



■ Inside:

- 3 - Portrait home
- 4 - Obituary
- 5 - School Board
- 6 - Summer picnic
- 8 - Night to Unite
- 9 - Janesville Council
- 9 - Dave Zika
- 10 - Athlete spotlight
- 12 - Waldorf Days



LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY
No. 33 Vol. V \$2 Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca Thursday, August 13, 2026



Marching Jays

Power of Produce Club at Waseca Farmers Market every Saturday

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

Soil Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board Meeting Aug. 13

The SWCD will be holding its monthly board meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 13. The meetings will be held in the SWCD offices located at 300 North State Street - Door 4.

Acrylic Painting Ethereal Landscape at Waseca Art Center August 13 and 20

Local artist Caitlin Roberts will teach how to paint an ethereal landscape over two sessions at the Waseca Art Center from 2-4 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 13 and 20. Supplies will be provided. Minimum of three, limit 10. Geared toward teens 13 - 18 years old.

Beekeeping Class at Hofmann Apiaries Saturday, August 15

There will be a Beekeeping Class at Hofmann Apiaries Wax Shed from 11 a.m. till noon on Saturday, August 15. Self-guided tours, light refreshments, register by calling 612-607-9641, \$15 per person, 10 person limit. Located at 4661 420th Ave in Janesville.

Waseca Freemason's Soap Box Race Saturday, August 15

The Waseca Freemasons are throwing their eighth annual Soap Box Race starting at noon till 3 p.m. on Saturday, August 15. The location is 4th St. NE, next to Tink Larson Field. For ages 8 and up, registration must take place before noon. Refreshments provided. The rain date is August 22.

Vista Covenant 150-year anniversary August 15-16

Vista Covenant Church located at 14679 275th Ave New Richland, will celebrate 150 years in God's service on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 15 and 16. Games, treats and fellowship will begin at 3 on Saturday with a supper beginning at 5:30. R.S.V.P.s are requested to 507-465-8365 or on the Vista Covenant website. A 10 a.m. service on Sunday will feature the president of the Evangelical Covenant as officiant. Vista invites everyone to the celebrations, and especially encourages former parishioners to attend.

Rock'n Cars Roll-In at Katie O'Leary's Thursday, August 16

The Rock'n Car Roll-In will take place at Katie O'Leary's from 4-8 p.m. Thursday, Aug 16. Classic cars, motorcycles, food trucks, music and 50/50 raffle.

A word from The Word

Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.
Proverbs 11:14

Area communities observe National Night Out

The national Night to Unite was observed the evening of Aug. 4 in Waseca and New Richland on Tuesday night of August 4, 2026; Janesville's observance was the evening of Aug. 6, in conjunction with a number of other events. This was a chance to get out and see the community, and become better acquainted with the public safety personnel who work to protect lives and property.

At every event, free food consisting of hot dogs, chips, and treats was offered. Along with that, the local fire department, emergency medical services, and law enforcement were present, inviting children to see inside police cars, fire trucks and the backs of ambulances, and offering activities which encouraged them to interact with safety workers.

Jay Dulas, Waseca County Sheriff, said, "We want kids to be comfortable around emergency personnel. That way if something bad happens, they know the policemen and firemen are the good guys." Dulas was able to attend the New Richland and Waseca events.

The Janesville Police Department, the Fire Department and Ambulance had the whole street next to the park blocked off so children could come and go as

they pleased. There were fire hose challenges thanks to the Janesville firefighters. The Janesville city council paid for all the food. Shelly Bogus, who helped to organize the Janesville Music in the Park series said, "We had 250 hot dogs for visitors, but we have a head count of over 500."

The New Richland event took place in City Park along Broadway Avenue. Children could play in a bounce house, have airbrushed temporary tattoos applied by city administrator Tyler Lendt, and pet "CareBear," a pony brought by the Waseca County Sheriff's Posse. Four Posse members circulated riding their horses. As was also done in Janesville, children were given the chance to work side by side with a firefighter to douse a pretend fire in a 5-foot cutout of a house.

The Waseca event took place at the Waterpark. There were vendors and local services for families like CADA, MN Prairie, and Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center. Members of the Waseca police and fire departments handed out hot dogs and took pictures with little ones. Staff members from the Waseca LeSueur Library were answering questions and promoting the value of reading.



UNITED - National Night to Unite was observed on Aug. 4 in Waseca and New Richland, and, in conjunction with other events in Janesville the evening of Aug. 6.

Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann and Deb Bently



Two Eds selling vegetables

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

It was a perfect sunny day Saturday, August 8, at the Farmers Market in Waseca. So perfect in fact there were no parking spaces, so any visitors who wanted fresh fruits and vegetables had to walk a block and a half to get there. But once there, amongst the flurry of activity, between two trucks were the Bethkes, and their stand "Ed's Produce."

There was more activity there than usual, which meant both Edward Bethke Sr. and Edward Bethke Jr. were extremely busy. Said Edward Sr. "We call it Ed's Produce. Used to be Ed's Produce and Greenhouse but we're not a greenhouse anymore. I've been coming here for years and years, and one day it will be my son who takes over." There were both a watermelon and a muskmelon cut open and sitting on their display table. The fruit was diced up so passersby who wanted a sample could grab one on their way. Lisa and Roy Kuchenbacker were among those who were lured in by the samples. After a taste they both decided and said together, "We'll take one watermelon and two muskmelons." They are from the Waseca area, but they're traveling north to Shakopee to visit their daughter Arie, "She likes muskmelon so we're bringing it for her."

Edward Sr. gave an inventory of their produce, "We got sweet corn, I both buy my produce and I grow it. Cucumbers and pickling cucumbers, tomatoes and green tomatoes for those visitors from Kentucky. I got fresh dill, zucchini, and the muskmelon is Athena." Since there were so many customers, Edward Sr. directed the Pioneer to Edward Jr. and said proudly, "Please talk to him, one day this will all be his."

Edward Jr., just like his father, was born



PRODUCE TRADITION - Edward Bathke Jr. of Ed's Produce was helping Ralph Dobberstein at the Waseca Farmers Market on Saturday, Aug. 8, 2026.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

and bred in Waseca. A 2025 graduate of Waseca High School, "I'm planning on going to St. Paul University up in the Cities, I'll be going there this winter." He's been a full-time farmer since he graduated and is hoping to continue selling produce around his college career.

Edward Sr. said their stand had been set up already around 7:15 a.m. "We'll probably be at the Waseca Farmers Market through Oc-

tober, just long enough so I don't waste anything. The stock will change to October produce, I'm looking forward to that!" He has done some salsas in the past but wasn't doing that this year, he shrugged and said, "Maybe next year." Edward Jr. was going to add to his father's statement but his attention was turned away as Ralph Dobberstein, a farmers market customer, approached and asked about sweet corn.

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

Drainage patterns, scooter safety discussed

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Because of the Tuesday "Night to Unite" event, the Waseca city council meeting took place in the evening of Wednesday, Aug. 5.

Waseca County Administrator Michael Johnson and county land and water resources director Chris Howard shared a proposal to help control overflow waters in the vicinity of Gaiter Lake. The two said the focus of their presentation was preserving water quality, improving water drainage, reducing flooding, and protecting resources and infrastructure. Howard went over the history of Gaiter Lake and the drainage system flowing through it. He emphasized the value of water quality in Clear Lake, Loon Lake, and area wetlands, pointing out humans have altered the landscape over the decades, leading to unintended changes. He stressed that, rather than preventing flooding during a "100-year"

Council continued on 5



Compostings

by Al Batt

A day to make Goldilocks happy

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

You bought a used electric car?

I did.

How do you like the car?

The vehicle is great, but coiling the 350 miles of extension cord is a pain.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I was at an important (they are all important) meeting where the air conditioning was producing gale-force winds. I think sweet-sounding wind chimes should be installed on the towering wind turbines.

Fogust is what Bay Area locals call the foggy, cloudy, hazy conditions that occur each day in August. Weather folklore says the number of foggy mornings in a Midwestern August predicts the number of snowfalls the coming winter will have. The traditional method of counting the fogs was by dropping beans into a jar.

Traffic was light. I waved at the other driver. I grew up alongside a seldom-traveled gravel road. Much of the traffic was made up of the rural mail carrier, school bus and the creamery's milk truck. I was going to join the school's debate team, but I was talked out of it. I argued with the farm's guinea hens instead. They were superb watchdogs. If anything or anybody showed up, the guineas sounded the alarm vigorously. The females made a "buckwheat" call. A group of guinea fowl is a confusion.

RUTHLESS PUMPKIN

SPICE HAS REPLACED IT

Spiced apple rings were red and served in our school cafeteria. Even though it provided minerals and nutrients to build the brain cells needed to show my work in math class, it was phased out in favor of fresh fruit. I'm a big fan of the spiced apple industry.

BOOKING IT

I volunteered at a Friends of the Library book sale. Great fun. Several people asked me what I was reading. I had put "The Correspondent" by Virginia Evans on a library hold in January. There were 324 people ahead of me. I got the book in July. I enjoyed the clever epistolary. Each letter was a piece of an intriguing jigsaw puzzle of a novel. It didn't take me 6 months to read it. It was worth the wait.

I'VE LEARNED

"Companion" comes from the Latin "companionem," with the roots "com," meaning "with or together," and "panis," meaning "bread." A companion is someone you'd break bread with.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statis-

tics found the most common jobs in this country are: 1. Retail salespersons. 2. Home health and personal care aides. 3. General and operations managers. 4. Fast food and counter workers. 5. Cashiers.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

A man buying underwear asked, "Are these boxers satin?" to which the clerk replied, "No, they're brand new."

My physics professor was face down on his desk crying before class. I put my hand on his shoulder and asked, "Hey, what's the matter?" He looked up at me and said, "Anything that has mass and takes up space."

NATURE NOTES

It was a day that would have made Goldilocks happy. It was just right. It was a rare morning—no wind, no rain and no vehicle noise. I heard the whoosh of bird wings beating the air. I looked up to see a flock of Franklin's gulls headed south. The flock stretched far, with every gull appearing to be striving to pass the gull on each side. It was a V trying to become a straight line. Named for the Arctic explorer Sir John Franklin, the graceful flyers are notably smaller than ring-billed gulls and the non-breeding adults sport a patchy black to gray hoods, black legs and feet, and black bills with red tips. They forage in agricultural fields, pastures, landfills and on the surface of water. They follow tractors to feed on earthworms, grubs, beetles and grasshoppers dislodged by farm implements.

A red-winged blackbird male stopped at a feeder for a snack. His is a polygynous species, with males having many females as mates—up to 15. In some populations, 90% of territorial males have more than one female nesting. He isn't a supreme ruler because up to half the nestlings in his territory might have been sired by another male.

White sweet clover and yellow sweet clover are similar in appearance, growing 3 to 6 feet high. They're biennial herbaceous plants in the legume family. Yellow sweet clover has yellow flowers, is usually the shorter of the two, and blooms earlier than white sweet clover. White sweet clover (I'll bet you've already guessed this) has white flowers. Sweet clovers are fragrant and reproduce by seed with plants producing thousands of seeds, which can remain viable for 40 years.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"Kind hearts are the gardens, Kind thoughts are the roots, Kind words are the flowers, Kind deeds are the fruits." —Kirby Larson



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

Thirsty butterflies decorate the driveway

After a recent rain, there was a puddle at the end of my driveway. Now that the water has drained and evaporated, a patch of mud remains.

