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LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY  
No. 36 Vol. V \$2 Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca Thursday, September 3, 2026



Oak & Rye Farm

**Rotary Club Fall Harvest Sale at SROC September 3 and 5**

Waseca Rotary Club members will be selling pumpkins, sweet corn, decorative corn and assorted gourds during their fall sale at the U of M Southern Research and Outreach Center from 3 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 3, and from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Sept. 5.

**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 [don-eustice.org](http://don-eustice.org).

**Uncle Muskrat at Half Pint Brewing Co. Saturday, Sept. 5**

Uncle Muskrat will play the Half Pint Brewing Co. from 5-8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 5 for their Annual Hop Picking party. Southern Secret BBQ will be the on-site vendor.

**Unruly Julie at Indian Island Winery Sept. 6**

Unruly Julie will perform at Indian Island Winery from 1-3:30 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 6 performing acoustic classics.

**Todd Michael Jameson at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm Sept. 6**

Todd Michael Jameson will play Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 6. A seasoned musician with Waylon Jennings, Eagles and Miles Davis to pull inspiration from.

**Rotary Club Fall Harvest Sale at SROC September 10 and 12**

Waseca Rotary Club members will be selling pumpkins, sweet corn, decorative corn and assorted gourds during their fall sale at the U of M Southern Research and Outreach Center from 3 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 10, and from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Sept. 12.

**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.

**Roll-In, Stomp and Shop at Indian Island Winery Sept. 12**

A grape roll-in, stomp and shop will take place at Indian Island Winery at noon on Saturday, Sept. 12. Includes grape stomping, live music, vendor show, classic car roll in and more. Tickets online.

*A word from The Word*

*Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with saints, and of the household of God.*

*Ephesians 2:19*



**TASTEFULLY DONE - Dennis and Diane Sommers of Waseca have been operating Grandma D's Kettle Corn since the 1990s.** Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

## Kettle corn business sweetens life for local family

By DEB BENTLY  
News Editor

The owner/operators of Grandma D's Kettle Corn, Dennis and Diane Sommers of Waseca, willingly share the ingredients to their popular treat: Sugar. Salt. Popcorn—a little of the first two, a lot of the other.

But when it comes to details like how long it should be cooked or how to tell when it's done, things get a little hazier. One learns the length of time it takes for a sufficient percentage of the kernels to be popped depends on the humidity, the temperature of the cooker, and the moisture levels in the popcorn. The answer there, it seems, is "You just kind of have to know. It's different amounts of time on different days."

"You watch it popping and you can tell."

The "watching" is apparently essential. "You have to catch it at just the right stage," Dennis says of his technique. "When it's just popping, that's when you put the sugar in. Too early or too late, it changes the flavor."

In the end, it seems, the only way to get your hands on some kettle corn as good as Grandma D's may be to find Grandma D's and buy some. Perhaps it will be no surprise that there is an avid group of followers who do exactly that.

"We have people contact us and ask where we're going to be setting up," relates Dennis. "They stock up and keep it for the future."

Grandma D's continued on 4

## Cornerstone reveals long-sealed memories

By DEB BENTLY  
News Editor

In recognition that Trinity Lutheran Church of Wilton will have a final service at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 27 and then close, church leaders recently removed the time capsule that had been sealed in the church's cornerstone during a July, 1950, ceremony.

Roger Bahr, 90, is a lifelong member of the church and was 12 when he attended the ceremony. He remembers his family being pleased that a photo of his grandparents was among the documents in the capsule, and being somewhat fascinated as the specially crafted copper box, about 5 inches on each side and 10 inches tall, was soldered closed as everyone watched.

Beyond that, he says, the ceremony had relatively little meaning for his childhood self. After all, there was no church there yet, just parts of walls.

There had been more than a year, already, of planning, hiring an architect, finding a contractor, and soliciting pledges from church members to help pay for their new brick building, which would cost about \$50,000 to build.

In the months after the cornerstone was sealed, the basement of the church was completed and services began being held there. Bahr remembers the confirmation service for the class ahead of his was held in the basement, but one year later, he and his classmates were confirmed upstairs in the finished structure.

The altar and baptismal font from the congregation's original wooden structure, built in the late 1800s, appear in the group's picture.

For a box about the size of a loaf of bread, a surprising number of documents and printed items were enclosed in the time capsule.



**CORNERSTONE MEMORIES - The time capsule sealed in the cornerstone of Trinity Lutheran Church of Wilton included a surprising number of items given its dimensions, about 5 inches on each side and 10 inches tall.** Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Letters of congratulations signed by then-president Harry Truman, then-governor Luther Youngdahl, the leader of the

Minnesota South District of the Lutheran Church Missouri

Memories continued on 12

## New teachers begin year by meeting community members

By BEN REVERMANN  
Staff writer

During a luncheon sponsored by the Waseca Rotary Club on Aug. 27, 12 teachers new to Waseca's schools had a chance to meet some members of the community; members of the Waseca Lions and Exchange Club also attended. The new staff have positions all around the community, including Waseca Community Education, the Alternative Learning Center, Hartley Elementary, Sacred Heart and Children's House Montessori, Team Academy, Waseca Intermediate School and the Waseca Junior Senior High.

The meeting was opened by Rotary co-president, Katie Gonzalas, "Welcome everyone to



**WELCOMING EDUCATORS - Twelve new teachers now on staff at seven different education sites in Waseca were introduced to community members during an Aug. 27 lunch sponsored by the Waseca Rotary Club. School leaders also shared information about projects and activities planned for the 2026-27 school year.** Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

our meeting for the Rotary Club, we're excited to learn of all the goings on in Waseca schools and meet the new teachers joining us. The Rotary motto is service above self."

Gonzalez introduced Larry Johnson, a Lions Club member and he said, "On behalf of the Lions Club, I welcome you guys and thank the Rotary and Exchange for posting as well." Because Lions Club focuses on community organization and youth eye care, he offered that teachers should feel free to be in touch if they learn of students with unfulfilled needs in those areas

Superintendent of Waseca Public Schools Eric Hudspeth told community members present, "I want to thank all of you who have provided support for our school. I am forever grateful for a community this size, that we have a public school, a charter school, a non-public school, what great choices for Waseca and of course I don't mean that we're competitors, but we do want families to know that we always work together for what's best for their kids and ours. We want our kids to graduate, get out

Teachers continued on 5

## Grateful for four years

### Pioneer celebrates anniversary, prepares for year five

Four years ago, the Waseca County Pioneer was founded on a simple idea: a hometown deserves a hometown newspaper. In a county of fewer than 20,000 people living on about 430 square miles of land, we know firsthand that everyone is connected in one way or another, even despite the distance.

Families are centered here, people share connections through their occupations, our area is treasured for recreation. Those connections have shaped the Pioneer from its first edition to today.

We are honored to share people's stories and provide information about what is happening in our hometown county, and shall continue to do so as we enter our fifth year.

"This is going to sound rather corny, but even though it's a business, the Pioneer's main purpose does not seem to be making money," explains the Pioneer's News Editor Deb Bently. "Yes, it must charge for its services, but the vast majority of its income goes back to keep itself operating and serving the public. We really do see ourselves as a community service, and we want to make all the positive contributions we can."

The spark that started the Pioneer was when publisher Eli Lutgens observed that Waseca was being cheated of its own news, since the existing paper was no longer locally owned. He worked diligently to provide local news by local people through his confidence that while our society is constantly growing online, there will still ever be a need for newspapers.

"The story of the Pioneer is still being written. My dad pushed me to start a newspaper here and I listened. I was warned it would not be easy and those people were correct. I would like people to know that we do this paper for them," says Lutgens.

The diverse and fascinating people of Waseca County deserve to have their news printed, shared and recorded.

This week alone, our staff has been in council rooms, gardens, new businesses, and fun events. More importantly, they have met, spoken with, and photographed people young and old, shy and bold, unconcerned regarding social rankings.

Lutgens emphasizes that the future of newspapers in general will be challenging. For the Pioneer to succeed, it will take a group effort of people in the community continuing to read, advertise and connect with local news.

Editor Amelia Roessler says that even though Waseca was where she grew up, she truly didn't know her community until she started reporting in it four years ago.

"I started my journalism career here. Wasecans have supported me in many ways by letting me tell their stories and learn about the community through the Pioneer," says Roessler. "I'm incredibly grateful for that."

Pioneer continued on 3



## Compostings

by Al Batt

# Exude gratitude

### ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

Want to hear your horoscope? Sure, why not? It says, "Your generosity will glow like 10,000 fireflies after you buy pie for everyone in the cafe." I don't believe my horoscope says that.

Have you always had such deep-seated trust issues?

### DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I grew up on a farm. That's why I keep a pitchfork handy just in case I want to relive my youth and lean against one. The forecast was for a chance of precipitation, but the clouds said there was no chance of participation. The day had its complications. Every day does. The day started poorly. My chia pet bit me. Then I went off to the big city for important business. I went to a building about the same size as the big city. I got off the elevator on the 8th floor. I was supposed to get off on the 9th floor. But that's another story.

### MEMORIES OF THE BARN DIET

The barn was full of shadows. I was in the hayloft helping a neighbor stack hay. It was stifling hot. Sweating came easy. The neighbor's little brother was eating crickets. He ate only a couple of them, but he ruined his appetite and ours.

### WE USED TO ASK FOR DIRECTIONS

How far is it to the stadium? It's 3 miles as the crow flies. How far is it if the crow is walking?

### I'VE LEARNED

Willful waste makes woeful want.

Zyzzyva is the last word in major English reference books like the Oxford English Dictionary and the official Scrabble Player's Dictionary. It's a group of tropical weevils native to South America. Coined in 1922 by an American scientist named Thomas Lincoln Casey, it was meant to claim the final entry in a dictionary. Its Scrabble value is 73 points.

The Trojan Horse came from IKEA.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has given away over 300 million free books to children worldwide.

You don't have to be a pickle to play pickleball.

### BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

I ran out of clean socks, so I piled all my dirty ones on a tray, grabbed my detergent, and headed

down a steep hill from my home to the laundromat. As I descended, I slipped and fell. The dirty socks fell to the ground, and the detergent rolled away. I got up slowly, sat down quickly, and watched it go. There I was sittin' on the sock of the tray, watching the Tide roll away.

My nephew was in bad shape after his girlfriend dumped him. I bought him a PlayStation and an Xbox. That helped console him.

My dog got into our Scrabble game and ate a bunch of lettered tiles. We rushed him to the vet and are waiting. No word yet.

### NATURE NOTES

In late summer and fall, when a bird molts, it typically grows and replaces its feathers gradually, but occasionally a bird loses all the feathers on its head at once. This is true of blue jays, many of which molt their feathers of the head in synchrony. The result is a bald bird. This baldness lasts for about a week before new feathers replace the molted ones. Pin feathers appear within days, and the head is feathered again within two weeks.

I'm on a first-name basis with the yard's birds. I call the male cardinal "Northern." I'm a bouncer at the bird feeder. I'm not one to criticize a squirrel, but I use baffles to discourage squirrels from eating more than their share. It doesn't always baffle them, so my feeders have become subscription-based to help cover the cost of seed. No subscribers yet. Birds aren't good at carrying wallets.

How common is it for white-tailed deer to give birth to twins? Researchers at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the Illinois DNR found that in 2024, 21% of does had a single fawn, 71% had twins, and 8% triplets. The number is determined by age, nutrition, genetics and habitat quality. Young does giving birth for the first time, typically have one fawn.

BirdCast, created by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, is an online resource that combines biological research, community science observations and radar data to forecast the movements of migratory birds. BirdCast shows live maps that track flocks as they travel through. Users can localize the data, letting them zoom in on a county to see estimates of how many birds are migrating. Search BirdCast and see.

### MEETING ADJOURNED

"When a child gives you a gift, even if it is a rock they just picked up, exude gratitude. It might be the only thing they have to give, and they have chosen to give it to you."—Dean Jackson. Be kind.



**GREAT MINNESOTA GET-TOGETHER** - Deb volunteered at the Education Minnesota booth at the Minnesota State Fair this year. It was her first time attending the state fair.



# Stepping outside my comfort zone

A couple months back, I decided to take a step outside my comfort zone: I signed up to volunteer at the Education Minnesota booth at the Minnesota State Fair.

You see, I have long harbored a deep dark secret: I had never before attended the state fair. Perhaps you remember my jokes about how Ben Revermann's children would not be permitted to get Minnesota driver licenses if they had never been to the headwaters of the Mississippi.

It may be you are now thinking of me as a gigantic hypocrite—after all, many view the "Great Minnesota Get-Together" as a fundamental part of being a Minnesotan.

Fortunately I can now keep my driver license: I have been. I have seen. I have eaten a food served on a stick.

I went on Sunday, August 30—perhaps the worst possible day to choose, given the temperatures near 90, the high humidity, and what I hear was a record crowd. Because I was going to be spending three of my hours at the fair handing out pencils and sharing information about the teachers' union with passersby, I went by myself, not wanting to burden anyone with the wait.

Probably the worst part of my day was arriving.

You see, I am not a totally altruistic individual. I volunteered to be in the booth because it came with a couple of perks: admission to the fair, a shirt



## In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

to wear in the booth (and then keep, obviously), and reimbursement for parking costs.

Knowing the forecast was for a hot day, and that the fairgrounds can be very crowded, I came up with what I thought was a very practical plan. On-line information shared a list of places people can park for free, then get on a free bus to be transported to the fairgrounds. I chose the "maroon" lot at the University of Minnesota because it was specified that passengers from there would be dropped off at gate 5—half a block from the "Education Building" where the Education Minnesota booth is located.

Well and good—until I arrived at the University of Minnesota campus and passed five parking lots in quick succession, each with a sign that said "Lot Full. Closed."

I pulled into a quiet cul-de-sac to regroup. Even all the streets leading to that quiet little backwater space were parked end-to-end with cars. The only spot I could stay still for a few moments was right next to a fire hydrant.

I decided I had little choice but to

head toward the fairgrounds and hope there would be a spot in one of the pay-to-park lots. Thanks to the navigation app on my cell phone, I arrived in the vicinity. The very first lot I came to still had a few spots, so I paid the necessary \$25, pulled into a tight little space, and locked my car.

I was now about a block away from gate 14—the entry point farthest from my destination. I set out to find my way and, after a number of wrong turns, arrived at the Education Building. Between being red-faced with the heat and glad to have finally found it, I must say I have seldom been happier to reach a destination.

If the story had ended there, this column might be proclaiming that August 30, 2026, is the one and only time I will ever have attended the state fair.

But by the time my 3 to 6 p.m. volunteer shift ended, the temperature had dropped considerably. From the beginning, I had planned a journey on the "Sky-Ride," some gondolas which ride on cables probably 50 or so feet above the ground. And of course I felt my sojourn would be incomplete if I

didn't have some fair food—although not much, my cheapskate nature rebels at the idea of paying fair prices.

I greatly enjoyed the sky ride, which cost \$12 for a round trip to the north end of the park and back. I took a fair number of pictures and appreciated being above all those people who made walking like finding one's way through a maze.

I got a pickle on a stick and a "dog burger," which despite a name that made me think of a hot dog covered in hamburger toppings, turned out to be mostly just a bratwurst.

When I sat down to eat, I asked for an open space at one end of an occupied picnic table. By coincidence, I had sat down next to four young educators and ended up having a very pleasant conversation—one I now regard as a highlight of my very interesting day.

With the cooler temperatures—by now it was about 7 p.m.,—it was far more amiable to wander around a bit. I was delighted when I came across the booths I had written a news piece about from the Waseca County Fair—Strawberries-N-Creme and Loon Lake Iced Tea.

Arriving back at my car seemed to take forever, but I saw some worthwhile things along the way, so I was okay with it.

