



■ Inside:

- 3 - Erica Forsyth
- 3 - Waseca Braves
- 3 - MSHSL physicals
- 4 - Obituaries
- 4 - Goalie challenge
- 5 - Hypnosis
- 6 - Caribou opening
- 6 - New initiative
- 12 - County Fair



LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY
No. 29 Vol. V \$2 Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca Thursday, July 16, 2026



County Fair

Muriah and Crista at Club 57 July 16

Muriah and Crista will play Club 57 from 6-9 p.m. on Thursday, July 16. They play live music on the patio while guests have their food and drinks.

Rock'n Car Roll-In at Katie O'Leary's July 16

The Rock'n Car Roll-In will take place at Katie O'Leary's from 4-8 p.m. Thursday, June 18. Classic cars, motorcycles, food trucks, music and 50/50 raffle.

NR-H Cardinal Class of 1971 Reunion at the Willows July 18

The NR-H Cardinal Class of 1971 will hold their reunion at the Willows at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 18. RSVP at the class website Alumniclass.com. Call Chuck R. with questions 641-751-0634.

Los Tequileros at Half Pint Brewing Company July 18

Los Tequileros will play Half Pint Brewing Company from 4-8 p.m. on Saturday, July 18. They play tex mex and all the classics.

Rain Kings at Indian Island Winery July 18

The Rain Kings will play Indian Island Winery from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday, July 18. Listen to live music from an acoustic and electric roots rock band.

Power of Produce Club at Waseca Farmers Market every Saturday starting on July 19

Starting Saturday, July 19, the Power of Produce Club will be at the Waseca Farmers Market every Saturday from 8 a.m. through noon. Children ages 1 to 18 get \$5 POP bucks to spend at the market.

New Richland Farm and City Days July 17, 18 and 19

A wide variety of events are scheduled in New Richland from July 17 to 19, with elements for all ages. A classic car show, parade and street dance will take place on Saturday. Kid-friendly events on all three days including bingo Friday evening, a carnival and Kid Zone on Saturday, and special activities on Sunday.

St. Ann's Janesville 150th Anniversary Sunday, July 19

St. Ann's Catholic Church in Janesville will celebrate its 150th anniversary on Sunday, July 19 with an 8:30 a.m. Mass with Bishop Robert Barron as celebrant. Janesville area individuals who have gone on to be priests have been invited; displays will include photos, memorabilia and artifacts. Anyone desiring further information may contact stann-jan150celebration@gmail.com.

Cabin of Love and Crista Bohlmann at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm July 19

The Cabin of Love and Crista Bohlmann will play Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm from 1-7 p.m. Sunday, July 19. Enjoy live music with some pizza on the farm.

A word from The Word

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.
John 15:13

2026 Waseca County Fair



OPENING HONORS-Representatives from five Waseca County veteran organizations took part in the opening ceremonies for the Waseca County Fair the afternoon of Wednesday, July 8.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Waseca County Free Fair offers entertainment, fun

Summer's best party featured a little bit of everything for everyone at this year's Waseca County Fair held July 8-12, 2026.

From baking and flowers to live-stock and antique tractors to food of all kinds, there was something for everyone to enjoy at this year's fair.

This year's fair featured 4-H shows, carnival rides, a demolition derby and car races and music from

bands IV Play, Skitzo Fonic and SHAG.

For more information about everything that happened at the fair and about the Waseca County Fair Board, head to wasecacountyfree-fair.com.

More photos can be found on pages 8 and 12 of this issue and on the Waseca County Pioneer Facebook page.



MUSIC FUN - The band IV Play was one of a handful of music entertainment options held at the Beer Garden.
Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Financing costs considered for construction

By **DEB BENTLY**
News Editor

During their July 7 meeting, members of the Waseca County Board of Commissioners signed a proclamation honoring all individuals from the county who take part in Special Olympics. Named specifically in the proclamation was Jake Lieser, a Waseca athlete who earned two gold medals and one silver during the national level Special Olympics contests held in the Twin Cities during June.

Financing for the construction of the new justice center was a major item of discussion during the commissioners' morning work session.

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Bruce Kimmel, a senior municipal advisor with Ehlers Municipal Advisory out of Minneapolis, suggested that the county borrow a maximum of about \$25 million in two separate stages as funds are needed to cover the various stages of the construction, due to be underway for the next 1.5 years.

He commented on the county's strong financial standing and its low level of already-existing debt, saying the county is in "a good position" as it seeks agencies willing to "bond"

for the financing. He went on to say the county has an AA financial rating which, on projects of this type, receives a degree of state support that leads to an AAA rating. Ehlers suggested the county is likely to be eligible for interest rates as low as 3.25 percent.

Under Ehlers' suggested time frames, the county will be holding a public hearing early in August regarding borrowing a maximum of \$25 million for the justice center project. With that authorization in place, the county will then call for bids from regional contractors on various elements of the construction, beginning with clearing, shaping and

preparing the construction area. The intended time frame has that phase of the work beginning yet this fall.

As discussion of the construction bonds took place, board chair De Malterer summarized some thoughts that commissioners had raised: "In our corner of the world," she told Ehlers, "we like to pay as little interest as possible. We borrow as little money as we can, and pay it off as quickly as we can: I don't mean just the members of this board, I mean that's how we are in Waseca County."

County continued on 5



Surrounded by family and friends, Vada Dahnert celebrated her ninetieth birthday at a luncheon held at Waseca's Faith United Methodist Church on Sunday, July 12, 2026.

Vada Dahnert celebrates 90 years

By **BEN REVERMANN**
Staff writer

Local resident Vada Dahnert was the guest of honor at a 90th birthday celebration thrown for her at Waseca's Faith United Methodist Church over the luncheon hour on Sunday, July 12. The many well-wishers were not only able to greet and congratulate her, but also to enjoy delicious food and cake along with a nice view of Clear Lake.

Vada's eight offspring—Kathy, Doreen, Teresa, Dennis, Ron, Tim and Brad—were all present. Katie Dahnert, Vada's daughter-in-law was helping out in the kitchen. She explained some of the food was catered while some was made by family members and friends.

The church social hall was brightly decorated with many varieties of balloons and signs. Small children dashed about energetically. The star herself, Vada, entered the kitchen and was quick to say, "I have

Dahnert continued on 6

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

Council approves downtown walkway project

By **BEN REVERMANN**
Staff writer

During their July 7 meeting, members of the Waseca City Council approved spending about \$180,000 to restore and renovate the "downtown walkway" area in the 100-block of North State Street. Restoration Services of Faribault will be refurbishing the walls along the north and south sides of the walkway, and will remove, repair, clean and powder coat the gate.

Council members also approved project specifications and a call for bids to remove the aeration blowers at the wastewater treatment plan in advance of installing new units in the spring of 2027. With the removal, purchase and installation of the new blowers, anticipated cost for the entire project is about \$1.8 million. The city plans to acquire a Clean Water Revolving Fund loan through the state of Minnesota to meet costs for the project.

City Manager Carl Sonnenberg reported work is under way for phase 1 of the Clearwater Preserve subdivision, and is scheduled for substantial completion by September 25. He shared materials summarizing that the City will be selling 17 shovel-ready single-family lots. All 17 are priced at \$64,900; they range in size from 20,000 to 24,000 square feet. Said Sonnenberg, "Anyone who is interested in putting money down for a lot, come to city hall, front door, first window on the right. Talk to one of those three folks; they will be happy to help."

Council members also approved plans for Deerpath Enclave, a subdivision platted to include 21 residential lots to be located north of Eleventh Avenue Northwest and east of Tenth Street Northwest. Streets leading into the subdivision will be two cul-de-sacs to be named Twelfth Avenue and Ninth Street Northwest.

As the president of Deerpath LLC, Mayor Randy Zimmerman recused himself from the vote; the discussion was led by council member Mark Christiansen. According to the approved agreement, the subdivision developer is required to install and pay for costs that include surveying and staking for site improvements; site excavation, fill, and grading; a city water main and lot services; city sanitary and storm sewers; public streets including curb and gutter; all underground utilities; erosion control, and surveying and setting of all property pins.

ABDO auditors of Mankato sent Chad Guse and Hope Winters, auditors, who summarized the 2025 audit for the city of Waseca. The audit was "clean" with no major issues, but Guse did say, "Your expenditures have been lower com-

Council continued on 4



Compostings

by Al Batt

A wayfaring storyteller

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
I bought an encyclopedia. A set of encyclopedias?

No, I bought one volume at a garage sale. Let me know if you need to know anything from rabbits to the Ryukyu Islands.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I was wearing my "A Bigfoot saw me" T-shirt. At least, I think that's what it was. It was a blurry T-shirt. Our cat never sets a paw outside. She is strictly an indoor cat, but she enjoys the outdoors without all its perils. She watches from a window. One of her regular viewing opportunities is a chipmunk that visits our deck. The cat's whiskers dance, and she meows a silent meow. If she could talk human, I think she'd be saying, "Newman." Newman was the iconic postal worker and Jerry Seinfeld's eccentric arch-nemesis in the TV sitcom "Seinfeld."

I bowl once every two many years. The last time I rolled a heavy ball toward ten pins coming at me in a triangular formation, I talked to a fellow who was about to turn 90. He told me he still enjoyed watching people bowl. His favorites were the bad bowlers. The more gutter balls they threw, the more he liked them. That was because he had been a "pin boy" in his youth. He worked in a sunken pit behind the lane, where he had to dodge flying pins to reset bowling pins manually, clear fallen pins, and return bowling balls. Gutter balls made his job easier.

We shared a meal because we shared a first name. We placed our order. He ordered a sweet roll for dessert. The server brought the roll first. He used a fork and a knife to eat it. I asked him if he always ate his dessert first. He replied, "Whenever I can. You never know."

I'VE LEARNED

There is only one "I" in "umpire." Data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey of August 2021–August 2023 showed 32% of adults age 20 and older consumed fast food on a given day.

Alaskans spend the highest share of their income on healthcare of all the states. Utah spent the least. Iowa is the 34th highest, and Minnesota 42nd.

<https://wallethub.com/edu/states-where-people-spend-the-most-least-on-health-care/144534>

A WAYFARING STORYTELLER

I was in the southwestern Iowa city of Stanton, which has a 95-foot-tall water tower featuring a unique cup-and-saucer design that replaced

the 125-foot-high Swedish coffee pot, which was a 50,000-gallon (640,000 cups of coffee) ode to the town's Swedish roots. It also honored Stanton native Virginia Christine, known as "Mrs. Olson" from the Folgers coffee ads. The new cup-and-saucer water tower is a 150,000-gallon (2.4 million cups of coffee). The Stanton Historical Society moved the old coffee pot water tower to its grounds.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

I do CrossFit. I cross my fingers and hope my clothes fit.

Which letter is silent in the word "scent," the s or the c?

How do you spell "orange"? The fruit or the color?

If you fall asleep while reading old magazines, you'll wake up with back issues.

I ate a kid's meal at McDonald's. It really upset his mother.

NATURE NOTES

Jewelweeds (spotted touch-me-nots) bloom from July through September. Moisture beads on its leaves and glistens like jewels in the sun. A favorite of hummingbirds, it has trumpet-shaped flowers and seed capsules that explode when touched. The watery sap of jewelweed is reputed to help soothe rashes from poison ivy and stinging nettle.

