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LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY
No. 27 Vol. V \$2 Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca Thursday, July 2, 2026



Girls' soccer

Muriah Miller and Mark Denn at Club 57 Thursday, July 2

Waseca-based Muriah Miller and Mark Denn will play Club 57 from 6-9 p.m. on Thursday, July 2. This acoustic duo comes from family bands Miller Sisters and Country Denns.

Waseca County Horse Thief Detectives annual meeting July 4

The Waseca County Horse Thief Detectives will hold their annual meeting starting at 11:30 a.m. through 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 4 at the Northeast Park (near the waterpark). The club has been meeting annually for 162 years. Bring the family, bring friends, bring a dish to pass around. Questions? Call Scott at 507-995-9832 or email horsedetectives.org.

Free Children's Class Acrylic Painting at Waseca Art Center Tuesday, July 7

Waseca Art Center is offering a free children's acrylic painting class from 1 to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, July 7. Must register by July 3. Artist Peggy Paulson from Prairie Creek Art will lead the class in painting this regal bear with a woodsy background. Perfect for kids who want to give painting a try! Register here: <https://www.wasecaartcenter.org>

Waseca County Fair July 8 to 12

The Waseca County Fair is scheduled for July 8 to 12 at the County Fairgrounds in Waseca.

Ocular Diseases and Falls Prevention class at Caregiver Services Wednesday, July 8

Waseca Area Caregiver Services is holding an Ocular Diseases and Falls Prevention: Associated with the Eyes class from 2:15-3:15 p.m. at Caregiver Services on Wednesday, July 8. Hosted by Kelly Boeddeker, featuring Dr. Taylor Oie and Paraoptometric Beth Biddle.

Soil Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board Meeting July 9

The SWCD will be holding its monthly board meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 9. The meetings will be held in the SWCD offices located at 300 North State Street - Door 4.

Tom Madigan Book Signing at Waseca Art Center July 11

Waseca grad Tom Madigan will be signing copies of his book at the Waseca Art Center from 1-3 p.m. on Saturday, July 11. His book, "I Survived: Living with the Trauma of a Dependent Parent." Refreshments and snacks provided.

A word from The Word

But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

1 Timothy 5:8



UNFURLING HONOR - It took 32 people to support the 48-star flag owned by the Waseca County Historical Society when it was opened to its full size the morning of Monday, June 29. The flag was measured to be 36 feet long and 19 feet high. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Opening giant flag requires 32 pairs of hands

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

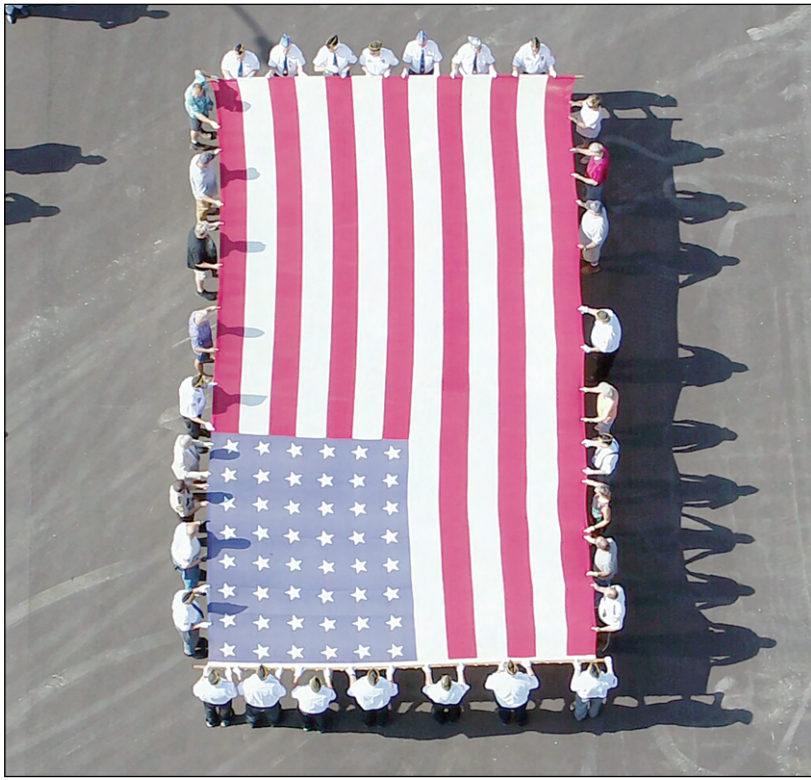
About 20 Waseca area veterans gathered on the county fairgrounds June 29 for an unusual type of honor guard.

The group had volunteered to unroll, measure, and assess the gigantic 48-star flag discovered by the Waseca County Historical Society (WCHS). Society leaders wanted to know if there might be a way to display the large flag—measured to be 36 feet long and 19 feet wide—during the county fair.

As the veterans in their crisp white uniforms unrolled the flag, additional volunteers stepped in to support the sides of the flag's continually lengthening span; eventually 32 people encircled it.

To the group's disappointment, it was determined the flag could not

Flag continued on 5



Drone photo courtesy of Waseca County Sheriff's Office



HUFF AND PUFF - The Waseca Community Education Children's Summer Theater's production of "Cinderella and the Substitute Fairy Godmother" happened at the Waseca High School's Performing Arts Center on Friday and Saturday, June 26 & 27, 2026.

Pioneer photo by Juniper Revermann

Despite confusion, Cinderella play provides happy ending

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Waseca Community Education Children's Summer Theater, in conjunction with

Cinderella continued on 6

Trapping historian chooses Herter as subject for 2026 book

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Scot Dahms, author of nine books to date about trapping and trapping history, says he decided to produce his most recent work, *Furious George*, while doing research for another book, *The Lost Conibear Letters: How One Canadian and the Animal Trap Company Revolutionized Trapping*.

Reading through a court case manuscript, Dahms says he came across some statements well-known area businessman George Herter made while being questioned by an opposing attorney. Dahms was impressed by the energy and vitriol of some of

Herter's statements, and became interested in finding out more.

"I love finding little tidbits of information that others do not know, organizing it into an interesting story and then sharing it with others.

"I read several articles about [Herter's] cantankerous nature, but they only gave brief overviews. I wanted to share things that came directly out of George's mouth or out of the mouths of others that were around him.

"I started researching court cases involving George and found several civil cases and a criminal case. I worked with the US Courts National Archives in Chicago, Kansas City

and Seattle to get this information. It takes a lot of material to write a book. I think sometimes people do not understand the amount of material needed and the time needed to put it together."

Though he now lives in Kokomo, Indiana, Dahms grew up in Rudd, Iowa. His parents still live there; in the summer of 2025, Dahms and his father spent a couple of days at the Waseca County Historical Society (WCHS), getting assistance from the staff there.

He expresses gratitude to Elizabeth Anselmo at the WCHS and to Pam Goehring, who curates the New Richland Area Historical Society's



Scot Dahms

records. Goehring was able to find photographs taken at the New Richland plant where Herter snowmo-

Book continued on 5

Variety, energy draw crowds to Elysian

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

According to event leader Pat Nusbaum, the City of Elysian's Fourth of July Celebration set for Wednesday, July 1 to Sunday, July 5 brings in as many as 20,000 visitors while always keeping its small-town hospitality.

Nusbaum mentions a group of golf cart owners, including herself, who provide transportation to help facilitate the parade and to help pedestrians return to their cars afterward. She also points out the whole five days are planned to provide something for everyone.

The parade, set for 2 p.m. Saturday, July 4, draws the largest crowd. With more than 100 units of many different types, it's always a hit. Nusbaum mentions this year it will be followed by an arm wrestling contest in the event's "big tent," and the very popular dance featuring the Johnny Holm band beginning at 9 p.m.

"There are a lot of groups who make a point of getting together for that, almost like a miniature reunion," observes Nusbaum regarding the dance. "Joy Ride" sober cab service is available from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. A dance in the fire hall from 8:30 to 12:30 the evening of July 3 will feature the band Smokescreen; it, too, will offer a

Elysian continued on 9

Furious George provides fascinating deep dive

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

This summary and review shares opinions and personal observations regarding Scot Dahms' book Furious George, published this year. The book can be ordered online at Dahms' website, Adirondackdick.com.

As a 1977 graduate of Waseca High School, I come from a time frame which allows me to remember the Herter's store once located near the south end of town. Of course I knew its proprietor was George Herter, and that Herter had hunted and taken big game all over the world—the taxidermied specimens in the store were clear evidence.

But as a teenager, I didn't

Dahms continued on 5



Compostings

by Al Batt

Sometimes the world makes sense

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

The city says I have seven outstanding parking tickets. Do you really?

I don't know, but it was nice of the city to say that.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I was in Nimrod. I know what you're thinking. Sometimes the world makes sense—a nimrod in Nimrod. Nimrod is a city in Wadena County and is named after the biblical figure Nimrod, a skillful and mighty hunter. The high school teams in Watersmeet, Michigan, are nicknamed the Nimrods. The name took a detour after a 1948 "Looney Tunes" cartoon in which Daffy Duck called Elmer Fudd a "nimrod." The Nimrod Gnats play baseball there. Dick Stigman pitched for Nimrod and in the majors for seven years (including with the Twins).

Back in medieval times, a friend gave me a Lincoln Continental to drive while he was out of the state for a few months. He wanted me to drive his land yacht occasionally to keep it in prime condition. I didn't drive it as often as I should have. It was too nice. I was used to driving a junkyard on wheels, the kind that used a windshield wiper as an oil dipstick. Each drive was like running with an egg in each hand. Wrestling the steering wheel of one of those contraptions gave me plenty of upper-body exercise. I titled to keep those cars on the road. Discussions with other drivers in the same predicament would begin with, "How many miles do you get to the quart?" I always carried a sandwich with me. It gave me something to do during breakdowns after I'd found a safe landing spot. I remember talking to a neighbor who had an old car that he kept in prime condition. It was an antique. I questioned him, "You mean you drive an old car because you want to?"

FATHER'S DAY

On a day long ago, in a land not far away, I stood beside my father's grave on a windswept prairie, regretting those things I'd left unsaid, and questions that went unasked. He'd given me his ears and his time. I heard a western meadowlark call from a pasture near the cemetery. It brought precious memories of my wonderful father, the farmer, and of our many talks. I know the bird was proclaiming territory, but sometimes, a bird sings when I need to hear it.

I'VE LEARNED

The states with the highest personal income are Virginia, New York and New Jersey. Minnesota is 8th

and Iowa 32nd. West Virginia is the lowest, just behind New Mexico and Mississippi.

<https://wallethub.com/edu/states-where-people-have-the-highest-income/136995>

If you don't think you'll like a food, eat it deep-fried.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

My neighbors listened to some loud music last night until they asked me to turn it down.

Alice saw the northern lights but was unimpressed. You might say it was the Aurora boring Alice.

How many soccer players does it take to change a lightbulb? I don't know, but it'd be quicker if they could use their hands.

NATURE NOTES

A friend, Kim Eckert of Duluth, suggested a general rule of thumb that any meadowlark seen west of a north-south line from the city of Warroad in Roseau County south to the city of Fairmont in Martin County was a western meadowlark. East of this line, however, both the western meadowlark and the eastern meadowlark species are seen.

A group of dragonflies is called a flight, swarm, cluster or wing.

"What do skunks have that no other animal has?" Baby skunks.

A woman on the Pelican Breeze asked why there were more cliff swallow nests on the west side of the highway bridge than on the east side. Concrete bridges and overpasses caused cliff swallows to abandon nesting on loose, crumbly cliffs of sandstone or limestone in favor of firm structures that offered overhangs sheltering the birds from the elements. Their densely packed nests extend over lengthy sections of buildings, dams, culverts and bridges. Cliff swallows require freshwater to construct their gourd-shaped nests, each made of 900–1,200 individual mud pellets collected in their bills. I suspect cliff swallows might build more nests on the west side of a bridge than on the east side due to the direction of the sun's path and the resulting temperature differences. The west side of a bridge receives more direct sunlight later in the day, which can lead to warmer temperatures overnight. The warmer temperature could benefit a nestling by regulating its body temperature and potentially providing a more comfortable environment. Baby birds lacking feathers are more vulnerable to cold than a heat.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"Judge nothing, you will be happy. Forgive everything, you will be happier. Love everything, you will be happiest."—Sri Chinmoy.