Thanks to my experiences as I left the fair, I am now open to a return visit, though not any more this year, thank you.



## To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

# Reminiscing in Rome

Well, we have survived our trip.

We got back last Thursday, after spending about 11 hours on a plane and almost 24 hours awake. It was quite nice to finally be back in our own bed, although we were only there for one night because the next day we started dogsitting for Jack's family friends.

Anywho, Rome was great. We arrived at noon on Monday and spent the next two full days exploring the city and taking it all in. Let me just say, after a handful of days walking entire cities and getting around 30,000 steps a day, my body was pretty tired by the end. Jack's feet hurt so bad that he started taking the Lime scooters or bikes on the last day where our—or at least my—walks were longer than an hour.

But we were able to do everything there was to do in Rome: visit the coliseum (including the Palatine Hill and Roman Forum), see the Trevi fountain and Pantheon, visit St. Peter's Basilica and Vatican Museum in Vatican city, tour a castle, and even visit some religious crypts.

On top of that was the delicious food—pizza eaten with a fork and knife, lasagna, pasta with a farmyard mix of meat sauce (duck, rabbit, and chicken), tiramisu, lots of gelato, and the daily necessary cappuccino.

While I had visited Italy before, it was nice to be back and reminisce while also experiencing new things. I had never visited the castle in Rome, taken a homemade pasta class, or even seen St. Peter's Basilica.



**GLADIATOR DREAMS** - Among the many places Jack and Amelia visited was the ancient Coliseum in Rome.

During the trip we talked about the next place we'd like to travel to. It sounds like we better start planning soon, because there was just about nowhere we didn't want to go. Jack has agreed to let me be his guide in Spain, and I want to visit Ireland, Germany, or Scotland next. He would like to go to someplace in Asia, so I guess we'll see who wins that conversation. I better practice my rock-paper-scissors game in the meantime.

Also a fun event in the life of

Amelia is that I got to attend the Vikings and Broncos preseason game on August 28! While Jack wasn't quite happy with me wearing my purple and gold jersey, I had a blast as it was my first time actually seeing the Vikings play a game.

Needless to say, we've been busy and I could use a break (from the break).

My Determination: "Life's short. Eat dessert first, work less and vacation more." – Lea Mishell

# Prayers, baseball and a gut feeling

This week I have health updates, a Braves baseball update and a little local news.

### Locally

The bakery in New Richland is for sale/has been for sale. Nancy Jane and company plan to retire when they sell.

As long as I have been alive, New Richland has had a bakery. During my youth my family traded newspaper advertising for donuts. I have sampled everything they have at Nancy Janes. There is nothing I didn't like. I hope someone picks up and continues the successful business.

Trappers Lanes was for sale. I



## STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

don't know if they still are. As with the bakery, I have a long history with this business, too: I spent many an hour bowling on Friday evenings. And more than one birthday was spent there. Kids in town today don't bowl like they used to.

Express Lube in Waseca sold to Valvoline. When I arrived there a

few months ago for an oil change, I was completely taken by surprise and—to be frank—a sense of betrayal. I wrote about former owner Wayne just shy of the business's 25th anniversary about five or so years ago. He warned me of "chain" oil change companies. Every oil change my vehicles have needed outside of doing

my own have been done by Wayne or Mark at the Express Lube—over a dozen years of seeing them, four or more times a year. They saved me countless dollars in repairs. My final time visiting there under Wayne's ownership, the staff showed me a sensor that had gone out. I stopped at O'Reilly's Auto parts in town and used their tools to swap it out that same day.

No, they didn't betray anyone. I have had good experiences under the new Valvoline ownership since they opened.

It is not the same, but it is good,

Lutgens continued on 12

## WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

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

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DEADLINES: Pioneer: Noon Monday  
GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

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### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

\$59 Per Year, Waseca County Residents

\$69 State of Minnesota • \$79 Outside Minnesota

Waseca County Pioneer (USPS permit #25304) is published weekly on Thursday, by Pioneer Publications Inc., 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca, MN, 56093. Entire contents copyright © 2026 PIONEER Publications, Inc. and respective authors. Opinions expressed in editorials or letters to the editor are those of the individual authors, and do not necessarily represent those of the Waseca County Pioneer or PIONEER Publications, Inc. Letters may be edited for content or length. Periodicals Postage at New Richland, MN. POSTMASTER: send address changes to Waseca County Pioneer, P.O. Box 578, Waseca, MN, 56093.

**Wes and James Taylor at Waseca Art Center Saturday, Sept. 12**  
Photographers Wes and James Taylor will have a gallery opening at the Waseca Art Center from 2-4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 12. Presenting “Generational Confluence IV.”

**Toners Lake Karting go-kart race Sunday, September 13**  
The Toners Lake Karting tenth race will take place at noon on Sunday, Sept. 13. Pits open at 10 a.m. Located at 8747 415th Ave Janesville. These races are weather dependent, rain will cause postponement.

**En Plein Air (outdoor) Painting Workshop at Waseca Art Center Wednesday, Sept. 16**  
En Plein Air (outdoor) Painting Workshop from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. Wednesday, Sept 16. Painter Ava Lambert will lead this artist workshop at Farmamerica or local hobby farm, weather dependent. Supplies provided or bring your own. Will need to bring a hat or shade device, a small table for the easel and chair.

**PJ Storytime at New Richland Public Library Sept. 17**  
There will be PJ Storytime at the New Richland Public Library at 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17. We'll get you ready with stories for bedtime. For ages 0-5.

**Rock'n Car Roll-In at Boxcar Bar Sept. 17**  
The Rock'n Car Roll-In will take place at Boxcar Bar from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17. Classic cars, motorcycles, food trucks, music and 50/50 raffle.

**Two for One at Indian Island Winery Sept. 18**  
Musical guest Two for One will perform Indian Island Winery from 6-8:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 18. They say they play all your favorites.

**Sacred Heart Fall Festival September 18, 19, and 20**  
Sacred Heart Catholic Church will be holding its Fall Festival over the weekend of Sept. 18, 19, and 20. Events include a white elephant sale, Country Store, silent auction, Friday live auction and concession stand just to name a few.

**Sacred Heart Church Bean Bag Tournament Saturday, Sept. 19**  
The Sacred Heart Bean Bag Tournament will take place at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19. Check in at 4 p.m., 32 teams max, \$40 per team.

**All You Can Eat Dad's Belgian Waffles All Saints Sept. 27**  
All Saints Church of New Richland will hold their All You Can Eat Dad's Belgian Waffles from 9-12:30 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 27. There will be a raffle and country store, cost is \$10.

# Quilts of Valor

## Waldorf veterans Lienke and Meyer honored in ceremony

**By BEN REVERMANN**  
Staff writer  
Local veterans Charles Meyer and David Lienke were honored in a Quilts of Valor ceremony just before the parade during the Waldorf Days celebration on Saturday, Aug. 22. The two were draped in individualized handmade quilts and acknowledged with a standing ovation under the gazebo at the Veterans Memorial Park. Also a part of the ceremony were a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Lynda Harig, Quilt of Valor group leader from Post 56 Albert Lea American Legion Auxiliary said, “It went wonderfully, it was very emotional.” Harig described strong feelings shown by presenters and honorees alike: “ But that’s what we’re aiming for, to make a difference!”  
Harig mentioned QOV quilts distributed to area veterans are handmade by Auxiliary members, herself among them. “The gals that sew with me do not want to take any time off,

they just keep going like Energizer bunnies. We do it once a month, at Creating Sew Much on Broadway, in Albert Lea, and once a month in Keister.” Harig remarked on the quilts given to Lienke and Meyer saying, “They were absolutely beautiful.” The quilts given to Lienke and Meyer were made by a Waldorf resident who chose to remain anonymous.  
Waldorf Days was pretty busy before the Quilts of Valor were awarded, continued Harig, “We got there early and saw the First Responder memorial. Waldorf Days had people walking around everywhere, and there were kids everywhere. What a fun time they were having.”  
Quilts of Valor out of Albert Lea awards quilts from Waldorf to Waseca, from Austin to Fairmont. They also present quilts every month at the Albert Lea American Legion, having presented seven of them the day before.  
The Waseca branch of the Quilts



**FINDING COMFORT - There was a special Quilts of Valor award ceremony for veterans left: David Lienke and Charles Meyer on the right during the Waldorf Days celebration on Saturday, Aug. 22.**  
Pioneer photo by Jean Groskreutz



## Curt Keyes seeks seat as district 4 commissioner

**By DEB BENTLY**  
News Editor  
“As a commissioner, I would want to concentrate on representing the people of district 4 first and Waseca county as a collective board,” states Curt Keyes, who has filed to be on the Waseca County ballot for the District 4 commissioner seat currently held by De Malterer, a board member since 2019. District 4 includes Janesville, Blooming Grove and Josco townships, the city of Janesville, and part of Elysian.  
Keyes told the Pioneer he made the decision to run for county commissioner about a year ago, and has been campaigning since registering for the office in May.

In addition to a more local focus, he suggests he might bring a fresh perspective to the District 4 office. “Sometimes it’s possible to get so involved in the bigger picture,” he observes, “that you lose focus on what’s happening right next door.” A fresh outlook, he goes on to say, might allow him to approach circumstances and procedures from an unexpected angle.

He says he would like to do what he can to encourage new businesses and suitable industries in the county. “They bring jobs,” he observes, “ and jobs bring economic benefits.”  
A lifelong resident of Josco township, Keyes graduated from Waseca High School in 1990 and went on to take part in a dairy science program offered at what was then the University of Minnesota Technical College in Waseca. The campus closed in 1992.

Curt helped his parents Dale and Goldie Keyes on their dairy farm until they retired and he took over its operation. He says he loves being a farmer, but after donating a kidney in 2012, he had to reduce his level of activity due to the donation so he stopped the dairy aspect of the farm in 2012. He got a job at Waseca’s more southerly Kwik Trip store in 2014 and advanced to being assistant manager. Since then, he has worked in numerous stores in the area as an assistant manager, a position he still holds. He suggests that working at Kwik Trip has helped strengthen his skills with budgets and understanding how spending will affect the success of the store. He goes on to say

**Keyes continued on 12**

# Bob Schneider named “Iron Man” by Twin Cities Golf

**By DEB BENTLY**  
News Editor

Waseca native Bob Schneider, a 1977 graduate of Waseca High School, recently achieved an “Iron Man” title from Twin Cities Golf for a Golf Quest of playing 204 different public golf courses in only 121 days.  
The courses are located in Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin and North Dakota; Bob began his journey on April 12 and finished the final course on August 10. When asked in a Facebook video what advice he might have for someone trying to accomplish the same goal, his response was, “Don’t do it,” followed by the advice that a 200-day time frame would be more reasonable.

“Managing the logistics was the biggest challenge,” Schneider told the Pioneer, explaining he did not want to use up a lot of time backtracking or returning to a certain area. That meant he would schedule 2 or 3, and even sometimes 4 rounds in a day.  
Schneider walked most of the courses; with up to four rounds of golf on some days, he achieved a record of 31 miles walked in a single day, and 27 miles on each of two other days. For about 50 of the rounds, Schneider says he was accompanied by fellow 1977 WHS graduate Greg Koenigs, who first took up golfing last year.

Retired from a 31-year career with Cargill and a long-time baseball coach in the Twin Cities area, Bob now spends a few summer months in Minnesota and resides the rest of the year in Florida.  
He says he plays relatively little, about 40 rounds, of golf down south since the sandy soil there does not support “growing a good grass.” Instead he plays

Pickleball, hitting the courts 5 to 6 days a week. His persistence apparently pays off, since he tells of having won the state senior games tournament a few years back, taking the men’s single, men’s double and mixed doubles championships in a single week.  
Perhaps surprisingly, Schneider began golfing first in 2007 after ending 27 years as a baseball coach. Although he will have finished roughly 275 rounds of golf by the end of 2026, he says 100 to 150 is a more typical number. On what he considers a fairly short list of championships, he includes the Montgomery National Golf Club Senior Championship and both the Minnesota and Florida Senior Games Championships, twice each.  
Schneider says he is pleased with the scores he achieved on his 121-day quest: “My most surprising score was a 67 four days after my sixty-seventh birthday,” he recalls. “I followed that up with a 66 a couple of weeks later.”  
“But those scores are rare and the exception. I typically play courses between 6,100 and 6,400 yards and my scores are mainly between 78 and 84; considering I’m playing different courses every round, that seems pretty good.”  
Schneider comments, “I enjoy a well manicured course more than anything. I appreciate the team that puts pride into keeping a course in great condition, from the tee box, fairway, rough, greens—all of it.”  
It seems he should be in a position to evaluate, given that he has played golf all over the U.S. and in Canada, Mexico and the Dominican Republic. “I’ve been fortunate to play on some high end golf courses,” he enthuses, “sometimes through work and sometimes as part of a golf trip: Pebble Beach, Spy Glass, Spanish Bay, but the one I enjoyed most was



**Bob Schneider**  
playing the Olympic Club in San Francisco with a good friend who was a member. He has since passed, but what a treat to play.  
“In Minnesota, I’d say a few of my favorite courses are Minnesota National, White Eagle, and The Wilds—but there are more than 100 great courses I could list.”  
Asked what he likes about being a golfer, Schneider responds, “Golf is a lifelong sport anyone can play. You don’t have to be great. It’s great exercise, you meet great people, you can play alone or with a group.”  
He also shares that “there is no such thing as ‘women’s’ or ‘senior’ tees. The red and gold tees are there for anyone; choose based on your skill set.”

## ■ Pioneer

from Page 1

“I am grateful that there are still newspapers out there,” says staff reporter Ben Revermann. “With the media the way it is today, and the way it was 20 years ago, I have no idea what to expect in the next 20. The Waseca County Pioneer is not vicious or malicious. We’re not out to end careers or attack people. There are so many good things in the world, let’s focus on that.”  
Bently states she is happiest of all when pieces she writes for the news-

paper bring our hometown folks even closer together—building empathy and appreciation for each other.  
“What I find gratifying and fulfilling about my role with the Pioneer is that I get to seek people out and ask them about their experiences and observations,” Bently says. “Our staff is small and we cannot get to everything, but we want to be an accurate reflection of our communities and neighbors—which means we need to find and tell their stories.”  
Revermann enjoys covering events where he can take fun and unique pictures. A little girl playing in bubbles at the Janesville parade, brothers shooting hoops at this year’s Waseca County Fair, community members

sharing their hobbies.  
As the Pioneer enters its fifth year and reflects on the past four, we understand that we are not perfect. While we diligently work to improve and provide accurate and timely information to the community, we encourage people to contact us with their observations and experiences.  
“It is not easy printing multiple novels’ worth of information each month. Mistakes happen. My most important values in life, which I base the newspaper’s values around, are treating people with love— how I would like to be treated,” says Lutgens.  
“If you’ve been deeply touched or impressed or displeased by some part of the larger picture, feel free to contact

us. If we feel it benefits the public to share it, we will do our best to represent the circumstances in a clear, unbiased way,” encourages Bently.  
As Lutgens stated in the very first edition, “We plan to find at least one story for every edition that makes the whole year’s subscription worthwhile. We know we don’t have everything for everybody in every edition, but we will definitely have something for everyone.”  
Our purpose at the Pioneer remains the same since day one, to bring the smalltown special feeling to a Waseca paper.  
“My message to the community honors the immortal words of Al Batt: ‘Please be kind,’” Lutgens says.

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# “Playing Cops” shares stories of another time

By DEB BENTLY  
News Editor

What Gary Eustice remembers most is not how his father was killed, but how he lived. “My dad worked really hard to build a sense of community across all backgrounds.

“He wanted to see people get along and support each other.”

