend was prominently displayed in a Shkopee place of business: "I don't trust you for two reasons: First, because I don't know you; second, because I do." Sometimes you feel that way about politicians. Isn't it so, kind madam or sir? -Jordan Independent.

## Waseca

**25 years ago**

- Gordon Larson, 80, and his wife, Marion, 78, remain in critical condition at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester as the result of a one-car accident early Friday evening in Waseca. According to police reports, the Larson car struck a tree when Gordon suffered a heart attack while driving on Highway 14 near Barney's Drive-In. In addition to other injuries, Marion also suffered a heart attack following the accident. Both had a history of heart problems. They were airlifted to St. Mary's Hospital when they remain in the Intensive Care Unit. The Larsons are longtime Waseca residents.

**- Glenn Wobschall, and his granddaughter, Megan, 11, decorated graves at Waseca's Woodville Cemetery for Memorial Day. American Legion Post 228 placed over 600 flegs in Waseca and 1100 throughout the county.**



**- Maria Myers, formerly of Waseca, and Brant Bell, of Randolph, were united in marriage on February 24, 2001, at the Assemblies of God Church in Faribault, with Pastor Tom Byrtus officiating at the 4 p.m. ceremony. Maria is the daughter of Michael and Joyce Myers of Waseca. Brant is the son of Wayne and SHerry Bell of Randolph. A reception was held for immediate family members at the Lavender Inn of Faribault. A reception will be held for approximately 200 guests on June 22, 2001 in New Trier, Minn. The couple will reside in Randolph.**

- Allison Dawn Clemons of Waseca recently received the Free-Body Award from Hamline University. The Free-Body Award is given by Hamline alumni in honor of Dr. Jerry L. Artz. This award is given to the student who has demonstrated the most persistence and personnel academic growth in the full-year introductory physics course. This award stands as tangible proof that one can excel after graduation even with a D on an optics exam. The donors wish to remind us all that life is based on an average of many tests through life. Clemons is the daughter of Kevin and Keri Clemons of Waseca.

**50 years ago**

- Wasecan John Sybilrud qualified for the NCAA Division Two meet with a time of 9:17 for the 3000 meter steeplechase at the NIC Track Meet at St. Cloud. A time of 9:25 was the qualifying time. The NCAA II meet will be held May 27,28 and 29 at Slippery Rock, Pa. John is a sophomore at St. Cloud State and set the Huskie steeplechase record this past season. He credits Bluejay coach Gary Meurer with his success in distance events and looks forward to running with coach Meurer this summer in Waseca. Sybilrud set the one mile, two mile and cross country records as a Bluejay. John is the son of Jane and Jim Sybilrud of Waseca.

- To the Editor: The first two hatches of little mallard ducklings are visible from my study window on our church's Clear Lake shore. There's eight in one mother's family and seven in the other. The question that bothers at such a sight is, Can they survive the pollution that comes off our city streets at this tiny marsh? They have to be tough; my hope springs anew that we'll get to work in earnest at cleaning up beautiful Clear Lake. -Clayton Oberg.-

- Cindy Breck, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joel N. Breck, R.2, Waseca has been accepted for admission into Mankato State University, Dr. Ross C. Alm, director of admissions, announced this week. She is a graduate of Waseca High School. In school she was a member of DECA and Mat Mates. Her planned major at college will be to become a physical therapy assistant.

**75 years ago**

- Benard McCarthy, who has been a linotype operator with the Journal Publishing Co. since 1924 left yesterday for a new job in Minot, N.D. He will be a linotype operator on the Minot Daily News. His wife, Anne, accompanied him yesterday. They lived at 708 2nd St. NW while in Waseca. McCarthy was with the Journal 26 years altogether. He spent some time since 1929 in Hopkins and at Pennsylvania State college, but returned to the Journal.

- The Josten Mfg. Co. of Owatonna will again hold their annual picnic at Clear Lake Park Saturday, June 16. Over 800 people are expected to attend. The Josten Employees Club who organize and manage the picnic would like to express their grateful appreciation to the people of Waseca for allowing them the use of their fine Park for the past several years. The picnic this year will be catered by a Waseca business firm.

- Mrs. Ben Holtz, 810 South State St. found two perfectly formed tulips blossoming from a single stem. She picked the unusual flower from her garden and it has since been displayed at the Waseca Herald office. The blooms are a yellow variety with rose trimmed edges.

**100 years ago**

- A man, says a writer, is a hero to his wife for about two months. One is the month before they are married, and the other is the one after his decease. Passing Show, London.

- The public health service says that there is no truth in the statement that persons living in cold climates have thicker blood than those living in warm climates.

- When a shoe pinches, a sponge dipped in hot water and placed on the part of the boot which draws most will expand the leather and make it more comfortable.

## New Richland

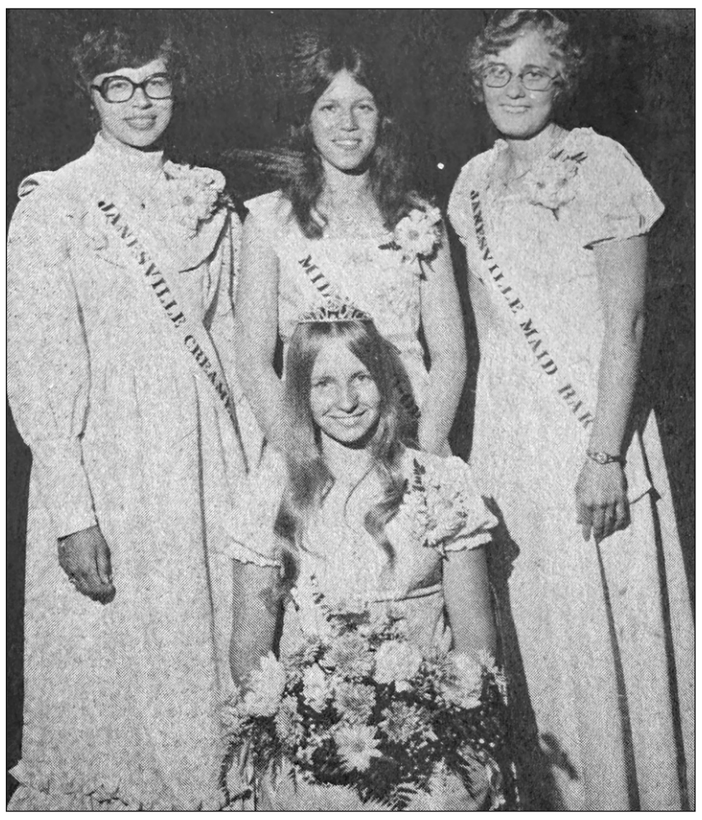
**25 years ago**

**- Selected as an Honorary NRHEG FFA member for 2001 was Karen Chicos. Presenting Karen with a plaque for the honor is David Kuglin, officer of the local FFA Chapter.**

- Rev. Dr. Lyle and Josephine Rusert of Waldorf announced the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer, to John Hans, son of Carol and Eldon Hans of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Jennifer is a programmer analyst at US Bank in St. Paul. John is a computer programming instructor at Brown institute in Mendon aHeights. A June 16 wedding is planned.

