

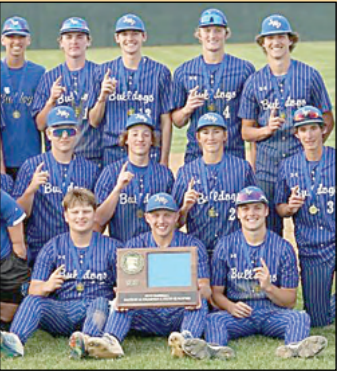


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LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY
No. 25 Vol. V \$2 Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca Thursday, June 18, 2026



Sports

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.

A word from The Word

Then you will go on your way in safety, and your foot will not stumble. When you lie down, you will not be afraid.

Proverbs 3:23-24



NEVER IDLE - Well-known Waseca fisherman José Niño walks six to seven miles a day enjoying being outside. Between stops to throw a line in, he takes the time to pick up trash and collect odds and ends. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Walking, fishing and finding things

Waseca resident enjoys and protects lakes and trails

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

José Niño has no patience for inactivity; one way he "rests up" from a day at work is to go for a walk. But he doesn't go alone—he always takes his fishing pole.

Daily, and sometimes more than once a day as long as the weather allows, he makes his way around Clear Lake, stopping to fish at some favorite points, and picking up trash and aluminum cans along the way. He deposits the trash in public receptacles along his route. The aluminum he stores up and sells for a little extra cash.

Any fish he catches, he releases. Niño, 69, has been connected with the Waseca area since the 1980s. He raised his children, two sons and a daughter now in their 30s, here. Among his former employers are

Brown Printing and Viracon.

Now a resident of Elm Homes, he works in Mankato most days, returns to a much anticipated supper, and then helps his food settle by taking a walk. Sometimes when he's looking for a shorter diversion, he will circle Loon Lake. Whenever he's on outings with Elm Homes groups, says staff member and friend Stephanie Shoultz, Niño takes every opportunity to go fishing.

His love for angling, he says, is something he acquired when he moved to Minnesota, after growing up in Mexico and living in Chicago for a time. Now a holder of a lifetime fishing license, he had never held a pole before arriving in Minnesota.

He says he takes his long walks

Fisherman continued on 5

Local elections taking shape for 2026

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

County offices which will be on area ballots Nov. 3 include the sheriff, county attorney, and three of the five commissioners. With filing for the offices closed on June 2, Waseca County voters now know that county sheriff Jay Dulas and county attorney Rachel Cornelius are running unopposed.

Current board chair De Malteter has been challenged by Reeds Lake area resident Curt Keyes in representing district 4, which includes the northern tier

of county townships: Blooming Grove, Iosco and Janesville.

District 3 commissioner Brad Milbrath, a former county sheriff whose constituency includes the city of Waseca, is the only one to file for his seat. The same is true of district 5 commissioner Brad Krause, whose constituency includes St. Mary and Wilton townships.

District 3 soil and water supervisor Larry Muff has been challenged by New Richland area resident Casey Roeker; district 3 includes Byron, New Richland and Otisco townships. Running

unopposed are soil and water supervisor Matthew Sommers of district 2, which covers Freedom, Vivian and Wilton townships; and Scott Singlestad of district 4, which includes St. Mary and Woodville townships.

Regarding city elections, persons interested in running for mayor or city council—including incumbents—have until the July 14 to 28 filing window to make their decisions.

In the city of Waseca, Mayor Randy Zimmerman and council members Daren Arndt, Jeremy Conrath and James Ebertowski

have terms ending in 2026.

In Janesville, the terms of Interim Mayor Andy Ahlman and city council member Ivan Maas come to a close in 2026.

In New Richland, the terms of Mayor Janda Ferguson and city council members Jody Wynemer and Jason Casey end this year.

In Waldorf, the terms of Mayor Rob Wilkening and council member Missy Sorbo end in 2026. The council will also need someone to fill the seat of member Carrie Ferch, who died while in office.

Waseca Farmers' Market moves to new level

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

"We have an especially nice farmers market in Waseca," observes Amanda Riehm. "We have gotten very big, with as many as 60 vendors at a time." The market gathers on the county fairgrounds facing Eighth Avenue Northeast every Saturday morning from mid-May to mid-October, except during the county fair. Depending on what's in season, vendors offer fresh fruits and vegetables, canned goods, eggs, baked items, prepared foods, and a wide variety of crafts and specialty items.

Riehm, who is now a member of a recently formed steering committee which also includes Cathy Klein, Lindsey McCarty, Mairaid Orrie and Kari Wadd, points out the market has always been rather informal. Its rapid growth and popularity sort of outpaced the loose organizational structure that was in place as it formed.

Riehm, a long-time vendor with the market through her cottage industry The Tattooed Baker, says the event has now become part of the



STEERING THE FUTURE - Members of the Waseca Farmers' Market steering committee are (from left) Amanda Riehm, Kari Wadd, Mairaid Orrie, Lindsey McCarty, and Cathy Klein.

Minnesota Farmers' Market Association (MFMA), based in Nerstrand, but with hundreds of members spanning the state.

Membership in the association, Riehm explains, provides the Waseca market some resources to meet a variety of rules and requirements ranging from local to national. For one, both the farmers' market in general and the individual vendors now have access to insurance. For another, vendors can find out more about certifications and expected procedures for certain specialized products—including, for example, the handling of eggs, which is regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

In case of an inspection by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, which oversees open air food markets and could choose to visit at any time, vendors now know what the expectations and requirements are, and are in a better position to show they are in compliance.

Riehm admits some of the changes expected of vendors have been at least a temporary inconvenience, but says the protections and new more formal structure will prove to be important advantages in the future. For example, vendors were formerly charged only \$5 to set up their booths each week; the cost has risen to \$10 to help cover some of the organiza-

tion's new expenses.

On the other hand, she continues, MFMA membership and assistance improve the local market's opportunities for grants and funding from outside sources. The MFMA insurance not only allows the market to meet fairground requirements, but also provides protection which will be invaluable in the case of an unforeseen complication.

Riehm suggests the leadership of the new committee brings together fresh perspectives and energy which the group hopes will help expand the

Market continued on 12

WALDORF CITY COUNCIL

Waldorf may be raising water rates

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Waldorf city council meeting took place in the evening of Monday, June 8.

Council members were informed nearly \$2,000 worth of water bills went unpaid for the month. A \$10 water base rate increase is being considered. A \$10 sewer base rate increase is being considered. A \$25 sewer service fee is being considered for a total \$45 increase to be effective August 1, 2026. A public hearing will be held regarding this issue at 6 p.m. on Monday, June 29.

Marcus McDonough, Waldorf fire chief, told council members the last three carbon dioxide detectors have been installed; they had 48 in total which have been installed townwide to any resident who applied for it, gifted to Waldorf from the state fire marshal's office. He also wanted clarification on the liability for the Waldorf Days children's fire hose fight and whether or not it should still be held during the event, scheduled this year for August 21 to 23.

The park committee reported the new play equipment is set to be installed in August. The old set still needs to be removed. Council member Missy Sorbo said she plans to continue her fundraising efforts and that her group has reached "about half of our goal through grants and donations."

As council members discussed whether the city should fly the older or the newer state flag in front of the community center, they decided they want more information about state level expectations; specifically, they wanted to know whether there are any penalties for those cities not flying the new flag.

GigFire Internet, formerly LTD Broadcasting, will be moving its broadcasting equipment into Waldorf free of charge, following the vote by the council to approve. According to Mayor Wilkening, "They can be here tomorrow if we let them." Council members also wanted city residents to know Bevcomm, which has installed buried fiber lines in the area, may also be an option.

Got news?
507-837-6767



Compostings

by Al Batt

Not mature enough to drink coffee

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS’ CLUB MEETING
My nephew borrowed my lawn mower and made a lot of money. He mowed a lot of lawns, huh? No, he sold my mower.
DRIVING BY BRUCE’S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. The neighbors’ rooster crowed. In many traditions, the crowing of a rooster at dawn signifies victory over darkness and the triumph of light. In some cultures, it’s believed evil spirits flee at its sound. I enjoyed a glass of Adam’s ale—plain old water—as I’d watched fireflies the night before. It was good to see someone using their blinkers. Each day is a new road. My thoughts tend toward the bittersweet when I see the orphan lilacs, left behind after the people and houses had left. Their blooming season is too short. So was the company of the people.

I’m not mature enough to drink coffee, but I might need to take it up. I’ve had late nights recently thanks to being entertained by a family of eastern screech-owls in the yard. They are the cutest little things—all feathers and eyes. They are about the size of a 12-ounce pop can. It’s called “pop” here. I hear it called soda or soft drink, and on my first visit to the Deep South, I was asked what kind of coke I wanted. I asked the server what kind she had. The waitress told me she had Coca-Cola, Dr Pepper and root beer.

When I was a child, the nearest town was Bath. It had a population of two or three, depending on which day of the week you counted the people. It had a school once, but everyone became too smart and they had to close it. It had a Catholic Church, a cemetery, a creamery and a general store where a boy could play checkers. Bath was known locally as Poptown. Why? Because you could get pop there. I reckon we could get pop anywhere. Pop wasn’t an important thing in our household. My parents drank storytelling coffee, milk and water. The kids drank mostly milk and water. We also slurped down nectar procured from the traveling Watkins man, Tang and, of course, Kool-Aid. None any better for us than pop.

QUICKSAND

A listener to my radio show asked if there is quicksand here? I watched jungle and cowboy movies where quicksand dispatched people. I didn’t worry about diseases or accidents because I knew quicksand would get me. Quick-

sand exists in Minnesota and Iowa. It’s not the life-threatening, bottomless pit depicted in films, but a natural phenomenon occurring when loose sand is saturated with water and agitated by upward-flowing groundwater. You’re likely to encounter it along the muddy, sandy banks of major waterways in areas that have underground springs. Areas with high water tables—spring-water quarries or marshes—can host quicksand. Don’t panic. Quicksand has a higher density than the human body, making it impossible to sink completely. The dangers would be exposure, dehydration or exhaustion from struggling to free yourself from being stuck in quicksand.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

I won \$10 million in the lottery and donated a quarter of it to charity. I don’t know what I’ll do with the other \$9,999,999.75.

When the yoga teacher quit, it left me in a difficult position.

NATURE NOTES

I find awe in the company of a gray catbird. It joins me at dawn, jazz singing outside my bedroom window. Catbirds actively sing before sunrise and after sunset. They mimic other birds but add their own interpretations. Their songs are long but would be even longer if they played guitars. Catbirds are friendly birds that visit feeders to eat grape jelly, suet, sunflower hearts and raisins. I don’t need a field guide to identify a catbird. I have a feel guide to help me enjoy my sidekick.

Birdsfoot trefoil blankets the roadsides. It’s a legume identified by its low-growing, small yellow pea-shaped flowers and seed pods resembling a bird’s foot.

A red-eyed vireo sang, “Look at me...Way up high...Over here...In a tree...Here I am...In a tree...Where are you? Can’t see me.” It sounds as if the bird is counting the leaves on the tree or asking questions and then answering them. In 1948, Music Digest estimated that Bing Crosby’s recordings filled more than half of the weekly hours allocated to recorded radio music in America. The red-eyed vireo is trying to match that. Its marathon singing has earned it the nickname of the “preacher bird.”

Skippers look like something between butterflies and moths. They are small butterflies that visit flowers and, when perched, evoke the shape of a fighter jet.

MEETING ADJOURNED

A kind word costs us nothing, but it might be worth a fortune to another.



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

Amazed by insects

I have been amazed by two insects over the past few days.

My first moment of amazement came from something that seemed to be a stick about an inch long. But somehow, this “stick” was clinging to the screen on my front door.

It was so convincing that, at one point, three members of my family were standing in a half-circle around it; two of us were using our phones to take photos. For all the world, it looked like a tiny twig that had been broken off at the end. Only upon closer inspection could we see the hair-thin legs clinging to the screen.

I have been impressed by the “information” feature on my iPhone, which has solved a fair number of small mysteries for me. In this case, however, the iPhone refused to provide any feedback—I believe it thought I was asking it to identify a stick and lost patience with me.

Having been so fascinated, I had to look up more information. Most of the sources I found talk about how widespread the buff-tip moth is in Europe, Russia and even Asia. Only in one place did I find mention they are also sometimes found in the U.S.

Turns out the moth attached to my screen was destined to live only a very short time. The internet tells me the adult buff-tip doesn’t even have a mouth. It spends the night looking for a mate and the day in (very effective) hiding. The eggs are laid on the

leaves of trees, most preferably birch, oak or willow. When they hatch, the caterpillars eat the tree leaves, often down to the “skeleton” framework.

After 30 to 45 days of eating, probably in October, the caterpillars go to the base of the tree, bury themselves in soil or leaf litter, and turn into shiny brown pupae. They stay that way all winter, emerging in early summer as the short-lived moth.

Frankly, it’s all more amazing than I can convey. Consider going online and looking at some videos. There are three or four online entomologists who are very enthusiastic about the buff-tip and have excellent visuals.

My other insect wonder is that we spotted our first fireflies of 2026 in the last couple days.

