



Inside:

- 2 - Eli Lutgens
- 3 - Salvation Army
- 3 - Year in review
- 4 - Obituaries
- 5 - Pastor column
- 6-8 - Sports
- 9 - Archives
- 14 - Waseca board
- 14 - Bluejays



LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY
 No. 3 Vol. V \$2 Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca Thursday, January 15, 2026



Looking back



OVERWHELMING ART - Artist Steve DeLaitch at work on the mural underway north of Ace Hardware along Waseca's Second Street Northwest. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Grain bin mural demands talent, effort and skill

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

In his time, Waseca artist Steve DeLaitch has painted more than 15 murals. So when his brother-in-law Mike Denn asked Steve whether he could paint a mural that would extend across two large steel bins, he said his answer was a confident "of course." The two of them had a 3-year dialogue before the decision was truly made to begin the project. Mike and his brother, Mark, are the owners of the land and remaining structures of the EACO Flour Mill once located along the eastern shore of Loon Lake. The large steel bins are located at this site.

When Steve found himself looking at the prepared surfaces with paint in hand this past fall, he says his reaction was a momentarily overwhelmed "Gulp."

Now more than half finished, work on the mural began Sept. 10 and was stopped by the weather in mid-November. When it is complete, the mural will be 35 feet tall and 155 feet long.

In honor of the site's history, the mural depicts a wheat harvest in process, as it would have looked in the late 1800s. Four horses draw a reaper through a golden field while the machine behind them cuts the plants and



MAKING PROGRESS - The mural, which began on Sept. 10, is more than half finished. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Mural continued on 4

Trinket Dishes at New Richland Public Library, Jan. 15

Transform a simple dish into a sweet trinket holder by adding pretty paper to the surface at the New Richland Library at 4 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15. This simple crafting technique turns basic into beautiful. Ages 13-18.

Mother-Daughter Book Club at Waseca Public Library, Jan. 15

Geared for girls in grades 3-6 and a significant adult female, this book club features the latest children's books and fun activities at the Waseca Library at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15. January's book club selection is Crenshaw by Katherine Applegate.

Romp and Rhyme Story Time at Waldorf Public Library, Jan. 16

From puppets to pumping music, from bubble machines to banging bands, these are not your average story times at the Waldorf Library at 2:30 p.m. for Baby Lapsit, and 4:00 p.m. Free and open to the public.

Waseca Choirs Burger Fry at Waseca Legion Friday, Jan. 16

Waseca Sons of the American Legion Burger Fry fundraiser on behalf of the 8th Grade Choir at the Legion from 5:30-7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 16. Tickets \$10, includes burger or fish sandwich with fries.

Raise A Toast at Farmamerica Jan. 16

A farm-to-fork dinner experience, Raise A Toast at Farmamerica from 6-8:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 16. Together we'll raise a toast to the inspiring women in our community. Tickets are available online.

A word from The Word

I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Luke 5:32

County board gets set for coming year

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

During their Jan. 6 meeting, Waseca County commissioners elected De Malterer as this year's board chair, with Brad Krause as vice chair.

At the recommendation of property and election services director Tammy Spooner, the Waseca County Pioneer was named as the official county publication for 2026, meaning that important county notices will be published there. This will be the second year the Pioneer has served in the role; Spooner commented she has been very satisfied with the promptness and thoroughness of the service the Pioneer provides.

Official notices and requests for bids from the county highway department will be issued using the highway department website.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, commissioners heard from Audra Veroeven, site manager for the Waseca operations of Palmer Bus Service. Veroeven informed board members that her drivers have been experiencing slippery conditions on numerous roads within the county, with a number of buses having recently gone into the ditch and needing the services of a tow

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

truck "at \$500 a crack." Veroeven mentioned other types of vehicles had also been encountering difficulties in certain locations, but that the "cargo" carried in school buses is infinitely more precious than that in a farm or gravel truck.

She said her drivers now refer to a section of 140th street as the "valley of doom," claiming that five vehicles had once been in the ditch along a single 500-foot stretch of the road. She also named 440th and 135th avenues as being persistently slippery, and expressed a request that maintenance in those places be upgraded.

Land and Water Resources director Chris Howard requested board members' attention to another legally required start-of-year matter, setting the rate of reimbursement to farmers whose crops are damaged by work performed on a county drainage ditch. After discussion regarding possible mitigating circumstances, commissioners approved Howard's recommendations: \$795 an acre for corn, \$557 an acre for beans, and \$525 an acre when a farmer is prevented from planting a crop. During the conversation, Howard acknowl-



After the Jan. 6 organizational session, De Malterer, front left, is the chair of the Waseca County Board of Commissioners; vice chair is Brad Krause, center. Remaining board members are Brad Milbrath (far right), Doug Christopherson, in gray, and Brian Harguth (far left).

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Also mentioned was an upcoming training for area residents who wish to earn qualifications to join the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Team members learn the processes and channels to be followed when the area experiences a devastating emergency; examples include tornadoes, large-scale flooding, or catastrophic accidents. Any county resident is eligible to take part in the free course. Class sessions will take place across three days: April 17 from 5:30 to 9 p.m.; April 18 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and April 19 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Anyone wishing to earn certification must attend all three sessions.

It was mentioned that commissioners Brian Harguth and Doug Christopherson were marking their ninth anniversaries on the county board.

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

Council honors runner-up Blue Jays

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

It was standing room only at the regular Waseca city council meeting the evening of Tuesday, Jan. 6. Every seat was taken by members of the Waseca high school Blue Jay football team, there to hear Mayor Randy Zimmerman share a proclamation honoring their accomplishments during the 2025 State Tournament, where they made it all the way to the championship match, becoming runners-up.

"Whereas, the Waseca Blue Jays football team demonstrated exceptional skill, resilience, and sportsmanship throughout the 2025 season; and whereas, through unwavering dedication, teamwork, and community pride, the Blue Jays earned their place in the Minnesota State High School Football Tournament; and whereas, the players, coaches, managers, families, and fans of the Waseca Blue Jays have represented the City of Waseca with integrity, passion, and enthusiasm both on and off the field; and whereas, the City recognizes that accomplishments such as this are achieved not only by athletic talent, but also through dedication, discipline, leadership, and strong community support; now, therefore, I, Randy Zimmerman, Mayor of the City of Waseca, Minnesota, do hereby proclaim recognition and celebration for the Waseca Blue Jays Football Team, in honor of their remarkable season and their accomplishment as the 2025 Minnesota State Football Tournament Second-Place team in the State of Minnesota; and whereas, the players, coaches, managers, families, and fans of the Waseca Blue Jays have represented the City of Waseca with integrity, passion, and enthusiasm both on and off the field; and whereas, the City recognizes that accomplishments such as this are achieved not only by athletic talent, but also through dedication, discipline, leadership, and strong community support; now, therefore, I, Randy Zimmerman, Mayor of the City of Waseca, Minnesota, do hereby proclaim recognition and celebration for the Waseca Blue Jays Football Team, in honor of their remarkable season and their accomplishment as the 2025 Minnesota State Football Tournament Second-Place Team. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Waseca to be affixed this 6th day of January 2026."

Council continued on 14



DECORATED - Ed Frederick earned many awards throughout his years of leadership and service.

Cultivating a legacy

By ANN STALOCH

Dr. Edward "Ed" Frederick, a lifelong advocate for agriculture, education, and community service, passed away peacefully at his home at the age of 95. He was preparing for his day when he died, a fitting final moment for a man who never stopped showing up, learning, and serving.

Ed grew up in the Madison Lake area on a livestock and dairy farm, where his passion for agriculture was formed early. He was active in 4-H, serving as a delegate to the 4-H Congress, and was deeply involved in FFA during his years at Mankato High School. He held numerous leadership roles at the chapter level, earned the FFA State Farmer Degree, and was later honored with the prestigious Honorary American FFA Degree.

His academic journey reflected both discipline and purpose. Ed earned his bachelor's degree in Agricultural Education and a master's degree in Dairy Production before completing his Ph.D. in Dairy Physiology in 1957 at the University of Minnesota. While there, he was a member of the University's dairy and general livestock judging teams. His professional career began as an animal scientist at the University of Minnesota Northwest School of Agriculture in Crookston, where he served from 1958 to 1964.

In 1964, Ed became Superintendent of the University of Minnesota Southern School of Agriculture and Experiment Station in Waseca. He later advanced to Provost and then

Legacy continued on 14



Compostings

by Al Batt

How many husbands to change a lightbulb?

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
My expensive watch with a lifetime guarantee stopped working. Is the company going to replace it?

No, but one of their representatives is going to call me every hour on the hour and tell me what time it is.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. It was foggy. That gave me a good excuse for having a foggy mind. The fog was so thick... How thick was it? It was so thick, I had to go indoors to see my shoes. Fog, ice and January. That's piling on. There should be a penalty.

I exercise every day. I get a good cardio workout by putting on my socks. My goal is to stand up without becoming a one-man band.

A SCENE FROM A MARRIAGE

My friends Ward and June are happily married, but they try to keep that fact a secret.

"We've been married for 47 years, and we've never agreed on a single thing," declared Ward.

"We've been married 48 years," interjected June.

FROM THE MAILBAG

Mark Christenson of Columbia Heights wrote, "Your mention of blizzards reminded me of an old Laurel and Hardy movie, 'Pardon Us.'" Stan Laurel was asked to define the word "blizzard." Stan answered, "A blizzard is the inside of a buzzard."

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

I've visited The Wall in Washington, D.C. several times. Columns of over 58,000 names that weren't all strangers to me. The granite held the engraved names of kin. The most common surname was Smith, with 663-15 of them named Michael Smith. Philadelphia's Thomas Edison High School had 64 of its students killed in the conflict in Vietnam.

I looked at the rows of names. Memories have thinned; the sounds of voices have faded. The living mark the departures. I took rubbings and photos for relatives. Looking back at me, my reflection in some photos reminded me to remember those on The Wall. Tears were all I had to offer. We aren't diminished by tears. We are made more by shedding them.

I'VE LEARNED

A car key travels more than the car.
The protective case for my land-

line phone is my house.
To dance like everyone is looking at their phones.

Leftovers pair well with instant replays.

My sister was lucky. She had two brothers. I had only one.

How many husbands does it take to change a light bulb? Just one, but I don't need to be reminded of it every three months.

NATURE NOTES

I saw an old movie where a bald eagle produced the call of a red-tailed hawk. The hawk's call was used because it sounded fiercer than an eagle's, was easy to dance to, and was more recognizable than the giggles and screams of a bald eagle.

A legend says that back when the world was new, the bald eagle had the voice of a symphony, an aria and a rock concert rolled into one song. When the eagle sang, the world stopped to listen—mesmerized by the beauty of its song. But when the eagle was quiet, the world became too quiet. The gods formed a committee, and after 173 meetings, the gods decided the eagle's voice should be shared with the other birds. Because lawyers had yet to be invented, the eagle had no choice but to comply. Every bird got a voice, eliminating the world's awkward silences. The bald eagle was left with its current vocals that sound as if it's lamenting the loss of its enthralling song.

"My uncle told me opossums came to Minnesota in giant hay bales. Is he correct?" Uncles are seldom correct about anything. I know because I am one. A giant hay bale is no place for anyone with hay fever, and there's no first-class section. They don't even offer tiny bags of pretzels. I've heard tales of opossums hitchhiking in hay bales. It might have happened occasionally, but it wasn't a dependable means of travel. They allegedly caught rides on trucks hauling hay bales northward to the Gopher State, where they'd be served in school lunch programs. Few opossums drove trucks, as arcane laws made it difficult for opossums to obtain driver's licenses. What's a plodding mammal that's slow in processing information and not dressed for winter doing here? They're ardent Minnesota Gopher fans. They don't stockpile food, hibernate or accumulate body fat reserves. Farms and cities along the roads and rivers offered paths for travel and food. Cities provided a welcome heat island effect.

MEETING ADJOURNED
"Wherever you go, no matter what the weather, always bring your own sunshine."—Anthony J. D'Angelo.



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

Pileated woodpeckers provide welcome interruptions

I have escaped to my family's cabin for a few days.

As I may have mentioned before, the cabin is a small, rustic one located at the end of a winding one-lane road which meanders up and down hills through a thoroughly-wooded area. There are eight or so cabins along the road, but based on the undisturbed nature of the snow, my brother, son and I are apparently the first group to be here in a month or two.

Our arrival was something of an adventure.

We turned onto our road at about 4 in the afternoon. We had committed to arriving before dark because we were uncertain what we would find; turns out, we were very wise. As we came to the last half of the road and headed up a hill, we encountered snow probably a foot deep. Between the incline and the snow, it was more than my vehicle could manage. After brave efforts to power through by backing up and taking a run, we found ourselves at a dead stop about 200 feet short of the cabin. Part of those 200 feet is a fairly steep walking path. We trudged down to the cabin seeking footing in the snow.

My brother and son went back up

with shovels and determinedly got the car to a parking spot next to the neighbor's garage, still at the top of the hill.

The prospect of bringing all our gear down that angled path was disheartening, so we called a nearby neighbor we are acquainted with who had informed us he has a tractor and snow blower, and would be willing to help us at times like this.

When we called, we had the remarkable good fortune that he was both at home and available to assist. In what seemed like no time, he was backing up and down our hilly little road throwing that troublesome snow in among the trees.

It was a welcome sight.

When we offered to pay him, he declined any money. I would have forced some into his hands except for two complications. First, the amount of cash in my wallet seemed insufficient. Even more importantly, he was on his tractor and driving away faster than I could have ever moved through the snow alongside the road. Fortunately, I came upon a solution. The next day, I bought and delivered a gift card to a popular local restaurant.

When he again stated payment was unnecessary, I told him we



Pictured is a pileated woodpecker spotted through the window at my family's cabin.

wanted to thank him—that we were riding on a wave of gratitude which grows higher each time we are able to walk out of the cabin and directly to the vehicle, rather than plodding up and down the snowy pathway with every armload.

There are many pleasant aspects to being at the cabin in winter. Because my brother and son are here to fish, I have the space to myself much of the time. When I am finished with writing and editing for the Pioneer, I see myself curled up in a cozy chair with a book.

My hours are peppered with an element of nerdy excitement, however. A pair of pileated woodpeckers has been visiting the (now refilled) birdfeeder fairly regularly.

I enjoy all birds and can name numerous species I regularly see at my feeders at home. Here in the forest, the first birds to discover the food were pine grosbeaks, birds about the

size of a robin. The males are distinctively pink, the females only less visibly so.

But there's something exciting about seeing a pileated woodpecker. They're quite large—with a wingspan of about two feet—and have a bold red cap and crest on their heads. Their necks are also marked with sharply defined areas of black, red and white.

In summer they eat ants, often using their strong beaks to burrow into trees to capture food. The burrowing is sometimes so deep the (partially rotten) tree will break.

All the work I've been doing on my computer over the past two days has been interrupted by occasional leaps to my feet as I notice the variety of birds coming and going outside. By the time you read this, I will already be on home territory. I have the feeling, though, my thoughts will still be at the cabin.

Meeting the new foster: Big Boy Bruce

It's only two weeks into the new year and I already need a vacation.

Besides spending the whole first week catching up on work and stressing about finishing stories on time, Jack and I decided to foster another dog. Instead of two puppies this time, we went with a 120-pound St. Bernard named Bruce. As big in size as Bruce is, he has an even bigger heart. He's a giant cuddle bug, but if he's going to be a "lap dog," it takes both my boyfriend's and my laps to hold him when he climbs onto the couch with us.

The only problem is, he sheds like I've never seen a dog shed before. You look on any surface in our little apartment, and there's dog hair. We've been wearing the same clothes for the past four days because he just gets his hair and slobber all over us and we don't want to get all of our clothes that way. We look like dogs ourselves with the amount of hair that clings to us. We go to take a bite of food, and there's a hair on the fork. I go to use my computer, and my keyboard is half hair.



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

To keep the hair at bay, we've kept the doors of our bathroom and bedroom always closed so we can sleep in peace. Then one night as we were getting to bed, we found out that Bruce can open doors: He wandered into the bathroom and subsequently the bedroom where I was reading. He was so excited, I felt bad to kick him out again. Needless to say, we now lock the doors.

But because of something in his past, Bruce has pretty bad separation anxiety. He can hear us in the bathroom or bedroom and will whine when he tries the door and finds he can't get

in. He also loves to shove his face into ours, and will occasionally block our way of moving unless we pet him. He shoves his body in between our legs as well, and it's like riding a pony.

Long story short, I've been spending a lot of time with a hairy oaf full of love, which means waking up early every morning to let him out in the cold, and worrying about leaving him and how often he needs to go out. I always thought having my own dog would be easy, since having dogs growing up was never much of a hassle. But I understand now how much I never really did before. Like

my dad who wakes up early every morning to take care of the dogs so the rest of us can sleep in. Or my grandma, who does the same with her dogs and even chases after them to take care of the poo. I think I've used more doggy bags in the last couple of days than I have in my entire lifetime.

It's also funny to see how people and other dogs react to Bruce. Because he's so big, a lot of the dogs fear to go near him, even though Bruce is the best example of a gentle giant. I don't think he is even capable of harm. A lot of people think he is adorable and love to pet him. He loves it too, making him something of an attention hog. With him, I've gained the "big dog privilege" of walking alone after dark. No one will come at me in the city at night with Bruce as my companion (not that I was worried about it anyway).

I love Bruce, but I can't wait to clean this apartment.

My Determination: "Honey, it's just a dog. Millions of people have dogs."
—Alice Newton, Beethoven

WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

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

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Traveling through Philadelphia

After two days of driving, I arrived in Philadelphia Wednesday evening. This is the beginning of a vacation of sorts for me. The first leg of the trip I am visiting one of my childhood best friends here in Pennsylvania.

Wednesday evening was spent reminiscing at a local diner. Regrettably, at this particular establishment, the conversation was better than the food. I much prefer the Red Leaf, The Pheasant Cafe, the Willows, Oscars, or really any local restaurant. My friend tells me, despite what locals claim, the food is better back home.

Thursday was spent walking around the city. People walk everywhere here. We logged about 10 miles worth of steps.

Highlights included the Liberty Bell and the Ben Franklin Printing Office, home to a press actually owned, and presumably operated, by Benjamin Franklin. The nice people there demonstrated how printing was done back in the old days. I found it very interesting that printers took special training and had specific tricks of the trade. You see, back then the "original" of a printed item was made of many small metal pieces all held together in a frame. Typesetters kept letters of the alphabet—both upper and lower case—and other symbols and punctuation on a large rack. Items were arranged with the most-used letters closest at hand.



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

Experienced typists would mentor amateurs who began by cleaning the movable type letters, getting familiar with where all of the letters were located. Positioning the type into the frame was the old fashioned version of "typing."

Friday we walked to the History Museum and walked the famous steps from the movie "Rocky."

I also must report the cheesesteaks we had along South Street were better than expected. Given how iconic the cheesesteaks are, I didn't really know what to expect. Especially based on the previous meal, I had set myself up for disappointment. Instead, I am glad to announce, I was blown away. I had never had a cheesesteak like the one we had from "Bibs," the nickname given to the restaurant we went to. I had mine the classic way, onions and Cheese Whiz. The locals here all claim the best cheesesteak places are not the well-known "tourist trap" establishments. (Although, they do admit, even those cheesesteaks are great. There are

just better 'hogies' other places in the city.)