The contemplations of a rainstorm

As anyone who's ever had to carry buckets full of it knows, water is heavy. Online sources inform me a gallon weighs about 8.3 pounds, which means someone with a classic five-gallon bucket is lifting somewhere around 40 pounds, depending on how close they've brought the water to the brim.

Any amount of reading about good old H2O quickly brings you to the conclusion it must be the product of design rather than chance. Perhaps the largest point is that, unlike any other substance, water expands when it freezes, becoming buoyant. If that weren't the case—if like every other substance, it contracted when it turns solid—each year's ice would become a giant weight that would sink to the bottom of the body of water, killing everything down there as it builds up, robbing the depths of their ability to support life.

The properties of water are a topic we should all take a few minutes to contemplate every now and then, given that it constitutes something like 60 percent of our makeup, and that, if we were deprived of both food and water, we would expire from dehydration long before we would starve.

My recent contemplation was inspired by a rainstorm.

It was about 7:30 a.m. when I



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

heard the thunder. When I looked outside, I could see a wall of rain moving toward my house across the field, blocking out all view of the landscape behind.

I heard a few taps on the windows, then seconds later I could barely see the yard and it sounded as if a cattle drive was taking place on the roof.

As I do nearly every time I feel besieged by a rainstorm, I said to myself in wonder, "The sky held all that water up."

Really, how is that possible? Okay, yes, I understand the science behind it—it's all water vapor, fog, essentially—until atmospheric conditions change and it condenses into its liquid form. But understanding the science doesn't make it any less awe-inspiring.

We're back to the idea that water has to have been designed—what other necessary substances become lighter than air for easy transport? Then, once delivered, become heavy and fluid enough to flow downhill

and rejoin the water cycle...or even seep through soil and rock to be stored, potentially for millenia, as groundwater?

It happens that, around 8 a.m. when the rain was still going strong, I found it necessary to cross my yard to get to my car.

I want you to know, I own a spectacular "golf" size umbrella. I take genuine delight in walking under it in the rain because it feels as if I am under a portable roof. The water thumps down on it, then runs to the side, leaving enough protected dry space underneath for a small family.

But guess where the umbrella is kept?

I don't share all this to elicit your commiseration. I put a raincoat over my head, walked to the car, and came back to the house with only a few wet spots on my clothing; I wasn't bothered or disturbed. But I was inspired to see something from a new perspective.

In each direction, I walked under

We need to be bothered once in a while

I remember the first time Jack drove me through the mountains. I was in awe the entire time, staring out the window watching the rolling textures and the steeper points, the trees turning to rock, the clouds getting closer.

As we drove the road that hugged the mountainside, with stark drops leading to the river or the valley floor, I remember thinking that my family would love this. At the time, I still couldn't believe I was in Colorado, driving through the mountains.

The first time I ever went to Jack's mother's house in the southwestern area of Colorado near Ouray and Telluride, I recall asking her if one ever got used to having the mountains casually in their backyard. She said yes—and no. Their house is located in a valley, and every day the mountains that surround them are still a beauty to behold.

Now that I've been in Colorado for almost a year, I think I'm starting to get it. The newness of the mountains and nature has worn off, but the awe of their beauty I think will always stay. There are still some things, though,



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

that I will have to get used to. Like more mountain fires due to the dryness and high winds of Colorado.

Last weekend, Jack and I ventured through the mountains to visit his mother for a long weekend. It was a fabulous and fantastic time, and I will continue to be in awe sitting outside on their back patio, enjoying the warm breeze and staring out at the mountains.

But on the last night that we were there, a fire broke out on the mountainside near the town just south of them, and we could easily see the flames from the house. We watched that night as the flames grew and spread both up the side of the mountain and toward the valley. Eventually,

the flames hopped north as well due to the wind. People who were evacuating their homes started to arrive in the town where we were, and we were constantly monitoring the wind strength and speed as the sky darkened and flames grew brighter amidst the smoke. I guess air assistance had been requested to put out the fire, but we never saw them. Our guess was that equipment was away helping fight the massive fires happening in Utah, whose smoke had made the sun red and angry that day and my eyes dry.

It was a scary and worrying time. I quite disliked the helpless feelings that came from watching the large fire grow, people be evacuated, and belongings destroyed. But there was

nothing I could do.

It reminded me of the time Waseca's Moonan Marsh was on fire across from my parents' home a few years ago, burning acres right in front of our eyes. That was a helpless feeling, too. Within a short time as I watched—fortunately from across the road—that fast-moving fire completely changed the grassy landscape I had been taking for granted into a (temporarily) blackened, ugly mess. And all I could do was stand at the end of our driveway and take it in. Thankfully, the firefighters and emergency response team worked diligently, saved our house and land, and got the fire contained.

Now, in the morning sun, this mountain fire is just smoke, lingering on at the edge of the mountain town. And I am thankful.

My Determination: "We need not to be let alone. We need to be really bothered once in a while. How long is it since you were really bothered? About something important, about something real?" — Ray Bradbury, Fahrenheit 451

Happy, belated, Father's Day, Dad

I am more than two months through twice-a-week physical therapy sessions, which meant it was time to 're-assess' prior to my most recent session.

There had been something of a setback during the previous week; I hurt myself during one of the exercises.

It was a very simple resistance stretch, but it was enough to trigger back my pain—fiercely—for more than a week.

Two weeks later and I'm feeling close to how I was before I aggravated my injury, which consists of two bulging discs in my lower back.

It was something of a relief to see there has been some healing and actual improvement. I have been in pain for most of the past seven months, sometimes to a point where I could barely move. It feels never-ending. I am not optimistic enough to say I can see the end of this journey, but my pain score on the reassessment dropped by six points.

I am still limited to only stretches during physical therapy, no exercises yet, or again until I can do them without pain, per doctors' orders. They didn't seem very happy when we finished my exercises that hurt me further, and I asked, "How much pain am I supposed to tolerate when I do this at home?"

The answer was "none."

They were right.

My limp is nearly gone. On Father's Day my dad said I was walking 'gingerly.' Sometimes I don't notice, it's just become normal.

Speaking of Father's Day, my dad and I spent the evening together, went to dinner and played cribbage.

We have been playing cards together most evenings, actually. I call him every night to chat, and lately, for the past few weeks, I've simply invited



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

him to come play cards.

I have started journaling regularly again, as a way to write more.

I have written very little for the newspapers this year, due to my injuries and pain. Some days it hasn't felt possible to keep up with the reduced number of tasks I have kept for myself. Just now, though, I can say it has been a good week, so I will focus on the positives.

My friend Madi and I are planning our long overdue trip to Yellowstone. We were supposed to go in April, but both she and I suffered back injuries. Tomorrow we will meet to plan the specifics.

In the meantime, I continue to try and spend as much time with the ones I love as possible. Whenever I am not working and not working on my own physical and mental health, via walking, writing, reading, or any of my other hobbies, I generally spend all other available time with friends and family.

I had lunches recently with Editor Deb Bently and friend Mikhail Rostislavovich. On at least one account, my urges of, please do more retired activities and don't work so much, have been heeded. Although I still worry Deb is fooling me when she says things like she's only writing four stories this week and leaving for the cabin, she always finds a way to do more work.

Mikhail, although taking a step back,

still works more than nearly every working person I know. He, too, is retired.

I have listened to a great many of my elders and I have taken their advice. While I am young I will continue to work hard. However, that was not their advice.

The advice I have heard over and over again is to live my life. Travel. Visit with my loved ones. When people become elderly it gets harder and harder to travel. Mobility issues and aging are natural and make doing those activities more difficult.

As for spending time with loved ones?

Jon Butler, president of FM Bank, and friend, reminded me how important it is to spend time with my dad. "Even those stupid phone calls about something he forgot to tell you," Jon told me. "Answer the phone, every time."

Jon's dad died rather unexpectedly more than a month ago now. When I spoke with him, I asked him to tell me a little about his dad. I'm glad he was willing to do that.

I told him something I was once told long ago.

"Your dad is the only man who will ever want to see you do better than himself."

Jon had never heard that before, and agreed. I think I even heard a couple

smiles through the phone call. Inter-mixed of course, with some grief. We never stop grieving the ones we love.

My final note I have is from another conversation with a friend.

I mentioned how it's sad and sometimes necessary to grieve for people before they actually die. Sometimes people leave us due to "natural" causes. Sometimes they may be physically accessible, but their personalities, the elements about them that allow us to feel connected to them, are lost. Whether someone is dying from a disease or has given way to addiction or some other danger that they can't escape, sometimes we mourn people before their time on this Earth is actually done.

I spoke of an example and my friend said I was grieving a person who no longer existed in the form I knew them or wished I had known them.

I then spoke about my father.

There is no mourning or grieving for my dad before his eventual death. I talk to him every day and ask him to play cards nearly every evening. There is no amount of time that I can spend with him that will be enough.

My dad tells me the same stories he has for years, still with enthusiasm. His stories make me smile every time. I ask him questions he's answered many times about his life, childhood, parents, grandparents, work, etc. My goal is to leave no stone unturned. And despite that, I'm sure, whenever my dad does pass away, hopefully many, many years from now, that there will still be a question or two that I kick myself for not talking to my dad about.

This was my long winded way of thanking my dad for being such a strong part of my life.

Happy Father's Day, Dad.

WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

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OBITUARIES

Richard Keith Thompson

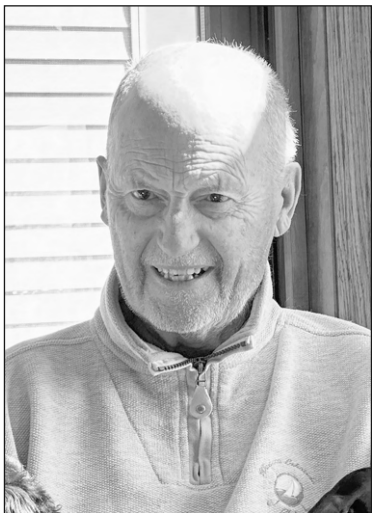
Richard Keith Thompson, U.S. Marine Helicopter Pilot

After a long and distinguished life, Richard Keith Thompson returned home to the LORD early on Saturday morning, June 6, 2026, at the age of 87.

Dick was, at his core, a proud Minnesotan of Norwegian heritage, a faithful servant of GOD, a loyal American, and a United States Marine, through and through. Whether in a cockpit or in everyday life, he met every challenge with steadfast courage, precision and calmness that reassured everyone around him.

Dick was born on July 25, 1938, in Faribault, Minnesota, to Harold Underdahl Thompson and Klara Nicolena (Bakke) Thompson. Alongside his brother Stan, older by 15 months, he spent his childhood exploring the small town of Faribault, MN that he loved and anticipating his summers at the family cabin in northern Minnesota at Lake Vermilion. His father worked as an accountant for Treasure Cave Cheese, and his mother devoted herself to raising two boys and taught at the Minnesota School for the Deaf. It was rare for the time, but she had a Masters Degree from Ripon College, class of 1930. Dick attended Faribault Senior High School, class of 1956. He was awarded an ROTC scholarship to the University of Minnesota where he majored in history. He was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity and graduated with the class of 1960.

Dick joined the United States Marine Corps as a Second Lieutenant and attended Naval Flight School in Pensacola, Florida. Known by the call sign "Tommy," Dick served 20 years in the Marine Corps, including two tours in Vietnam flying medivac helicopters. He was awarded the Bronze Star. After his last tour in Vietnam, Richard joined Marine Helicopter Squadron One (HMX-1) for the Nixon Administration. He was the youngest of 52 majors selected for the most prestigious of missions - direct support of the President and Vice President of the United States. He later recounted flying over the Rose Bowl game in Pasadena, California, and sitting on the 50 yard line at Army-Navy football games as great perks of the job. Nobody was allowed to say a critical word about President Nixon in Dick Thompson's presence. His last assignment in the Marine Corps was Liaison Officer to the U.S. House of Representatives. Yet for all his accomplishments. His last assignment in the Marine Corps prepared him for his second career as a lobbyist for Sikorsky Aircraft of United Technologies. In retirement he continued to pursue his interests in politics and history by following Congress and staying informed about current events and sports. He was constantly exploring updated technologies and tinkering with new gadgets. Dick was the proud father to



Richard Thompson

his son, Richard Keith Thompson, II and daughter. Desiree Thompson Sayle. He was the beloved Papa to his cherished grandchildren, Bela, Vivienne and Christian Sayle. He was there the moment each arrived in this world and remained ever present on the sidelines, taking great pride in their accomplishments rarely without a camera, his handy work documented and preserved cherished memories for his great granddaughter, Ivy and those who will follow.