**50 years ago**

- August Olson was honored at a dinner on the occasion of his 90th birthday, Sunday June 6, at the Vince Erdmann home. Hosts and hostesses were his daughters and their husbands, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Johnson and Mr. and Mrs. Vince Erdmann.




**- Lori Ann Berry of near Waldorf, seated, was crowned Waseca County Dairy Princess, Monday evening at Janesville. She is pictured here with runner-up Debra Guse of Janesville and Julie Kramer of Waseca. Marilyn Manthey of Janesville at the right was chosen Miss Congenality.**

- The largest graduating class in the 114-year history of Gustavus Adolphus College participated in Commencement Exercises on Sunday, May 30 in the Gustavus Stadium. Sigrid Hedman, who majored in Nursing , was one of 421 seniors in the class of 1976 who received the baccalaureate degree from Lutheran liberal arts college in St. Peter, Minnesota.

**75 years ago**

- Margret Ann Smidt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gerhard H. Smidt of New Richland, became the bride of Dennis William Crumb, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Crumb of New Richland, Tuesday at the First Presbyterian church of Albert Lea.

- With a horatio Alger ending, New Richlands AMerican Legion Softball team topped Alden here Tuesday evening 11-10. George Olson provided the storybook finish when he hit for the circuit with two mates on base and his team trailing 10-8.

- Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Wobschall of Waseca are the parents of a son, born at Memorial hospital Friday, June 27. Their first son has been named Dane Alan, and has a sister, Karen.

## ■ SWCD

from Page 3

and answer session, members were invited to ask anything of Krell and Briggs. One member asked, "I heard that there was going to be a 40,000-acre data center going up in the area. Is there any truth to that?" Briggs replied, "I have not heard about that. I believe the data centers we were considering were only 80 acres, not 40,000." Another question, which also concerned data centers was: "If the power does go out, how do we assure dairy farms are the first priority before data centers are tended to?" Briggs replied, "From what I know about it, the data centers are able to take care of themselves."

There were three raffle giveaways: winner of the largest prize was Linda Tollefsrud, who took home two $150 gift cards, one for Casey's and one for Steve's Meats in Ellendale. Mark Foster took second prize: two $100 gift cards, one for Casey's and the other for Grandpa's Old Home Meats in Medford. Third place was $100 Lerberg's Grocery in Ellendale awarded to Patricia Blow. There were around 20 flowers awarded as well. For lunch, which was catered by Hy-Vee was steak, corn, coleslaw, and buns.

**UP AND OVER — Waseca High School's William Mansfield clears the pole vault bar during the state track and field meet at St. Michael-Albertville High School last week. Mansfield cleared 15 feet even to capture the Class AA state championship.**

# Bluejays shine on state's biggest stage

## Mansfield wins pole vault, Grannis takes second, relay third in state track and field meet

**By JOE HEDERVARE**
WHS Activities Director

Powered by a state championship, two additional all-state performances, and a top-10 team finish, the Waseca Bluejays capped off an outstanding 2026 season at the Minnesota State High School League Class AA Track and Field Championships held June 5-6 at St. Michael-Albertville High School.

The Bluejay boys accumulated 30 team points to finish eighth overall in the Class AA team standings, continuing a tradition of excellence for a program that previously captured Class AA state team championships in 2015 and 2023.

Leading the way was senior William Mansfield, who earned the title of Class AA state champion in the boys' pole vault. Mansfield cleared 15 feet, 0 inches to win the event and secure 12 team points for the Bluejays. His championship performance was the highlight of a remarkable season and cemented his place among the state's elite competitors.

Junior Tovin Grannis also delivered an exceptional performance throughout the weekend. After advancing through Friday's preliminary round in the 300-meter hurdles, Grannis returned to the track on Saturday and raced to a second-place finish in the state finals with a personal-best time of 38.33 seconds. The runner-up finish earned all-state honors and added another 10 points to Waseca's team total.

Grannis wasn't finished making an impact.

Later in the meet, he teamed with Sunny Mei, Malachi Noble, and Brady Tlougan in the boys' 4x400 relay. After winning their preliminary heat on Friday, the quartet returned Saturday and delivered a season-best time of 3:24.99 to place third in Class AA. Their all-state performance added eight more points to Waseca's team score and showcased the depth and talent of the Bluejay sprint program.

In addition to his medal-winning performances, Grannis also competed in the high jump, clearing 6 feet, 2 inches to finish 12th overall in a highly competitive field.

The Bluejay girls were represented by the 4x800-meter relay team of Ellie Kopischke, Stella Omtvedt, Ava VanDenHemel, and Maren Schimming. Competing against the top distance runners in Minnesota, the quartet posted a time of 9:58.36 to finish 14th in Class AA. Their state meet appearance capped an outstanding season and reflected the continued growth and success of Waseca's distance program.

Waseca's accomplishments at the state meet were a testament to the dedication, perseverance, and hard work displayed throughout the season by its student-athletes and coaching staff. From Mansfield's state championship in the pole vault to Grannis' runner-up finish in the hurdles and the all-state performance of the boys' 4x400-meter relay, the Bluejays once again demonstrated their ability to compete among the very best programs in Minnesota.

Congratulations to William Mansfield, Tovin Grannis, Sunny Mei, Malachi Noble, Brady Tlougan, Ellie Kopischke, Stella Omtvedt, Ava VanDenHemel, and Maren Schimming on an outstanding state meet and a remarkable 2026 season. Their performances brought pride to the Waseca community and added another memorable chapter to the proud tradition of Bluejay track and field.

**WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS – JWP's Caleb Quast (9) holds the trophy high in front of celebrating teammates after the Bulldogs' 3-2 victory over NRHEG in the Section 1AA championship game last week.** Photos by Eli Lutgens

# On to state

## JWP baseball team tops NRHEG for Section 1A title

**By ELI LUTGENS**
Publisher/Editor

The magic carpet ride continues for the JWP High School baseball team.