Gary is the second of nine children born to Don and Esther Eustice. A 1969 graduate of Waseca High School, he was 26 and living away from home when his father, who was in his third term as sheriff of Waseca County and year 23 with the sheriff’s office, was killed on the job in 1976, shot while serving papers on a man known to be mentally unstable.

While still living at home, Gary and his older brother Doug not only knew about their father’s dedication to service, they were part of it.

In 2020, Gary published “Playing Cops,” a book which shares stories of many different times he, Doug, and sometimes members of their sports teams were called in to assist with law enforcement and especially emergency response tasks.

Gary will be among three authors offering their books for sale during the “Teen Canteen” event scheduled at the Waseca County fairgrounds beginning at 10 a.m. and going into a dance with live music the evening of Saturday, Sept. 5. (An advertisement elsewhere in this edition provides a list of events.)

Many of the experiences summarized in the book, Gary points out, could simply not happen today. He mentions that, at that time, the county jail was in a building shaped more like a house than an office structure. Although his father did not, many sheriffs lived in their county’s jail buildings. The Eustice family station wagon was frequently used to respond to calls and even transport injured individ-

uals from an accident scene to the hospital.

“My dad was always on call,” Gary describes. “We might be driving to a family picnic or going to a ball game, and he would get an emergency call. Suddenly we were witnesses to whatever was going on. It became part of the lifestyle when we got older; Dad would purposely call on us.

“When I look back on it, at least on my part, I saw it as an opportunity to spend time with my dad.”

Now in his 70s, Gary is retired from a career in counseling and as a licensed psychologist. The vocation started when, looking for a job during his college years, Gary followed his father’s advice that he get a job at a local boys’ home. His work led him to Hibbing, where he still resides.

He says he always felt as if the stories from his youth should be preserved. Remembering Esther’s deep interest in genealogy and family connections, he says, “I wanted to pass the stories along to the next generation of Eustices.”

The push that got the ball rolling occurred in the 1990s. Gary describes that he was volunteering with an Iron Range public radio station when, one winter, everyone agreed to write a Christmas story to be shared on air.

Gary wrote about being hired as a roving Santa for the business district of Waseca, and then accepting a few offers of extra pay to visit some city homes and be seen by families on Christmas Eve

Don offered to be his driver, dropping him off in front of the homes, then circling the block until he reemerged. The night was going smoothly enough, until Don received a call about a vehicle in the ditch outside of town. Of course, “Santa” had little choice but to accompany him...which turned out to be something of a godsend because the occupants of the car were a mother and her children who had left home abruptly when the man of the house had become abusive.



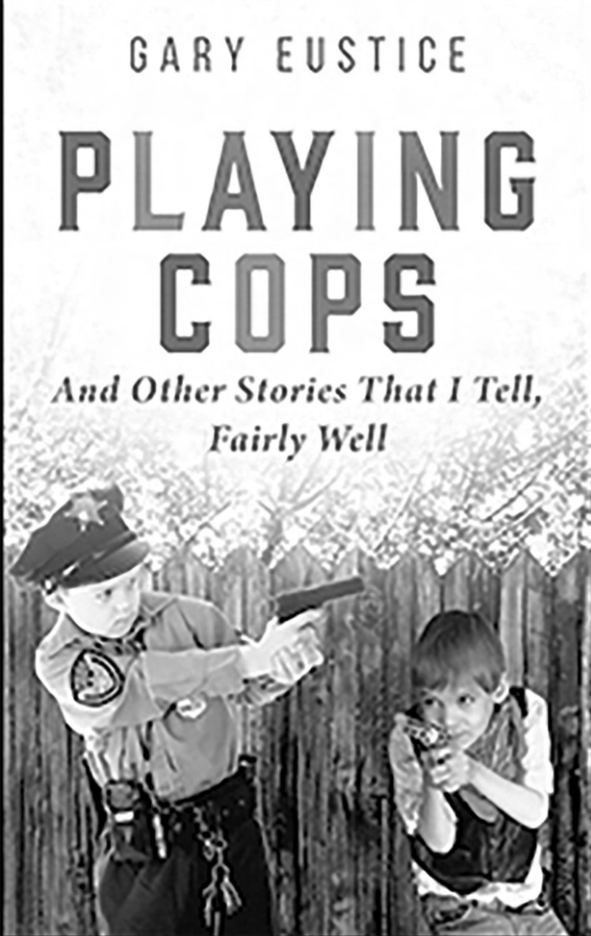
Gary Eustice

As the driver and children spoke with Santa, Don backed the car out of the snow. All returned to the family’s home, where Santa joked with and comforted the children, then helped shuffle the drunken perpetrator off to jail.

After airing locally, the story was picked up and played by Minnesota Public Radio, whose producers encouraged Gary to write more.

The two dozen or so essays having to do with the Eustice family are a mixture of heartwarming, humorous, and harrowing, including the time Gary, his older brother Doug, and the members of the high school wrestling team were called upon to drag Clear Lake after the 1967 tornado because it was believed a woman’s body had been blown into the water. A laugh-out-loud essay describes how Don dealt with a motorcycle gang which had disrupted county fairs elsewhere and then turned up at Waseca’s. Readers are given an in-person look at the tensions which arise during the search for a dangerous fugitive as Gary describes unexpectedly finding himself at the edge of a cornfield holding a stick.

Along with the many varied stories in “Playing Cops,” Gary says a few more are likely to be published in a second



**WORTH REMEMBERING - "Playing Cops and other stories I tell fairly well" was written by Gary Eustice. The book is a collection of essays and short stories, many of which are true life accounts about Don Eustice, his time as sheriff, and his approach to enforcing the law.**

book he is currently in the process of writing, although he offers no anticipated publication date. For now, interested readers, if they wish, can satisfy themselves with a signed copy of the book available on Sept. 5; sale price will be \$20.

## ■ Grandma D’s from Page 1

He explains that, as counter to expectation as it might sound, kettle corn stores well in the freezer. “You can keep it for months,” he shares.

The family’s association with kettle corn began before twin sisters Diane and Debbie (now Walden) were born. Their great-grandmother “Linda Dolly” made the treat on her kitchen stove throughout their childhood. It was with that heartwarming memory in mind that the business was named.

Decades later in the 1990s, Dennis, Diane, Debbie and her husband Dan came upon the idea of selling kettle corn as a way to help pay for their adult children’s college educations. As they developed their plans, they spoke with one vendor who was forthcoming with advice and assistance. When they discovered the purchase price of the necessary machine would be as high as \$9,000, Dennis remembers deciding he could make the stainless steel popper himself, since he knew how to weld and could count on assistance from some of his fellow employees at Winegar’s.

Without that money-saving factor, he speculates, the business may not have even gotten its start.

With the machine made, he remembers he, Dan, and family friend and neighbor Rodney Meyer set the popper up in a small building and began to experiment. “It took lots of popping and testing the recipe to get the perfect taste of sweet and salty,” he recalls.

The business made its debut at the 1999 Waseca County Fair, and went on to offer its product at various other events in the region. Dennis remembers business was sometimes particularly brisk at “Rockin’ in the Quarry,” a series of music events at the Vetter Stone Amphitheater in Mankato. It was there, he recalls, that he realized he could produce a batch of kettle corn roughly every eight minutes: a “batch” is about eight large bags, each well over 2 feet long.

The booth was manned by Dennis, Diane, Debbie, and their young adult children. These days, it is mostly Dennis and Diane who take the time to set up shop. They have reduced their circuit to mostly the Waseca County Fair, the spring and fall “Rustic

Mama’s” events in Owatonna, and an occasional appearance at the Waseca farmers market.

Dennis mentions it takes about an hour to set up and an hour to close down the booth. He declares the best part of the job is customer interaction, which is also a bit of an art.

“The most important thing,” he comments lightheartedly, “is that the customer is king.” Polite interactions, he clarifies, are only the beginning.

When the business was young, Dennis remembers giving away as much as a fourth of his product as samples. He still fields questions from people not acquainted with kettle corn, clarifying that it is more than buttered popcorn, but not caramel corn.

He tells of many lessons learned over time, including that popcorn kernels can be remarkably specialized. Some, he shares, open in a sort of mushroom shape. “We like the ones that open all the way around,” he says.

He remembers a time at New Richland’s Farm and City Days when, during setup, a plug was accidentally dislodged before the LP nozzle was connected to the cooker. “It sounded like a jet engine taking off,” he remembers. “People really scattered when they heard it.”

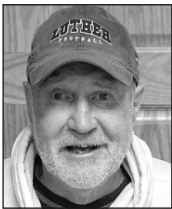
And one small but interesting detail he enjoys as time goes on is the stirring stick used inside the cooking kettle. “It has to be fine-fibered hardwood maple,” he shares. “As you use it over time, it gradually wears away. The way the maple breaks down, it’s safe for people to eat the tiny fragments that come in their popcorn—they don’t even know they’re there.

“But over time, our stick gets very gradually shorter and shorter.” Dennis says he knows one vendor whose stirring stick, once 4.5 feet long, had been worn down to 3 feet in length.

“The business has served us well,” he summarizes. “It’s work, but it’s also a lot of fun. And now that our kids don’t need the money for college any more, now Diane and I can use the money any way we want.”

Grandma D’s does plan to be at the Don Eustice memorial event set for Sept. 5 at the county fairgrounds. “We like to give back to the community,” mentions Dennis. “We’re glad to help the family out by being part of what they’re doing.”

# Our small cabin is big on memories



## Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika



a display case, an old trout creel, and a mallard decoy framed in barnwood: these personal touches give this old camper much pleasure.

A small bedroom with a “full” sized bed, a bunkbed, and a dresser and closet comprise the cabin’s sleeping quarters. The knotty pine walls are full of pictures of memories made at the lake. Our daughter-in-law Shannon has taken many beautiful photos: among them are grandchildren visiting Camp Zika during the summer, cardinals and orioles at the feeders, fun in the boats and on the water, and the boys’ first times up on water skis. Two of my favorites are a spectacular sunset behind some fishing boats printed on canvas and a picture of the family at the front of the cabin.

The bathroom is spacious, with a shower, washer and dryer, and plenty of cabinet and drawer space.

Over the years, scores of friends have visited, bringing food, beverages and many thoughtful cabin decorations and wall hangings. “Gone fishing,” “Hook, line and drinkers,” and “Tetonka Lake Lodge” are classics. On the back outdoor wall of the cabin hangs a thermometer which also illustrates bait lures. A tin sign nearby features the Budweiser clydesdales.

The cabin has a wonderful deck just out the back door. Lisa had me make a stand-up shelf...or table...or whatever it should be called...out of pallets which stand vertically and landscaping bricks for the top. I complained as I built it, but visitors love it and admire how creative it is.

A table and chairs shaded by a large umbrella are also on the deck, as is a grill.

many pictures which hang on the cabin wall.

We are blessed with three wonderful, important circumstances in owning our cabin. We have great neighbors on both sides who are quality people who love to visit and are considerate for our senior well-being. We also have a great view of the lake; people always comment on it. All season long, biting bugs are at a minimum. We experience few mosquitoes, gnats or biting flies.

A sign hangs on the cabin wall which lists eight cabin rules. Some of them are easily met. “Soaking up the sun,” “eating and drinking plenty,” “go boating” and “sit by the fire” are rules we have followed persistently for decades. I can still wake up every morning smiling and singing a good morning song to Lisa. “Be grateful for every day,” “nap often,” and “enjoy a sunset”—especially on Katie’s bench—are easily accomplished.

A little towel hanging in the bathroom, a gift from one of Lisa’s best friends, reads: Love grows best in little cabins, with fewer walls to separate. Where you eat and sleep so close together, you can’t help but communicate. Oh, and if we had more room between us, think of all we’d miss. Love grows best in little cabins just like this.



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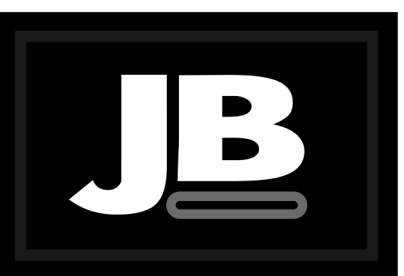
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# Council considers fines for repeat nuisance notices

By BEN REVERMANN  
Staff writer

During the Tuesday, Aug.18 Waseca city council meeting, council members considered a proposal by city manager Carl Sonnenberg regarding whether the city should impose fines when residents repeatedly fail to respond to “nuisance” requests. City code lists nuisances as behaviors or activities which “unreasonably annoy, injure, or endanger the safety, health or morals, comfort or repose of any member of the public; or will tend to alarm, anger or disturb others to provoke a breach of the peace which requires the city to respond.” Examples might include not mowing their lawn, allowing yard debris to accumulate, or keeping furniture or inoperable vehicles on their property.

Sonnenberg proposed creating a new element of city code meant to “regulate repeat nuisance calls for service.” He explained the purpose of this regulation would be to reduce the number of instances when law enforcement officers must visit property owners to notify them they are not complying with city code or that their behavior is unacceptable, and requesting that they change it. Under the proposed new ordinance, property owners would be fined if they fail to comply and must again be visited by law enforcement officers.

Sonnenberg justified his proposal by saying it is a cost to the public when police are spending excessive amounts of time at a single residence for repeated visits, and are therefore not help-

ing other citizens. He recommended that this order could apply to any and all residents or owners of whatever property receives too many nuisance calls.

The proposed code would include a fee schedule applying to residents who have been visited by four or more city officials or police officers in a 365-day period. Possible fee levels might be \$100 for the first offense; \$250 for the second; \$750 and \$1,000 for the third and fourth, respectively. Those who would be fined would have 30 days to pay, with delinquent payments subject to late fees. Residents wishing to appeal a nuisance fee would be required to do so at the following city council meeting.

After hearing Sonnenberg’s summary, Mayor Randy Zimmerman suggested the first fine should be imposed after three offenses, rather than four; councilman Jeremy Conrath commented the first fine should occur after only two offenses. Sonnenberg suggested the proposed ordinance should also include more specifications about which types of complaints would lead to the fine, or the city might be accused of targeting certain people. As discussion on the matter continued, council members seemed to be in favor of expanding the time frame during which calls are handled to 18 months or possibly two years. The council encouraged Sonnenberg to continue moving toward a public work session and to complete this plan. No vote was taken, but the topic was scheduled to be addressed at the council’s Sept. 1 meeting.

# An invitation to the County Farm Bureau Farm and Home Safety Day

From Debbie Roemhildt: I am again coordinating the Farm Bureau Farm and Home Safety Day on Tuesday, Sept. 15, at the north side of the buildings on the Waseca Fairgrounds. The day starts at 9 a.m. and includes 6 different safety stations; elementary students from all over the area will be attending.

Various organizations will be there, including the Steele Waseca Coop, Waseca Sheriff’s Office, Crystal Valley, FM Bank-David Trcka of Waseca, Summers Ridge Veterinary from Janesville and Northland Farm Systems-Owatonna. I want to thank these businesses for their time and contributions.

Please come out to see what we do for our local fifth-graders coming from New Richland/Hartland/Ellendale/Geneva, Trinity Lutheran School in Ja-

nesville, Janesville Public School, Waseca Team Academy and Waseca CIS Schools. We expect about 260 students.

As in the past, we will have a Mock FARM Accident involving a tractor with a PTO running. This event is thanks to our local Waseca Fire and Rescue, and North Waseca Ambulance which makes the helicopter evacuation possible.

I want to thank the following for their donations to help fund this event - Culligan, Waseca; County Corn & Soybean Growers; Schoenfeld Family Fund; Cally Jo Children’s Fund; Janesville State Bank; Keen Bank; Compeer Financial and MinnWest Bank.

We hope to see you out there for the day or part of the day! SAFETY FIRST!!

Debbie Roemhildt (507-461-7074)

Minnesota’s Southern Research and Outreach Center. Sales will be from 3 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 3; from 8 a.m. until noon on Saturday, Sept. 5; and again from 8 a.m. until noon on Saturday, Sept. 10 and Saturday, Oct. 12.