Those closest to him knew him first as a devoted husband. He got married to Jeanie (Lorenz) Thompson on December 31st, 1986. They were the love of each other's lives for over 39 years. From Washington, D.C. to their home state of Minnesota, they built a beautiful life together on Clear Lake and thrived in simply being together with their beloved rescue companions, all while surrounded by the beautiful land of 10,000 lakes. They were devoted Minnesota Gopher fans and avid supporters of the Minnesota Vikings and Twins baseball.

He leaves behind a legacy of service, honor, and devotion to family that will continue to live on through future generations.

Richard was preceded in death by his parents, Harold Underdahl Thompson and Clara Nicalena (Bakke) Thompson. He is survived by his beloved wife of almost 40 years, Jeanie (Lorenz) Thompson; his brother, Stanley Paul Thompson (Karen); his son, Richard Keith Thompson II; his daughter, Desiree Thompson Sayle; his grandchildren, Isabela Klara Sayle (Zach), Vivienne Anna Sayle, and Stephen Christian Sayle; his great-granddaughter, Ivy Nadia Lehyki.

His family is tremendously thankful to the staff of Benedictine Living in Owatonna, Minnesota and St. Croix Hospice who provided such loving care and comfort during the tough times. A special thank you to a dear friend, Lindsey Barbknecht, who always knew just what to say and do to ease his suffering. She made him laugh. His family is so grateful. LtCol Dick Thompson will be interred with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery, a fitting resting place for a proud Marine.

We will hold him in our hearts forever.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith..."

2 Timothy 4:7-8

Dorothy Esther Zellmer

Dorothy Esther Zellmer, age 97 of Waseca, MN passed away peacefully on June 28, 2026, at Colony Court in Waseca, MN.

Born on February 25, 1929, she was the daughter of Alvin and Minnie (Meyer) Richter. She was raised in Kilkenny and attended and graduated from Waterville Schools. After graduating, she began working. While employed at the local café, she met Gordon Zellmer when he stopped in for an ice cream cone. The two were married on September 5, 1948 at St. John Lutheran Church in Kilkenny.

Dorothy and Gordon made their home in rural Waterville, where they

raised their family.

Dorothy devoted herself to caring for their home and family as they welcomed two children, Linda and Richard. In 2017, Dorothy and Gordon moved from the farm to Colony Court in Waseca, MN.

Strong in her faith and dedicated to her church, Dorothy was a lifelong member of St. John Lutheran Church in Kilkenny. She generously gave her time as a member of the church choir and the ladies aid group, faithfully serving her church community for many years.

After the church in Kilkenny closed, she became a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Waseca. In her spare time, Dorothy enjoyed browsing cookbooks and exploring the many different ingredients and recipes she came across.

Dorothy will be lovingly remembered by her children, Linda (Bob) Joseph of Waterville and Richard (LuAnn) Zellmer of Waseca; grandchildren, Craig, Eric, and Amy; great-grandchildren, Maria, Mason (Christine), and Jaylin; along with nieces, nephews, and close friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Gordon in 2018; brother, Bob; and sister, Eleanor in childhood.

A funeral service will be held on Wednesday, July 8, 2026, at 11:00 AM at St Paul Lutheran Church in Waseca, MN; Rev. Michael Grannis will officiate. Dorothy's family will greet guests at a visitation one hour prior to the service at the church. Interment will be at Sabre Lake Lutheran Cemetery in Kilkenny.



Dorothy Zellmer

Betty Krenke

Betty Lou (Page) Krenke, age 91, of Northfield, Minnesota, passed away on Sunday, June 29, 2026, at Birchwood Cottages in Owatonna.

Betty was born on February 17, 1935, in Northfield, Minnesota, to James and Eleanor (Anfinson) Page. She attended Northfield schools and graduated from Northfield High School with the Class of 1953.

On August 22, 1959, Betty was united in marriage to Roland Gustav Krenke at St. John's Lutheran Church in Northfield. The couple farmed in the Ellendale area until 1966, when they moved to Owatonna. Betty devoted herself to her family while also working a variety of jobs over the years, including positions at Mont-

gomery Ward, Sears, and Walmart.

Faith was an important part of Betty's life. She joined St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Meriden in 1959 and later became a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna in 1966. Betty enjoyed dancing, playing bingo, and completing word-search books. She especially treasured time spent with her family and friends.

Betty is survived by her son, James Krenke and his wife, Pam, of Owatonna; daughter, Pamela Ann Krenke of Owatonna; two grandchildren, Cory James Krenke and Karissa (Andrew) Lynn Van Osdale; three great-grandchildren, Lila L. Van Osdale, Piper M. Van Osdale, and Tucker J. Van Osdale; and

brother, John (Mary) Page of Northfield.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Roland Krenke; son, William "Bill" Krenke; her parents, James and Eleanor Page; sister, Lois (George) Haworth; brothers, Rodger "June" Page, Percy (Lois) Page, Leroy (Marie) Page, Don Page; and sister-in-law, Mary Page.

Memorial service for Betty will be at 11:00 AM on Monday, July 13, 2026 at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service. Visitation will begin one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Burial will follow at St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery in Meriden.

Dsofuneral.com



Betty Krenke



QUESTIONS, DISCUSSION, CUPS OF JOE - Coffee with Representative Tom Sexton took place on Friday, June 19. Pictured from left, Carl Sonnenberg, Brad Milbrath, Jon Froke, Jessica Rollins, Representative Tom Sexton, President of Exchange Club Mikhail Rostislavovich, Carl Boreboom and Linda Born. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Sexton glad to have extended entity tax

By BEN REVERMANN Staff writer

Coffee with Tom Sexton took place at the Waseca Chamber of Commerce on Friday, June 19 over the noon hour.

Waseca City Planner Carl Sonnenberg asked Representative Sexton, "Any thoughts on what might break the log jam on local sales tax opportunities?"

Sexton replied, "A lot of business owners, especially small business owners, wanted us to keep from expiring was the Pass-Through Entity Tax, which allows them to file their taxes through their business." Sexton explained the law results in paying less in federal taxes. In part thanks to Sexton, this program was extended through 2028.

Sexton then spoke about corporate tax problems in Minnesota. "We're sitting at 9.8 corporate tax, but you look at Sioux Falls South Dakota, they're at zero and they're growing like gang busters. Iowa is

less than us and they're really growing. Very traditional Minnesota companies are now looking to other states to expand, it's not sustainable what we're doing."

For the first quarter, Sexton says there were 345 million less in claims this year compared to last, suggesting those who might've been making fraudulent claims held off this year.

Sexton emphasized it is important for the new Minnesota Office of Inspector General to stay independent under the executive branch. It cannot be influenced by the commissioners or the governor. The budget is around \$27 million, allowing for a fairly sizable staff.

Sexton spoke about the federal government's current investigation into Minnesota fraud. He said the investigation is not only uncovering fraud involving federal funds, but state money as well.

The annual conference of mid-western states to include Canada

will match up with our State Fair this year and will include visitors from Illinois, Wisconsin, North and South Dakota, Alberta and some of the other Canadian provinces.

One guest asked about potentially losing any Republican seats in the upcoming election. Sexton made reference to Erica Schwartz, who represents District 18A in south-central Minnesota, encompassing Nicollet County and parts of Blue Earth and Le Sueur Counties. Said Sexton, "St. Peter has always been a challenging area,

so we'll see if she can hold on to it." Sexton continued talking about Winona which recently had Gene Pelowski of the DFL step down after 38 years in 2024, leaving room for Republican Aaron Repinski to nab that seat in District 26A, "Winona was held for a long time by Pelowski. Aaron Repinski is working really hard to hang on to that seat. He did a great job of getting elected and does a lot in his community. He's in the fire department and does a lot of volunteer work."



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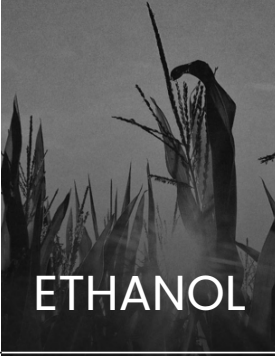
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The family of Gerri Lienke wants to acknowledge all the support we've received since we lost Gerri, who was such a big piece of our world. She was not only a wife, mother and grandmother, but clearly a dear friend who touched many lives, as is evident by the many people who continue to show up. Your support has meant a lot, and we want to take a moment to note how much it is appreciated...and thank you.

With Thanks,
Dave
Kim, Shannon, Bridget, Bill

■ Flag

from Page 1

be put up for display. For one thing, there are very few local surfaces large and flat enough to hang the flag without risk of damaging it. The largest difficulty, though, is that the flag does not have a suitable system for attaching it to a board or other support. This lack meant it would not work to hang the flag in the open air suspended from the city's aerial platform firetruck, which has been done with other flags in observance of 9-11.

As was reported in earlier editions of the Waseca County Pioneer, the gigantic flag had been stored "in plain sight" and forgotten for decades: Last summer, WCHS staff and board members noticed something long and thin suspended under an eave of the log cabin which stands in Hodgson Hall on the county fairgrounds. Staff members speculate the flag was likely retired from use in 1959, the year Alaska and Hawaii became states and increased the official number of stars on the U.S. flag to 50.

WCHS staff member Elizabeth Anselmo says research in the Society's collection has uncovered images of the flag—or one very much like it—being carried in town parades in the 1940s. In one 1942 photo, a large group of Boy Scouts walks with the flag stretched out parallel to the ground. Local figure Charles Ward, then in his 80s, appears ahead of the flag dressed as Uncle Sam.

Museum staff member Anna Simmons, who has extensive knowledge and experience with textiles, has determined that the flag was not produced in a factory or by professionals, and was probably not intended for long-term outdoor display, since it is made of cotton broadcloth such as became readily available in the 1920s and is

still used to make clothing, crafts and quilts.

WCHS staff has found references which lead them to believe the flag was probably commissioned by Herman Peterson, a Waseca resident in the first half of the twentieth century who was very interested in history and who collected flags. Materials also refer to local resident Nina Clement having "directed" the production of the flag.

The flag's stripes are alternating lines of red and white cloth sewn together, with occasional imperfections in the seams. The white stars are double stitched around the edges to hold them to the blue field; in places, the outside line of stitches misses the outside edge of the stars. These details tend to validate that the flag was not professionally produced.

Research regarding the flag continues, says Anselmo. She says a current priority is to collect stories and recollections of places and times the flag appeared. She wants the public to know a designated email account, 48starflag@waseca-countyhistorycenter.org, has been set up to receive memories people would like to share, and visitors will also be able to talk with WCHS board members and staff during the county fair to share their memories.

Due to its sheer size, and the recent revelation it does not have a design which allows it to be suspended for display using modern options, Anselmo says the flag cannot be displayed during the fair.

The current plan, she wants people to know, is to acquire an archival grade tube long enough to hold the flag and to keep it stored in the climate controlled museum going forward.

People might also be interested to know that the national broadcasting company CNN is putting together a piece about Waseca's 48-star flag due to be shown nationwide on July 4.



SPARKS - L to R: Christy Easton, Commissioner DeAnn Malterer, Diane Beckmann, Commissioner Brad Milbrath, Kristi Corcoran, Mike Corcoran, Mikhail Rostislavovich, Councilor Stacey Schroeder, and Mayor Randy Zimmerman.

Community fuels Waseca's fireworks tradition

WASECA, Minn. — For more than a decade, Discover Waseca Tourism has proudly organized and raised the funds needed to present Waseca's annual Fourth of July fireworks display, creating a tradition that brings thousands of residents and visitors together each Independence Day.

As the only public Fourth of July fireworks display in Waseca County, the annual "Red, White & Boom" over Clear Lake has become a highlight of the Lakefest celebration. This year's fundraising campaign has already generated more than \$13,000, thanks to the generosity of local governments, businesses, organizations, and individual donors.

The City of Waseca and Waseca County have remained steadfast partners in supporting

the celebration for many years, helping ensure this cherished community tradition continues. Their commitment, combined with contributions from local businesses and private citizens, makes the annual display possible.

"Every year I'm reminded that these fireworks belong to the entire community," said Brad Milbrath, Chair of Discover Waseca Tourism's Red, White & Boom Committee. "From our local governments to businesses and individual families, people step up because they know what this tradition means."