I cannot be unhappy about it, because hundreds of butterflies are using it as a place to get water. In numbers I believe I have never seen before, they settle on the mud and stay there for extended periods, occasionally opening and closing their wings.

There are some bright yellow ones I have learned are clouded sulphurs. They are particularly easy to see on the wet-dark mud, looking like the first leaves of some late-sprouting exotic plant. Mixed in with them is a roughly equal number of painted lady butterflies. These are much more difficult to see. They are perhaps half again larger than the sulphurs, but their colors are plainer and darker—greys and oranges. When their wings are closed, the warm colors are hidden, leaving a mottled pattern that blends in remarkably well with the small pebbles in the gravel road. When that's the case, the most reliable way to spot them is to look for their shadows.

As I come and go in my car, I feel a bit guilty for disturbing them.

On the other hand, they rise in a cloud and surround the car, making me feel like the grand marshal in a parade—surrounded by colorful, fluttering confetti that, rather than falling from the sky, rises from below.

Along with the crowd of confetti at the mud puddle, there is also a rich scattering of butterflies along the length of the gravel road. At least for the time being, I have taken to driving as though a child might dash out of the nearby cornfield at any moment. At half or less of my usual speed, I watch for the triangle-shaped outlines or shadows and steer to the far side of the road. Most get out of my way promptly, but some are still holding to the road as they disappear under my hood: in their case, I hope I am going slowly enough that I will do them no harm when they launch upward.

To my gratification, the butterflies don't seem to remain disturbed for long, landing again as soon as the commotion is over.

Hoping to take advantage of that, I took my camera and walked slowly to the end of my driveway. The fountain of butterfly confetti was even more dramatic when it surrounded only me. As I found an opportune spot and stood still, they all settled down, taking no notice as long as I displayed only minimal movement. When I lifted my camera or turned myself to face a slightly different direction, the closest ones would fly up; those a bit further away stayed on the ground, but seemed to flutter nervously.

As I enjoyed the novelty of my circumstances and tried to capture a photo that would help others appre-



BLENDED BEAUTY - There are three painted lady butterflies in this picture, but only one is readily visible. The other two have their wings closed and are blending in with the sand and pebbles of a gravel road.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

ciate what it was like to be there, I couldn't help chuckling. Beneath me on the roadway was a sort of visual Morse Code. A painted lady invisible except for its shadow would open its wings, becoming a bright spot of color for a moment before it closed them again and disappeared from sight. Then a different, nearby set of colors would appear and be gone—the effect was compelling.

It was punctuated by a much smaller butterfly in the same orange and black color scheme. Only an inch or so across with their wings wide open, these tiny drinkers looked like young children who had followed the grownups on an outing. Called pearl crescents, though, some research informs me they are actually fully mature at their diminutive size.

In the visual Morse Code performance I was watching, the pearl crescents stood out despite being so small because they opened their wings more often and left them that

way a bit longer than the painted ladies.

Speaking of research, it turns out butterflies drink through a "proboscis," a long, straw-like tube which coils up under their faces until they are ready either to harvest nectar from flowers or drink water. Reportedly, it is almost entirely males who drink water in the way called "puddling," they are also known to drink from drops of dew or, hmmm, puddles of animal urine.

Thanks to drinking...fluids...the males acquire minerals and substances not available from flower nectar. They then share these nutrients with the females during mating.

The facts and information are valuable of course. I wish the butterflies well. Perhaps more importantly, I am grateful for their communal visit to my driveway. It is a remarkable privilege to be showered by a fountain of living confetti.

Unfamiliar conversations and learning moments

As I write this, I find myself in a conversation I am unfamiliar with.

I find that this happens to me quite a bit, but it's nothing I complain about. Usually when I am in these situations, I listen and I learn something—either about the topic or about the person sharing information.

In college, I was friends with a lot of engineers, so I frequently found myself on the sideline of a conversation, watching and listening as others exchanged thoughts about things related to their classes, people they knew, or inside jokes that are only funny to engineers.

I also spend a lot of time listening when the people I am with talk about other people they know but I don't, which has been happening to me more often as I am around people who share a longstanding friendship with each other, but not yet with me. I also don't usually enter into conversations about politics or sports, since I don't feel knowledgeable on those topics.



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

This conversation in particular is about concerts. I was asked whether I've ever been to Red Rocks, to which I had to answer "no." So far in my tenure here, there have not been any artists at Red Rocks that I wanted to see, not to mention the high costs of going to see one.

Then we got to talking about the insane cost of concerts in general. I know Noah Kahan was in Minnesota recently; soon after, he also traveled to Denver. I knew of one girl who paid a handful of hundreds to go see him, which baffled me.

I have never been a concert enthu-

siast when it comes to artists I can easily play on my phone, so I honestly could not comprehend why she was willing to spend so much. Jack mentioned a coworker who paid close to a grand to travel and go see a concert, I believe a KPOP one.

I come from too frugal a background to spend my money willy nilly, which I'm not saying concerts are a willy-nilly expense, only that I don't see the value in some of them. Personally, I would rather spend the money to see a musical or theater performance. In a week, Jack and I are going to see Monty Python's

Spamalot, which I was way more excited at the prospect of seeing than a concert.

Or I would rather spend hundreds traveling than seeing a concert for one night. I'm not sure why I'm like this. Maybe I'm cheap; maybe I just haven't found an artist who has touched me in that way, or maybe I just put value in different areas of my life.

All of this is just me rambling about how I don't normally attend concerts, hence why I have yet to go to Red Rocks even though I have been here a year. I wanted to go to see The Princess Bride when they were doing a summer movie series there, but it was on a day I couldn't go. Maybe someday the music will speak to me and I'll happily spend my money to attend a concert.

My Determination: "Oh, but you can't expect to wield supreme executive power just because some watery tart threw a sword at you." —Monty Python and the Holy Grail

WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

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

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JON LUCCA Ad Design
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Considering the path to happiness, success

My friend Madi reports she had an excellent time on the trip we planned together, but then I could not attend due to my back injury. She visited four monasteries and aside from the "freaky African and Indian Masks" at the cabin, everything was "fantastic." Madi also visited a museum of dinosaurs as she loves them. Another small adventure, she got pulled over for driving 55 in a 35 mph zone. The officer gave her a warning. When she told me she got pulled over, I asked her if it was for driving too slowly, as has happened to her before. As she told me about the trip, she mentioned more than once she was sad I could not attend.

Though I'm sorry to have missed the trip and to have disappointed Madi, staying home seems to have been the right decision for my body. More than one night this week, pain kept me awake until long after sunrise. I am managing as best as I can. I have appointments this week and next and again the following week. Everything takes so long.

I believe there are probably some great lessons I am learning along the way as a result of these pains. The Word tells us it brings us closer to God when we are in pain. Although this is true, I really, really don't want



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

to hurt anymore.

This past week has been filled with organizing our Activities Posters and Calendars for the upcoming NRHEG school year, and Activities Posters for Waseca's. Many phone calls and instructions were given out.

I had dinner with my friends Paul and Heather Sunday evening. Heather commented that she would struggle not having someone to go to when there was a problem. I do enjoy being the person in charge. I commented that I simply fix the problem or hire someone to fix the problem. Growing up, I found it hard to work for someone else unless I knew they were smarter or at least more knowledgeable about the job. My dad, after all, fired me numerous times. He now will be the first to tell you I am a better businessman than he is. As a young person, or any per-

son for that matter, it is frustrating knowing or believing I know what is the right choice and not having the opportunity to implement it. In business, with my parents, I just ignored them and did what I knew was right. They were my parents; I knew once it worked out, it would be fine. And if it didn't, it would also be fine, because they love me and treated me with love.

I try to take that mentality and apply it to life. I focus on kindness and helpfulness, and anticipate they will treat me the same way. Also, it just makes life better. I don't generally regret decisions, feel bad for being overly generous (although sometimes that happens but that feeling fades), or second guess myself.

Sometimes I feel foolish looking back on choices made in romantic relationships.

My dad told me this week, when I asked him how he decided to marry my mother: "Love at first sight."

"And she knew it," was his response.

He tells me every time the conversation has come up, that even though the relationship ended, entering it was the best decision of his life, because it led to me and my siblings.

My former lady friend and I stopped seeing each other back in December. I don't know how other people decide to end relationships, but I felt the focus in our interactions seemed to be about satisfying only one of us, leaving me feeling my needs were being overlooked. Does that make me selfish?

The simplest summary is that I was unhappy.

I didn't ask my dad what ultimately led to the divorce between him and my mother, but I have heard both sides of that story. Everyone was unhappy.

Oh, and for those who ask, Madi and I are simply friends. I know that the grandmothers who read my column like to discuss my welfare; thank you for taking an interest in

Lutgens continued on 4

OBITUARIES

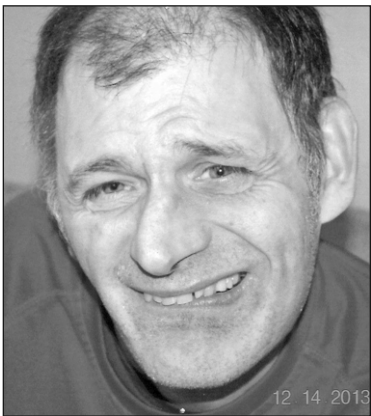
James Morris

James Lee Morris, a beloved son, brother, and friend, passed away peacefully on August 6, 2026, at the age of 65 in Eagle Lake, Minnesota. He was born on May 15, 1961, in Mankato, Minnesota to Victor and Mary (Slaymaker) Morris, where he grew up surrounded by the love of his family and the community at Grace Baptist Church.

James spent his early years in Mankato before moving to Waseca where he worked a factory job, and later to Elysian. For the past five years, he called Eagle Lake his home. Throughout his life, James found joy in swimming in Alexandria and Madison Lake, fishing, and sharing laughter with loved ones at family picnics and gatherings at the Holiday Inn.

James had a heart of gold, always quick to smile and eager to lift the spirits of those around him. He had a playful spirit and a soft spot for all things Snoopy and Mickey Mouse. His enthusiasm for the Minnesota Vikings was infectious, and he cherished the moments spent with family and friends, particularly during the Christmas season when he could be found sneaking cookies with a grin on his face.

He is survived by his father, Victor Morris of Mankato; siblings,



James Morris

Clark Morris of Mankato, John Morris of Mankato, and Rebecca Morris of Winnebago; niece and nephews, Jordyn Morris, Ryan Morris, Jonathan Breunder, and Kyle Morris; several great neices and nephews; uncle, Charles Slaymaker; and cousins, Dawn, Colleen, and Heather; He was preceded in death by his mother, Mary; brother, Michael Morris; and infant sister.

Graveside service will be at 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 12, 2026 at Lake Crystal Cemetery. There will be a public gathering from 1:00-2:00 p.m. prior to the burial at Mankato Mortuary.

James Lee Morris will be deeply missed, yet his spirit will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved him. May he rest in peace.

Town and Country Garden Club
Members share successes, challenges

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Members of the New Richland Town and Country Garden Club took part in a mutual learning exercise the afternoon of Aug. 4, with members Julie Economy, Barb Finseth, Eleanor Schlaak and Sheryl Schanil inviting club members to visit their gardens and exchange information and insights about the various plants.

A garden stone among Finseth's flowers claimed "As the garden grows, so grows the gardener." The statement seemed like a possible theme for the day as club members offered identifications and shared their own experiences surrounding various plants and insects—both those a gardener wishes to encourage and those they hope to eliminate.