Anyone interested in information about joining the Rotary Club is invited to contact the organization at wasecarotary@gmail.com.

## ■ Teachers

from Page 1

there and do whatever they choose to do.”

During the event, it was also announced the Rotary Club members will be selling pumpkins, sweet corn, decorative corn and assorted gourds during the fall sales at the University of

# City awards contract, honors high school athletes

By BEN REVERMANN  
Staff writer

During their meeting the evening of Aug. 18, members of the Waseca council awarded the bid for general contractor services for construction, modification, and installation of the new aeration blowers at the Wastewater Treatment Plant to Winona Mechanical for just under \$260,000.

Mayor Randy Zimmerman issued a proclamation honoring five Waseca High School track members who advanced to their state tournament: William Mansfield took the state championship in pole vault with 15-foot clearance; Tovin Grannis earned second in the 300-meter hurdles. Sonny Mei, Brady Tlougan, Malachi Nobel and Tovin Grannis, members of the four-person 400-meter relay team, took third place. The team

## WASECA CITY COUNCIL

members and their coach, David Abel, were present for the meeting. Commented Abel, “These are the kinds of kids that do the right thing, they work hard, come to practice every day and make a difference. Not only are they leaders in the track program but also in the community. Mansfield will be gone after this year, but I got the other guys for another year so we’ll see what they can do.”

The council scheduled a public hearing regarding vacating an easement in the Fox Meadows subdivision for 7 p.m. the evening of Sept. 1. The hearing regards a request to increase the buildable space in lot 8

of the subdivision.

Alicia Fischer, Finance/HR Director for Waseca gave a presentation on the special revenue funds budget.

It was announced during the meeting that Police Chief Kris Markeson will give a presentation about e-bikes and scooters during the council meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 15.

Council members approved naming Rebecca Prescher to the city’s Economic Development Authority for a 6-year term ending September 30, 2032.

As part of its MS4 Permit responsibilities, the city is required to provide at least one annual opportunity for the public to give input on the adequacy of the city stormwater pollution prevention plan. A hearing for that purpose took place during the meeting, beginning at 8:09 p.m.

Councilman Jeremy Conrath stated he wants the public to know improvements are being made. Sonnenberg referred to the intersection of 8th Street and 8th Ave NE and said, “Because of the improvements made last year, we have not had to drain that crossing.”

Discussion after the brief hearing moved to other topics. Councilman Mark Christiansen asked why the downtown walkway is still the responsibility of the park board. City manager Carl Sonnenberg said if board members would like to defer responsibility, they can do so once the downtown walkway renovations are complete. Christiansen then said the shelter at the dog park is now complete and he will be working on painting the tires next.

|                   |    |     |     |     | WASECA BRAVES - 2026 |    |    |     |     |     |       |     |     |       |        |       |  |  |  |
|-------------------|----|-----|-----|-----|----------------------|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|-------|--------|-------|--|--|--|
| NAME              | G  | AB  | R   | H   | E                    | 2B | 3B | HR  | SB  | SAC | BB/HP | SO  | RBI | SLG%  | OB%    | AVG   |  |  |  |
| Hitting           |    |     |     |     |                      |    |    |     |     |     |       |     |     |       |        |       |  |  |  |
| Cromer, Danny     | 6  | 5   | 0   | 1   | 2                    | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0     | 3   | 0   | 0.200 | 0.200  | 0.200 |  |  |  |
| Cunningham, Kodi  | 7  | 5   | 0   | 0   | 0                    | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1     | 4   | 0   | 0.000 | 0.167  | 0.000 |  |  |  |
| Garza, Payton     | 20 | 86  | 12  | 26  | 8                    | 4  | 0  | 0   | 2   | 2   | 12    | 9   | 16  | 0.349 | 0.388  | 0.302 |  |  |  |
| Glynn, Chris      | 1  | 3   | 0   | 0   | 1                    | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 2     | 0   | 1   | 0.000 | 0.400  | 0.000 |  |  |  |
| Hanson, Ryan      | 15 | 47  | 11  | 8   | 0                    | 0  | 0  | 1   | 1   | 2   | 10    | 12  | 5   | 0.234 | 0.316  | 0.170 |  |  |  |
| Hoehn, Zach       | 6  | 16  | 2   | 2   | 1                    | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 6     | 8   | 2   | 0.125 | 0.364  | 0.125 |  |  |  |
| Honstad, Owen     | 12 | 16  | 3   | 1   | 4                    | 0  | 0  | 0   | 1   | 2   | 3     | 4   | 1   | 0.063 | 0.211  | 0.063 |  |  |  |
| Huiras, Cody      | 21 | 75  | 16  | 20  | 3                    | 2  | 0  | 0   | 1   | 6   | 11    | 9   | 13  | 0.293 | 0.360  | 0.267 |  |  |  |
| Klinger, Kellen   | 10 | 33  | 3   | 7   | 0                    | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0   | 1   | 4     | 11  | 8   | 0.212 | 0.297  | 0.212 |  |  |  |
| Larson, Tink      | 6  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0                    | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0.000 | 0.000  | 0.000 |  |  |  |
| Loonan, Jimmy     | 8  | 24  | 4   | 6   | 2                    | 2  | 0  | 0   | 1   | 1   | 4     | 10  | 6   | 0.333 | 0.357  | 0.250 |  |  |  |
| Nelson, Kelvin    | 19 | 66  | 20  | 20  | 4                    | 3  | 0  | 0   | 3   | 2   | 22    | 8   | 12  | 0.348 | 0.477  | 0.303 |  |  |  |
| Plendl, Tom       | 8  | 6   | 0   | 0   | 0                    | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0     | 3   | 0   | 0.000 | 0.000  | 0.000 |  |  |  |
| Reger, Jason      | 5  | 2   | 0   | 0   | 0                    | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0.000 | 0.000  | 0.000 |  |  |  |
| Reger, Logan      | 14 | 12  | 0   | 1   | 2                    | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 2     | 5   | 0   | 0.083 | 0.214  | 0.083 |  |  |  |
| Reger, Tyson      | 19 | 82  | 32  | 39  | 1                    | 10 | 0  | 2   | 5   | 1   | 13    | 5   | 10  | 0.671 | 0.547  | 0.476 |  |  |  |
| Robran, David     | 7  | 13  | 0   | 2   | 2                    | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 4     | 7   | 1   | 0.154 | 0.353  | 0.154 |  |  |  |
| Roeker, Keato     | 21 | 77  | 18  | 35  | 17                   | 2  | 1  | 1   | 10  | 3   | 10    | 16  | 17  | 0.545 | 0.517  | 0.455 |  |  |  |
| Schafer, Jaiden   | 6  | 7   | 1   | 0   | 1                    | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0     | 4   | 0   | 0.000 | 0.000  | 0.000 |  |  |  |
| Schoenrock, Ben   | 5  | 13  | 1   | 0   | 4                    | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0     | 7   | 1   | 0.000 | 0.000  | 0.000 |  |  |  |
| Teague, Sabastian | 11 | 32  | 4   | 4   | 1                    | 1  | 0  | 0   | 1   | 1   | 5     | 22  | 5   | 0.156 | 0.243  | 0.125 |  |  |  |
| Wangen, Ryan      | 12 | 32  | 1   | 6   | 0                    | 0  | 0  | 0   | 1   | 5   | 6     | 7   | 4   | 0.188 | 0.316  | 0.188 |  |  |  |
| Waugh, Kyle       | 19 | 68  | 14  | 19  | 0                    | 4  | 0  | 4   | 1   | 1   | 16    | 26  | 19  | 0.515 | 0.417  | 0.279 |  |  |  |
|                   |    |     |     |     |                      |    |    |     |     |     |       |     |     |       |        |       |  |  |  |
| TOTALS            | 22 | 720 | 142 | 197 | 53                   | 28 | 1  | 8   | 27  | 27  | 131   | 180 | 121 | 0.349 | 0.385  | 0.274 |  |  |  |
| OPPONENTS         | 22 | 733 | 122 | 146 | 48                   | 25 | 2  | 5   | 36  | 13  | 115   | 230 | 93  | 0.259 | 0.308  | 0.199 |  |  |  |
|                   |    |     |     |     |                      |    |    |     |     |     |       |     |     |       |        |       |  |  |  |
| NAME              | G  | CG  | SH  | S   | W                    | L  |    | R   | ER  |     | H     | BB  | SO  | HBP   | IP     | ERA   |  |  |  |
| Pitching          |    |     |     |     |                      |    |    |     |     |     |       |     |     |       |        |       |  |  |  |
| Cromer, Dan       | 2  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0                    | 0  |    | 5   | 5   |     | 1     | 7   | 0   | 0     | 0.67   | 67.16 |  |  |  |
| Garza, Payton     | 3  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0                    | 2  |    | 16  | 13  |     | 13    | 8   | 4   | 7     | 11.00  | 10.64 |  |  |  |
| Hoehn, Zach       | 5  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1                    | 2  |    | 25  | 14  |     | 7     | 18  | 25  | 5     | 16.00  | 7.88  |  |  |  |
| Hanson, Ryan      | 6  | 0   | 0   | 2   | 0                    | 0  |    | 16  | 15  |     | 21    | 15  | 21  | 1     | 13.00  | 10.38 |  |  |  |
| Honstad, Owen     | 1  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0                    | 0  |    | 0   | 0   |     | 1     | 1   | 1   | 0     | 1.00   | 0.00  |  |  |  |
| Meyers, Keith     | 1  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0                    | 0  |    | 0   | 0   |     | 1     | 0   | 1   | 2     | 1.00   | 0.00  |  |  |  |
| Nelson, Kelvin    | 5  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1                    | 0  |    | 8   | 1   |     | 16    | 11  | 13  | 0     | 16.33  | 0.55  |  |  |  |
| Reger, Logan      | 2  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 2                    | 0  |    | 6   | 5   |     | 11    | 4   | 7   | 1     | 11.00  | 4.09  |  |  |  |
| Reger, Tyson      | 12 | 6   | 1   | 1   | 8                    | 2  |    | 22  | 11  |     | 52    | 17  | 117 | 12    | 82.33  | 1.20  |  |  |  |
| Roeker, Keato     | 6  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1                    | 3  |    | 24  | 18  |     | 23    | 34  | 41  | 6     | 25.67  | 6.31  |  |  |  |
| Forfeit           |    |     |     |     | 1                    | 0  |    |     |     |     |       |     |     |       |        |       |  |  |  |
|                   |    |     |     |     |                      |    |    |     |     |     |       |     |     |       |        |       |  |  |  |
| TOTALS            | 23 | 6   | 1   | 3   | 14                   | 9  |    | 122 | 82  |     | 146   | 115 | 230 | 34    | 178.00 | 4.15  |  |  |  |
| OPPONENTS         | 23 | 2   | 1   | 1   | 9                    | 14 |    | 142 | 101 |     | 197   | 105 | 180 | 28    | 175.00 | 5.19  |  |  |  |
|                   |    |     |     |     |                      |    |    |     |     |     |       |     |     |       |        |       |  |  |  |

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## The Pastor's Column

# Labor for the Lord

By REV. MIKE COGLAN

About 40 years ago, a woman named Susan arrived at work on Michigan Avenue in Chicago. She didn't like her job as a mail-room clerk. She hated her commute. She didn't like the people she worked with. She especially didn't like the man who kept sexually harassing her.

She hadn't even made it to the mailroom when the man got behind her on an escalator. He started harassing her again, so she reached into her purse, pulled out a gun, and shot him. Then she lit a cigarette and rode to the top of the escalator while her co-worker lay bleeding behind her.

Meanwhile, people were diving for cover. Briefcases fell to the floor. Men and women in business suits were hiding behind planters or lying on the floor.

That's about when I walked in. I heard my boss shout, "Mike, get down!" Someone else yelled, "Gun!" So, I jumped into the stairwell and jogged up 12 floors to my office.

I don't remember much else about that day. But I remember thinking how remarkable it was that someone could become so unhappy with her work that she was willing to kill. Not everyone is that unhappy with their job, but many people are unhappy with their vocation.

This was not God's intention for us.

This coming Labor Day is a holiday created to honor the contributions of everyday laborers. Once a year, America reminds us that our jobs matter to our country. But you should also know that your work matters to God.

God cares what you do for a living, and He cares how well you do it. Your computer, shovel, tools, or tape measure can all become sacred instruments. You should be looking forward to going to work this week—or at least going without carrying a gun!

About 500 years ago, the Reformation emphasized an important idea: our work is a holy calling. We are all called to a vocation, not just those who work in ministry.

Hebrews 12:1 tells us of "a race marked out for us." Ultimately, we want to be able to say with Paul in 2 Timothy 4:7: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

Much of our "race" is consumed with earning a living. I remember every job I've had beginning at age 16. Each job left me longing for something different. Eventually, I made a major change and moved from a business career into spiritual work, which has satisfied me deeply. I don't think everyone should go to seminary. But I do think everyone should learn to see their job as a spiritual calling.

The Bible is clear that work is a gift from God. God gave Adam and Eve work to do before they sinned. God Himself is frequently described as a worker. Work is not a necessary evil that gets in the way of our calling.

Our work is our calling. So how do we make our jobs a spiritual adventure?

First, make God your boss. Colossians 3:23 says: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men."

I once heard about a Christian leader who complimented a flight attendant on her extraordinary patience. She had cared graciously for everyone on the flight, even an obnoxious, drunken passenger. He offered to write her employer a letter praising her. She declined. "I don't work for the airlines," she said. "I work for Jesus Christ."

That changes everything. Your ultimate goal isn't to impress your supervisor, get a promotion, or win an award. You are working for God.

Next, see your work as an act of worship. Think about the people God used in Scripture. Joseph worked in government. David worked in livestock, the military, and politics. Nehemiah was a building contractor. Priscilla and Aquila operated a business. Lydia managed a prosperous textile enterprise. Their jobs were not obstacles to their spiritual calling. Their jobs were part of their calling.

And remember Jesus. He spent most of His earthly life working as a carpenter, not preaching sermons. Do you think Jesus spent those years wishing He were doing something more important? No. He was doing something important.

When God makes something, it is important. God made your hands, and when your hands use your God-given abilities to make, repair, serve, manage, build, teach, or care, that work can become worship.

Finally, work for a testimony. Our work can make the gospel attractive. Titus 2 tells believers to live and work in such a way that "the teaching about God our Savior" becomes attractive.

The gospel must be seen as well as heard. People see it in our honesty, integrity, patience, moral purity, quality of work, and care for others.

Colossians 4:5-6 says: "Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace." The Christian in the marketplace is an ambassador for God. Your craft can become a means of evangelism. Your work earns you the credibility to share your faith.

Dorothy Sayers once said that the church should tell a Christian carpenter that the first demand of his religion is that he should "make good tables." That is the heart of a biblical view of work.

Your job is not merely a way to pay the bills. It can be a calling, an act of worship, and a testimony. So whatever work God has placed before you, do it for God. Do it as work. And do it in a way that makes the gospel attractive.

The only Christian work is good work, well done.

# Oak & Rye is "two farm girls doing their thing"

By BEN REVERMANN  
Staff writer

The rain stopped just in time for the Saturday, Aug. 29 Waseca Farmers Market. Despite a forecast calling for more precipitation, the clouds cleared up so those at the market saw the sun peek through around 9 a.m.

With the threat of rain, there were a few less vendors at the fairgrounds. But among those who persevered was Oak & Rye Farm out of Janesville. As the Pioneer approached, there was a hearty discussion with a customer over everyone's shared frustration with the green bean crop this year, "I don't know what the problem is, we started out not getting any earlier this summer, but now they're exploding in growth." The customer, arms filled by a bouquet of flowers, nodded in agreement.