"The Fourth of July has always been about celebrating our nation's independence, but here in Waseca it's also about celebrating community especially in our

country's 250th year," said Mikhail Rostislavovich, President of Discover Waseca Tourism. These sentiments were echoed by Stacey Schroeder, "The fireworks are something that transcend age, politics, and backgrounds. For one evening, thousands of people gather at Clear Lake simply to enjoy being together." Diane Beckmann spoke to how impactful this is for Waseca, "That sense of community is worth preserving, and we're incredibly grateful to everyone who helps make it happen year after year."

Behind the scenes, Discover Waseca Tourism continues its valued partnership with the Boese family of Morristown, whose professional pyrotechnics team transforms the evening into an unforgettable spectacle. Each

year, the family carefully loads pontoons with hundreds of mortars before positioning them on Clear Lake, creating the breathtaking display that lights up the night sky over Waseca.

Although this year's fundraising campaign has largely over, donations are still welcome and help offset the significant cost of producing the annual show. Those wishing to support the community fireworks display can make a secure online donation at www.discoverwaseca.com.

Discover Waseca Tourism invites everyone to celebrate Independence Day during Lakefest and enjoy another unforgettable Fourth of July fireworks display over Clear Lake, a tradition made possible by an entire community working together.

■ Book

from Page 1

bibles were produced.

After having put the book together, Dahms says it is clear George Herter was a complicated man. "I came across some information where people talk about him like he's their best friend," Dahms observes, "and some where he's their worst enemy." As an example, Dahms mentions Herter's book *How to Live With a Bitch*, written in the first half of the 1970s. Reportedly written as a guide to George's son Jacques on how to navigate married life, the book was reviewed and discussed in publications at the time. On the other hand, *George the Housewife; How to Diet and Never be Hungry* seems to show a different side.

For the most part, Dahms says, his writing style is to find, organize, and provide information, and then to let people reach their own conclusions. Some material in *Furious George* which he believes people will find surprising is Herter's work as a writer, editor

and illustrator for publications done while he was a student at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus.

So far, Dahms has written nine books, all related to trapping in some way. A retired park ranger, park manager and operations manager with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Dahms has become well acquainted with the ecologies and wildlife of land and lakes around the country, including Iowa, Texas, Montana, Indiana, and Ohio. He says he began writing books after retiring and joining the North American Trap Collectors Association. As he learned about Triumph Trap Company, he began to find subject matter for the books he had always wanted to write. His first four books touched on the company and the people who helped it become successful.

Herter differs from his previous subjects, Dahms says, in that he was a wealthy man whose business sold traps, rather than being a trapper himself.

Anyone interested in finding out more about Dahms' publications, including purchasing *Furious George* can visit Dahms' website, adirondackdick.com. Cost for the book, which has more than 400 pages, is \$36 plus shipping.

■ Dahms

from Page 1

pay much more attention than that to the famous, even iconic man whose knowledge of the outdoors drew worldwide attention to my hometown.

After reading *Furious George: The Minnesota Man Who Built the World Famous Herter's Inc.* I no longer feel so ignorant.

In his introduction, author Scot Dahms shares "My goal was to provide insight into the man and his influence on the outdoor world." While observing that Herter exhibited erratic, complicated behavior, Dahms also points out he broke new ground in the fields of catalog sales and outdoor products, and was the first to use a marketing style still proving effective for companies like Cabella's and Bass Pro.

In a book well over 400 pages long, Dahms presents authentic, verifiable sources including word-for-word testimony found in court transcripts, articles found in newspapers and magazines, and some accounts from people who knew and worked with Herter.

The organization of the book is mostly chronological, providing some background information

and then quickly moving to the downtown Waseca retail businesses owned by George's father Edward. The reader learns of a 15-pound pickerel teen-aged George landed while fishing in Clear Lake with his father, and of drawings and comments shared with national magazines during his high school years.

We find out he had aspirations as an artist and writer already in college while on the staff of a University of Minnesota student publication. We also learn he fought in World War II, and reportedly used his experience as a hunter and marksman to help improve various elements of U.S. equipment used in the war. He was wounded twice, needing surgery to remove four bullets.

Summaries and documentation go on to share information about both his family and entrepreneurial lives—but much more about business than family.

We are also given a portrait of an eccentric individual who was reportedly so accepting that he never fired an employee, even when there was good evidence of dishonesty or theft, but also so reclusive and private he first

hired a firm to find a buyer for his multi-million dollar business interests late in the 1960s, then attempted to avoid the prospective buyers by claiming he was not home to speak with them, or by saying he would take care of paperwork and then failing to follow through.

I believe the book to be well worth its \$36 purchase price and highly recommend finding access to a copy. For one thing, George Herter is an inseparable part of Waseca area history, and is still venerated and appreciated today by many people who worked for him, read his books, or bought his products. For another, we see a portrait of a highly complex human being whose experiences and choices show us a time in history which influenced our own time, both for better and for worse. Finally, some of the behaviors we see inspire us to think about the human condition and the different choices people make, including how they are influenced by their experiences and expectations.

Furious George is not a book to be read quickly, but like a complex meal, to be consumed and

digested one course at a time. I would guess many readers will gloss over some sections that don't happen to align with their interests, but always be drawn back by details and developments appearing within the next few pages. Some sections summarize such interesting information or insights, the reader is inclined to give them a second reading immediately.

Author Dahms has found an impressive array of illustrations and examples to accompany the text. Artwork ranges from drawings done by George to catalog entries to the covers of some of his books, including the rather off-putting title *How to Live With a Bitch*, reportedly written as advice to his oldest son about navigating some of the difficult elements of marriage.

Furious George is available as a trade paperback. Its colorful cover is a reproduction of the Herter's Catalog. The book has a high-quality, durable binding and higher-quality paper than is usually associated with paperback books, making it seem as much of an investment as it is a purchase.

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The Pastor's Column

Freedom in Christ

By FR. GLENN FRERICHS

Few things worthwhile in this world come without struggle and sacrifice. Americans across the country will celebrate 250 years of Independence this weekend. On April 19th, the battles of Lexington and Concord are considered to have begun simultaneously. On June 11, 1776, a draft committee of five, led primarily by Thomas Jefferson, authored the Declaration of Independence in 17 days. Congress formally adopted the document on July 4, 1776. The first public reading of the document occurred on July &". The document opens with the words: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

What better way to begin such a document than to proclaim that life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are unalienable rights endowed to us by our Creator? Estimates suggest that about one-third of the people were patriots, one-third were loyalists (supporting Britain), and one-third were neutral. Roughly 230,000-350,000 (20-40%) of the men at the time participated in the war. This new path, established by our nation's Founding Fathers, would later be developed through the adoption of the Constitution. John Adams, our second U.S. President, said that "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

Secular society today defines freedom as the ability to do what I want, as long as it does not harm anyone else. This is not authentic freedom but licentiousness. The word licentious derives from the Latin "licentia," meaning "freedom," "liberty," or "excessive moral permission." Just as a tyrannical government

can drain a nation's economic, moral, and cultural energy, so choosing evil or selfish pleasure over the good can drain one's ability to maintain a disciplined, morally sound, joy-filled life. The person becomes enslaved to his own sin and is unable to be set free.

This holiday can give Christians pause to reflect on the freedom afforded us in Christ. This freedom is not freedom FROM something, as much of the Declaration of Independence sought to secure. Rather, it is freedom FOR something. Specifically, it is the ability to break free from the bonds of sin and guilt, to leave behind the temptations of the flesh, and to cling to God. Saint Paul, in his Letter to the Colossians, says, "He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

Saint Augustine, in his Commentary on the First Epistle of John, says, "Love God, and do what you will." When we love God, our will aligns with His. We desire what pleases Him. Scripture portrays God's relationship with the Church as that of a bridegroom and bride. A good spouse makes decisions and evaluates all things based on what is best for the spouse and the relationship.

The Christian disciple naturally desires what pleases God and avoids what offends Him. Love transforms the heart so that what you "will" is good and holy. True freedom is not license to sin but the ability - through grace and love - to choose the good freely. Someone once said that the more we do what is good, the freer we become (CCC 1733).

We are living in an incredible time. As the United States celebrates 250 years of independence, Christians are preparing to soon celebrate 2000 years of freedom in Christ.

■ Cinderella

from Page 1

the Waseca Drama Department presented Waseca's Little Rascals in "Cinderella and the Substitute Fairy Godmother" on Friday and Saturday, June 26 and 27. This play was directed by teacher/advisor Karen Pfarr Anderson.

In this twist on the classic fairy-godmother-transforms-mistreated-girl-to-princess Cinderella story, a frazzled substitute fairy godmother, played by Mya Marlin, is called in at the last minute when the official one comes down with food poisoning after a company picnic. Instead of transforming a pumpkin into a sparkling carriage and conjuring a dazzling gown and glass slippers, she gives Cinderella, played by Olive Scheffert, a frumpy dress stitched together from old curtains and the shoes off her own fairy feet. With no enchanted ride available, Cinderella has to take an Uber to the ball.

Filled with story book characters like the three little pigs, the big bad wolf, Pinocchio and Rumpelstiltskin, the changed story includes countless mishaps. Frustrated and a bit embittered, Cinderella makes her way to the ball eager to get it over with. To everyone's surprise, especially her substitute fairy godmother's, the prince, played by Alex Henry, falls head over heels in love, proving that charm has nothing to do with fancy dresses or magical shoes. Cinderella and the prince live happily ever after.

Children of all ages came together to bring this story to life through 14 days of rehearsals and practice. From the youngest performer to the oldest, each cast member created two unforgettable nights filled with laughter, imagination and beloved storybook characters. Their hard work, dedication and courage transformed a fun retelling of Cinderella into a truly memorable adventure that delighted audiences and proved that a little teamwork and a lot of courage can create something extraordinary.

Waseca Junior Senior High straight A honor roll

7th Grade

Mariah Bartelt, Korbin Collins, Ryan DeWees, Alayna Eastwood, Violet Hughes, Keian Klinger, Kayla Knutson, Adelynne Kruger, Eben Linnes, Amelia Madsen, Mya Marlin, Brynda Rupe, Logan Stiernagle, Lennox Swatkowski, Lauren Tegmeier, Addison Wheelock, Ariala Xiong

8th Grade

Regan Barr, Aryana Garza, Oliver Haekenkamp, Olivia

Hagen, Ryan Harguth, Kayla Landrum, Kelsey Lawson, Kolby Lindquist, Liam Malterer, Miles Popp, Shannon Sanchez, Olive Scheffert, Caiden Scheller, Ellie Schleicher, Aidan Spotts, Mateo Vasquez-Neigebauer, Milo Wachal, Leah Wilson, Autumn Zimprich

9th Grade

Liah Adams, Rylee Ahlschlager, Abigail Berge, Bryan De Jager, Jaiden Johnson, Kooper Lindquist, Ella Linnes,

Maurice Lopez, Ava Miller, Libby Miller, Gavin Riehm, Hannah Sommers, Enrique Tovar, Carson True, Tomas Vasquez-Neigebauer, Quinn Yoder

10th Grade

Armaan Bhatti, Allyson Holmseth, Toby Jeske, Oriana Jewison, Charley Kietzman, Allison Mader, Khloe Nelson, Violet Patterson, Enoch Possin, Maren Schimming, Asha Sharif, Ryan Yoder, Addison Zimmerman

11th Grade

Grace Chawra, Brody Dufault, Jacob Harguth, Lauren Holmseth, Henry Huttemier, Nolan McQuery, Fushen Mei, Gavin O'Brien, Violet Rohwer, Katelyn Weber, Owen Wieseler, Aera Zimprich

12th Grade

Hannah Heusinkveld, Allen Kopetzki, Jolee Larson, Kaylee Lawson, Vivian Mader, Sadie Schimming, Andres Vasquez-Neigebauer

Waseca Junior Senior High A honor roll

7th Grade

Madysen Bailey, Lindy Bergdale, Maci Bramer, Halle Caster-ton, Maya Christensen, Noah Cisneros, William Deml, Parker Determan, Caleb Dufault, Riley Dunn, Amelia Ellis, Nicholas Ferris, Kaylee Fierke, Owen Fierke, Avery Fliflet, Abigail Gilson, Audrey Gray, Peyton Groskreutz, Moses Gutierrez, Joseph Harguth, Sydney Hayes, Leilla Johannsen, Daniel Johnson, Margaret Johnson, Brayleigh Kuball, Ashlynn Lopez, Riley McGuire, Cooper Nelson, Macy Nelson, John Olson, Josephine Olson, Levi Rohe, Riley Root, Addyson Rugger, Tyler Ryan, Easton Schlueter, Elly Schroeder, Jaxon