Perhaps what I like most about fireflies is the link they create between generations. Now a grandmother myself, I remember my own grandparents helping me spot these luminescent wonders. It doesn’t matter how old you are, I think the spontaneous flashing in the grass is something that stops all of us in our tracks and makes us look.

Since I was researching the buff-tip moth, I looked up some information about fireflies. As richly as I have always appreciated them, learning more only heightened my fascination.



BUFF-TIP MOTH - A moth like these ones latched itself to Deb's screen door one evening last week. About 1 inch long, it looked exactly like a small, broken stick.

So, as we all know, the flashing lights are the fireflies’ way of finding mates. Starting about now, females lay up to 500 eggs in moist soil or tree litter. These hatch about a month later and begin feeding on slugs, worms and other soft-bodied victims.

One online source compares this larval form to “tiny trilobites,” with six legs and segmented backs. The larva can live up to two years, meaning they can overwinter twice; when ready to metamorphose, they may be three quarters of an inch long. In complete contrast to my sentimental feelings about the adults, the larvae manage to eat creatures quite a bit larger than themselves because they inject a paralyzing toxin into them, then feed on their liquefied organs.

When they have reached maturity, presumably after surviving their sec-

ond winter, the larvae bury themselves in wet soil or under tree bark, then take about two weeks to completely change form and become adult fireflies, destined to live somewhere between one and four weeks.

I don’t know about you, but learning all that gives me rich appreciation that, perhaps as much as two years ago, a female firefly laid her eggs in my yard. And all that time, unknown to me, a fascinating drama has been taking place in the grassy places around my home. Tiny “trilobites” have been stalking and capturing prey to survive and grow, then burying themselves for the winter; some of them have beaten the odds and survived, creating the summer delight of watching and appreciating fireflies.

Give me a table and a costume, I’d be a great mascot



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

Waseca County Fair the first time, trying to get the word out about the brand new newspaper we had started. I remember convincing some of you to sign up to try it out, and convincing children to get their photos taken as a part of our photo booth.

It was a fun time, made fun by the people I got to interact with, the ones I got to share the booth with, and the community I got to know.

After that, I had some experience doing booths for the Minnesota Daily, the University of Minnesota’s college newspaper where I was a staff reporter and then the managing editor.

Being a part of those booths was fun because I loved talking with passionate students and trying to convince them to use that passion to report and get work published.

Although my favorite memory of that is a time when the person who was going to be our mascot, Mo, suddenly couldn’t come, and we were debating who should go back to the office to get the costume. After some debate, our Editor-in-Chief finally sighed and offered a \$50 bonus to anyone who would do it. Of course, I volunteered instantly and ran back to the office to don the hot and sweaty mascot costume.

Despite my wording, though, I loved being a mascot. It’s so fun to be energetic and connect with people all while trying to be mysterious because you can’t say a word, and most everyone doesn’t know it’s me. I feel like I could have been a great Goldy Gopher if I had ever tried out.

And now, I get to talk to families and parents and share the resources that Colorado Parent magazine provides. While I’m no neurodiversity expert, it is really nice to see so many vendors and families come through to explore all the resources available. And it was really nice to interact with fun and creative people all day and see kids pick out which fidgets they like the best. Personally, I opted for one of the silicone textured rings to play with as I stood at the booth for the handful of hours.

My Determination: “If we get to the point where we don’t help each other anymore, that’s when we stop being human.” — Matt Dinniman, Dungeon Crawler Carl

WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

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

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DEADLINES: Pioneer: Noon Monday
GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

ELI LUTGENS
DEB BENTLY
AMELIA ROESSLER
JIM LUTGENS
JON LUCCA
BEN REVERMANN
TERESA ROSACKER
MELISSA DUNN

Publisher
News Editor
Editor
Sports Editor/Dad
Ad Design
Staff Writer
Advertising Sales
Staff Writer

Contributing writers/photographers: Dave Zika, Al Batt, Darin Reese, Payge Rosacker, Rachael Jaegar, Rachel Loverink, Jessica Lutgens, Cassie Rupe, Debbie Rodriguez, Pastor Michael Coggan, Rev. Glenn K. Frerichs, Pastor Michael Granis, Pastor Rick Wulf, and Pastor Jillene Gallatin

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

\$59 Per Year, Waseca County Residents

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Finstad calls for Walz, Ellison resignation in update

The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform released a report this week exposing that Governor Tim Walz, Attorney General Keith Ellison, and other senior Minnesota state officials had been aware of the widespread fraud in our state’s federally funded social programs for years and failed to address it. According to the report, they ignored whistleblowers, dismissed warnings from employees, and repeatedly failed to act.

As a result of their inaction, billions of taxpayer dollars were diverted to fraudsters instead of helping Minnesotans in need. I led my fellow Minnesota Congressional Republicans in sending a letter to Governor Walz and Attorney General Ellison expressing our concerns and urging them to resign. The leaders who have put our federally funded assistance programs at risk must be held accountable, and my colleagues and I will continue working to restore confidence and public trust in our elected officials.

Coming Together for Charity

One of my favorite traditions on Capitol Hill is the Congressional Baseball Game. It’s an honor to be a part of such a long-standing tradition that brings folks together, both on and off the field. This year’s game

raised a record-breaking \$3.2 million for those in need. I had a blast being on the field with my fellow representatives in support of a great cause.

Supporting Local Businesses

This week, I had the opportunity to speak at two “fly-in” events focused on supporting our small, local businesses both in Minnesota and across the country. On Tuesday, I joined members of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) for their Annual Fly-In to discuss the issues that matter most to our Main Streets. As a member of the House Committee on Small Business, and a member of NFIB myself, I appreciated this opportunity to share my experiences as a business owner and how it shapes my work in Congress.

On Wednesday, I joined the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce to discuss ways we can work together to promote job growth, strengthen innovation, and drive our local economies. I always appreciate these opportunities to speak with those making a difference back home.

Meeting With Minnesota Industry Leaders

It was great to connect with industry leaders from across southern Minnesota in Washington, D.C. this

week! I first joined representatives from Dairyland Power Cooperative to hear more about their energy projects across southeast Minnesota.

I also met with members of Minnesota Associated Builders and Contractors to discuss the work they do to support the construction industry and promote economic development across southern Minnesota.

I recently helped introduce the *Build American Efficiency Act* to streamline Build America, Buy America compliance for our home builders and manufacturers. I appreciated meeting with MacLean Power Systems Mankato to discuss the importance of investing in American infrastructure and how we can improve the process for businesses like theirs to source American materials.

Members of the Minnesota Broadcasters Association also stopped by to discuss the future of sports broadcasting, ways to bring more streaming services to Minnesotans, and expanding opportunities in the industry for the next generation. Thanks for meeting with me!

Farm Bill Spotlight

Access to capital is key to the success of farmers in Minnesota’s First District and across the country. I led legislation in the 2026 Farm Bill to expand the EZGuarantee Loan Pro-

gram through the USDA, expediting approval times for certain guaranteed loans. This helps ensure farmers, ranchers, and rural communities receive timely access to the credit they need.

The House Floor This Week

PASSED – H. Res. 1335, condemning actors seeking to defraud the United States Government, and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that government-wide fraud and improper payment prevention reforms will meaningfully improve the financial prosperity of the United States, and that Federal program eligibility should be verified before payment.

PASSED – S. 2, the Secure America Act, provides funding through FY29 for U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

PASSED – H.R. 7892, the No Aid for Ghost Students Act, ensures student aid goes to those in need and not fraudsters by establishing a federal student aid fraud detection system to identify suspicious student aid applications and requires schools to verify flagged applications before any money is disbursed to bad actors.

OBITUARIES

Jean Marie Skarin

Jean Marie Skarin passed away peacefully on June 7, 2026, at Benedictine Living Community in Owatonna, MN. Born on July 16, 1954, in Wells, MN she was the daughter of Raymond and Eileen (Christensen) Terhurne. She was raised in the Easton area, where she attended Catholic grade school and later graduated from Wells High School. Following graduation, she moved to Waseca, where she began working at Brown Printing. She later concluded her career at Itron.

She married Donald Skarin, and together they built a life in Waseca, where they raised their daughter, Katie. Jean enjoyed spending time with her family and friends, especially during the holidays. She loved preparing large meals for everyone to gather around and enjoy together. Though her travels were few, they left lasting memories. She often looked back with fondness on a trip to the Wisconsin Dells with her daughter and a memorable family vacation to Hawaii. Jean loved to shop, and Kmart and Shopko were among her favorite destinations. She especially enjoyed shopping with her daughter, Katie. Jean also liked attending craft shows, where she enjoyed browsing the many unique items on display and often searched for chicken-themed décor to add to her home.

Jean was blessed with a wonderful group of friends. She especially enjoyed their monthly lunch gatherings, where laughter, friendship, and conversation were always plentiful. Jean loved children and was always willing to help them. She had a caring nature and often took children under her wing, making them feel wel-



Jean Skarin

comed, supported, and loved. Jean will be remembered for her upbeat personality, her playful, youthful spirit, and her deep love of being surrounded by family and friends.

She will be lovingly remembered by her husband, Donnie; daughter, Katie (CJ Johnson) Skarin; grandchildren, Tashaun Johnson, Khadija Johnson, JC Johnson, Mykiah Johnson, Charlyze Johnson, and Cyrus Johnson; siblings, Dave (Darlene) Terhurne, Judy Hicks, Carol Stauffer, Bob Terhurne, and Mary (Bill) Klein; loved as family, Kinleigh Olson; along with many nieces, nephews, and close friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, grandchild, Kialyn Quillen; sister, Margie Terhurne; brother, Richard Turhurne; sisters-in-law, Linda Terhurne and Susie Drake; brothers-in-law, Darryl Hicks and John Stauffer; and her beloved cat, Buffy.

A funeral service was held on Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at the State Street Chapel of the Dennis Steffel Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca, MN. Interment will be at Woodville Cemetery at a later date.

Dorothy "Dottie" Olson

Dorothy "Dottie" Olson, 79 of Winona, MIN, passed away Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at her home surrounded by family.

Dorothy Patricia was bom January 24, 1947, in Clovis, New Mexico to Dorothy (Fritz) and Edward Ritchie.

She graduated from Waseca High School, Waseca, MN in 1965. In 1967, she married Virgil A. Olson; they lived in Owatonna, MN and later divorced. Together they had four children: Lorrinda, Berton, (Allison), Sheila (Richard), and Bryon (Lacey).

Dottie received her A.A. Degree from Rochester Community College in 1989 and continued to study business and health into the 1990's, receiving certificates for technical medical assistant, and certified nurse assistant.

She was employed with various agencies and businesses in southern Minnesota caring for the elderly, disabled, foster children, un-wed mothers, and the Mayo Clinic. She moved to Winona in 2001 to be with her 'soulmate' Don Agnst. She was



Dorothy Olson

also employed by Benedictine - Calista Court Adult Center and Winona State University.

Funeral services were 2 p.m., Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at Fawcett Junker Funeral Home, with Pastor Kathy Young officiating. Interment was at Woodlawn Cemetery, Winona.

Visitation began at 1 p.m. Wednesday, at the funeral home.

Services entrusted to Fawcett Junker Funeral Home & Crematory, Winona, MN. www.fawcett-junkerfuneral-home.com.

Barbara Ann Cleghorn

Barbara Ann Cleghorn, 87, passed away peacefully on June 9, 2026, surrounded by the love of her family.

Barbara was born on November 11, 1938, in Cresco, Iowa. After a chance meeting at a roller-skating rink, she married the love of her life, Gene Cleghorn. Together they built a life centered on faith, family, and hard work. After their marriage, they made their home in Minnesota, where they raised their family and became active members of their community. Barbara and Gene shared 65 wonderful years of marriage before Gene's passing in 2021. Their love was evident to everyone who knew them. Even after decades together, they were often seen holding hands, and Gene affectionately referred to Barbara as "his bride." Their marriage was a lasting example of love and devotion.

Barbara was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend. She found joy in spending time with her family, tending her garden, and creating a warm and welcoming home. A faithful member of Vista Covenant Church in New Richland, Minnesota, her faith guided her throughout her life.

Barbara never met a stranger and had a remarkable gift for making friends wherever she went. She greeted others with a warm smile, a loving touch on the arm, and a genuine interest in their lives. Her kindness and caring nature left a lasting impression on everyone she met.

She is survived by her children: Dennis (Kelly Johnson), Deb (Paul Golan), Nadine, Kim (Steve Goracke), and Brian (Jayme Rockow-Cleghorn); nine grandchildren (one deceased); five great grandsons; one great-granddaughter; many nieces and nephews; extended family members; and dear friends.

Barbara was preceded in death by

her beloved husband, Gene Cleg-horn; her parents, Ira and Blanche Cleveland; her sister, Juanita Grimm; and her brother, Bernard Cleveland.

A visitation will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 1, 2026, at Vista Covenant Church, 14679 275th Ave., New Richland, Minnesota. Funeral services will follow at 11:00 a.m. at the church. A luncheon will be served immediately following the service. Burial will take place at New Oregon Cemetery in Cresco, IA, with the procession departing from the church following the luncheon, approximately between 12:30 and 1:00 p.m.