It's a good day when I spot a crab spider on a wildflower. They are white or yellow with two pink or red slashes along their sides. They can change their color, a process that can take several days, and are easiest to find on pink flowers. Crab spiders get their name from their crablike appearance and their ability to walk sideways. They are passive hunters that wait motionless for insects to come within their grasp. I've heard that to mate without being eaten, the male must tie up the female with silk. After mating, the female breaks the restraints. I've read that the male covers the female loosely with strands of silk, which is a part of courtship referred to as a bridal veil. The latter is the true story.

I watched a thirteen-lined ground squirrel (striped gopher or squinny) scurry across the sizzling pavement. The midday sun might have been giving the little animal a hotfoot. Ground squirrels run with their tails straight out. Chipmunks run with tails held upright.

A friend threatens to go Carl Spackler on the raccoons putting a crimp in his bird feeding. Carl Spackler was the golf course groundskeeper who dynamited gophers in the movie "Caddyshack."

MEETING ADJOURNED

Be kind. We all share the same air.



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

It was hard to step away from 'summer's biggest party'

My congratulations to the Waseca County Fair committee for a delightful five days filled with entertainment, education, networking, and fun—many of them all at once.

I spent more time at the fair in 2026 than I had in recent years—somehow it seemed I just couldn't leave. Each time I thought of going, I came across yet another thing I wanted to experience or try.

Looking over the schedule way back in June, I had quickly decided I wanted to write a news article about So-Hot Glass Blowers, who were set up on "Oak Island," and gave demonstrations each day from 12:30 to 6:30. You could tell those two artisans love what they do, and really enjoyed explaining the 4,000 year old craft of glass blowing to everyone who would listen.

I also enjoyed the free ag related mini golf game which was open to all folks interested in some "tee time." The area offered occasional challenges for young golfers, asking

them to get their golf balls to the cups using pool noodles, spatulas, and even the wrong end of the golf club held like a pool cue.

The Tractor Trivia game was also a delight, asking volunteer contestants about various elements of agriculture while also having a lot of fun and giving away a lot of small prizes. It was great fun to see the green lawn tractor pulling the "trivia trailer" to other locations on the fairgrounds as well. Proprietors Arlene and Carlos Correa Jr. were friendly and patient. Their backdrop painting of a hay mow added a lot of character to their contests.

Naturally, the historical society's demonstrations, the FFA Barnyard, and walks through the 4-H barns and the commercial displays are an absolute must at the fair.

My thanks to the safety officers who kept their eyes on things; by chance I got to see their interventions twice—once to help the ambulance get around stopped traffic to enter the



Deb finally witnessed a Monarch chrysalis this summer on a wooden support pole.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

grounds and be present at the grandstand show, and once when a wandering fair patron got a bit unruly.

While "summer's best party" may sound like a boast to people who weren't there, I think the Waseca County Fair earned its self-proclaimed title.

I also have to share my excitement about finally laying my eyes on a Monarch chrysalis this summer. I make it a habit to watch for them, usually checking milkweed plants for any signs that caterpillars have been munching on their leaves.

This year the first one I laid eyes on was not on a plant, but had apparently eaten its fill on one, then wandered a couple feet away to a wooden support pole to fasten on and begin the process of metamorphosis.

Monarch butterflies are beautiful, so I guess it's appropriate that the monarch chrysalis looks like a small luxury structure. It has a smooth, nearly shiny finish highlighted by luminescent gold-colored accents.

Having created its "housing," the caterpillar inside is making the kind of change we humans have used as inspiration for millennia—from a plump, wormlike thing to an elegant creature with bright colors, symmetry, and the freedom of the air. The internet tells me the change will take somewhere between 9 and 14 days; the warmer the weather, the more quickly the process tends to go. Thinking of the hot days at the fair, I can't help joking that the caterpillars in a chrysalis this month will set records for their emergence.

Juggling everything of life, even on vacation

Sometimes the hardest part of my week is coming up with what to write about in this column.

I have a journalism friend from college who currently works at the White House in D.C. He recently started sending out email blasts to select family and friends who wanted to be a part of his updates about life. I guess that is what my column is—an update to all my family and friends and those in the community who choose to follow along with my life adventures.

So...my life.

As you know if you happened to read last week's column, I was in Minnesota for about a week over the Fourth of July holiday. I spent a lot of time at the lake, playing pickleball, eating good food, and—as always—working. It was such a blessing to spend some quality time with my family as I got caught up with the woes and joys of their lives. I didn't sleep enough and drank way more caffeine than I normally do, but it was all worth it.

Towards the end of my time at



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

home, I was starting to get more and more anxious. Less about the flight home, but more about everything that was going to whelm me when I got back to Denver. Work at the magazine was changing me from salaried to hourly, so I had to now figure out a better schedule. I hosted book club the day after I got home and overthought what was all needed to go into a taco bar and whether my apartment actually was host-worthy or not (I forget I live with a boy and the place has some boy-apartment vibes), and I was stressing about everything else. Would I ever get enough sleep? Did I need to fix my diet? When was the last time I

worked out? Did the apartment look ok for when Jack came home from his vacation?

You know how anxiety is. If you don't, bless you.

It was unfortunate that I was at the cabin up north of Brainerd when this started to get to me. The cabin has always been a haven from my anxiety, even if it's just for the few days that I am there. Maybe others feel the same for their cabin getaways, but it has always been a place of peace and rest and joy for me. For a few days, I can just enjoy life and be in the moment, and being with family helps.

So when I started feeling anxious, I stepped into the water and let the

waves wash over me. The water was warm, the sun was hot, and the breeze blew the hair off of my face. I felt like a main character in a movie having her moment as I tried to rationalize my anxieties and let the waves take them away. Then I realized I was alone at the lake and wanted to spend time with the people I love while I am still here, so I stepped back out, leaving all those worries in the water. I felt like the character in Game of Thrones who is a priest for their sea god—he goes into the water and listens to the waves, listens for the words of his god.

Now, the idea of washing my troubles away might sound cheesy as all heck, and I'll be the first to admit that it is. But it also worked. Maybe not for everyone, but for some, cheesy works.

My Determination: "But people will do anything rather than admit that their lives have no meaning. No use, that is. No plot." — Margaret Atwood, The Handmaid's Tale

A memorable final sermon at Wilton Church

As I sat in church Sunday morning the bells of Wilton Church rang, and to me, felt as if they were doing so for the final time. Saturday evening Deb invited me to join her for Pastor Larry Sipe's final service in Wilton. His actual last service for the parishes will be Sunday at First Lutheran in Waldorf. For more than a decade, Pastor Sipe has served the Wilton Parish. He is moving on to Immanuel Lutheran Church and School in Plainview at the end of the month.

Pastor Sipe was the first regular pastor I listened to following the closure of the First Congregational Church in New Richland. The only church I have ever called home. Pastor Pamela was the only pastor I really knew before Sipe.

His sermons helped support and strengthen my faith journey. I appreciated the thoughts he shared, and I enjoyed the services. The music, the Bible verses, the company in church, all of it. As I did with the First Congregational, I wish I had attended more regularly. Sometimes a person doesn't know how good something is until it is gone. Other times, in my case, I was aware, but did not properly prioritize it in my life.

Pastor Sipe was teary eyed only once during Sunday's service. His sermon felt longer than others, but in a good way. He talked of sowing good seed, and using proper judgment. His interpretation of the parable of the sower was different from others I have heard. The point was rather simple: sow the seed of God's love liberally so that when it falls on suitable soil it can



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

grow. Since you have no way of knowing which hearts the seed will take root in, put it in every heart.

My friend Mikhail and I continued with another regular lunch this week and part of the conversation diverted to faith and life and such. He asked me how I could be so confident in my life, how I can believe so strongly that my business decisions will work. I was really puzzled by the question.

I credited my faith and lifelong dedication to the businesses which I run. Newspapers have surrounded me my entire life. Collectibles and cards, since the age of four. (I do own a game store.) My dad bought and sold sports memorabilia, cards, collectibles, etc. to help supplement his income during my youth. He was a single father of three. From the time I opened Yu-Gi-Oh cards at the age of four, my dad had me "sleeving" (putting in protective cases) and taking care of them. I own those cards to this day. They are proudly displayed at my game store.

But really, I told Mikhail, God likes to yell in my general direction when I need to do something in life. It isn't always yelling, but the message is clear nonetheless.

When I was 15 or 16, I overheard our production manager at the time,

Reed Waller, tell my mother that he could not put the newspaper together in my dad's absence the next time Dad was in the hospital and unable to do so. At that time I decided I would have to do it next time Dad got sick.

Well that happened when I was 19 years old. I was not asked to do it, but I knew it was my responsibility. Without telling anyone what I was planning, I waited until everyone went home that Friday evening and proceeded to spend the entire weekend putting together a newspaper. I needed to do it well enough that no one could argue I wasn't the right man for the job.

Three years later when my dad, in a fit of anger, offered to sell me the business, I accepted on the spot. At that time, I had been doing all the work of running the business for a year; my only frustration was always having to explain and justify my decisions to my dad. We had just finished having an argument about the Star Eagle's budget—a set of important planning and operational guidelines my dad had never created while he ran the place. He said if there was money in the account, he could pay himself. That was what the argument was about. I had money budgeted for everything, in-

cluding all of his bills. We could not afford to write him the check he wanted at that time. This didn't make him happy, so he told me if I knew better then I should buy the place from him.

So I did.

Now I don't know if that was God yelling at me, but it felt pretty loud at the time. The next two examples I have felt even more obvious to me.

Before starting a newspaper in Waseca, my two best friends Kyle and Anastasiia asked me to help them start a newspaper in Austin. After lots and lots of work, they told me they weren't willing to do the work necessary to run a newspaper. During that process I had done a lot of groundwork to start a paper. Using that experience, plus the knowledge gained from helping my mother start her newspaper, the Janesville Journal, I decided to start the Waseca County Pioneer. During this entire process, my dad was by my side, insisting we start a newspaper in Waseca. If he said it once, he said it 100 times.

He was right.

When I acquired the game store, it happened only after I decided I wasn't going to purchase it from my two best friends, Kyle and Anastasiia. They had already closed and re-opened the store and it wasn't doing well. I had agreed to purchase the store from Kyle but decided it was too much work. Kyle and I kept talking because we were friends. We didn't speak about me purchasing the store again. About a month

Faith continued on 5

WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

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

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OBITUARIES

Keith Schroeder

Keith Myron Schroeder, 71, of Waseca, passed away on Thursday, July 9, 2026 surrounded by family at the New Richland Care Center.

Keith was born on October 25, 1954, in Owatonna, Minnesota, to Wilbert and Anna (Oeltjenbruns) Schroeder. He grew up in the Owatonna area and graduated from Owatonna High School in 1972. Following high school, Keith attended Pipestone Vo-Tech, earning a degree in meat cutting in 1973.

On February 3, 1978, Keith was united in marriage to Nancy Ann (Krause) Schroeder at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Waseca. Together they built a life centered on family, hard work, and the community they loved.

Keith dedicated much of his working life to serving the City of Waseca Street Department, where he worked for 27 years. Prior to that, he was employed in meat cutting, masonry, and roofing. He took pride in his work and the friendships he made throughout the years.