8th Grade

Lincoln Castro, Lujah Entinger, Autumn Fritz, Charles Galle, Ashley Garcia, Keegan Glynn, Evelyn Griffin, Vaira Guse, Claire Harguth, Alexander Henry, Luke Jeske, Jazmyne Johnson, Mya Kath, Ellie Koppischke, Corine Kratzer, Sydney Langager, Joseph LeMieux, Kinley McMurphy, Lillian Muff, Marlenys Nieves, Cayden Page, Charles Randall, Jade Rice, Emely Rivera Perez, Carson Roesler, Tobin Rutt, Jozy Schlaak, Carter Walker, Mallory Wetzel, Keera Wolske

9th Grade

Selvik, Crosby Srp, Virgil Stuckmayer, Daniel Switzer, Peyton Teders

Aiden Andreen, Avery Barto, Evan Borwege, Brayden Butler, Keenan Collins, Maxwell Deml, Chloe Hagen, Ethan Harwood, Abigail Jarrett, Ahvah Maas, Kenna Miller, Braxton Nelson, Wyatt Partain, Macy Peterson, Lorelai Russell, Cadence Stenzel, Connor Vosejpka, Aiden Walker, Sophiel Weber, Jenna Yoder, Ava Young

10th Grade

Brier Hayes, Kellen Klinger, Jacob Knutson, Carly Kratzer, Ty Krautkremer, Mya Lynch, Max Malouff, Kaylee Matz, Archer O'Brien, Lillian Petersen, Reese Rodriguez, Claire Roemhildt, Madalynn Root, Mandi Root, Hannah Rugger, Patsy Sandoval, Ava VanDenHemel,

Cyrus Wilson

11th Grade

Noelle Drake, Zoey Dunn, Ryleigh Ebnet, Chelsia Eneboe, Elli Hoban, Jacey Jensen, Amilya Lynch, Taylor Markeson, Belle Miller, Tristan Nelson, Elsie Owens, Isaac Pfeifer, Megan Tegmeier, Alexa Welander, Jonah Worke

12th Grade

Andrew Bartelt, Ella Bulfer, Rylee Burt, Paige Dufault, Destiney Gustafson, Wyatt Hager, Sophia Hillsman, Jenna Hudak, Jordan Johnston, Sullivan Kasl, Samantha Langer, Madilyn Larabee, Dakotah Marik, Madilyn Meyer, Chloe Roemhildt, Jett Rohl, Roman Siler, Hannah Teague, Caleb Wulf

Waseca Junior Senior High B honor roll

7th Grade

Maci Anderson, Halle Barto, Isabel Berg, Colten Bluhm, Olivia Brunner, Jase Buker, Benjamin Dobberstein, Violet Farley, Ashton Hayes, Meah Hoy, Ashton Hyatt, Violet Jewison, Charlyze Johnson, Christopher Juarez, Ashlyn Kaiser, Noah Love, Olive Maas, Daymon Martin, Jesse Marzinske, Ryder Monahan, Ashlynn Nowacki, Layne Nusbaum, Gracelyn O'Malley, Aubrey Peterson, Mila Porter, Grant Quade, Ryland Rarick, Jakobie Rierson, Cullin Ristau, Emma Sather, Myles Schultz, Mychel Tollefson, Miles Vang, Zoey Wald

8th Grade

Owen Arndt, Reagann Attenberger, Wyatt Bartz, Trey Bohannon, Brooklyn Frederick,

Madison Frederick, Brody Gray, Daniel Guritz, Kiyanna Gwilt, Taylor Koch, Kameron Kunkel, Taelyn Nowak, Keira Rohl, Kaia Sartori, Raya Sieberg, Mayson Smith, Owen Sommers

9th Grade

Annabelle Benson, Aiyana Davis, Sheila Driessen, Shylo Driessen, Nolan Dufault, Joscelin Ebnet, Hunter Gatewood, Madalyn Halla, Sienna Hanna, Nicholas Harguth, Dalisaya Howe, Aysia Ingram Bratts, Jacob Jyrkas, Cruz Lynch, Kenzie Morrissey, Jordan Neidecker, Kole Nelson, Nicholas Nelson, Michael Petracek, Jaxson Roemhildt, Riley Rosin, Gabriel Sanchez, Tyler Stagman, Samantha Sutton, Ava Trumbull, Delilah Veroeven, Carter Wernimont, Evan Worke

10th Grade

Onna'ki Abrego, Samuel Allen, Chayla Calderon, Joseph Calhoun, Isaiah Dymeck, Olivia Eaton, Ashlynn Eldeen, Kavita Ewest, Lual Garang, Jaxon Gehring, Mailee Gilmore, Kelly Hernandez-Verde, Story James Kasl, Aydan Kath, Jack Kelly, Logan Konz, Miley Licea, Aileen Lindsay-Brothers, Landan Madsen, Gavin Reger, Landon Rutt, Megan Thursdale

11th Grade

Cory Bartz, Sophie Benson, Shakeem Brown, Lacey Frank, Melody Galle, Isabella Garza, Amber Hagen, Josie Hagre, Eryn Harrison, Owen Honstad, Megan Hudak, Reese Ludwig, Blake McElligott, Max McShane, Kaylie Morrissey, De'Tajha Nelson, Stella Omtvedt, Elleiot Palles-

chi, Daries Powell, Owen Rupe, Savannah Schlueter, Otto Schoenrock, Mallory Schulz, Hayden Stencel, Tucker Thompsen

12th Grade

Hunter Barnes, Slade Barnett, Brooke Bartelt, Ryan Borneke, Teagan Collier, Simon Eldeen, Arianna Garcia, Jude Gehring, Jonathan Gransee, Lauren Grant, Ellen Hagen, Aiden Harrison, Aaliyah Hayes, Kody Hess, Meraina Hiller, Emmalee Jes, Nathan Kaiser, Alyssa Kilmer, Madisyn McClune, Deven Parpart, Christian Possin, Logan Reger, Jude Robinson, Jacob Root, Deron Russell, Lillianna Sanchez, Miguel Sandoval, Paola Sandoval-Pliego, John Schulz, Amin Sharif

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Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School/Fellowship 10:15 a.m.
Wednesday Eve Worship 6:30 p.m.
* * *

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507-833-1703
Sundays 9:00 a.m.
* * *

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

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

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

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

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620 W Elm Ave, Waseca

507-833-0017
Sunday worship 10 a.m.
* * *

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

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.
* * *

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
* * *

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

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

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

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

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

12-18
* * *

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.

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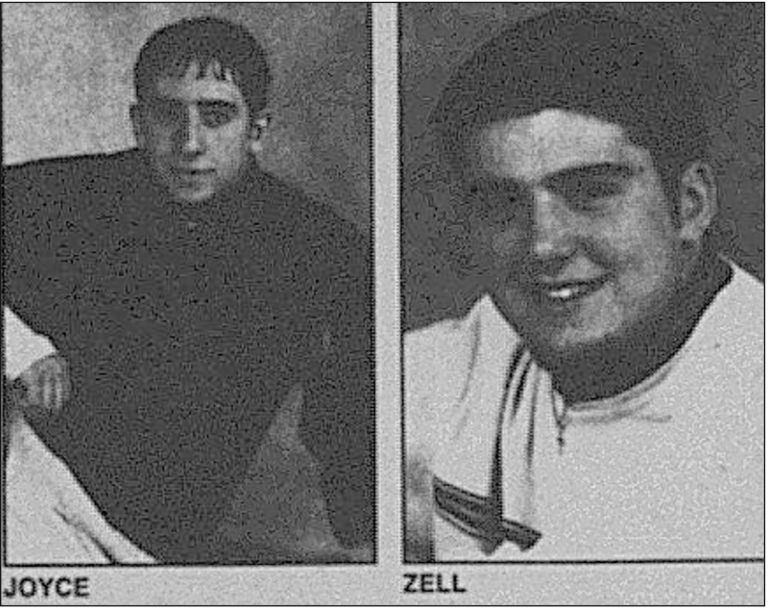
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Janesville

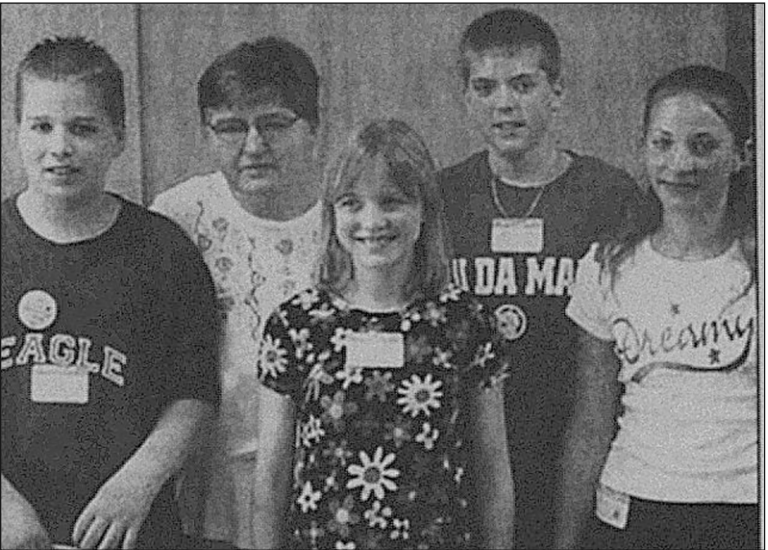
25 years ago



- Bryan Joyce, son of Bob and Cindy Joyce and Nicholas Zell, son of Lonnie and Darla Zell, all of Janesville, and Kenneth Thompson, son of Kent and Bonni Thompson of New Richland, have been accepted for admission into Minnesota State University, Mankato. Walt Wolff, director of admission, announced this week. Joyce, Zell and Thompson are recent graduates of JWP High School.

- Lana Burmeister has joined the United States Army Reserve under the Delayed Training Program. The program gives young men and women the opportunity to delay reporting for basic military training for up to 270 days. Burmeister, a 2000 graduate of JWP High School, will report for basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Waynesville, Mo. She is the daughter of Patty and Gary Burmeister of Pemberton.

- Dennis Guse, of Janesville, has been awarded a Charles and Ellora Alliss Educational Foundation Scholarship for the 2001-2002 academic year. Guse, a senior business administration major, is the son of Marvin and Kathy Guse of Janesville.



- The winners of the Grandparent's Day essay writing contest posed with Mrs. Pick of the Waldort Senior Citizen's Club. The first place winners were Breanne Voges and Jerrik Kalis. Second place winners were Brittany Hansen and Scott Stenzel.

50 years ago

- A Janesville man's car was totaled and he was hospitalized in Waseca after being involved in a two car accident on Highway 14 at 2:25 a.m. Sunday morning. Thomas Kuntz, 21, was taken to Waseca Hospital after his 1966 Oldsmobile collided with a 1965 Oldsmobile wagon driven by Donald Olson, 18, of Owatonna. Dean Olson, 16, Owatonna, and Bruce Olson, 26, Minneapolis, were passengers in the Olson car. All were hospitalized. Deputy Jerry Splett investigated the accident.

- The United Methodist Evening Circle met June 2 in the church parlors. Mrs. Roger Hodgkins gave the lesson in the absence of Mrs. John Peterson. The lesson was "Peace" and "My Lesson in Freedom." A prayer was given at the opening of the meeting after which Angelina Fisk called the roll with 11 members present. She also read the minutes of the previous meeting. Mrs. Tom Kiner gave the treasurer's report and the Sunshine report was given by Mrs. Robert Hendricks. A mission report was given by Mrs. Harold Stuart. Mrs. Vernon Olstad reported for the Visiting Committee, which she has organized and held a brief meeting with those present, who will be taking part in this project.

- May 24, Janets Patterson, daughter of Betty Lichtenberg and Jerold Patterson, and Steven LaMont, son of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd LaMont, Jr. of Waseca, were united in marriage at the Methodist Church in Brook- ing, S.D. Uniting the couple was Rev. Gary Moore. The bride wore a floor length gown made of off-white material with a white lace yoke and center front with a full skirt and long sleeves trimmed in lace. The gown was made by the bride. The groom chose a tan leisure suit. At- tending the couple were the groom's brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas LaMont of Waseca. The couple have made their home in Jolley, Iowa.