The family wishes to extend their heartfelt gratitude to the caregivers, friends, and loved ones who provided support and comfort throughout Barbara's journey.

Memorials are preferred to the Alzheimer's Association.

Barbara's legacy of love, faith, and friendship will live on in the hearts



Barbara Cleghorn

of all who knew and loved her. Ranfranz and Vine Funeral Home is honored to be serving the Cleg-horn family. To share a special memory or condolence, please visit www.ranfranzandvinefh.com.

Betty May Dardis

Betty May Dardis passed away peacefully, continuously surrounded by her three girls and her loved ones on Thursday, June 11, 2026.

Betty was born on May 7, 1947 in Waseca, MN. She met David N. Dardis and they wed on October 7, 1968. She was a devoted stay at home mom for the better part of her life and raised three beautiful girls, Dodi Martin, Becki Plueger and Brandi Martyna. She was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (M.S.) in early years and spent a lifetime battling the debilitating

disease.

Betty was a beautiful woman with a tender heart and soul. She loved to sit outside and take in the sun while reading a book. She enjoyed catching up on the latest TV shows, streaming the TLC channel all day and connecting with her dear friends. She had a love for butterflies, the color teal, and you would never catch her without her cup of water with extra ice.

Betty spent a couple decades at the Good Samaritan (2nd and Minnesota) Center in Sioux Falls, SD and became a highlight to a few of the staff. She was frequently visited and remained

close to her children and grandchildren. Betty's bright smile and laughter will be missed daily by her family and friends.

She is survived by her children, Dodi (Todd) Martin, Becki Plueger, Brandi (Darin) Martyna; and grandchildren - Chalee Ragatz, Hunter Plueger, Tanner Plueger, Asher Plueger (favorite dog) Nyah Martyna, Tayla Martyna and Gemma Martyna. She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Genevieve "Jenny" Robinson; and her husband, David Dardis.

Private graveside services will be held at Woodville Cemetery in Waseca, Minnesota.



Betty Dardis

Kenneth Olson

Kenneth Alton Olson, age 78, passed away peacefully at his home in Waseca on Sunday, June 14, 2026.

Ken was born on May 1, 1948, in Albert Lea, Minnesota, to Oliver and Ethel (Pirkl) Olson. He graduated from Freeborn High School in 1966. He proudly served his country in the United States Navy from 1966-1969. Ken attended Brown Institute in Minneapolis following his military service where he earned his FCC certification as an electronic technician.

Ken and Peggy Rae Dreke were united in marriage on June 25th, 1971 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Fairmont. They made their first home in Nebraska before moving to Waseca where Ken worked at E.F. Johnson for almost 30 years. He joined SPX in 2001 where he worked until he retired. Ken and Peg were married for almost 55 years, a life filled with faith, family and serv-

ice to others.

Ken was known for his strong work ethic and ability to fix just about anything. He enjoyed fixing up houses for rental property and helping family and friends with whatever needed to be done. A social, positive and caring man Ken was known for handing out compliments, sharing a smile and lending a helping hand whenever needed. Ken will be remembered for his generous heart, positive outlook, tireless work ethic and the love he shared with everyone around him. His kindness, humor, and willingness to help others left a lasting impact on everyone who knew him. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

A faithful member of Christ the King Lutheran Church, Ken enjoyed helping Peggy with her altar guild duties and odd jobs around the church. His willingness to serve others was evident in every aspect of his life.

Ken's greatest joy was his family. He was a devoted husband, loving father and proud grandfather who treasured every moment spent with those he loved.

Ken is survived by his beloved wife, Peggy Olson of Waseca; daughters, Laura (Jeff) Zimmermann of Waseca and Carrie (Kyle) Holmen of Owatonna; six cherished grandchildren, Joe (Savannah Flugum), Bethany, Ashley, Gavin, Samantha (Logan Britton) and Molly; brother, Darwyn (Donna) Olson of Hartland; sister, Colleen (Luvern) Lyle of Lyle. He was preceded in death by his parents, Oliver and Ethel Olson.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to Christ the King Lutheran Church.

Visitation for Ken will be held from 4 – 7 PM on Friday, June 19, 2026 at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Waseca. Visitation will continue for one hour prior to the service at the church.



Kenneth Olson

Funeral service will be at 11:00 AM on Saturday, June 20, 2026 at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Waseca. Dsofuneral.com

Salvation Army Donuts

On Friday, June 5, the Waseca County Salvation Army went around Waseca County delivered donuts to Law Enforcement and First Responders. This was part of the Salvation Army's National Donut Day. This tradition started in 1938 in honoring the "Donut Lassies" who served donuts and encouragement to soldiers during WW I. We continue this tradition by saying thank you to all the law

enforcement and first responders who keep us safe and support us in time of need. Their service and sacrifice inspires us, moves us and means everything to us. Waseca Salvation Army board members traveled around the county Friday morning delivering dozens of donuts along with our thanks to all police departments, sheriff's department, fire departments and ambulances.



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Residents encouraged to find and review vaccination records

The Le Sueur-Waseca Community Health Board (LWCHB) is asking residents to locate and review their vaccine records. Having correct records can help protect yourself, your family, and your community. It can also help prevent unnecessary or repeat shots, make doctor visits easier, and make sure important vaccines are not missed.

Vaccines are the best way to protect against illnesses like measles, whooping cough, and chicken pox that are becoming more common in Minnesota. Knowing if you are protected during an outbreak can help you make safe and informed decisions.

“We encourage everyone to take a few minutes to review their records and make sure the information is complete and correct. Vaccine records are important during emergencies, outbreaks, and back-to-school season,” said Public Health Emergency Preparedness Specialist, Sara Porter.

People born before 2002 or who got vaccines in another state may have missing information in Minnesota’s immunization system. Residents should:

- Ask a healthcare provider for your vaccine history
- Check records from previous hospitals, clinics, schools, or employers
- Review your information in the Minnesota Immunization Information Connection (MIIC)

Residents can view their vaccine records online through Docket at mn.app.dockethealth.com or by downloading the Docket app on their device. Call your county public health department or visit the Minnesota Department of Health website for help.

For questions, please contact Sara Porter at 507-357-8509 or sara.porter@lesueurcounty.gov or Le Sueur County Public Health at 507-387-8246 or Waseca County Public Health at 507-8350685.

■ Fisherman

from Page 1

because it feels good to him to be out in nature. He picks up trash because things should be kept looking nice. In fact, he indicates, shaking his head, it’s a mystery to him why people let unwanted items become litter.

His habits have not gone unnoticed.

At least one person along the lake has let Niño know that, even though there’s a “no trespassing” sign on his dock, he should feel welcome to fish there. Another person passes along his aluminum cans for recycling.

“Pretty much everyone knows me,” says Niño of the acknowledgments. Yet another person gave him a bicycle, perhaps thinking Niño would like to get to his favorite fishing spots more quickly: while he does occasionally ride the bike, he admits he prefers walking—apparently speed was never any part of his intent.

Niño’s habits have some additional inherent benefits. He has a collection of fishing poles which he has found abandoned along his route; some of his favorite lures were also found along the lakeshore.

In the vicinity of the golf course, he frequently finds and picks up golf balls. He says they’re some pretty nice ones, and jokes that he would welcome an offer on his collection. Shoultz recalls that once, a while back, Niño donated more than 1,000 balls to the school golf team.

Although it is not a frequent event, Niño has found two working cell phones while out on his walks. In one case, the phone happened to ring as he was approaching it. When he answered, he was able to arrange to return the phone. The other one was turned

in to the police, who were able to locate the owner. Niño has also found a few wallets, and been able to return them.

Along with that, he enjoys keeping a small collection of trinkets and odd items he has come across, including souvenirs left behind after the county fair, parades, and other public events.

Niño mentions that he always wears long pants and tennis shoes—something people often comment on when the weather is especially warm. Heat, he says, doesn’t bother him. His one concession to the temperature is a red bandana he wears around his forehead. Although he jokes it’s to cover up his bushy eyebrows, the cloth helps keep sweat from dripping into his eyes.

He frequently also takes his walks on rainy days, or at least when there is intermittent rain. He points out there are public buildings along the way where he can take shelter until the rain passes.

When he can’t go out, Niño has a treadmill and some weights to give himself some exercise. Those get a lot of use, he says, when the change in seasons makes it hazardous to walk outdoors. More importantly, his resistance to heat is not matched by any tolerance for the cold; he practically shivers even as he says the word “winter.”

Perhaps it’s his desire to soak up as much summer as he can that takes him outdoors so persistently: He often walks 7 or 8 miles at a time and frequently stays out until 8:30 or 9 p.m. In fact, he says he sometimes chooses “the long way around” to get from his house to the lake, taking the trail behind the high school and continuing a bit to the north before curving back around to his usual route.

“It just feels right to be walking,” he says. “I’m glad I can do some nice things for other people while I’m also being nice to myself.”

Bethlehem Inn Receives Upgrade



YOUNG HELPERS - Bethlehem Inn of Waseca received a grant from Taylor Family Farm Foundation to redo the facility's playground area. Seven high school students helped spread mulch around the equipment. They opened the bags, carried them to the area where mulch was needed, and spread it evenly. Bethlehem Inn program director Sue McIntosh commented, "It was a fun evening working with them; they made the job easy and enjoyable." Helpers were (from left) Natalie Berndt, Chelsia Eneboe, Taylor Markeson, Vivian Mader, Tristan Godwin, Isaac Pfeifer and Colby Hoof.

Child’s History of Waseca County

CHAPTER XIII, 1855. Preparations for winter—Hauling provisions from Iowa. Trip made to Auburn, Iowa, by the author—December 19, 1855 on the prairie all night—One man frozen to death—A cold Christmas.

While a few of the earliest settlers in 1855 had raised enough vegetables for their winter supply of food, not one of them had produced a supply of wheat, and every family was compelled to haul flour and other supplies from distant points, the nearest flour mill being over one hundred miles distant. Most of the flour was obtained from Auburn, Iowa, a small town on Turkey river.

Among those who were wise enough to prepare for winter before winter commenced were the Krassins. Having completed their home preparations for winter, they started with several teams and wagons for Iowa. Justina, afterwards Mrs. Child, accompanied her brothers as cook. They went by way of Owatonna and Austin, and thence

southeast to Auburn, where they found an abundant supply of flour and other articles. They returned after an absence of three weeks heavily loaded with provisions. As they made the trip in October—they golden month of the year—when Minnesota is clothed in the beautiful garments of Indian summer, they enjoyed a pleasant and profitable journey. Their return furnished the settlement with valuable information as to the road to take to reach Auburn, the prices to be paid for flour, pork, groceries, etc.

But most of the settlers had stables to build, cabins to finish up and other fall work to do, so that it was winter before they could get started on the trip to “Egypt for corn.”

A journey of one hundred or one thousand miles to-day, in railroad passenger coaches, is a very easy undertaking but a journey of one hundred miles or more across a country where cabins are few and far between, through storms of rain or sleet or snow-blizzards, camping out on the bleak

prairie at night, with nothing to charm either the ear or the eye save the howling blasts of winter or the more demoniac howling of prairie wolves as, coward-like, they reconnoiter your position and condition—such a journey may be somewhat romantic to read about, but it is not so very enchanting to those who have made a trial of it. The experiences of all those who made the journey that winter were very similar, no doubt, and the writer gives his own and those of the few others he has been able to get as samples.

JAMES E. CHILD’S STORY.

During the first days of December, 1855, having engaged two pair of oxen and a wagon of the brothers John and David J. Jenkins, I made preparations for a journey into Iowa. John Jenkins furnished the money (about \$150.00); I was to put in my labor and skill, get a load of provisions and groceries, bring them into the settlement and sell them; each of us was to share equally in the profits, if any.



ANIMAL ADVENTURES - Left, Young Wasecan LC, 7, says she is fascinated by snakes, so her favorite display at the June 8 "Wild Adventure" display in the Bomgaars parking lot was the giant coiled cobra. Right, This pair of twins, age 7, enjoyed the log-shaped tunnel under the bear.



■ Wild

from Page 3

hollow log.

At the north end of the display were some animatronic dinosaurs, including a cluster of dinosaur eggs which appeared to be in the process

of hatching. Cole speculated that “Blue,” a velociraptor from the Jurassic Park series, is perhaps the most popular of his displays.

“But the kids love it all,” he said, indicating the many children ranging from toddlers to teens. “Each

one has a different favorite.” Visitors often come as a family, he said, and stay somewhere between 30 minutes and two hours.

Along with the many creatures, a vending tent on the grounds offered toys and souvenirs. For a fee,

children could have their faces painted. Two tweens were wearing virtual reality headsets. Cole explained they could choose between two experiences, an underwater roller coaster or swimming with sharks and dolphins.

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The Pastor's Column

You must forgive

By PASTOR MICHAEL GRANNIS

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ~ Colossians 3:12-13

Forgiveness: It is what we are called to do as Christians. Saint Paul's words to the Colossians make that abundantly clear - "as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive." But lest we are tempted to say, "What does Jesus say about it," Christ is even clearer. In St. Luke's Gospel account, Jesus is recorded as saying, "Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him" (Luke 17:3-4).