Keith enjoyed spending time outdoors. He especially loved fishing, hunting, and riding his Ranger. Above all, he cherished time with his family, particularly his grandchildren, who brought him great joy. He was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Waseca.

Keith is survived by his loving wife of 48 years, Nancy Schroeder of Waseca; children, Wille Schroeder of Waseca and Wendy (Mark) Hill of Waseca; grandchildren, Wyatt and Blake Schroeder; siblings, Deb Bartelt of Waseca, Arlys (Craig) Youngberg of Waseca; mother-in-law,



Keith Schroeder

Helen Lydia Krause of Waseca; sisters-in-law, Barbara Krause of Waseca, Susan (Kevin) Nelson of Waseca; brothers-in-law, James (Tamera) Krause of Arizona and Bradley (LeAnne) Krause of Waseca; as well as many nieces, nephews, other relatives, and close friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Wilbert Schroeder and Anna Helen Friday; step-fathers, Vernon O'Neil and Arthur Friday; father-in-law, Myron Krause; brother-in-law, Jerry Bartelt; and nephew, Darren Bartelt.

Visitation was from 4 – 7 PM on Monday, July 13, 2026 at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service. Visitation continued one hour prior to the service at the church on Tuesday.

Memorial service for Keith as held at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, July 14, 2026 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Waseca with Pastor Grannis officiating. Interment as at Woodville Cemetery. Dsofuneral.com

Goalie challenge draws potential players

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Next to the Bingo tent at the Waseca County Fairgrounds was a tent set up for a hockey challenge and raffle. Grant and Jen Popp were volunteering on Saturday, July 11 with the hope they will raise funds for local area hockey teams and add players to their roster.

Grant was sitting on a fold-up chair wearing a baseball hat and glasses. He explained, “Our goal is to get children to come in, try this out, hold a hockey stick for the first time.” Baskets of hockey-themed raffle prizes stood nearby: Some held hydrating drinks, others had specialized hockey pucks or hockey gear. Jen explained, “Prizes were donated by the Waseca Hockey Association.” Nearby the bingo caller yelled, “B-4,” but received no “bingo” in reply, and continued calling.

A family approached and 9-year-old Lindsey Swanson grabbed a hockey stick and had three hockey pucks placed on the ground in front of her. The goal

was to launch one of the pucks through one of eight holes in a 5x8 board that was painted to look like a blue goalie. Despite Swanson being unable to land a puck, she was instructed to fill out a raffle ticket anyway, said Jen, “It’s a free thing kids can do and maybe win a prize, I can’t think of us having a full, ten-minute stretch today without a child coming up and wanting to give it a shot. There’s been a few kids who’ve come here every day to try this again.” She said some of the children were actually showing improvement, they were trying the goalie challenge so often.

Jacey Jensen, a fair-going teenager, approached with a friend and took a few shots, but also wasn’t successful. Jacey handed the hockey stick back to Grant and left while Grant continued, “My daughter Zoe, 12, plays hockey, she’s been doing it since she was 7. My other child/hockey player switched up and became a swimmer.”

Both Jen and Grant were volunteering at the fair to help out.



SWING BIG - Jacey Jensen took a swing at the Waseca Hockey Association's free goalie challenge for a chance to win prizes at the Waseca County Fair, Saturday, July 11, 2026.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Said Jen, “The Bingo next door is for Varsity Hockey, we’re here for the Waseca Hockey Association. I don’t know how many player sign-ups we’ll get this week; I can’t wait to find out. We’ve been rotating shifts between all us volunteers and with how hot it’s been, when you get off work it’s nice to find a cool spot.” She was asked how many were donating their time for both

the association and varsity and she replied, “I bet between Wednesday though Sunday there’s at least 100 people volunteering, that includes Grant and I. I think it’s mostly parents of hockey players, and some that just want to help out.” From a few feet away, a woman excitedly called out, “Bingo” while Grant and Jen patiently waited for the next child.

■ Council

from Page 1

pared to surrounding towns.”

Resident Tom Sexton was there to speak for public comment and discuss this year’s Lakefest. Said Sexton, “I wanted to thank the council and city staff for your support this year. I especially wanted to thank the Waseca Lakes Association, which took this on a couple of years ago alongside Freedom Run and Lakefest. And of course, Waseca Tourism and their work with the fireworks. Everyone stayed safe and that was the most important part.” He also thanked the Waseca Area Foundation which donates every year, “They’ve done a fantastic job with looking at Lakefest and turning it into their premier event. The Legion, the Sons of the Legion and the Legion Auxiliary, they helped me and came through in the end. Brad Dushaw and the park’s guys, in spite of the rain, to see all of the people in the park taking advantage of the tenting was just great. Chief Markeson and his guys stopped by and helped out as well and thank you. All of those people enjoying themselves really charges me.”

Alicia Fischer, Human Resources Finance Director spoke

about new employees, starting with Taylor Drahota, Public Work/Parks Department. Also, Leo Harguth in Public Work and Maintenance/Streets. Samuel Baratto, Patrol Officer, Garrett Everett, Patrol Officer. Sara Morris, Police Department, Records Clerk. Holly Wasiesleski, Utilities Office Technician. Brayden Anderson, Patrol Officer. Joshua Wells, Parks Maintenance. Two part time Officers, David Melchert and Bryan Dauk. For the waterpark, 19 guest services, 15 lifeguards and four assistant supervisors. As well as eight seasonal park employees.

“Hats off to all those who made Lakefest successful and Tourism for setting off the fireworks early which solved a lot of problems,” said councilwoman Stacey Schroeder. “The boat parade was awesome, people lining the beach, it was just a really good day.”

Councilman Christiansen reminded everyone, “I know it’s raining a lot, but we have a lot of outsiders coming into Waseca, we want to make a good impression: Mow your lawns, take care of your stuff.”

Mayor Zimmerman attended a congratulation party for local resident and Special Olympian Jake Leiser and his success in competition and hinted a Mayoral Proclamation may be on the way.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



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Interim update from Rep. Tom Sexton

Legislative Update

Dear Neighbor,
I hope you enjoyed the 4th of July weekend and the commemoration of our nation’s 250th birthday. It was a great weekend in the district and it was a fantastic opportunity to see all of you at Waseca Lakefest, and the 52nd Annual Old Time Blooming Prairie Parade! Despite the inclement storms, I hope you were able to get out in the community and maybe even watch the fireworks! As always, thank you for staying engaged and reach out if you have any questions.

Appointment to the Legislative Inspector General Advisory Commission

I am honored to share that I was appointed by Speaker Lisa Demuth to serve on Minnesota’s new Legislative Inspector General Advisory Commission, an important step in establishing the state’s independent Office of the Inspector General. After years of major fraud scandals that have cost taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars, the Legislature created this office to strengthen oversight, improve accountability, and help restore public trust in state government.

The commission’s first responsibility

is to identify and recommend qualified candidates to serve as Minnesota’s first Inspector General. Newly enacted State law sets a high bar for the position. Candidates must have at least ten years of experience in areas such as auditing, investigations, law enforcement, or public administration, hold a nationally recognized Inspector General certification, and meet strict independence requirements. To ensure the office remains free from political influence, elected officials, agency commissioners, and other executive branch leaders are prohibited from serving within five years after the end of their previous service.

Our commission will conduct a competitive selection process, review each applicant’s qualifications, and interview candidates before recommending finalists to the governor. Those recommendations require bipartisan support from the commission, and the governor’s appointment must then be confirmed by a three-fifths vote of the Minnesota Senate.

Once established, the Office of the Inspector General will serve as an independent watchdog over state government. The office will investigate fraud, waste, and abuse, coordinate in-

vestigations across state agencies, recommend reforms to prevent future fraud, and provide regular public reports to the Legislature and Minnesotans.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve on this commission because selecting the right person to lead this office is critical for its long-term success. Minnesotans deserve confidence that their tax dollars are being protected and that state government is held to the highest standards of accountability. I look forward to helping build an Office of the Inspector General that is independent, effective, and focused on restoring trust in government.

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 TODAY, 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!

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Klobuchar urges USPS to reverse plan that will slow mail delivery

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar called on the United States Postal Service (USPS) to abandon its Regional Transportation Optimization (RTO) plan in a letter to Postmaster General David Steiner. The RTO plan would lower service standards and eliminate end-of-day mail collection, slowing mail delivery and disrupting mail service.

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

Klobuchar continued: “Minnesotans rely on the Postal Service to receive paychecks, business mail, Social Security benefits, and medications that they rely on for their health and livelihoods. The U.S. Postal Service is the only delivery service that reaches every address in the nation, making it a critical connection for many Minnesotans as well as the businesses and other organizations that serve them. In addition, as I have previously described, many local newspapers rely on the Postal Service to reach their subscribers, providing Minnesotans with information not only to find out the weather forecast or who won the big high school sports game, but also to keep them well-informed about local issues and hold local government officials accountable. That is why it is crucial that the Postal Service remains a reliable and affordable delivery service for Minnesotans.”

Read the full letter to the U.S. Postal Service below.

Dear Mr. Steiner:

I write to express concern about the impacts of the United States Postal Service’s (USPS) recent policy changes and their impacts on Minnesotans’ mail

service.

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

Minnesotans rely on the Postal Service to receive paychecks, business mail, Social Security benefits, and medications that they rely on for their health and livelihoods. The U.S. Postal Service is the only delivery service that reaches every address in the nation, making it a critical connection for many Minnesotans as well as the businesses and other organizations that serve them. In addition, as I have previously described, many local newspapers rely on the Postal Service to reach their subscribers, providing Minnesotans with information not only to find out the weather forecast or who won the big high school sports game, but also to keep them well-informed about local issues and hold local government officials accountable. That is why it is crucial that the Postal Service remains a reliable and affordable delivery service for Minnesotans.

Continuing to carry out the Regional Transportation Optimization plan — on top of other policy changes and rate hikes in recent years — will instead mean that it will take longer for these postal customers to send and receive their mail. The United States Postal Service should be working to improve service, rather than lowering standards.

Minnesotans depend on the United States Postal Service every day. I urge you to reverse implementation of the RTO plan and ensure that the Postal Service is a viable, affordable delivery service for residents in Minnesota and across the country.

■ County from Page 1

In other matters of business, commissioners approved a contract for just under \$100,000 with Selly Excavating of LeCenter to replace a 1940s era culvert along County Road 73 about half a mile south of its intersection with Highway 13. Work is scheduled to begin in August.

Commissioners also approved payment of about \$145,000 in “appropriations,” amounts paid to a variety of local agencies to support their programs and projects. The county pays out most appropriations in two halves; the first in the summer and the other around the end of the year. With few exceptions and barring any changes in the next few months, the following amounts will be paid to the same agencies again in December. South Central Emergency Medical Services, \$1,250; Historical Society, \$37,500; Waseca Chorale, \$1,250; South Central Minnesota Multi-Housing and Redevelopment Authority, \$762; Clean River Partners, \$125; Southern Minnesota Tourism Association, \$474; Minnesota Agricultural Interpretive Center-FarmAmerica, \$7,500; Waseca Art Council, \$6,500; Waseca Area Senior Citizens, \$2,500; Minnesota Valley Action Council, \$4,500; Open Door Health Center, \$250; Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center, \$7,500; Agricultural Society, \$35,000; Small Business Development Center, \$1,000; Southern Minnesota Initiative

Foundation, \$2,782; and the Soil and Water Conservation District, \$30,168. The regional agricultural organization GreenSeam receives funds of \$5,000 only once a year.