It has ended for NRHEG.

JWP, seeded second, punched its school's first ticket to the big dance last Tuesday with a 3-2 victory over top-seeded NRHEG in the Section 1A finals at Riverland's Dick Seltz Field in Austin.

The Bulldogs, 15-7, drew the No. 7 seed in the state tournament and faced second-seeded Red Lake County (24-1) in the opening round this morning at Joe Faber Field in St. Cloud.

""I'm proud. I'm happy for these guys, what we worked for," said JWP head coach Cory Jewison. "We knew we could made a deep run. I don't think we expected this. I knew we had the talent. The new guys we had stepped in and played their role very well. This team is just, they like to fight. If it's one thing I've learned it's this is a group that pushes themselves and does not give up."

The difference in the section title game for the Bulldogs,was timely hitting, a go-ahead, two-run single from senior Caleb Quast in the fourth inning and another spectacular pitching performance from ace lefthander, Chase Gerdts.

The game started well for the Panthers, who loaded the bases and

**Bulldogs** continued on 9

**TO THE BIG SHOW – JWP'S Chase Gerdts and Jaxon Wolff celebrate the Bulldogs' section baseball championship.**

# How does it feel to be a state champ?

**By JIM LUTGENS**
Sports Editor

How does it feel to be a state champion?

Ask William Mansfield. He knows.

Mansfield, a recent Waseca High School graduate, became the Class AA state pole vault champion during the state meet last week at St. Michael-Albertville High School.

So, what's it like to finish the season on top of the podium with a gold medal around your neck?

"It feels amazing," said Mansfield. "The feelings are finally starting to sink in after graduating from high school. I want that to continue through my (post-high school) career."

Mansfield cleared 15 feet even to finish first at state, reaching a milestone he's been thinking about for a long time.

"It's always been a gold for me throughout my high school career," said Mansfield. "I wanted to hit 15."

Not that he was limiting himself.

"I knew I could go higher," he said. "But I really wanted to hit 15. That was my goal. I'm so glad I was able to do it in the biggest meet of the season."

Mansfield, an honor student and a multi-sport athlete who started on last fall's state runner-up Waseca football squad, said he was in eighth grade when he realized that pole vault was his best track and field event.

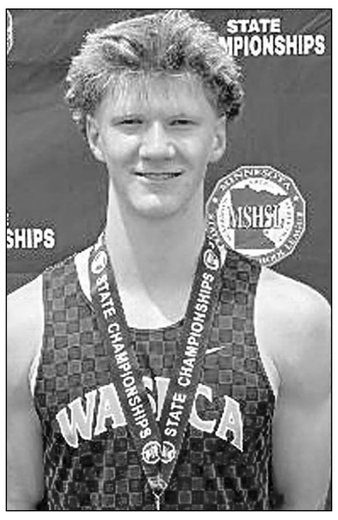
"I was really good at long jump, and I maybe did some relays and other running events," said Mansfield.

The very first time he tried the pole vault - with no instruction or practice - he cleared 6-6.

He kept improving on that mark before going 10 feet that season.

"I knew then I had a chance to be really good at this," said Mansfield.

So who helped him the most in achieving his pole vault goals?



**Will Mansfield**

"I would say probably my parents (Edita and John)," said Mansfield. "They always have been very supportive of me, always real encouraging."

Mansfield also credited two club coaches, especially his first one, John Hammerschmidt, who helped instill a love of pole vault for him.

Mansfield will attend Northern State University in Aberdeen, S.D. this fall, with a major in finance and a minor in accounting.

And he'll be there on the track next spring, doing one of the things he loves best, pole vaulting.

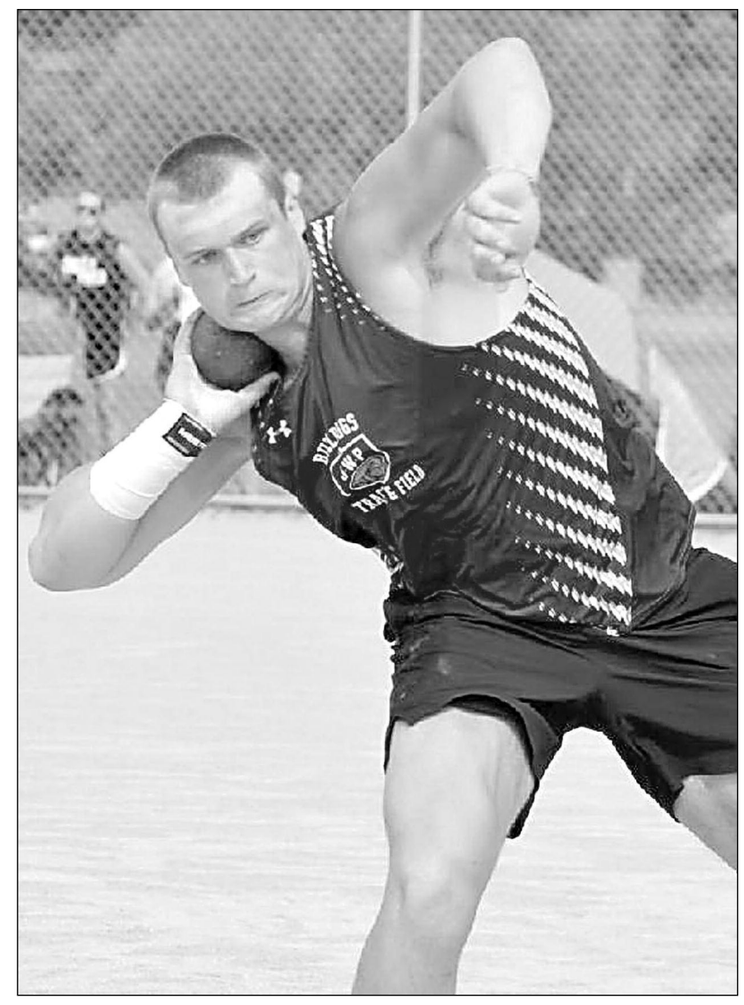
And he has some lofty goals, no pun intended.

"My goal is to compete nationally for Slovakia," said Mansfield, who would be eligible because his mom is full Slovakian.

Mansfield's advice for future Bluejays?

""Work as hard as you can for something you love," said Mansfield. "In the end, it's going to pay off. Just keep working, no matter the adversity."