For the Christian, forgiveness is not optional. It is essential. If you claim Christ as Savior you have forfeited your right to hold a grudge. If you believe God's Word, then you know that Christ Jesus died for the sins of the world. He paid the price. "He is the propitiation (fully satisfying payment) for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world" (1 John 2:2). Just a few verses later the Apostle John continues by saying that anyone who says he walks in the light but hates his brother is actually walking in darkness. He is blinded, as it were, by his hatred and therefore stumbles in the darkness. In the Bible, stumbling is a synonym for sinning. In essence, your bitterness and lack of forgiveness is sin reigning in your heart rather than Christ reigning.

If you are feeling guilty right now, you're not alone. In fact, when Christ told His disciples that they must forgive "seven times in the day," They didn't respond with grace and joy. No, their response was "Increase our faith!" It was as if they were saying, "We can't do that, Lord! That's too much...too hard...too...gracious." And they were right. Forgiveness is gracious. It is merciful. Forgiveness is holy, and loving, and kind, and humble, and meek, and patient, and...it is everything God has done for us in Christ. And we who have received all of that, not by our own merit, but because of the steadfast love and faithfulness of our loving God and heavenly Father, through the willing self-sacrificial love of Christ Jesus our Savior, by the power of the Holy Spirit graciously giving us faith to trust in Christ's work for our sake...we are called to freely give to others the forgiveness that we have been given - especially to fellow believers in Christ.

Nothing destroys a relation-

ship faster than an unwillingness to forgive. Nothing destroys a church faster than an unwillingness to forgive. And this unfor-giveness is just plain sinful stupidity. To say you believe in Christ is to say you walk in the light of the Gospel. The heart of the Gospel is the forgiveness of sins on account of Christ. Yet many people who claim Jesus as Lord and Savior daily hold tighter to their anger than they do to their Savior, and it is destroying their lives and their faith in Christ. For St. John continues, "Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him" (1 John 3:15).

Those who claim to know Christ but refuse to forgive are not in fact walking in the light of the Gospel, but are stumbling around in the darkness of death and destruction.

So what is the answer? Well, if this describes you, look to Jesus! Remember His steadfast love and faithfulness that led Him to the cross for you. Remember that He is the propitiation for your sins, and not for yours only, but for the sins of the world.

That means He has fully paid the price... for your sins... for my sins... for the one who has sinned against you. Holding a grudge is essentially saying Christ's death meant nothing - it was good enough for you but not good enough for them.

Repent! Like the Apostles, ask Christ to increase your faith. And then realize if you trust that Christ's blood is worthy to pay for your sins and the sins of the whole world, then there is no need to harbor bitterness in your heart. Ask Christ to take that bitterness and replace it with His love... His mercy... His forgiveness. Pray that God would work in your heart to be reconciled not only on the inside but truly reconciled. After all, we are to be at peace with all people, so far as it depends on us. Some people will refuse to be reconciled to you, but as a Christian you must not be the one refusing.

Again, look to Christ who came to save us while we were still enemies. Look to Christ who prayed from the cross, "Forgive them Father, for they know not what they do." Look to Christ who rose victorious over sin, death, and hell and has given us forgiveness, resurrection, and the eternal joys of Heaven through faith in His name as a free gift. And then look to the one who has sinned against you and forgive them from the heart. In Jesus' name. Amen.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts d your minds in Christ Jesus. ~ Philippians 4:7

Living Forever, Now,
Pastor Grannis - St. Paul Lutheran Church (LCMS), Waseca

Sacred Heart Salad Luncheon serves all

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Catholic Daughters of America held their annual salad luncheon in the Sacred Heart Church basement on Thursday, June 11. Held in June every year, this will be the 15th time these ladies have held their event; they saw a little over 70 guests through their doors.

Pat Foley was the lady taking money at the door, as another visitor came through her line, she was handed a \$50 dollar bill and she remarked, "Where do these big bills keep coming from?" She had to dig around for the change for a moment and sent another hungry couple on their way toward the salad line. Foley continued, "I'm a member of the Catholic Daughters of America. I'm also co-chair of this salad luncheon." She stopped talking long enough to hand Ken Earle, a member of First Congregation Church, a ticket. Said Earle, "After this, later on today I'm going clay shooting."



HUNGRY? - Sacred Heart Catholic Daughters of America were volunteering their time at the salad luncheon on Thursday, June 11, 2026. Pictured from left: Deb Perreault, Deb Wobschall, Connie Ockwig, Pat Foley, Pam Fossum, Joanne Earle, Becky Pet-singer, and Lori Mickelson.
Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Foley described the schedule used to prepare for the luncheon: "Monday, we did our shopping, got all our supplies, Tuesday and Wednesday we did the chopping and the preparation work. Final assembly was done the day of. You don't have to be a member of our church to get our salads, anyone can."

Up at the salad line, Deb Wobschall was helping guide people, "We have 10 salads, Italian pasta, coleslaw, fresh fruit salad, cookie and whip cream salad, potato salad, pistachio salad, veggie salad, ramen noodle salad, taco salad and broccoli and

raisin salad." There were also buns and cookies. Joanne Earle was supervising the glasses of water with eagle eyes; when they got close to running out, she was on top of it. She almost didn't get a chance to be in the group photo, she was so adamant. Added Wobschall, "We had 20 ladies volunteering for this, the first ladies were here around 8:30 this morning getting everything ready."

Unfortunately this event is only held in June every year, said Wobschall, "Yep, if you want one of our salads, you'll just have to wait till next year."



CAPTURING SPECIAL MOMENTS - The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Ambassadors welcomed Crystal C Photography as a new Chamber member recently. Crystal C Photography is Southern Minnesota-based and is owned by Wasecan Crystal Cariveau.

Ambassadors welcome Crystal C Photography

WASECA, MN — The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Ambassadors are proud to welcome Crystal C Photography as a new Chamber member.

Crystal C Photography is a Southern Minnesota-based photography business owned by Crystal Cariveau. Crystal specializes in capturing life's meaningful moments through portrait, wedding and engagement, and newborn photography. Her work reflects creativity, connection, and a passion for helping people see the beauty in themselves and the special moments they share with others.

Crystal's photography journey began while she was still in high

school, and what started as a hobby grew into a business built on creativity, hard work, and a love for connecting with people. Through her photography, Crystal brings a personal and heartfelt approach to each session, whether she is capturing families, couples, newborns, weddings, or special milestones.

"The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism is excited to welcome Crystal C Photography as a new Chamber member," said Robin Dulas, Executive Director of the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism. "Crystal brings a creative and personal service to our community, and her ability to capture meaningful moments is something truly special.

We are proud to support her as she continues to grow her business."

The Waseca Chamber Ambassadors visited Crystal C Photography to officially welcome the business to the Chamber and celebrate its continued growth in the Waseca area.

"Our Ambassadors are always excited to welcome new members who bring energy, talent, and passion to the business community," said Katie Gonzales, Waseca Chamber Ambassador Chair. "Crystal's work is personal, creative, and meaningful, and we are happy to help welcome her to the Chamber."

The Chamber is pleased to recognize Crystal C Photography as part

of its growing membership and looks forward to seeing the business continue to serve clients throughout Waseca and Southern Minnesota.

"Small businesses like Crystal C Photography are an important part of what makes our community strong," said Jodie Thompson, Chamber President. "We are thrilled to welcome Crystal to the Chamber and look forward to the connections, opportunities, and support that come with Chamber membership."

Please join the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism in welcoming Crystal C Photography to the Chamber.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

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FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-3167 Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m. * * * * *	GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 1221 8th St SE, Waseca 507-835-2213 Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. * * * * *	ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Father Glenn Ferichs Friday - 10 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays p.m. Mass Sunday - Mass at 8 a.m. * * * * *	JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 401 N. West St., Janesville Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship * * * * *
CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH 309 6th St NE, Waseca 507-835-9176 Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship 10:15 a.m. Wednesday Eve Worship 6:30 p.m. * * * * *	CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY 900 14th Ave SE, Waseca 507-833-1082 Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening 6:30 p.m. * * * * *	FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod Waldorf, Minnesota Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Larry Sipe Sundays: Worship 8 a.m.; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and adult bible class * * * * *	BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 43089 180th St., Morristown Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Summer worship hours, (10:45 a.m. Worship, winter) * * * * *
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. * * * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Otisco, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship * * * * *	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Worship * * * * *	ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH 307 W. 2nd St. Janesville 10 a.m. - Mass * * * * *
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. * * * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Mary Iverson Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting * * * * *	ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship * * * * *	FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 Owen St., Janesville Pastor Sarah Krolak * * * * *
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 a.m. * * * * *	LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting * * * * *	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship * * * * *	ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship * * * * *
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 * * * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN Wilton Township Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor Services 6 p.m. Saturday * * * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Smiths Mill, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship * * * * *
		THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS Brad Donner, Branch President Waseca, Minnesota www.lds.org Sunday - 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School Wednesday - 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages	NORTH WASECA LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA 404 30 120th St. Waseca Pastor Sarah Krolak 507-234-6463 Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship, Second Sunday "Young at heart" Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. confirmation * * * * *

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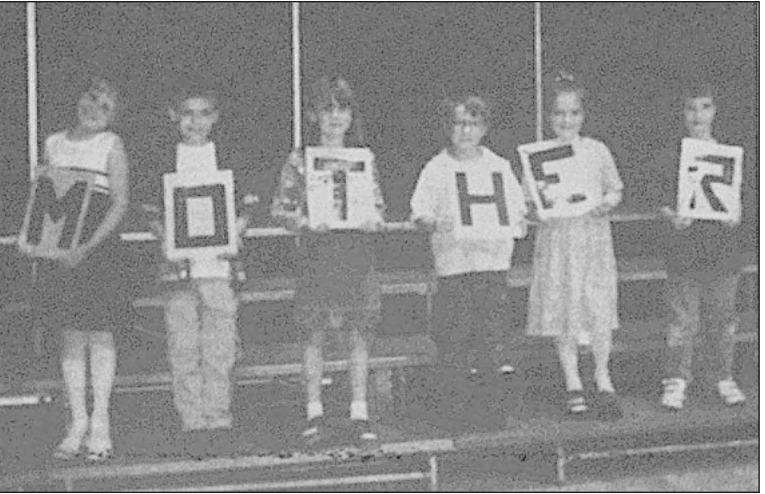
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ETHANOL

Janesville

25 years ago

- Births: Mercedes Marie Serrano: Mike and Lindsey Serrano of Janesville are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Mercedes Marie Serrano, born June 2, 2001 at Immanuel St. Joseph's Hospital in Mankato. She weighed seven pounds, eight ounces and was twenty-one and one-quarter inches in length. Maternal grandparents are Pam and James Pitmon of Cleveland. Paternal grandparents are Edward and Gay Serrano of Cleveland. Great-grandparents are Phill and Ann Deschamps of Fort Frances, Ontario, Canada.



- JWP elementary first-graders entertain with a spring parent program. The students entertained parents, grandparents and younger siblings with plays, songs and poems. The following students (from left): Darien Kjolstad, Tanner Schwee, Logan Stankey, Andrew Recknor, Kourtney Hammett and Shane Wolff recite a poem for one of their favorite people during the program.



- The following JWP Elementary students proudly display their MS Read-A-Thon trophies: (from left) Jade Froehlich, Tenia Sonnek, Riley Boyer and Mikey Gardner. These four students were the top money raisers for the Multiple Sclerosis Society. Sonnek, a third-grader, has been the top money raiser for the past four years. Her total this year was \$415. This is the final year for the MS Read-A-Thon nation-wide.

- Presidential Physical Fitness awards presented at middle school: The following students received the Presidential Physical Fitness awards at the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton Middle School this past year. Sixth grade: Betsy Priem, Brittany Hanson and Heather Fennert. Seventh grade: Tyler Balow, Mike Borneke and Dustyne Kruse. Eighth grade: Anna Hall, Stephanie Duffy and Annette Quast.

50 years ago

- A Bi-Centennial Style Show, antique farm machinery and a banana split eating contest are all new features of Janesville three-day Hay Daze Celebration June 18-19-20. The celebration will get underway Thursday, June 17, when a style show of old and new dresses, etc, will be held at 8 p.m. in the Janesville High School gym. Local children will also be given free hay rides Thursday night. Al Merriam's Show will open Friday and a children's Parade of History will begin at 7 p.m. at the high school. A teenage dance will follow from 8-11:30 p.m. Other events on the Hay Daze schedule include: Miss Janesville will be crowned at a pageant set for 8 p.m. Saturday, June 19. Nine area girls are vying for the chance to represent Janesville at area celebrations this summer. The Janesville Jaycees are holding a softball tourney at Lakeview Park June 19-20. A banana split eating contest will be held at Janesville Dairy Queen, beginning at 2 p.m. Saturday. Over 100 units will parade through Janesville in the annual Hay Daze Parade beginning at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 20.