Public Health Director Sarah Berry requested official county acceptance of a donation of child safety seats to be distributed to county residents with qualifying incomes. She explained the county is receiving four combination and four convertible seats, and is contributing staff time to install the chairs properly and provide training to families. Funding comes from the Minnesota Office of Traffic Safety and is comprised mostly of fines paid by individuals cited for illegal or unsafe transportation of children in motor vehicles.

Two teens test truth of hypnosis

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Hypnotist Freddie Justice gave three performances on the free stage at the Waseca County Free Fair over the weekend of July 11 and 12. At least one of them drew a crowd of 70 or more—some of whom took seats before the show began, others of whom were drawn in to watch and ended up standing in a bit of a crowd at the back. About 15 individuals of ages from senior citizens to children had found seats on the stage.

Billing himself as “the planet’s funniest hypnotist,” the performer’s real name is Dustin Reichert. He is a retired police officer who lives in the Twin Cities. His business offers training services for law enforcement agencies as well as team building seminars for companies of all types.

On the side, and apparently because he enjoys it, he offers his hypnotist act as entertainment at fairs all around Minnesota.

Midway through Sunday afternoon, Waseca teens Jordan Hinna, 16, and Peyton Ross, 15, arrived early for Justice’s final presentation of the fair saying they wanted to volunteer. The two had seen the noon show and been intrigued—as well as thoroughly entertained. They mentioned one person had become so relaxed during that show, she slumped to the floor of the stage on all fours.

“I want to know if it’s real,” explained Peyton. “I mean, how can someone just do that?”

Both girls expressed uncertainty about whether people were genuinely “going under” or were simply complying with Justice’s requests because they sounded like fun.

Based on his own comments, Justice would likely say the girls’ suspicions were correct.

“Whatever you may have heard about hypnosis,” Justice had said during an earlier show, “I’m not ‘controlling’ anyone. People who are under hypnosis are just highly suggestible. They hear what I say and just sort of think, ‘That sounds like a good idea. I’ll try it.’”

“It” began with typing on an imaginary typewriter and imitating a washing machine or ringing cell phone and moved to laughing uproariously at a nonexistent movie. There was also spontaneous dancing to a song Justice informed them had just become their temporary favorite. During one show, a particularly energetic subject had strutted through the crowd, sharing his lip-synced rendition of “Call me Maybe.”

Before the Sunday afternoon show began, Jordan predicted she might end up “faking” hypnosis. Peyton said she had no idea how it would go for her.

Justice had also commented “there is no secret to what hypnotists do.” He explained that being under hypnosis is really only a state of deep relaxation; reaching it is a matter of focusing on one’s breathing and connecting with the suggestions being offered by the hypnotist. Subjects were advised to breathe deeply, let their frustrations and distractions fasten themselves to the air taken in, and then to breathe



REAL LIFE EXPERIMENT: Teens Peyton Ross, 15, (left) and Jordan Hinna, 16, with “the planet’s funniest hypnotist” Freddie Justice. Peyton and Jordan took part in one of the hypnotist shows during the county fair because they wanted to find out whether hypnotism is “real.”
Pioneer photos by Deb Bently

them out. One portion of their anatomy at a time, they were asked to think of that part—feet, legs, knees and on up to the neck and head—and relax it as they continued to breathe deeply. Justice said having one’s eyes closed is important because it helps prevent being distracted by nearby people or activity.

For those who are focused and attentive, Justice said the process takes seven to nine minutes.

Being that relaxed, he continued, allows subjects to feel as rested as if they had slept for eight hours.

As Peyton and Jordan took chairs on the stage, Justice separated them so they would not be distractions to one another; he did the same for the entire group, working to ensure all 13 subjects were next to someone unknown to them.

After his seven-minute “induction” dialog, Justice moved down the line of volunteers. He said there are numerous clues which let him know whether each individual is “under” or not—or even how far under they might be. For those who are “almost there” he uses a set of “deepening” steps which include shaking the person’s arm to see if they are “like rubber”—in other words, that they show no resistance and, when released, their hands simply fall to their laps.

Jordan’s prediction turned out to be true—that is, after trying to help her relax more fully, Justice sent her back to her seat among the audience because he could tell she was still alert. Later Jordan speculated she had not gone under because she found it difficult to focus on Justice’s instructions, partly because she had been distracted by the presence of the people next to her.

Peyton, on the other hand, was one of about five people on the stage who complied energetically with Justice’s beginning requests that they type, imitate a wash machine, and swat a fly on their foreheads.

Later on, she was among about a half dozen who stood up to dance when the music of a certain song “takes over your soul.” In conversation with Justice, Peyton revealed she had studied dance—which became evident when she arched her arms up over her head and rotated to the music.

Overall, Justice noted that roughly six of the 13 volunteers had entered a “deep” state of hypnosis, and mentioned that, between the heat and the various people’s personalities, he had a “low energy” group—



with the exception of one persistent volunteer known to Justice from last year’s shows who was very open to suggestion, and whose laughter at the nonexistent comedy film escalated each time Justice said the word “funny,” until nearly everyone in the audience was laughing along with her.

As the show ended and Peyton returned to her seat in the audience, she revealed everything she had done had been spontaneous and genuine. Asked whether she remembered a “really bad smell” Justice had said would infuse the stage area, she said she recalled it as “really stinky garbage.” When it had been suggested the smell was coming from her, she said she believed it to be true, but couldn’t figure out why, since she had showered and put on perfume earlier in the day. She concluded hypnotism is indeed “real,” although she was at a loss for words to describe what it feels like.

Still, she spoke with energy when she said she would do it again and would recommend to others that they try it. “It was fun,” she said. “It was funny. It was different from anything else I’ve done.

“I’m glad I did it.”

■ Faith from Page 2

later, Kyle decided he wasn’t going to close the store regardless whether it made money or not. It was too important to the community.

Really, I think he was just going to keep it open for me. The game store, an island of misfit toys as some have called it, is really a gathering place for nerds who have no one else and nowhere else to share their hobbies.

It was during this conversation that Kyle declared (and I quote), “Eli, you can just have the thing.”

He said he was serious.

I wasn’t willing to invest any money to purchase the game store as it felt like a frivolous investment in a project that would be fruitless financially. But “just having” the store felt right free.

And that was how I ended up fulfilling another childhood dream.

We moved the entire store, all of its inventory and shelves, in one day. Not one person other than my best friend Jake and our one employee vol-

unteered to help us move. I was so busy with the newspapers at the time, after looking at a calendar, I determined that the first Saturday in April 2024, was the only day I could dedicate to moving and setting up in our new location.

That day felt like something out of a movie. We started packing up to move and before an hour had passed, half a dozen people, many of whom I didn’t even know, were helping move the store. Within two hours, I was no longer moving anything, I was directing volunteers and riding in the back of a pickup or on top of a 100-pound display case being rolled down Austin’s Main Street, accompanied by many people I had never met before.

My friend Mark spent the entire day saying, “It is not possible to move the store in a day.

“There is no way you’re going to get all of this moved.”

After we arrived at the new location his litany changed to, “There’s no way

you’re going to get these lights to work.”

Jared was going to school to be an electrician.

He got the lights to work.

Mark changed to saying, “There’s no way all of this is getting done today.”

Before it was dark, we had a table set up in the front with people I had never met before playing cards. That day I saw the final sale at Kyle’s register and first sale at Play It Forward Games.

We moved an entire game store in one day and did not even close the store to do so.

Mikhail asked me why I can be so confident. During our previous lunch I had told him my favorite bible verse, which I believe serves as an answer.

First John 5:14 says “This is the confidence we have in approaching God that if we ask anything according to His will, he hears us.”

I just have faith that everything will

be okay. If I weren’t supposed to own a game store or run the newspapers, they would have failed.

As Pastor Sipe said in church Sunday, farmers in ancient times had to throw their seed down before learning whether the soil was good beneath it.

I am grateful for good soil.

Thank you, Pastor Sipe, for your years of service, I wish you nothing but the best as you move forward.

“But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.” — Matthew 13:23

Cribbage score update

Three games were played this week, with Dad taking home the series advantage two to one.

Lifetime tally (since 2016): Dad 458, 70 skunks; Eli 406, 41 skunks, 1 double skunk

2026 totals. Eli 69, two skunks, Dad, 47, 8 skunks

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The Pastor's Column

Plan your funeral

By PASTOR MICHAEL GRANNIS

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first-fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ~ 1 Corinthians 15:12-26 (ESV)

That's a longer than normal introductory verse for my monthly Pastor's Note, but I just don't think it could be put any better. In these words, God gave us a clear message through the Apostle Paul about what the Christian faith is really and truly all about. These words bring into sharp focus the goal of God's plan of salvation for us in Christ. We are promised the forgiveness of sins and the fruit of that forgiveness. Just as we confess in the Nicene Creed, "[We] acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and [we] look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come."

In Romans 6:23 we are told that "the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Another way to put this is:

Sin = death (and eternal condemnation)

Forgiveness = the undoing of death (and eternal salvation)

Simply put, Christians are resurrection people, with a resurrection faith. Jesus Christ came to free us from sin, death, and hell. He did that by living the perfect life, dying in our place as the perfect sacrifice, rising victorious over death, and promising us that He who has the power to defeat sin, death and Satan, has given us the victory over the same through baptism into Him and faith in His name.

With all of that in mind, I would encourage every Christian to meet with your pastor to plan your funeral. He should be able to help guide you through Scripture passages and hymns to make the service a beautiful witness.

The Christian funeral is a service of the Church held in honor of those who have departed in the Christian faith, meant to comfort their loved ones with the Gospel of forgiveness, resurrection, and eternal life in Christ. Hymns and music in the Funeral Service should reflect our Christian confidence in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Christians can choose hymns and Scripture readings for their Funeral to stand as a final witness to family, friends, and neighbors of the blessed hope that they are now resting in until the day of the resurrection.

This is a blessed thing to do. It makes the task of the loved ones who we have left behind much less stressful and confusing because they don't have to guess what you would want. It is one less thing for them to sort through during a time of mourning.

But above all it bears witness to the sure and certain hope that we have in Christ Jesus our risen Savior.

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

Caribou Coffee Grand Opening July 8



BREWING GOODNESS - Taking part in a grand opening ceremony at the new Caribou Coffee location in Waseca were greeters from the Waseca Chamber of Commerce and musicians from the Waseca Marching Jays. Caribou has arranged to provide a donation to the Jays, who performed for the public during the ceremony on July 8. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Big Brothers Big Sisters launches new initiative

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Minnesota (BBBS) is turning up the energy this summer with the launch of its Sound of Summer campaign. This initiative is designed to celebrate mentorship and encourage meaningful connections while emphasizing the urgent need for more volunteer mentors.

With more than 300 local youth waiting for a caring mentor, BBBS is inviting community members to say yes to making a difference. The Sound of Summer campaign blends the excitement of music and summer festivals with simple, memorable ac-

tivities that help current mentoring matches build stronger relationships while inspiring new volunteers to get involved.