Tuesday evening we visited the city of New York, toured Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, the 9/11 Memorial, Times Square and saw "The Outsiders" on Broadway.

Wednesday morning I departed for Orlando where I will be staying with best friends Kyle and Anastasia before departing for my friends' Paul and Heather's wedding in Miami. I cannot forget to mention, Heather's bridal shower was Sunday, which I also attended.

The final leg of my trip will conclude when Deb Bently takes her own vacation to Florida with sister-in-law Joan, whom I will pick up at the airport before we drive south to the Everglades for a weekend of adventure.

For anyone who wonders how I can be "away" from my business ventures for all this time, I have to say this time of digital communication has changed the meaning of many words. For good or bad, we can no longer be "away"

from work and communication unless we distance ourselves from electronic devices. I am still receiving emails and text messages and communicating with my staff as smoothly as if I were sitting in my office. For anyone who questions the wisdom of being so far away when I have important business to transact,

I found three quotes that I feel are relevant to the subject of potential guilt over doing something nice for myself. "What, if some day or night a demon were to steal after you into your loneliest loneliness and say to you: 'This life as you now live it and have lived it, you will have to live once more and innumerable times more'... Would you not throw yourself down and gnash your teeth and curse the demon who spoke thus? Or have you once experienced a tremendous moment when you would have answered him: 'You are a god and never have I heard anything more divine.'"

— Friedrich Nietzsche
"Don't you find it odd," she continued, "that when you're a kid, everyone, all the world, encourages you to follow your dreams. But when you're older, somehow they act offended if you even try."

— Ethan Hawke
"Often those that criticise others reveal what they themselves lack."

— Shannon L. Alder

Waseca County Sno-Secas Club Ride scheduled for Jan. 17 has been canceled due to lack of snow
 Call Jake for more info at 507-461-2510.

Category 5 at Boxcar Bar Saturday, Jan. 17
 Category 5 will be playing at the Boxcar Bar from 8:30 p.m. till 12:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 17. They play a variety of music favorites.

Puzzle Competition at Indian Island Winery Jan. 17
 There will be a puzzle competition at the Indian Island Winery from 1-3:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17. A 500 piece puzzle to complete and keep. Four drink tickets to use during event. Prizes and bragging rights.

Darla Dahnert's Breast Cancer Benefit at Waseca Legion Saturday, Jan. 17
 There will be a breast cancer benefit on behalf of Darla Dahnert from 4-8 p.m. at the Waseca American Legion on Saturday, Jan. 17. Join us for a silent auction and a meal to support Darla.

Romp and Rhyme Story Time at Waldorf Public Library, Jan. 20
 From puppets to pumping music, from bubble machines to banging bands, these are not your average story times at the New Richland Library at 10:30 a.m. Free and open to the public; for ages 2-6.

Name Pennants at Waseca Public Library Tuesday, Jan. 20
 Love the look of vintage college pennants? Learn simple crafting techniques for creating custom-made name pennants, perfect for decorating your room or locker at the Waseca Library at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20. Ages 13-18.

Jigsaw Puzzle Derby at Waseca Public Library Wednesday, Jan. 21
 Assemble a team of up to 4 players to compete in a jigsaw puzzle competition at the Waseca Library at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 21. The first team to complete the puzzle wins a prize! Registration required.

Shrimp or Rib Eye Steak dinner at Sweet-Stammers VFW Jan. 24
 There will be a shrimp or rib eye steak dinner at the VFW from 5:30-7 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 24. Rib eye's \$25, shrimp is \$15, dinner comes with baked potato, bun and salad bar.

Sacred Heart School Open House Jan. 25
 All members of the public are invited to an open house at Sacred Heart School, 308 W. Elm Avenue in Waseca from 11 a.m. until noon on Sunday, Jan. 25. Coffee and donuts will be served. Information regarding registration for the 2026-27 school year will be available.



CHALLENGE OF THE BELLS - The winner of the "Battle of the Badges" bell-ringing challenge held Dec. 6 was the Waseca County Salvation Army, which benefited from six hours of fundraising outside the Waseca Walmart by teams representing the Waseca police department, the county sheriff's office and posse, and the Waseca fire department. The sheriff's office was the most successful group, bringing in more than \$2,300. Pictured here, from left, are Chief Deputy Doug Gerdts, sheriff's posse member Shalee White, county Salvation Army chair John Petersburg, Waseca County Sheriff Jay Dulas, and posse member Jadyn White.
 Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Contest raises \$4,000 for Salvation Army

By DEB BENTLY
 News Editor

More than \$4,000 was raised for the Waseca County chapter of the Salvation Army during a bell-ringing competition among the Waseca police department, Waseca County sheriff's office, and the Waseca fire department held in front of the Waseca Walmart store on Saturday, Dec. 6. The three agencies went all out during their respective two-hour time slots, bringing a small crowd of volunteers as well as their vehicles and any other attention-getting options they could find. The fire department not only brought their largest firetruck, but also some "fire dogs." Along with staff, the sheriff's department brought members of the mounted posse volunteer group, including a pony; one posse member even spent the time dressed up

as the Grinch.

The fun and excitement were meant to encourage interaction with safety personnel while also drawing attention—and donations—to the Salvation Army kettle.

During a brief ceremony on Jan. 5, County Salvation Army chair John Petersburg announced the sheriff's department was the most successful fundraising group that day, bringing in more than \$2,300—a record for any single two-hour time frame for the annual "battle of the badges" fundraiser, which began in 2022.

Along with bragging rights, the sheriff's department earned possession of a traveling plaque which displays the name and amount raised by each year's "winner." The department also gets first dibs on its preferred time slot for next year's competition—10 a.m. to noon; noon to 2 p.m., or 2 to 4 p.m.

Petersburg also shared that the county-wide kettle campaign raised a total of more than \$5,900. The battle of the badges brought in about 68 percent of those funds, with "counter kettles" in area stores and other bell-ringing volunteers in front of Walmart bringing in the rest.

Petersburg expressed his gratitude to the competition participants, to all volunteers, and to members of the public who gave donations.

He went on to mention all funds raised in Waseca County are used to provide assistance within the county. He recalls an August event when 85 pairs of shoes were given to area children in advance of the new school year; free haircuts were also offered. Through the Minnesota Valley Action Council (MVAC) emergency funds are made available for people in crisis, perhaps about to lose heat or even lose their homes. Emergency transportation funds help

people get to medical appointments or to work. Of the sheriff department "victory," County Sheriff Jay Dulas commented, "It's more 'camaraderie' than it is a 'contest.' I think I speak for all the people who were out there that day when I say we had fun, we enjoyed meeting and talking with members of the public, and we're all happy to support the good work of the Salvation Army."

"We all look forward to having this 'competition' each year for a long time to come." Anyone wishing to contact the Waseca County Salvation Army can begin by touching base with the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce, 105 22nd Avenue Northeast, in Waseca. (507) 835-3260. Those seeking assistance can contact MVAC: 108 10th Avenue Southeast in Waseca, (507) 835-8240.

A look back at 2025

In the past year the Waseca County Pioneer has covered many exciting events worth remembering. Here is a look back at the best highlights from the year that was 2025.

July

- The New Richland Area Sportsmen's Club arranged to plant three 20-foot trees at St. Olaf Lake Park in hopes of helping to compensate for the rather sudden loss, over the past couple of years, of about 10 oak trees on the property.

- A June 25 tornado near Hartland tore apart Glenn Ausen's farm. Although he wasn't home when the damage occurred, he said it was still shocking to see, leaving him with very few words for how to process it all.

- With Hay Daze starting, it was time for Miss Janesville 2025 to be crowned. On Thursday, June 12, Chloe Kaiser was given the prestigious town title and bestowed with the responsibility of representing the Janesville community.

- The National Association of Counties (NACo) has recognized Waseca County's "Broadband for All" initiative as being among the most successful in the nation in the category of Community and Economic Development in 2025.

- A large, cheerful crowd gathered at Northeast Park in Waseca the evening of Monday, June 30, to celebrate a major milestone—ICAN's twenty-fifth anniversary. But more than marking 25 years, the evening was labeled as a celebration of the dedicated ICAN employees and the impact they have made.

- The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism proudly announced its relocation to a new and improved space. The Chamber's new office is now open at 105 22nd Ave NE, Suite A, located in the Suburban building on the north side of Waseca.

- Representatives of veterans' organizations



The best amateur baseball team to come out of Waseca in nearly a decade—described by coach Tink Larson before the season began as one of the "best teams we ever had coming in"—nearly qualified for the state tournament for the first time since 2016.

from across the county stood at attention as flags were raised to provide the official opening of the Waseca County Fair the afternoon of Wednesday, July 9. About 75 people observed the ceremony, standing in the warm sun on a humid day.

- A new Waseca shop which opened Monday, July 7, states its goal is to provide healthy, natural products to the community. Offshore Oasis, owned and run by Waterville resident MiKayla Miller, is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays.

- For the past 50 years, the Waseca Fire Department's food stand at the county fair has been opening on schedule. Every year, tireless firefighters show up to work hard. This year was no different.

- Members of the New Richland-Hartland High School class of 1965 gathered at Waseca's Pizza Ranch restaurant on July 10 to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of their graduation. At-

tending were 26 people, of whom 22 were 1965 graduates.

- Numerous fundamental pieces of the inclusive playground being developed at the NRHEG Elementary site were installed this past summer. These include a specially constructed swing, a large-scale piece with swaying motion similar to a teeter-totter, and an oversized xylophone set side-by-side with some drums.

- Hundreds of visitors and residents were in attendance throughout Farm and City Days weekend in New Richland, July 18-20. The most popular attractions included the classic car show, which drew a 109 cars, down from last year's record draw of 149. There were 127 cars in 2023.

- The Millers Bed & Breakfast recently saw some upgrades to their four rooms, including a new website. Located on the third floor of the Miller Armstrong Building and part of the Star-

rite Event Center, the bed and breakfast started around 2006, according to events and lodging manager Mindy Jimenez.

- During their regular meeting on July 15, members of the Waseca County Board of Commissioners voted to increase the county's "wheelage" tax—a fee paid at the time a vehicle's registration is renewed—to \$20. The fee had been \$10 per vehicle since 2014.

- The Waseca Braves amateur baseball team put it all together the evening of Friday, July 17, blowing out the visiting Cleveland Spiders 12-0 in seven innings at Tink Larson Field. It completed a season sweep of Cleveland for the Braves.

- As the Waseca County Pioneer moved into its fourth year of publication, staff members

2025 continued on 5

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OBITUARIES

Byron Larson

Byron Gerald Larson, age 80, of Waseca passed away on Tuesday, January 6, 2026 at Benedictine Living Community in St. Peter.

Byron was born on October 13, 1945, in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, the son of Gordon and Lillian (Pederson) Larson. He attended Elbow Lake High School and graduated with the Class of 1963. He continued his education at North Dakota State University and Moorhead State University, and graduated from Bemidji State University with the Class of 1969.

On April 17, 1971, Byron was united in marriage to Carol Johnson at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca.

Throughout his career, Byron worked at EF Johnson in Waseca, Larson Boats in Little Falls, Melroe Bobcat in Lisbon, North Dakota, and Spokane, Washington. He also worked at Homecrest Industries in Wadena and for the City of Wadena in Planning and Zoning.

Byron enjoyed camping, hunting, fishing, teaching firearm safety, and spending time with his family, neighbors, and friends. He was active in his communities and was a member of the Jaycees in Elbow Lake, Little Falls, and Lisbon, ND. He held membership at West Elbow Lake Lutheran Church and later St. John Lutheran Church and Grace Lutheran Church in Waseca. He was also involved in the Chamber of Commerce, Elks Club, Rotary,



Byron Larson

Knob Hill Sportsman's Club in Wadena, and served on the Maple Terrace Board in Waseca.

He is survived by his wife, Carol Larson of St. Peter; daughters, Kathryn J. Olson of Sauk Centre, Kristine M. (Dean Pertle) Larson of St. Peter; grandchildren, Hannah Olson, Haley Olson, Stella Ewert, Nathan Olson; sister, Lois (Gary) York of Los Angeles, CA.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Gordon and Lillian Larson; and sister, Jean Kocher.

Memorial service of Byron was held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 10, 2026 at the State Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service. Visitation was one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Burial was at Calvary Cemetery in Waseca.

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William Tuttle

William "Bill" Paul Tuttle, aged 73, of Bradenton, Florida, died on December 30, 2025, at Tidewell Hospice in Lakewood Ranch, Florida.

Born on September 3, 1952, in Green Bay, Wisconsin, he was the son of Keith Rollin Tuttle and Ruby Anna (Marquardt) Tuttle. He graduated from St. Louis Park High School in 1970, The University of Minnesota in 1977, and the Graduate School of Banking in 1987. He was married to Nancy Maria (Galler) Tuttle on October 13, 1984, in Waseca, Minnesota.

Bill began his banking career in the Twin Cities and Brainerd Lakes areas, before relocating to Waseca, Minnesota. He was a commercial banker in Waseca for over 30 years, helping numerous clients start and grow their businesses. He was a passionate volunteer in Waseca and the surrounding area, having served as President or Treasurer on most of the dozens of Boards he served. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Award and the Don Eustice Award from the community of Waseca and was proudly selected as one of the Ten Outstanding Young Minnesotans in 1990. Upon retirement from banking, he began a career in real estate investment, forming many successful partnerships with trusted business associates. He was very personable and an excellent judge of character, which contributed to his success in his careers and in his personal relationships. After relocating to Florida, he served on committees within his neighborhood and as President and Treasurer of the Suntime Island Beach Club, a place he considered to be "paradise".

Bill enjoyed golfing, hunting, and annual fishing trips to Canada. He

especially enjoyed his annual road trips to the mountains, family vacations across the United States, and vacationing in Florida. Before moving to Florida, he was an active member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, and later attended Grace Community Church in Lakewood



William Tuttle

Ranch, FL.

He was a faithful man and was most proud of being "Dad" and "Papa Tuttle" to his kids and grandkids.

Bill is survived by Nancy Tuttle, his wife of 41 years; his daughter, Sophia (Alex) Chervinka and their children, Harrison, Piper and Miles, of Inver Grove Heights, MN; his son, Keith Gordon Tuttle, of Boise, ID; mother-in-law Dianne Galler of Elysian, MN, brothers-in-law Frank Galler of Elysian, MN and Mike Galler of Madison Lake, MN; sisters-in-law Theresa Galler of Lakeville, MN and Maragaret "Meg" Galler of Huntersville, NC; brother-in-law, Robert Horn, of Woodbury, MN; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Keith and Ruby Tuttle; sister, Ann Horn; brother Keith David Tuttle; wife, Cheryl Tuttle, and daughter, Dawn Wehr; and father-in-law Gordon "Gordy" Galler.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 2:00 PM on Saturday, January 17, 2026, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca. Private family burial will follow at Calvary Cemetery in Waseca.

Visitation will begin at 1:00 PM and will continue until the time of Mass. A Celebration of Life reception will be held at Waseca Lakeside Club following Mass.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to The National Park Foundation (give.nationalparks.org).

Eldon Frisk

Eldon Frisk, age 89, of Lexington, passed away on December 25, 2025, following a courageous struggle with Parkinson's disease.

Eldon was preceded in death by his parents, Lawrence and Ruth (Alexanderson) Frisk, and brothers, LeRoy Frisk and Bernard Frisk.

He is survived by his loving wife of 47 years, Joan; children David (Julie) Frisk, Daniel (Tosha) Frisk, Kelli (Tim) Peterson, and Debbie (Josh) Kunze; 9 grandchildren - Karlee (Richard) Anderson, Brandon (Tovah) Peterson, Justine Frisk, Sean Frisk, Kaylin (Cody) Yngsdal, Ryan Frisk, Aaron (Roberta) Frisk, Elli Kunze, and Lillian

Kunze; seven great-grandchildren; and siblings Bonnie Roehrs, Ramona (Patrick) Helms, Jeanine (Tom) Dunlap, Jack (Rhonda) Frisk, Gordy (Patricia) Frisk, and Charlie (Liza) Frisk.

Eldon grew up in Waseca, Minnesota, and graduated from Waseca High School. He continued his education at Rochester Technical College and Dunwoody Institute, where he earned an engineering degree. He later helped run radio and television repair shops in southern Minnesota before beginning a long career with Control Data, where he worked as an engineer until his retirement in 1999.

Eldon had a lifelong love of classical cars. He enjoyed restoring and working on them, attend-

ing car shows and club events, and traveling to participate in car club gatherings and shows. He was a proud member of several car clubs, including MSRA, Capital City, Twin City Model A, and Kaiser/Fraser. He also cherished his cats.

A memorial service will be held at Together Place Church, 3860 Flowerfield Rd., Circle Pines, MN, on Saturday, January 17, at 11:00 a.m.

Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., with lunch to follow.

He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by his family and all who knew him.



Eldon Frisk

Tony Thomez

Tony James Thomez, age 90 of Waseca passed away peacefully on January 12, 2026, at Lakeshore Rehabilitation Center in Waseca.

Born on June 13, 1935 in Rosebud, TX, he was the son of Manuel and Leonora (Uresti) Thomez. As a young boy, he attended a small country school and spent his early years traveling back and forth between Texas and Minnesota to work. By the time he reached fifteen, he had chosen Minnesota not just as a place to stay, but as the place he would call home. On September 25, 1954, he married Annette Weckwerth at Sacred Heart Church in Waseca. Together they made their home in rural Waseca, where they raised their six children. They were later divorced. While working at Birds Eye in Waseca, he met Roberta, and a loving companionship grew between them. They were married on November 14, 1997, and together continued to make Waseca their home.

Tony was honored to serve his country through many years with the Army Reserves, a commitment he carried with pride. His strong work ethic defined a remarkable 47½-year career at Bird's Eye in Waseca; where he was proud of his

role as a mechanic and union steward. Even after retirement, slowing down was never his style, before long, he found himself back at work with Holden Farms, tending to maintenance and lawn care, always happiest when he was busy and useful.

He took great pride in his work and would give clear, precise instructions whenever help was needed around the house. Borrowed tools were to be returned exactly where they belonged; he had a proper place for everything and knew it by heart. In his free time, he embraced the outdoors, enjoying moose and deer hunting, snowmobiling, and fishing. One of his greatest pleasures was taking his family on annual fishing trips to Hackensack. He was also an enthusiastic collector, with a special fondness for coins and watches, and could often be found watching or attending auctions in search of the next treasured find.

He had a fondness for lutefisk and a lifelong loyalty to John Deere, but nothing captured his heart quite like his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He took immense joy in watching them grow, proudly cheering them on at their activities and sporting events.