BLOOMING AND GROWING - New Richland Town and Country Garden Club members shared ideas and compliments as they viewed four members' gardens the afternoon of Tuesday, Aug. 4.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

In addition to viewing one another's gardens, discussing the growing season and how it affected their success, and learning from one another's creative displays, the group enjoyed supper together at Schanil's home.

During conversation, group members stated their appreciation for the chance to see and learn from one another's work, saying that being present in the gardens during the exchange allowed for much richer understanding.

Waseca County Employee Lunch



AT YOUR SERVICE - Preparing and serving an appreciation luncheon for more than 100 county employees on the south courthouse lawn on Aug. 4 were county administrator Michael Johnson, county commissioners Brad Milbrath, Doug Christopherson, De Malterer, and Brad Krause, county human resources director Melissa Sexton, administrative coordinator Beth Weimert, and commissioner Brian Harguth.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Braves start playoffs on positive note

The Waseca Braves got the playoffs started on a positive note with a 12-2 victory over Wanamingo Saturday at Cannon Falls.

"It was a nice way to start the playoffs," said Braves coach Tink Larson.

Tyson Reger had a fantastic game on the mound and at the plate.

On the mound, he pitched a complete game win, gave up one earned run, and didn't walk a batter.

At the plate, he was 4-for-4, plus two walks, two doubles, one run scored, and one run batted in.

It was a close game until the Braves broke it open in the top of the ninth inning.

Waseca catcher Kellen Klinger made a nice play on a wild pitch in the bottom of the eighth inning with the score 5-2 and Wanamingo had runners on second and third with no outs.

Klinger retrieved a wild pitch by Reger and made a perfect throw to the plate where, Reger tagged the runner for the out. Reger then

struck out the next two hitters to get out of the jam.

As a team, the Braves hit the ball well as eight different batters had hits, five of them with at least two hits.

The following day, the Braves returned to Cannon Falls and defeated Minnesota Lake.

"It was a great game," said Larson. "We scored two unearned runs in the first inning and another unearned run in the fifth inning.

Kelvin Nelson pitched a great 6 2/3 shutout innings. Reger was fantastic in relief. He came in with the bases loaded and one out. He had a strikeout and a fly ball out and then retired the last six batters in the game. It took him only 26 pitches to get eight outs. Twenty-three of those 26 pitches were strikes.

A big hit for us by Cody Huiras had the big hit for the Braves, driving in two first-inning runs.

The Braves play Friday at 8 p.m. at Waterville, with the winner advancing to the Class C state tournament.

Minnesota's crop yields could be 'as good or even better' than last year's despite drought

By MPR

It's been a dry summer for many Minnesotan farmers as drought conditions blanket much of the state.

But rain has come for key production areas in recent weeks. Minnesota Department of Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen called the showers "crop-saving rain" at this year's annual ag trade show, Farmfest, in Redwood County in southwest Minnesota.

"Right here, we were dry, but the crop looks really good," Minnesota Farmers Union President Gary Wertish added. "We've been blessed here, just getting some timely rains in this immediate area."

That rain could make a big difference for farmers' fields, according to senior marketing analyst Mark Schultz with Northstar Commodities.

"The rain that you picked up last Friday was anywhere from a 20 to 30 bushel per acre swing on the size of your crop," said Schultz. "I think it was just that

big of a difference maker in the crop."

That rain could help strengthen this year's crop production. Last year, Minnesota had record or near-record yields of corn, wheat and soybeans. University of Minnesota Extension Professor Edward Usset said this year's crop is looking "as good or better" than last year's.

"We have a shot at setting yield records again in all three crops," said Usset. "A lot can happen in the last four or five weeks of this crop, but we have that chance to do it."

Southwest and central Minnesota will still need more than five inches of rain in the coming months to reverse drought conditions, according to projections by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Minnesota producers will have a clearer picture of yields on Wednesday when the U.S. Department of Agriculture publishes its latest crop production report.

Steele County Free Fair launches mobile app

Owatonna, Minnesota — The Steele County Free Fair is making it easier than ever for fairgoers to plan their visit and experience Minnesota's Biggest County Fair with the launch of its new mobile app, SCFF on a Stick.

Designed to serve as a digital companion for the fair, SCFF on a Stick gives visitors convenient access to important fair information right from their mobile devices. Fairgoers can use the app before arriving to plan their day and throughout their visit to stay connected with everything happening

across the fairgrounds.

"SCFF on a Stick is another way we're working to make the fair experience easier and more enjoyable for our guests," said Steele County Free Fair management. "There is so much happening throughout the fair each day, and this app gives fairgoers a convenient way to keep that information right in their pocket."

The app features access to daily schedules and entertainment information, fairgrounds maps with live directions from where you are to the location of your choice, food

and vendor information and offerings, Grandstand events, attractions and other helpful resources. Fairgoers can quickly find what they're looking for and discover activities they may not have known were happening.

The launch also provides the Steele County Free Fair with another way to communicate timely information with guests during the fair, helping visitors stay informed while making the most of their time on the grounds.

Fairgoers are encouraged to download SCFF on a Stick before

arriving at the fair and use it to start planning their visit. SCFF on a Stick can be found on Google Play and the Apple App Store.

The Steele County Free Fair continues its tradition of providing free gate admission while offering entertainment, agriculture, food, shopping, exhibits, competitions, Grandstand events and family activities throughout the fairgrounds in Owatonna.

For additional fair information, visit the Steele County Free Fair website: www.scff.org.

■ Lutgens

from Page 2

my life.

I am not in a hurry to get married and have kids. It has been said picking a spouse is the most important decision a person will make. I have frequently told myself not to "settle" for someone who is simply convenient. Others echo that sentiment when the matter comes up.

If I had more exciting news to report in my life, I would, but aside from my life, my wandering thoughts are all I have to share with readers this week.

The game store and newspapers go well.

It has been a unique experience to buy my first newspaper using all of

my money as a down payment, then start a second paper, the Pioneer, using all of the money I had saved for two years, and then a game store, once again using all the money I had saved over the course of two years.

Back to my friend Heather. She also said she couldn't take the stress associated with being "the person at the top."

I like it. It is, believe it or not, less stressful, knowing my life's decisions are in my own hands. The success of the newspapers and game store is not solely in my hands, but I am the one who makes the decisions that give them the opportunity to thrive. And I trust myself to make the right choices. More importantly, I trusted and continue to trust that readers and advertisers want a local newspaper. For the game store, that sense of community is equally strong. I didn't take over the store to

make money; I did it so the community of people formed around it would continue to have a place. I think small town folks understand that concept really well. I remain incredibly grateful to call here home.

I got the best of Dad this week at cribbage, winning 17 games to his 12. We traded a pair of skunks throughout our week of battles. Numerous games came down to the

final point. More than one skunk or possible skunk was decided by a single decision by either player. Great fun was had by all.

This week's cribbage tally's updated from last week total:

Dad 496 wins, 75 skunks
Eli 447 wins, 46 skunks, 1 double skunk
2026 totals, Eli 110 wins, 7 skunks, Dad 83 wins, 14 skunks



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ETHANOL

School board continues planning for new childcare options

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writer

At the August 6 work session, the members of the Waseca school board got an update to the childcare expansion process which began in May through the Community Education department. Director Nikki Benson spoke about the rules concerning the running of an infant and toddler program and working with the state to ensure employee and parent handbooks are up to date. Benson said the state has inspected the former Grace Garden site and was very impressed with the facility. The program would house one infant room set up to care for up to twelve infants between the ages of 6 weeks and 14 months, and two toddler rooms, that is, for children between 14 and 33 months. The district is anticipating the new childcare program to be up and running after the first of the year.

Superintendent Eric Hudspith gave a strategic plan update covering the Desired Daily Experiences portion, or what students, staff and families expect when they come to Waseca Public Schools. Hudspith says this part of the plan is typically “refreshed” on a five-year cycle

WASECA
SCHOOL BOARD

with a community survey. Hudspith also shared the three-year plan with the board for review and feedback.

Hudspith spoke next about the Permanent School Fund (PSF), Minnesota’s public education endowment created in 1858 to support public school students using revenue from school trust lands. The fund has grown to roughly \$2.3 billion today. The amendment that will be on ballots this November asks voters whether Minnesota should modernize how the PSF distributes money to the schools; the modification would not lead to an increase in their property taxes.

Schools are currently allowed to receive only interest and dividends, which limits how much can be paid out each year. Voting to approve the amendment would substantially increase the state funds each school receives. A YES vote is not a tax increase; schools would receive more money annually from the existing trust without raising taxes. Leaving the amendment blank counts as a NO vote.

Political campaign and advertisement signs not permitted on public highway rights of way

ST. PAUL, Minn. – With upcoming elections, the Minnesota Department of Transportation reminds campaigners that state law prohibits placement of political signs or any advertising on highway right-of-way.

These areas include driving lanes, inside and outside shoulders, ditches, sight corners at intersections, and boulevards in urban areas. It also includes displaying flags or other signs on bridges over traffic. You can also visit the MnDOT website for additional information about signs on state right-of-way.

State law requires MnDOT workers to take down political or advertising signs located on the state highway right-of-way.

■ County

from Page 3

and CEO Benya Kraus

SMIF is a philanthropic organization with its main office in Owatonna that serves 20 counties in the southeast portion of the state. The organization is celebrating its fortieth year. Kraus stated it was founded in the 1980s, “during the heart of the farm crisis.”

After mentioning that SMIF has issued 51 low interest loans, given 243 grants, and “invested” a total of \$5.5 million in Waseca County through grants, loans and programming, Kraus asked commissioners to continue supporting the agency with county appropriations. The county currently contributes \$2,700 a year. Kraus stated that all 20 counties within its area of operation have elected to make contributions of this type.

Board members accepted the \$25,000 offer—the stated minimum bid—of Alton Township property owner Jeff Huelsnitz, who owns property adjacent to a piece of land the county offered for sale.

County, city and township employees administer the laws on their roads. You can retrieve signs by contacting your local MnDOT office.

In addition, state law says that signs may not be placed on private land without the consent of the landowner. Violation of this law is a misdemeanor. Civil penalties may also apply if the placement of such material contributes to a motor vehicle crash, creates injury to a person, or causes damage to a motor vehicle that runs off the road.

State law also prohibits placing advertising materials on public utility poles, trees and shrubs, and painting or drawing on rocks or natural features.

The 20-acre parcel had been donated to the county in the past with the stipulation that it be maintained in its natural wooded state, but it was not a candidate for development or improvement because it is “landlocked,” that is, property surrounding it is under private ownership and there is no public access route.

Under state law, the county could offer the land only to parties who own the contiguous parcels; in this case, four neighbors. Following procedures required by the state, the county had previously offered those property owners a chance to buy the land first at its assessed value, then at a reduced percentage of the assessed value, and now, for the third round, at a minimum bid selected by the commissioners: \$25,000.

The county also accepted a bid of about \$480,000 to replace two culverts located under Old Highway 14, one at the Steele County line and the other about 1 mile east of Crystal Valley. The winning contractor is Selly Excavating of LeCenter; as part of a statewide bridge maintenance program, the entire cost of the work will be refunded by the state.

Waseca Marching Jays Parade



ON THE MARCH - After a week of practice and training during the annual "band camp," the Marching Jays provided a parade which began behind Bomgaars and ended at the Waseca County fairgrounds. With their season begun, marching band members already have a number of events on their schedule, including the Marching Classic, which will be Sept. 19.

Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann

■ Council

from Page 1

event, the new waterflow pattern would only reduce it by about 34 percent.