Anyone who signs up to become a Big by August 31 will be entered to win the Ultimate Summer VIP Pack, a curated prize bundle featuring summer activity passes, BBBS swag, and exclusive items designed to help new matches kick off their mentoring journey with fun and connection.

Current Bigs and Littles will also be participating in the Sound of Summer experience by completing a themed summer setlist challenge and

engaging in a variety of activities, including attending local events, sharing music-inspired moments, and participating in creative community-based challenges throughout the season.

Matches are encouraged to share their summer moments on social media using #SoundOfSummer and #BBBSMN, helping spread awareness of the need for mentors while celebrating the joy of connection.

To learn more about becoming a Big or to sign up by August 31 for a chance to win the Ultimate Summer VIP Pack, visit bbbsmn.org or call

507-451-5922.

Big Brothers Big Sisters' Mission is to create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth. For over 50 years, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Minnesota has been serving children and youth in Steele, Rice, Waseca, Dodge, Olmsted, and Blue Earth Counties. To learn more about getting involved, visit their website bbbsmn.org, Facebook page, or call 507-451-5922.

■ Dahnert

from Page 1

been surprised by the attendance here today, very, very nice turnout, more than I expected. My family did all this for me, that surprised me too."

She went on to say, "I also have 24 grandkids, a lot of them are here today. On top of that I also have 43 great-grandkids, but

only 4 and one half great-great-grandkids. Four daughters-in-law, Anna, Darla, Katie and Dianne. And two sons-in-law Mike and Tony. My Jeff, unfortunately, is in Heaven." She's been a lifelong resident of Waseca, "Except," she said, "when my husband was in the service. He served for 24 years and I was with him; we lived in Illinois, Alabama, New Mexico, Louisiana and Florida. I was married for 60 years, my husband

Rodger, he's buried up at Fort Snelling." She pointed to the ceiling since she was in the basement of Faith United Methodist Church and added, "And I always come to this church."

Those in the dining room who had already eaten were invited to seconds. A friend in a wheelchair pulled up and entered the party. Vada left to greet her, still light on her feet, she even bent over for a hug. Soon after that, another family member invited everyone

outside for a family-only picture. Those with children began getting the kids under control and straightened out long enough for a photo.

Vada wanted everyone to know, especially her family, "I really appreciate everything you did to set this up for me. I am very happy so many people came here today. Thanks to my Chairman and to my Fisherman—You know who you are."

Attend the Church of your Choice!

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH 2200 4th St NE, Waseca 507-835-2235 Service times 9:30 a.m. * * * * *	507-833-0017 Sunday worship 10 a.m. * * * * *	New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * * * *	12-18 * * * * *
4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH 605 4th St NE, Waseca 507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker) Worship Sundays 10 a.m. * * * * *	CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS 1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca 507-835-4640 Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m. * * * * *	VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Brian Schanil Pastor Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School Tuesdays: The Shepherd's Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark * * * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 412 N. Main Street, Janesville Pastor Jason Wolter Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:30 a.m. Worship * * * * *
FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-3167 Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m. * * * * *	GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 1221 8th St SE, Waseca 507-835-2213 Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. * * * * *	ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Father Glenn Ferichs Friday - 10 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays p.m. Mass Sunday - Mass at 8 a.m. * * * * *	JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 401 N. West St., Janesville Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship * * * * *
CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH 309 6th St NE, Waseca 507-835-9176 Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship 10:15 a.m. Wednesday Eve Worship 6:30 p.m. * * * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship * * * * *	FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod Waldorf, Minnesota Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Larry Sipe Sundays: Worship 8 a.m.; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and adult bible class * * * * *	BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 43089 180th St., Morristown Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Summer worship hours, (10:45 a.m. Worship, winter) * * * * *
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 Sundays 9:00 a.m. * * * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Otisco, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship * * * * *	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Worship * * * * *	ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH 307 W. 2nd St, Janesville 10 a.m. - Mass * * * * *
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. * * * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Mary Iverson Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting * * * * *	ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship * * * * *	FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 Owen St., Janesville Pastor Sarah Krolak * * * * *
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. * * * * *	LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting * * * * *	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship * * * * *	ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship * * * * *
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. * * * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN Wilton Township Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor Services 6 p.m. Saturday * * * * *	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 * * * * *
REAL LIFE CHURCH 620 W Elm Ave, Waseca * * * * *	VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH * * * * *	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	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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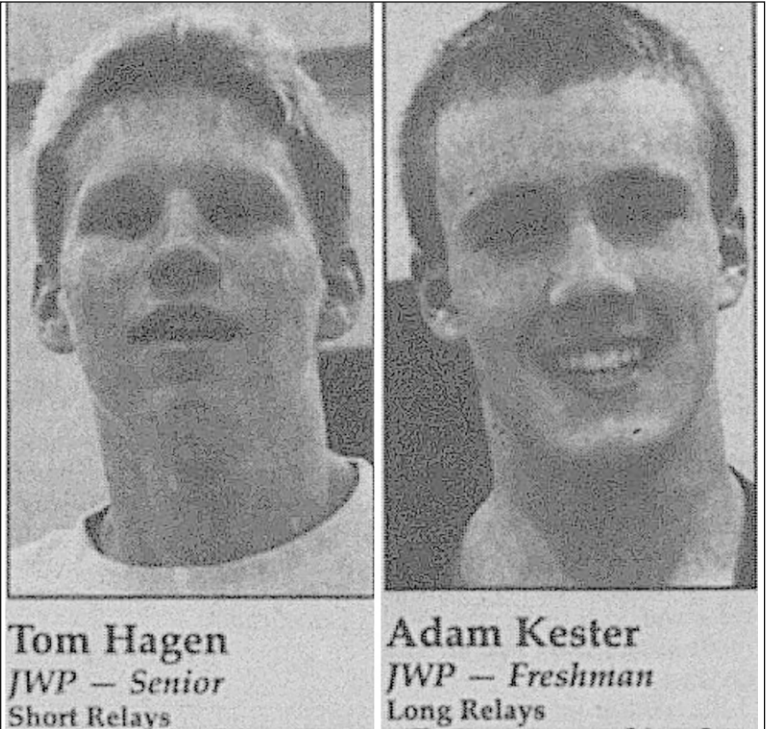
Ways to contact the Pioneer:

1. Call 507-837-6767
2. E-mail news@wasecacountypioneer.com
3. Mail: P.O. Box 578, Waseca, MN, 56093
4. Stop in the office at 111 West Elm Ave, Waseca on M, T, TH, F from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Janesville

25 years ago

- Mrs. John Finkbiner, Janesville announces the engagement of her daughter, Carol to David Daniels, son of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Daniels, son of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Daniels of Long Lake. Carol is a 1973 graduate of Hancock High School and a senior at Bemidji State University, majoring in music. David is a 1972 graduate of Orono High School and a 1975 graduate of Bemidji State University. He is presently employed by the Hinnepin County Sheriff's Department. An August wedding is planned.



- **Tom Hagen:** A first-year track performer that provided good leadership for a young squad. He finished second on JWP's team in scoring for the season. Hagen ran the 400, 800 and the relays. A member of the 4x800 relay that shattered the Bulldog school record by 13 seconds.

- **Adam Kester:** Kester was one of just four repeat all-area performers. He was easily JWP's leading scorer for the year. Kester was second in the conference at 1600-meters and sixth in the sub-section at 800-meters. He will be among the area's best in the 800 next year.

- Minnesota State University Moorhead has named Julie Lund, of Janesville, to the dean's list in recognition of academic achievement during spring semester 2001. Students must maintain a 3.25 grade point average and carry 12 graded credits to qualify for the honor.

50 years ago

- Robert Bergmann, son of Mr. and Mrs. Orville Bergmann, Janesville, received a Bachelor of Science degree at the spring quarter commencement ceremonies for the University of Minnesota College of Agriculture Thursday, June 3, on the St. Paul campus. The ceremony was pretended by an informal picnic style dinner on the mall. Degrees were conferred by University Regent Lloyd Peterson.

- **Mrs. John Finkbiner, Janesville, announces the engagement of her daughter, Carol, to Mr. David Daniels, son of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Daniels of Long Lake.** Carol is a 1973 graduate of Hancock High School and a senior at Bemidji State University, majoring in music. David is a 1972 graduate of Orono High School and a 1975 graduate of Bemidji State University. He is presently employed by the Hennepin County Sheriff's Department. An August wedding is planned.

- Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Kopischke, of Janesville, announced the engagement of their daughter, Diane Kay, of Plymouth, Wisconsin, to Chester Lee Bilgo, Plymouth, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hugo Bilgo, also of Plymouth. Diane is a 1972 graduate of Janesville High School and a 1975 graduate of Concordia College, St. Paul. She is presently the third grade teacher at St. John's Lutheran School, Plymouth, Wisconsin. Chet graduated from Plymouth High School in 1971. He is a graduate of Lakeshore Technical Institute with a degree in Business and Marketing. He is employed as a car salesman at Hub City Auto Sales, Plymouth, Wisconsin. No definite date has been set for the wedding.



75 years ago

- Mayor Herman Holtz has been informed that KSTP-TV will carry a show concerning the Janesville Centennial at 11:15 a.m. Tuesday, June 25. Among other items in the show, Janesville's mayor will be interviewed in a telephone conversation. Local people will be interested to watch for the program.

- Elderly people who wish to be seated for the Centennial parade are reminded to contact one of the committee so it can be arranged. Transportation will be provided for those needing it. Call Lloyd Jensen, chairman, John Koehler, Joe Stepan, Ernie Werdin, Herb Finley or Bob Wiste.

- Lee Tetzloff, 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.

100 years ago

- The prospects for the farmer in Southern Minnesota never looked better. He is getting good prices for the things he has to sell and the crop outlook could scarcely be improved upon.

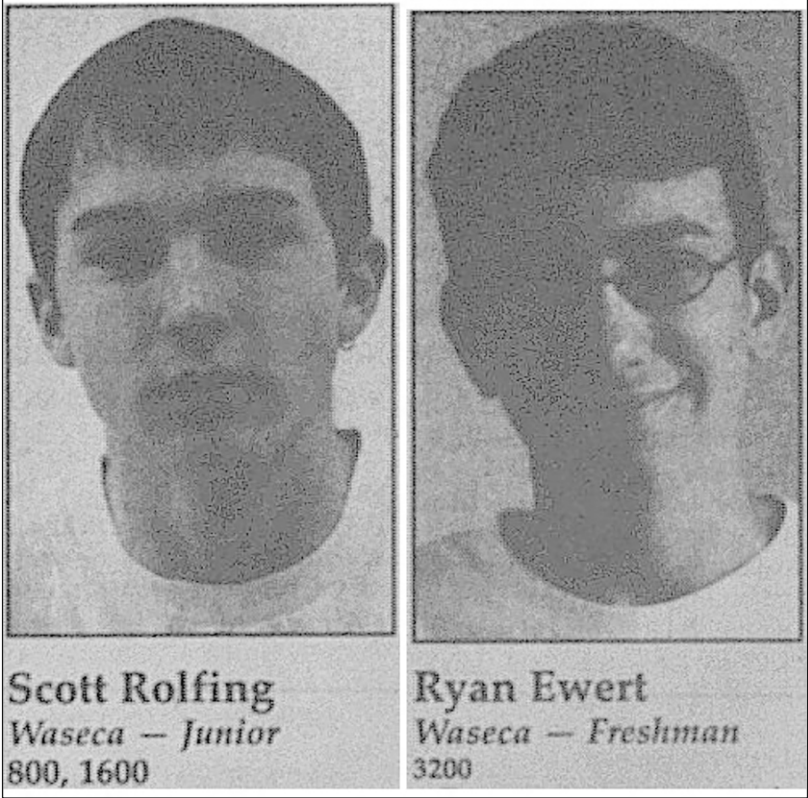
- The candidates for office in Waseca county are entitled to a heap of credit for the fine, clean, gentlemanly primary campaign which now is drawing to a close. Mudslinging has been conspicuous by its absence and the issue in each contest is being fought out on its merits.