He will be lovingly remembered

by his wife, Roberta; children, Diane Davis, Judy (Curtis) Petzel, Michael (Carmen) Thomez, Kathy (Dave) Diel, Curtis (Darlene) Thomez, Anita (Rick) Maas, and Roxanne Eaton; grandchildren, Jessica (Cory) Culbert Ryan (Rachel) Hurlburt, Scott (Erin) Davis, Cheryl Petzel, Emily (Joe Niemi) Petzel, Doug (Alexa Albrecht) Petzel, Ashley (Joe) Peterson, Matthew Thomez, Alex (Samantha Kapaun) Diel, Aryn Thomez, Sean (Lisa) Thomez, Cooper (Elena Reyes) Thomez, Whitney (Louie) Grupe, Courtney (Alex) Bohman, Alicia (Kyler) Sieben, and Eric Maas; great-grandchildren, Nolan, Jada, Vienna, Andrew, Shya, Lilly, Callie, Thomas, Cecelia, Calliope, Owen, and Brooklyn; step-children, Randy Garten, Joel Garten, Melissa (Aaron) Weber, and Jay (Julie) Garten; step-grandchildren, Tara (Trevor) Precht, Russell Garten, Wyatt Garten, Austin Garten, and Chloe Garten; siblings, Velentine, Joe, Steve, Roy, Tommy, Richard, Olivia, and Rita; along with many nieces, nephews, close friends and his beloved cats, Jimmie John, Ginger, and Opie.

He was preceded in death by his parents; son-in-law, Norman Davis; siblings, Louie, Anna,



Tony Thomez

David, John, and Gary in infancy; and beloved dog, Buffy.

A funeral service will be held at 11:00 AM on Monday, January 19, 2026, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca, MN; Father Glenn Frerichs will officiate. Tony's family will greet guests at a visitation held on Sunday, January 18, 2026 from 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM at the State Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca, MN and one hour prior to the service at the church. Interment will be at Calvary Cemetery in Waseca.

■ Mural

from Page 1

draws them up to be baled.

The scale of the painting is such, Steve points out, that each horse's head from forehead to nose is as tall as he is.

"It was a challenge I wanted to undertake, and Mike had kind of always wanted a mural on the bins," Steve recalls. "It all took a while to come together, but now it is well on its way." Owners Mike Denn and Mark Denn are brothers to Steve's wife, Mary Jo.

It is believed the two large bins were built in the 1870s. Each is more than 60 feet tall and is constructed of riveted together panels, each of which is 5 feet tall by 15 feet wide. Steve says the identically sized panels provide a helpful grid as he adapts the scale of his concept sketches to the gigantic steel surface.

The first step in preparing the bins, Mike Denn describes, was to power wash the exterior; the next was to paint on primer over the area meant for the mural. Also a major element of preparations,

Mike says, was the purchase of an aerial boom lift specifically for use on the project, with the intent it will be used for more everyday tasks in the future, including tuck pointing on the brick building, once part of the EACO complex, which stands west of the 14 bins.

Steve says he will resume work in the spring when the weather is amenable. He hopes for something less variable than he experienced this fall; conditions ranged from several days when with temperatures in the 90s with the sun was beating down so powerfully that "the paint was drying on the brush, before I could even stroke it on" to windy days when the boom lift rattled, making it hard to work up to his personal standards.

"It was like a wind tunnel," Steve observes regarding the curved surfaces of the two neighboring bins.

He says he finds his work so far satisfactory despite the range of challenges. He has already used 20 gallons of paint.

Steve says he has been drawn to art since childhood. After graduating from Owatonna High School in the 1970s, he attended the Chicago School of Art. "I wanted to

learn to draw like the masters," he recalls. Throughout his life, he has supported his work as an artist by using additional skills, including acquiring the credentials to be a construction contractor. He moved to Waseca in the 1990s to serve as director of the regional art center; he met Mary Jo, decided he liked the atmosphere and cooperative spirit of the community, and elected to stay—mostly.

"I love to travel and expand my skill as an artist," he mentions.


Steve met New Richland's Bernie Anderson in the 1980s. The two have traveled together to numerous locations around the country where they have gleaned artistic inspiration from the landscape around them.

Steve has set up his easel all around the planet, having been to Napa Valley in California, Alaska, and the American Southwest, as well as Norway, Australia, Italy, China, the Great Barrier Reef, and more. He says the majority of his paintings are landscapes, ranging from closeups of details to mountain ranges and cityscapes. He

works in various media, including watercolor, oils, and—specifically when painting murals—exterior house paint. He also enjoys sketching both in black and white and in color.

Whatever his subject or media, he says a main objective of his art is to inspire people "to look inward by looking outward."

Since 2003, Steve has kept a studio in a classic brick building along New Richland's Broadway Avenue. Built in 1917, a time when the chief need for electricity was to power electric lights, it was referred to as a "light plant" rather than a "power plant." He says he admires the classic elements of the building's construction, and especially enjoys the many large windows. He points out that, with a coal-fired generator burning night and day, the windows helped keep the space cool. Now they offer him plentiful natural light. Steve continues working on improvements to make his studio a comfortable place to work; he can frequently be found there creating artwork throughout the week.

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The Pastor's Column

The reality that we claim

By PASTOR MICHAEL GRANNIS

Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. Revelation 2:10

"Be faithful unto death and I will give you eternal life." These words of Christ are sobering to say the least. The thought that holding to our faith in Christ might actually require our life may seem a far stretch for us, but this has been the cost for countless of believers down through the ages. Even in our own day, in many places throughout the world, martyrdom is a daily threat.

I bring this up because Christmas break is over and Confirmation classes have started back up again at our congregation. As unimaginable as it may seem that we would have to give our lives because of our faith in Christ, this is the reality that we claim we are willing to face when we make our confirmation vows. In the rite of confirmation, after having confessed the faith according to the Apostles' Creed, professing that the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the inspired Word of God, and confessing that the teachings learned in during Confirmation classes conform to the truth of those Holy Scriptures, the pastor then asks the confirmand to make the following vows:

- Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?
- Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?
- Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

To each of these the confirmand must be ready, willing, and able to respond, "I do, by the grace of God."

Confirmation is a joyful occasion, made so by virtue of the fact that those who are confirmed are saying that this faith that God has given them and nurtured in them by His Word and Spirit... this faith that they have studied and wrestled with... this faith which has been passed on to them from family, or friends, or some other drawing of the Holy Spirit - it means more to them than life itself. We as the Church rightly rejoice in this bold confession.

It is the lament of every pastor

that many youth who make this vow, seldom darken the church doors after their Confirmation. They all but disappear, after having vowed to faithfully come to church to continue to grow in faith by hearing the preaching of God's Word and receiving Christ's body and blood in the Sacrament of the Altar. The truth of the matter is, if having our kids in church each week doesn't take priority in our lives before confirmation instruction, it will not likely be a priority for us or the confirmand after they have "jumped through the hoops" and "fulfilled the obligation of attending church" during their confirmation years.

What's the solution to this problem? Christian parents (and grandparents) need to step up and act like it. Make going to church each week a priority in your household. Make receiving the Lord's Supper a priority. Make being active in the church community a priority. Make growing in God's Word (both at church and at home) a priority. Read God's Word on your own and study it with others (especially your family!). Bring your questions to your Pastor (he will always welcome them!). If you don't understand something or agree with something, ask why it is that way. There is probably a reason (good or bad), and things don't often change for the better without intention.

God tells us in His Word that it is the responsibility of the parents and grandparents to pass on the faith (Deut. 4:9; Deut. 6; Deut. 30:11-20; Isaiah 59:21; 2 Timothy 1:5, etc.). That means you must live your faith. You must know what God says in His Word and confess His promises as true. You must be able to share your faith with your children, and answer their questions from God's Word. You must be willing to search for the answers you don't know, and show your kids that growing in our baptismal identity is a daily, life-long journey...one that is most worthy of pursuing with everything in us.

When does this need to start? Today! It needs to start today and every day. It needs to start today for the young single Christian. It needs to start today for the senior widow or widower. It needs to start today for the young newlywed...today for the empty-nester...today for the expecting mother...today for the divorcee...today for the mixed family...today for each and every person who has breath in their lungs.

Today is the day of redemption. Today is the day of repentance. Today is the day of hearing God's Word of warning and blessing, and turning toward His mercy and grace.

Today is the day to humble ourselves in obedience before God's good and right way. Today is the day you and your loved ones need to take your faith seriously. It is more than a life and death issue - it is an eternal life and eternal death issue. It is more than worth dying for - it is worth living for.



There were 17 new teaching staff members from four Waseca learning sites introduced and welcomed at a luncheon co-sponsored by the Waseca Rotary, Lions, and Exchange clubs on Thursday, Aug. 21, at the Lakeview Golf Course.

■ 2025 from Page 3

shared their commitment to continue gathering and recording who the people of our communities are, what they do, and the challenges and benefits they encounter.

- Zach Battenfeld, owner of Waseca's Pheasant Cafe since 2020, share his recognition that he owns an icon. Hanging on the wall in the cafe is the text of a short Waseca Herald newspaper article dated 1940. It tells how Joel Wallschlagger was in the process of moving his home-based business to a downtown location where it would have "six booths, a counter, seven stools, and tables."

- Sandi Prange, 67, owner of Past & Present Antiques & Gifts persistently encountered the question "What are you looking forward to after retiring?" "I want to go," was Prange's response. After 28 years of running the store located on State Street in Waseca, Prange said goodbye to the historical building and the business she built.

- Longtime area resident Cheri Brummund held her retirement party and final day at work at the Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District's (WSWCD) office on Friday, July 25. She has been a Waseca resident for over 40 years and has been working for Soil and Water since 2016.

- The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce and Discover Waseca Tourism released a brand-new set of rack cards now available in 100 locations across Waseca. These colorful, easy-to-navigate cards showcase the best of the community and are designed to guide both visitors and residents to Waseca's top destinations.

- The "Best Thai Cuisine" restaurant at 115 North Main Street in Janesville began operation on June 20. Within weeks, those who work there said they are deeply impressed by the public's attention and the positive support they receive.

- Local drivers were likely surprised to find themselves mingling with dozens of Model T Ford vehicles on Waseca County roads on July 24. The Model T owners, on the other hand, had been planning on the drive for nearly two years. The event was an annual convention which drew about 220 vintage vehicles and more than 600 people, most of whom visited

FarmAmerica that day.

August

- The 157-year-old Bailey-Lewer house in Waseca is seeing some new — and needed — changes. A historic house, it has a foundation laid in a time when construction practices were rather informal. Waseca County History Center database manager Elizabeth Anselmo said a structural engineer informed them the building is leaning three inches toward the southwest corner.

- More than 200 people visited the thirteenth Yaunt 2 Cancer Benefit Rodeo the afternoon of Saturday, Aug. 2, at the Yaunt 2 Ranch southeast of New Richland. The rodeo competition, a silent auction, vendors, fellowship and good weather helped ensure everyone enjoyed themselves.

- When Oscar Marquez was 18 years old, he made a promise to himself: to never open another restaurant in his life. But for about the last 20 years, Marquez has been successfully running El Molino, a restaurant in Waseca which serves Mexican dishes.

- The spirit of the holidays arrived early in Waseca: Discover Waseca Tourism announced recent fundraising efforts had made possible the delivery of beautiful new snowflake decorations which were later debuted in a ceremony on Dec. 4.

- The Waseca Area Food Shelf found itself responding to some of the greatest need ever this summer. According to food shelf director Cindy Kolander, 617 households—the highest number in her experience—were assisted with well over 18,000 pounds of food during the month of July.

- Syd's Sleek Renderings is one of the newest businesses in the NRHEG area. Owner Sydney Lever, 19, was taken by surprise at its immediate success.

- A small celebration took place at the Waseca Pizza Ranch on Thursday, Aug. 7 to mark the approach of birthday number 50 for Waseca County Sheriff Jay Dulac.

- The Waseca Night to Unite observance took place at the Waseca Waterpark the evening of Tuesday, Aug. 5. More than 450 Wasecans enjoyed some free food, some fun and sun, and some water sliding.

- The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors proudly presented a Progress Award to the Waseca Art Center on Thursday, July 31 in recognition of the Center's significant impact on the community and

its celebration of 50 years of inspiring creativity, education, and cultural enrichment in Waseca.

- Representative Brad Finstad made a stop in Waseca as part of his ongoing journey to personally visit every county in his district.

- Roughly 40 feet tall and weighing 30,000 pounds, the replacement steeple for LeSueur River Lutheran Church lifted off the pavement where it had been constructed and moved directly to the place it belonged, easily 80 feet above the ground atop the church's bell tower the morning of Thursday, Aug. 14.

- The Power of Produce (POP) table at the Waseca area farmers' market was consistently a popular stop, since the public health program provided \$5 in coupons to any child under the age of 18 who had signed up. Coupons could be used for fresh vegetables, eggs and herbs as well as preserved foods such as pickles or salsa.

- The 22 or so members of the New Richland Town and Country Garden Club shared collaborative efforts during the summer, especially in the task of caring for the decorative garden along Highway 30 near the high school.

- More than 60 participants made it possible for the third annual "Biker Bug Run" fundraiser at the Hartland University Bar to raise \$2,200 to be donated toward increased motorcycle safety in the state of Minnesota.

- After eight years serving the City of New Richland, Administrator Anthony Martens, 45, departed for greener pastures. He began a new position as Blooming Prairie City Administrator in July.

- The Waseca Bluejays girls' tennis team won its first match of the season, Thursday Aug. 14, in Waseca, 7-0 over the Austin Packers.

- About 45 young Waseca area cheerleaders won national-level titles during the summer through the "Champion Force" program.

- The Quilts of Valor Foundation presented four area veterans with beautifully crafted quilts on Monday, Aug. 18, at Waseca Legion Post 228.

- The beginning of the Waseca High School football team's season was greeted with enthusiasm after a "stellar" showing in 2024. The team went on to become state champion runners-up by the end of the 2025 season.

- Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm

(PGPF) marked its tenth anniversary with a heartfelt celebration on the farm, welcoming nearly 200 guests including family, close friends, former employees, vendors, collaborators, and longtime supporters.

September

- An August 17 and 18 rainstorm dropped 9.48 inches of rain at the weather station at the University of Minnesota's Southern Outreach and Research Center (SROC) located in Waseca. Information compiled by SROC staff members indicated the event contributed to numerous records, including the wettest June to August summer in the station's 111-year history, the third-wettest August and the eighth-wettest growing season since statistics began being collected in 1914.

- Lifelong Waseca County resident Tom Klug started selling not only his frozen meat at the Waseca farmers market at the fairgrounds, but also breakfast sandwiches.

- Head coach Philip Bulfer told the Pioneer he expected the 2025 Waseca High School girls' soccer team to have a competitive season.

- Local artist Robin Warburton's sculpture "Daybreak," which features an open-mouthed eastern meadowlark apparently in the act of singing, placed very highly at the competitive "juried" fine arts show held at the Minnesota State Fair.

- Organizers of the 38th Waseca Marching Classic held Sept. 20 selected Penny Vought and Kris Markeson, recently retired and current Waseca Chiefs of Police as this year's "Friends of the Classic."

- Long-term Waseca residents Bruce and Lorraine Wick, married to each other for almost 70 years, both celebrated their 91st birthday on Sept. 24. A Pioneer article told the story of their remarkably intertwined lives.

- The Sacred Heart Church's Fall Festival started out with a fish fry and children's dance the evening of Sept. 19. Also under way were the weekend-long features including the spirit wall, concessions, white elephant thrift sale, silent auction, book fair and much more.

- NRHEG band director Seth Schaefer described the Panthers' participation in the Waseca Marching Classic field show on Sept. 20 as a way to expand band members' base of experience and simultaneously broaden their horizons.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

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

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

Pastor Dan Kordahl
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship

12-18
* * * * *

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

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

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
1221 8th St SE, Waseca
507-835-2213
Sunday worship 10:45 a.m., 6:00 p.m.

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Father Glenn Ferichs
Friday - 10 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays
6:00 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

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

FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod
Waldorf, Minnesota
Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Larry Sipe
Sundays: Worship 8 a.m.; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and adult bible class

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

ST. 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN
Wilton Township
Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor
Sunday - 8 a.m. summer worship; 10:45 a.m. Worship starting Sept. 1

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

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

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.

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.

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

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So far, so good for JWP boys

Bulldogs 13-0 at mid-season

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

In last week's poll, the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton boys' basketball team was rated No. 3 in the state in Class A, according to MaxPreps.com.

The Bulldogs continued to show us why.

After dispatching visiting LeSueur-Henderson 92-55 last Tuesday in their tallest test of the season - literally - the Bulldogs manhandled Medford 78-45 Friday to improve to 13-0 on the season.

How good are the Bulldogs?

After Tuesday's win, which saw JWP hold LSH's 6-foot-10 inch center to 22 points - 10 under his season average - coach Nick James had this to say: "It was not our best shooting night. We missed some wide-open looks."

But the Bulldogs held a commanding 45-26 halftime lead and cruised in the second half, hitting 13 three-point baskets, led by Daulton Bauer with seven. Daulton finished the night with 34 points. His brother, Gavin, totaled 18 points, 9 rebounds and 7 assists. Gavin Weedman 10 points, 4 rebounds and 5 assists. A third Bauer brother, freshman Maddex, contributed 9 points while Jaxon Wolff added 5 points, 6 rebounds and 6 assists.

Coach James said the Bulldogs have been able to beat taller teams with quickness and anticipation.

"It usually requires everyone being in the correct spots to help when needed," said James.

"We have to come ready to play every game."
— JWP coach
Nick James

James, whose team has made 115 of 297 threes for 39 percent, said he doesn't take much stock about in-season ratings.

"When it comes to the end of the year, none of that stuff really matters," said James. "We have to come ready to play every game. The players may pay attention to it, players from the other teams also, one thing from it is you usually get the best from your opponents. They want to beat a ranked team, so we need to come out ready to play."

How does this season's version of the Bulldogs compare to other great teams at JWP?

"Each one had different strengths and weaknesses," said James. "I think we are probably smaller, but have a little more team speed than some of those really good teams."

Having the Bauer brothers in the lineup also helps.

"Daulton and Gavin keep improving," said James. "They work hard at getting better every day. They push each other and their teammates every day at practice. They do have some of that brotherly competition between them. Then you throw the younger brother Maddex in there, and they let him know whenever he messes up. All



BROTHERLY LOVE — JWP senior Daulton Bauer, left, and his younger brother Gavin, right, drive to the basket during last week's 92-55 victory over LeSueur-Henderson at Janesville.
Photos by Jim Lutgens

three are great kids who make it easy to be around."

The Bulldogs' goals are, according to James, unchanging.

"We always want to get better every day, improve from day one to the end of the year," he said. "We want to be playing our best basketball in February and March. If we do that, hopefully we put ourselves in a position to win the conference, and give ourselves a shot at the section championship. Either is very hard to do, so we need to keep getting better."

Fans have not been shy about supporting the Bulldogs, regularly packing the gym for home games.

"The fans have been great and the support means a lot," said James. "I think it shows a lot of how the boys play, which is fun to watch. They play hard, which is all we ask for, to play hard and the rest will come with it. They make games very entertaining."

"They're also fun to coach. "The boys make it very easy to be around," said James. "They are all great kids, and they for the most part, work very hard every practice. When you enjoy being around them, it makes the season so entertaining. This group will get after each other. They're also not afraid to let each other know when they



mess up, which most days is very entertaining. Not every day is perfect, that is for sure, but these guys are so enjoyable to be around."