- Vandals did an estimated \$1500 damage to five Janesville business places by throwing rocks through pane glass windows and doors early Friday morning. Window panes were broken at the Heritage House, Janesville Dairy Queen, Imperial Oil Station, Janesville Creamery and Arnold Implement Co. Deputy Greg Dennis was on duty during the hours of the vandalism and he and Deputy Splett are investigating the incident. Splett told the Argus that most businesses do not carry insurance on large pane glass windows because of the premiums involved. That means the businessmen involved must bear the cost of the breakage. The same type of rock was used to damage all of the windows, Splett said. "They were all about four inches in diameter," he added. "We have a few leads to follow up."

75 years ago

- Funeral service was held Friday, June 1, at the Arnoldt Funeral Home for Harvey Butler Comstock with the Rev. Wm. Johnson officiating. Burial was in Cedar Hill cemetery, Elysian. Mr. Comstock was born at Alma City October 2, 1881, the son of Abner E. and Sarah Comstock. He married Betha Culp June 7, 1902 at Elysian, Minn. For many years the couple resided in Janesville where he worked at the mill. He died May 26 at Thayer, Missouri. He is survived by his wife at Thayer; Two sons, Multon and Carl, both of Cordove, Alaska; one brother, Durwood of Cohasset, Minn., and a sister, Mrs. Daisy Belewine of Minneapolis.

- Local Televiewers will be interested in tuning in the Arle Haeberie show "Around the Town" Tuesday, June 12 at 3 p.m. Mrs. William Blank, Mrs. Raymond Hottinger and children John and Marcie, have been invited to appear on the program as a promotion for the Janesville Centennial celebration. Mrs. Blank is chairman of the Centennial dress revue and Mrs. Hottinger, chairman of the Centennial history.

- The Janesville Women's Chorus which made such a favorable impression at the Memorial Day program has been asked to sing during the Centennial festivities. The chorus, under the direction of Mr.s Charles Arnoldt, will present two selections during ceremonies for the vault burial Monday afternoon, June 25. Members of the chorus will meet for practice tomorrow afternoon at 2 p.m.

100 years ago

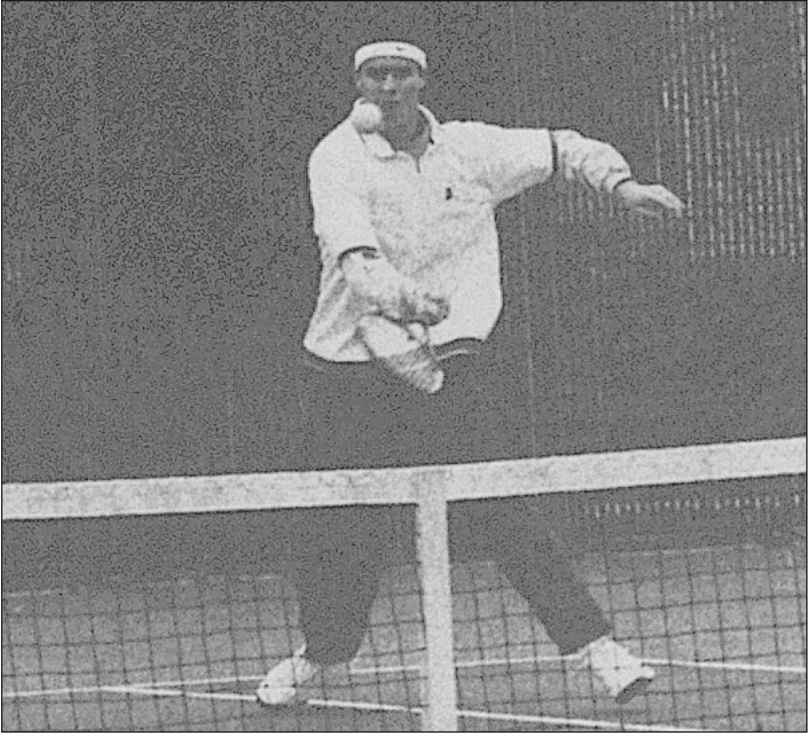
- The man who is learning a trade will have a job and money in the future. He may not receive much of a salary at the start, or probably just enough to live on, but after he once masters his trade he will enjoy a neat salary which will enable him to support a good home and a family.- Farmington Tribune.

Waseca

25 years ago

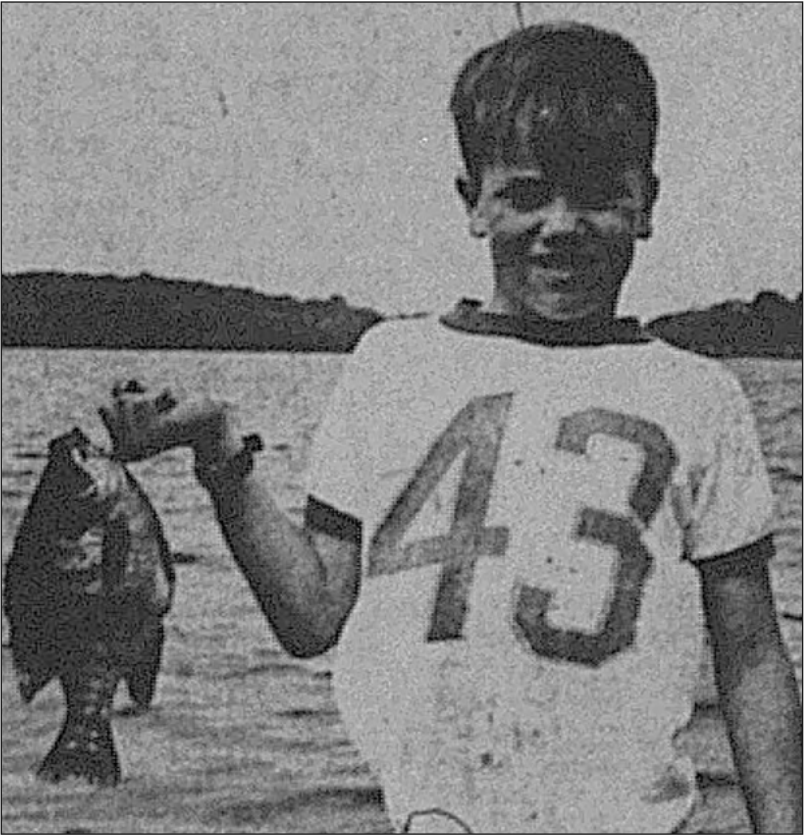
- Four Suzanna the Bears were given away by the U.S. Post Office in Waseca over a four-week period ending May 18. The bears were offered in conjunction with the campaign to sell Breast Cancer Research stamps with the proceeds going towards breast cancer research. The winners of four drawings at the Waseca post office were: Mary Rogers, Sara Moldenhauer, Janice Scholer and Sue Stoltz. "We want to thank everyone for participating in the drawing and for purchasing the special stamps," said Kevin Frazier, Waseca Post Office Customer Service Supervisor.

- Brent and Valerice (Condon) of Waseca are proud to announce the birth of their son, Spencer Virgil Christensen, born May 24, 2001 at Owatonna Hospital. He weighed seven pounds, seven ounces and was twenty-one inches in length. Maternal grandparents are Don and Carolyn Condon. Paternal grandparents are John and Cindy Christensen. Great-grandparents are Ed and Kathleen Condon, Marie Barzdis, Orla Christensen, Fran Njos and the late Vrigil Christensen, the late Dale Njos and the late Frank Barzdis.



- Waseca's Sam Conway will play in the state tournament at 8 a.m. Thursday.

50 years ago



- This is just a sample of some of the sunnies that are being caught in Clear Lake these days...This is nine-year-old Jeff Ross and he is holding about a pound sunny and was he ever proud of the trophy. Well he should be!!! He was fishing with my fishing buddy (nine-year-old Chris Bauleke) and these boys were just having a ball catching my favorite fish-sunfish. People up north can't believe we have the fishing we do here in Southern Minny.. And we have over 30 good fishing lakes within a half hour drive of Waseca. There just aren't too many places in the country that can make that statement!!!

- The Waseca Area Wrestling Club met Thursday evening to discuss forming an official club, goals and ideas, and to elect officers. The 1976'77 officers are: President, Ted McDaniel, Vice-President, Warren Routh and Secretary-Treasurer, Sharon Routh. Directors are: Gary Eustice, Tom Isaacson, Leland Root and Bill Warweg. Calling committee is made up of Mary Lou Wolf, Mary Strand and Pat Klugherz. Practices will continue to be Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. under coaches Gary Eustice, Keith Barnes and Dean Means. All kids are welcome.

- Phillip H. Stoltenberg of Waseca, a senior at the University of Minnesota Medical School, has been elected to Alpha Omega Alpha, a national honorary medical fraternity. Alpha Omega Alpha is the medical equivalent of Phi Beta Kappa for undergraduate work.

75 years ago

- A change in schedule has been announced for the Waseca Indians Baseball club by Dutch Dunn, manager. Instead of playing at Community field Sunday against New Richland, Dunn said several of the players have conflicts on that day and the game will be played Friday night here. He said an unusual amount of weddings, graduations and other commitments would cut down his square too much and New Richland agreed to play the game Friday night. The contest will start at 8 p.m.

- 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

- The State Highway Department received over five million dollars from the two-cent tax on gasoline during the past year and the returns will be larger during the coming year. The people who contributed it will make no complaint if the money is used judiciously in building and maintaining good roads.

- Sam Haislett, the new field secretary of the Minnesota Editorial Association, is proving to be the right man for the place. He is on the job every minute and will demonstrate before the end fo the year that his work will be worth many times his salary.

New Richland

25 years ago



- During the Memorial Day service at Central park, here, wreaths were placed at the base of the World War II Memorial. Standing at attention here are Ann Jessen, Andrew Borgen Post #75 auxiliary president and Chrus Hagen. The memorial displays all of the names of all of the New Richland area men who gave their lives during the war.

- Stacey Titus of Ellendale was named to the Honors List at Rasmussen College, Mankato. To qualify she obtained a 4.0 grade point average.

- Kalisha Anthony will be competing in the pole vault state field event on Saturday, June 9. Kalisha is holding awards she received at the Panther Spring Athletic Banquet Monday evening. Her awards are the 2001 Gopher All Conference and Most Valuable Player in track events



50 years ago

- Mitchell T. Abraham, son of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Abraham of New Richland, was elected an associate justice to the Minnesota State Supreme Court at Boys State at St. John's University, Collegeville, last week. Mitchell, a student at the New Richland-Hartland Public schools, was sponsored by the Andrew Borgen Post 75 of the American Legion, New Richland.



- Three young men were confirmed at Immanuel Lutheran Church of Freedom Township, April 25, by Rev. Stanley Rosenau. They are pictured here with the pastor, from the left to right: Brian Meyer, Wade Jorgenson, Pastor Rosenau and Bradley Meyer.

- Daniel Lyngaard, son of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Lyngaard of New Richland, was among the students of the University of Wisconsin-Madison who won honors recognition for outstanding work in his studies.

75 years ago

- Mr. and Mrs. Bert Root announce the engagement of their daughter, Patsy Fern to Cpl. Levi Bartz of Camp Roberts, California, son of Mrs. Ted Lueck of Waseca. The date of the wedding has not been set.

- Mr. and Mrs. John W. Zwiebel of New Richland are the parents of a son, their first child, born at the Naeve hospital, Albert Lea, Wednesday, July 11, weighing seven pounds, one and a half ounces. Mr. and Mrs. Zwiebel are employed as teachers in the New Richland Public Schools.

New displays opening at Waseca Art Center

A reception for artists Brian Quail and Gena Cohen will be inviting the public to the opening of displays from two new artists at the Waseca Art Center from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 20.

In the Harguth Gallery, metal sculptor and abstract painter Brian Quail says he begins with forgotten metal, discarded gears, pipes, chains and

industrial scraps and transforms them into expressive works of art.

Abstract Expressionist Gena Cohen explores existential themes of love, loss and resilience through a variety of media, playing with both vibrant colors and tactile textures. Their works are on display from June 16 - July 24.

Bulldogs conclude season at state

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The season did not end as hoped for the 2026 Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School baseball team.

But the Bulldogs can't feel bad at all about where it ended.

The extended season finally came to a close last week as the Bulldogs lost twice in the Class A state tournament.