75 years ago

- Lee Tetzliff, chairman of the parking committee, asks all local residents to cooperate in order to provide as much public parking space as possible. Due to the shortage of space, it would be appreciated if residents would keep their own cars and those of visitors parked on their lots in order to leave more room on the public streets.

- In observance of June is Dairy Month and in cooperation with the Waseca County Creamery Council, the Janesville Creamery and Joe Miller, local delivery man, will sponsor free milk to be given away during the Centennial. The creamery council is sponsoring the Dairy Princess contest here on Monday and the free milk will be given away in cooperation with that contest.

- Attending the first district Legion convention last week as a delegate of the local post. Ray Blasing was elected a delegate to the national convention in Los Angeles this fall. Ray and Paul Kopischke were the delegates to the district meet. Ethan Allen and George Clunis of New Richland, retiring district commander and adjutant respectively, were also elected delegates to the national convention.

100 years ago

- The fire department was called out Saturday to extinguish a fire which started in a shed on Mrs. C. Gayer's place. The family were gone but the house wasn't damaged. Clifford Gayer, who has been attending school in Wisconsin, arrived home this week.

- "Hit may be hard fo' a rich man to enter de Kingdom ob Hebben," said Rastus to the preacher, "but it's just as hard fo' a po' man to stay on de earth."- New York American.

- In writing to a friend here, R.C. Maloney, who moved to Chetek, Wis., last spring, says that they like the country and that crop prospects are good. Dairying is the main industry and you can see as fine Holstein herds there as can be seen in Waseca county, he says. He was thrown from a gang plow last month and was on crutches for a couple of weeks but is now nearly well again.

Waseca

25 years ago

- Yonsei University of Seoul Korea announced the selection of Sarah Dankert for the participation in their Institute of Language Research and Education for summer 2001. Sarah was selected from a group of world wide applicants to spend three months working and attending classes at the Language Institute. The application process is a competitive one, which finally selects 12 students from universities around the world. Sarah will represent Columbia University of New York City, where she has just completed her sophomore year as an honor student. Sarah will return to Columbia at the end of August to begin her junior year majoring in South East Asian Culture and Politics with a second major in Psychology. Sarah is the daughter of Wayne and Mary Dankert of Waseca and is a 1999 graduate of Waseca High School.

- Mindi Hawks and Michelle Siglestad of Waseca have been awarded a Foundation Distinguished Student Scholarship and an SSU Mentoring Scholarship for the 2001-2002 academic year. The scholarships were presented to Hawks and Siglestad by Laren Barker, Dean of the College of Arts, Utters and Sciences, ad interim. The scholarship is awarded to students on the basis of demonstrated leadership potential and strong academic performance.



- Three-and-a-half year old Waseca resident, Daniel Netherland, patiently allows Waseca Police Reserves volunteers Bob Orrie and Les Wells (foreground) to help him get fingerprinted at Wal-Mart Saturday morning while his mom, Pat, looked on. Other activities for children were prizes and giveaways from local businesses and a bike registration through Wal-Mart.

- Candi Bott and Douglas Muetzel of Waseca are proud to announce the birth of their son, Dakota Charles Muetzel, born on June 5, 2001 at Waseca Hospital. He weighed 11 pounds, two ounces, and was 23 inches in length. Maternal grandparents are Charles and Virginia Kelley of Coarse Gold, Calif. Paternal grandparent is Darlene Muetzel of Waseca. Great grandparents are Molly and Elmer Minske of Waseca. Dakota is welcomed home by his brother, Nicholas Bott, who is 14 years old.

50 years ago

- The University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point has presented bachelor's and master's degrees to about 800 persons who completed their academic work this spring. A commencement ceremony marking the end of the institution's 82nd academic year was May 15 with Undersecretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger is a Stevens Point native who attended UW-SP and now is one of the top ranking officials in the U.S. State Department. At the ceremony, he was presented with a distinguished alumnus award from the UW-SP Alumni Association. Sheryl Maroney, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Maroney, Waseca was among the graduates.

- David Oraskovich of Barnum has been employed as an instructor in Elementary Middle School at Waseca for the 1975-76 academic school year, according to Bemidji State University Placement Director Dr. Richard R. Haugo. Huago said that the placement of beginning teachers compares favorably with that of a year ago. Calls for teachers to finish out the balance of the school term, due to mid-year vacancies, are some of the most frequent received.

- James Donahue, R.4, Joel and Laura Larson, both of 1204 6th Circle SE, Waseca were students named to the president's and dean's honor lists at Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa for the spring, 1976 semester. Donahue was on the president's list and the Larson's were on the dean's honor list. The 250 students named to the president's honor list have earned perfect 4.0 grade point averages for 12 hours or more of course work.

75 years ago

- Mr. and Mrs. Walter Mackey held an open house at the home last Wednesday evening following commencement exercises at Central high school, in honor of her daughter, Roaslie Purcell who graduated. Many friends who graduated attended and a lunch was served.

- Mr. and Mrs. Peter Ravnkilde and their infant daughter were baptized Sunday, May 27 at Sacred Heart Catholic church. The Rev. Eugene Egan officiated. Miss Ravnkilde received the name Diane Lynn. Her sponsors were Mr. and Mrs. T.J. Kaiser of St. Paul.

- George Hackett, Mrs. Leo Fredericks and Adolf Helms were called for federal jury duty in Mankato Wednesday. Helms was excused and as the other two were not drawn on the the first jury panel they were permitted to return to Waseca until next Tuesday.

100 years ago

- The idea of seeing how many fish you can take from the water is losing or should lose its popularity. What is the argument for fishermen to take large numbers of the finny tribe when a much smaller number would be plenty? The mad race to eliminate fish is difficult to halt.- Eveleth Clarion.

- An absolute jail sentence for an intoxicated driver of an automobile, no matter who he might be, is being strongly advocated by the national safety council for reduction of automobile fatalities, and it is hoped that ere long there will be federal laws to this effect. A man under the influence if intoxicants at the wheel of an automobile is one of the most dangerous propositions that today confronts the traveling public on motor routes.-Albert Lea Standard.

- Miss Lena Knopf and Aug. Krinke were married at the Trinity Lutheran Church Wednesday, May 9 at 1:30 p.m. Rev. Winter officiated. They will reside on the farm.

New Richland

25 years ago



- A photo entered in a contest by Marlene Supalla of Hartland of her husband, Harold, was published in a book published by The International Library of Photography. Marlene is holding the book titled America At The Millennium in her right hand and a plaque that is inscribed with her name and certification that her photo "At Dusk" was published.

- The following area students were named to the spring semester Dean's List at Winona State University: Stacey Crabtree of New Richland; Cody Kramer and Katie Landsteiner, both of Mapleton; Jolene stanke of Janesville; Micheal Beckmann, Sarah Ostrowski and Lisa Schultz, all of Wells.

50 years ago



- Waldorf Fire Chief Mark McDonough is pictured here with the trophy his volunteer fire department won in competition at the Southern Minnesota Firemen's Tournament in Wells, Sunday. Congratulating him is Mayor Robert Marpe, a retired volunteer fireman.

- A first time event was held in Jackson, June 20. It was the Minnesota Junior Purebred Heifer Classic. This show involved young people from all over the state showing their cattle on the state level in the Charolais, Polled Hereford and Shorthorn breeds. Winners were: Charolais- Keith Blankers of Holland, Grand Champion and James L. Volz of Elmore, Reserve Champion; Polled Hereford- Ewald Bros of Waldorf, Grand Champion and Janet Michaelson of Crookston, Reserve Champion. Shorthorn- Ewald Bros of Waldorf, Grand Champion and Murila McMartin of Stockton, Reserve Champion.

- Timothy McCoy Kaplan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Scott Kaplan of Austin, was baptized Sunday, June 20 at the nine o'clock mass at St. Edwards Catholic Church at Austin.

75 years ago

- Mr. and Mrs. Walter Michaelis are the happy parents of their first son, born at the Memorial hospital, Waseca, Wednesday, July 25. Mr. and Mrs. Michaelis have two daughters, JoAnn and Genelle.

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Waseca, Mn

DNR, partners increase boating patrols for holiday weekend

With warm weather in the forecast and a long Fourth of July weekend ahead, Minnesota’s waterways likely will be extremely busy in the coming days. Among those who will be on the water: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources conservation officers and their public safety partners, who will work to ensure everyone who heads out makes it home safely.

The officers will be conducting Operation Dry Water July 3-5, an annual nationwide campaign that highlights the dangers of boating under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and calls attention to the heavy penalties associated with boating while intoxicated. The goal is to make the water safer for everyone by removing anyone who’s operating under the influence.

BWI is the leading contributing factor to boating accidents and fatalities. While most boaters do the right thing by leaving alcohol on shore, dozens of people are arrested for BWI each year in the days surrounding the Fourth of July.

“People who get caught boating under the influence will go to jail. We have zero tolerance for that behavior,” said Lt. Eric Sullivan, supervisor of the DNR Enforcement Division’s Marine Unit. “Those who choose to boat under the influence put themselves and everyone else on the water in danger. It’s a selfish decision and the consequences can be disastrous and life changing.”

Minnesota has particularly strong BWI laws. Anyone convicted of operating under the influence – whether they’re operating a boat, motor vehicle, or recreational vehicle – loses their privilege to operate any of them.

In addition to staying “dry” on the water by avoiding drugs and alcohol, the DNR urges anyone who’s on a boat to wear a life jacket. Oftentimes, boating accidents turn into fatalities because the people who fell overboard weren’t wearing a life jacket.

For more information on Operation Dry Water and boating safety, visit the Operation Dry Water website (operation-drywater.org) and the DNR’s boating safety webpage (mndnr.gov/boatingsafety).

Operation Dry Water activities are sponsored by the National Association of Boating Law Administrators in partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard.

Child’s History of Waseca County

Cont. 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.

On the morning of the 10th, I was rather late in starting, as I had only twelve miles to make during the day. I had traveled a mile or so, when a large drove of elks crossed the road some twenty rods ahead of me, in single file. There must have been fifty or sixty of them. They were quite numerous that winter along the two Cedar rivers, but I never heard of any in this section after that winter. Twelve miles brought me to the western edge of a prairie eighteen miles across, and without a resident person upon it. On the western and southwestern edge of this extensive prairie, there was quite a settlement of Scandinavian Americans, who had located there in 1854-5. I stayed over night with a hospitable Norwegian family. They were young people, with one child. The man could speak only a few words of English, but his comely wife could converse quite fluently in that language. The man, anxious to learn English, made a school teacher of me during the evening, and refused pay the next morning for my entertainment, except for what corn I fed the cattle.

Early on the 11th I started across that beautiful prairie which lies spread out between the two Cedars on the south line of our state. This was a pleasant day, but the soft snow which had fallen made traveling slow and tiresome, and it was already dark when I reached the Brink house, on the east branch of the Cedar.

On the 12th the weather became colder. I passed a tavern and store called Pettibone’s, and traveled over a prairie, some ten or twelve miles across, where there were no settlers. That

night I put up with a Hoosier family that had come from Indiana the summer before. Here were several other travelers, among them a man living near the Brink house that had been lost on the prairie most of the previous night and had frozen his face, feet, and hands quite severely. During that night the weather moderated and more snow fell.

December 13th, about 10 o’clock in the forenoon, I arrived at Green’s creek, a stream then about thirty feet wide, with water three feet deep, which had to be forded. The ice was not strong enough to hold up a team, but yet thick enough to require cutting in pieces before the cattle could be driven through. After much labor in cutting ice and driving the oxen through the stream, everything passed over safely. All along the road that day there were numerous pioneer cabins to be seen, and, in several places, there were indications of several years of settlement. I spent that night with a regular Yankee. He had lived in Iowa for ten years—three years on the farm where I passed the night. I was then only seven miles from Auburn.

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

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

Eli Lutgens



Front: Rylie Cromwell, Peyton Frye, Elleie Clark, Vivienne Schlaak, Julieann Wobbrock, Scarlett Chance Back: Chloe Riewer, Holly Bartness, Anika Ladlie, Sierra Fish, Violette Botten

End of season track for NRHEG 2026

Thank you to the parents that followed us to competitions in all kinds of weather! This was one of the more windy and chilly seasons that I can remember. But throughout the season the kids put forth the effort and worked to improve their performances at each meet.