Howard proposed creating a retention area just north of new highway 14 and south of Gaiter Lake on a 36-acre parcel that has topical features that make it conducive to water storage, and for the possibility of a business district. Zimmerman asked whether the structure would “give Clear Lake another filter, to help keep our lake clean.” Howard confirmed it would.

Johnson and Howard shared that the county has had discussions with the property owners, who have been amenable and have provided verbal agreements. The two listed estimated costs that included between \$600,000 to \$700,000 for property acquisition. The water storage structure should cost from \$2 to \$2.5 million, with help anticipated from grants and grant resources. An additional \$500,000 to \$1 million would likely be needed to get the site ready for commercial and economic development. Johnson added, “The optional \$500,000 to \$1 million economic development portion of the project doesn’t have any bearing on the completion of the water storage project, but would be very nice to see happen.” Councilmember Stacey Schroeder asked whether funds currently at the council’s disposal could be used for this project, city administrator Carl Sonnenberg said no. There is currently no timeline or start date.

Tasty House restaurant in Waseca would like to expand its parking lot. The council set a date for a public hearing on Sept. 1 before the regular 7 p.m. council meeting to address this issue.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, Jim

Foley from southeast Waseca expressed concerns about children riding electric scooters and bicycles, “They rarely look back while changing lanes or crossing the street. They rarely slow down at stop signs, and almost never stop. Someone is going to get killed. I’ve seen [people riding] 20 miles an hour on the sidewalk, and that’s me lowballing it. What are the regulations on electric motor scooters and bicycles? What will you say to the press if you ignore this problem?” City manager Carl Sonnenberg said he would give the laws and regulations a serious perusal with the public safety director and present them to the council. Mayor Randy Zimmerman stated the council would like to remind parents they need to speak with their children, including telling them to stop at intersections, and to wear helmets. “The parents have the responsibility to teach their children the rules of the road,” he said.

Sheryl Clevenger spoke about the Don Eustice Scholarship Committee and the 50th anniversary event which will take place at the Waseca fairgrounds on Saturday, Sept. 5. Said Clevenger, “We’ll have bands, kids’ activities, food trucks, beanbag tournaments.” She said this is possible because of help from the fair board. Continued Clevenger regarding the funds the day will add to the Don Eustice Memorial Scholarship account, “This will be the last big donation event we will be having.”

Councilman Jeremy Conrath said there would be no firefighters’ burger feed during the Waseca Treat’s on the Streets Halloween event.

Councilwoman Schroeder said a big thank you to Alex and William Dickerson who are out helping to fix up resident properties that might need a little tender loving care, “They deserve our thanks for being a good neighbor.” This is in re-

gards to those whose houses or yards might need maintenance, but are unable to fix the problem themselves.

Councilman Mark Christianson said, “If you do need help or if someone needs assistance with something on your property, give me a call. We are trying to sell Waseca; sometimes it’s hard to highlight that when houses are foreclosed or in dilapidation. We are a proud community, and we want to be a community to be proud of. Let’s help people, instead of just nagging them. But also, if you’re a homeowner, take care of your property.”

Zimmerman expressed his compliments to the Waseca Hockey Association regarding its recent fundraiser which featured well known country music star Montgomery Gentry, “For bringing so many people in town from out of town. Mr. Montgomery put on a great show. It was also nice to see people at the Waseca Night to Unite.”

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The Pastor's Column

Vocation in the Christian context

By PASTOR MICHAEL GRANNIS

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. ~ Colossians 3:17

For most people, the word vocation probably makes them think of a job — the work they get paid for. But when we speak of a person's vocations in a Christian context we are not primarily thinking of employment. Rather, the word vocation is actually the God-given role a person has in relation to others.

In this sense, being a son or a daughter is a vocation, as is being a father or a mother. These are God-given roles with God-given responsibilities, and God-given blessings. Being a husband or a wife, a brother or a sister, is a vocation, as is being a boss or a worker. Each vocation is a gift from God, and each vocation has its own unique responsibilities. In the same way, being a pastor is a vocation, as is being a congregation member. Each of these vocations come with responsibilities and blessings. The responsibilities we have are to each other, but they are also responsibilities toward God.

The above verse is a good life verse for all vocations - "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through Him." What does it mean to "do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus?" It means that how you live your life - everything you say and everything you do - should be done as if you are representing Christ Himself. Every opportunity you have to fulfill whatever roles God has given you, is a chance for you to live out your faith in Christ.

It has been said that when we are baptized we "put on Christ." We are "Christened" as it were, in Holy Baptism, and are therefore called "Christian." As Christians were are ambassadors of Christ - everything we say and everything we do represents Christ to the world around us (for better or for worse). When we see ourselves in the light of this truth, every single one of us rightly feels overwhelmed with shame and guilt.

Have you been the obedient and loving son or daughter that God made you to be?

Have you been the responsible, caring, providing father or mother that God made you to be?

Have you been the faithful husband or wife? Husband, have you loved your wife as Christ loved the Church, sacrificing everything for her good - providing for her and caring for her as your own body? Wife, have you submitted to your husband and worked in harmony with him, following his direction for the good of your household? I could go on and on. How do we measure up as citizens, neighbors, friends...? Each of these are God-given vocations with God-given responsibilities and God-given blessings.

It is easy for us to focus on the responsibilities and to feel put-upon or to get overwhelmed by our own failures. It is also easy for us to point the finger at others and how they have failed to fulfill their vocations, rather than humbly focusing on ourselves and trying our best to represent Christ in all we say and do. But the truth of the matter is, every single one of us is alive today because of the blessings God has provided through other people fulfilling their vocations in our lives (even though each one of them fulfilled their vocation ever so imperfectly).

And so it is good for us to give thanks to God, as the verse above says. We give thanks to God not only for the way He blesses us through other imperfect people, but also for the way He has seen fit to give us responsibilities in our various vocations so that we might be a blessing to others. Yes, we are called to be little Christs, representing Christ to everyone we meet in ordinary everyday ways. And the crazy and mysterious thing is, when we serve others in each of our various vocations, we are also serving Christ Himself.

'...Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me. ~ Matthew 25:40

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

iWealth Summer Picnic



PICNIC PARTY - iWealth hosted their annual Summer Picnic last weekend and shared their pictures on Facebook, saying, "Thank you to everyone who joined us. We're so grateful for this incredible community and always enjoy spending time together."

Revermann Recommends: *Labor Day* a thrilling drama

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The movie *Labor Day* was released in 2013 by Paramount Pictures. Directed by Jason Reitman and based off the 2009 novel by Joyce Maynard, it stars Josh Brolin, Kate Winslett, Gattlin Griffith, and includes a toward-the-end appearance by Toby Maguire. This suspenseful drama takes place in 1987 and might be one of those that flew under your radar, but it's well worth the watch.

Adele (played by Winslett) is a formerly married woman who after a series of miscarriages was only able to birth one child, Henry (played by Griffith). The miscarriages cause Adele to suffer from depression and lead to a divorce so her ex-husband can seek out a new wife to bear him children. The result is she rarely leaves her house, and has difficulties being around other people; despite that, her son Henry is a happy child. He lives full time with his mother and spends the occasional weekend with his dad.

With Labor Day weekend approaching, Adele and Henry take a trip to the store for snacks when a dangerous man (Frank, played by Brolin) appears out of nowhere and insists they all leave immediately. He coerces them to take him home with them. The scariest line in this movie is when Frank approaches Adele and says to her while her son is in his hands, "This needs to happen." There is a harrowing ride home, with Henry and Frank in the back seat, while Adele nervously keeps her hands on the wheel. As the trio make their way to the house and Frank does the last thing either Adele or Henry could've expected...

There is a tension that appears in the movie with the addition of Frank, and it never leaves, but it does turn into another kind of frustrating tension over the course of the movie. Despite the passing of days, the police in the movie never leave off their search for Frank. Winslet does an excellent job of playing a delicate mother who thought she was too damaged to start over. Brolin's character keeps it very believable when the mother and son become accepting of his presence, and even begin to reexamine themselves, and their lives. There are flashbacks for Frank that viewers might find a little confusing, but they are an important part of the story. The book is wonderful to read as well!

This is another movie that didn't do too well at the box office, however, the cinematography is amazing. Despite the sullen atmosphere, there is a lot of sunshine, many kind moments and a beautiful 80s kitchen. This slow burn has a wonderful payoff in the end and is well worth your time. Favorite line: "I had always wondered who you would become, and what you would look like, and then, one day I came across a familiar looking pie."

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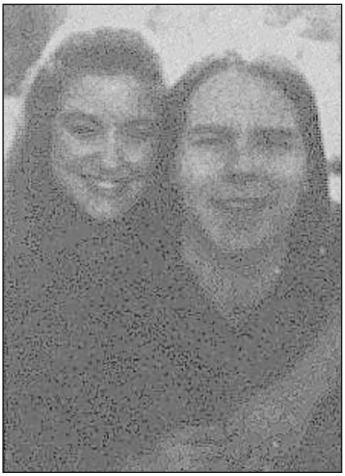
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Janesville

25 years ago

- Kathy Auringer of Eagle Lake and Donald Kump of Janesville are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter Tamra Kump, to Ross Mehlhop, son of Harlan and the late Diane Mehlhop of New Ulm. Tamara is a 1988 graduate of Janesville High School and a 1993 graduate of Mankato Technical College. She is currently employed with Mankato Lutheran Home Care in Mankato. Ross is a 1992 graduate of New Ulm Senior High School and is currently enrolled at South Central Technical College. He is currently employed with Associated Finishing in Mankato. A September 22, 2001 wedding is planned.



- The president of the United States has put the responsibility of ensuring the safety of American citizens and protecting U.S. interests abroad in the hands of the Navy. Of all the armed services, the Navy is uniquely equipped to accomplish this mission because its ships can provide forward presence which means that in the event of a crisis, Navy combatants can be positioned in key locations and



directed to quickly respond at a moment's notice. In taking on these immense responsibilities and fulfilling demands successfully, sailors must regularly leave family and friends to patrol foreign waters. In March, Janesville's Nicolas D. Glann, the 21-year-old son of Cherlyn Giann of Janesville and the crew of the guided-missile destroyer USS Stout (DDG 55) left their Norfolk, Va., home port to take the place of the other ships returning from the Persian Gulf. Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Glann is a personnel specialist who ensures the accurate documentation and maintenance fo personnel records. He realizes the importance of routinely deploying forces abroad. "It is important for the Navy to deploy ships to maintain a presence for the military and for political and economical reasons. The most challenging part of being deployed is being away from family and friends. Dealing with the heat is hard too," Said Glann, a one year Navy veteran.

50 years ago

- Two Janesville girls are recuperating this week from an automobile accident that could have been much more serious. Sheri Gottschalk, 22 months, is recovering from a cracked pelvis and bruised bladder in St. Joseph's Hospital, her sister, Trisha, four, is at home with a leg injury. Two two little girls, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Galen Gottschalk, Janesville, were waiting in the family car while their parents loaded for a weekend trip to Madison Lake last Friday evening. Sheri was playing with the steering wheel and accidentally released the shifting lever. When the car started to roll backwards out of the gravel driveway, both girls jumped out of the car. The front wheel of the car passed over Sheri's stomach and Trishi's leg. The girls were taken to Waseca Hospital where Trisha was treated and kept overnight. Sheri was transferred to Mankato and is still hospitalized as the Argus goes to press. Mrs. Armin Gottschalk, the girls' grandmother, told the Argus that the Waseca doctor told the family they were luck nothing more serious came of the freak accident.