Manning the Oak & Rye Farm stand were Kathy Witt, 55 and her daughter Katey, 23. These two were carrying out sales in their 1993 refurbished horse trailer, offering both flowers and vegetables. "But," said Kathy, "we sell mainly flowers right now. In the coming weeks we'll be selling raspberries, strawberries and blueberries as the crop comes in, and yes, more flowers." Vegetables on display included green beans, cucumbers, red and yellow onions and cherry tomatoes.



**OAK & RYE -** Kathy and Katey Witt of Oak & Rye Farm were selling their flowers and discussing produce with Randy Peterson at the Waseca Farmers Market on Saturday, Aug. 29, 2026. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Toward the back of their display were two buckets of stemmed flowers, not bundled, but loose. Katey said, "Those are for the kids as they pass by, we give those flowers away for free and they can take as many as they want." The flowers were not "seconds" in any way, and included zinnias, asters, scabiosa, celosia, sunflowers and much more. Continued Katey, "We pick those when they are only half open so that way the kids who get the free ones will have them for that much longer."

Flowers available for purchase were mostly done up in arrangements, some in vases, others in mason jars or single bud vases. The two explain they have no specific training in growing or arranging the flowers. Said Kathy, "We're

just two farmgirls doing our thing." Also for sale at the booth were some handmade key-chains and sewn items including handbags.

Randy Peterson from Otisco, who stopped by to say hello and check out the vegetables, was kind enough to pose for a photo. Kathy says she wants everyone to know, their entire farm is chemical free: "We don't spray. Also, in the coming weeks Oak & Rye Farms will start selling pumpkins, gourds and squash alongside our berries." She admits she's not running a full farm, "We're just a hobby farm, three cows, two donkeys and ten goats." Oak and Rye Farm expects to be set up on future Waseca farmers market Saturdays. More information is available on Facebook at @oakandryefarm.

# An orphan finds meaning in America's northwest

By BEN REVERMANN  
Staff writer

The movie "Train Dreams" was made available on Netflix in 2025 and follows fictional railroad and mountain man Robert Grainier over the course of his lifetime. Directed by Clint Bentley who co-wrote the script alongside Greg Kwedar, it stars Joel Edgerton and Felicity Jones and has a nice selection of stars who play major and sometimes minor roles. The cinematography took place over a 30-day period and is nothing short of breathtaking.

The time period for this PG-13 movie starts in the late 1800s and begins with six-year-old Grainier and his first memory of arriving by train in Bonners Ferry, Idaho. He remembers nothing of his parents. Over the course of his lifetime, he becomes a logger and works within a few dozen miles of the Pacific Ocean, though he never sees it, and up to 40 miles inside Montana. He develops a sudden interest in attending church when a girl named Gla-

## Revermann Recommends

Some favorite movies you are likely to enjoy

By Ben Revermann



dys, played by Jones, catches his eye, which eventually leads him to form a family and have a daughter on a single acre on the Moyie River. He later rates this as the happiest time of his life, and one he thinks about constantly later on. He hates leaving his family, but the life of a logger and logging season require the man with the ax to be there, and he must support them—until the big forest fire happens and tragedy strikes.

His life up to that point is one of hard work. He is a kind man, and he does his best to avoid violence, despite the kind of work he does and the strength in his hands. He re-

marks how different each of the men he works with is while clearing trees for the railroad; much of the movie is his reflections regarding those men. William H. Macy of Fargo fame plays a refreshing role as a world-wise explosives expert. Clifton Collins Jr. is one of my favorite actors: He's in this movie for less than a minute as a man who lay dying and begs a small drink from a flask hidden in his boot. Rainier also befriends a Chinese man working among the loggers who, because it is during WWI and America is at war with China, is grabbed by the other loggers and thrown off a bridge to his death. During the mur-

der, Grainier attempts to protest, calling out, "What's he done?" He receives no reply and sees the Chinaman's ghost for the rest of the movie.

There is minimal dialogue in this film, yet Edgerton successfully conveys a tone of pain and sadness. It's as if he is wearing this movie and we're simply watching him walk around in it. There are a few notable quotes, even though all the dialogue is quotable. Old logger's quote: "A tree is a friend if you leave it alone. If it touches a blade, it becomes a war, and the tree a killer." Grainier has trouble finding meaning to his life because of all the pain he feels until a lady tells him, "In the forest, the dead tree is just as important as the live one." As he provides the narration for the film, Will Patton uses his voice in a comforting way.

This movie did well enough at the Sundance Film Festival that Netflix now streams it. On average it has received 8 out of 10.

# Attend the Church of your Choice!

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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| <b>CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH</b><br>2200 4th St NE, Waseca<br>507-835-2235<br>Service times 9:30 a.m.<br>* * *                                                                                                       | <b>620 W Elm Ave, Waseca</b><br>507-833-0017<br>Sunday worship 10 a.m.<br>* * *                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>New Richland, Minnesota<br>Pastor Dan Kordahl<br>Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship<br>* * *                                                                                                                                            | <b>TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>412 N. Main Street, Janesville<br>Pastor Jason Wolter<br>Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship<br>Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:30 a.m. Worship<br>* * * |
| <b>4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH</b><br>605 4th St NE, Waseca<br>507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker)<br>Worship Sundays 10 a.m.<br>* * *                                                                            | <b>CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS</b><br>1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca<br>507-835-4640<br>Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m.<br>* * *                                                                                                                            | <b>VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH</b><br>New Richland, Minnesota<br>Brian Schanil Pastor<br>Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School<br>Tuesdays: The Shepherd's Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark<br>* * * | <b>JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b><br>401 N. West St., Janesville<br>Pastor Kathy King<br>Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship<br>* * *                                                                      |
| <b>FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b><br>801 4th Ave NE, Waseca<br>507-835-3167<br>Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m.<br>* * *                                                                                               | <b>GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH</b><br>1221 8th St SE, Waseca<br>507-835-2213<br>Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.<br>* * *                                                                                                                           | <b>ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH</b><br>New Richland, Minnesota<br>Father Glenn Ferichs<br>Friday - 10 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays p.m. Mass<br>Sunday - Mass at 8 a.m.<br>* * *                                                                               | <b>BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b><br>43089 180th St., Morristown<br>Pastor Kathy King<br>Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Summer worship hours, (10:45 a.m. Worship, winter)<br>* * *                       |
| <b>CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>309 6th St NE, Waseca<br>507-835-9176<br>Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.<br>Sunday School/Fellowship 10:15 a.m.<br>Wednesday Eve Worship 6:30 p.m.<br>* * *                     | <b>CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY</b><br>900 14th Ave SE, Waseca<br>507-833-1082<br>Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening 6:30 p.m.<br>* * *                                                                                                      | <b>FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>Missouri Synod<br>Waldorf, Minnesota<br>Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Larry Sipe<br>Sundays: Worship 8 a.m.; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and adult bible class<br>* * *                                                                       | <b>ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH</b><br>307 W. 2nd St, Janesville<br>10 a.m. - Mass<br>* * *                                                                                                                    |
| <b>ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca<br>507-833-1703<br>Sundays 9:00 a.m.<br>* * *                                                                                                            | <b>ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>New Richland, Minnesota<br>Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor<br>Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship<br>Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters<br>Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship<br>* * *                | <b>IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>Freedom Township<br>Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Worship<br>* * *                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>300 Owen St., Janesville<br>Pastor Sarah Krolak<br>* * *                                                                                                                  |
| <b>ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>314 4th Ave NE, Waseca<br>507-835-2647<br>Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m.<br>* * *                                                                                                     | <b>ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>Otisco, Minnesota<br>Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor<br>Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study<br>Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship<br>* * *                                                                                   | <b>ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST</b><br>Pastor Ava Adams-Morris<br>Waldorf, Minnesota<br>Sunday — 9 a.m. Worship<br>* * *                                                                                                                                         | <b>ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH</b><br>Alma City, Minnesota<br>Pastor Robert Harting<br>Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship<br>* * *                                                                                  |
| <b>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH</b><br>503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca<br>507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net)<br>Worship Sunday 10 a.m.<br>* * *                                                           | <b>TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>New Richland, Minnesota<br>Pastor Peg Marose<br>Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee<br>Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting<br>Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting<br>* * * | <b>ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC</b><br>Waldorf, Minnesota<br>Father Brian Mulligan<br>Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship<br>* * *                                                                                                                                                  | <b>TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>Smiths Mill, Minnesota<br>Pastor Robert Harting<br>Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship<br>Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship<br>* * *                                      |
| <b>GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>300 E Elm Ave, Waseca<br>507-835-1709<br>Worship Sunday 9 a.m.<br>* * *                                                                                                            | <b>LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>New Richland, Minnesota<br>Pastor Dan Kordahl<br>Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School<br>Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting<br>* * *                                                                             | <b>THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS</b><br>Brad Donner, Branch President<br>Waseca, Minnesota<br>www.lds.org<br>Sunday — 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School<br>Wednesday — 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages 12-18<br>* * *             | <b>NORTH WASECA LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA</b><br>404 30 120th St. Waseca<br>507-234-6463<br>Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship; Second Sunday "Young at heart"<br>Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. confirmation<br>* * *          |
| <b>SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH</b><br>111 4th St NW, Waseca<br>Father Glenn Ferichs<br>507-835-1222<br>Worship Sundays 10:00 a.m., Tues. and Wed. at 8:30 a.m. and Thurs. at 7 a.m.; Saturdays at 5 p.m.<br>* * * | <b>REAL LIFE CHURCH</b><br>* * *                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.</b>                                                                     |



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Janesville

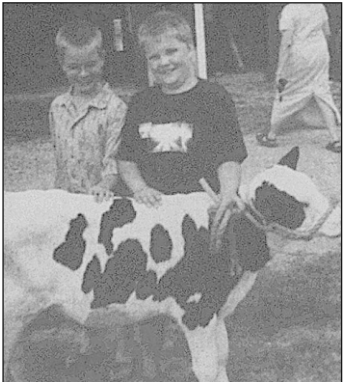
25 years ago



- Trinity Lutheran School Fundraiser - Local church members helped raise money for their school on Friday, July 20 by staffing the concession stand at the Minnesota Twins-Seattle baseball game. Workers included (front row) from left: Jane Mertens, Amy Schreader, Leroy Kielmola, Renae Meyer and Linda Fetchenhier. Second row: Don Goltz, Karen Goltz, Gloria Trahms, Dave Meyer, Ben Guse, Dave Kleimola, Julle Schumacher and Scott Schumacher.

- Rev. Merwin Miller of Elysian Assembly of God Church located at 212 Park Ave. N.E. announced that a special celebration will be held on Sunday, Aug. 19, at 10:30 a.m. when a loan burning ceremony will be held. Rev. Wesley Vagle, Minnesota District Secretary and Treasurer will be the guest speaker for the event. A new building was dedicated on June 19, 2000, after 7-½ months of hard work by the pastor and congregation. Within one year after the dedication of the church building, the indebtedness was paid off in full.

- Jacob Schreader (left) Janesville and Blake Huelsnitz, Waseca, were leading a baby cow around the farmyard of the 1930s Farm. Children and adults enjoyed petting the three-month-old baby. Visitors could enjoy muzzie loading, shingle making, wood sawing, butter churning, rug weaving and much more at the Farmamerica August festival.



- Cassandra Kopischke, daughter of Carrie and Jeffrey Kopischke of Janesville, entered the United States Air Force delayed enlistment program and is scheduled to enter active duty on July 2, 2002. A 2002 graduate of Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School, Airman Kopischke is scheduled to attend basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. According to Tech. Sgt. Robert Nixon, the local Air Force recruiter, Airman Kopischke will earn credits toward an associate's degree in applied sciences through the community college of the Air Force upon completion of basic training and technical training school.

50 years ago

- Thursday night, August 26, the Janesville Jaycees will be traveling to Mankato on what could be the largest visitation in the history of the Jaycees. The magic number is 58. Any Jaycee interested in going on the excursion, meet in back of Stosh's Bar at 7 p.m. Thursday night. Sunday is the date for Summer District at St. Peter. All interested Jaycees meet at the parking lot in back of the Heritage House at 2:30 p.m., Sunday afternoon.

- A new town team baseball league will be the topic for discussion when a group of baseball enthusiast meet in September. Towns uninvited to attend the meeting include Waterville, Morristown, Elysian, New Richland, Janesville, LeCenter and Ellendale. Janesville baseball coach Dave U'Ren has agreed to represent Janesville at the meeting, but he told the Argus that he isn't sure enough interest can be generated locally to start a team. "I'll be happy to attend the meeting," he said, "because I think the town needs something like that."



- These three Janesville High School students were among 30 Civil Air Patrol members who spent a week la training recently at Waseca Airport. From left they are Darold Rudolph, 17; Sally Prall, 17; and Danny Gahler, 17. All three have been members of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) for about a year. Gahler, right, was the first of the 30 to solo, but, before the week was over, all cadets had soloed. Notice the solo wings that each cadet is wearing on the antform. The students are the children of Mesars, and Mmes. Delmar Rudolph, Reuben Prall and Erst Gahler.

75 years ago

- The Janesville Red Sox blew a 4 run lead going into the ninth inning last Thursday night and were dumped out of the Four County League baseball playoffs by Ellendale. The victors tied up the score at 12 all in the ninth and scored the winning run in the tenth. Sunday Ellendale went 12 innings to defeat New Richland 14-12, advancing itself into the finals. Ellendale and Owatonna locked horns Wednesday night, the results of which are not known at this writing. If Ellendale lost, Owatonna is the champ. Owatonna has to lose two before it is eliminated.

- Anyone with hard to fit feet should find the answer to his problems at Joe's Shoe Store in Janesville next Wednesday. On that day the Dr. Scholl's mobile unit carrying 1,650 pairs of shoes will roll up in front of the store. The unit will feature free foot tests on scientifically developed device to anyone wishing it. The specialist will be at the store all day. Full details will be found in the shoe store's ad on page six of this paper.

100 years ago

- Mark McMarty, the hog judge, writes me that he will be here promptly at 9 o'clock A.M. Thursday, August 26th. To begin his work judging the entries at the County Fair. All entries must be made promptly as we are looking forward to a big show. Kindly notify me at once how many pens you want. Those who have futurity litters be sure that your final payments are made and your pedigrees straightened out so that there will be no delay in making the awards. Be sure to bring some kind of a hurdle so that you can transfer your hogs from their pens to the new judging arena as quickly as possible. L.P. Zimmerman. Hog Superintendent

- Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Gilday and Thomas Eustice left Thursday by car for Gary, West Virginia, where Mr. Gilday has accepted a position in the consolidated high school there and will be in charge of the manual training department. Mr. Gilday is a graduate of Stout University and is well-fitted for the splendid position he is soon to be in charge. Thomas Eustice will stop off at Cleveland, O., where he will work for his brother at that place.

Waseca

25 years ago

- Jeannie Stangler of Waseca and Gregg Feldkamp of Kansas City, Kan., are happy to announce their engagement and upcoming wedding. Jeannie is the daughter of Jerome and Sue Stangler of Waseca. Gregg is the son of Ray and Ann Feldkamp of Manhattan, Kan. Jeannie is a 1990 graduate of Waseca High School and a 1994 graduate of the College of St. Benedict. She is currently employed at St. Ann's School in Belcourt, N.D. Gregg is a 1982 graduate of Hanover, Kan. and a 1986 graduate of Marymount College of Kansas. He is currently employed with McQuay International in Fari-bault. An October 13, 2001 wedding is planned.