Coaching staff:
Larry Nydegger and Kim Schlaak: Cohead coaches.
Bailey Madden: Pole vault
Eric Olson : Throws
Theresa Buendorf: High jump

Boys Team:
Highlights:
Kasey Jewison running the 3200m for the first time at sub-sections and finishing top 10 in the section.
Devlin McWilliams setting a personal best time in the 3200m run in all but one meet.
Hudson Chrz making tremendous improvement in the 110 hurdles as a Rookie!



Devlin McWilliams, Colton Lermon, Oliver Froslan, Abram Chance

Rookie of the year (Most points by 1st year member) :Hudson Chrz
Most Improved (Most points from the previous year): Kasey Jewison
Most Valuable Track Athlete (Most points in running events): Jacob Karl
Most Valuable Field Athlete (Most points in field events): Noah Weller
Most Valuable Track and Field Athlete : Brendan Schmidt
Panther Award (Commitment to the sport and positive attitude): Devlin McWilliams
Captain’s Award: Wyatt Tuttle, Gavin Lewison, Jacob Karl

All conference –
Conference HM: Brendan Schmidt, Hudson Chrz
Conference Sportsmanship – Jacob Karl
Academic Spotlight: (3.0 - 3.49 GPA)
Academic All-Conference: (3.5

GPA or better)
MSHSL Academic All-State Silver award: (Team with 3.5 - 3.74 GPA)
Letter winners:
Jacob Karl, Brendan Schmidt, Nathan Hager, Noah Weller, Kasey Jewison, Colton Lermon
Girls Team:
Highlights:
Gabby, Chloe, Julieann consistently finishing near the top of the field in their events.
Younger athletes gained valuable experience throughout the season.
Holly competing in every running event over the course of her career.
Rookie of the year: Lauren Johnson
Most Improved: Violette Botten
Most Valuable Track Athlete: Julieann Wobbrock
Most Valuable Field Athlete: Gabby Schlaak
Most Valuable Track and Field Athlete: Chloe Riewer

Panther Award: Holly Bartness
Captain’s Award: Holly, Chloe, Gabby, Scarlett
All-Conference –
Conference HM: Chloe Riewer, Julieann Wobbrock
Conference Sportsmanship – Clara Buendorf
Academic Spotlight: (3.0 - 3.49 GPA)
Academic All-Conference: (3.5 GPA or better)
Academic All-State: (9-12th grade, GPA 3.6+ and Performance Standards): Gabby Schlaak, Julieann Wobbrock
MSHSL Academic All-State Gold award: (Team with 3.75+ GPA)
Letter Winners: Holly Bartness, Chloe Riewer, Gabby Schlaak, Alex Barnes, Clara Buendorf, Anika Ladlie, Gia Cazares, Scarlett Chance, Ellie Clark, Ella Jenö, Julieann Wobbrock, Peyton Frye, Lauren Johnson, Vivienne Schlaak

DNR appoints new Grant Advisory Council

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Sarah Strommen has appointed 15 Minnesotans to serve on the inaugural advisory council for the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Community Grant Program. The insights and knowledge of advisory council members will help the DNR ensure grants support communities in addressing environmental and health impacts; promoting natural resource stewardship; protecting and restoring air, land, water, and wildlife; maintaining and improving existing trails; and managing aquatic invasive species.

Appointees were chosen through an open application and structured review process. The members offer a strong mix of experience, knowledge and geographic perspectives as required by statute. The following individuals have accepted the commissioner’s appointment:

Karl Anderson, Bemidji

Eartha Borer-Bell, Minneapolis
Donna Dalton, Afton
Ameliana Duran, Shoreview
Alyssa Fabia, St. Paul
Jeff Forester, Minneapolis
Robert Garcia-Gradoville Jr., West St. Paul
Don Hickman, Merrifield
Connor Horton, North St. Paul
Jai Kim, Mabel
Gladys Mejia, Minneapolis
J. DeVon Nolen; Minneapolis
Roopali Phadke, St. Paul
Robert Tibbetts, Bemidji
Raining White, Deer River

The advisory council will provide recommendations to the DNR commissioner and Minnesota Legislature on aspects of program implementation and potential program improvements. Meetings will be open to the public and available virtually.

The DNR continues to seek applications from enrolled members of the four federally recognized Dakota communities located within Minne-

sota to fill two remaining advisory council seats. By statute, two seats on the advisory council must be filled by enrolled members of a Dakota Tribal Nation located in Minnesota. No applications were received from individuals eligible for these seats during the first application round that ended April 10.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until the two Dakota Tribal member positions are filled. Application resources are available on the advisory council webpage (mndnr.gov/enrtf-grant-council). Applicants may apply directly at ENRTF Community Grant Advisory Council Dakota Tribal Member Application

(forms.office.com/g/6T7FNQKwNz)

The Minnesota Legislature established the ENRTF Community Grant Program in statute (revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/116X/full) and named the DNR as state agency administrator. Funded projects will protect, conserve, preserve and enhance Minnesota’s natural resources. Grant awards will benefit communities and residents in all regions of the state. The DNR anticipates the first round of applications will open in fall 2026.

More information is available on the ENRTF Community Grant Program webpage (mndnr.gov/enrtf-grant-program).

Happy 70th Anniversary
Mom & Dad

Love, Cherie, Ron, Mike, Beth, Kim & John

Bill and Dorothy Hintz
to celebrate 70 years of marriage
on July 15th. They were wed in
Yankton, South Dakota 1956.

Interim update from Rep. Sexton

Legislative Update
Dear Neighbor,
Summer has officially arrived, and it's hard to believe June is already coming to a close. Across our communities, the season is in full swing with parades, county fairs, festivals, farmers markets, and countless local events that bring friends, families, and neighbors together. It's one of my favorite times of year to be out in the district, visiting with constituents, celebrating our communities, and seeing firsthand what makes Minnesota such a great place to call home. I hope you're able to enjoy everything summer has to offer, and as always, thank you for taking the time to read this update.

New Minnesota Laws Take Effect July 1
July 1 marks the effective date for many of the bills passed during this year's legislative session. While some laws take effect immediately after being signed by the governor, others are assigned a later effective date to give state agencies, schools, local governments, and businesses time to prepare for implementation. Additional laws passed this session will take effect on August 1 and other dates later this year and into 2027.

If you'd like to see a complete list of new laws and their effective dates, the Minnesota House of Representatives has created a searchable database that can be found here: <https://www.house.mn.gov/New-Laws/search>

Here are a few of the more notable changes taking effect on July 1:

Anonymous Threat Reporting in Schools
School districts and charter schools will begin preparing to implement anonymous threat reporting systems that allow students, parents, school staff, and community members to report potential safety threats through a mobile app, website, or hotline. The law also provides \$4 million in grants to help schools develop and implement these systems, along with additional funding for the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to support threat assessments and investigations. As someone who has consistently supported improving school safety, I believe giving schools another tool to identify potential threats before they become tragedies is a worthwhile investment.

County Human Services Technology Upgrades
Several technology modernization projects begin moving forward on July 1 to help county and state human services agencies replace outdated computer systems, improve data sharing, strengthen fraud detection, and make services more efficient for Minnesotans. Modernizing these systems has been long overdue, and investing in better technology is an important step toward improving government accountability while helping counties serve residents more effectively.

February Forecast Budget Adjustments
The supplemental budget approved this session also takes effect July 1. Much of this legislation updates state spending to reflect Minnesota's February budget forecast, including changes to education funding and health care programs. While many of these adjustments were necessary to account for rising costs, they also serve as another reminder that Minnesota continues to face a structural deficit. Going forward, we must make responsible budgeting a priority so spending does not continue to outpace 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 Owatonna Chamber of Commerce on Friday, July 10th from 12:00pm – 1:00pm (delayed one week due to the Independence Day holiday).

Coffee with Tom will be at the Waseca Chamber of Commerce on Friday, July 17th from 12:00pm-1:00pm.

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

Confidence with tractors, trucks and trailers

University of Minnesota Extension will offer Drive & Thrive: Confidence with Tractors, Trucks & Trailers, a hands-on educational program designed to build confidence and strengthen machinery operation skills among beginning and interested operators across Minnesota.

This is a low-stress opportunity for learners to get behind the wheel of a tractor and a pick-up and learn how to drive forward and in reverse with trailers and implements, along with overviews of safety features and the maintenance of vehicles.

The 2026 Drive & Thrive workshops will be held July 18 at the Steele County Community Center in Owatonna, MN and on July 27 from 2:00 to 6:45 p.m. at the Northwest Research and Outreach Center in Crookston, with a potential second Crookston session added on July 28 based on demand. The training features 1:1 hands-on driving instruction in a pick-up truck with a trailer and a tractor with an implement. Participants will gain experience in areas such as safely connecting and disconnecting equipment, driving in reverse with an attached implement or trailer, understanding tractor controls, recognizing hazards, using new technologies, and applying practical farm safety practices.

During the individual one-to-one sessions, the rest of the participants will complete group activities focused on farm safety and risk management, along with first aid basics. The fee to attend is \$35 per participant and a meal is provided. Registration is limited. 18+ age limit. Register online at z.umn.edu/WAGN.

"Farm machinery and implements can feel intimidating, especially for those who are newer to operating equipment," said Ryan Lermon, Extension educator. "Drive & Thrive provides a supportive, low-pressure environment where participants can learn, practice, ask questions, and ultimately feel safer and more confident on their farm."

This program is open to people of any experience level and is sponsored by Compeer Financial.



FINDING SUCCESS - The Waseca U14 girls' soccer team. Front, from left, is Annie Mielke, Riley Mielke, Isabel Berg, Kendall Lang, Leilla Johannsen. Back row, from left, is Natalie Erickson, Josie Olson, Claire Harguth, Nora Olson, Rachel Mielke, Ainsley Hanson, Mya Kath, Genna Coon. Not pictured is Eliana Grannis, Teagan Hart and Zoe Popp. Coaches are Neil Johannsen, Zack Jasper and Ann Johannsen.

Waseca U14 girls' soccer has strong start

The Waseca U14 Girls' Soccer Team continued its strong summer season by capturing the Lakeville Father's Day Cup championship June 19th–21st.

Waseca dominated pool play, winning all three games while scoring 14 goals and allowing just one. In the championship match against Centro de Formacion Cobra, Waseca faced its toughest challenge, trailing 1-3 at halftime. The team responded with an impressive second-half comeback, shutting out their opponent, while scoring three unanswered goals to earn a thrilling 4-3 victory.

The championship was followed by another successful weekend for the U14 Girls, which posted a 2-0 record at the BVU Cup before Sunday's matches were canceled due to weather.

Waseca will look to carry its momentum into the MYSA Summer State Championships in St. Cloud, July 9th-12th, where they finished first in 2024 and second in 2025.



TIGHT BALLGAME □ The Waseca Braves lost 1-0 in 10 innings to Minnesota Lake Sunday. At left, the Braves' Payton Garza takes a cut at a pitch. At right, Tyson Reger fires a strike. Photos by Jill Lutgens

Braves fall 1-0 despite Reger's 16 K's

Roeker gets first Braves pitching win, Waugh homers against Albert Lea

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

It was shades of the 1991 World Series when the Waseca Braves hosted the Minnesota Lake Royals.

Unfortunately, this time the home team lost.

Minnesota Lake scored an unearned run in the top of the 10th inning and the Royals held on to win 1-0 Sunday, June 28 at Waseca's Tink Larson Field.

"What a great game it was," said Larson, a Braves coach. "I don't remember the last time we had a 0-0 game going into extra innings."

It was a stellar pitcher's duel between the Braves' Tyson Reger and Gavin Halvorson. Both right-handers registered 16 strikeouts. Halvorson retired 26 of 28 Braves hitters from the third inning on until walking a pair with two outs in the 10th.

In the top of the 10th, the Royals' rally started with a leadoff single from their 0.8 hitter. A fielder's choice followed. Then a stolen base. Reger then got a strikeout looking for the second out. The winning run scored on an infield error.

Reger, who lost for the first time in four decisions this year, allowed six hits and walked four.

Reger and Keato Roeker had the lone hits for the Braves, who stranded five baserunners.

"It was too bad Minnesota Lake

scored like they did," said Larson. "But we didn't help ourselves at the plate."