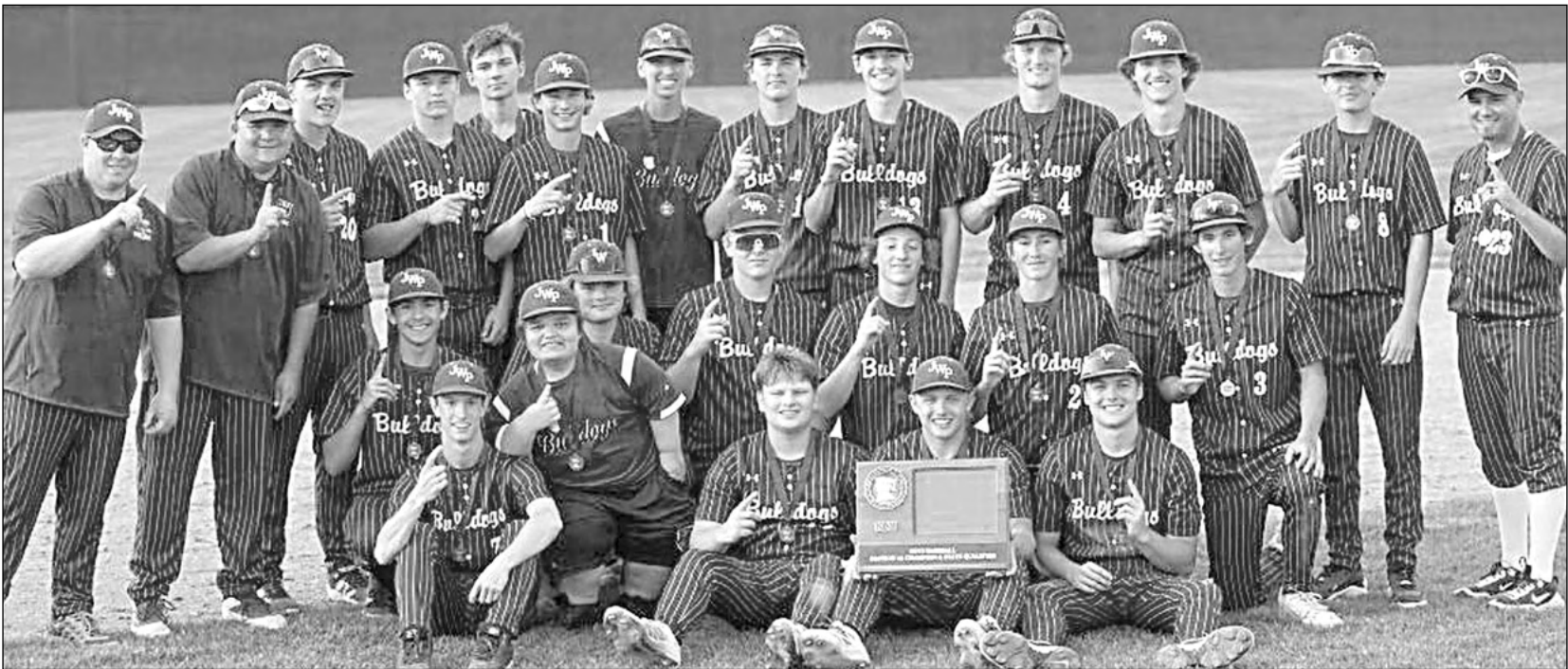
"The past few weeks have been such an amazing ride," said JWP head coach Cory Jewison. "This group of boys stood by each other and worked so hard to make history at JWP."

Not surprisingly, the Bulldogs didn't go down without a battle at state, especially in their 4-3 loss to defending state champion Red Lake County in the quarterfinals June 11 at Joe Faber Field in St. Cloud.

The Bulldogs did not muster much offense in the early innings until Seth Dahlberg's two out double in the fourth. Pinch runner Michael Walker took third on a wild pitch but the Bulldogs took a called strike three for the third out.

It was 4-0 Red Lake through five full innings.

In the top of the sixth, Caleb Quast singled with one out and Ayden Peterson and Chase Gerdts drew back-to-back walks to load the bases. Gavin Bauer singled, scoring



SCHOOL HISTORY — The JWP baseball team after its section championship victory that sent the Bulldogs to the school's first-ever state baseball tournament. Front from left: Devin Cowdin, manager A.J. Radunz, Seth Dahlberg, Chase Gerdts, Caleb Quast; row two: coach Tyler Fellows, coach Cory Jewison, Johnny Balzotti, Jesson Helder, Carter Freitag, Jaxon Wolff, Blake Bure, Parker Gearity; back: James Schoenrock, Yale Johnson, Jack Winters, Ayden Peterson, Mgr. Dalton Ling, Blayne Wandrie, Zander Terbeest, Gavin Bauer, Michael Walker, Jett Quast, Coach Trent Edberg.

Photo by Eli Lutgens

pinch runner James Schoenrock and Peterson, and Quast came home an error that put Bauer on third. An infield popup ended the inning.

Pinch hitter Yale Johnson was hit by a pitch to open the seventh and pinch runner Parker Gearity took second on a fielder's choice for the first out. Blake Bure was hit by a pitch, but a fly out and a ground out ended it.

Gerdts pitched a complete game for the seventh-seeded Bulldogs, allowing three earned runs on three hits, with six strikeouts and four walks.

Quast, Dahlberg, Bauer and Blayne Wandrie had hits for JWP.

Red Lake County went on to fall to Madelia in the Class A state championship game.

The loss dropped the Bulldogs into the consolation round Friday at

Cold Spring against sixth-seeded Brandon-Evansville, which lost 7-0 to No. 3 seed South Ridge in the quarterfinals.

The season concluded for the Bulldogs with a 13-6 loss. Brandon-Evansville went on to defeat Ogilvie 6-0 for the consolation crown.

Among the achievements for the 2026 Bulldogs:

- Section 1A champions, state tournament participants
- Gopher Conference co-champions
- Four all-section players (Gerdts, Quast, Peterson, Dahlberg)
- Gopher Conference Player of the Year (Gerdts)
- Two all-conference players (Quast, Peterson)
- One all-conference honorable mention (Dahlberg)
- Gopher Conference Sportsmanship Award (Devin Cowdin)

"This team was about ONE TEAM and not individual," said Coach Jewison. "Everyone thinks that teams are good because of the team's hard work and skills, but to me one of the most underrated things for a team to be great is 'team chemistry.' It just takes a few bad attitudes to change a winning team to a losing team. This group was so unselfish and just wanted to win for each other. They all knew their role and accepted it. This is what this senior group brought to the table this season. They made sure everyone felt important. They were great leaders on and off the field. I will miss this senior class for this. Now it's time for the next year's seniors to follow their footsteps and continue this progress."

The Bulldogs finished with a season record of 17-7. They graduated five seniors in Walker, Quast, Gerdts, Zander Terbeest and Cowdin. The rest of the team included juniors Gearity, Dahlberg, Wandrie, Johnson and Jackson Winters, sophomores Bauer, Bure, Peterson, Jaxon Wolff, Schoenrock, Jesson Helder, Carter Freitag and Brayden Neegaard, and freshmen Jett Quast and Johnathan Balzotti.

season. They made sure everyone felt important. They were great leaders on and off the field. I will miss this senior class for this. Now it's time for the next year's seniors to follow their footsteps and continue this progress."

Wrestlers shine at camp

Waseca wrestlers gave their coaches a lot to be excited at the recent Sharpens Iron Wrestling Camp in Fort Dodge, Iowa.

"Coach Ben (Janike) and I are both pretty hyped up for next season after seeing what the boys did," said coach Tyler Buesgens.

Before arriving at camp, the Bluejays started things off with a brutal run for several miles through the walking parks at Fort Dodge. The heat and extra workouts at the halfway point pushed the team to keep going and had some questioning whether wrestling camp was going to be worth it. The next few days made that answer a resounding yes.

Waseca was placed in the C pool for competition, alongside seven teams from around the country. The other teams included two from Minnesota: Plainview-Elgin-Millville and Lake City. In the C pool as well were teams from Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Nebraska, and Missouri. Waseca wrestlers came ready to battle, as they rallied their way to first place in that division, defeating Galesburg, Ill. by a single team point. This led to an electrifying crossover exhibition dual with a cooperative team of St. Edmonds, Iowa and Wausau East, Wis. The Bluejays battled it out with them and ended up falling short by a single match.

Along with winning their division in duals and ending up with some outstanding individual results, the Bluejays were noted around the camp for bringing incredible amounts of energy and support to every single competition. Whether it was the entire team surrounding the mat and loudly cheering on whichever Jay was competing, or coming together for fun in the mini games, the Waseca boys always brought the hype. College athletes running the camp frequently noted how high the team's spirits and excitement levels ran all camp long. This excitement was contagious, as the Bluejays often found themselves scrapping with the college wrestlers too, who couldn't help but join in on the high energy. As a result, Jordan Rosenthal, better known as Fire Truck, frequently found himself in grudge matches with a certain camp



STANDOUT SHOWING — Waseca wrestlers shined at the Sharpens Iron Camp in Fort Dodge, Iowa. Front from left: Sam Selthun, Keegan Glynn, Alex Bethke, Jackson Janike, Brady McKenna, Kole Nelson, Charles Helton, Jordan Rosenthal; back: Lukas Janike, coach Tyler Buesgens, Colton Madson, Michael Goodlander, Slade Barnett, Jesse Miller, Ian Farley, Jacob Knutson, Jordan Niedecker, Holten Howard, Braxton Nelson, Landen Madsen, Owen Sommers, Tonn Behtke, coach Ben Janike, coach Blain Nelson.

counselor-turned rival.

This energy and team spirit would carry a long way, as four days of grueling practices and intense matches was broken up with team-building competitions called "Team Olympics." These competitions had the boys racing through an inflatable course, throwing Frisbees, carrying Kole Nelson around on planks, playing squirrel tag (ask the boys), and much more. In these competitions, the Jays stumbled and bumbled their way to second place overall, but won plenty of mini competitions along the way. These provided some much needed breaks in the intensity.

There was certainly a lot of wrestling to be had. Amidst many technique sessions, including sessions run by NCAA D1 national Champions Max McEnelly and Sergio Vega, the amount of live matches these guys got made for four grueling days of wrestling.

In the middle school division, Owen Sommers, Charles Helton, Lukas Janike, and Jordan Rosenthal teamed up with Mahaca, MN and Kirkwood, KS to make a solid dual team. Owen showed some incredible growth throughout the camp and put his big new muscles to work, ending with a record of 3-2. Charles came in hot, throwing guys around in his signature headlock, but a throw that went the other way had him taking a day off to recover. He ended 3-2. Lukas was the youngest Bluejay there, but certainly not one to be overlooked. Lukas started camp being chased down the running trails by an intense coach, then he faced some hammers and scrapped with the best of them to end up 2-4 on the week. Finally, Fire Truck had an electric week! From wrestling to

a 4-1 record, to trucking along in a hot dog eating contest, to ending it all by winning the camp's takedown tournament and earning a championship singlet, Jordan Rosenthal was all in, and the Bluejays loved every second of it.

At the High School level, coaches saw some brilliance mixed with madness. Starting strong, Kole Nelson amassed a record of 9-0, along with becoming a true expert at walking on a bridge of his teammate's hands. Keegan Glynn was a knockout choice to follow Kole in the duals. With a record of 10-1, he made sure momentum never stalled rolling. Jesse Miller and Ian Farley are a pair of first-year athletes in this program, and both came to camp prepared for war. Over the course of the week, they each found a win and the volume with which their teammates cheered would have made you think we had two new Waseca state champions. Speaking of war though, Jackson Janike was thrown into battle after battle. He ended the week 3-9, but probably spent more time wrestling and fighting than anyone else there.

The next four wrestlers had a combined record of 26-1 at camp. Jacob Knutson stepped into his role as team captain by cementing himself as a penciled-in victory with a record of 8-0. He defeated two state qualifiers and an Iowa state placewinner. Braxton Nelson was a force of muscle and red-headed energy, defeating four state qualifiers in dominant fashion. He ended 7-0. Sam Selthun proved he has a level of athleticism and talent which is hard to match, throwing everyone who was put on the mat against him. He ended 6-1 after pinning himself

in a heartbreaking match with St. Edmonds where he was winning 14-0 at the time. As a captain, he was always found talking with his teammates before and after their matches: offering advice, coaching, congratulations, or support when it was needed. Tonn Behtke came out in every match like someone lit him on fire. His first-period pace was an explosion of offense and aggression. By taking the fight to his opponents, he put together a camp record of 5-0.

Also in that weight range was Kelton Pierce. Kelton may have been the toughest warrior of the week, as he was competing through a very debilitating sickness without showing any signs until it became too much to handle. Before deciding he needed to stop and take care of himself, KP wrestled to a record of 2-4. At 4-3 was Alex Bethke, who found himself facing down a series of hammers. After struggling with some tough losses on day two, Alex turned the corner and improved massively for the final two days of camp. The graduating senior, Slade Barnett, did not get many dual matches, as he will not be a member of Waseca's upcoming team, but he still found some battles by going 3-0 in duals, winning the freestyle tournament, and competing in the Iron Sharpens Iron All-Star Dual.

Holten Howard and Brady McKenna were the next Waseca wrestlers. Neither competed on the Bluejay wrestling team during the '25-26 season, but both made a commitment to the sport and turned up the intensity alongside everyone else. Holten hit a hardest-landing headlock to end the camp with a 2-2 record. Brady is like putting an adult

bull on the mat. Whether he was wrestling 265-pound heavyweights or returning state qualifiers, he never failed to charge them down and spear tackle each of them across the mat. He ended 2-2 as well.

The four big boys are left, and these guys were all put into some serious scraps.

Jordan Neidecker had a rough start when his knee landed on a bottle off the mat in his second match. He spent the rest of camp with a swollen up knee, but never failed to go to war and join every workout with toughness and enthusiasm. He ended camp 2-4. Michael Goodlander came charging after his opponent in every match, chasing them around the mat. This intensity gave him a record of 4-3. Colton Madson had a very impressive run through the inflatable obstacle course. His wrestling saw him battling it out with some seriously large humans, but Colton fought for all he was worth. Landan Madsen stepped up as a real leader. Landan became the guy to keep the guys in line, ask questions when needed, and helping teach them when he could. In his wrestling, he battled with confidence and aggression, ending up 6-0, though he injury defaulted once after throwing a 260-pound opponent on top of himself.