And, perhaps surprisingly, Mansfield added, "You also need to know that it's O.K. to fail. Be O.K. with failure."



**SCENES FROM STATE— Competing at last week's state track and field meet for JWP/WEM are, from left: Ashlynn Wolff handing off to Nevaeh Weimert during the 4x200-meter relay, one of two Bulldog relays to finish second; Rachel Mielke clears a hurdle; Grady Grohman competes in the shot put.**
Photos by Michael Roy/Janesville Independent

# JWP/WEM track girls register top-10 finish at state

## Two relays take second, break school records; Atherton sets new school record in boys' 400

**By JIM LUTGENS**
Sports Editor

Last year, the JWP High School girls' track and field team surprised the state and maybe even themselves while winning the Class A state championship.

This year, with JWP and WEM combining, there were no surprises. The Bulldogs were good and everybody knew it.

So, it should come as no surprise, the Bulldogs capped off the 2026 season with a top-10 finish in last week's state meet at St. Michael-Albertville High School.

"What an incredible way to close out the season!" said JWP coach Sam Schruin. "Our athletes were outstanding today, competing against the best athletes in the state while battling weather delays and a long day of competition. Their determination, resilience, and competitive spirit were on full display from start to finish."

> "Their determination, resilience, and competitive spirit were on full display from start to finish."
>
> **— JWP coach Sam Schruin**

The JWP/WEM girls finished in a tie for eighth place with 27 points. Hills-Beaver Creek won it with 43.

The Bulldogs brought home silver medals in two events, the 4x200-meter relay and the 4x400.

Kaitlin Olson, Ashlynn Wolff, Nevaeh Weimert and Rachel Mielke won the 4x200 with a time of 1:43.3.

MaKaela Westphal Weimert, Wolff and Mielke finished first in the 4x400 in 3:58.62.

Both relays broke the JWP and WEM school records.

Addison Condon, Wolff, Olson and Weimert combined for sixth in the 4x100, clocking 49.77.

The other points for the JWP/WEM girls were scored by Mielke, an eighth-grader, who took seventh in the 300 intermediate hurdles in 42.67 seconds, breaking her own school record.

The JWP/WEM boys set a record of their own while tying for 20th in the meet with 14 points. First-place Winona Cotter/Hope Lutheran had 92.

The school record to fall was in the 400, where junior Gavin Atherton clocked 48.63 while finishing second. Triton senior Pierce Petersohn won in 47.5.

Atherton took seventh in a very close 200 race with a time of 22.18.

Grady Grohman, a senior, finished ninth in the shot put with a toss of 53-4.25.

"We witnessed several historic performances," said Schruin. "As we conclude another memorable season, we want to recognize three outstanding seniors who competed in their final high school track and field meet: Addison Condon, Katelyn Olson, and Nevaeh Weimert.

Condon concluded an exceptional career that included multiple state meet appearances, school records, and countless contributions to both the WEM and WEM/JWP programs.

"Her leadership, work ethic, and dedication have left a lasting impact on her teammates and coaches," said Schruin. "We are excited to watch Addi continue her track and field career at the University of Wisconsin–La Crosse."

Olson finished her Bulldog career as one of the most accomplished athletes in program history. A multiple-time state qualifier, state champion, and school record holder across multiple sports, she has been an outstanding competitor and role model.

"We look forward to following her next chapter as she continues her athletic career playing basketball at Bethany Lutheran College," said Schruin.

Weimert helped elevate the JWP track program year after year through her commitment, competitiveness, and leadership. A multiple-time state participant, state champion, and school record holder, she consistently demonstrated excellence both on and off the track.

"Her positive attitude, encouragement of younger athletes, and team-first mindset will be greatly missed," said Schruin. "We are excited to see her continue her athletic career playing basketball at North Iowa Area Community College."

Concluded Schruin, "Thank you, Addi, Katie, and Nevaeh, along with all of our seniors, for everything you have given to Bulldog track and field. We are grateful for the legacy you leave behind and can't wait to see all that you accomplish in the future. Finally, thank you to our athletes, families, fans, and coaches for your unwavering support throughout the season. This team has accomplished so much, and we couldn't be prouder of everything they achieved."

# Baseball Panthers fall in section finals

**By ELI LUTGENS**
Publisher/Editor

The magic carpet ride has ended for the NRHEG High School baseball team.

It continues for the JWP, which punched its school's first-ever ticket to the big dance — while leaving NRHEG two wins away from its first-ever state tournament.

Seeded No. 1, the Panthers fell to the second-seeded Bulldogs 3-2 Tuesday, June 2 at Riverland's Dick Seltz Field in Austin.

What did first-year head coach Marcus Fischer say to the Panthers after the game?

"Hold your heads up high," said Fischer. "Be proud for battling. Obviously, the game today didn't go our way."

For the Panthers, who finished with a record of 15-7, the difference in the game was an interference call in the first inning that ended a bases-loaded threat; an error in the fourth and an off-the-mark throw to the plate; a balk later in the fourth that allowed JWP's Caleb Quast to smash a two-run single to right field to get what his coach called the biggest hit of his career.

Often, the team that makes fewer mistakes wins at the high school level. For the Panthers, it wasn't the number of errors, but the fact that JWP capitalized on those miscues.

"Good teams capitalize, and JWP was just a little bit better and made the plays after an error."

Most of the season, though, it was the Panthers who made the plays, and that's what Fischer will remember most.

"Boys' sports in our school have struggled in the last several years," said Fischer. "Making it to the section championship, win or lose, we just proved to the community that we have the talent, we have the ability to continue to make it further in the playoffs than expected."

The game started well for the Panthers, who loaded the bases and scored via a walk to A.J. Deen, scoring Dakota Schlaak.

Junior Brooks Gilliland, the next batter, grounded to the second baseman, who attempted to turn a double play. Although Gilliland was safe on the return return throw from second, interference by the runner was called and the second out was awarded to JWP, ending the threat and erasing a run from the board.

Freshman Mack Gilliland was brilliant on the mound for the Panthers and soared through the first three innings. He allowed only four hits, striking out eight and walking two while tossing the entire game.

In the third, a sacrifice bunt was cut down at third base on a bang-bang throw and catch from Mack Gilliland to Brock Holland.

The fourth inning was the Panthers' undoing.