The Bulldogs hosted Medford Friday and won 78-47 after leading 49-29 at halftime.

Daulton Bauer had 20 points, 5 assists and 3 steals, Gavin 22 points, 11 rebounds, six assists and three steals. Weedman had 13 points, Caleb Quast 10.

Making it halfway through the season undefeated does come as a bit of a surprise for James.

"You figure you may have an off game at some point, and we have played some pretty good basketball

teams," said James. "Especially a team like us that shoots a lot of three-pointers. We did think we had a team that would be hard to keep down for a whole game, and we always feel if we defend really well it would keep us in games where the offense isn't scoring like we want. So far, it has worked out."

After a Tuesday game at USC, the Bulldogs, 3-0 in the Gopher Conference West, host Hayfield at 7 p.m. Friday and face Jordan Saturday at 11 a.m. at Southwest Minnesota Christian in Chaska. They host WEM Jan. 20.



CIRCUS SHOT — The Bluejays' Cyrett Long attempts a shot during Waseca's victory over visiting Worthington last Friday. He finished with 3 points, 2 rebounds, 2 assists and 4 steals.
Photos by Jim Lutgens

Waseca boys run win streak to seven

Bluejays top Worthington, St. Clair

The Waseca High School boys' basketball team appears to have finally hit its stride after the extended football season, defeating Worthington 72-34 last Friday for its seventh consecutive victory after dropping the first four games.

"This was definitely our best overall game," said WHS coach Seth Anderson. "We had balance all around."

Deron Russell led four Waseca scorers in double figures, finishing with 14 points, 7 rebounds, 6 assists and 7 steals. Ethan Hiller was 6-for-8 from the floor while totaling 13 points, 5 rebounds, 2 assists and a steal. Also shooting efficiently was Wyatt Hager, who made 5 of 7 field goals to finish with 11 points, 5 rebounds, 3 assists and 1 steal. Toby Jeske was 4-for-6, registering 8

points, 5 rebounds and an assist. Others: Cyrett Long 3P, 2R, 2A, 4S; Hayden Stencil 1R, 1A; Kameron Ferch 2P; Owen Honstad 10P, 1R, 1A, 2S, 1 blocked shot; Logan Reger 2P, 1R, 1A; Brody Dufault 1R, 3A, 1S; Riley Mitchell 3P, 1R, 1B; Owen Rupe 4P, 3R, 1A; Darius Powell 2P, 2R.

Three nights earlier, the Bluejays played at St. Clair and won 70-50 despite a less-than-spectacular performance. It was 38-20 at halftime. "We played O.K.," said Anderson. "But we committed too many fouls in the first half."

Anderson praised the play of Rupe, who tracked down 12 rebounds on the night.

Individual totals: Hiller 9P, 4R, 4A; Russell 25P, 10R, 3A, 3S; Long 11P, 3R, 1A; Hager 3P, 2R; Honstad



WINNING STREAK — Waseca's Ethan Hiller (0) goes up for a shot while Worthington's Isaiah Schumacher (43) defends during the Bluejays' 72-34 victory last Friday. It was the seventh consecutive win for Waseca.

3P, 1R, 2A, 2S; Reger 3P; Dufault 5P, 2R; Rupe 5P, 2R; Powell 2R; Jeske 6P, 2R.

After a Tuesday home game against Belle Plaine, the Bluejays play Friday at New Ulm at 7:15 and

Saturday at 2:30 in the second game of a girl-boy doubleheader at home against Minnesota Valley Lutheran. They travel to St. Peter for a 7:30 p.m. game Dec. 20.

For gymnasts, a night to remember

Record performances, season bests highlight meet with Byron

By JOE HEDERVARE
WHS Athletic Director

The Waseca Bluejay gymnastics team delivered a historic performance last Tuesday night, posting its highest team score in the last 10 years in a home meet against a strong Byron squad. While the Bluejays ultimately fell to Byron by a final score of 140.25-135.425, the night was filled with record-setting performances, season highs, and personal bests that underscored the continued growth of the program.

The team score of 135.425 marks the best varsity total for Waseca gymnastics in the past decade. Vault proved to be a major strength on the night, as the Bluejays recorded a team season high of 35.425. The team also established new program records on vault, with scores of 34.425 and 35.95, highlighting the depth and consistency across the lineup.

Senior standout Layla Keith led the way with an exceptional all-around performance. Keith earned top all-around honors in the meet with a score of 35.925, while also capturing first place on the bars (8.675) and floor (9.55). Her floor score of 9.55 tied her own school record, and she added season highs on both vault (9.15) and floor (9.55).

Additional all-around highlights included Katelyn Weber, who posted a 33.125 to place 4th overall, and Ellie Clark, who recorded a new personal-best all-around score of 33.1, finishing 5th overall.

On the vault, Keith's 9.15 was a new personal best and placed her 3rd. Weber followed with a 9.0, also a personal best, good for 5th, while Clark added an 8.675 to finish 6th.

On bars, Keith paced the Bluejays with her first-place score of 8.675, while Weber earned 6th place with a 7.55.

Beam saw Keith score an 8.55 for 4th, while Clark continued her strong night with another personal best, scoring an 8.375 to place 5th.

In the floor exercise, Keith again topped the field with her 9.55. Hannah Parks delivered a standout routine, scoring a new personal-best 9.125 to place 5th, while Clark rounded out the scoring with a personal-best 8.75, finishing 7th.

Following the meet, Bluejay head coach Kim Wendland reflected on the significance of the performance:

"Last night I had one of the most dynamic and successful nights as a coach. The highest varsity team score since I have been coaching at Waseca—10 years. The girls eliminated mistakes from Saturday at MCA and proved they could put in an amazing team score."

Despite the loss, the night served as a major milestone for the program and a strong indicator of what lies ahead for the Bluejays as the season continues.

The Bluejays' next competition is Tuesday, Jan. 20 at 6 p.m. at Fairmont.

Flyers fall to Worthington

The South Central girls' hockey team took a 9-2 loss at Worthington last Friday.

Scoring for the Flyers were McKenna Mortenson and Anika Glien, with Emma Huelsnitz reg-

istering an assist.

Clara Nawrocki was in goal as South Central was outshot 18-6.

The Flyers' record fell to 0-13. Worthington improved to 7-10.

WHS icemen win twice

Rematch vs. Luverne Saturday at Waseca Community Arena

The Waseca High School boys' hockey team won a pair of games last week, defeating New Ulm 6-4 Tuesday and shutting out Minnesota River 17-0 Tuesday.

New Ulm, which played the Bluejays tough in an earlier meeting this season, did so again, taking a 2-1 lead after one period while outshooting the Jays 15-10. But it was all Waseca after that, with the Jays scoring three unanswered goals in the second period and two in the third to skate to victory on the Eagles' rink.

Griffin Storey scored twice, with one goal apiece by August Hansen, Henry Huttemier, Cash Lynch and Otto Schoenrock. Lynch logged two assists. Schoenrock, Storey, Jackson Dahl, Avery Selvik and Jayden Hervey had one assist apiece.

Waseca was called for two penalties, resulting in four minutes in the penalty box, while New Ulm served 14 minutes on three infractions.

Josiah Schmidtko was in goal as the Bluejays outshot New Ulm 36-34 for the game.

Waseca overwhelmed Redwood Valley at Redwood

Falls, leading 10-0 after one period and 14-0 after two while outshooting the visitors 54-5 through two periods.

The Bluejays had two skaters with hat tricks as Schoenrock scored five goals and Jude Gehring four. Selvik and Storey scored two goals apiece, with one each by Huttemier, Beckett Sr., Jude Gehring, Ty Krautkremer and Ayden Kath.

Storey added to his statistics with six assists. Huttemier and Lynch both had three. Selvik and Kath two, with one apiece from Hansen, Krautkremer, Hervey and Dahl.

Schmidtko was again in goal. Waseca outshot Redwood Valley 67-7.

The Bluejays were called for one penalty four two minutes, Redwood Valley four for eight.

Waseca improved its record to 8-4-1 while RW Valley fell to 2-9.

The Bluejays face Rochester Lourdes tonight at home at 7 p.m., then meet powerful Luverne Saturday at 3:45 at Waseca Community Arena. They host Dodge County Jan. 20 at 7 p.m.



BIG WEEK FORTHCOMING — Avery Selvik, left, and Henry Huttemier, right, move the puck up the ice in recent action for the Bluejays, who face tough tests this week with Rochester Lourdes and Luverne. Photo by Jim Lutgens



BACK POINTS — The Bluejays' Matthew Veroeven on his way to pinning New Ulm's Emerson Johnson during last week's dual meet at Waseca. On Saturday, Veroeven won the Big South championship at 285 pounds. Photos by Jim Lutgens



MIXING IT UP — Waseca's Lucas Selthun, above right, battles Tilken Fruhworth of New Ulm. Below, Sam Selthun hoists Candon Briggs of New Ulm.

WHS wrestlers drop two duals

Barnett sustains season's first loss in Big South tournament

The Waseca High School wrestling team dropped two dual meets in a triangular at home last Thursday, 59-11 to New Ulm and 39-29 to Tri-City United.

The Bluejays won only twice against New Ulm, with Slade Barnett taking a 19-4 technical fall at 189 pounds and Matthew Veroeven winning by fall at 285.

Also wrestling for Waseca: Kole

Nelson, 107; Zander Rahe, 114; Deven Parpart, 133; Jackson Janike, 139; Jake Knutson, 145; Braxton Nelson, 152; Sam Selthun, 160; Alex Bethke, 172; and Lucas Selthun, 215.

Winners against TCU: Kole Nelson, Rahe, Parpart, Sam Selthun, Lucas Selthun and Veroeven.

New Ulm defeated TCU 47-20. The Bluejays finished seventh in

the Big South Conference tournament at Marshall Saturday, totaling 82 points. New Ulm Area won it with 191.5.

The biggest news Saturday was Barnett taking his first loss of the season, 6-3 to undefeated Brayden Chandler in the 172-pound finals. Barnett fell to 23-1 while Chandler improved to 26-0. Both are juniors. Veroeven captured the Bluejays'

long conference championship, winning 7-4 in the 285 title bout. He improved to 16-1 for the season.

Lucas Selthun finished third, winning 11-8 in the third-place match. Parpart was fifth at 133.

After a Tuesday meet at Maple River, the Bluejays wrestle tonight at 5 p.m. at Marshall. They're at the Hutchinson Invitational Saturday at 10 a.m.



FAMILY TRADITION — Audrianna Willingham scores against Worthington. Photo by Jim Lutgens

WHS basketball girls notch win No. 2

Ava Miller scores 19 as Bluejays take down Worthington, 56-39

After a brief hiccup earlier in the week at St. Clair, the Waseca High School girls' basketball team didn't want long to double their victory total for the season.

The Bluejays logged win No. 2 last Friday, defeating visiting Worthington 56-39.

According to coach Brian Rupe, the Bluejays played their best half of basketball all season while building a 32-14 advantage at the intermission.

"I was extremely happy with our team defense," said Rupe. "By putting ourselves in great positions

on the defensive end, it also allowed us to rebound the basketball pretty well. Ava (Miller) scored 17 of her 19 in the first half, forcing them to really have to adjust to her. We went into a bit of a lull in the second half, allowing Worthington to pull back within 14. Down the stretch we were able to take some long possessions and close out the game.

Individual totals: Audrianna Willingham 5 points, 3 rebounds, 2 steals; Ava Miller 19P, 2R, 3 assists, two steals. Belle Miller 3P, 4R, 2A, 4S; Reese Rodriguez 8P, 9R, 3A, 1A; Maren Schimming 2A, 9R, 1

blocked shot; Libby Miller 8P, 3R, 2S, 2A; Hannah Sommers 11P, 8R; Alexa Welander 1R, 1S; Shakiyah Powell 2P, 7R, 1S.

The Bluejays lost 75-37 to St. Clair last Tuesday. It was 45-25 at halftime.

"We started the game very well, hitting some shots and defending well," said Rupe. "St Clair is a team that full-court presses and denies the basketball very well. We continue to work hard to minimize our mistakes against the pressure. When we move the ball well, we are able to break the pressure and get some easy bas-

kets. The pressure wore us down over the game and we had more turnovers in the second half, which allowed St Clair to pull away."

Individually: Willingham 3P, 1R, 1A, 1S; A.Miller 11P, 3R, 2A, 1S; B.Miller 3P, 3R, 2A, 1S; Rodriguez 2P, 1A, 3S, 3R; L.Miller 1R, 2S; Sommers 4P, 7R, 1A; Welander 2P, 3R, 1S; Powell 6P, 1R; Anna Benson 1R; Ahvah Maas 2R.

After a Tuesday game at Belle Plaine, the Panthers host New Ulm Friday and play Saturday at Minnesota Valley Lutheran.

NRHEG matmen top Triton

The NRHEG High School wrestling team was a big shorthanded last Thursday against Triton.

The Panthers made up for it with pins.

NRHEG won four bouts by fall and got three forfeits while defeating the Cobras 42-32 in a dual meet in New Richland.

"It was a great opportunity for some of our younger and less experienced wrestlers to get a chance to compete on the varsity level," said Panthers head coach Krey Cory, who said each of his wrestlers came out aggressively.

"All of the wrestlers continue to go out and wrestle fearlessly and try to score from every position," said Cory.

The Panthers got falls from Graham Jacobson, Charles

"All of the wrestlers continue to go out and wrestle fearlessly." — Coach Krey Cory

Tufte, Noah Weller and Wyatt Larson, while Owen Schlaak, Chase Johannsen and Ryan Schlaak received forfeits. It was the 100th career victory for Ryan Schlaak.

The Panthers, 5-7 overall and 2-1 in the Gopher Conference, host WEM/JWP tonight in New Richland at 7 p.m.. They wrestle Saturday in the Hayfield Invitational and Jan. 22 at Waseca.



PIN TO WIN — Wyatt Larson, top, works on a pin against Triton. Photo by Jim Lutgens

STANDINGS

Boys' Basketball

Big South Conference - Black		
	Conf.	Ov.
St. Peter	5-1	9-3
Belle Plaine	4-1	91
Marshall	4-2	6-4
Waseca	3-3	7-4
New Ulm	2-3	5-5
Worthington	1-4	2-11
Tri-City United	0-5	0-10

Big South Conference - Gold		
	Conf.	Ov.
Fairmont	7-1	9-2
Luverne	6-1	10-2
Jackson County Cent.	5-2	8-4
Blue Earth Area	4-3	8-3
St. James Area	3-4	5-4
Pipestone Area	2-5	4-8
Redwood Valley	1-6	2-9
Windom Area	0-6	6-7

Gopher Conference - West		
	Div.	Ov.
Janesville-WP	3-0	13-0
New Richland-HEG	2-1	4-8
United South Central	2-1	3-7
Waterville-EM	1-2	4-7
Medford	0-4	2-9

Gopher Conference East		
	Div.	Ov.
Triton	4-0	9-3
Blooming Prairie	3-1	11-1
Bethlehem Academy	2-1	3-11
Hayfield	1-2	6-5
Randolph	1-3	3-11
Kenyon-Wanamingo	0-4	4-9

Girls' Basketball

Big South Conference - Black		
	Conf.	Ov.
Marshall	5-1	9-3
New Ulm	4-1	8-3
St. Peter	4-2	8-3
Tri-City United	3-2	6-7
Belle Plaine	2-3	5-5
Waseca	1-5	2-11
Worthington	0-5	2-11

Big South Conference - Gold		
	Conf.	Ov.
Fairmont	7-0	11-1
Pipestone Area	6-1	11-1
St. James Area	4-2	7-4
Windom Area	4-3	12-3
Luverne	3-3	7-4
Jackson County Cent.	2-5	5-9
Blue Earth Area	1-6	3-10
Redwood Valley	0-7	0-13

Gopher Conference - West		
	Div.	Ov.
New Richland-HEG	3-0	12-2
Janesville-WP	2-1	8-5
Waterville-EM	2-3	5-9
United South Central	1-4	7-5
Medford	0-0	0-0

Gopher Conference - East		
	Div.	Ov.
Hayfield/Schaeffer Ac.	4-0	13-2
Triton	4-1	7-5
Blooming Prairie	3-2	7-5
Bethlehem Academy	1-4	5-7
Kenyon-Wanamingo	1-5	5-9
Randolph	1-4	4-9

Boys' Hockey

Big South Conference - Black		
	Div.	Ov.
Waseca	4-0	8-5-1
Minnesota River	3-2	7-6
New Ulm	1-3	6-6
Marshall	0-3	2-10

Big South Conference - Gold		
	Div.	Ov.
Luverne	4-0	13-2
Fairmont	3-1	4-5
Windom Area	2-3	4-8
Worthington	1-3	2-12
Redwood Valley	1-4	2-9

Girls' Hockey

Big South Conference - Black		
	Div.	Ov.
Minnesota River	4-1	13-4
Marshall	2-1	17-4
New Ulm	1-2	4-11
South Central	0-3	0-13

Big South Conference - Gold		
	Div.	Ov.
Fairmont	3-0	8-6
Luverne	2-1	9-7
Worthington/Fulda	1-2	7-10
Windom Area	0-3	4-12

Wrestling

Big South Conference - Black		
	Div.	Ov.
Marshall/Lakeview	2-0	10-2
Worthington	2-0	3-2
New Ulm	1-0	6-0
Tri-City United	1-1	4-3
Waseca	1-1	3-3
St. Peter	0-2	2-5
Martin County	0-3	3-6

Big South Conference - Gold		
	Div.	Ov.
Jackson County Central	2-0	2-0
Pipestone Area	1-0	7-1
Windom/Mt. Lake	1-0	8-6
St. James-Madelia	1-1	6-4
Redwood Valley	1-1	4-5
Luverne	0-2	4-4
Blue Earth Area	0-2	3-10

Slow-starting NRHEG girls pull away from Triton, 81-58

Buendorf hits five first-half threes, Panthers improve to 12-2

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The NRHEG High School girls' basketball team hadn't defeated Triton in three years, and the Panthers found themselves in a 17-17 deadlock with the upstart Cobras last Friday.

Was it time to panic? No. It was time to lean on Clara Buendorf.

Buendorf, a 5-foot-9-inch junior, sank five three-point baskets in the first half, helping the Panthers to a 44-22 halftime lead they parlayed into an 81-58 victory in New Richland.

"Triton is a physically tough, well-coached team, and we haven't beaten them the past couple of years, so it was great to pick up a win against them tonight," said Panthers coach Onika Peterson. "The girls went on a strong run in the first half, knocking down some big three-pointers over a 10-minute stretch. Clara had a terrific shooting night."

Buendorf finished with a season-high 24 points, adding 4 rebounds, 3 assists and 2 steals.

Camryn VanMaldeghem had another big night with 27 points, 6 rebounds and 2 steals.

Others: Gabby Schlaak 10P, 6R, 3A, 1S; Ezra Boerner 2R, 3A, 1S, 1 block; Quinn VanMaldeghem 12P, 17R, 5A, 6S; Savannah Farr 2P, 2R; Chloe Stork 4P, 5R; 2A, 2A, 1B; Emilia Stadheim 2P; Aubrey Hendrickson 1S; Joey Rossing 1R.