- Anna Matilda Lamert and Mark Edwin Gauger were united in marriage on Saturday, June 9, 2001 in Simris, Sweden. A bi-lingual ceremony was held at 4 p.m. Parents of the couple are Boris and Gunilla Lamert of Lund, Sweden and Ron and Barbara Gauger of Waseca. Attendants were Celia Lamert Larnert and Richard Gauger of Menomonee, Wisconsin. A reception dinner and dance was held at Kariaby Kro following the wedding. The couple is at home in Woodside, California. Mark graduated from Waseca High School in 1983 and from Stanford University in 1987. Matilda graduated from the University of Lund, Sweden. They are both currently employed by Parametric Technology in San Jose, California.



- Steve and Amy Schauer of Waseca, are proud to announce the birth of their son, Porter Steven, born June 14, 2001 at 6:56 a.m. at the Owatonna Hospital. He weighed four pound, six ounces and was 17 and three-quarter inches in length. Maternal grandparents are Melvin and Ruth Meyer of Waldorf. Paternal grandparents are Glen and Joan Schauer of Waseca.



- Cally Jo's sister Jayme, left, Miss Minnesota Katherine Hill and Cally's mother Connie led the event last year along with a long list of people who gave of their time to make it a great success.

50 years ago

- Four students from the Waseca are were among the 59 students who completed academic requirements for degrees from Winona State University during the 1976 first summer session, according to Dr. Donald Warner, Vice-President for Academic Affairs. The area graduates included: Carmen P. Klomp, Master of Science in elementary education and Michael D. Klomp, both of Waseca, Master of Science in elementary school administration; Maxine K. Sheffert, R.2, Waseca, Bachelor of Arts in Paralegal, minor in political science, graduated with honor and Dean Clark Swenson, son of Mrs. Leona Swenson, 110 3rd St., Buffalo Center, Iowa, Bachelor of Science in art and speech Theatre, graduate with high honor.

- Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Grob of Waseca announce the engagement of their daughter, Barbara Ann to Scott R. Taylor, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter B. Taylor of Wichita, Kan. Barbara Ann is currently working for the Department of the Army, Washington, D.C. as a computer specialist. Scott is employed as a systems analyst by the Honeywell Information Systems, Inc., McLean, Va. A Den. 27 wedding at Sacred Heart Church in Waseca is planned.

75 years ago

- Officials of the ASC here were well pleased with the response and interest of Waseca county farmers in the solid bank program. There were 262 agreements entered into. Under the program 2,783.5 acres were signed-up, mostly for small grain and hay. Payments to farmers will total \$133,733.24. Dodge county, the same size as Waseca county but with more farms and due to the absence of lakes, had 237 signers selling aside 2,174 acres. Payments will total \$99,121. Goodhue County had 419 signers for 3,121 acres of corn and 102 of wheat land.

- Indications are that a large number of rural and city people will attend the mass meeting a Central school auditorium tonight-Thursday, 8 o'clock. Dr. Otto E. Domain, former Waseca school super intendent, will explaining the recommendations of the University's Bureau of Field Studios and Surveys, which has gone over the problems to be met locally by the new consolidation of districts. Members of the local board of education and Supt. E.W. Eininger will be present to answer questions pertaining to the school. However, they expect to learn the wishes of the people through the questions which they hope will be raised.

- Members of the Waseca Lions club have been invited to take part in the Faribault Lions Jungle days at the new Faribault golf and country club. The day is Monday and the tee off will be from noon to 3 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m and there have been promised fun and prizes whether visitors golf or not. Several members of the local Lions club have expressed the intentions of attending.

100 years ago

- Thrift tickets reducing on-third of the price of admission tot he Minnesota State Fair and the Northwest Dairy Exposition, have been put on sale throughout the state, through the agency of banks, creameries and business organization. These money-savers can be purchased before August 29 in units of four each. The saving on each clip of four tickets is on dollar. According to State Fair officials the tickets will admit an adult or an automobile to an outside gate, or will admit an adult or child to the unreserved section of the grand stand, bleachers or horse show. The date for the State Fair and Dairy Exposition this year is the week of September 4 to 11. Dairy and beef cattle premiums this year total \$28,786. Dairy animals will receive \$15,555 of this money.

- Patriotism is something more than a sentiment, however enthusiastically expressed. It is something more than saluting the flag or singing America and the Star-Spangled Banner. Patriotism is consciousness of obligation and readiness for sacrifice. -John Geer Hibben.

- Among several things predicted such as Governor Christianson's sweeping the state over Johnson and Grace Kaercher's re-election as clerk of the supreme court, Jim McNulty says there will be a late fall-the mildest winter in 1926-1927 in history; early spring and a warm summer in 1927, with a big crop all ove the northwest.--Stillwater Gazette.

New Richland

25 years ago

- On Wednesday, August 1, Jason Churchill received a letter from the Los Angeles Dodgers area scout, Jerry Raddatz of Winona, inviting him to workout and tryout camp at the Minnesota State baseball complex in Mankato. Only nine were invited to participate in the tryout camp. Jason was the only catcher.

- At the meeting of the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva School Board. Monday night, three new employees were hired. They approved the contract of Stephen Fredrickson as high school principal beginning August 17. A contract for 185 days was approved for Shelly Mangskau of Geneva for 185 days as kindergarten instructor at New Richland. The position of special education instructor at Ellendale was filled by hiring Marcie Lieske for a 185 day contract.

- Pam Marquardt, daughter of Phil and Bonnie Marquardt of Janesville and Ben Trumbell, son of Ranae Trumball of Waseca and the late Brian Trumball announce their engagement and forthcoming marriage.

- area students named to the 2001 spring semester dean's list at the University of Minnesota Crookston were Robert D. Johannsen, Free-born, Health management; and Paula K. Meyers, New Richland, business management.

50 years ago



- Mrs. Robert (Sharon) Kortuem is the only new member of the New Richland-Hartland High School teaching staff this year. She will be teaching spanish I. A graduate of the College of St. Teresa at Winona, she has taught at Ironton, Ohio, Saginaw, Mich., Owatonna and Waseca. She is a native of Waseca and graduated from Sacred Heart High School.

- Representative Rod Searle, IR-Waseca, an Assistant Minority Leader in the Minnesota House of Representatives, has been chosen to attend the annual meeting of the National Conference of State Legislatures this Week in Kansas City.

- Randy Kofstad, who exhibited Hampshire sheep at the Mower County Fair in Austin last week, received both champion ewe and champion ram besides winning six blue ribbons on his flock.

75 years ago

- The Sashay Juniors had their second meeting at the high school and named officers and four board members. Sixty young folks were in attendance. Elaine Sullivan was chosen president; Chris Hagen vice president; Dorothy Nelson secretary and Charles Evenson, treasurer.

- Mr. and Mrs. Richard Crumb (Barbara Johnson) of New Richland community are the parents of a son, born at the Naeve hospital, Albert Lea. Tuesday, September 25. The Crumbs also have a daughter, Patricia.

Child's History of Waseca County

Cont. Chapter XV, 1856. At-tempted division of county—Circulation of remonstrance—Tramp on foot through Medford, Clinton Falls, Blooming Grove and Woodville.

In the month of December, 1855, I made a trip to Auburn, Iowa, for supplies. In January, 1856, shortly after my return, the settlers in the western part of what was then Steele county learned that Messrs. Cornell, Pettit, Abbott & Co., of Owatonna, were endeavoring to get the territorial legislature, then in session, to divide Steele and Dodge counties so as to make three counties of the two—the same as we now have them.

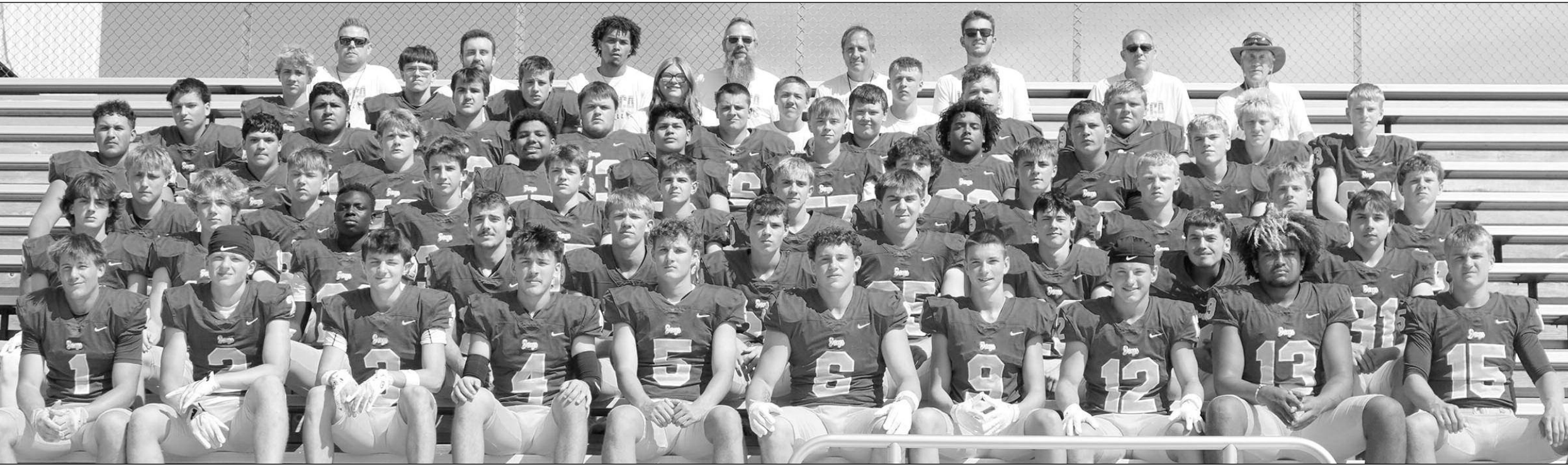
The county was then very sparsely settled. Probably there were not 1,000 families or voters in all the territory of the three counties. The people of Waseca county were nearly all young farmers, just commencing life, and poor in goods, wares, etc. They did not feel able to support a county government while there were so few to pay taxes. A meeting of the settlers was held and I was selected to visit the people in all parts of the then county to secure signatures to a remonstrance and forward the same to Hon. George A. McLeod, then of Sibley county, our representative in the house, the Hon. Chas. E. Flandreau, then of St. Peter, our member in the council.

We made duplicate remonstrances for the settlers along the LeSueur and had them signed at our meeting. The next day I started for Owatonna and the Straight river settlement. It was a

pretty cold day as I learned when I reached Owatonna, the thermometer registering 22 degrees below zero, at 4 o'clock p. m. The next day was intensely cold—so cold that the ordinary thermometer failed in its efforts to keep a correct record and I remained in Owatonna all day.

I soon learned that the people in Owatonna, with only two exceptions, were in favor of the division of the county. This I learned without divulging my mission, and the next day I started down Straight river, calling upon each settler as I proceeded and explaining our opposition to the division. Almost without exception, each farmer signed the remonstrance. At Clinton Falls and Medford, I found active co-operation, and obtained the signatures of all I could see. In one day's canvass I had good strong lists which I forwarded to Messrs. McLeod and Flandreau, accompanied by a private letter from myself and one from Dr. Finch, of Clinton Falls, explaining to them the situation of affairs and the general condition of the people.

I left with the postmaster at Medford a copy of the remonstrance to be signed by those whom I had not seen and to be afterwards forwarded to Mr. Flandreau. I then struck across the country on foot, without road or track of any kind, in search of the Remund and Ide settlement, in what is now Blooming Grove. I had no guide except the government section posts, many of which were covered with snow drifts. It was 12 miles from Clinton Falls to Blooming Grove, then called the Bliven settlement.



**PLENTY WILL PLAY** — Members of the 2026 Waseca High School football team are optimistic about the upcoming season. For the first time in several years, the Bluejays will be without one of the Russell brothers, with Damarius now playing at Iowa State and Deron at North Dakota State. Photo by Den Revermann

# Football Bluejays face life after Russell

How will the Waseca High School football team fare without a Russell in the lineup?

Time will tell. For the first time in many years, the 2026 Bluejays will start the season with no one named Russell on the roster.

The Bluejays, of course, had a dream season last year, going undefeated through the regular season and playoffs and not losing until the Class AA state championship game at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis. They finished 8-0 in their conference and 12-1 overall.

The Jays start the season led by captains Titan Rahe, Brady McKenna, Kallen Glynn and Trey Jensen. Glynn, McKenna and Kellen Klinger earned all-conference honors last year, with Klinger starting his junior year holding most of the Bluejays' passing records.

They did, however, graduate some talented players.

Deron Russell is now playing at North Dakota State University and Jordan

"We expect to be good. We will play a lot of guys." — Waseca head coach Brad Wendland

Johnston is at UW-Eau Claire. Another key loss was guardlinebacker Lucas Selthun.

Damarius Russell, a 2025 WHS graduate, is playing at Iowa State University. So what are the Bluejays' expectations this fall?

"We expect to be good," said head coach Brad Wendland, who enters his 21st season at Waseca with a career record of 165-79.

Wendland again has a dedicated crew of assistants including defensive coordinator Eric Teders, Boe Leuken, Connolly Truck and Saiveon Williamson.

Waseca returns a total of nine players to the starting lineup as they start the season moving up a class to AAA. They're in Section 3.

What are the team's strengths? "We will play a lot of guys," explained Wendland. "We'll have balance on offense and will create pressure from our defense."

As for areas to improve, Wendland said they'll find out once practice starts. The key to success for the Bluejays, according to Wendland, is to stay healthy and be relentless on the field.

Wendland sees Waseca, Fairmont and Tri-City United as the favorites in the Big South, with the same three teams battling for the section championship.

"We are excited to coach this team," said Wendland. We had an incredible defense last year and it's going to be hard to live up to that, but we have tremendous coaching and good numbers. Offensively, we anticipate being

balanced between run and pass. Special teams are an area that think we can have great improvement."

Also vying for varsity playing time: Aidan DeRaad, Aiden Walker, Alex Dickerson, Alex Bethke, Archer O'Brien, Ashton Hayes, Ashton Kaknke, Avery Roessler, Ayden Kath, Ben Dobberstein, Benjamin Androli, McKenna, Brandon Bartz, Braxton Nelson, Brayden Butler, Brody Gray, Bryan Dejager, Caleb Dufault, Carson Mortenson, Carson Roessler, Carter Dickson, Carter Radcliff, Carter Walker, Charles Helton, Charlie Janike, Chris Jaurez, Colton Madson, Cooper Nelson, Corbin Ristau, Crosby Hinna, Cyrus Wilson, Daries Powell, David Haley, Dominik Marquez, Ebin Linnes, Erasmo Sandoval, Evan Worke, Griffin Schuster, Gunner Boswel, Hayden Petersen, Holten Howard, Isaiah Dymeck, Jack Sepulveda, Jackson Janike, Jacob Knutson, Jadon Entinger, James Duade, Jameson Conrath, Jase

Buker, Jaxon Gehring, Jaxton Rohl, John Olson, Jordan Worke, Jordan Niedecker, Jose Vlera, Joseph Lemieux, Julian Rodriguez, Kallen Glynn, Keegan Glynn, Keian Klinger, Kelton Pierce, Kole Nelson, Kyler Welander, Landan Madsen, Lincoln Castro, Lui Garang, Lucas Boelter, Lucas Danner, Mason Prescher, Max Deml, Mayson Kluver, Mayson Smith, Michael Goodlander, Milo Wachal, Nick Harguth, Noan Cisneros, Nolan Dufault, Owen Arndt, Owen Fierke, Owen Honstad, Owen Rupe, Owen Sommers, Owen Westra, Parker Madison, Patrick Jore, Peyton Groskreutz, Peyton Sommers, Ryan DeWees, Ryan Harguah, Ryder Monahan, Samuel Selthun, Sawyer Ellis, Sean Noble, Shakeen Brown, Toby Jeske, Ton Bethke, Travis Lloyd, Trey Bohannon, Tucker Thompson, Tyler Loewen, Tyler Ryan, Wyatt Arndt, Wyatt Bartz, Wyatt Pertain, Xander Berg, Xander Rivera, Zaeveon Johnson and Cole Mondahl.