- In the Senatorial primary race, Steele county presents two candidates, Messrs. Zamboni and Hickok, while Waseca county is represented in the lists by George Goodspeed of Waseca. It is reasonable to suppose that with the deserved support of our people, Mr. Goodspeed will be named as one of the two nominees for the November race.

Waseca

25 years ago

- Sarah Nicole Sondag graduated from the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis with double majors in International Relations and Spanish along with a minor in Foreign Studies. Sarah is the daughter of Dale and Maureen Sondag of Waseca. Sarah is a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Phi Kappa Phi, and Golden Key National Honor Societies. Sarah will be attending Hamline Law School in the fall of 2001.



- **Rolfing** had the area's best times for 800 (2:04) and 1600 (4:59) meters. He placed fourth in the conference at 800 meters, Rolfing was also the anchor leg of Waseca SCC champion 4x800 relay. He was also good at 400 and 1600 meters.

- **Ewert** was not strong enough to place in the tough 3200 meter runs at the conference and section meets, but led the Bluejay distance runners. His 11:35 was the best 3200-meter time in the area. Ewert should have three solid years ahead of him.

50 years ago



- **Joe Higgins and Waseca County's Don Eustice rapped about communications equipment and law enforcement on Thursday afternoon.**Higgins is currently making commercials for the E.F. Johnson Company's CB radios. He was in Waseca Thursday to meet the people behind the radios. He is probably best known for his Dodge automobile commercials though he has been in show business for over 40 years.

- A Wasecan who tangled with a parked car shortly before 2 a.m. today ended up with minor injuries that required treatment at the Waseca Area Memorial Hospital. John S. Turley, 18, 708 10th St. NW, reportedly lost control of his vehicle and collided with a parked and unattended vehicle owned by Birds Eye General Foods which was parked on 3rd Ave, NE near the intersection of 5th St. NE. Moderate damage was done to both vehicles.

- There will be a car wash on Saturday, June 26, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Bill's Bear Alignment on Highway 13 South in Waseca. This car wash is being held to help raise money for Chuck Root, the local wrestler who needs \$850 to represent the U.S. in a Cultural Exchange wrestling program with Yugoslavia. Chuck must pay his own travel and lodging expenses. He has raised about half the money he needs, through the benefits of local civic organizations and others.

- The regular meeting of the Waseca County Rural Youth was held on Thursday, June 14 at 8:30 at the 4-H club building. Tokyo Yashima from Japan and Joe Kuttainen from Sweden, the two exchange delegates showed us pictures of their country and agricultural life in their countries. After the business meeting a lunch was served.

- Escaping sewer gas exploded and caused a minor fire at the home of Mrs. Martin Blastervold, 605 7th St. SE about 6:30 p.m. Sunday. The fire was quickly extinguished by Mrs. Blastervold's son-in-law, Fritz Sticha, but not before firemen were called. The blast blew out a basement window and tossed it into the neighbors yard. There was nobody injured and the fire was out when firemen arrived.

- The Rochester Royals and the Wasetonna Twins will battle it out tomorrow night at Community Field in a regularly scheduled game starting at 8 p.m. The Twins are scheduled to play a makeup game tonight at Fair month, another makeup Wednesday night at Owatonna against Mankato and a regular game Thursday at Rochester. Last night the Twins and the Mankato Merchants completed two full innings before rain halted the proceedings. Dick Wagner, new lefty for the Twins, made his debut on the mound. He struck the first man out, the next hit a homer-that was Charlie Frey-and the third man to meet him in the game went out to center field.

100 years ago

- "I have filed for the nomination for representative from Waseca County and will appreciate your vote and support. I was born and raised in this county and have been engaged in farming all my life. I have been a student of public questions for many years and know that if I am nominated and elected I will be able to intelligently represent the people of Waseca County in the Legislature. Thank you in advance for you support, I am Sincerely yours, A.F. Sponberg"

New Richland

25 years ago

- Shelly and Carla Bishop hosted a gathering at the Hubble House in Mantorville on Friday evening, June 29 in honor of their parents, Barry and Sharon Bishop, on their 25th wedding Anniversary, which was Tuesday, July3.

- Stacey Sundve, daughter of Steve Sundve and Gwen Sundve of Albert Lea was named to the second semester 2000-01 deans list at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota at Winona.

- New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva seventh grade girls team will play Minnewaska in the first round of the Pacsetter Minnesota Invitational Basketball Tournament at the Whitney Center in st. Cloud on Sunday, July 7.

50 years ago



- **Sonja Swanson of rural Mapleton was all smiles as she proudly displays her catch. Mrs. Swanson boated this 15 lb. ½ oz. muskellunge at the Pine Point Resort, near Walker, Minnesota. Mrs. Swanson now joins the family with its many muskie trophies.**

- Mr. and Mrs. George Norman of Austin and Mr. and Mrs. Lester Schlaak of rural New Richland announces the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their children, Maryann Katherine Norman and Eugene Donald Schlaak. An October 2nd wedding is being planned.

75 years ago

- A son was born Saturday night at the Memorial Hospital, Waseca, brings the Kenneth Crawford family to two sons and a daughter.

- Meredee Mae, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Williams, of Owatonna was baptized at Trinity Lutheran church of Owatonna Sunday morning by Pastor Olin K. Fjilstad. Dr. and Mrs. E. H. Smith of Eagle Bend attended as sponsors and were among the guests entertained at dinner at the Williams home.

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.

Very soon after sundown, I could not distinguish the road; the oxen refused to face the storm and turned south; it soon became evident that driver and team must put up on the open prairie for that night.

So the oxen were taken from the wagon tongue; one pair hitched to the wagon at the front end; the other pair to the hind end; both on the leeward side. I was somewhat tired, having tugged the flour up the hill in the morning, and walked beside the cattle all day through the deep snow, and that, too, without dinner or supper, or even a drink of water. Of course, I could eat snow! The cattle had no hay, but there was some corn on the load and this I fed them, reserving and chewing and swallowing some of it myself. There was also some raw, fresh pork aboard, and I cut off a small piece with an ax and managed to eat a mouthful or two, after a fashion.

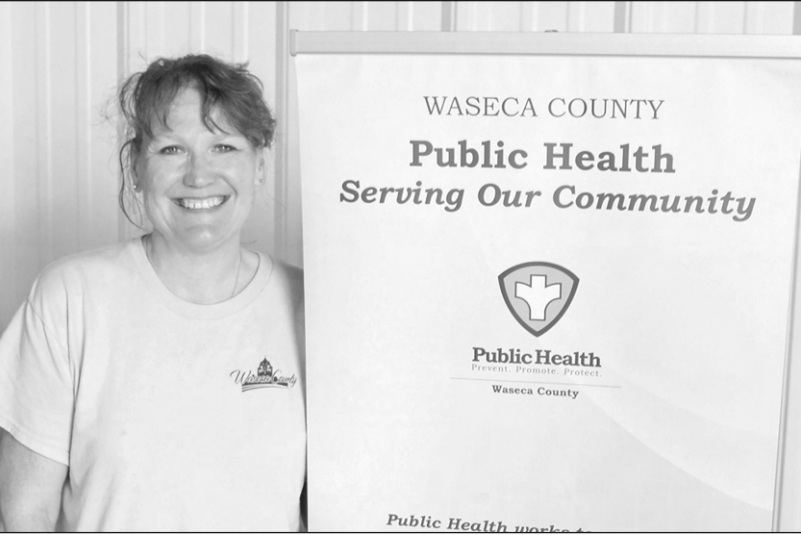
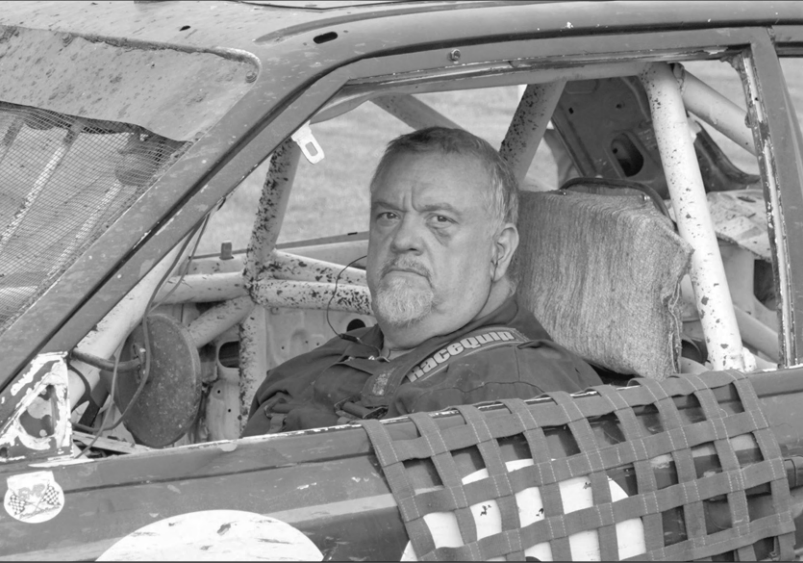
The wind increased to a gale in the evening and the air was so filled with snow that no object could be seen fifty feet away. I drew off my boots—overshoes I had none—put on a dry pair of socks, and then put on my boots again. Having heard it said that a man might wind himself in a blanket and lie down in the snow and sleep without freezing, I concluded to try the experiment. Accordingly I put my body inside a blanket, and then wound myself with about thirty yards of new cotton cloth, and laid me down to slumber. Morpheus came not to my relief, but the Frost King pierced me at every pore of my body. I stuck to my position, however, until I was completely buried in snow, and yet the cold crept through and made such fierce attacks upon me that I was forced to dig out of the snow and protect myself in some other way as best I might. After gathering up the cotton cloth and putting it back in the wagon I took the ax which I carried along, cleared away the snow on a patch of ground, and went to pounding it with the ax the same as though I were chopping

wood. In a short time I got comfortably warm by this exercise. I was very much fatigued by my exertions through the day, and began to feel the need of husbanding my strength for the morrow. I leaned against one of the oxen, the animal heat of which helped to keep me warm. In this position I soon fell into a sleep, when my knees gave out and I partly fell. That awoke me. I tried it again, and again I slept and fell. Then I began to feel chilly and again resorted to the ax for exercise. Then I leaned against the patient old ox once more, slept again, and then took a round with the ax. These performances I continued, with a little variation during one of the coldest nights of that cold winter, and until the dark shadows of night passed into the gray light of a cloudy, stormy morning.