To end the camp, Sam Selthun tore his way through a 78-man takedown tournament bracket to win first and claim a championship singlet for himself and a whole lot of bragging rights.

"Overall, these guys left myself, coach Ben, and coach Blain (Nelson) completely and utterly proud, impressed, and excited for the next wrestling season!"

Reger, Braves top Waterville

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

When the Waseca Braves tied Waterville Indians were tied 6-6 with one out in the third inning, it looked like Sunday could be a long day at Tink Larson Field.

Tyson Reger made sure it wasn't.

Reger registered what may have been his best stretch of pitching to date, retiring 20 of the last 21 batters he faced - 12 via strikeout - as Waseca's amateur baseball team claimed a 9-5 victory.

"It was a very nice win against a good team," said Larson, a Braves coach. "It's been years since we've beaten Waterville."

And a big reason was Reger. The only baserunner off Reger in the final 6 1/3 innings was a full-count walk after he had retired 15 in a row. For the game, he gave up three earned runs, five hits, two walks, and had 14 strikeouts.

But that's only half the story.

Reger was equally effective with his bat, going 5-for-5 with two doubles and two RBIs. Keato Roeker was 3-for-3 with two intentional walks, Kyle Waugh 3-for-5 with two doubles and two RBIs.

Kelvin Nelson, Payton Garza and Ryan Hanson had one hit apiece. Cody Huiras scored two runs.

It was the second straight game the Braves had a hitter total five hits, with Larson not remembering the last time it happened.

Garza did it Friday in a 9-6 loss at Faribault, where the Braves did just about everything except win the game.

Two big blows by Faribault were the difference. The Lakers had a three-run and a two-run homer. In the three innings that they scored eight runs, they had only three hits.

"We outhit them 12-7 and our pitchers struck out 18 Faribault batters," said Larson. "Our problem was that we walked eight and hit three. We also had six wild pitches."

Roeker, who started on the mound and took the loss, and reliever Zach Hoehn had some successful stints. Roeker struck out 12 in six innings and Hoehn fanned four and did not allow a hit in two innings.

The Braves got one hit each from Reger, Roeker, Nelson, Huiras, Waugh, Sebastian Teague and Jimmy Loonan.

"Some of our guys hit the ball well," said Larson.

After hosting Morristown Wednesday, the 3-4 Braves play Sunday, June 21 at Blue Earth before returning home to host Albert Lea June 24.

Bluejays named all-conference

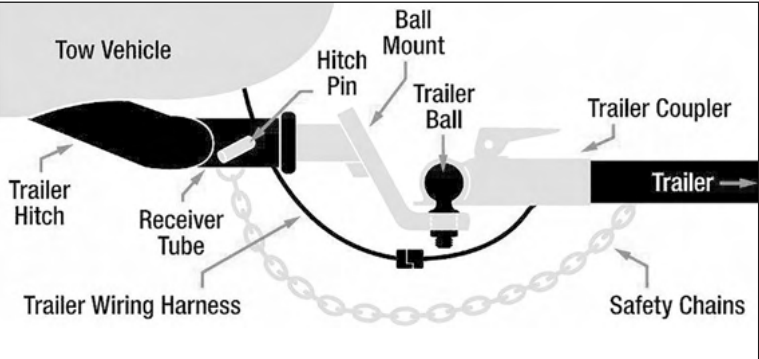
The Waseca Bluejays garnered three spots on the 2026 All-Big South Conference Boys' Tennis Team.

Junior Henry Huttemier, sophomore Armann Bhatti and freshman Keenan Collins were named to the first team for the Black Division champion Bluejays. Allen Kopetzki, a senior, received honorable mention.

The WHS softball squad saw one player receive all-conference honors, freshman Hannah Sommers. Honorable mention softball players were senior Madison Roessler, sophomore Hannah Rugger and ninth-grader Avery Barto.

The Bluejays had one all-conference player for girls' golf, senior Madison Raische.

Logan Reger received honorable mention all-conference in baseball.



‘Ask a Trooper’: Trailer ball sizes

Question: I would like more information on trailer hitch ball sizes and why they have different sizes?

Answer: There are four different trailer hitch ball sizes. Each size has a different weight rating related to the trailer you are pulling. It is very important to make sure you always use the proper ball size with the trailer you are pulling. The ball size required for the trailer is stamped on the coupler of the trailer. If you use the wrong size ball, the trailer will not latch properly and could come disconnected. Once you have the ball connected to the coupler, you need to latch down and put a pin through the coupler to keep it secured.

Trailer hitch ball sizing:

A 1-7/8 inch ball has a gross towing weight of 2,000 to 3,500 pounds. It is commonly used for light trailers like a utility trailer or small fishing boat.

A 2 inch ball has a gross

towing weight of 3,500 to 12,000 pounds. It is used for pulling campers and bigger boats.

A 2-5/16 inch ball has a gross towing weight of 6,000 to 30,000 pounds. This size would be used for travel trailers and larger utility trailers.

The largest size is a 3 inch ball which has a 30,000 pound rating. This is usually used on livestock or large travel trailers.

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

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota send your questions to Sgt. Troy Christianson — Minnesota State Patrol at 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester MN 55901-5848. You can also email him at: Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us.

Open Your Heart to the Hungry and Homeless

Area Food Shelf of New Richland announces 17th annual summer challenge

New Richland, MN - Open Your Heart to the Hungry and Homeless is excited to announce the launch of the 17th annual Open Your Heart Summer Challenge grant. This grant opportunity provides participating food shelves in Minnesota with a matched grant proportional to the food shelves' fundraising activities throughout the month of July.

Last year Minnesota food shelves reported more than 9 million visits, setting a new record. The persistent economic difficulties brought on by rising food costs and the impact of immigration enforcement have driven record high demand at food shelves. OYH's Summer Challenge aims to raise the critical funds needed to feed our neighbors.

When school is out, food shelf demand peaks, and at the same time food shelf donations dip to their lowest. OYH's Summer Challenge bridges this gap by increasing awareness of local food shelves and harnessing the power of collective giving by providing matching grant opportunities so that households have the support they need during the hungriest months of the year.

By leveraging the Open Your Heart Summer Challenge grant, food shelves across Minnesota typically raise over \$2 million in local fundraising in the month of July. In 2025, 83 food shelves across the state of Minnesota participated in OYH's Summer Challenge. Together, raising \$2.4 million dollars to keep shelves

stocked and Minnesotans' fed.

The Challenge grant presents a matching fund opportunity for food shelves, including Area Food Shelf of New Richland allowing them to maximize their local fundraising efforts in July. The distribution of funds from this grant is based on the total funds raised by each participating food shelf in July and the number of food shelves involved, with grants ranging from a minimum of \$150 to a maximum of \$4,000. This year the Summer Challenge and the World Cup overlap so the theme for this year's campaign is "Kicking Hunger Together."

Jessica Mathias, Executive Director at Open Your Heart for the Hungry and Homeless, said, "Across Minnesota, some of the most meaningful efforts to combat food insecurity are led by small, volunteer-driven organizations. These groups often operate without the resources of a dedicated fundraising team or a wide donor base, yet their work is vital to our communities. Through the Open Your Heart Summer Challenge, our goal is to bring the community together to strengthen and support local food pantries. This initiative empowers them to restock their shelves with fresh and frozen food, ensuring they can meet the needs of their neighbors during this demanding season."

Since 1986, Open Your Heart has targeted millions of dollars to strategically fight hunger in Minnesota. For more information visit www.oyh.org.



QUALITY ENTERTAINMENT - Discover Waseca Tourism awarded a grant to the Waseca County Free Fair to support the free stage entertainment for the 2026 fair. The free stage provides fairgoers with access to quality entertainment at no additional cost.

Tourism awards \$2,500 grant to support free stage

WASECA, Minn. — Discover Waseca Tourism awards a \$2,500 grant to the Waseca County Free Fair to support free stage entertainment during the 2026 fair, scheduled for July 8–12, 2026.

For generations, the Waseca County Free Fair has been one of Southern Minnesota's premier summer attractions, drawing thousands of visitors to Waseca County for five days of entertainment, agriculture, food, exhibits, and family-friendly activities. The Free Stage provides fairgoers with access to quality entertainment at no additional cost, helping create an enjoyable experience for residents and visitors alike.

The grant was approved through the Discover Waseca Tourism Grants Program, which supports events and initiatives that enhance Waseca's appeal as a destination and contribute to the local visitor economy.

"The Waseca County Free Fair is one of our community's signature events and a tremendous driver of tourism for our area," said Mikhail Rostislavovich, President of Discover Waseca Tourism. "Every year, thousands of people visit Waseca to enjoy the fair's attractions, exhibits, food, and entertainment. By helping support the Free Stage, we are investing in an experience that is accessible to everyone while showcasing the hospitality and community spirit that make Waseca a destination worth visiting."

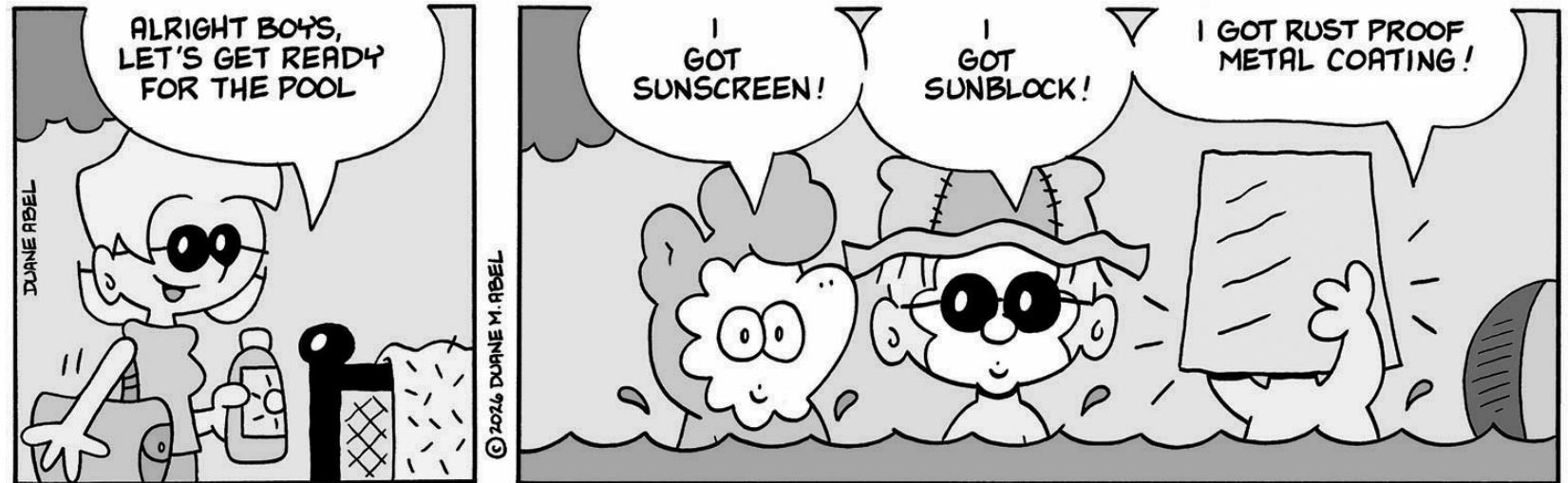
The Tourism Grants Committee recognized the significant impact the fair has on local businesses, lodging establishments, restaurants, and attractions throughout the county.

"The Waseca County Free Fair is more than a community tradition, it is an important tourism asset that attracts visitors from across the region," said Diane Beckmann, Chair of the Discover Waseca Tourism Grants Committee. "The committee was pleased to support the Free Stage because it enhances the overall fair experience and helps ensure that quality entertainment remains available to all fairgoers at no additional cost."

With free admission, family-friendly activities, agricultural exhibits, live entertainment, and special events throughout the week, the Waseca County Free Fair continues to serve as one of the region's most anticipated summer celebrations. Discover Waseca Tourism is proud to partner with organizations that create memorable experiences for residents and visitors while promoting Waseca County as a vibrant place to live, work, and visit.

For more information about the Waseca County Free Fair, visit the fair's website or attend this year's fair from July 8–12, 2026.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



www.corkeycomics.com

Exchange Club continues highway cleanup

The Waseca Exchange Club recently took to the roadside once again for its annual highway cleanup project, demonstrating that service to the community extends beyond meetings and events.

Club members gathered to clean their adopted stretch of highway, collecting litter and debris to help keep Waseca County beautiful and welcoming for residents and visitors alike. The project is one of many hands-on service initiatives undertaken by the club throughout the year and reflects Exchange's longstanding commitment to community service.

"The Exchange Club believes that service isn't just something we talk about, it's something we do," said Waseca Exchange Club President Mikhail Rostislavovich. "Whether we're supporting youth, recognizing first responders, preventing child abuse, or simply picking up litter along our highways, every



FINDING TREASURES - The Waseca Exchange Club took to the roadside for its annual highway cleanup project to show that community service extends beyond meetings. The project is one of many hands-on service initiatives undertaken by the club.

project is an opportunity to take pride in our community and make it a better place for everyone."