Blayne Wandrie started the rally for the Bulldogs with a one-out double to the base of the left field warning track. A muffed ground ball on the next play, followed by a wide throw home allowed Wandrie to score and Parker Gearity to reach. Another error on the next play on a deep ground ball to shortstop Owen Wayne set the Bulldogs up to take the lead.

Mack Gilliland struck out Blake Bure before a balk was called, moving both runners up with two outs. Quast then delivered the go-ahead, game-winning single, a clean shot to right field. Gilliland struck out the next hitter to end the threat.

A one-out single by Brooks Gilliland scored pinch-runner Alec Wyrum after a Ryan Schlaak single in the top of the sixth.

The Panthers stranded a two-out single by Sean Lassahn in the final frame.

JWP pitcher Chase Gerdts pitched the entire game for the Bulldogs, allowing six hits, two runs, one earned, and struck out five.

"The talent and success we had this year was not something I was expecting," said Fischer. "By the end of the year, we all believed in each other. I love those guys. They made it a memorable first year, for sure."

The 2026 Panthers graduated just three seniors – Wayne, Wyatt Larson and Jordan Brouwers. Wayne plans to play baseball at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato while Brouwers plans to play football at St. Olaf College in Northfield.

**ALWAYS SMILING – The Panthers' Sean Lassahn with his signature smile during last week's section baseball championship game at Austin.**
Photo by Eli Lutgens

## ■ Bulldogs

from Page 8

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A one-out single by Brooks Gilliland later scored off a Ryan Schlaak single in the top of the 6th.

> "I didn't expect this to happen."
>
> **— JWP coach Cory Jewison**

The Panthers stranded a two-out single by Lassahn in the final frame.

Gerdts pitched the entire game for the Bulldogs, allowing six hits, two runs, one earned, and struck out five.

The Bulldogs are seeded 7th in the State tournament and begin play at 10:30 a.m. Thursday morning.

If the Bulldogs defeat Red Lake County Thursday, they would play in the state semifinals Friday, June 12 at 11 a.m. at Faber Field. The third-place game is Saturday, June 13 at Faber Field.

A first-round loss would put the Bulldogs in the elimination bracket Friday at Cold Spring. The winners play for the consolation crown at 2:30 Saturday at Cold Spring.

Madelia (24-3) is seeded No. 1, followed by Red Lake County, South Ridge, Murray County Central, Oglivie, Brandon-Evansville, JWP and New York Mills.

Jewison said reaching the state tournament is a dream come true for both him and his players.

"I ame here six years ago and I just honestly had the goal of being competitive and trying to build a program," said Jewison. "I didn't expect this to happen. Obviously this is a dream and a goal as a coach, but I had nothing to do with it. It's them."

# Centered on family, strengthened by connections: Honoring National Foster Care Month

By PATRICIA HARRELSON
Minnesota Prairie County Alliance

May was National Foster Care Month, and at Minnesota Prairie County Alliance we are embracing the message, "Centered on Family, Strengthened by Connections," because it reflects the heart of child welfare work in our communities. Child welfare is not simply about systems, policies, or court processes. It is about children, families, and preserving the relationships and connections that help children feel safe, valued, and rooted in who they are.

Foster care exists to provide a safe and temporary home for children when remaining safely at home is not possible. The goal is not permanent separation. The goal is safety, healing, stability, and reunification whenever possible. Across Minnesota and throughout the nation, child welfare agencies continue working to strengthen families earlier, support prevention efforts, and reduce the need for out-of-home placement whenever safely possible.

The message "Centered on Family, Strengthened by Connections" is especially meaningful because research and practice continue to show that children do best when they remain connected to family, culture, community, and trusted adults. In Minnesota, many children placed in foster care are cared for by relatives, grandparents, aunts, uncles, or close family friends. Kinship connections help preserve a child's sense of belonging and identity during times of crisis and uncertainty. These relationships are not secondary to child welfare practice; they are foundational to healing and long-term well-being.

Nationally, hundreds of thousands of children experience foster care each year, and many families successfully reunify after receiving services and support. At the same time, young people who leave foster care without permanent supportive relationships often face significant challenges in adulthood. This is why strengthening connections must remain central throughout a child's entire experience with the child welfare system.

At MNPrairie, we work alongside families to prevent the need for foster care whenever possible, while also supporting the foster parents, kinship caregivers, and community partners who step forward when children need care and stability. We are grateful for the collaboration of schools, courts, behavioral health providers, faith communities, nonprofits, and countless others who help strengthen families across our region.

National Foster Care Month is also an invitation to the broader community. There are many ways to support children and families. Individuals can become foster or kinship caregivers, mentor young people, support respite efforts, or simply encourage families experiencing difficult times. Strong communities help create strong families, and strong relationships help children heal.

This May, Minnesota Prairie County Alliance honored every child in foster care, every family working toward reunification, and every caregiver and community partner helping children remain connected to the people who matter most. Centered on family and strengthened by connections, we move forward together in support of children and families across our communities.

## Child's History of Waseca County

**CHAPTER XII, 1855. The First Election–First candidates in county–List of voters**

THE FIRST ELECTION

The general election in those days was held on the second Tuesday in October, I think; at any rate the election that year fell on the 9th of October. There were two voting precincts. The northern half of the county was called "Swavesy," and the southern half "Le Sueur River." There were two polling places—one at the house of J. M. Bliven in Blooming Grove, the other at the farm of Chris Scott, now owned by Mr. Carmody, in Wilton.

I was not present at the "Sswavesy" precinct, but was present at the "Le Sueur" precinct election. When the voters came together at Scott's house, there was no ballot box, and one had to be improvised. Finally Mrs. Scott loaned them a cake box. A hole was cut in the cover so as to admit the ballots, and the election proceeded. The local candidates were as follows:

County commissioners—Samuel B. Smith, Wm. Allen and Melmer P. Ide.

Register of deeds—Charles Ellison.

Sheriff–Wm. F. Pettit.

Treasurer—David Sanborn.

Surveyor—John W. Park.

Clerk of court—F. Wilbur Fisk.

District attorney—J. M. Bliven.

Judge of probate—Frank B. Davis.

Assessors—David Lindesmith, Charles Thompson and Luke B. Osgood.

Justices of the peace—John Jenkins, of what is now Wilton, and Simeon Smith, of what is now Blooming Grove.

Of the county officers, Mr. Ide and Mr. Bliven resided in Blooming Grove. All the other officers were residents of what is now Steele county, except Mr. Osgood, who lived in what is now Iosco.

It is proper to say here that what is now Waseca county was then a part of Steele county.