- Susan Johnson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Johnson, Janesville, has been accepted as a member of the freshman class at The College of St. Catherine, St. Paul. Susan, a graduate of Janesville High School, plans to major in social work. St. Catherine's is a liberal arts college for women with an enrollment of approximately 1,800 students. The 1976-77 academic year begins September 1, 1976.

- Tex Schroeder, employee of Janesville Creamery Association, attended the 1976 Iowa-Minnesota TBA School, sponsored by Land O'Lakes, at the Sheriaton Airport Inn here July 20-22. Major emphasis at the three day school was on selling and servicing tires, batteries, and accessories. "Perpetual Inventory and Margins", "Serving and Selling Your CUsomers Lubricant Needs", and "Selling and Preventive Maintenance of Passenger and Truck Tires" were some of the seminars attended by employees.

75 years ago

- Mrs. Archie Menk entertained for her daughter Charlotte's tenth birthday on July 16, at her home in Janesville. Present were Susan Hoversten, Barbara and David Arnold, Joe and Jimmy Volz, Dennis Tolzman and Karen Brandmire. Games were played with prizes awarded and lunch was served.

- Loren L. Braun, son of Mr. and Mrs. August Braun is rural Janesville received a Ph.D degree in organic chemistry from the University of Nebraska Friday. Dr. Braun graduated from Waseca high school in 1947 and Mankato Teachers college in 1951. He is a grandson of Mrs. Ida Schroeder of this city.

- Readers will note an announcement elsewhere in this paper concerning a change in the ownership of the E.H. Doss Implement C. in Janesville. Emil Meyer, an active partner in the firm for several years, has sold his interest to E.H. and Carl Doss. The transaction became effective Wednesday, Aug. 1. Complete details and an expression of appreciation to customers from Mr. Meyer will be found in the announcement.

100 years ago

- Iosco avenge the overwhelming defeat handed them at Janesville the Fourth of July by defeating that team on their home diamond Sunday 8 to 4 Iosco took their big lead in the final inning when with two men on base Ewert hit a double scoring both runners. Mittlesteadt pitched a good ball allowing one run in five innings. Morrel of Janesville pitched a fine game and his defeat was due largely to wobble support.

- The average age at which twenty of the greatest inventions were produced is 32, statistics compiled by a group of psychologist reveal. Business men reach their zenith at 53 and military leaders at 55, according to the figures.

- Gum chewers of the United States masticated \$47,124,000 worth of their favorite product last year. This was an increase of 17 per cent over the previous year.

- The House of Representatives broke its own speed record June 17 by approving 119 bills. The previous record was 81.

Waseca

25 years ago



- Emily Keller (center), daughter of Jim and Marian Keller of Waseca, was flanked by fellow contestants Christina Stewart (left), daughter of David Stewart of Waseca, and Heather Hanson (right), daughter of Luther and Sue Hanson, also of Waseca. Heather was named Miss Congeniality by the other two contestants.

- Steve and Nikki Bakken of Waseca are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Sierrah Pearl Bakken, born July 13, 2001 at Waseca Memorial Hospital. She weighed seven pounds, seven ounces. Maternal grandparents are Bruce and Jenny Johnson of Waseca. Paternal grandparents are Richard and Mary Bakken of New Richland. Great-grandparents is Velma Disque of Waseca. Sierrah is welcomed home by her brother, Brody Bakken, who is five years old.

- Deborah Richard of Waseca and Ron Richard of Minneapolis are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Rebecca Richard, to Steve Friendshuh, son of Jean and Dan Friendshuh of Bloomington. Rebecca is a 1996 graduate of Waseca High School and a 2001 graduate of the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul. She is currently employed as a Registered Nurse at Regions Hospital in St. Paul, in the Neo Natal Intensive Care Unit. Steve is a 1991 graduate of the Academy of Holy Angels in Richfield and a 1995 graduate of the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. He is currently employed with Farmers Insurance. A November 16, 2001 wedding is planned.

- Catherine Eustice of Waseca was among the graduates at the University of St. Thomas' spring commencement exercises May 19, 2001. Eustice received a bachelor of arts degree in business administration with a minor in German. More than 1,300 students received bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees at the spring ceremonies.

50 years ago

- Waseca High School's marching band placed second for a second time in Cheyenne, Who. on Thursday. The band was judged second only to the Fulda, Minn. band of those participating in Thursday's parade during Frontier Days in Cheyenne. The band placed second in Tuesday's parade as well. The Cheyenne festival has been held annually for the past 80 years and is built around a number of rodeos and parades held during the last week in July each year. Some 160 bands from throughout the U.S. march in the several parades held during the festival. Waseca's band, under the direction of Richard Dufault, left Waseca on Saturday, July 24 and will return Saturday, July 31. There are 100 members in the band, accompanied by several Waseca adults. All are transported in three buses. The group left Cheyenne Thursday after the parade and are to visit Estes Park as well as the Black Hills on their return trip. The band is expected to return to the high school at 10 p.m. Saturday. A reporter from the Wyoming State Tribune reported to the JOURNAL on Wednesday that the Waseca group had been well-received by parade-goers. "They've really made a hit with the crowd," said Marilyn Tammany.

- Waseca County's 1976 Recipe Supplement is enclosed today in all copies of the Journal delivered to Journal subscribers only. The supplement is chock-full of tasty ideas to treat your family-or yourself-with, particularly if you enjoy outdoor cooking. For those unfortunate enough not to be Journal subscribers, some dealers, but not all, will have the supplement available for 75 cents a copy. If worse comes to worse, stop by the Journal office and we'll be happy to sell one to you. You'll be glad to have it, the next time you get the "hungries."

- At press time the Journal received a report of an accident at the intersection of West Elm Avenue and 7th Street NW. Jeff Harter, 11, of 116 12th Ave. NW, was reportedly hit by a car while delivering newspapers on his bicycle. He is being treated at Waseca Ara Memorial Hospital. The driver is the car has not been identified. No further details were available at press time.

75 years ago

- The Waseca county Farm Bureau is sponsoring a pig scramble Saturday evening August 4 during the Waseca..... The contest will be open to boys and girls 10 to 15 years of age. There are three age classifications planned in the contest. R.E. Hodgeson of the Southern School of Agriculture will judge the events. To be eligible to enter participants must register by 4 p.m that day at the Farm Bureau booth at the fair. The contest will take place in front of the grandstand. There will be a drawing each day of the fair at the Farm Bureau booth for a free ham. The drawing will be made from the names of those visiting the Farm Bureau booth it was announced.

- Rolf E. Otterson, 18, son of Omar Otterson, Waseca, recently completed eight weeks of advanced individual military police training at Fort Gordon, Ca. under the Reserve Forces act. The training was the second phase of the six month tour of the active duty provided by the act. He received basic combat training at Fort Leonard Wood, Ma.

- Students who will be attending Wasec Public school in grades seven through twelve have been asked to report to the office of Principal Fergus Nygaard sometime this week. The request includes rural students who will be attending in Waseca for the first time and all students who have moved in to Waseca since June 1. Sixth graders who attended Waseca schools last week do not have to report, Nygaard said. Changes to choices of subjects should also be reported to Nygaard's office as soon as possible, he said. Registration changes must be made before school starts.

100 years ago

- Mrs. Gust Schroeder and daughter, Florence, who were injured in an automobile accident the day before the Fourth, returned to their home here Thursday. Mrs. Schroeder was in a Northfield hospital for a time and since has been with her daughter at a Minneapolis hospital. The little girl was so restless at the hospital that the doctors were of the opinion that her condition would improve as rapidly at home.

- Parts for a radio receiving set look like toys compared to the same parts used on a broadcasting set. The comparison is made in one of the display windows at the Johnson Radio Store, where both receiving and broadcasting equipment is sold. The parts compared are: Choke coils, tubes, grid leaks, condensers, insulators, switches radiostats and transformers.

New Richland

25 years ago



- "KJ" Styles was opened by Kerri Johnson on West Division in New Richland on July 17. With 13 years of hair care experience, Kerri offers cuts and styles for the whole family, in addition to several specialty services. Robert "Swan" Tollefson of rural Ellendale is in the chair getting a razor cut in the newly decorated and painted salon.

- Waseca County had the state's highest recycling rate last year. Residents recycled 85.5 percent of all its waste products. It has held the top spots for years, in large part because of the massive amounts of recycled paper coming in from the Brown Printing plant in Waseca.

-Melissa Wayne of Ellendale has accepted membership in The National Society of Collegiate Scholars and will be honored during a campus ceremony this fall at the University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities.

50 years ago

- The New Richland-Hartland High School band took first place in the AAA class in the parade at Festag Day at Minnesota Lake, recently. Nordaas American Homes presented the band with a red, white and blue trophy and a \$50 check for their efforts.

- Members of the committees for the Vista communities celebration for the 120th anniversary of the setting of the community by Swedish immigrants report that all plans have been completed for a most enjoyable day of observance, Sunday, August 15 at the grove on the Gordon Peterson farm just west of the two Vista churches.



- Gloria Griffin, DFL-endorsed candidate for the U.S. Congress from the 2nd district, led her campaign caravan into New Richland, Tuesday. She is pictured here with Joan Growe, Minnesota Secretary of State, center as they visited with Norman Johnson at Skogmos. The caravan was on a door to door campaign throughout the area.

- Debra Jean Shurson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Shurson of New Richland, will receive her master of science degree in guidance and counseling during the August 14 commencement ceremonies at the University of Nebraska in Omaha.

75 years ago

- Helmer Jacobson placed third and Oscar (Buddy) Berg sixth in the plowing contest at Faribault held in conjunction with the Conservation Day demonstrations Thursday at the Faribault State School farm. Robert Benjamin and Lloyd Cover placed first and second, but their addresses are not listed.

- Donald Brecke, formerly employed as accountant at Western Mineral Products Company, Minneapolis, has resigned his position there and is enrolled at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa. Donald will leave for college on Friday.

- Dr. and Mrs. A. G.Sherman of Albert Lea are the parents of their first son, Charles Frederick, born Saturday, August 25, at the Naeve Hospital, weighing 8 pounds and 11 ½ ounces. The couple are the parents of four daughters, including a set of twins.

WASECA COUNTY
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National Night to Unite as celebrated in Janesville, New Richland and Waseca on Aug. 4 and 6



Pioneer photos by Deb Bently and Ben Revermann

IN BRIEF

Indigo Moon at Indian Island Winery on Saturday, August 22
Indigo Moon will play the Indian Island Winery from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 22. They perform all your favorites from the 60s to present day.

Junk Journals at Waseca Art Center Tuesday, August 25
Junk Journal Class at the Waseca Art Center from 5-7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 25. Local artist Michele Bollmann will guide participants in making junk journals. Supplies will be provided, but you can bring anything you want to put into your journal. Limit 10 students, \$35 per person. Children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult.

Waseca Art Center adult art class Rooted and Resilient Wednesday, August 26
Dr. Mattilan Martin will teach Rooted and Resilient at the Waseca Art Center from 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug 26. Participants will create an acrylic and marker depiction of a tree, incorporating abstract symbols, affirmations, or meaningful words into the roots and leaves. Supplies provided. 16+ only, \$40.

Tea Party Paint and Sip class at Waseca Art Center August 29
Tea Party Paint and Sip class at the Waseca Art Center from 2-4 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 29. Local artist Caitlin Roberts will be hosting an Alice in Wonderland style “Paint and Sip” tea party. Aprons, Tea and biscuits provided, dressing up encouraged. This class is for children and adults, children under 10 accompanied by an adult. Limit 15 participants, \$30 per person.