Upon examination in the morning, I found that I had strayed nearly eighty rods from the road. The oxen were soon hitched to the wagon, and the load was finally started with that peculiar screeching noise always made by wagon wheels in snow on a cold morning. About 10 o'clock in the forenoon, I arrived at the house of my Norwegian friends with whom I had stayed on my way down. They comprehended at a glance what had been my experience and proceeded to prepare breakfast. In a short time the good woman placed before me warm biscuits, hot coffee, potatoes, meat, etc., and it seems to me yet that no other person in the world ever furnished a better meal.

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

Waseca County Free Fair, July 8-12



Pioneer photos by Deb Bently and Ben Revermann

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LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF WASECA
DISTRICT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
PROBATE COURT DIVISION
Court File No.: 81-PR-26 462

In Re: Estate of

EUGENE E. WELCH,
Decedent

ORDER AND NOTICE OF
HEARING FOR FORMAL
PROBATE AND APPOINTMENT
OF PERSONAL REPRESENTA-
TIVE IN UNSUPERVISED AD-
MINISTRATION AND

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 12th day of August, 2026, at 9:15 a.m., a hearing will be held in the above named Court at Waseca, Waseca County, Minnesota, for the formal probate and for the appointment of Lorraine Welch whose address is 4242 Pleasant Ave. Minneapolis, MN 55409 as personal representative of the estate of the above named decedent, in an unsupervised probate, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if proper, and no objections are filed, personal represen-

tative will be appointed to administer the estate, to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, and sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the estate. Upon completion of the probate, the representative shall file a final account for the allowance and shall distribute the estate to the persons thereunto entitled as ordered by the Court and close the estate.
Notice is further given that ALL CREDITORS having claims against

said estate are required to present the same to said personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this notice or said claims will be barred.

Dated: 07/02/2026
/s/ Carol M. Hank
Judge of District Court

/s/ Shannon M. Asselin
Deputy Court Administrator

PATTON, HOVERSTEN & BERG,
P.A.
Hayden Roslansky, (402545)
216 North Main Street P.O. Box M
Janesville, MN 56048
Phone: 507 -234 – 5106
Published in the Waseca County
Pioneer on July 9 and 16, 2026

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NOTICE OF FILING DATES
FOR 2026 WASECA CITY ELECTION

NOTICE is hereby given by the City of Waseca, Minnesota that the first day of filing of candidates for the November 3, 2026, City General Election is **Tuesday, July 14, 2026**, and the last day for filing is **Tuesday, July 28, 2026**.

The offices to be filled at said election are as follows:

Mayor – two-year term
Council member Ward 1 – four-year term
Council member Ward 2 – four-year term
Council member Ward 3 – four-year term

Candidates must file in the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 508 South State Street, Waseca, Minnesota, during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. from July 14, 2026, to July 28, 2026. The City Clerk’s office will remain open until 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 28, 2026, to accept final filings.

Candidates must be eligible voters in Minnesota, at least 21 years of age upon assuming office, and have maintained residence in the Ward from which the candidate seeks election for 30 days before the general election. Filing fee is \$2.00.

Julia Zuehlke
City Clerk

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on July 9, 16 and 23, 2026.

City of Waseca, Minnesota Summary of Financial Report Revenues and Expenditures for General Operations - Governmental Funds For the Years Ended December 31, 2025 and 2024				
	Total		Percent Increase (Decrease)	
	2025	2024		
Revenues				
Taxes	\$ 5,878,611	\$ 5,597,995	5.01	%
Licenses	64,906	57,598	12.69	
Permits and fees	206,056	170,369	20.95	
Intergovernmental	6,449,709	8,450,582	(23.68)	
Charges for services	446,101	477,571	(6.59)	
Fines and forfeitures	24,611	27,315	(9.90)	
Special assessments	223,973	113,497	97.34	
Interest earnings	478,197	309,699	(54.41)	
Miscellaneous	278,221	208,411	33.50	
Total Revenues	\$ 14,050,385	\$ 15,413,037	(8.84)	%
Per Capita	\$ 1,551	\$ 1,663	(6.73)	%
Expenditures				
Current				
General government	\$ 1,660,356	\$ 1,610,943	3.07	%
Public safety	4,504,530	4,208,755	7.03	
Streets and highways	1,872,578	1,824,668	2.63	
Cultural and recreation	1,122,032	1,200,128	(6.51)	
Economic development	275,670	250,106	10.22	
Airport	97,408	108,347	(10.10)	
Capital outlay				
General government	91,182	146,048	(37.57)	
Public safety	381,734	730,281	(47.73)	
Streets and highways	3,720,327	3,832,737	(2.93)	
Cultural and recreation	366,725	580,550	(36.83)	
Economic development	215,514	156,877	37.38	
Airport	132,659	1,742,353	(92.39)	
Debt service				
Bond principal	453,971	443,971	2.25	
Interest and fiscal charges	77,778	84,575	(8.04)	
Total Expenditures	\$ 14,972,464	\$ 16,920,339	(11.51)	%
Per Capita	\$ 1,652	\$ 1,826	(9.53)	%
Total Long-term Indebtedness	\$ 2,080,000	\$ 2,485,000	(16.30)	%
Per Capita	230	268	(14.18)	
General Fund Balance - December 31	\$ 4,566,135	\$ 3,948,551	15.64	%
Per Capita	504	426	18.31	
The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of financial information concerning the City of Waseca to interested citizens. The complete financial statements may be examined at 508 State Street South. Questions about this report should be directed to the Finance Director at (507)-835-9700.				

SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642 JULY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6pm Bar Bingo	2 7pm BINGO	3 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	4 250 th Independence Day
5	6	7	8 6pm Bar Bingo	9 7pm BINGO	10 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	11 QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 5pm
12	13 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting	14	15 6pm Bar Bingo	16 7pm BINGO	17 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	18 QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 5pm
19	20	21	22 6pm Bar Bingo	23 7pm BINGO	24 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	25 QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 5pm
26	27 Korean War Veterans Armistice Day	28 National Buffalo Soldiers Day	29 6pm Bar Bingo	30 7pm BINGO	31 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm BLAKE'S FOOD TRUCK 5-7 PM	

HOURS OF OPERATION
SUN.– MON. CLOSED
TUE.– 1pm to 11pm Tue. Is Lady's nite 2 for one-Men Busch light \$2.50 from 4 to 6pm.
WED.– SAT.-1pm to 11 pm
POST & AUX MEETING 7pm club open 6pm MEMBERS only. Mn. Gambling license number 00385

CITY OF WASECA

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Electronic Bids will be received by the City of Waseca, Minnesota, on the QuestCDN.com website via the VirtuBid electronic bidding application. Only electronic bids will be accepted for this project. Bids will be received on the QuestCDN.com website, until **2:00 P.M. Local Time, August 11, 2026**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Direct inquiries to Engineer's Project Manager Peter Daniels at (612) 712-2049 and peter.daniels@stantec.com.

The City of Waseca is requesting Bids for the following Project:

WASECA WWTF BLOWER REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The project includes the following work:

The work generally consists of the replacement of blowers that supply process air to the aeration basins, including updates to the existing equipment pads, electrical connections, and HVAC system to accommodate the new blowers. Blowers have been procured by Owner.

Obtaining the Bidding Documents

Complete digital Bidding Documents are available at www.questcdn.com for \$30 by inputting **QuestCDN eBidDoc 10257377** on the website's Project Search page.

Bidding Documents may be downloaded from the designated website. Prospective Bidders are urged to register with the designated website as a plan holder, even if Bidding Documents are obtained from a plan room or source other than the designated website in either electronic or paper format. The designated website will be updated periodically with addenda, lists of registered plan holders, reports, and other information relevant to submitting a Bid for the Project. All official notifications, addenda, and other Bidding Documents will be offered only through the designated website. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the designated website.

Pre-Bid Conference

A Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid conference for the Project will be held on **July 22, 2026 at 10:00 A.M. Local Time at the Waseca Wastewater Treatment Facility, 35408 110th Street Waseca, MN 56093**. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is mandatory for prime bidders.

Instructions to Bidders

For this project, the City will only accept online electronic bids through QuestCDN. To access the electronic bid, download the project documents and click on the online bidding button at the top of the advertisement. Prospective bidders must be on the plan holders list through QuestCDN for bids to be accepted.

For all further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents.

Minnesota Responsible Contractor Law

A contractor responding to this solicitation document shall submit to the city a signed statement under oath by an owner or officer verifying compliance with each of the minimum criteria in Minnesota Statutes, section 16C.285, subdivision 3. The term 'responsible contractor' as used in this solicitation document means a contractor as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 16C.285, subdivision 3. Any prime contractor or subcontractor that does not meet the minimum criteria in Minnesota Statutes, section 16C.285, subdivision 3 or fails to verify that it meets those criteria is not a responsible contractor and is not eligible to be awarded the construction contract for the project or to perform work on the project. A false statement under oath verifying compliance with any of the minimum criteria shall render the prime contractor or subcontractor that makes the false statement ineligible to be awarded a construction contract on the project and may result in termination of a contract awarded to a prime contractor or subcontractor that submits a false statement. A prime contractor shall submit to the city upon request copies of the signed verifications of compliance from all subcontractors of any tier pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 16C.285, subdivision 3, clause 7. Refer to the contract documents for additional requirements associated with the Responsible Contractor Law.

Project Funding Information

This project is receiving funding through a Minnesota Public Facilities Authority Clean Water Revolving Fund loan. Public funding requirements apply to the project including requirements for prevailing wages, Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, and domestically sourced products. Refer to the complete Project Manual for specific requirements. Bidders are advised that good-faith efforts, as detailed in the Contract Documents, will be required to provide Disadvantaged Business enterprises with an opportunity to participate in the Project. Bidders are advised that solicitations for bids or proposals to potential Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) subcontractors should be posted as soon as possible.