The cleanup effort was coordinated by Perry Berg, who serves as chairman of the club's highway cleanup project. Berg noted that maintaining the adopted roadway is a simple but meaningful way for members to give back.

"A clean highway says a lot about a community," Berg said. "This project gives our members a chance to roll up their sleeves and work together while helping preserve the appearance of the place we call home. We're grateful to everyone who volunteered their time to make a difference."

The Waseca Exchange Club has proudly served the community since 1982 through programs focused on Americanism, youth, community service, and the prevention of child abuse. The club encourages anyone interested in making a positive impact in Waseca County to learn more about becoming a member.

For more information about the Waseca Exchange Club and its service projects, follow the club on Facebook or attend an upcoming meeting.

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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 Engebret 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 per-

sons 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
perry.berg@phblawoffice.com
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>

Resolution #2026-002

CITY OF WALDORF, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION DETERMINING THE NECESSITY TO ISSUE A GENERAL OBLIGATION
CAPITAL NOTE, NOT TO EXCEED \$70,000

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes, Section 412.301, authorizes the City Council of the City of Waldorf (the "City Council"), Waseca County, Minnesota (the "Issuer") to issue equipment certificates (Capital Note) within existing debt limits for the purpose of purchasing playground equipment; and

WHEREAS, said statute also provides that if the amount of the equipment certificate to be issued to finance such equipment exceeds 0.25% of the market value of taxable property in the Issuer (\$16,918,500), the equipment Certificate shall not be issued for at least ten days after publication in the official newspaper of a council resolution determining to issue them; and if before the end of that time, a petition asking for an election on the proposition signed by voters equal to ten percent of the number of voters at the last regular municipal election is filed with the City Clerk, the equipment Certificate shall not be issued until the proposition of their issuance has been approved by a majority of the votes cast on the question at a regular or special election; and

WHEREAS, the council proposes to issue the equipment certificate for said purposes in an amount which exceeds 0.25% of the market value of taxable property in the Issuer.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THAT:

1. That it is necessary and expedient for the City Council to issue a General Obligation Capital Note, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 412.301, in an amount not to exceed \$70,000 for the purpose of financing the acquisition of playground equipment (the "Certificate").

2. The amount of the Note is hereby determined and declared to be in excess of 0.25% of the market value of taxable property of the Issuer.

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

4. At least ten days shall elapse after publication in the official newspaper of the Issuer of this resolution before the Note may be issued.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Waldorf on this 8 day of June 2026.

ATTEST

Mayor

City Clerk

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

Legislative update from Rep. Sexton

Legislative Update
Dear Neighbor,
Summer is a busy season across our communities, and I've enjoyed spending time throughout the district meeting with residents, attending local events, and visiting businesses and organizations that help make Minnesota such a great place to live and work. Staying connected with the people I represent is one of the most important parts of this job. The conversations taking place in our communities today help inform the decisions that will be made in the future. Thank you for taking the time to read this week's update. I hope you'll continue to reach out with your questions, concerns, and ideas.

Explaining the Tax Reductions We Secured this Session: Car Tab Fee Relief
Another important affordability issue we addressed this session was the cost of vehicle registration taxes, commonly known as license tab fees. Over the past several years, many Minnesotans have seen these costs rise significantly, creating yet another financial burden for families already dealing with higher prices for housing, groceries, energy, insurance, and other everyday expenses.

In 2023, Democrats passed a transportation package that increased taxes and fees by an estimated \$3.5 billion over four years. The package included automatic annual increases to the gas tax, higher vehicle registration taxes, an increase in the motor vehicle sales tax, a new retail delivery fee, and a metro-area sales tax increase for transit. While these changes generated additional revenue for government, many Minnesotans were left paying more every time they renewed their vehicle registration.

This year, we made vehicle registration tax relief a priority. We heard from countless constituents who were frustrated by rapidly increasing tab fees and concerned about the impact on household budgets. As part of the final transportation agreement, we secured meaningful license tab fee relief that will reduce costs for vehicle owners and provide some welcome financial relief for Minnesota families.

Importantly, we were able to accomplish this without abandoning our commitment to maintaining and improving transportation infrastructure. Even while providing relief to taxpayers, the final budget still includes substantial investments in roads and bridges across the state. The agreement provides

\$176 million for transportation and bridge projects, including \$47 million dedicated to local roads and \$25 million for local bridge improvements.

I believe this approach reflects the right balance. Minnesotans deserve safe roads, reliable bridges, and strong transportation infrastructure, but they also deserve relief from rising taxes and fees. Too often, the conversation at the Capitol focuses on how much more government can collect from taxpayers. This year, we demonstrated that it is possible to invest in critical infrastructure while also returning some money to the hard-working people who pay the bills.

The license tab fee relief secured this session will not solve every affordability challenge facing Minnesota families, but it is another step in the right direction. Going forward, I will continue supporting policies that keep transportation investments strong while ensuring taxpayers are treated as partners, not simply a source of ever-increasing revenue.

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 throughout the interim.

Coffee with Tom
Coffee with Tom will be at the Waseca Chamber of Commerce on Friday, June 19th from 12:00pm – 1:00pm. Note: The Waseca Chamber of Commerce will be closed today, 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!

■ Taste from Page 3

Out by the tractors and bins parked around the fairgrounds were two chickens and a cow, Kaitlyn Schoenfeld was there, from Christian Academy in Mankato. "I know one of the chickens is named Moana, but I don't know the other chicken's name or the cow. They belong to my family." Inside the pig barn on the fairground was Charlay Kietzman.

■ Market from Page 1

immensely popular Power of Produce (POP) club, which uses donated money to provide children with \$5 of spending money to purchase from qualified vendors whose products meet certain nutrition expectations. In partnership with the University of Minnesota Extension program, which was instrumental in beginning and continuing the POP club, the group hopes to continue, strengthen, and expand the program. Riehm adds that POP club signup and distribution is scheduled to begin July 18. Committee members are also discussing and planning for a range of special promotions and offerings meant to promote the weekly event and keep it in the public eye. At the same time, the group is

She was carefully watching over two baby goats and three sheep. "Kids can come in here and pet them if they want. The baby goats are really cute and they keep bawling." Kietzman is a junior this year in the Waseca school system.

Outside the petting area, a large firetruck was arriving. It pulled in and carefully backed into its parking spot; people began gravitating toward it almost immediately. On their way to the truck, people could stop to have a look at some tractors, threshers, combines and other large farm machinery that was also on display.

looking for ways to improve the vendors' experience, including receiving input about their interests and perceptions.

Many of the changes, Riehm suggests, will not be visible to the shoppers who flock to the weekly market, often in the hundreds. But they do provide significant protections and opportunities for vendors and the event as a whole.

Riehm says becoming a vendor at the Waseca Farmers' Market remains easy and simple, with only a short form required the first time someone sets up their display. "If you make it, bake it, create it or grow it, your product is welcome at our event," she invites. "We'll be happy to help with any questions and let you know about some of the changes."

Riehm offers that anyone wanting information about the farmers' market can reach out using the organization's email: wasecafarmersmarket@gmail.com.



The JWP-St. Clair Clay Target team had a historic season and celebrated their athletes and coaches during their annual Fun Night and awards banquet.

JWP Clay Target Team claims 3rd at State

By JANESVILLE JOURNAL

The JWP-St. Clair (JWP-STC) Clay Target team officially brought down the curtain on a historic season, celebrating their athletes, coaching staff, and a trophy-laden campaign at their annual Fun Night and awards banquet.

For the joint program, this season proved to be a master class in precision and consistency. The Bulldogs boasted an incredible roster where 23 gunslingers earned varsity letters by maintaining a season average of 20+ shattered targets per round.

The highlight of the campaign came on the state's biggest stage in Alexandria, where Bulldogs went toe-to-toe with the best deadeyes in Minnesota. Backed by stellar shooting across the board, JWP-STC captured an incredible third place team finish at the state competition.

The campaign's final rounds saw several milestones, including Cody Wiederhoeft shooting a perfect 50 straight, while Trendin Lotton and Carter Wiederhoeft both registered perfect 25 straight rounds. After all five rounds of competitive shooting were completed on May 20, the Bulldogs were bolstered by a flurry of top-tier individual per-

formances, placing six total shooters in the top 25 of their respective state divisions.

On the male side, Cody Wiederhoeft capped his high school career by finishing eighth in the state, while teammate and younger brother Carter Wiederhoeft shot his way to an 11th place finish.

The ladies were equally dominant, led by Janessa Carstensen's seventh place state finish. Joining her in the top 25 tier were Maddie Lueck, 21st place; Ella VanErdewyck, 23rd place; and Kayle Langford, who clinched the 25th spot in Minnesota.

At the year-end awards banquet on May 27, the team took note of individual accomplishments. Cody Wiederhoeft (STC) and Carstensen (STC) took home the ultimate bragging rights as the top male and top female shooters. Cody finished the spring with an impressive season average of 23.5, while Janessa posted a spectacular 22.1 average. In addition to their traditional trophies, both shooters were awarded one-of-a-kind, custom championship belts to commemorate their accomplishments.

Another award was for the "most improved athlete," pre-



Janessa Castensen and Cody Wiederhoeft

sented to Wyatt Ostgarden, who raised his shooting average by an impressive 8.8 points over the course of the season.

The "Sportsman's Award" went to Kayle Langford (JWP) was selected by the coaching staff for this honor, earmarked for an athlete who embodies a positive attitude, a tireless willingness to volunteer, and who serves as an exemplary role model for younger shooters. Langford's leadership was a cornerstone of the team's culture.

Team leaders also indicated this spring marked the largest senior class in the history of the JWP-STC Clay Target program, with 16 seniors bidding farewell.

Among this dedicated group, three historic milestones were

honored. Led by Evan Olson (JWP) and Cody Wiederhoeft (STC), these seniors participated in all 13 seasons available to them (spanning spring and fall sports from junior high through senior year, excluding only the pandemic-cancelled Spring 2020 season). Team leadership notes, "With 30 Bulldogs reported to attend the Minnesota State Trap Shooting Competitions in Alexandria, this 2026 season proved that JWP-STC is not just an active participant in the sport—they are a bona fide powerhouse filled with sharpshooters. Congratulations to all the athletes, coaches, and families on an spectacular, record-shattering year!"

Letter to the Editor: Flag research continues

We're delighted by the community's interest in the 48-star flag and by the photographs, memories, and research leads people have already shared. Since the flag was found at Hodgson Hall, WCHS has invited the public to help piece together its story, and that research continues. Many differing lines of research have been presented so far from a myriad of researchers.

Last week, we created a dedicated email address—48starflag@wasecacountyhistorycenter.org—so contributors have one place to share their findings and staff and volunteers can carefully organize and review each lead. This will take time and is far from complete. Community members are also welcome to conduct research at the Bailey-Lewer Re-

search Library on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

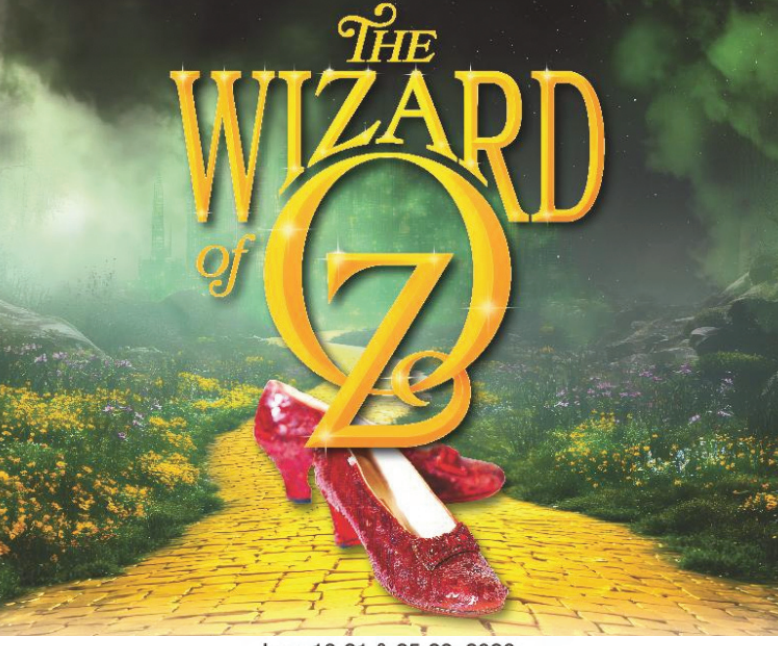
This has been, all along, a wonderful community history project. We welcome anyone who may hold a photograph, record, memory, or other piece of the story to join us as we follow the evidence and determine the most responsible future for the flag. Community involvement, through volunteering, research time, collaboration, and becoming a member are so important for preserving our stories. Join us in preserving Waseca County's history. Our responsibility is, as always, to review the available evidence carefully, identify rightful ownership if possible, and determine the most ethical and preservation-minded outcome for the flag and the community. We look forward

to working together with community partners to find what's best for both the artifact, its story, and the community. Thank you,

Amy Danielson
Executive Director
Waseca County Historical Society



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