"I was extremely impressed with how the girls handled Triton's pressure defense," said Peterson. "Triton came out aggressive in the second half and hit some big threes of their own, but our girls stayed composed and never fell apart. We turn right around with a back-to-back next week—Monday at home vs. St. Peter and Tuesday on the road at WEM."

Last Tuesday, Camryn VanMaldeghem poured in 42 points as the Panthers claimed a 72-36 victory over United South Central in Wells. It was 30-19 at halftime.

"Tonight wasn't the prettiest game, but a win is a win," said Peterson. "We struggled to buy a basket in the first half and, with 11 minutes remaining, held a slim 2-0 lead. We created plenty of shot opportunities, but nothing seemed to fall early. Once a few shots finally went down, things began to open up—especially in the second half."

Individually: C.VanMaldeghem 42P, 9R, 3S, 2A, 1B; Schlaak 14P, 5R, 2S; Boerner 1P, 2R, 2S, 1A; Q.VanMaldeghem 8P, 6R, 5S, 4A, 1B; Buendorf 7P, 3R, 2S, B; Stork 3R, 3S, 1A; Alayna Groskreutz 1R.

"We have a tough stretch of games coming up over the next couple of weeks, and it will be exciting to see how the girls continue to battle and rally through the challenging stretch of January," said Peterson.

The Panthers, who improved to 12-2 overall and 6-0 in the Gopher Conference, play Jan. 20 at Grand Meadow, host Randolph Jan. 23 and entertain Houston Jan. 24. They have a big home game against JWP Jan. 26.



ONE OF FIVE — NRHEG junior Clara Buendorf sets up for one of her five first-half three-pointers during the Panthers' 81-58 victory over Triton last Friday. Photo by Jim Lutgens



SECOND PLACE — The Grizzlies' Bre'Ann Masso, right, placed second in last Saturday's tournament at Eden Prairie. Photo by LeAnn Kavitz

Grizzlies 1-1 in triangular; girls 23rd at Eden Prairie

The WEM/JWP wrestling team had mixed results in a triangular at Wells last Thursday, defeating St. Clair/Mankato Loyola 44-25 while falling 44-23 to Maple River/United South Central.

Winners for the Grizzlies against St. Clair Loyola: Otto Root, 114 pounds; Brenden Masso, 121; Troy Richards, 127; Brady Murphy, 139; Parker James, 152; Charles Adams, 172; Kaven Sheehy, 215; and Mason Denis, 285. Root, Richards and Sheehy won by fall. Also wrestling for WEM/JWP were Jacksten Knish, David Mielke, Aiden Gruber, Zach Quast and Trenton Huber.

Victories against MR/USC: Masso, Richards, Murphy, Huber and Sheehy. Devin Cowdin and

Quinn Anderson also wrestled. The Grizzlies ran their dual-meet record to 6-9 for the season.

The WEM/JWP girls traveled to Eden Prairie Saturday for the Eagle Invitational, finishing 23rd out of 31 teams with 60 points. Apple Valley won with 212.5.

The Grizzlies had two finalists, with Bre'Ana Masso taking second at 112, dropping a 12-3 decision in the finals, and Alaelysa Skidmore placing second at 106, losing by fall in the championship match.

Rayel Sammon finished fourth at 136, Kirsten Amundson fifth at 136 and Payton Miller taking sixth at 112.

Also wrestling for the Grizzlies were Kayle Langford, 136; and Ivy Shaw, 118.

JWP girls fall to Fairmont despite halftime advantage

The good news is the JWP girls' basketball team led a strong Fairmont crew at halftime last Friday.

The bad news is the Bulldogs couldn't finish it off, falling 64-52 in nonconference play after holding a 27-26 edge at the break.

"I thought the girls did a great job coming out in the first half and being aggressive both on the offensive and defensive end of the floor," said Bulldogs coach Brandon Goebel. "We came out for the second half and started strong again for the first few minutes, then some shots didn't fall. Fairmont made some tough shots and got to the free-throw line frequently and built a lead in the second half. We continued to fight, but couldn't get stops when we needed to. Our ability to finish defensive possessions with a rebound has been an issue all year long and we have to get better at it if we want to be successful for the second half of the season."

Individually for JWP: Katie Olson 15 points, 4

"We continued to fight, but couldn't get stops when we needed to."

JWP coach Brandon Goebel

assists, 3 steals; Ashlynn Wolff 13P, 9 rebounds; Mikayla Wheelock 11P, 6R, 2A; Nevaeh Weimert 3P, 5R, 5A; Jacelynn Mulder 7P, 5R.

The Bulldogs, 2-1 in the Gopher Conference, fell to 8-6 overall.

After home games Monday and Tuesday, the Bulldogs play Thursday, Jan. 15 at Hayfield/Shaeffer Academy and Jan. 20 at WEM.

Tournament champs



The Waseca PeeWee hockey came home with a first-place trophy in a recent tournament in Tomah, Wis. Waseca defeated the Madison Patriots 11-1, the Tomah/Sparta Titans 7-5 and Altoona 5-2 in the championship. Front from left: Hunter Calhoun, Easton Corchran, Blake Neegaard, Blake, Steinberg, Korbin Collins, Hudson Grunwald, Nick Ferris, Ethan Jackson, and Kamden Goettl. Back: coach Auston Larson, Jace Ulschmid, Coach Griffin Wanger, Lucas Johnson, Beckett Foels, Easton Schlueter, Jakub LaCanne, Drake Bubak, Tucker Parpart and Carson Osborne.

First at New Prague



The Waseca 7th-grade boys' basketball team finished first in New Prague Jan. 3, defeating Bloomington, New Prague and Belle Plaine. Front from left: Ben Dobberstein, Keian Klinger, Noah Cisneros, Peyton Groskreutz, Tyler Ryan, Caleb Dufault and Will Deml. Back: coach Jared Dufault, Cooper Nelson, Ryan DeWees, Ashton Hayes, John Olson, coach Mike Deml and coach Joe Nelson.

NRHEG boys end skid

The NRHEG High School boys' basketball team hosted United South Central last week looking for improvement after a rough Christmas break.

The Panthers got it.

The NRHEG boys snapped a three-game skid, defeating USC 74-63 in a Gopher Conference West clash in New Richland.

"After some intense soul searching at practice yesterday, the boys came out with a lot of energy," said NRHEG coach Dan Schmidt.

Mack Gilliland led the Panthers with 17 points, while Dom Olson scored 16 and A.J. Deen 15.

Fynn Baumann also had a good game off the bench, according to Schmidt, while Calvin Nissen did a stalwart job distributing the basketball.

Full individual statistics for

NRHEG: Deen 15 points, 4 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal, 1 block; Olson 9P, 3R, 3A, 1S; Nissen 2P, 3R, 4A, 3S; Brooks Gilliland 6P, 5R, 2S; Baumann 3P, 3R, 1A; Brendan Schmidt 7P, 5R, 3A, 3S; M.Gilliland 17P, 3R, 1A, 6S; Holland 8P, 6R, 3A, 1S.

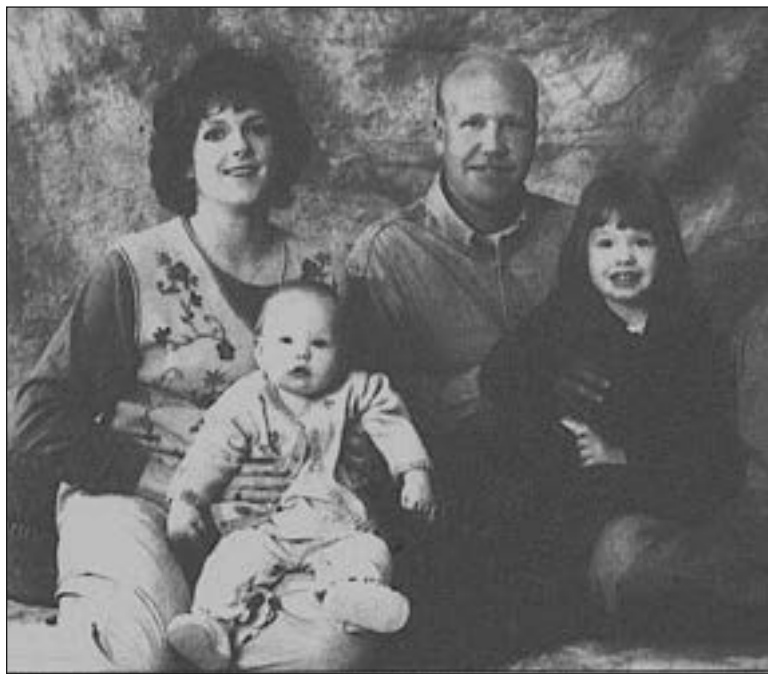
The Panthers lost 98-71 Friday on Teacher Appreciation Nigh.

Individual totals: Deen 8P, 4R; Olson 9P; Nissen 4P, 1R, 1A, 1S; B.Gilliland 11P, 2R, 4A, 2S; Baumann 6P, 1R, 2A, 1S; B.Schmidt 3P, 6R, 2A, 1S; M.Gilliland 9P; Holland 16P, 2R, 2A, 1S; Seah Lassahn 3P, 1R, 1A; Levi Whiteside 2P, 1R, 4A, 1S.

The Panthers ran their record to 4-8 overall and 2-1 in the Gopher Conference West while Triton improved to 9-3 and 4-0.

Janesville

25 years ago



- Scott and Peggy Hildebrandt and their children Paige, 4 and Emily, 1 are the outstanding farm family in the state for the year 2000, as designated by the Jaycee.

- Joy Fetchenhier of Janesville, a senior at JWP High School has been accepted for admission at Rasmussen College, Mankato in Web Design for the 2000-2001 academic year. Fetchenhier is the daughter of Allen and Karen Fetchenhier of Janesville.

- Jason Wilmes, son of Chuck and Jane Wilmes of Janesville, enlisted in the U.S. Air Force today according to Tech. Sgt. Robert Nixon. Upon successfully completing the six week basic training course at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. Airman Wilmes, a 1999 graduate of Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School, will be earning credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the community college of the air force while attending basic training and other air force technical schools.

- A JWP High School student was slightly injured Saturday in a one vehicle roll over accident. According to the Waseca County Sheriff's Office report, at 8:59 p.m. a vehicle driven by Justin Colby Mueller, 17, of Janesville was southbound on 50th Street when he lost control causing his vehicle to roll over. One of his passengers Mellisa Sue Cummins, 17, of Janesville was taken to Immanuel St. Joseph's Hospital in Mankato. Mueller was not injured in this accident. He was cited for speeding and careless driving.

50 years ago

- Eleven members of the Afternoon Circle of the Janesville United Methodist Woman's Society for Christian Service, had pot luck Christmas dinner at the parsonage with Rev. and Mrs. H.A. Stuart. Following the dinner, election of officers for another year was held with Mrs. August Marquardt elected Chairman; Mrs. Carlos Holeschau, Vice-Chairman; Miss Angelina Fisk, Secretary-Treasurer.

- The following members of the Card Club had supper at the Century Club in Mankato on Saturday evening: Mr. and Mrs. Art Wiljaert of Mankato, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Loeffler and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Loeffler of Eagle Lake, Mr. and Mrs. Bud Stankey and Mr. and Mrs. Louis Sondag.

- Dec. 23 the members of Trinity Lutheran Choir and some of their families went Christmas caroling to shut-ins in Janesville and in the country. After caroling the following had lunch in the church dining hall: Choir director, David Schelp, Mr. and Mrs. John Koehler of Elysian, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Guentzel was present.

75 years ago

- Janesville Janes will meet Wednesday p.m. January 10 with Mrs. Stanley Bailey at her home. Their last meeting was the Christmas party December 13th at the home of Mrs. Frank Galler. At that meeting all the 1950 secret pals were revealed and new ones chosen for 1951. Hostesses were: Mrs. Stan Bailey, Mrs. F. Galler, Mrs. F. Dumdel, Mrs. E.C. Werdin, Mrs. Art Born and Mrs. Ewald Erdman.

- The Fort Nightly Club held its annual Christmas party at the home of Miss Bertha Flitter in Janesville on Wednesday evening, December 27. The home was prettily decorated with Christmas decorations. A pot luck supper was enjoyed by the members and one guest, Miss Benice Rudolph.

- Mrs. Clara Truman was hostess to the Neighborhood Birthday Club at her apartment in Janesville on Thursday evening, December 28. A seven o'clock supper was served to the members and three guests, Mrs. L.M. Hugunin, Mrs. Henry Mueller and Mrs. Wilmer-tia Bergmann.

100 years ago

- It was the third day of hubby's vacation and he was becoming a trifle bored with existence. As they sat together on the hotel porch he suddenly demanded of his wife, "How in the world did we happen to pick out this dump as a resort?" His wife gazed at him in pained surprise for a moment before she could reply, "Why, Edward, you know you always enjoyed the scandals here immensely!"

- Meat is composed of muscle, connective tissue, and fat. The muscle fibers are composed of thin walls which contain the building material for the body; water, mineral salts and extractives. These fibers are held together by little tissues and between these little muscle fibers are bound together, and the more fat the meat contains the more indigestible the meat. Hence, pork is more indigestible than beef. The digestive juices have a harder time to penetrate the closely bound pork fibers.

- According to reports the women of America smoked some nine billion cigarettes during the past year. The fair sex has probably concluded that she may as well take her smoke first hand as to meekly sit by and take it second handed. Has it ever occurred to you that the average male appears around the house just about often enough to keep the premises beautifully saturated with stale tobacco smoke.

Waseca

25 years ago

- Waseca Mayor Tom Hagen will present the State of the City this week at several locations. He made the presentation at noon today for the Exchange Club and for the Waseca city staff this afternoon. Tomorrow, Hagen will make the presentation at noon at the Waseca Lion's Club meeting at the Olde Towne Eatery and on Thursday, for the Waseca Rotary also at noon at the Eatery.



- Vicki Hoehn and Jon Ginther were united in marriage on July 8, 2000 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, in Waseca. Fr. John Kunz and Fr. Lawrence Ginther officiated at the 3 p.m. ceremony. The parents of the couple are Duwayne and Barb Hoehn of Waseca and Dennis and Geraldine Ginther of Owatonna.

- Christopher Brent Sondag graduated from Minnesota State University-Mankato Cum Laude in Law Enforcement, with double minors in Corrections and Sociology on Saturday December 16, 2000. Chris is the son of Dale and Maureen Sondag of Waseca. Chris is a member of the Alpha Phi Sigma Criminal Justice National Honor Society and a member of Golden Key National Honor Society. The requirements for these honor programs is a cumulative GPA of a 3.4 or greater.

50 years ago

- Two area churches announced this week a joint Bible Study series on the teaching of Jesus. Members of Faith United Methodist Church and First Congregational Church, both of Waseca, will join together using a common study guide. The first of five successive Sunday night sessions will be held Sunday at the Congregational Church. The planning committees have set 7 p.m as a starting time, with babysitting service provided.

- Heidi Dianna Smith, 5 lbs, 12 1/4 oz. to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Smith, 122 Vista Villa at Waseca Memorial Hospital on Nov. 17. Paternal grandparents: Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Smith, Staples, Minn. Maternal grandparents; Mr. and Mrs. Carl Gahler, Janesville.

- Stacey Marie Gleason, 5lbs., 13 oz., to Mr. and Mrs. Don Gleason, 805 4th St. S.E. at Waseca Memorial Hospital on Dec. 1. Paternal grandparents; Mr. and Mrs. Ray Gleason, R. 4. Maternal grandparents: Mr. and Mrs. Warren Dunn.

75 years ago

- Five Waseca county 4-H girls have found that sincere effort and interest in 4-H foods demonstration and project work really pays off. An array of dishes and baking equipment has been presented by commercial companies to the winners of the special Food Contest activities. These items were presented to the county winners by Miss LaVerne Larson, County Home Agent at the County Leaders Council Meeting in December.

- The Navy recruiting office in Mankato reported that three Waseca county men, along with a number of others from the surrounding area left Tuesday morning for Minneapolis to enlist Wednesday in the US Navy. Those from Waseca county were Eugene Sebastian Kahnke of Janesville and Wayne Harold Bauman and Bruce Oliver Long of Waseca. They will take their boot training at Great Lakes, Illinois.

- Waseca business and professional people will entertain members of the Waseca County Soil Conservation District and their wives at a dinner Thursday, Jan. 25. This date is the annual meeting of the organization and a cafeteria dinner will be served at noon by the Waseca Chamber of Commerce. At a meeting Wednesday noon the Chamber voted to sponsor the dinner and President Allan Wolf named C. C. Clapper, chairman of the committee in charge of the dinner.

100 years ago

- The Waseca Chapter of the Isaac Walton League is collecting a fund for the purpose of purchasing thirty-three pairs of Hungarian Partridge from the Washington State Game Commission. The partridge will be set out in Waseca county.

- The 1925 Minnesota State Fair, one of the best ever presented by the State Agricultural Society, made a profit of \$38,225.17. The total receipts of the fair were greater than a year ago, but the increased premiums and greater cost of staging the fair, made the net profit a trifle less than a year ago. The average yearly profit for the past four years is \$44,775.42.

- The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Waseca Chicken Hatchery was held last evening at the first National bank. The old directors were all re-elected as follows: M.E. Gardner, C.P. Sommerstad, Frank Kiesler, Dr. H.A. Miller and D.E. Bowe. The organization is determined to put forth strenuous efforts to make Waseca county the banner poultry county of the state and will do its utmost to encourage farmers to raise only pure bred flocks. The slogan of 1926 will be, "A pure bred flock upon every Waseca county farm."

New Richland

25 years ago



- These two dedicated women were recognized for 25 years of employment at the New Richland Care Center at the employee Christmas party on Friday, December 8. Lynda Fleming LPN in the upper photo is checking through her medications cart for a bandaid requested by an aide. Avis Rugroden, dietary aide, is serving coffee in the dining room to resident Carol Christensen.



- Assisting Shirley Groskreutz with the Christmas music during the part at the Care Center, Thursday were Amanda Groskreutz, six years old; Karina Nelson, and the Groskreutz grandson two and a half year old Ben.

50 years ago

- Mike Suppalla, chairman of the board of the Sno-birds Snowmobile club here at New Richland presents Kris Hagen with a check for taking first in a club badge design contest run by the club for young artists in the community. Kris badge was chosen over other entries and will appear on members' snowmobile suits.

- Waldorf-Pemberton defeated the Minnesota Lake Grapplers 43-21, Friday evening, to remain in first place of the Valley Conference.

- Ronda M. Borchert, Maryle J. Scott and Cindra J. Jensen, all of New Richland, were named to the fall quarter Dean's List at Austin Community College. Ronda and Maryle received 4.0 averages.

75 years ago

- A daughter weighing eight pounds, five and a half ounces was born to Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Haug of Owatonna, at the Owatonna hospital, Wednesday January 31. The Haug have a little daughter, Constance.

- Waseca county has a new county nurse, Mrs. Eva Quiram of Waterville have been appointed to that office by the board of county commissioners. Ms. Quiram will take charge April 1.