Buffalo Alice at the Waseca Legion Saturday, August 29
The Waseca Legion will host musical guest Buffalo Alice from 7-10 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 29. This Summer Jam will be complete with food trucks and adult beverages.

Don Eustice Memorial Celebration 9 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Sept. 5
An all-day event memorializing the 50th anniversary of the death of Waseca County Sheriff Don Eustice will feature activities and events for the whole family. A tug of war tournament among area law enforcement agencies will be from 3 to 6 p.m. For more information visit [doneustice.org](#).

Soil Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board Meeting September 10
The SWCD will be holding its monthly board meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 10. The meetings will be held in the SWCD offices located at 300 North State Street - Door 4.

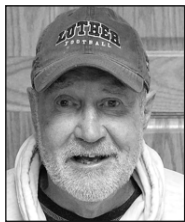


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From the perfect fishing trip to the dog house



Bits and Pieces



by Dave Zika



The perfect fishing trip blends together quite a range of different elements. Good company, great scenery, steady good weather, safe and easy travel, family, good food and a fresh fish fry, good lodging, and peace of mind. I was fortunate and blessed to experience a four-day fishing trip to International Falls, the home of Voyageurs National Park and Rainy Lake. The fishing trip was perfect!

The plan was two days of travel keeping me on the road headed north for seven hours. The destination was my brother’s house on the Rainy River. Dan has spent his entire teaching and coaching life in the “Falls.” He has a huge boat, knows how to fish the Rainy, and is a great guide for his brothers. His son Luke also lives, teaches, coaches and raises his family in the “Falls.”

When we make these trips, my younger brother Bob drives from Durran, Wisconsin. We meet in Northfield and drive north together. Bob is also a retired teacher and coach and is ten years younger than I am. With the difference in our ages and the status of our families, we talk all the way and learn so much about each other: families, experiences, stories, things we never knew about each other. The trip goes fast with no hitches both up and back. No detours, four lane most of the way, only a rest area for lunch and gas and potty breaks.

Sharon is Dan’s wife, also a retired teacher. She is the best host we could hope for. Our designated beds, the shower, and a movie after supper are better than any luxury hotel. Dan

has a special breakfast every morning and is a master at the meal. Spaghetti, beef au jus (beef served with its own natural cooking juices) and a bun to dip made supper a feast. I must also mention salads, Jell-o, French bread, and many other side dishes. We always had several choices for dessert. Buster Bar Sundae was my personal favorite. Root beer floats with the movie closed our day. The fishing lunches were excellent: Sandwiches with cheese and layers of beef, turkey, and ham, chocolate chip cookies, plenty of snacks and apples. Bro Bob brought along special beef sticks and cheese curds from a meat market; the finest from Wisconsin.

The weather cooperated and we were able to fish for the two days. The scenery on Rainy Lake is spectacular and it isn’t uncommon to pass a houseboat on your boat ride to fish. The many islands are beautifully scenic; the Bushyheads are my favorite. Many of the islands also have fantastic campsites provided by Voyageurs National Park.

We pulled into the Voyageurs parking lot, were preparing the boat for launch, and experienced a worrisome surprise. We were headed to Black Bay just around the corner to fish slab crappies. All around us

were others we suspected had the same goal. In pulled one of Dan’s fishing partners with a pickup full of friends—the friend and he tend to fish the same weed beds and favorite spots. To make matters worse, Wes’s brother’s pickup and trailer were also in the parking lot; he was already on the lake fishing the hot-spots. The brothers have a fishing podcast together. Despite our worries, though, six hours later we had a live well full of beautiful crappies. Brother Bob caught his personal biggest and brother Dan and nephew took excellent care of family. Bob also made history; he caught a bullhead. Dan and Luke had never seen one caught on Rainy. Then Bob performed a miracle. No, he didn’t walk on water: He caught another bullhead.

On our second fishing trip we were going to the big portion of Rainy and targeting the reefs. The reefs are the home of Rainy Lake gold, the walleye. After a beautiful, scenic trip through a friendly passage, we entered open water. Waves were beating on island shores and rocks making Rainy a sea of huge, intimidating white caps.

Walleyes seldom visit the shallow bays during the heat of summer. Our only option was the fish one: Cap-

tain Dan chose Last Bay because the wind was blowing into it. We caught a walleye, figured it out, and after six hours of fishing, had placed 13 beautiful walleyes in the cooler. I caught and released two, big, gorgeous walleyes. The slot is 18” on Rainy.

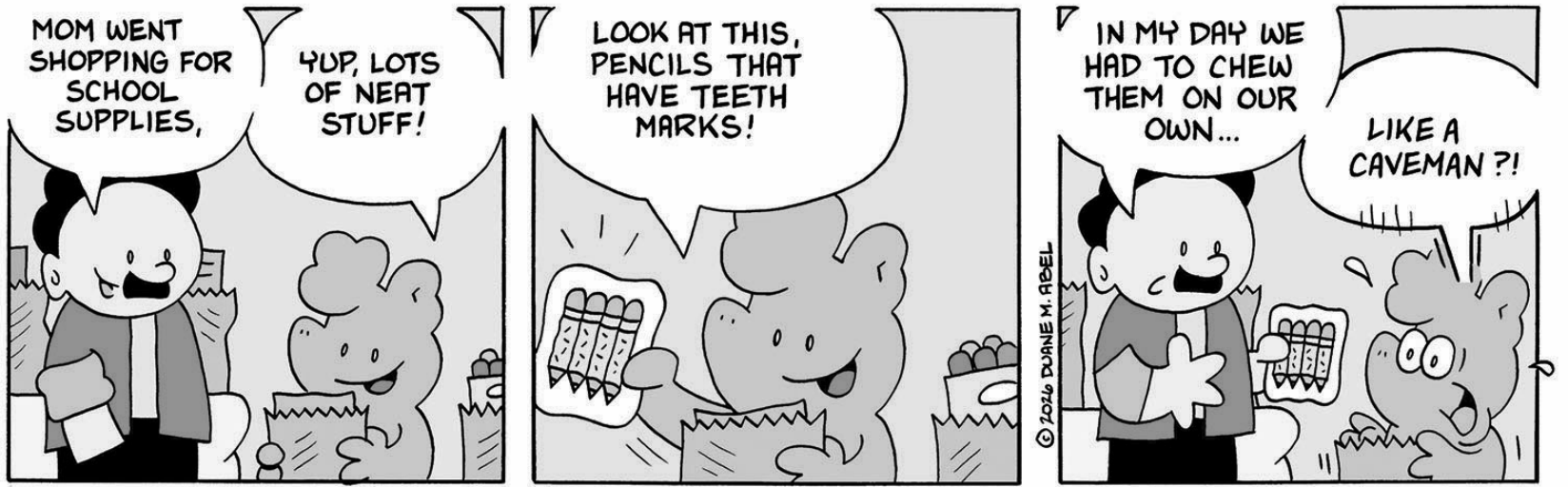
Zika fisherman of the day, and I fished my favorite way, a slip bobber and leeches. I might add that Dan and Luke didn’t do much fishing, they were busy taking care of Dave and Bob.

That evening Luke had a fantastic fish fry with fries. He used his secret batter and fried fillets and French fries in peanut oil. Sharon had the table full of side dishes and closed with a great dessert. Luke’s family was there. I’d missed his oldest daughter Macy’s wedding, so it was a joy to meet her husband. Macy and Colter haul logs and garbage when they can. The Falls hauls its garbage 100 miles away to Virginia. Macy is a real cowgirl, Colter a cowboy; together they have several horses.

After supper I made my call to report back to Waseca. Lisa was doing fine along with wonder dog Sammy. After a thankful prayer, I had one of my best nights of sleep ever. Hugs and goodbyes, a huge lunch, a safe, enjoyable drive with my brother, and I arrived home in the late afternoon.

The next morning I was reporting and having coffee with Lisa. I went from the perfect fishing trip to the dog house. Lisa asked, “Do you know what day it is?” I replied, “I believe it’s Thursday” Lisa, “I mean the date, Aug. 6!” I’d forgotten our anniversary!!

ZED by Duane M. Abel



JFD considers responder services for Le Ray Township

By RICARDO MORENO JR
Janesville Journal

The second Janesville City Council meeting for the month of July took place on Monday, July 27, 2026. Mayor Andy Ahlman was absent, so, after approval from the Council, Ivan Maas led the meeting as Mayor Pro Tem. The Township Fire Board met at the start of the meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Budget reports for the Fire Board at the midpoint of the year were evaluated. Expenditures came in at 41%, \$86,962, of the projected costs for the year, \$209,603. The ‘under budget’ operation costs bode well for the 2026 budget, and were boosted by a \$63,350 tax levy for the first half of the year. City Administrator Rogers stated that planning for the Financial Year 2027 Budget will begin in August.

Fire Chief Mike Santo reported that the run report was “typical” for the year, with 28 runs being made in the month of July. Outside of a few grass fires in the Spring, Santo noted there were no outstanding situations in recent months.

New airpicks and a cascade system were ordered the day of the meeting at \$14,000 less than the presented bid cost. Around \$225,000 was spent from the \$305,807 Capital Reserve Funds to purchase the new equipment. Considering the lowered total cost of the equipment purchase and the second half of the tax levy to be received in December, Rogers estimated that the CRF “will probably have about \$150,000 in that reserve fund in January.”

Maas noted that the CRF, “is usually used to purchase trucks,” for the Fire Department and showed concern about the drop in available funds. Chief Santo responded, “We’re sitting pretty good on trucks right now,” and that the originally planned second tanker purchase was,

JANESVILLE CITY COUNCIL

“A hard justification for me to spend those funds on,” compared to equipment that would see more by the firefighters.

Kurt Anderson of Le Ray Township was present at the meeting to advocate for first responder services in the Township once again. Continued “budget issues we’re having with one of our other providers,” brought Anderson back to request that Janesville and the Fire Board consider accepting, “the western half of section 12 Le Ray township,” into their coverage area. Previously, the Council turned down a request to accept sections of Le Ray Township into the coverage area due to response times and concerns for people’s safety.

With that regard, Anderson stated that the portion of section 12 he was advocating had no residents living in it. “Le Ray Township,” Anderson said, “would be happy to have our attorney put together an addendum to the Fire Contract that simply allows the addition of the half section to the coverage area.” Le Ray would take on the financial strains of the process as they are applicable road sections. Maas and the Council agreed that a thank you card be sent to Rep. Allen. Prairie Ridge Clubhouse and General Managers Kevin Cumberland and Jakob Lehrke were in attendance to give a report of golf course happenings. Appreciation for the work Lehrke does as groundskeeper and all the staff at Prairie Ridge was shared at the start of the meeting.

Prairie Ridge Clubhouse and General Mangers Kevin Cumberland and Jakob Lehrke were in attendance to give a report of golf course happenings. Appreciation for the work Lehrke does as groundskeeper and all the staff at Prairie Ridge was shared at the start of the meeting to improve response services for their residents while respecting the concerns of surrounding communities. “The fact remains that the citizens of Madison Lake are consuming over 45% of the services

of the Fire Department. One quarter of Le Ray Township is covering 21% of the budget for that Fire Department. Our entire township has only 850 residents in it,” said Anderson.

Council members agreed that Le Ray Township’s request should be tabled for a meeting in August, and encouraged Anderson to have the addendum and further information prepared in the meantime.