# Three starters return for WHS girls'tennis team

Will the Waseca High School girls' tennis team return to the state tournament this fall? Probably not.

Will the Bluejays have a fun and successful season? Undoubtedly.

Last year's squad was hit hard by graduation, with nine seniors graduating last spring. That leaves head coach Kyle Collins cautiously optimistic about the Bluejays' prospects for 2026.

Three starters return, junior Hannah Rugger and sophomores Ava Miller and Anna Benson. All three are captains coming off success last year. Rugger was 15-5 at No. 2 doubles, Miller 13-8 at No. 2 singles and Benson 15-6 at No. 2 doubles. Miller earned all-conference honors while Benson received honorable mention.

Key players graduated from last year's lineup are Vivian Mader, Maddy Benson, Pearl Moore and Layla Keith. Mader was 12-3 at No. 1 singles before missing the second half of the season due to injury.

The Bluejays have enjoyed great success under 23rd-year coach Collins, who sports a career record of 256-161. They were 10-9 last year, 4-1 in the Big South Conference Black Division, runners-up to St. Peter.

The Bluejays' best record over

"This will certainly be a rebuilding year, with no seniors on the roster."

— NRHEG coach Kyle Collins

the last five years was 15-6 in 2024, when they made their first state tournament appearance in 12 years.

So what about the 2026 Bluejays?

"We hope to be .500 or better," said Collins. "This will certainly be a rebuilding year, with no seniors on the roster. We are hoping for daily improvement and be ready to compete each day."

Collins lists the team's strengths as a pretty good work ethic and cohesiveness as a group.

"That will be an asset as the season moves along," said Collins.

The coach's concerns are obvious.

"We will have a lot of new faces in our lineup, so match experience and depth will be our hurdles this



**TENNIS** — The 2026 Waseca High School girls'tennis team is, according to coach Kyle Collins, probably looking at a .500 season this fall. Pictured are, front from left, Everly Kestel, Samantha Sutton, Anna Benson, Addy Rugger, Autumn Zimprich, Chloe Hagen. Back: Coach Collins, Kayla Landrum, Abby Jackson, Ava Miller, Hannah Rugger, Olivia Hagen, Lucy Deml, Libby Miller. Not pictured: Hannah Sommers. Photo by Den Revermann

year," he explained. "We have a small team with only 14 players."

The Bluejays' key to success is, according to Collins, getting off to a good start for a young team.

"How this team handles challenges will be a determining factor," said Collins.

Assisted by Abbe Hoehn, Collins tabs St. Peter as the favorite in the Big South Black Division and St.

Peter in the Gold Division.

The section looks wide open, with many teams pretty even in ability.

Two newcomers to the squad who have shown great promise are sophomores Hannah Sommers and Libby Miller.

"Both have been pleasant surprises the first week of practice and should help the team fill in dou-

bles," said Collins. "Both have shown a lot of improvement for first-year players."

The rest of the varsity roster includes sophomores Abby Jackson, Sam Hutton and Chloe Hager, freshmen Lucy Deml, Olivia Hagen, Kayla Landrum and Autumn Zimprich, eighth-grader Addy Rugger and seventh-grader Everly Kestel.

The Bluejays are in Section 1A with Winona Cotter, Cannon Falls, Lake City, Rochester Lourdes, United South Central and Red Wing.

After falling 4-3 to Cotter in their season opener, the Bluejays bounced back to defeat Rochester Lourdes 4-3 before dropping a 6-1 match Lake City.



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WHS spikers returning four starters

Continued improvement. That's what the Waseca High School volleyball team is counting on this fall.

The Bluejays, under the direction of fourth-year head coach Krissy Plonske, did not graduate any key players from last year's squad.

This year's captains are Ashley Fliflet, Savanna Vagts and Madalynn Root.

Returning as starters are Avery Barto, Kaia Sartori and Addison Zimmerman.

"We expect to go out and have fun and enjoy playing the sport together," said Plonske, who feels the Bluejays' strength is having close friendships among the players, developing into a family.

"We have a smaller bench," said Plonske. "But I wouldn't say this is a weakness either."

The key to success for the Bluejays, according to Plonske, is



**VOLLEYBALL — The 2026 Waseca High School volleyball team. Front from left: Anna Helget, Madlyn Root, Addison Zimmerman, Kaia Sartori, Avery Barto, Elle Schleicher. Back: Coach, Coach, Ashley Fliflet, Savannah Vagts, Tyler Stagman, Coach.**

Photo by Den Revermann

playing together, working together and supporting one another.

Plonske is assisted by Elizabeth Prostollo, Abbie Wobschall and Jenny David.

"This team is going to do great things," said Plonske. "They are constantly being around each other, on but also off the court, which is going to make this season a fun, enjoyable year for them. They are hungry to win."



**BOYS' SOCCER — The 2026 Waseca High School boys' soccer team. Front from left: Kelvin Aragon, Mateo Vasquez, Matthew Nelson, Tobin Rutt, Ryder Benham, Brock Groh, Jayden Lenz. Row two: Kendrick Siles, Isaiah Adams, Jacob Harguth, Minchavski, Landon Rutt, Nolan McQuerry, Shylo Driessen, Carlo Driessen. Back: Coach, Coach, Tomas Vasquez, Tobin Grannis, Ivan Schoenrock, Sonny Mei, unidentified, Coach, Coach.**

Photo by Den Revermann

Boys' soccer looks at rebuilding

It looks like the 2026 season is a rebuilding year for the Waseca High School boys' soccer team.

The Bluejays, according to first-year head coach David Vasquez, will concentrate on improvement from match to match.

Key players lost to graduation were Diego Toapanta, Brady

Thougan, Amin Sharif and Christian Rodriguez.

"We are focused on rebuilding strong team overall," said Vasquez. "Our expectations are to improve defensive tactics as well as offensive attacking."

The Bluejays' strengths, according to Vasquez, are a strong moral

effort and dedication to improve.

"We have a small team," said Vasquez. "We would love to have more players to fill out a proper varsity, junior varsity and C-squad teams."

The key to success for the Bluejays are communication between the players, respect, and

maintaining a positive attitude regardless of the score.

Vasquez is assisted by Mike McQuerry, Brian Rutt and Ndokari Danladi Aboki.

The Bluejays are in Section 1AA.

Schedules

WASECA HIGH SCHOOL 2006 FOOTBALL

Friday, Sept. 4 St. Peter 7 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 11 at Belle Plaine 7 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 18 Fairmont 7 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 25 at Norwood-YA 7 p.m.  
Friday Oct. 2 at TCU 7 p.m.  
Friday, Oct. 9 Worthington 7 p.m.  
Wed., Oct. 14 Albert Lea 7 p.m.  
Wed. Oct. 21 at New Ulm 7 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 27 at Sleepy Eye 7 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 4 St. Clair 7 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 18 Southland 7 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 26 Lewiston-Altura 7 p.m.  
Friday Oct. 2 at Redwood Valley 7 p.m.  
Friday, Oct. 9 at Fillmore Central 7 p.m.  
Wednesday, Oct. 14 Medford 7 p.m.  
Wednesday, Oct. 21 at USC 7 p.m.

WASECA HIGH SCHOOL 2026 GIRLS' TENNIS

Saturday, Aug. 22 at Winona Cotter 11 a.m.  
Tuesday, Aug. 26 Rochester Lourdes 4:30  
Thursday, Aug. 27 Lake City 4:30  
Saturday, Aug. 29 at New Prague 9 a.m.  
Tuesday, Sept. 1 St. Petr 4:30  
Thursday, Sept. 3 at New Ulm 4:30  
Monday, Sept. 14 Northfield 4:30  
Tuesday, Sept. 15 Worthington 4:30  
Thursday, Sept. 17 Marshall 4:30  
Saturday, Sept. 19 Waseca tri., 9 a.m.  
Thursday, Sept. 24 at St. James 4:30  
Thursday, Oct. 1 Red Wing 4:30

NRHEG BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY 2026

Friday, Aug. 28 at Medford 2:45  
Thursday, Sept. 3 at Bear Cave Park  
Thursday, Sept. 10 at Oaks GC  
Tuesday, Sept. 15 at Blooming Prairie  
Thursday, Sept. 22 Home at Riverview  
Thursday, Oct. 1 at Prairie Ridge GC  
Thursday, Oct. 8 at Waseca Lakeside  
Tuesday, Oct. 13 at Oak View GC  
Tuesday, Oct. 20 at Medford  
Thursday, Oct. 29 Section

NRHEG GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY 2026 SCHEDULE

Friday, Aug. 28 at Medford 2:45  
Thursday, Sept. 3 at Bear Cave Park  
Thursday, Sept. 10 at Oaks GC  
Tuesday, Sept. 15 at Blooming Prairie  
Thursday, Sept. 22 Home at Riverview  
Thursday, Oct. 1 at Prairie Ridge GC  
Thursday, Oct. 8 at Waseca Lakeside  
Tuesday, Oct. 13 at Oak View GC  
Tuesday, Oct. 20 at Medford  
Thursday, Oct. 29 Section

WASECA HIGH SCHOOL 2026 BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY

Thursday, Sept. 10 at TCU 4 p.m.  
Thursday, Sept 17 at Rochester 4 p.m.  
Thursday, Oct. 1 at Zumbrota 9 a.m.  
Thursday, Oct. 8 Waseca Inv., 4 p.m.  
Tuesday, Oct. 13 at Jordan  
Tuesday, Oct. 20 at Jackson  
Thursday, Oct. 29 Section at Faribault

WASECA HIGH SCHOOL 2026 GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY

Thursday, Sept. 10 at TCU 4 p.m.  
Thursday, Sept 17 at Rochester 4 p.m.  
Thursday, Oct. 1 at Zumbrota 9 a.m.  
Thursday, Oct. 8 Waseca Inv., 4 p.m.  
Tuesday, Oct. 13 at Jordan  
Tuesday, Oct. 20 at Jackson  
Thursday, Oct. 29 Section at Faribault

WASECA HIGH SCHOOL 2026 BOYS' SOCCER

Friday, Aug. 28 Westonka 12 noon  
Tuesday, Sept. 1 at Marshall 7 p.m.  
Thursday, Sept. 3 Fairmont 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, Sept. 8 at New Ulm 5 p.m.  
Thursday, Sept. 10 St. Peter 7 p.m.  
Saturday, Sept. 12 Byron 12 noon  
Tuesday, Sept. 15 at TCU, 7 p.m.  
Thursday, Sept. 17 Worthington 7 p.m.  
Monday, Sept. 21 Kasson 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, Sept. 22 Wings United 7 p.m.  
Thursday, Sept. 24 New Ulm 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, Sept. 29 at St. Peter 7 p.m.  
Saturday, Oct. 3 at Pine Island 1 p.m.  
Monday, Oct. 5 at Red Wing 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, Oct. 6 at TCU, 7 p.m.

WASECA HIGH SCHOOL 2026 GIRLS' SOCCER

Thursday, Aug. 27 Westonka 7 p.m.  
Saturday, Aug. 29 Fairmont 6 p.m.  
Tuesday, Sept. 2 Marshall 7 p.m.  
Thursday, Sept. 3 at Fairmont 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, Sept. 8 New Ulm 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, Sept. 9 at New Ulm 7 p.m.  
Thursday, Sept. 11 at St. Peter 7 p.m.  
Sat., Sept. 12 at Byron 2 p.m.  
Tuesday, Sept. 15 at TCU 7 p.m.  
Wednesday, Sept. 15 Northfield 12 noon  
Thursday, Sept. 16 TCU 7 p.m.  
Monday, Sept. 21 at Kasson 7 p.m.  
Thursday, Sept. 25 at New Ulm 6:45 p.m.  
Saturday, Oct. 3 Pine Island 5 p.m.  
Tuesday, Oct. 6 Red Wing 7 p.m.  
Wednesday, Oct. 7 TCU 7 p.m.  
Friday, Oct. 9 at New Ulm 7 p.m.

WASECA HIGH SCHOOL 2026 VOLLEYBALL

Thursday, Sept. 3 Marshall 7:15  
Tuesday, Sept. 8 at St. Peter 7:15  
Monday, Sept. 14 at Medford 7:15  
Thursday, Sept. 15 TCU 7:15  
Thursday, Sept. 17 Fairmont 7:15  
Monday, Sept. 21 at JWP 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, Sept. 22 Worthington 7:15  
Monday, Sept. 28 Randolph 7:15  
Thursday, Sept. 19 at New Ulm 7:30  
Thursday, Oct. 1 at Blue Earth 7:15  
Monday, Oct. 5 St. James 7:15  
Tuesday, Oct. 6 at Belle Plaine 7:15  
Monday, Oct. 12 LCWM 7:15

JWP HIGH SCHOOL 2026 FOOTBALL

Friday, Sept. 4 at Fillmore Central 7 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 11 St. Clair 7 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 18 at Blue Earth 7 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 25 at WEM 7 p.m.  
Friday, Oct. 2 Southland 7 p.m.  
Thursday, Oct. 8 Medford HC 7 p.m.  
Wednesday, Oct. 14 BPT Hayfield 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, Oct. 20 Maple River 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, Oct. 27 Section 2 p.m.  
Saturday, Oct. 31 Section 2 p.m.  
Friday, Nov. 6 Section 4 JWP 7 p.m.

JWP HIGH SCHOOL 2026 VOLLEYBALL

Thursday, Aug. 27 at Fairmont 7:30  
Tuesday, Sept. 1 at Cleveland 7 p.m.  
Thursday, Sept. 3 Triton 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, Sept. 8 NYA 7 p.m.  
Thursday, Sept. 10 Beth. Acad. 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, Sept. 15 at Bl. Prairie 7 p.m.  
Thursday, Sept. 17 Hayfield 7 p.m.  
Monday, Sept. 21 Waseca 7 p.m.  
Thursday, Sept. 24 at Kenyon 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, Sept. 29 at Nicollet 7 p.m.  
Thursday, Oct. 1 NRHEG 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, Oct. 6 at Randolph 7 p.m.  
Friday, Oct. 9 at Medford 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, Oct. 13 at USC 7 p.m.  
Monday, Oct. 19 WEM 7 p.m.  
Monday, Oct. 26 Section 7 p.m.  
Thursday, Oct. 29 Section 7 p.m.  
Monday, Nov. 3 Sect. at N.Prague 6 p.m.  
Thursday, Nov. 5 Section at St. Peter 7:30

WEDQP CROSS COUNTRY 2026 SCHEDULE

Friday, Aug. 28 at Fairmont 9 a.m.  
Thursday, Sept. 3 at Bear Cave Park 4 p.m.  
Thursday, Sept. 10 at Oaks GC 4:15  
Thursday, Sept. 17 at Daly Park 5 p.m.  
Thursday, Sept. 22 at Riverview GC 4:30  
Thursday, Oct. 8 at Waseca 4 p.m.  
Tuesday, Oct. 13 at Oak View GC 4:30  
Tuesday, Oct. 20 at Medford 4 p.m.  
Thursday, Oct. 19 Section at N-YA 3:45

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# CC teams look to make strides

The Waseca High School cross country teams are looking to make some strides this fall under 10th-year head coach Grant Popp.

The keys for the Bluejays? Keeping everyone healthy and developing some younger runners.

Captains Stella Omtvedt, Taylor Markeson and Maren Schimming lead the girls' squad. Also earning varsity letters last fall were Ava VanDenHemel, Quinn Yoder and Megan Tegmeier.

Also back for the girls is Ellie Kopischke, who along with Omtvedt ran at state as individuals and have earned all-conference honors. Schimming received all-conference honorable mention.

"On the girls' side, we're hoping to compete for a top-two finish in the section," stated Popp.