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STATE OF MINNESOTA
Before the
BLUE EARTH & WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SITTING AS DRAINAGE AUTHORITY
FOR JOINT COUNTY DITCH 83

In the Matter of:

Final Survey Report Hearing for Improvement Petition for portions of Joint County Ditch 83 (JTD 83)

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE:

Joint Judicial Ditch 83 Final Survey Report Hearing

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, the Blue Earth and Waseca County Board of Commissioners, sitting as the Drainage Authority for Joint County Ditch 83, will host a Detailed Survey Report Hearing on **February 3, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. in the 2nd Floor, Board of Commissioner's room at the Blue Earth County Historic Courthouse, 204 South 5th St., Mankato, MN.** The purpose of the hearing is to hear public comment on the final engineering plans for the improvement petition affecting portions of Joint County Ditch 83. Any party wishing to comment may appear at the hearing and be heard. The hearing will be conducted in-person. Agenda information is available at www.blueearthcountymn.gov/agendacenter on the Thursday prior to the meeting. Written comments will be accepted at the hearings. Comments made by mail will be accepted up to the date and time of the hearing at the office of Property and Environmental Resources, Drainage Management, 410 South 5th Street, PO Box 3566, Mankato, MN 56002-3566.

The petition for improvement is still pending final approval by drainage authority for JTD 83. The draft Detailed Survey Report and draft Viewers Reports have been filed with the joint drainage authority. The DNR Commissioners Final Advisory Report has also been filed with joint drainage authority staff.

A draft copy of the Detailed Survey Report is available for inspection at the Blue Earth County Property & Environmental Resources Department, Drainage Management, or available online at <https://blueearth.drainagedb.net/#/portal>.

The proposed improvement includes enlarging current subsurface tile sizes and capacities for portions of Joint County Ditch 83, mainline public drainage system. Affected areas of the proposed improvement include Sections 6 and 7 of Alton Township, Waseca County; and Sections 1 and 12 of McPherson Township, Blue Earth County, Minnesota.

The following owners of property are affected by the current petition for improvement affecting portions of Joint Judicial Ditch 83, Main Line subsurface tile.

Blue Earth County:

ANDERSON, IVAN H & SANDRA E (LE) & KOBYLINSKI, BADE, ERVIN A & MARY L, BADE, ERVIN A, BADE, GERRY D, BENNING, JEFFREY P, BENNING, KYLE R, BERG, NAKIA P & WITT BERG JANELLE R, BILITZ, DAVID PAUL & KARISA K, BONNIFIELD, DAVID C & TAMARA, BORCHARDT, IVAN D, BRITTON, ADAM E, BRITTON, TODD R REVOCABLE TRUST, CORDS, COREY & JENNIFER, DELING, KEVIN J & DIANE R, DIMMEL, ANDREW S & HEATHER A REV TRUSTS, DRUMMER, ANDREW GERARD, EILRICH, NICHOLAS, FLITTER, JON LYLE JR, GLAMM, DAVID LIVING TRUST, GLAMM, DAVID, GUSE, HERBERT & MAVIS LIV TRST, H & J PROPERTIES LLC, IRELAND, FRANK J, KRUSE, ROBERT S & MARY PAT, LANG, JEROME A & KRISTINE K, LANG, JEROME L & MARY A, LANG, THOMAS A & KATHRYN, LOEFFLER, BRIAN & SHELLY, LOEFFLER, BRIAN H & MICHELLE J, MAKI, CAROLYN PENN, MCDONNELL, MAUREEN A & JOHN, MILLER, JUDITH ANN TRUST AGREE, NICOLAI, TROY & KIMBERLY (CFD), PAGE, DAVID, PEMBLE, JOHN R & LYNNELL M REV TRUSTS, PENN, JOHN C W & NANCY J (LE), PETERS, MICHAEL & LINDA, ROESSLER, CURTIS D REVOCABLE TRUST, SACK, GREGORY R & TERESA M (CFD), SACK, MICHAEL D & CASSANDRA C, SCHWANDT, JOYCE E, SCHWANDT, MATTHEW & TAMMY J, SCHWEIM, RALPH & ROBERTA LIVING TRUST, SIEBERG, JEROME D, SIMMONS, WILLIAM S, STATE OF MINNESOTA, SWANSON, DANIEL G & CAROL J, TAYLOR FAMILY FARMS FOUNDATION INC, THOOFT, KEVIN R & KRISTIN L, TRAHMS, DAVID & JAE, TRAHMS, R DAVID, TRAHMS, THOMAS H & SHERRY L, VICTOR, OHNO & SUE LUNDQUIST REV TRST AGMT, WARD FAMILY TRUST, WOLFE, MALCOLM G & KAREN M FAMILY TRUST, WOLFF, CHARLES L JR & YVONNE H (LE), WOLFF, GERALD W & MARY K REV TRUSTS, WOOD, SPENCER D & MICKEY L, YOUNGERBERG, MICHAEL & VICKI (LE), YOUNGERBERG, ORVILLE L & CYNTHIA A REV TR, YOUNGERBERG, TODD O & KIMBERLY A (CFD)

The following road authorities in Blue Earth County are affected by this petition for improvement:

LERAY TOWNSHIP - ANN ARNDT – CLERK, MCPHERSON TOWNSHIP - LYNDA KRUSE – CLERK, BLUE EARTH COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS – RYAN THILGES,

The following government entities in Blue Earth County are affected by this petition for improvement:

BLUE EARTH COUNTY, STATE OF MINNESOTA

Waseca County:

LYNCH, SCOTT D, JORGENSON, BETH A, HALEY, KAREN R TRUSTEE WILLIAM J HALEY TRUSTEE, LOTTON, DUSTIN J, LAMPHEAR, LUCY

The following road authorities in Waseca County are affected by the petition for improvement:

ALTON TOWNSHIP - DEB WESTPHAL – CLERK, WASECA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

The following governmental entities in Waseca County are affected by the petition for improvement:

WASECA COUNTY

Ryan Hiniker
 Blue Earth County,
 County Drainage Systems Coordinator
 507-304-4264

Dated: January 13, 2026

Chris Howard
 Waseca County
 Land & Water Resources Director
 507-835-0534

PUBLIC NOTICE

The following is a summary of the operating budget for the 2026 fiscal year for Waseca County. This summary is published in accordance with Minn. Stat. 375.169. The detail of the County Budget is on file in the County Administrator's office at the Waseca County Courthouse, Waseca MN, and may be reviewed during normal business hours.

WASECA COUNTY BUDGET SUMMARY STATEMENT

<u>Budgeted Governmental Funds</u>	<u>2025 Current Budget</u>	<u>2026 Adopted Budget</u>
Revenues		
County portion of Tax Levy	\$18,075,313	\$19,181,206
State paid portion of Tax Levy	\$1,316,402	\$1,267,682
Total Tax Levy	\$19,391,715	\$20,448,888
Licenses and Permits	\$28,990	\$38,990
Intergovernmental Revenues		
Federal	\$1,076,054	\$1,432,947
State	\$10,379,206	\$9,484,174
Other	\$0	\$0
Charges for Services	\$1,956,230	\$2,032,993
Fines and Forfeits	\$0	\$0
Interest on Investments	\$623,086	\$600,000
Miscellaneous	\$3,685,578	\$3,326,353
Other Sources		
Proceeds of Bond Sale	\$0	\$0
Budgeted use of available fund balances	\$0	\$0
Transfer In	\$2,773,044	\$2,187,886
Total Revenues and Other Sources	\$39,913,903	\$39,552,231
Expenditures		
General Government	\$8,127,439	\$8,455,117
Public Safety	\$6,455,175	\$6,805,798
Highway and Streets	\$14,362,995	\$13,357,346
Human Services/Welfare	\$3,291,999	\$3,311,079
Health	\$2,425,310	\$2,567,278
Culture and Recreation	\$599,107	\$1,055,030
Conservation of Natural Resources	\$2,256,601	\$1,851,520
Economic Development	\$172,250	\$172,000
Debt Service	\$474,450	\$446,582
Other/Solid Waste	\$1,438,375	\$1,301,915
Other Uses		
Transfer Out	\$360,202	\$228,566
Total Expenditures and Other Uses	\$39,963,903	\$39,552,231

PUBLIC NOTICE

2026 OFFICIAL PUBLICATION FOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Waseca County has designated its website, www.wasecacounty.gov, as the 2026 Official Publication for Transportation Projects, as allowed by MN Statute §331A.12. Waseca County will publish any transportation project advertisements for bids on its website.

Contact:

Jim Kollar, Public Works Director/County Engineer, (507) 835-0661



MCAN
 Minnesota Classified Advertising Network

<p>MISCELLANEOUS</p> <p>GET A BREAK ON YOUR TAXES! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 844/220-9501 today!</p> <p>CHOOSE EARTHLINK FIBER Internet for speeds up to 5 Gigs, no data caps, no throttling. Prices starting at \$54.95. Plus, a \$100 gift card when you make the switch. Call 844/453-6983</p> <p>SAVE MONEY! Call your local newspaper or MNA 612/332-8844 to find out how you can save money by placing your advertisement here!</p>	<p>MISCELLANEOUS</p> <p>SAFE STEP North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1,600 off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 833/966-3882</p> <p>DON'T LET THE STAIRS LIMIT YOUR MOBILITY! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! 866/852-5506</p> <p>SATELLITE TV + INTERNET! Get Dish! Free install, free HD-DVR upgrade, 80,000 on-demand movies, plus limited time up to \$600 in gift cards. Call today! 855/562-4309</p>	<p>WANTED TO BUY</p> <p>WE BUY HOUSES for cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 844/978-0683</p> <p>Classified Advertising That is EASY</p> <p>The Minnesota Classified Advertising Network</p> <p>Make an impact with your advertising dollar with classified advertising that reaches over 1 MILLION READERS</p> <p>Your newspaper representative can provide complete details or you can call MNA: 612/332-8844</p>
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**STATE OF MINNESOTA
WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ACTING AS THE DRAINAGE AUTHORITY UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES CHAPTER 103E
FOR WASECA COUNTY DITCH 18**

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING

Please Take Notice: The Waseca County Board of Commissioners, acting as the drainage authority under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 103E ("Drainage Authority") for Waseca County Ditch 18 ("CD 18"), will hold a final hearing on the Viewers' Report of Benefits and Damages for the pending redetermination of benefits and damages of CD 18. The Viewers' Report has been filed with the Drainage Authority. The hearing will be held on February 2, 2026, 10:00 a.m., or thereafter as the agenda allows, in the Commissioners' Room, East Annex, 300 North State Street, Waseca, Minnesota 56093.

CD 18 consists of subsurface drainage tile, and begins in the Southwest Quarter (SW¼) of Section 31, Township 108 North, Range 22 West (Blooming Township), where it flows generally southerly through said Section 31, into the West Half (W½) of Section 6, Township 107 North, Range 22 West (Woodville Township), where it turns in the North Half of the Southwest Quarter (N½SW¼) and then flows generally easterly through the South Half (S½) of said Section 6 until it outlets at the east section line into Waseca County Ditch 44, all in Waseca County, Minnesota. Branch 1 starts in the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (SE¼NW¼) of Section 6 of said Woodville Township and drains southerly where it confluences with the CD 18 main tile in the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (NE¼SW¼) of said Section 6. Branch 2 starts in the southeast corner of the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (SE¼NE¼) of Section 1, Township 107 North, Range 23 West (St. Mary Township), and drains easterly where it confluences with the CD 18 main tile in the southwest corner of the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (SW¼NW¼) of Section 6 of said Woodville Township. Branch 2

The Viewers' Report, along with amendments, if any, a copy of all property owners' reports, and records describing the drainage system, are available for inspection by contacting Brian Zabel, by email or phone (brian.zabel@wasecacounty.gov or (507) 835-0652).

At the final hearing, the Drainage Authority will accept public comment regarding the Viewers' Report. Any party having an interest in the proceedings may appear and provide comment per the instructions above. Written comments will be received through 3:30 p.m. on January 30, 2026, by email to brian.zabel@wasecacounty.gov or by U.S. Mail directed to Waseca County Land & Water Resources, Attn: Brian Zabel, 900 3rd Street NE, Waseca, MN 56093.

The following properties are affected by the pending redetermination of benefits and damages for CD 18:

Blooming Township, T108N-R22W, Section 31, Waseca County.
Iosco Township, T108N-R23W, Section 36, Waseca County.

St. Mary's Township, T107N-R23W, Section 1, Waseca County.
Woodville Township, T107N-R22W, Section 6, Waseca County.

The following owners of property are affected by the pending redeterminations of benefits and damages for CD 18:

POWELL, RAYMOND TRUSTEE; POWELL MICHAEL R TRUSTEE, DIANNE L POWELL TRUSTEE; SINGLESTAD, SCOTT G & VICKY K; ROSE, JOEL A TRUSTEE, JULIE A ROSE TRUSTEE; JUAREZ, EDWIN, SUSANNA JUAREZ; JOHNSON, JESSE F TRUSTEE, PATRICIA A JOHNSON TRUSTEE; FISCHER, ANDREW GEORGE, ELIZABETH JOANNE FISCHER; ROEMHILDT, BILL E TRUSTEE, STEPHANIE L ROEMHILDT TRUSTEE; HALEY, ROGER M TRUSTEE, TAMRA HILDEBRANDT-HALEY TRUSTEE; JOHNSON, CRAIG M, CATHY A JOHNSON; CARTER, JAMES V TRUSTEE, CAROL L CARTER TRUSTEE; GRAY, CHARLES & PAULINE M TRUST, MAIL TO LAURIE BEHN; QUIRAM, DAWN R ETAL; HANKS, CECILIA, MELODY HANKS; FOLIE, JASON J; STANGLER, LUKE A; JAMES, THERESA A TRUSTEE; WORKE, GARY D TRUSTEE, KATHY M WORKE TRUSTEE; PRIEBE, BENJAMIN J TRUST; SINGLESTAD, MICHAEL S.

The following governmental entities are affected by the pending redeterminations of benefits and damages for CD 18:

CITY OF WASECA; WASECA COUNTY DIRECTOR OF PROPERTY AND ELECTIONS ATTN: TAMMY SPOONER.

WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CD 18 DRAINAGE AUTHORITY

/s/ Doug Christopherson, Chairperson

Dated: December 16, 2025

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ACTING AS THE DRAINAGE AUTHORITY UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES CHAPTER 103E
FOR WASECA COUNTY DITCH 42**

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING

Please Take Notice: The Waseca County Board of Commissioners, acting as the drainage authority under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 103E ("Drainage Authority") for Waseca County Ditch 42 ("CD 42"), will hold a final hearing on the Viewers' Report of Benefits and Damages for the pending redetermination of benefits and damages of CD 42. The Viewers' Report has been filed with the Drainage Authority. The hearing will be held on February 2, 2026, 10:00 a.m., or thereafter as the agenda allows, in the Commissioners' Room, East Annex, 300 North State Street, Waseca, Minnesota 56093.

CD 42 consists of subsurface drainage tile beginning in the North Half of the North Half (N½N½) of Section 26, Township 105 North, Range 24 West (Vivian Township), and flowing generally easterly across the section line into Section 25 of Vivian Township where it flows generally southerly into the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SE¼SW¼) of said Section 25, where it outlets into a tributary of the Le Sueur River, in Waseca County, Minnesota.

The Viewers' Report, along with amendments, if any, a copy of all property owners' reports, and records describing the drainage system, are available for inspection by contacting Brian Zabel, by email or phone (brian.zabel@wasecacounty.gov or (507) 835-0652).

At the final hearing, the Drainage Authority will accept public comment regarding the Viewers' Report. Any party having an interest in the proceedings may appear and provide comment per the instructions above. Written comments will be received through 3:30 p.m. on January 30, 2026, by email to brian.zabel@wasecacounty.gov or by U.S. Mail directed to Waseca County Land & Water Resources, Attn: Brian Zabel, 900 3rd Street NE, Waseca, MN 56093.

The following properties are affected by the pending redetermination of benefits and damages for CD 42:

Vivian Township, T105N-R24W, Sections 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, Waseca County.

The following owners of property are affected by the pending redeterminations of benefits and damages for CD 42:

REIN, KYNDRA TRUSTEE, RONALD & LOIS CLAUSEN TRUST; HINES, ROGER J & RUTH A; AMLEY, HAROLD M & JEAN S TRUSTEES, HAROLD M & JEAN S AMLEY REV TRUST; HAGEN, ALLEN L TRUSTEE, PENELOPE L HAGEN TRUSTEE; YOUNGBERG, LUCILLE TRUSTEE, COREY J YOUNGBERG TRUSTEE; MAXON, KENT I, CRYSTAL A MAXON; MOEN, JULIE M TRUSTEE, MICHAEL C MOEN TRUSTEE; PETERSON, DOROTHY ANN ETAL; MOE, GREGORY D TRUSTEE, DONNA M MOE TRUSTEE; HANSON, GEORGETTE S; FRISK, ROBERT C TRUSTEE, KATHLEEN E FRISK TRUSTEE.

The following governmental entities are affected by the pending redeterminations of benefits and damages for CD 42:

WASECA COUNTY DIRECTOR OF PROPERTY AND ELECTIONS ATTN: TAMMY SPOONER.

WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CD 42 DRAINAGE AUTHORITY

/s/ Doug Christopherson, Chairperson

Dated: December 16, 2025

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DISTRICT COURT
COUNTY OF WASECA
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Civil Division
Case Type: Quiet Title
Court File No.: 81-CV-26-24
SUMMONS

Shirley Keeley,
Plaintiff,

vs.
The Unknown Heirs of Alice Mariska; the Unknown Heirs of Arthur Mariska; the Unknown Heirs of Bernice M. Mariska; the Unknown Heirs of Douglas Mariska; the Unknown Heirs of Joseph Mariska; the Unknown Heirs of Lawrence Mariska; the Unknown Heirs of Leigh Mariska; the Unknown Heirs of Marjorie a/k/a Marjolane Ells; the Unknown Heirs of Mary Mariska; the Unknown Heirs of Milton Mariska; Danny Labs; Virginia Del Carmen Weber and Toby D. Weber, Jr.; Joseph and Lea Zak; and Gene A. Schwarz and Nancy B. Lee,
Defendants.

THIS SUMMONS IS DIRECTED TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS:

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

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

3. **YOU MUST RESPOND TO**

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

4. **YOU WILL LOSE YOUR CASE IS YOU DO NOT SEND A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE COMPLAINT TO THE PERSON WHO SIGNED THIS SUMMONS.** If you do not Answer within 20 days, you will lose this case. You will not get to tell your side of the story, and the Court may decide against you and award the Plaintiff everything asked for in the Complaint. If you do not want to contest the claims stated in the Complaint, you do not need to respond. A default judgment can then be entered against you for the relief requested in the Complaint.

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

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

7. **THIS LAWSUIT MAY AFFECT OPR BRING INTO QUESTION TITLE TO REAL PROPERTY** located in Waseca County, Minnesota, legally described as follows:

See Exhibit A attached hereto and made a part hereof.