In the regular Council meeting, Maas reported that Park Road Plaza Apartments is looking into hiring a firm to assist the manager with administrative work that has not been completed in a timely manner.

Administrator Rogers reported that the first half of Local Government Aid funds was received by the city; \$481,662. Small City Assistance, a program that aids smaller cities with street and road repairs, was also received in the amount of \$11,707. Rogers was also happy to report that Representative Keith Allen had made a phone call to Canadian Pacific that resulted in the railroad company making inspections of and repairs to the track and applicable road sections. Maas and the council agreed that a thank you card be sent to Rep. Allen.

Prairie Ridge Clubhouse and General Mangers Kevin Cumberland and Jakob Lehrke were in attendance to give a report of golf course happenings. Appreciation for the work Lehrke does as groundskeeper and all the staff at Prairie Ridge was shared at the start of the report. Their combined efforts have helped them build an award winning golf course. With the support of the Janesville Area Golf Association, work on the rain shelter project has begun and is moving at a good pace. “We’re at the phase of summer now,” said Cumberland about what is to come, “where there is basically a tourna-

ment every weekend.” The siding project for the clubhouse has not begun as contractor bids, that Prairie Ridge had hoped to keep local, have not been made. Lehrke plans to re-advertise the project to more contractors outside of Janesville. Lehrke added that Prairie Ridge is working to include purchases of new mowers for the fairways and greens into their 2027 budget.

A resolution appointing election judges for the 2026 State Primary Elections was presented to the Council. 11 election judges will be hired to maintain the polling place on August 11th, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Resolution 2026 - 22 was Janesville City Council approved.

Donations for the Fire and Police Departments, Prairie Ridge, and Songs in the Park, totaling just over \$2,000, were accepted through Resolution 2026 - 23.

The Council reviewed the General Fund Budget for 2027. The City Hall budget had a small increase caused by insurance increases, but Admin Rogers predicts that the projected insurance costs will go down by the end of the year. Following short discussions on changes in the budget, the Council approved the current status of the budget but no official approval or submission of it will be given until September.

A resolution amending the assessment policy was brought up to the Council. The amendment would create a consistent 30% cost assessment for property owners affected by city improvements to storm sewers. The current policy, dated September 2011, presented different costs to property owners throughout the years and the change would see a fair distribution of costs. Resolution 2026-24 was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

New laws effective August 1

The following is a list of select new laws passed during the 2026 legislative session that take effect Aug. 1, 2026. The asterisk following the bill number denotes language that became law. Summaries of laws passed by the 2026 Legislature are available online from nonpartisan House Public Information Services at [house.mn.gov/newlaws/search/2026](#).

BUSINESS AND COMMERCE

Access to notification technology banned

Effective Aug. 1, 2026, “a person who owns or controls a website, application, software, program or other service must not allow a user to access, download or use the website, application, software, program or other service to notify an image or video, or notify an image or video on behalf of a user.”

Advertising or promoting any website, application, software, program or other service that notifies a video or image will also be prohibited.

A person depicted in a nudified image or video will be permitted to bring a civil action in district court for compensatory damages, including mental anguish or suffering, in an amount up to three times the actual damages sustained; punitive damages; injunctive relief; reasonable attorney fees, costs and disbursements; and other relief the court deems just and equitable.

Additionally, a violator is subject to a civil penalty up to \$500,000 for each unlawful access, download or use. Those funds will be used by the Office of Justice Programs for grants to organizations to provide direct services and advocacy for victims of sexual assault, general crime, domestic violence and child abuse.

Rep. Jessica Hanson (DFL-Burnsville) and Sen. Erin Maye Quade (DFL-Apple Valley) sponsor the law. HF1606*/SF1119/CH72

Virtual currency kiosks to be banned in the state

Beginning Aug. 1, 2026, virtual currency kiosks will be banned in Minnesota.

Operators have until Dec. 31, 2026, to remove kiosks from any location where they are visible or accessible to the public.

With one exception, operators who conduct virtual currency transactions exclusively through a kiosk must pay out any money or virtual currency held for or owed to a new or existing customer by Dec. 31, 2026. The payouts can be in U.S. dollars equal to the market value of the customer’s virtual currency plus any fiat currency or to a virtual currency wallet designated by the customer. If the payout is to a virtual currency wallet, the operator must transfer the full amount within 30 days of customer’s payout request. The payout must be recorded on the applicable blockchain, and the operator must retain proof that a transfer was made.

A virtual currency kiosk operator is not required to make a payout if customers can still access and sell the money or virtual currency in their wallet through some other means.

Rep. Erin Koegel (DFL-Spring Lake Park) and Sen. Amanda Hemmingsen-Jaeger (DFL-Woodbury) sponsor the law. HF3642/SF3868*/CH65

CIVIL LAW
Strengthening disability rights in Minnesota Human Rights Act

The Minnesota Human Rights Act requires an employer to engage in an interactive process to provide accommodation for someone with a disability. A new law that takes effect Aug. 1, 2026, will add language to the public policy statement of the act specifying that failure to engage in a process to determine if a reasonable accommodation exists could be classified as an unfair discriminatory practice and therefore subject to a civil remedy. Rep. Kim Hicks (DFL-Rochester) and Sen. Erin Maye Quade (DFL-Apple Valley) are the sponsors. HF2380/SF3210*/CH99

Child's History of Waseca County

Cont. Chapter XIV, 1855-6. Town site booming—Wilton village platted by Cornell and Abbott of Owatonna, and John and D. J. Jenkins and Child of Waseca County—Claim-jumping—House body torn down—Many settlers arrested and taken to Owatonna—Land suits at Winona—War on the LeSueur—Buildings torn down in Wilton.

As soon as it was noised about that claim-jumping had commenced, an impromptu meeting of the boys was held and they concluded to visit the claim-jumpers and inform them that claim-jumping would not be tolerated at all in the settlement. The agents of the "city speculators" were at the time putting up a log house on the claim since known as the O'Brien land. It adjoined the village plat, on the east, and lay immediately on the road leading to Owatonna. Nearly every man in the settlement was present at the meeting. They all proceeded to the place where the claim-jumpers were at work, and informed them what had been decided upon. The claim-jumpers were acting under the legal advice of Mr. Cornell and conducted themselves accordingly. They evinced none of that blunt, outspoken honesty so common to western pioneers, but observed a studied purpose to overreach the boys in legal points and yet preserve themselves from physical harm. They showed no fight, but quietly stepped aside when told to do so, by the original claimants. The latter then proceeded to tear down the building forthwith. Cornell's gang quietly withdrew from

the premises after witnessing the tearing down process. As soon as possible thereafter warrants were sued out before an Owatonna justice (this was then part of Steele county) for the arrest of five of the men; to-wit: John Jenkins, Hugh and Robert McDougall, and George and William Robbins—all but Jenkins having an interest in the claims jumped. The charge was that of maliciously tearing down a building. Nearly all the other settlers on the upper Le Sueur were subpoenaed as witnesses. After a trial, which lasted three or four days, three of the five were found guilty and the other two were discharged on motion of the prosecuting attorney. The whole trial was a good deal of a farce. If one of the party was guilty of a crime, all were guilty. We asked to be allowed to prove that the claim jumpers were committing willful and malicious trespass upon lands belonging to the arrested parties, and that only necessary force was used to expel the trespassers; the request was refused. Those found guilty appealed to the district court and were in due time discharged without costs on account of error in the proceedings before the justice.

Immediately after the justice trails, Cornell, through his satellites, commenced suit before the land officers at Winona, and the contesting parties and their witnesses were compelled to make several trips to Winona. After about a year of expensive litigation, the matter was compromised and settled, the McDougall brothers giving up on forty and taking another.

During the troubles that grew out of that affair there was actual danger of bloodshed. Some of the men went armed. Cornell became so alarmed that he did not show himself in the settlement for a long time. In early spring (1856) several house bodies were erected on the Wilton town-site, but on the night of the 19th of April, 1856, they were all torn down, literally razed to the ground. I remember the date, for that was the night of my wedding day, and some of the boys remarked that "they couldn't lay that deviltry onto Pat." As to who did the evil deed, probably no one knows, or ever knew, except those engaged in it. This occurrence and the general hostility of all the surrounding settlers to the Wilton speculators, prevented any further growth during the summer following.

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

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

Eli Lutgens

Six candidates running for four school board seats

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

The terms of four out of seven NRHEG school board members expire at the end of 2026. Incumbents Amy Ihrke and Pat Theuer have indicated an interest in remaining on the board for the four-year term which runs from 2027 to 2031. Incumbents Rick Schultz and Aaron Phillips have not filed for reelection.

The school board held a brief meeting on Aug. 7 to follow through on the steps needed to ensure the six candidates who filed for the four seats appear on the November ballots in all three counties the



school district extends across:
Freeborn, Steele, and Waseca.

During the filing period which ended in July, six candidates indicated their interest in running for the four seats: Nick Budach, Troy Buendorf, Amy Ihrke, John Misgen, Justin Schlaak, and Pat Theuer.

On the ballot, voters will be instructed to vote for up to four of the candidates; the option of a write-in is also available.

Hwy 14 and I-35 resurfacing near Owatonna

OWATONNA, Minn. — Motorists on Highway 14 and Interstate 35 motorists near Owatonna will experience lane and ramp closures beginning Aug. 24 as crews resurface the roads, according to the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Highway 14 eastbound and westbound lanes will be resurfaced from I-35 to Highway 218. I-35 northbound and southbound lanes will be resurfaced from Highway 14 to the Straight River Rest Area. Lane closures will be in place during the work, which begins after the Steele County Fair has closed.

Short-term ramp closures will occur and motorists will be detoured. It is anticipated that ramp closures will last several hours to a few days. Closures will be shown on 511mn.org.

- Highway 14 eastbound off-ramp closure to Highway 218

Detour: From Highway 14 east-bound, take Steele County Road 45 exit and go south. Go east on Steele County Road 60, which intersects with Highway 218.

- Highway 14 eastbound on-ramp closure from County Road 45

Detour: Continue north on County

Road 45 and take exit to Highway 14 westbound. Take exit at I-35 and then take exit to Highway 14 eastbound.

- Highway 14 westbound off-ramp closure to County Road 45

Detour: Continue west on Highway 14. Take exit at I-35 and then take exit to Highway 14 eastbound. Take County Road 45 exit.

- Highway 14 eastbound off-ramp

closure to County Road 45

Detour: Continue east on Highway 14. Take exit to Highway 218, go north and take exit to Highway 14 westbound. Take exit to County Road 45.

- Highway 14 westbound on-ramp closure from County Road 45

Detour: Go south on County Road 45 and take the eastbound exit to Highway 14. Take exit to Highway 218, go

north and take exit to Highway 14
westbound.

- Highway 14 eastbound on-ramp closure from Highway 218

Detour: Go north on Highway 218 and take the westbound exit to Highway 14. Take the County Road 45 exit and then exit to Highway 14 eastbound.

The resurfacing is expected to be completed by the end of October.



Holland Auction



LARGE ESTATE FARM AUCTION

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2026 • 9:00 AM

Location

From New Richland, MN, 1 mile north on Hwy. 13, then ¼ mile west on 240th Ave.