The Braves defeated Albert Lea Wednesday, June 24 at Larson Field.

"It was a well-played game as neither team had an error," said Larson.

All four Waseca runs came in the fourth inning, when Cody Huirias was hit by a pitch and, one out later, Reger brought him home on a double. After Payton Garza singled, Waugh got ahold of a pitch and deposited it well beyond the outfield fence for a two-run home run.

Waugh had a big game, going 3-for-4. Reger was 2-for-4. Garza and Jimmy Loonan also hit safely.

Roeker had a fine outing on the mound, allowing only one unearned run on five hits, striking out 10 and walking six through seven innings. Ryan Hanson earned the save, fanning two in two innings. It was his first pitching win as a Brave.

"He gets better with each outing," said Larson. "As soon as he can get a little better location with his pitches, he'll be tough to beat."

After a July 1 home game against Cleveland, the Braves are off until Wednesday, July 8 when they host St. Peter at 7:30. They host Stewartville July 10 and play July 12 at Janesville.

Elysian

from Page 1

sober cab service.

"For the kids, we have things all weekend long," she continues with enthusiasm. She

names face painting, balloons, a fishing contest, turtle races, and kids' bingo. Both the regular and boat parades are a chance for the whole family to sit together and enjoy each others' company. The Sunday afternoon "Water Wars" are also a family spectacle, she points out.

Fireworks over the lake will be Friday, July 3 this year, beginning about 10 p.m.

"It's a whole lot of fun, whoever you are and whatever your reason for coming," comments Nusbaum. "We hope people will look over our schedule and see everything we have to offer."

"When they do, we're confident they'll find a reason to be in Elysian over the Fourth."

‘Ask a Trooper’: trailer width

Question: I bought a boat and the width is 10 feet wide, how can I legally haul it to different lakes?

Answer: The maximum length cannot exceed the width of 8 feet 6 inches. This is the maximum dimension that may be operated on Minnesota roadways without a special permit. The maximum height is 13 feet 6 inches. If you exceed the height or width, then you would have to apply for an oversize permit. A boat you can buy annual permit which is approximately \$60.00.

A few trailer safety tips:

- Make sure the pulling unit of the trailer has the towing capacity to pull the trailer safely.
- Check the trailer tires for proper tire pressure and the conditions of the tires. If the trailer has not been used recently, check the tread and for any cracking on the side walls.
- Make sure you have the proper ball size required for the

trailer.

Be sure the safety chains are connected and all the lights are working properly.

- Adjust your mirrors so you can see behind the trailer when towing it.

- Adjust your trailer brakes according to the load. For example, if you're towing a heavy boat you would need to increase the brake press compared to pulling an empty boat trailer.

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.

Grace Lutheran breakfast centers around bicycles

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

More than 100 people attended Grace Lutheran Church's "Pancakes for Pastor's Pedal" breakfast the morning of Sunday, June 28.

"We had every table full this morning," commented Robin Dulas as she looked around the dining room. She was standing next to Pastor Jillene Gallatin who added, "We had 12 tables set up. We served pancakes, sausage, coffee, juice and water." There was no set cost for the breakfast; free-will offerings were accepted instead.

Pastor Gallatin explained the event's purpose: "I will be riding a bike in the Habitat for Humanity 40-mile 'Bike, Build, Home 500' fundraiser. It will happen in July and is a seven-day long event, but I will only be in



YUMMY TIPS - Jess and Angie Brandt were being treated to the finer points of pancake stirring thanks to Twila Schmidt at the Grace Lutheran Church's pancake breakfast on Sunday, June 28, 2026.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

it for a single day." Gallatin will also be riding alongside Sandra Herman, the CEO of Habitat for Humanity. She continued, "The rides take a different route each day, departing from and returning to Mankato." Any money she raises in pledges or donations, as well as the income for the breakfast, will go to support Habitat for Humanity.

Also for sale during the breakfast were raffle tickets available for one man's, one woman's, one boy's, and one girl's bike. Continued Pastor Gallatin, "The Grace Lutheran Endowment fund paid for the bikes. The raffle was our attempt to get guests through the door. Thrivent Financial bought the pancake mix, the butter, syrup and sausage."

Minnesota farmers worry about their markets amid North American trade deal uncertainty

By MPR

In advance of an official review of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement on July 1, some farmers are bracing for possible changes.

"It's so much out of my control," said Craig LaPlante, a farmer from Fisher in Northwest Minnesota. "I'm a bystander to what the politicians decide to do. That's the hard part of it."

The agreement, known as USMCA, allows for tariff-free trade among the three nations. However, President Donald Trump has signaled he's not keen on extending it, as he told reporters a few weeks ago.

"I would rather not have the agreement, but I may sign it," said Trump. "We do better as a country if we don't have an agreement."

Should the U.S. withdraw from the agreement, it'll remain in effect until 2036. Still, the president's comments have added more uncertainty for farmers already contending with a tough ag economy.

LaPlante, who grows a variety of crops, such as soybeans, wheat and winter camelina, said he's diversified his revenue streams and implemented conservation practices, in part, to cut costs. But that can only go so far given the low prices his crops fetch on the global market.

"We know that everything's going to be a down year," said LaPlante. "But hopefully we can contain those costs as best as we can."

Now, with the future of the major trade agreement up in the air, farmers such as LaPlante wonder what could happen to their markets.

An uncertain future

Minnesota has built sturdy relationships with Canada and Mexico over the years. The two nations are among Minnesota's largest trading partners. The state's Department of Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen said the trade deal between them helps strengthen those relationships.

"I would argue that it's worked well," said Petersen. "If the United States backs away, that puts a strain on the relationship. That is not helpful. When you don't have a relationship, maybe with the country, then it's every state for itself."

Close to 160 agricultural and food organizations from the U.S., Canada and Mexico have called for a renewal of the trade agreement.

Petersen said he's concerned about potential tariffs that could be imposed should the U.S. back out

of the agreement. That could raise operating costs for farmers as some necessities are imported from abroad. Potash, for example, is a vital fertilizer for soybeans, which the U.S. mainly sources from Canada.

On top of that, tariffs could also limit farmers' markets. John Anderson, a pork producer who operates near Belgrade in central Minnesota, said the agreement has helped him sell some of his gilts to neighboring countries. He also says it's boosted pork exports to those nations statewide. Minnesota is the second-largest pork-producing state in the nation.

And he said that having free trade with Canada and Mexico has meant he's never had to worry about his product being subject to tariffs with those countries.

"I personally have never lost any sleep over tariffs," Anderson said. "I lose sleep on a lot of things, but that's not one of them."

Leaving the trade agreement could also raise food costs for the average consumer, according to University of Minnesota Grain Market Economist Edward Usset. He said that's partly because some goods are more cost-efficient to get from other countries, such as tomatoes from Mexico.

To make the point, Usset offered an analogy.

"I could cut my own hair, but it's going to look bad," said Usset. "I'm better off going to someone who knows how to cut my hair and spend my time doing productive things on my end, and trading for that. Trade is a good thing."

A Purdue-led study funded by the Corn Refiners Association found that tariff reductions under the current trade agreement and its predecessor, the North American Free Trade Agreement, have reduced consumer costs.

The question of whether the trade agreement will be extended is the latest source of trade uncertainty farmers have had to contend with.

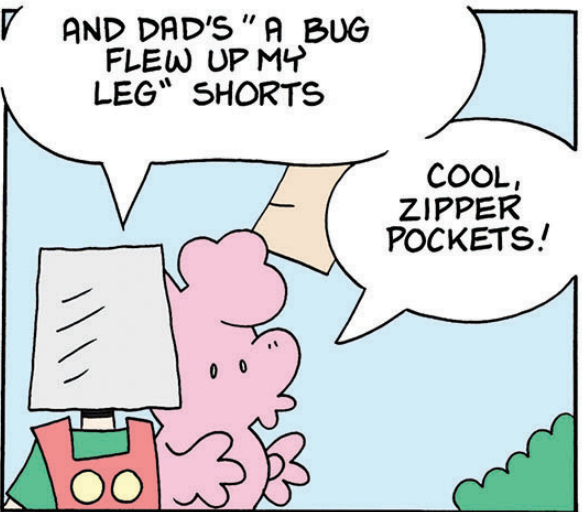
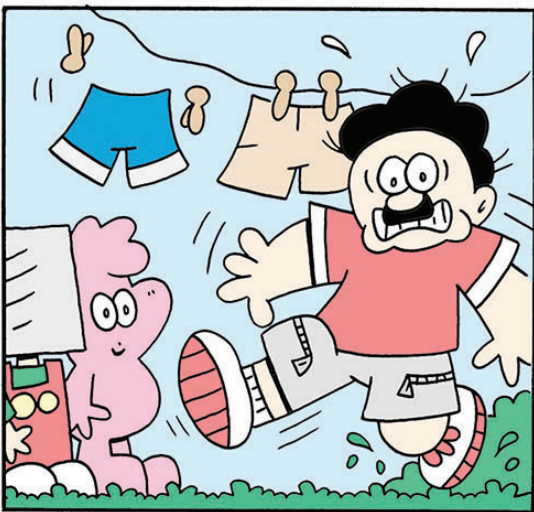
It's one reason LaPlante is glad he's been phasing his farm out of mass markets and into niche ones.

LaPlante's farm, which is home to turkeys and geese, will soon include sheep, goats, and cows. He's also growing apples to sell locally.

He hopes eventually he won't have to worry about global markets at all.

"If I'm raising grass-fed beef, I'm taking it to a local butcher facility, and that's being sold from farm to the table, and that way I'm protecting myself," said LaPlante. "[I'm] trying to establish local businesses, local economies to feed local people."

ZED by Duane M. Abel



www.corkeycomics.com



WHEELING GOOD - Right, during the Friendship Wagon Train closing celebration on June 27, wagonmaster Monica Davis presented more than \$30,000 to benefit Minnesota Special Olympics, with more funds to follow. Receiving the donation was Lou Ann Kelly of the Special Olympics office, and Special Olympics athlete Heather Bell, of Mankato. Left, the train stopped for lunch at Trinity Lutheran Church of Wilton on June 26.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently



Friendship Wagon Train benefits Special Olympics

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

Teamsters and riders from as far away as Indiana finished a nine-day journey—taken at a leisurely pace and often on quiet back roads—from Cannon Falls to New Richland with a breakfast the morning of Saturday, June 27.

About 50 people were present in the New Richland community center as wagonmaster Monica Davis, a Byron area resident, presented more than \$30,000 to Lou Ann Kelly from the Twin Cities office of Special Olympics Minnesota. Also accepting the donation was athlete Heather Bell of Mankato, who said Special Olympics gives her "a safe place to be my best." She credited her participation with helping her build leadership and public speaking skills, including the comfort level to get up in front of the group and share her gratitude.

Davis also mentioned that

some of the money raised by the wagon train was in the form of pledges which have not yet come in, so significant additional funds will be donated in the near future. "Every penny we raise," she confirmed, "goes to support Special Olympics."

This year is the thirty-eighth time the Wagon Train has supported the organization. In a separate conversation Davis had mentioned the group is within about \$25,000 of having donated a total of \$1 million.

In addition to presenting their donation, Wagon Train members celebrated the completion of a safe and successful event. Dustin Davis, who took charge of "traffic control" for the drive, commented the group had been remarkably fortunate in terms of weather: Temperatures for all nine days got no higher than the low 80s, and the only time they encountered rain was one evening when the group had already finished setting up camp. "If it



Waseca Sleigh and Cutter Festival treasurer Jolene Gunderman, left, accepted a plaque from Friendship Wagon Train Wagonmaster Monica Davis thanking the festival for its support of the June 19 to 27 wagon train which spent its last two nights in Waseca County.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

were for sale, we couldn't have bought better weather than we got," he joked.

Among the celebrations and expressions of gratitude Saturday morning was a plaque presented to the Waseca Sleigh and Cutter Festival acknowledging a \$1,500 donation given toward expenses and in case of emergency expenditures. Festival treasurer Jolene Gunderman accepted the award.

Although not all wagon units or riders participated for the entire nine-day event, 11 wagons,

nearly 30 horses and mules, about 40 teamsters and passengers, and six riders had arrived in New Richland the evening before and camped overnight in an open area not far from the community center.

As they had all along their route, they welcomed members of the public interested in learning about their event, received donations, and offered memorabilia including t-shirts, hats and keychains for sale at their "peddler's wagon."