The names of those who voted in the Le Sueur precinct, as I remember them, were as follows:

Barney Gregory, Joseph Bird, Abraham Bird, John White, Martin Krassin, Fred Krassin, Gottlieb Krassin, Sr., Fred Prechel, Gottlieb Prechel, Fred Wobschall, David J. Jenkins, John Jenkins, John G. Greening, Andrew Scott, C. D. Scott, Chris. Scott, James E. Child, Wm. Robbins, George Robbins and H. F. Bierman. — twenty voters in all.

The names of those who resided in the "Swavesey" precinct, as near as I can make out from the records, were as follows:

A. C. Smith, L. B. Osgood, Daniel McDaniels, John H. Wheeler, David Wood, Aaron Hanes, J. W. Hosmer, Michael Johnson, JOnathan Howell, A. J. Bell, S. F. Wyman, Chris. Remund, W. M. Gray, J. M. Bliven, Ole Knutson, Curtis Hatch. M. P. Ide, Simeon Smith, James, John, Thomas and Jerry Hogan, James and Patrick McCue, Patrick Moonan, George Morrill, John Cunningham and John Rowley.

It is not known to the writer how many of these voted, but there was a "right smart" vote considering the number of people.

The ticket was really non-partisan—Messrs. Pettit and Ellison being non-committal democrats—and all the others abolitionists or republicans. Among the voters in the Le Sueur precinct, there were only two democrats, Andrew and C. D. Scott.

The whole ticket was voted straight, as there was no opposition. So you see we started out harmoniously. It was, in fact, the only election the writer ever attended that was entirely harmonious and unanimous. While the fires of sectional and partisan strife were raging in the eastern states, our then territory was comparatively free from such excitement.

## Avenue of Flags

**INSTALLATION SUCCESS - Volunteers who helped place flags at Woodville and Calvary cemeteries were (front row, from left) Deb Tappe, Mandi Root, Mike Sutlief, Eryn Harrison, Roger Ockwig, Jane Bartelt, Cindy Dickie, Jackie Barbknecht, (center row, from left) Tom Hoehn, Barry Hagey, Mark Bartelt, Brad Schnepf, Allen Kopetzke, Leann Sutlief, Isaac Pfiefer, Connie Ockwig, Bruce Tappe, Arnaan Bhatti, Kevin Dickie, Allen Metler, Ed Hoehnn.**

**The installation of the Avenue of Flags was a success due the hard work of these volunteers under the leadership of Kevin Dickie and Bruce Tappe**

# Interim update from Rep. Tom Sexton

**Legislative Update**

Dear Neighbor,

With the legislative session now behind us, I've enjoyed the opportunity to spend more time back home in the district, meeting with residents, visiting local businesses, attending community events, and hearing directly from the people I represent. The interim provides an important chance to reconnect with our communities and continue working on the issues that matter most outside the Capitol. While the pace is different than during session, the work continues, and I remain focused on advocating for policies that strengthen our region, support working families, and keep Minnesota moving in the right direction. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to share their thoughts and perspectives. I always appreciate hearing from you.

**Explaining the Tax Reductions We Secured this Session**

Since the session concluded, many constituents have reached out with questions about the tax relief we secured this year, including how it was accomplished and what it will mean for Minnesota taxpayers. I wanted to take a moment to explain the reforms we passed.

One of the most important issues we addressed this session was tax relief. Across Minnesota, homeowners have seen property tax bills climb dramatically in recent years, creating additional financial pressure for families already dealing with higher costs for groceries, energy, insurance, and other necessities. Many of these cost increases are driven by rising local government costs due to state policies that place new requirements on communities without providing adequate funding to cover them. The term frequently used to describe this situation is "unfunded mandates." When local governments are forced to absorb those costs, property taxpayers are often left footing the bill.

We entered the session committed to making affordability a top priority, and that meant finding ways to return money to taxpayers while keeping the state on a sustainable fiscal path. Rather than relying on tax increases, we worked to identify savings and reduce spending in other areas of the budget so we could provide meaningful relief to Minnesota families. As part of the final tax bill, we secured $125 million in one-time homestead property tax relief that will help homeowners offset some of the recent increases they have experienced.

Now, $125 million sounds like a large and impressive number, and it certainly represents a significant investment in tax relief. However, when that funding is spread across homeowners throughout the entire state, the amount that any individual homeowner may receive is relatively modest. However, it is a move in the right direction. Minnesota has millions of homestead properties, and the reality is that a one-time rebate can only go so far in offsetting years of rising property taxes.

That is why I view this legislation as an important first step rather than a complete solution. While every dollar returned to taxpayers matters, especially at a time when many families are facing higher costs across the board, this rebate alone will not reverse the long-term trend of increasing property tax burdens. Homeowners deserve more than temporary relief. They deserve a tax system that is predictable, affordable, and sustainable over the long run.

The good news is that this year's tax relief demonstrates that progress is possible. By making responsible budget decisions and identifying savings elsewhere in state government, lawmakers were able to return money to taxpayers instead of simply growing government spending. Going forward, I believe we should continue building on this approach by pursuing larger and more permanent property tax reforms that address the root causes of rising tax bills. Minnesotans work hard for their money, and they should be able to remain in their homes without worrying that ever-increasing property taxes will make homeownership unaffordable.

**Congratulations Federal Corrections Institution-Waseca! Happy 30th Birthday.**

On Thursday, June 4th, 2026, the Federal Corrections Institute-Waseca celebrated its 30th anniversary. Pictured below are some of the current and retired staff members who serve or served at FCI-Waseca. You might be able to find a local representative in the photo too. Congratulations and great job team!

**Reminder: A Note about our Communications this Interim**

Now that the legislative session is over, we have entered the interim period, when much of our work shifts away from daily activity at the Capitol and back into our districts through meetings, community events, and constituent outreach.

I want to make you aware of an important restriction that applies in even-numbered years. We are limited in sending unsolicited mass communications from our official capacity as legislators during the 60-day period before a general election. Because of that requirement, I will no longer be able to send these official email updates beginning July 17th.

During that time, I plan to continue sharing updates primarily through my Facebook page, and you are always welcome to contact me directly by email or phone with any questions, concerns, or ideas. It is an honor to serve our communities, and I look forward to staying connected

**Coffee with Tom**

Currently, I am planning to host Coffee with Tom at the Owatonna Chamber of Commerce today from 12:00pm – 1:00pm.