The object of this action is to obtain a judgment that Plaintiff is the owner, in fee simple, of the above-described real property, and that none of said Defendants have any estate or interest therein or lien thereon. Dated this 7th day of January 2026. PATTON, HOVERSTEN & BERG, P.A.

/s/ Keith L. Deike
By: Keith L. Deike (#148635)
215 E. Elm Ave., PO Box 249
Waseca, MN 56093-0249
(507) 835-5240
keith.deike@phblawoffice.com

**EXHIBIT A
Legal Description**

Land in Waseca County, Minnesota, described as follows: That part of Large Lot 6, Block 5, Bennett's Addition to the City of Waseca, according to the Plat thereof on file and of record in the Office of the County Recorder in and for Waseca County, Minnesota, described as follows: Commencing at the southeast corner of said Large Lot 6; thence N 00°09'42" W a distance of 171.35 feet along the East line of said Large Lot 6; thence S 88°52'33" W a distance of 238.54 feet; thence S 00°09'57" E a distance of 161.02 feet to the South line of said Large Lot 6; thence S 78°07'29" E a distance of 36.12 feet along said South line; thence N 89°29'48" E a distance of 203.17 feet along said South line to the point of beginning.

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on January 15, 22 and 29, 2026

**Johnson
APARTMENTS**
507-456-9514
Operating in
Waseca, Steele,
Freeborn
Counties
johnsonrents.com

SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642 JANUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7pm HALL BINGO	2 MEAT RAFFLES:30pm HORSE races 6:30pm	3
4	5	6 Burger night 5-7pm	7 6pm BAR BINGO	8 7pm HALL BINGO	9 MEAT RAFFLES:30pm HORSE races 6:30pm	10
11 VFW BREAKFAST FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE 8am to noon	12 7pm Post & AUX & Meeting	13 Burger night 5-7pm	14 6pm BAR BINGO	15 7pm HALL BINGO	16 WALLEYE OR SHRIMP DINNER 5:30 TO 7pm	17
18	19	20 Burger night 5-7pm	21 6pm BAR BINGO	22 7pm HALL BINGO	23 MEAT RAFFLES:30pm HORSE races 6:30pm	24 Steak or Shrimp Dinner 5pm to 7pm
25 VFW BREAKFAST St. Paul Mission 8am to noon	26	27 Burger night 5-7pm	28 6pm BAR BINGO	29 7pm HALL BINGO	30 MEAT RAFFLES:30pm HORSE races 6:30pm	31

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

STATE OF MINNESOTA
WASECA STEELE JOINT COUNTY DRAINAGE AUTHORITY
ACTING AS THE DRAINAGE AUTHORITY UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES CHAPTER 103E
FOR WASECA STEELE JOINT DITCH 5

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING

Please Take Notice: The Waseca Steele Joint County Drainage Authority Board of Commissioners, acting as the drainage authority under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 103E ("Drainage Authority") for Waseca Steele Joint Ditch 5 ("JD 5"), will hold a final hearing on the Viewers' Report of Benefits and Damages for the pending redetermination of benefits and damages of JD 5. The Viewers' Report has been filed with the Drainage Authority. The hearing will be held on February 2, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., or thereafter as the agenda allows, in the Commissioners' Room, East Annex, 300 North State Street, Waseca, Minnesota 56093.

JD 5 consists of subsurface drainage tile and open ditch and begins at the east section line of the Northeast Quarter (NE¼) of Section 18, Township 106 North, Range 21 West (Lemond Township) in Steele County, and flows generally west northwesterly through the North Half of the Northeast Quarter (N½NE¼) of said Section 18, the South Half (S½) of Section 7 of Lemond Township before crossing over the county line and flowing westerly through the South Half (S½) of Section 12, Township 106 North, Range 22 West (Otisco Township), Waseca County, into the North Half of the Northeast Quarter (N½NE¼s) of Section 15, Otisco Township, where it outlets into the Little Le Sueur River in Waseca County, Minnesota. JD 5 includes laterals in Section 7 of said Lemond Township, and Sections 11, 12, and 13 of Otisco Township.

The Viewers' Report, along with amendments, if any, a copy of all property owners' reports, and records describing the drainage system, are available for inspection by contacting Brian Zabel, by email or phone (brian.zabel@wasecacounty.gov or (507) 835-0652) or Jennifer Mueller by email or phone (jennifer.mueller@steelecountymn.gov or (507) 444-7410).

At the final hearing, the Drainage Authority will accept public comment regarding the Viewers' Report. Any party having an interest in the proceedings may appear and provide comment per the instructions above. Written comments will be received through 3:30 p.m. on January 30, 2026, by email to brian.zabel@wasecacounty.gov or by U.S. Mail directed to Waseca County Land & Water Resources, Attn: Brian Zabel, 900 3rd Street NE, Waseca, MN 56093; or to jennifer.mueller@steelecountymn.gov or by U.S. Mail directed to Steele County Property Tax & Elections Department: Attn: Jennifer Mueller, PO Box 890, Owatonna, MN 55060.

The following properties are affected by the pending redetermination of benefits and damages for JD 5:

Lemond Township, T106N-R21W, Sections 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 18, 19, Steele County.

Otisco Township, T106N-R22W, Sections 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, Waseca County.

The following owners of property are affected by the pending redeterminations of benefits and damages for JD 5:

BORNEKE, JOSEPH E; MACY, DON C & MENTA K; KALLHOFF, WADE & NICOLE ASHLEY EVANS; PRIEBE, BONNIE J TESTAMENTARY TRUST % CHARLES A PRIEBE & JODIE A THOMPSON TRUSTEES; FITZSIMMONS, JOHN T & REBECCA J FITZSIMMONS; ARTHUR, WILLIAM L & VICKI J; MARSCHER, RONALD W & THERESA M; BORNEKE, JOSEPH E AS TRUSTEE; WARD, JAMES A & SUSAN K; KIENHOLZ, KENT C & ELIZABETH P KIENHOLZ TRUSTEES; CEDAR ROSE ASSOCIATES LLC; BETHKE, DONALD W; WALKER, ROGER D & ROBERTA; MILLER, WILLIAM M & ILENE A; SASSER, ALFRED & DAWN; SCHULTZ, LARRY A; KECK, BRIAN L & BRADLEY J KECK; RADKE, ARDINA M; JOHNSON, MARY L; PAULSON, SUSAN D; JOHNSON, HILDING L TRUSTEE OF THE HILDING JOHNSON REV LIV TR; HOFMANN, JOHN H & GAYLE L; JOHNSON, CURTIS R & AMY J; SPRINGER, JAMES E & LORI E; KAMP, CHRISTOPHER ROLLAND; SWENSON GROVELAND FARMS, LLC; JACOBSON, JOHN P & ELLEN M; SCHULTZ, LARRY A & CINDY S; JOHNSON, DARYL T & JANET M; CASSEN, KEITH & ANGEL; SCHULTZ, LOWELL G & SHIRLEY J TRUSTEES & LISA L JOHNSON TRUST; JOHNSON, HILDING L, TRUSTEE & GERALD W & BETTY J JOHNSON TRUSTEES; JOHNSON, CRAIG A TRUSTEE; KECK, BRIAN L & JODI L; JERDE, JEFFREY & PATRICIA; PETER, JERDE; LOKEN, DALE R TRUST % JENNIFER THERRING; BRUE, KJERSTEN; ANTHONY, ORRIE; JACOBSON, JAMES B; NELSON, GLEN W & SHIRLEY E; BORNEKE, RACHEL J IRREVOC TRUST % MARIE F JEWISON TRUSTEE; PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN CHURCH % CHURCH TREASURER; TRAXLER, JACOB & TARA; JOHNSON, GARY L & JUDITH R TRUSTEES; KOPPERUD, DEREK M & PAIGE E RADUE; SCHLEICHER, NICHOLAS J; MOEN, MICHAEL C & JULIE M AS TRUSTEES; HAGEN, CARLYLE O & JUDITH M; JOHNSON, TERRY L & LAURIE K; EATON, QUINTON; HANKS, CAROL M TRUSTEE & CONNIE M GRANDIA TRUSTEE; EATON-BORCHERT, DOREEN R TRUSTEE; MITTELSTADT, ADELINE & RUTH LIVING TRUST; RIOG PROPERTIES LLC; PRIEBE FARMS LLC; SWENSON, DUANE & DONNA SWENSON; SINGLESTAD, SCOTT G & VICKY K; SCHMIDTKE, HERMAN DAVID TRUSTEE & LILA I SCHMIDTKE TRUSTEE; BORCHARDT, KELLY J & CHAD G HAMMER; HAMER, ERIC; GEHLOFF, MICHAEL D; GEHRING, GREG A; ULLAND BROTHERS INC; PAULSON, GARY F & LEE ANN PAULSON; BERG, EVAN B ETAL; PETERSON, BARRIE E & DAWN M; PRIEBE, BONNIE J TRUST; ESCH, JONATHAN B & CHARLENE J; BUFFALO FARMS LLP; MOEN, JULIE M TRUSTEE, MICHAEL C MOEN TRUSTEE; MOEN, ALEX R & ANDREA L; SYBILRUD, DAVID M TRUSTEE; SCHWARTZ, GARY P & DAWN SCHWARTZ; GEHRING, DUANE A, DEBRA L GEHRING; HAAS, CHRISTINE A, JESSE M HOFFMANN; PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN CHURCH OF LEMOND CEMETER ASS'N AR, E R D E ER, R CE A R E WIENER, CHRISTOPHER E & ELIZABETH A WIENER; JEWISON, MARIE F TRUSTEE; MCMURPHY, PAUL A, SHELLY MARIE MORGAN; EATON, ZACHARY; HANSON, LUTHER B; FISCHER, CINDY & GARY TRUSTEE, NATHAN L HANSON TRUSTEE; PACZKOWSKI, MATTHEW & RAMONA; EATON, QUINTON, ZACHARY EATON; MCNAB, DAVID J, PATRICIA J MCNAB; PRIEBE, CHARLES A TRUSTEE, CHARLOTT M WILHELM TRUSTEE; PROEHEL, TODD A & JOYCE I; EATON, QUINTON, MICHELE EATON; PETERSON, ALEX R & JOSEY J; PETERSON, DANIEL EVAN TRUSTEE; JOHNSON, BRADLEY W, GRATIA M JOHNSON; ROBRAN, TODD A TRUSTEE, BRITTA D ROBRAN TRUSTEE; PETERSON, RAYMOND A TRUST, MAIL TO CRAIG PETERSON; REIN, KYNDRA TRUSTEE, RONALD & LOIS CLAUSEN TRUST; GIESEKE, GORDON J TRUSTEE, DARLENE M GIESEKE TRUSTEE; HINES, ROGER J, RUTH A HINES; MOEN, JOSHUA & ALEX; NELSON, ALLEN W TRUSTEE, SANDRA M RATH TRUSTEE;

SCHENDEL, GERALD E JR; TORRES, ALEJANDRA, JOSEPH KNEECE II; AMLEY, HAROLD M & JEAN S TRUSTEES, HAROLD M & JEAN S AMLEY REV TRUS.

The following governmental entities are affected by the pending redeterminations of benefits and damages for JD 5:

STEELE COUNTY PROPERTY TAX & ELECTIONS; LEMOND TOWNSHIP; WASECA COUNTY ROADS DIRECTOR OF PROPERTY & ELECTIONS ATTN: TAMMY SPOONER; OTISCO TOWNSHIP ATTN: JENAE PETERSON.

WASECA STEELE JOINT COUNTY DRAINAGE AUTHORITY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JD 5 DRAINAGE AUTHORITY

/s/ Doug Christopherson, Chairperson

Dated: December 16, 2025

STATE OF MINNESOTA
WASECA STEELE JOINT COUNTY DRAINAGE AUTHORITY
ACTING AS THE DRAINAGE AUTHORITY UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES CHAPTER 103E
FOR WASECA STEELE JOINT DITCH 10

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING

Please Take Notice: The Waseca Steele Joint County Drainage Authority Board of Commissioners, acting as the drainage authority under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 103E ("Drainage Authority") for Waseca Steele Joint Ditch 10 ("JD 10"), will hold a final hearing on the Viewers' Report of Benefits and Damages for the pending redetermination of benefits and damages of JD 10. The Viewers' Report has been filed with the Drainage Authority. The hearing will be held on February 2, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., or thereafter as the agenda allows, in the Commissioners' Room, East Annex, 300 North State Street, Waseca, Minnesota 56093.

JD 10 consists of subsurface drainage tile and open ditch, and begins in the Southwest Quarter of Section 5, Township 106 North, Range 21 West (Lemond Township), Steele County, and flows generally westerly through said Section 5, and the South Half (S½) of Section 6, Lemond Township, and the South Half of Section 1, Township 106 North, Range 22 West (Otisco Township), Waseca County, and then generally northwesterly through Section 2 of Otisco Township, and then generally southwesterly through Section 3 and Section 4 of Otisco Township where it outlets at the quarter section line between the Southeast Quarter (SE¼) and the Southwest Quarter (SW¼) of said Section 4, into a tributary of the Little Le Sueur River, in Otisco Township, Waseca County, Minnesota. JD 10 includes laterals and branches in Sections 6 & 7 of said Lemond Township, and Sections 1, 2, 3, and 4 of said Otisco Township.

The Viewers' Report, along with amendments, if any, a copy of all property owners' reports, and records describing the drainage system, are available for inspection by contacting Brian Zabel, by email or phone (brian.zabel@wasecacounty.gov or (507) 835-0652) or Jennifer Mueller by email or phone (jennifer.mueller@steelecountymn.gov or (507) 444-7410).

At the final hearing, the Drainage Authority will accept public comment regarding the Viewers' Report. Any party having an interest in the proceedings may appear and provide comment per the instructions above. Written comments will be received through 3:30 p.m. on January 30, 2026, by email to brian.zabel@wasecacounty.gov or by U.S. Mail directed to Waseca County Land & Water Resources, Attn: Brian Zabel, 900 3rd Street NE, Waseca, MN 56093; or to jennifer.mueller@steelecountymn.gov or by U.S. Mail directed to Steele County Property Tax & Elections Department: Attn: Jennifer Mueller, PO Box 890, Owatonna, MN 55060.

The following properties are affected by the pending redetermination of benefits and damages for JD 10:

Lemond Township, T106N-R21W, Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, Steele County.

Meridan Township, T107N-R21W, Section 31, Steele County.

Otisco Township, T106N-R22W, Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, Waseca County.

Woodville Township, T107N-R22W, Sections 34, 35, Waseca County.

The following owners of property are affected by the pending redeterminations of benefits and damages for JD 10:

SWENSON GROVELAND FARMS LLC; SAMMON, PAUL E & ZARETH J; VOLKMAN, CURTIS; LENTZ, RICHARD H & TAMARA REICH-LENTZ; STEWART, THOMAS C; SOUBA PARTNERS; BORNEKE, JOSEPH E; BORNEKE, RACHEL J BORNEKE IRREVOC TRUST, c/o MARIE F JEWISON, TRUSTEE; MCSHANE, EUGENE R & DIANE; MCSHANE, MARK A; LEE, DAVID E & BRENDA H; MACY, DON C & MENTA K; KALLHOFF, WADE & NICOLE ASHLEY EVANS; PRIEBE, BONNIE J TESTAMENTARY TRUST C/O CHARLES A PRIEBE & JODIE A THOMPSON TRUSTEES; MILLER, WILLIAM M & ILENE A; BORNEKE, JOSEPH E AS TRUSTEE; KOHN, JONATHAN & SHANNON; JACOBSON, JOHN P & ELLEN M; WOLFE, BRUCE E; ROLLINS, DANIEL B; JEWISON, MARIE F TRUSTEE; NELSON, ZACHARY B & AMANDA K; RIECK FARMS LLC; SPIES, DARWIN D, JULIE D SPIES; HAGEN, CARLYLE O & JUDITH M; LINDQUIST, KYLE; SCHMIDT, LOWELL; JOHNSON, SCOTT M & KANDICE E; HANSEL, SHIRLEY R TRUSTEE, SHIRLEY R HANSEL TRUST; LEWER, ALAN D TRUST; EWEST, KATHERINE A; EATON, QUINTON, MICHELE EATON; EATON-BORCHERT, DOREEN R TRUSTEE; SOUTHRIDGE FARMS LLP; BETHKE, EDWARD C; RIOG PROPERTIES LLC; EATON, ZACHARY; PRIEBE, CHARLES A TRUSTEE; PALM, ANDREW, MACKENZIE HOY; GRINNEN, JEFFREY; LEWER, HOWARD, SHARON LEWER; BAUMAN, ORLIN A; EATON, ISAAC, MELISSA EATON; JUNGE, WILLIAM M; RAYMOND, SANDRA J; BAUMAN, LAVOY C; HUBER, LARRY D; KOTTSCHADE, ERIC; JM PROPERTIES OF WASECA LLC; BELOW, LYNN A & ANN Y TRUSTEE; PRECHEL, EMILY E, OWEN L PRECHEL; BARTZ, JACOB D, EMILY BARTZ; PETERSON, JAMIE & MACKENZIE R; KRIENKE, LUANN J; HANKS, CAROL M TRUSTEE, CONNIE M GRANDIA TRUSTEE; PRIEBE, JOEY A; MITTELSTADT, ADELINE & RUTH LIVING TRUST; PRIEBE FARMS LLC; SCHMIDTKE, HERMAN DAVID TRUSTEE, LILA I SCHMIDTKE TRUSTEE; ALAN LEWER FAMILY FARM LLC; EATON, LINDA; GERDTS, GARY L TRUSTEE, DORIS L GERDTS TRUSTEE; SCHMIDT, LOWELL, HELEN SCHMIDT.

The following governmental entities are affected by the pending redeterminations of benefits and damages for JD 10:

STEELE COUNTY PROPERTY TAX & ELECTIONS DIRECTOR, JENNIFER MUELLER; LEMOND TOWNSHIP; OTISCO TOWNSHIP; WASECA COUNTY DIRECTOR OF PROPERTY ELECTIONS ATTN: TAMMY SPOONER; JENAE PETERSON OTISCO TOWNSHIP CLERK.

WASECA STEELE JOINT COUNTY DRAINAGE AUTHORITY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ Doug Christopherson, Chairperson

Dated: December 16, 2025

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF WASECA
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT PROBATE
DIVISION
Estate of Roger F. Volkman, aka
Roger Fredrick Volkman,
Decedent
Court File No. 81-PR-25-920
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
FOREIGN PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE
ACTING IN MINNESOTA

Notice is given that John Volkman, residing at 3569 Olsen Avenue, Jewell, Iowa 50130 is the domiciliary foreign Personal Representative ("Personal Representative") for the estate of Roger F. Volkman, aka Roger Fredrick Volk-

mann, a resident of the State of Iowa.

On December 16, 2025, the Personal Representative filed with the Court a document stating an intention to exercise, as to assets in Minnesota, all powers of a local Personal Representative and to maintain actions and proceedings in Minnesota in accordance with Minnesota Statutes section 524.4-205.

Notice is also given that any Minnesota creditor who objects to the Personal Representative's exercise of power over assets in Minnesota must file a written objection within 60 days from the Personal Representative's filing. If no objections are filed, the representative

may, after the expiration of the 60-day period, exercise all powers of a local Personal Representative.