Auctioneers Note: This will be a very good auction to attend with some well cared for equipment. Hope to see you auction day. Tracy Holland







J.D. TRACTORS • JD COMBINE • JD SKID LOADER • WAGONS DRYER • FARM EQUIPMENT • 507-317-5417 – Dennis (Son)

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- 1996 Dodge 2500 pickup 4x4 diesel reg. cab, auto, 262,348 mi. (salvage title) • 2001 Volkswagen Beetle Diesel 296,000 mi. • 1997 Sportsman Fifth Wheel Camper, 28' sleeps 6+ (water damage) • Kan-Sun continuous flow grain dryer approx. 350 bu per minute • 3500 Bu. Holding bin • Westfield MKX 10-73 grain auger, swing hopper, hyd. Lift, PTO drive, 3 years old (Nice) • Batco 1535 Belt Conveyor • Aloyway field master 10' auger, hyd. Lift • Transfer 700 Air grain system, 4" w/panel (air lock and blower) • Westfield MK 100-71 grain auger, swing hopper, PTO (gear box out) • Triple axle trailer 21' w/ramps, 2 tanks, 1000 and 1500 gal poly w/transfer pumps • Blue Jet 13-shank anhydrous bar • Cat Towmotor fork lift, LP 5500 lbs. • Guidance 3-point Hitch • Woods 3 pt. rotary mower 7' • Red Devil 9664D snow blower, double auger, hyd. Spout, 540 PTO • Fork attachment for skid loader • Flat rack w/MN 10ton gear • J.D. F-725 front mount mower, 54" deck, 1084 hrs. • Schweiss 7225 zero turn mower, 72" deck, 1444 hrs (motor's been replaced) • 1000 gal, NH 3 tank used for fuel, 12-volt pump w/ gear • 14 JD suitcase weights w/mounting bracket • 100-gal. portable fuel tank w/pump • Honda EX 3000 inverter generator • Central Machinery tire changer • 2 new 225/65-12 ATV tires • 2 hyd. Spray pumps • Misc. tools and shop items

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- Skid Pro V-Type snow plow, 96" (USED 5 TIMES) • Erskine 8' broom • Set of skid loader forks • JD 665 tiller 3pt. 65" gear box needs work • 12 SDI stainless steel double sided hog feeders • 2024 Sanking TM 180 rotary tiller, 72" 3pt., 540 PTO • Magnum 4000 Gold Series hot water gas pressure washer, 4000PSI, 3.5 gal per minute (NEVER USED) • Vevor WP 9600 pipeline inspection system 9" screen (NEVER USED) • Thermal 3 in welder mig-stick-tig • 10x16' portable building to be moved (Located at Matawan Elevator) • Several lots of new and used 5/8" and 3/4" sheets of plywood (Approx. 430 sheets) • New Stainless Steel Door w/trim 36"x80"

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CITY OF WASECA CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Waseca City Council will hold Public Hearings at 7:00 p.m., on Tuesday, September 1, 2026, in the COUNCIL CHAMBERS of CITY HALL located at 508 South State Street in Waseca, Minnesota.

The purpose of the Public Hearings is to gather information regarding the following:

- **RESOLUTION NO. 26-54:** Jinfeng Chen on behalf of the property owner, M & C Property LLC, is requesting the following Variances from Table 5-5 of Section 154.024(E) of the Municipal Code to allow for the reconstruction of a commercial parking lot at 105 17th Ave NE in the B-2 (Community Retail and Service Business) zoning district:

A minimum five (5) foot front yard setback, a minimum fifteen (15) foot corner side yard setback, and a zero (0) interior side yard setback (from a residential district), whereas the required setbacks, respectively, are ten (10) feet, twenty (20) feet, and twenty-five (25) feet.
- **RESOLUTION NO. 26-55:** The City of Waseca is requesting a Conditional Use Permit for the recently annexed Waseca Municipal Airport properties at 35493 110th Street to allow the use of a public airport within the Rural Service District (RR-S).
- **ORDINANCE NO. 1143:** The City of Waseca is requesting to rezone three (3) recently annexed Wastewater Treatment Plant properties and adjacent street right-of-way at 35408 110th Street from RR-S (Rural Service District) to I-2 (Moderate Industry District).

Complete copies of the proposed variance, conditional use permit, and rezoning are available in the office of the City Clerk located at 508 South State Street in Waseca, Minnesota.

Those interested in commenting may appear in person or by counsel or may submit written comments to the City of Waseca at 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

Upon request, accommodations will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Waseca services, programs, and activities.

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on Thursday, August 13, 2026.

Nathan Willey
Director of Engineering

SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642 August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 5pm
2	3	4 COAST GUARD DAY	5 6pm Bar Bingo	6 7pm BINGO	7 Purple Heart Day Meat Raffle 5:30	8 QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 5pm
9	10 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting	11	12 6pm Bar Bingo	13 7pm BINGO	14 Navajo Code Talkers Day MEAT Raffle 5:30	15 QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 5pm
16	17	18	19 6pm Bar Bingo	20 7pm BINGO	21 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	22 QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 5pm
23	24	25	26 6pm Bar Bingo	27 7pm BINGO	28 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	29 QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 5pm
30	31					

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

SECTION 00 1113 ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

WASECA COUNTY MAINTENANCE GARAGE RE-ROOF

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

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

SITE VISIT INFORMATION
Pre-Bid Meeting: 08-12-2026, at 10:00 A.M. (CST)
Location: 1495 5th St. SE, Waseca, MN 56093

BID DATE INFORMATION: AUGUST 28, 2026

Bid Time: August 28, 2026 at 10:00 AM (CST)
Location: Online via QuestCDN vBid
Attn: Jim Kollar, Public Works Director
1495 5th St SE, Waseca, MN 56093

at which time they will be submitted electronically via QuestCDN - vBID. Bids will be received and evaluated, the awarded bid will be announced on September 1, 2026 during the County Board meeting.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Demolition of the existing roofing material to metal deck. Installation of new low-slope roofing system. Roof area is approximately 15,300 sf.

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

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

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

Complete digital project bidding documents are available at <https://widseth.com>. Click "Bid Documents" in the top right corner of your screen or go to www.questcdn.com and enter the Quest project No. 10304183 on the website's Project Search page. Please contact QuestCDN.com at (952) 233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in free membership registration, downloading and working with this digital project information. You may download the digital plan documents electronically for \$25. An additional fee of \$45 will be charged to electronically bid the project. An optional paper set of project documents is also available from CES Imaging for a nonrefundable price of \$30 plus printing costs. If you choose a paper copy you will get all addenda as paper copies and will be charged for the printing costs. Please make your check payable to CES Imaging and send it to 1701 James Circle N, Brooklyn Center, MN 55430. Please contact CES Imaging Repro Dept at (763) 560-9098 or (800) 831-8587 for pricing and if you have any questions.

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

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

By: Jim Kollar, Public Works Director
Waseca County



**WAREHOUSE/STORAGE BUILDING
BACKHOE SKID STEER TRACTOR
TRAILERS TOOLS COLLECTIBLES**



**WAREHOUSE/STORAGE BUILDING
BACKHOE SKID STEER TRACTOR
TRAILERS TOOLS COLLECTIBLES**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 2026 9 A.M.

LOCATION: 101 Main St. West, Alden, MN 56009

Please Note: This property offers endless possibilities for your business with a great location. Please note: Only a partial list of many items to be sold. Hope to see you Auction day!

Tracy Holland

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Thursday, August 6, 2026• 4:30-6:00 P.M.
For more information call
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REAL ESTATE: Consisting of a warehouse/storage building. Three overhead doors. Office area. Full bath. Highly accessible area on a main road.Taxes for 2026 are \$800.

Real Estate Terms: Successful bidder shall pay \$2,500 down (NON=REFUNDABLE) and sign a purchase agreement following the conclusion of the auction. The balance shall be due on or before Sept. 22, 2026. Seller's attorney for real estate and handling all earnest monies.



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Case 580 Super K backhoe, 4x4, Extindahoe, 4,800 hours • Gehl 6640 skid steer, E-serious, 2-speed, high flow, 1,065 hours, w/72" dirt bucket • 2014 Load Trail dump trailer, 14' w/tarp, tandem axle • 2013 Freedom enclosed trailer, 28' w/V-nose, ramp door, tandem axle • 2005 Hallmark enclosed trailer, 20' tandem axle • Farmall F-20, like new rear tires • Skid loader fork attachment • Portable electric wood splitter, 220 volt • Aaladin hot water power washer, 4GPM, 2300 PSI, 220 volt • Sanborn twin-cylinder air compressor, 4 HP, 120 volt • Sanborn 60-gal. air compressor, upright, 220 volt • Large Central band saw • Craftsman stackable tool chest • Montezuma tool chest • Makita 3/4" electric impact • Jonserud CS2165 chain saw, 28" bar • Echo CS 310 chain saw, 16" bar • Oregon chain saw sharpener • Misc. new chain saw bars and chain • 42" lawn sweep • Century 250-amp welder • Stihl HT 131 gas pole tree saw • Many steel wheels • Split fire wood • 2 – Squirrel cage fans • Gas acetylene torch w/cart • Many hand tools • H.D. shop work bench • Bench drill press • Bar clamps • Aluminum trailer ramps • Husky air tank • New bolts & nuts • Electric cords • Many organizers • Lots of hardware store items • 4 – Walking plows • Old standard barrel • 2 – Old bikes • Several wringer washers • Misc. records • Cedar chest • Wood spoke wheel table • Horse collar mirror • 5 – Church pews, 10' & 5' • Many milking buckets • Chicken feeders • Misc. cans • Old kitchen stove • Double wash tub • Hand corn sheller • Old forge

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Friday, August 21st

4:00–7:00 pm:
Classic Car, Truck and Tractor Show featuring the Batmobile, Kiddy Car Show, Kiddy Electric Car Drag Races, and much more—including... a chance to win up to \$200,000!
5:30–8:30 pm:
Firemen Burger and Sweet Corn Feed at the Community Center
8:00 pm: Live Music at Papa Olies! Featuring AZBY Band

Saturday, August 22nd

9:00 am–5:00 pm:
Vendor Show, Ice Cream, and Silent Auction (Community Center)
9:00 am:
Volleyball Tournament at Papa Olies
10:00 am: Fireman's Water Wars
11:00 am–9:00 pm or later:
Come hungry for the Waldorf Food Trucks!
11:00 am:
Kid's Zone Opens—Spray Tattoos, Inflatables, Gravity Box Basketball, and MyGlobalDJ with Games and Prizes!

1:00 pm: Dedication of the First Responder's Memorial Park
1:30 pm:
Quilts of Valor, Honoring our Veterans
2:30 pm:
Kiddie Parade (Line up at 2:15 pm)
3:00 pm:
The Grand Parade
4:00 pm: *LIVE MUSIC* with *Los T band* (In the gazebo)
8:00 pm: *LIVE MUSIC* with *IV Play* band (Main St. lot by community center) - Clear bags only, no drugs, no alcohol, no weapons - \$10 cover charge

Sunday, August 23rd

10:00 am:
Outdoor Worship Service
Bring your lawn chair!

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
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Wednesday, Aug. 19 • 7:00 PM Faithfest on the Fairgrounds
Jeremy Camp with special guests **Jon Reddick** and **Thunderstorm Artis**
Thursday, Aug. 20 • 7:30 PM
Hairball
Friday, Aug. 21 • 7:00 PM
Randy Houser with special guest **Cori Kennedy**
Saturday, Aug. 22 • 7:30 PM
Bulls N Barrels with local **Mutton Bustin**
Sunday, Aug. 23 • 2:00 PM
Demolition Derby
Get your tickets online www.tickets.scff.org

A Timeless Tradition
the 2026 Edition
August 18-23, 2026
SCFF
Steele County Fair
Illustration of a man and a woman in traditional attire, a cow, and a Ferris wheel.