Next, I am planning to host Coffee with Tom at the Waseca Chamber of Commerce on Friday, June 19th from 12:00pm – 1:00pm. Note: The Waseca Chamber of Commerce will be closed on June 12th, 2026, so we rescheduled to the following Friday.

Thank you for your support and feedback, and please reach out if you need assistance in the meantime! throughout the interim.

**ROOTED IN GOOD - Waseca Chamber Ambassadors presented iWealth with the organization's Roots Award in recognition of more than 30 years of service to the Waseca community.**

# Chamber presents prestigious Roots Award to iWealth

The Waseca Chamber Ambassadors are proud to present the prestigious Roots Award to iWealth in recognition of their more than 30 years of service and commitment to the Waseca community.

The Roots Award is an honor that recognizes and celebrates businesses and organizations that have served the Waseca community for over 30 years. This prestigious award is a tribute to their enduring commitment, resilience, and contributions to the economic and social fabric of Waseca. Their longevity in business is a testament to their excellence and dedication, and the Waseca Chamber Ambassadors are proud to acknowledge their achievements.

iWealth is a Minnesota-based financial planning and wealth management firm that helps individuals, families, and businesses pursue their financial goals through personalized, holistic planning services. Their services include retirement planning, investment management, generational wealth planning, tax and estate planning, business planning, and financial education. The firm focuses on building long-term relationships and creating customized financial strategies tailored to each client's unique goals and future plans.

"The Roots Award represents the very heart of what makes our community strong — businesses that continue to invest in Waseca year after year," said Jodie Thompson, Board of Directors President for the Waseca Chamber of Commerce.. "We are honored to recognize iWealth for their decades of dedication, leadership, and commitment to helping individuals and families build secure futures."

"Our Ambassadors are proud to celebrate businesses that have deep roots in our community and continue to make a meaningful impact," said Katie Gonzales, Ambassador Chair. "iWealth has built lasting relationships through trusted service and community involvement, and we are excited to present them with this well-deserved honor."

"The longevity and success of businesses like iWealth help strengthen the foundation of our local economy," said Robin Dulas, Executive Director of the Waseca Chamber of Commerce. "Their commitment to serving clients with integrity and personalized care over the years is truly something to celebrate."

The Waseca Chamber Ambassadors congratulate iWealth on this outstanding achievement and thank them for their continued dedication to the Waseca community.

For more information about the Waseca Chamber of Commerce, visit www.wasecachamber.com

# LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF WASECA
IN DISTRICT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Civil Division
Case Type: Quiet Title
Court File No. 81-CV-26-369

Lori L. Pommerenke, as Trustee of the Lori L. Pommerenke Revocable Trust u/a/d May 1. 2009; and Brenda Anne Pommerenke,
Plaintiffs,
vs.
Steven L. Scheffert and Kimberly A. Balfe, husband and wife; Janice K. Sutter; Ben M. Sutter; Judy M. Mahler and Gerald W. Mahler, as Trustees of the Burch Mahler Revocable Trust u/a/d August 27, 2008; Judy M. Mahler and Gerald W. Mahler, individually; the Township of Blooming Grove in the County of Waseca; the unknown heirs of Ole Engebretson; the unknown heirs of Albert Remund; the unknown heirs of Catherine Schuette; the unknown heirs of Nels Knutson; the unknown heirs of Engbret O. Engebretson; the known heirs of Augusta W. Remund (a/k/a Auguste W. Remund), namely the unknown heirs of Walter Arthur Remund, the unknown heirs of Lewis Earl Remund, and the known heir of Martha A. Remund (a/k/a Martha A. Pommerenke) (a/k/a Martha A. Stanke), namely Raymond W. Pommerenke; Gloria L. Pommerenke; Raymond W. Pommerenke as Trustee of the Raymond W. Pommerenke Revocable Trust u/a/d 7/27/2001; Gloria L. Pommerenke as Trustee of the Gloria L. Pommerenke Revocable Trust u/a/d 7/27/2001; the known heir of Rolf E. Iversen, namely Mary Ellen Iversen; Lucas J. Root; Sarah M. Root; Sharlene C. Kanne; David M. Kanne; Timothy E. Kanne; Tauston Lamont a/k/a Tauston Keith Lamont; Connie L. Davison, or Successor, as Trustee of the Connie L. Davison Trust Under Agreement dated February 12, 2025; and all other persons unknown claiming any right, title, estate, interest, or lien in the real estate described in the Complaint herein,
Defendants.
SUMMONS
THIS SUMMONS IS DIRECTED TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

1. YOU ARE BEING SUED. The Plaintiffs have started a lawsuit against you. The Plaintiffs' 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 Perry A. Berg at Patton, Hoversten & Berg, P.A., 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 Plaintiffs' Complaint. In your Answer, you must state whether you agree or disagree with each paragraph of the Complaint. If you believe the Plaintiffs should not be given everything asked for in the Complaint, you must say so in your Answer.
4. YOU WILL LOSE YOUR CASE IF 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 Plaintiffs 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 if you expect to use alternative means of resolving the dispute.
7. REAL PROPERTY. THIS LAWSUIT MAY AFFECT OR BRING INTO QUESTION TITLE TO REAL PROPERTY located in Waseca County, Minnesota, legally described as follows:

The Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter, and also Government Lot One (1) and the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter, all in Section 8; AND Government Lot One (1) in Section 9, all in Township 108 North, Range 22 West; EXCEPTING therefrom a strip of land 2 rods wide heretofore deeded to Samuel A. Remund and Henry G. Remund for cartway, described as follows: Commencing at a point 10 rods West of the shore line of what is known as Remunds Lake and on the South line of Government Lot 1, in Section 8, Township 108 North, Range 22 West; thence North to North line of said Section 8, and to a point directly North of place of beginning; thence West on said North section line 2 rods; thence South in a straight line to the South line of said Lot and to a point 2 rods West of place of beginning; thence East to place of beginning; in Waseca County, Minnesota.

The object of this action is to obtain a judgment that Plaintiffs are the owners, in fee simple, of the above-described real property, and that none of said Defendants have any estate or interest in or lien thereon.

Dated this 9th day of March, 2026.

PATTON, HOVERSTEN & BERG, P.A.
By: Perry A. Berg (#135999)
215 E. Elm Ave., PO Box 249
Waseca, MN 56093-0249
(507) 835-5240
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Attorneys for Plaintiff
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on June 11, 18 and 25, 2026

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## City of Waseca
## Board/Commission Vacancy

An opening exists on the following City Advisory Board.