Dated: December 29, 2025
Court Administrator
Attorney for Foreign Personal Representative: Daryl D. BailPatton, Hoversten & Berg, P.A. 150 W. Park Square, PO Box 506 Owatonna, MN, 55060
Attorney License No: 191978
Telephone: (507) 451-9000
FAX: (507) 451-0907
Email: daryl.bail@phblawoffice.com

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on January 8 and 15, 2026

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ACTING AS THE DRAINAGE AUTHORITY UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES CHAPTER 103E
FOR WASECA COUNTY DITCH 33**

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING

Please Take Notice: The Waseca County Board of Commissioners, acting as the drainage authority under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 103E ("Drainage Authority") for Waseca County Ditch 33 ("CD 33"), will hold a final hearing on the Viewers' Report of Benefits and Damages for the pending redetermination of benefits and damages of CD 33. The Viewers' Report has been filed with the Drainage Authority. The hearing will be held on February 2, 2026, 10:00 a.m., or thereafter as the agenda allows, in the Commissioners' Room, East Annex, 300 North State Street, Waseca, Minnesota 56093.

CD 33 consists of subsurface drainage tile and open ditch and begins in the Southeast Quarter (SE¼) of Section 22, Township 106 North, Range 22 West (Otisco Township), and flows generally northerly through said Section 22, Section 15, and Section 16, of said Otisco Township, where it outlets into the Little Le Sueur River in the South Half of the Northeast Quarter (S½NE¼) of said Section 16. CD 33 has branches and laterals in Sections 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 26, and 27 of Otisco Township that confluence with the main trunk of the drainage system.

The Viewers' Report, along with amendments, if any, a copy of all property owners' reports, and records describing the drainage system, are available for inspection by contacting Brian Zabel, by email or phone (brian.zabel@wasecacounty.gov or (507) 835-0652).

At the final hearing, the Drainage Authority will accept public comment regarding the Viewers' Report. Any party having an interest in the proceedings may appear and provide comment per the instructions above. Written comments will be received through 3:30 p.m. on January 30, 2026, by email to brian.zabel@wasecacounty.gov or by U.S. Mail directed to Waseca County Land & Water Resources, Attn: Brian Zabel, 900 3rd Street NE, Waseca, MN 56093.

The following properties are affected by the pending redetermination of benefits and damages for CD 33:

Otisco Township, T106N-R22W, Sections 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, Waseca County.

The following owners of property are affected by the pending redeterminations of benefits and damages for CD 33:

EATON, QUINTON & MICHELE; RIOG PROPERTIES LLC; EATON-BORCHERT, DOREEN R TRUSTEE; FISCHER, CINDY & GARY TRUSTEE, NATHAN L HANSON TRUSTEE; PRIEBE, CHARLES A TRUSTEE, CHARLOTT M WILHELM TRUSTEE; PETERSON, ALEX R & JOSEY J; EATON, ZACHARY; PETERSON, DANIEL EVAN TRUSTEE; JOHNSON, BRADLEY W, GRATIA M JOHNSON; MITCHELL, BRADLEY; ROBRAN, TODD A TRUSTEE, BRITTA D. ROBRAN TRUSTEE; PROECHEL, ORVAL A, JOAN M PROECHEL; PROECHEL, MERLYN R & BONNIE M TRUSTEES PROECHEL REV TRUST; MICHAEL D KUNKEL; PROECHEL, MERLYN R, BONNIE PROECHEL; EATON, STEVEN G. TRUSTEE; PROECHEL, LONNIE D; DONELAN, BERNARD G & JUNE M TRUSTEE, PAUL & DENISE BRITTON TRUSTEE; EATON, ISAAC A, MELISSA EATON; SWENSON, RICHARD ETAL; REMMEY, JACOB & MAGGIE MAE; PETERSON, RAMOND A TRUST, MAIL TO CRAIG PETERSON; MONSON, RONALD A JR & CARRLIE L; MILLER, JAMES TRUSTEE, JUANITA MILLER TRUSTEE; GIESEKE, GORDON J TRUSTEE, DARLENE M GIESEKE TRUSTEE; HINES, ROGER J & RUTH A; MOE, GREGORY D TRUSTEE, DONNA M MOE TRUSTEE; STENDEL, BRIAN K, SUSAN L STENDEL; FRISK, ROBERT C TRUSTEE, KATHLEEN E FRISK TRUSTEE; BARTELT, BRADLEY D & CRYSTAL D; TOMMY GOBBLE LLC.

The following governmental entities are affected by the pending redeterminations of benefits and damages for CD 33:

OTISCO TOWNSHIP.

WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CD 33 DRAINAGE AUTHORITY

/s/ Doug Christopherson, Chairperson Dated: December 16, 2025

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ACTING AS THE DRAINAGE AUTHORITY UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES CHAPTER 103E
FOR WASECA COUNTY DITCH 40**

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING

Please Take Notice: The Waseca County Board of Commissioners, acting as the drainage authority under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 103E ("Drainage Authority") for Waseca County Ditch 40 ("CD 40"), will hold a final hearing on the Viewers' Report of Benefits and Damages for the pending redetermination of benefits and damages of CD 40. The Viewers' Report has been filed with the Drainage Authority. The hearing will be held on February 2, 2026, 10:00 a.m., or thereafter as the agenda allows, in the Commissioners' Room, East Annex, 300 North State Street, Waseca, Minnesota 56093.

CD 40 consists of subsurface drainage tile and open ditch, and begins near the southeast corner of the Southwest Quarter (SW¼) of Section 23, Township 105 North, Range 24 West (Vivian Township) and flows westerly along the south boundary of said Section 23, then Section 22, where it turns south and drains southerly across the West Half of the Northeast Quarter (W½NE¼) of Section 27, then southwesterly across the South Half of said Section 27 where it outlets into the Cobb River, in Waseca County, Minnesota. Branch 1 and Branch 1-A are in Sections 23 and 22; Branch 2 in Section 22; Branch 3 in Section 26 and Branch 4 in Section 26 of said Vivian Township.

The Viewers' Report, along with amendments, if any, a copy of all property owners' reports, and records describing the drainage system, are available for inspection by contacting Brian Zabel, by email or phone (brian.zabel@wasecacounty.gov or (507) 835-0652).

At the final hearing, the Drainage Authority will accept public comment regarding the Viewers' Report. Any party having an interest in the proceedings may appear and provide comment per the instructions above. Written comments will be received through 3:30 p.m. on January 30, 2026, by email to brian.zabel@wasecacounty.gov or by U.S. Mail directed to Waseca County Land & Water Resources, Attn: Brian Zabel, 900 3rd Street NE, Waseca, MN 56093.

The following properties are affected by the pending redetermination of benefits and damages for CD 40

Vivian Township, T105N-R24W, Sections 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, Waseca County.

The following owners of property are affected by the pending redeterminations of benefits and damages for CD 40:

BARTLET, LOUISE J, LOUISE J BARTLET ETAL TRUSTEE; BARTLET, BARRY L; WEBSTER, JAMES R TRUSTEE, JAMES R WEBSTER REV TRUST; BARTLET, GARY G TRUSTEE, DEBRA G BARTLET TRUSTEE; SONNEK, CHRISTOPHER C; ROESLER, GENE T TRUSTEE, SALLY A ROESLER TRUSTEE; KLUGHERZ, JOHN; ROESLER, GREGORY T, BARBARA J HEIDER-ROESLER; RICHARDSON, SHERMAN L TRUSTEE, RAMONA J RICHARDSON TRUSTEE; MALAKOWSKY, MARY K & DAVID M; SUPERIOR PORK NURSERY INC; GROSCKREUTZ, MICHELLE L TRUSTEE, ROBERT E GROSCKREUTZ TRUSTEE; GROSCKREUTZ, LAVERNE A; CRUMB, BRADLEY W TRUSTEE; GROSCKREUTZ, LAVERNE A TRUSTEE; SONNEK, CHARLES D, CHARLES & CHRIS SONNEK TRUSTEE; SONNEK, PETER C, LORI MAE SONNEK; BLOCK, LOGAN, HANNA PROEHL; GROSCKREUTZ, BETTY J; PRIEM, CALVIN K TRUSTEE, KAREN M PRIEM TRUSTEE; GROSCKREUTZ, JOEL R & RENAE L; ROESLER, ALAN, SUSAN ROESLER; SONNEK, PETER; ROESLER, RUTH A TRUSTEE; KAISER, DEAN.

The following governmental entities are affected by the pending redeterminations of benefits and damages for CD 40:

MINNESOTA DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION ATTN: CHAD BLESS; WASECA COUNTY DIRECTOR OF PROPERTY AND ELECTIONS, ATTN: TAMMY SPOONER; VIVIAN TOWNSHIP C/O MINDY MCDONOUGH.

WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CD 33 DRAINAGE AUTHORITY

/s/ Doug Christopherson, Chairperson Dated: December 16, 2025

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

Mortgagor:
Dan Seidl, a married man
Mortgagee:
Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Quicken Loans Inc., its successors and assigns
Dated:
March 29, 2019
Recorded:
April 8, 2019
Waseca County Recorder
Document No. 317570

Assigned To:
Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC
Dated:
September 11, 2025
Recorded:
September 15, 2025
Waseca County Recorder Document No. A341302

Transaction Agent: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
Transaction Agent Mortgage

Identification Number:
100039034199912330
Lender or Broker: Quicken Loans Inc.
Residential Mortgage Servicer:
Rocket Mortgage, LLC
Mortgage Originator: Quicken Loans Inc.

AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE: \$99,659.17

That prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgage complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part;

PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE:
February 5, 2026, 10:00 AM

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot Seven (7), Block One (1), Hodgkins Addition to Waldorf, Minnesota according to the Plat thereof on file and of record in the Office of the County Recorder in and for Waseca County, Minnesota

This is Abstract Property.

TAX PARCEL NO.: 163260060

ADDRESS OF PROPERTY:
224 3rd Ave N
Waldorf, MN 56091

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Waseca

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$95,959.00

PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, 122 3rd Avenue NW, Waseca, MN

to pay the debt then secured by said Mortgage, and taxes, if any, on said premises, and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys' fees allowed by law subject to redemption within 6 Months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns.

DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY:
The date on or before which the mortgagor must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under Minnesota Statutes section 580.30 or the property redeemed under Minnesota Statutes section 580.23 is August 5, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: NONE

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE

MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: November 19, 2025

Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans Inc., Assignee of Mortgagee

By: HALLIDAY, WATKINS & MANN, P.C.
Attorneys for:
Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans Inc., Assignee of Mortgagee

1333 Northland Drive, Suite 205
Mendota Heights, MN 55120
801-355-2886
651-228-1753 (fax)

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

MN25157.
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2025 and Jan. 1 and Jan. 8, 2026.


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APR 2025-26

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PROCLAMATION - There was a mayoral proclamation made on behalf of the Blue Jay 2025 football team placing second in the State Championship game at the Waseca city council meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2025. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

■ **Council**

from Page 1

Commented high school football coach Brad Wendland, "We always tell these guys, 'Do things right by your school and your community.' It's great that our community gives us so much love back. These guys don't miss practice; they don't miss weightlifting. We encourage these kids to take at least three

sports. To you younger guys, the statement has been made, and that now becomes the standard." He also gave a shoutout to one particular council member, Jeremy Ebertowski, class of 2014, "Alumnus, Jimmy Ebertowski, when Jimmy was here we were 4-A, we were tough." Football players Lucas and JJ were asked if they wanted to speak, they both declined.

The council approved following through with the steps required under a grant agreement with the state which, if authorized, will bring in nearly \$27,000 toward the nearly \$45,000 anticipated cost to plan the removal

of the airport fuel dispenser and tank, finalized, for the airport fuel dispenser and tank removal project. Once the project is planned, the city expects to apply for additional grant money toward the removal process.

The Mayor Pro Tem for 2026 will be council member Mark Christiansen.

Council members began the approval process for a new city law which encourages homeowners whose water lines may include pipes with lead in them to become parties to a Minnesota Department of Health grant which offers up to \$1 million to find and remove sources of lead in water lines. Nearly

70 households have been sent a letter notifying them their water system may be connected to outdated pipes containing lead and that an inspection is necessary. If lead is found, property owners are asked to consent to the work needed to replace the water lines.

City documents state that, for those residents who give official agreement to the inspection and possible replacement, costs for the work can be covered under the grant.

Jenny Arndt, resident of Waseca County, spoke during the public comment portion of the meeting. Her concern was delayed access to drivers' education in high schools. Minne-

sota allows enrollment for 14-year-olds, but because of the grade some students are in, are not allowed to enroll until second semester ninth grade. The council took this issue into consideration. Before adjourning, Zimmerman said, "I hope everyone had a good holiday." Christiansen said, "Happy New Year." Council member Ebertowski announced he and his wife "will increase the population of Waseca by one come May 29." Everyone gave their congratulations.

Nortonna Lodge welcomes Emily Storheil

Emilie is a 17-year-old foreign exchange student from a tiny Norwegian town of just 800 people. She comes from a close-knit family with one younger brother. She loves soccer, working out, and spending time outdoors. She is a member of the OHS girls' soccer team.

Constitution Day (Syttende Mai) is her favorite holiday. Food, of course, has been a big adjustment. Emilie is gluten-free and misses Norway's

fiber-filled bread. She thinks "American bread has been a lot more full of sugar." She craves European candy and says, "The first thing I'll do when I get home is hang out with my boyfriend and eat candy."

Emilie's father was also a foreign exchange student in Owatonna, and she is staying with the very same host family, Ron and Debbie Ensley. Before coming to Owatonna, Emilie started her U.S. ad-

venture with an exchange program in New York City. She will return to Norway in June or July, but before then, she will be bringing a little piece of Norway to our Nortonna Lodge meeting.

Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm for a cost of \$10, and the meeting will follow at 7:00 pm.

If you are a prospective member interested in attending, please contact Janet Erickson at 507-390-1239.

Waseca School Board retains same officers as 2025

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writer

**WASECA
SCHOOL BOARD**

During the Jan. 8 organizational meeting, Waseca school board members voted to retain the same officers as in 2025: Dave Dun as board chair; Grant Scheffert as vice chair; Scott Deml as treasurer, and Alyssa Bowers as clerk. The designated board representatives for school business committees were determined; the official newspaper remains the Waseca County Pioneer. Board member Per Diems and other allowance remained un-

changed.

The board approved the final 2024-2025 audited financial statements, approved the 2025-2027 Master Agreement with school principals, and approved the resolution ratifying the award of sale of general obligation school building refunding bonds. The refunding of these bonds will save district property taxpayers more than \$400,000 in the coming years.

■ **Legacy**

from Page 1

Chancellor of the University of Minnesota-Waseca, a role he held until 1990. After leaving the Waseca program, he continued his service to higher education as a Senior Fellow at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs and through association with the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences.

During his tenure in Waseca, Ed was 100 percent committed to the University of Minnesota's charge to establish a technical college to serve Minnesota's agricultural industry. He led the planning process alongside industry leaders, agricultural educators, and national consultants. Once the direction was set, he remained unwavering in his focus, insisting on excellence and alignment from those around him. Under his leadership, the institution attracted exceptional faculty and students, producing generations of leaders in animal agriculture. Over the college's 20-plus years, thousands of graduates benefited from the preparation and training provided through the Waseca campus.

Reflecting on that legacy, Tom Yuzer, a member of the University of Minnesota Foundation, noted, "Now, nearly 50 years from its beginning, the success of the University of Minnesota-Waseca is evident across Minnesota's agricultural industry. Look at who leads our crop and livestock commodity groups. Look at some of the most successful farming and agribusiness enterprises. UMW graduates are front and center."

Ed's influence extended far beyond academia. He was recognized by numerous organizations for his contributions to agriculture and public service, earning honors that spanned decades and disciplines. He served on many boards of directors, including the Bob Hodgson Student Loan Fund, Southeast Minnesota Initiative Fund, United Way, and Minnesota Ag in the Classroom, where he served as president.

He also held leadership roles in multiple professional and service organizations, including Rotary International, where he served as the first District Governor for District 5960, in 1982-83.

A committed Rotarian, Ed maintained more than 55 years of perfect attendance, a statistic that reflected far more than consistency. Fellow Rotarian Bill Hoversten shared, "Ed's perfect attendance represented so much more than someone who just showed up. He was deeply committed to building goodwill and better friendships at the club, district, and international levels of Rotary. If you worked with Ed on a project, you knew you'd better put some thought into it. He did his homework, laid out a clear vision, welcomed your input, and then worked alongside you to get the job done. He was a very remarkable Rotarian."

Locally, Ed was a stalwart of the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce, particularly the Agribusiness Committee, and proudly wore his red Ambassador coat for more than four decades. He delighted in seeing the red coats make a full comeback in recent years, complete with iconic polyester blazers. Chamber President Mikhail Rostislavovich reflected, "Ed was a loyal Ambassador, he never deviated from the attire even when wind breakers and flannels became more on trend; Dr. Frederick knew the importance of the symbolism of the Red Coat. His blazer should be enshrined at the History Center."

Ed was also a communicator at heart. For years he was published in Hoard's Dairyman and hosted a regular television program on KEYC in Mankato. In his later years, he remained deeply involved in shaping the future of agriculture as a guiding force behind the Minnesota Dairy Leaders Roundtable and as chair of the Board of Directors of FarmAmerica. His contributions to FarmAmerica went well beyond financial support; he was present, engaged, and an unwavering cheerleader for comprehensive agricultural education.

"FarmAmerica would not be what

"Ed loved Waseca deeply and took great pride in its evolution...he reflected on the changes he had witnessed over the years."

—Ann Staloch

it is today without the foundational work of Ed Frederick. From signing our original articles of incorporation in 1978 to his decades of leadership as Board Chair, he was instrumental in shaping FarmAmerica. We are grateful for his long-standing support; the exhibit room that bears his family's name stands as a lasting reminder of his dedication to sharing the story of Minnesota agriculture," stated Jessica Rollins, FarmAmerica Executive Director

Ed kept an office in his home, complete with a separate entrance and a spiral staircase descending to a collection of agricultural artifacts and documentation. Scholars from the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Historical Society regularly consulted his archives, many of which he periodically donated to those institutions.

Ed and his late wife Shirley were a dynamic duo. They shared a deep love and an unmistakable charm, whether attending professional conferences, community events, or simply enjoying a meal together. Shirley was truly the love of Ed's life, and he often spoke of his readiness to be reunited with her. He also possessed a playful side, quick with humor, skilled at juggling, and famously adept at counting cards at blackjack, a talent he enjoyed with modest success.

Ed loved Waseca deeply and took great pride in its evolution. In one

recent conversation with this author, while driving through town, he reflected on the changes he had witnessed over the years, noting that progress is sometimes only recognized in hindsight. With a laugh, Ed remarked that those who fail to see what makes Waseca special "are more blind than I am," a joke delivered with characteristic wit, given his own long-standing vision challenges.

Dr. Ed Frederick's life was defined by service, leadership, and an unshakable belief in the power of education and community. His influence lives on in the people he touched, the institutions he shaped, and the agricultural industry he loved so dearly.

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