City of Waseca, Minnesota Proprietary Funds Statement of Net Position December 31, 2025	Business-type Activities- Enterprise Funds			Business-type Activities- Enterprise Funds		Governmental Activities- Internal Service Funds
	601	602	604	651	Total	
	Water	Sanitary Sewer	Electric	Storm Water		
Assets						
Current Assets						
Cash and investments	\$ 2,266,625	\$ 2,319,251	\$ 4,420,462	\$ 986,090	\$ 9,992,428	\$ 256,647
Restricted cash and investments	-	-	214,343	-	214,343	-
Receivables						
Accounts	286,114	531,949	1,382,764	56,161	2,256,988	-
Utility connection	13,151	8,767	-	-	21,918	-
Leases	61,127	-	-	-	61,127	-
Due from other governments	-	290,367	-	24,410	314,777	-
Inventories	-	-	839,268	-	839,268	-
Prepaid items	702	702	702	-	2,106	-
Total Current Assets	2,627,719	3,151,036	6,857,539	1,066,661	13,702,955	256,647
Noncurrent Assets						
Capital assets						
Land	10,585	107,509	88,130	130,250	336,474	-
Construction in progress	838,266	1,619,990	90,723	503,697	3,052,676	-
Infrastructure	-	-	-	5,198,450	5,198,450	-
Buildings	240,326	15,329,564	635,492	-	16,205,382	-
Improvements	17,447,817	20,479,910	8,073,029	3,921,344	49,922,100	-
Machinery and equipment	613,241	6,194,873	2,467,997	92,234	9,368,345	-
Less accumulated depreciation	(9,278,475)	(22,757,735)	(7,311,497)	(5,088,364)	(44,436,071)	-
Total capital assets (net of accumulated depreciation)	9,871,760	20,974,111	4,043,874	4,757,611	39,647,356	-
Total Assets	12,499,479	24,125,147	10,901,413	5,824,272	53,350,311	256,647
Deferred Outflows of Resources						
Deferred pension resources	23,411	44,383	50,785	5,641	124,220	15,208
Deferred other postemployment benefit resources	44,224	125,466	93,923	14,570	278,183	-
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	67,635	169,849	144,708	20,211	402,403	15,208
Liabilities						
Current Liabilities						
Accounts payable	116,714	176,712	466,797	31,903	792,126	9,527
Customer deposits payable	-	-	214,343	-	214,343	-
Accrued wages payable	16,651	24,183	24,930	3,067	68,831	9,207
Accrued interest payable	25,304	62,142	-	-	87,446	-
Due to other governments	8,854	177	38,722	1,200	48,953	-
Unearned revenue	13,151	73,318	-	15,978	102,447	-
Revenue notes payable	159,000	780,000	-	-	939,000	-
Revenue bonds payable	64,998	165,002	-	-	230,000	-
Compensated absences payable	16,065	24,590	38,864	4,000	83,519	-
Other postemployment benefits payable	1,738	4,932	3,692	573	10,935	-
Total Current Liabilities	422,475	1,311,056	787,348	56,721	2,577,600	18,734
Noncurrent Liabilities						
Revenue notes payable	\$ 1,159,000	\$ 3,432,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,591,000	\$ -
Revenue bonds payable	862,734	1,116,208	-	-	1,978,942	-
Compensated absences payable	16,832	43,232	50,222	7,917	118,203	-
Net pension liability	105,318	199,655	228,454	25,376	558,803	68,412
Other postemployment benefits payable	64,691	183,533	137,393	21,314	406,931	-
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	2,208,575	4,974,628	416,069	54,607	7,653,879	68,412
Total Liabilities	2,631,050	6,285,684	1,203,417	111,328	10,231,479	87,146
Deferred Inflows of Resources						
Deferred lease resources	64,379	-	-	-	64,379	-
Deferred pension resources	85,688	162,441	185,873	20,647	454,649	55,661
Deferred other postemployment benefit resources	6,982	19,809	14,829	2,300	43,920	-
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	157,049	182,250	200,702	22,947	562,948	55,661
Net Position						
Net investment in capital assets	7,568,860	15,362,445	4,038,800	4,726,163	31,696,268	-
Unrestricted	2,210,155	2,464,617	5,603,202	984,045	11,262,019	129,048
Total Net Position	\$ 9,779,015	\$ 17,827,062	\$ 9,642,002	\$ 5,710,208	42,958,287	\$ 129,048
Adjustment to reflect the consolidation of internal service fund activities related to enterprise funds.					(74,720)	
Net Position of Business-type Activities					\$ 42,883,567	

City of Waseca, Minnesota Proprietary Funds Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position For the Year Ended December 31, 2025	Business-type Activities- Enterprise Funds			Business-type Activities- Enterprise Funds		Governmental Activities- Internal Service Funds
	601	602	604	651	Total	
	Water	Sanitary Sewer	Electric	Storm Water		
Operating Revenues						
Charges for services	\$ 1,807,149	\$ 2,720,544	\$ 7,968,804	\$ 387,771	\$ 12,884,268	\$ 753,226
Miscellaneous	22,606	38,093	25,660	-	86,359	8,144
Total Operating Revenues	1,829,755	2,758,637	7,994,464	387,771	12,970,627	761,370
Operating Expenses						
Power purchased	106,454	-	5,499,434	-	5,605,888	-
Personal services	425,197	837,838	840,432	103,014	2,206,481	265,399
Supplies	217,377	231,127	149,076	2,619	600,199	95,773
Services and charges	203,846	514,819	232,611	109,649	1,060,925	45,681
Depreciation	665,714	1,300,819	418,618	268,345	2,653,496	-
Insurance payment	-	-	-	-	-	7,864
Insurance premium	-	-	-	-	-	358,518
Total Operating Expenses	1,618,588	2,884,603	7,140,171	483,627	12,126,989	773,235
Operating Income (Loss)	211,167	(125,966)	854,293	(95,856)	843,638	(11,865)
Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)						
Taxes	-	181,351	-	-	181,351	-
Intergovernmental	-	8,200	-	19,864	28,064	-
Loss on disposal of capital assets	(2,195)	-	-	-	(2,195)	-
Gain on disposal of capital assets	-	19,200	-	-	19,200	-
Interest income	158,835	160,533	241,031	57,185	617,584	-
Interest expense	(52,947)	(146,171)	(9,627)	-	(208,745)	-
Lease revenues	27,389	-	-	-	27,389	-
Refunds and reimbursements	-	-	-	67,864	67,864	-
Fiscal agent fees	(734)	(1,412)	-	-	(2,146)	-
Amortization	4,270	8,641	-	-	12,911	-
Total Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)	134,618	230,342	231,404	144,913	741,277	-
Income (Loss) Before Contributions and Transfers	345,785	104,376	1,085,697	49,057	1,584,915	(11,865)
Capital Contributions (to) from Other Funds	-	(9,702)	9,702	-	-	-
Capital Contributions from Federal Grants	-	1,233,753	-	303,590	1,537,343	-
Transfers In	51,900	-	-	-	51,900	-
Transfers Out	(117,913)	(173,297)	(508,714)	(24,285)	(824,209)	(88,330)
Change in Net Position	279,772	1,155,130	586,685	328,362	2,349,949	(100,195)
Net Position, January 1	9,499,243	16,671,932	9,055,317	5,381,846	40,608,338	229,243
Net Position, December 31	\$ 9,779,015	\$ 17,827,062	\$ 9,642,002	\$ 5,710,208	\$ 42,958,287	\$ 129,048
Change in net position as shown above					\$ 2,349,949	
Adjustment to reflect the consolidation of internal service fund activities related to enterprise funds.					(5,782)	
Change in Net Position of Business-type Activities					\$ 2,344,167	

City of Waseca, Minnesota
Statement of Cash Flows
Statement of Cash Flows (Continued on the Following Pages)
For the Year Ended December 31, 2025

	Business-type Activities- Enterprise Funds			Business-type Activities- Enterprise Funds		Governmental Activities- Internal Service Funds
	601 Water	602 Sanitary Sewer	604 Electric	651 Storm Water	Total	
Cash Flows from Operating Activities						
Cash received from customers	\$ 1,825,894	\$ 2,794,752	\$ 7,901,431	\$ 402,731	\$ 12,924,808	\$ -
Cash received from other funds and reimbursements	-	-	-	-	-	761,370
Cash payments to suppliers	(509,004)	(751,022)	(5,869,493)	(110,955)	(7,240,474)	-
Cash payments to employees	(451,775)	(850,166)	(881,542)	(107,981)	(2,291,464)	(273,395)
Cash payments for interfund services used	-	-	-	-	-	(521,235)
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	865,115	1,193,564	1,150,396	183,795	3,392,870	(33,260)
Cash Flows from Noncapital Financing Activities						
County reimbursements	-	-	-	67,864	67,864	-
Tax receipts	-	181,351	-	-	181,351	-
Lease receipts	29,602	-	-	-	29,602	-
Transfers from other funds	51,900	-	-	-	51,900	-
Transfers to other funds	(117,913)	(173,297)	(508,714)	(24,285)	(824,209)	(88,330)
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Noncapital Financing Activities	(36,411)	8,054	(508,714)	43,579	(493,492)	(88,330)
Cash Flows from Capital and Related Financing Activities						
Capital contributions from federal and state grants	-	956,344	-	299,044	1,255,388	-
Principal paid on bonds	(44,749)	(140,251)	-	-	(185,000)	-
Principal paid on notes	(157,000)	(763,000)	-	-	(920,000)	-
Acquisition of capital assets	(1,486,653)	(1,991,024)	(416,742)	(520,493)	(4,414,912)	-
Fiscal agent fee	(734)	(1,412)	-	-	(2,146)	-
Interest paid	(39,986)	(130,330)	(9,627)	-	(179,943)	-
Net Cash Used by Capital and Related Financing Activities	(1,729,122)	(2,069,673)	(426,369)	(221,449)	(4,446,613)	-
Cash Flows from Investing Activities						
Interest on investments	158,835	160,533	241,031	57,185	617,584	-
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(741,583)	(707,522)	456,344	63,110	(929,651)	(121,590)
Cash and Cash Equivalents, January 1	3,008,208	3,026,773	3,964,118	922,980	10,922,079	378,237
Cash and Cash Equivalents, December 31	\$ 2,266,625	\$ 2,319,251	\$ 4,420,462	\$ 986,090	\$ 9,992,428	\$ 256,647
Reconciliation of Operating Income (Loss) to Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities						
Operating income (loss)	\$ 211,167	\$ (125,966)	\$ 854,293	\$ (95,856)	\$ 843,638	\$ (11,865)
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash provided by operating activities						
Depreciation	665,714	1,300,819	418,618	268,345	2,653,496	-
(Increase) decrease in assets						
Accounts receivable	(3,861)	(28,436)	(93,033)	(1,018)	(126,348)	-
Utility connection receivable	(627)	(417)	-	-	(1,044)	-
Inventories	-	-	(11,820)	-	(11,820)	-
Prepaid items	(702)	(702)	(702)	-	(2,106)	-
(Increase) decrease in deferred outflows of resources						
Deferred pension resources	329	(2,572)	(807)	(86)	(3,136)	(846)
Deferred other postemployment benefit resources	(30,809)	(90,161)	(67,023)	(10,141)	(198,134)	-
Increase (decrease) in liabilities						
Accounts payable	16,971	(3,392)	20,142	113	33,834	(13,399)
Accrued wages payable	3,493	1,558	2,883	97	8,031	3,748
Due to other governments	2,404	(982)	4,008	1,200	6,630	-
Compensated absences payable	(2,288)	3,018	698	(95)	1,333	-
Other postemployment benefit liability	32,977	100,429	74,007	10,842	218,255	-
Net pension liability	(20,064)	(21,165)	(35,495)	(3,961)	(80,685)	(7,437)
Unearned revenue	627	64,968	-	15,978	81,573	-
Increase (decrease) in deferred inflows of resources						
Deferred pension resources	(12,044)	(9,681)	(19,868)	(2,221)	(43,814)	(3,461)
Deferred other postemployment benefit resources	1,828	6,246	4,495	598	13,167	-
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	\$ 865,115	\$ 1,193,564	\$ 1,150,396	\$ 183,795	\$ 3,392,870	\$ (33,260)
Schedule of Noncash Investing, Capital and Financing Activities						
Amortization of Bond Discount (Premium)	\$ (4,270)	\$ (8,641)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (12,911)	\$ -
Capital Items Acquired on Account	\$ 57,168	\$ 118,456	\$ 5,074	\$ 31,448	\$ 212,146	\$ -
Book value of assets sold or deleted	\$ (2,195)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (2,195)	\$ -
Capital Contribution from Other Fund	\$ -	\$ (9,702)	\$ 9,702	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -



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Waseca County Free Fair, July 8-12



Pioneer photos by Deb Bently and Ben Revermann



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