**Economic Development Authority**

**Applications will be accepted until filled.**

Anyone interested in serving may apply in one of the following four ways:

1) In-Person at City Hall, 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093
2) Online at https://www.ci.waseca.mn.us/DocumentCenter/View/993/2025-Boards-and-Comm-Apps
3) Emailing the City Clerk at JuliaZ@ci.waseca.mn.us
4) By Phone: (507) 835-9725 to have an application emailed to you

Applications will be accepted at City Hall or via email to JuliaZ@ci.waseca.mn.us

More information about the City Advisory Boards can be found on the city website at https://www.ci.waseca.mn.us/1198/Boards-Commissions

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID**

**WASECA COUNTY RE-USE FACILITY**

Contractor's sealed proposals for the construction of Waseca County Re-use Facility will be received by the Owner in accordance with the plans and specifications prepared by:

**ARCHITECT**
WiDSETH
3777 40th Avenue NW, Suite 200
Rochester, MN 55901

**SITE VISIT INFORMATION**
Pre-Bid Meeting: Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 10:00 AM (CST)
Location: 31080 State Hwy 13, Waseca, MN 56093

**BID DATE INFORMATION: WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2026**

Bid Time: Wednesday, July 15, 2026 at 10:00 AM (CST)
Location: Online via QuestCDN vBid
Attn: Jim Kollar, Public Works Director
31080 State Hwy 13, Waseca, MN 56093

at which time they will be submitted electronically via QuestCDN - vBID. Bids will be received and evaluated, the awarded by will be announced on July 21, 2026 during the County Board meeting.

Bids will be received for the following Prevailing Wage project:

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Expansion of County owned existing 1,150 s.f. wood framed storage facility with new 1,135 s.f. addition. Building is for storage and resale of donated items. Existing building currently has hazardous materials but is not classified as 'H' occupancy. New structure is wood framed with insulated walls, roof and prefinished metal exterior materials.

Each bid must be accompanied with a cashier's check, bid bond, U.S. Government Bonds (at par value) or certified check equal to five percent (5%) of the amount of the proposal. Security is payable to the Owner as a guarantee of prompt execution of the contract in accordance with the proposal and Contract documents, along with furnishing Payment and Performance Bonds of One Hundred percent (100%) of the bid amount acceptable to the Owner.

For a electronic bid submissions provide a scanned copy of your Security bond with your bid. Provide a original copy to the Bid Recipient within five (5) days of bid due date.

This Bidder shall be required to execute the Agreement and obtain the Performance Bond, Labor and Material, Payment Bond and Project Insurance within ten (10) calendar days from the date when Notice of Award is delivered to the Bidder.

Complete digital project bidding documents are available at https://widseth.com. Click "Bid Documents" in the top right corner of your screen or go to www.questcdn.com and enter the Quest project No. 10197520 on the website's Project Search page. Please contact QuestCDN.com at (952) 233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in free membership registration, downloading and working with this digital project information. You may download the digital plan documents electronically for $25. An additional fee of $45 will be charged to electronically bid the project. An optional paper set of project documents is also available from CES Imaging for a nonrefundable price of $30 plus printing costs. If you choose a paper copy you will get all addenda as paper copies and will be charged for the printing costs. Please make your check payable to CES Imaging and send it to 1701 James Circle N, Brooklyn Center, MN 55430. Please contact CES Imaging Repro Dept at (763) 560-9098 or (800) 831-8587 for pricing and if you have any questions.

The successful bidder must be a "responsible contractor." The term "responsible contractor" means a contractor as defined in Minnesota Statutes Section 16C.285, subdivision 3. Any prime contractor, subcontractor, or motor carrier that does not meet the minimum criteria or fails to comply with the verification requirements is not a responsible contractor and is not eligible to be awarded a construction contract for the project or to perform work on the project. A prime contractor, subcontractor, or motor carrier that makes a false statement under oath verifying compliance with the minimum criteria will be ineligible to be awarded a construction contract on the project and the submission of a false statement may result in termination of a contract awarded to a prime contractor, subcontractor, or motor carrier that submits the false statement. A prime contractor shall include in its verification of compliance a list of all of its first-tier subcontractors that it intends to retain for work on the project. Before execution of a construction contract, a prime contractor shall submit a supplemental verification under oath confirming that all subcontractors and motor carriers that the prime contractor intends to use to perform project work have verified to the prime contractor, through a signed statement under oath by an owner or officer, that they meet the minimum criteria for a responsible contractor.

Bids may not be withdrawn within forty-five (45) days after the scheduled closing time for receiving bids without consent of the Owner. The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and rebid the project until a satisfactory bid is received.

By: Jim Kollar, Public Works Director
Waseca County

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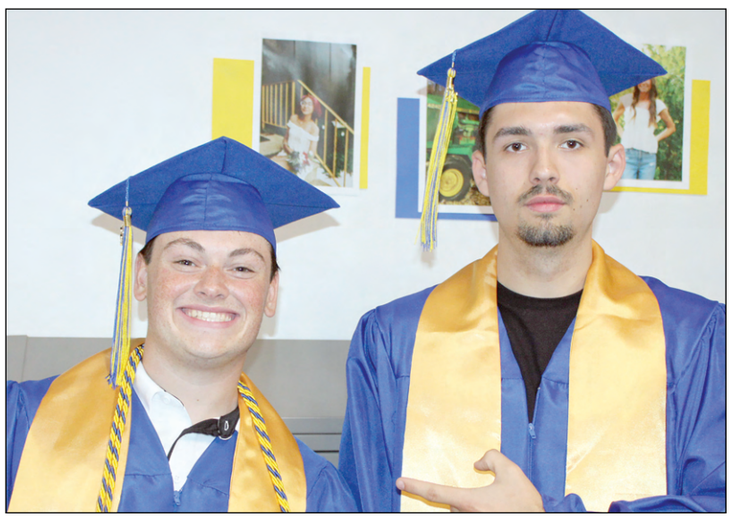
# Waseca Graduation Sunday, June 7, 2026



Pioneer photos by Deb Bently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Sat-Sun..... Closed
M-F..... 8 AM–5 PM
Ali and Willy Malecha are excited to continue to bring you the excellent service you have come to expect at Dave's Body Shop!
Serving Waseca and the surrounding areas for more than 30 years!

O'Brien TAX & ACCOUNTING
Matt O'Brien
212 15th Avenue NE
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Waseca, MN 56093
Ph: 507-201-3820
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email: matt@wmnta.com

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