Popp looks for the girls to cut the spread significantly from their No. 1 to No. 7 runners.

"We also have a lot of varsity racing experience on our roster," said Popp. "Most of our varsity has run in at least one state track meet, and if you count track, in some cases four or five."

The Bluejays just need to keep the girls healthy.

"If we can keep everyone healthy and improving, the girls will be a very competitive team at the end of the season," explained Popp. "A number of our key runners have had some significant injuries in recent years, so keeping everyone healthy and competing is critical."

The girls have won the section championship as recently as 2022. They finished fourth in the Big South Conference meet last fall and sixth in Section 1AA.

The girls graduated captain Kelsey Draeger off last year's

squad.

The boys' captains are Sam Feldkamp and Keenan Collins, with Luke Feldkamp also returning with varsity running experience.

Last year's captain Wyatt Hager graduated last spring.

"The boys' team is extremely young, but they're very motivated, so I honestly can't say where we'll be at the end of the season," said Popp. "But I'm expecting them to be a much faster team than last year."

The main strength for the boys' squad, according to Popp, is youth and motivation.

"This group of guys doesn't have a lot of varsity experience, but they work hard every day and bring a lot of energy to practice," said Popp. "They put in a lot of miles this summer, and I'm excited to see what they can do."

Simply getting varsity races under their belt is Popp's biggest concern for the boys.

"Aside from Luke Feldkamp, this will be the first or second year of varsity for every boy on the team," said Popp. "It's going to be a bit of a learning curve for them to adjust to that level of racing."

Popp, assisted by Heidi McCabe and Nancy Kaplan, sees Marshall as the preseason favorite to win the Big South Conference in both the girls' and boys' divisions. The section favorites for the girls is Northfield, with Winona and Northfield expected to battle it out for the boys.

Athletes to watch, according to Popp, are Markeson and Sam Feldkamp.

"They have some great strides during the offseason and are going to have a major impact on the varsity teams," said Popp.



**BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY — The 2026 Waseca High School boys' cross country team.**  
Photo by Ben Revermann



**GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY — The 2026 Waseca High School girls' cross country team.**  
Photo by Ben Revermann



**VOLLEYBALL — The 2026 Waseca High School girls' soccer team. Front from left: Teagan Hart, Leilla Johannsen, Josie Olson, Natalie Erickson, Rylie Mielke, Aryana Garza, Mya Kath. Row two: Mackenzie James, Rachel Mielke, Angelica Lopez, Norah Olson, Kendall Lang, Reese Ludwig, Eliana Grannis, Delilah Veroeven. Back: Coach, Coach, Elizabeth Aboki, Reese Rodriguez, Lilly Muff, Jenna Coon, Jacey Jensen, Coach, Coach.**  
Photo by Ben Revermann

# Rodriguez, Lopez lead girls' soccer

## Dustin Miller is new head coach

Dustin Miller is the new varsity girls' soccer coach at Waseca High School.

He takes over a squad that compiled a win-loss record of 5-10-1 last fall, including 1-4-1 in the Big South Conference. The Bluejays' best finish over the last five years was 12-5-0 in 2021.

Miller has more than 20 years' experience as a head coach. This is his first year as a varsity-level coach.

The Bluejays return letterwinners are Angelica Lopez, Reese Ludwig, Reese Rodriguez, Mackenzie James, Rachel Mielke, Lilly Muff and Jacey Jensen.

Miller's assistant coaches are John Thompson, Neil Johannsen, Zach Jasper and Anatasia Garza.

The captains are Rodriguez and Lopez.

# New head coach Lockery leads NRHEG football

There's a new man in charge of the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School football team this fall.

He's Devin Lockerby, hired to replace longtime head coach Marc Kruger, who's now the tight ends coach at Mankato West High School.

Lockerby inherits a squad coming off a 2-7 record last year, when the Panthers finished 2-6 in the Mid-

South Green District.

Lockerby is assisted by familiar faces, former Panthers Nick Goette, Andrew Phillips, Carter Martens and Jake Stork.

Returning letterwinners for the Panthers are senior Jack Bartlett (WR/DB), senior Fynn Baumann (TE/DE), senior Colton Conroy (LB/TE), senior A.J. Deen (WR/DB), senior Brooks Gilliland (QB), junior Zander Hanna

(OL/DL), junior Sean Lassahn (RB/LB), junior Connor Louks (OL/DL), junior Calvin Nissen (WR/DB), junior Dakota Schlaak (RB/LB), senior Ryan Schlaak (RB/LB), senior Brendan Schmidt (WR/DB), junior Dylan Schroht (OL/DL) and junior Noah Weller (TE/DL).

Last year's Panther awards went to:

Most Valuable Player - Ryan

Schlaak

Most Valuable Offensive Back - Nissen

Most Valuable Defensive Back - Quen Meyering

Most Valuable Offensive Lineman - Trevor Selover

Most Valuable Defensive Lineman - Jordan Brouwers

Scout Team Player of the Year - Tyler Piepho

Captains - Ryan Schlaak and

Gilliland

So what does first-year head coach Lockerby expect from his Panthers?

"We expect to get better every day," he said. "We have a strong work ethic and team unity. Everyone worked really hard this summer and took steps forward."

The key to success?

"Being a team," said Lockerby. "All 11 playing as one."

# Wobbrock, Jewison lead NRHEG CC

The 2026 New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School cross country teams are a little low on numbers this fall.

But the Panthers are never low on enthusiasm.

"This is a very young team," said head coach Larry Nydegger. "We have no juniors or seniors. We simply want everyone to strive for improvement in each meet that they compete in."

Nydegger, assisted this year by Wendy Schultz, does have a number of returning letterwinners from last year.

Julieann Wobbrock, a sophomore, leads the girls, along with Violette Botten and Rylie Cromwell.

Wobbrock was the Gopher Conference champion last year, finishing fourth in the section meet and 18th at state.

A newcomer for the boys' squad is sophomore Kasey Jewison, who had a very strong finish to the track and field season, finishing third in the 3200 meters at the sub-section meet and seventh at section.

So what do the coaches expect?

"I expect Julieann to contend for both the Gopher Conference individual title and qualify for state after a successful 2025 season," said Nydegger. "It will be a tough challenge, but I think she is up to the task."



**CROSS COUNTRY — Members of the 2026 NRHEG High School cross country team include, front from left: Rylie Cromwell, Marvin Tolzman and Jordy Kloccek. Back: Violette Botten, Julieann Wobbrock, Devlin McWilliams and Kasey Jewison.**  
Photo by Larry Nydegger

# NRHEG spikers again optimistic

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School volleyball team graduated a lot of talented players from last fall's varsity roster.

But that can't keep third-year head coach Bethany Tennis from being optimistic.

The Panthers have enjoyed plenty of success under Tennis, going 32-23 in her first three seasons.

Last year's crew fashioned a win-loss record of 21-8, including 7-3 in the Gopher Conference. They finished fourth in the conference and reached the section semifinals.

The lone returning starter this season is Anika Ladlie. Izley Boerner also returns to the varsity after missing last season because of injury.

Ladlie, Brooklyn Sommer and Clara Buendorf are this year's captains.

Among the key players lot to graduation was setter Addy Stadheim, who reached 1,000 career set assists. Outside hitters Gabby Schlaak and Camryn VanMeldeghem both played all around and, according to Tennis, were contributors to the Panthers' offense.

"We had 10 seniors graduate who all contributed to the team last year on and off the court," said Tennis.

So what does the coach expect this fall?

"I expect there to be some growing pains throughout the season, as to be expected after losing a large senior class," commented Tennis. "I think these girls have the capacity to be competitive in our conference and section, and I'm excited to watch them play some great volleyball."

The Panthers' strengths, according to Tennis, should continue to develop as they start the season.

"I am really looking forward to the girls working together and seeing the energy and determination they will bring with them on the court," said Tennis. "Another strength is our versatility. We have multiple players who are competent in multiple different positions. This allows for more flexibility during game play."

As for weakness or concerns, Tennis said one of the Panthers' biggest challenges will be developing consistency and cohesion quickly.

"With a relatively new group of players who have not had extensive playing time at this level, building trust and learning to play as a unit will be an important focus early in the season," explained Tennis.

The key to success?

"Defensively, we have the potential to be a very scrappy team," said Tennis. "We hope to turn defensive plays into offensive opportunities and consistently send challenging balls back across the net."

Another key to the Panthers' success will be establishing consistency from the service line and in serve receive.

"Strong serving and solid first contact will provide the foundation needed to run an effective offense and put the team in position to compete throughout each match," said Tennis.

Assisted by Corrine Schuller and Jen Hatton, Tennis' pick as the preseason Gopher Conference is Kenyon-Wanamingo, with Fillmore Central looking to lead the way in the Section 1A.

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COUNTY OF WASECA  
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
DISTRICT COURT  
PROBATE DIVISION  
Court File No. 81-PR-26-63  
In Re: Estate of  
Bonnie M. Engel,  
Decedent  
NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEAR-  
ING ON PETITION FOR PRO-  
BATE OF WILL AND  
APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL  
REPRESENTATIVE AND NO-  
TICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL INTERESTED PER-  
SONS:  
It is Ordered and Notice is given  
that on October 21, 2026, at 10:30  
AM via Zoom, a hearing will be  
held in this Court at 307 State St.,  
Waseca, MN 56093, for the formal  
probate of an instrument purporting

to be the Will of the Decedent  
dated, March 31, 2022, ("Will"),  
and for the appointment of Michael  
Kemmits, whose address is 33784  
640th Ave, New Richland, MN  
56072 as Successor Personal Repre-  
sentative of the Estate of the Dece-  
dent in UNSUPERVISED. Any  
objections to the petition must be  
filed with the Court prior to or  
raised at the hearing. If proper and  
if no objections are filed or raised,  
the Personal Representative will be  
appointed with full power to admin-  
ister the Estate including the power  
to collect all assets, to pay all legal  
debts, claims, taxes and expenses,  
to sell real and personal property,  
and to do all necessary acts for the  
Estate. Notice is also given that  
(subject to Minnesota Statutes sec-  
tion 524.3-801) all creditors having  
claims against the Estate are re-  
quired to present the claims to the

Personal Representative or to the  
Court Administrator within four  
months after the date of this Notice  
or the claims will be barred.  
  
Dated: 08/25/2026  
  
/s/ Carol M. Hanks  
Judge of District Court  
/s/ Shannon Asselin  
Court Administrator

PATTON, HOVERSTEN & BERG,  
P.A.  
Ellie J. James, #505790  
215 E Elm Ave  
PO Box 249  
Waseca, MN 56093  
Ellie.james@phblawoffice.com  
Published in the Waseca County  
Pioneer on September 3 and 10,  
2026

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COUNTY OF WASECA  
  
PROBATE COURT  
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
Probate Court Division  
Court File No. 81-PR-26-535  
  
In Re: Estate of  
  
DEBRA A. YOUNGBERG,  
Decedent  
  
NOTICE INFORMAL  
APPOINTMENT OF  
ADMINISTRATOR AND  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL INTERESTED PER-  
SONS:  
Notice is hereby given that a  
fourth amended application for in-  
formal appointment of admin-  
istrator of the above-named  
decendent's estate has been filed  
with the Registrar herein and the  
fourth amended application has  
been granted informally admin-

istrating such estate. Any objections  
may be filed in the above-named  
Court, and the same will be heard  
by the Court upon notice of hearing  
fixed for such purpose.  
Notice if hereby further given  
that informal appointment of Bri-  
anna L. Nelson, whose address is  
10100 Portland Ave S, Blooming-  
ton, MN 55420, as personal repre-  
sentative of the estate of the  
above-named decedent, has been  
made. Any heir, devisee or other in-  
terested person may be entitled to  
appointment as personal representa-  
tive or may object to the appoint-  
ment of the personal representative  
and the personal representative if  
empowered to fully administer the  
estate including, after 30 days from  
the date of issuance of his letters,  
the power to sell, encumber, lease  
or distribute real estate, unless ob-  
jections thereto are filed with the  
Court (pursuant to Section 524.3-  
607) and the Court otherwise or-  
ders.  
Notice if further given that

ALL CREDITORS having claims  
against said estate are required to  
present the same to said personal  
representative or to the Court Ad-  
ministrator within four months after  
the date of this notice or said claims  
will be barred.  
Dated: 08/19/2026  
/s/ Cassie Norell  
Probate Registrar  
/s/ Shannon Asselin  
Court Administrator

PATTON HOVERSTEN & BERG,  
P.A.  
Ellie J. James, #505790  
215 E Elm Ave, PO Box 249  
Waseca, MN 56093  
Phone: 507-835-5240  
Published in the Waseca County  
Pioneer on August 27 and Sep-  
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
The Waseca County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing at the Waseca County East Annex  
(Commissioner's Room), 300 N. State Street, Waseca, MN 56093 on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at 9:30  
a.m. to consider the following items:  
  
A. **Ulland Brothers Inc** requests to renew their Conditional Use Permit to mine aggregate materials  
for the parcel (PID 08.012.1010) in Section 12, Township 106, Range 22 in Otisco Township. The  
request will be pursuant to Sections 3.07, 4.13, 6.07, 6.08, and 8.03 of the Waseca County UDC as  
well as State and Federal regulations. The parcel is zoned A-1 Agricultural Protection Zoning  
District.  
B. **Larry and Jan Hoffman** request a Conditional Use Permit to operate apiary agritourism for the  
parcel (PID 06.011.0500) in Section 11, Township 108, Range 24 in Janesville Township. The  
request will be pursuant to Sections 3.07, 6.07, and 6.08 of the Waseca County UDC. The parcel is  
zoned A-1 Agricultural Protection Zoning District.  
  
The staff report on this item will be available at the Waseca County Planning and Zoning Office, 300 N State  
St., Waseca, MN 56093 during regular business hours 8:00-4:30, and will be on the county website  
[www.wasecacounty.gov](http://www.wasecacounty.gov) at the agenda tab by September 14, 2026. Oral comments will be accepted at the  
meeting. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate  
in all Waseca County services, programs and activities.  
  
Tina G. Wilson, Planning and Zoning Administrator  
  
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on September 3, 2026

**SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642 September 2026**

| Sunday                                                        | Monday                               | Tuesday                   | Wednesday           | Thursday             | Friday                                                                      | Saturday |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
|                                                               |                                      | 1                         | 2 6PM BAR<br>BINGO  | 3 7pm HALL<br>BINGO  | 4 MEAT Raffle<br>5:30 pm<br>Horse racing 6:30 pm                            | 5        |
| 6                                                             | 7                                    | 8 BURGER<br>NIGHT 5 TO 7  | 9 6PM BAR<br>BINGO  | 10 7pm HALL<br>BINGO | 11 MEAT Raffle<br>5:30 pm<br>Horse racing 6:30 pm                           | 12       |
| 13 Breakfast 8-<br>12 Your Host<br>Waseca<br>Exchange<br>Club | 14 7 pm<br>Post &<br>AUX.<br>Meeting | 15 BURGER<br>NIGHT 5 TO 7 | 16 6PM BAR<br>BINGO | 17 7pm HALL<br>BINGO | 18 Air Force<br>Birthday POW/MIA<br>DAY MEAT Raffle<br>Horse racing 6:30 pm | 19       |
| 20                                                            | 21                                   | 22 BURGER<br>NIGHT 5 TO 7 | 23 6PM BAR<br>BINGO | 24 7pm HALL<br>BINGO | 25 MEAT Raffle<br>5:30 pm<br>Horse racing 6:30 pm                           | 26       |
| 27 GOLD STAR<br>DAY                                           | 28                                   | 29 BURGER<br>NIGHT 5 TO 7 | 30 6PM BAR<br>BINGO |                      |                                                                             |          |

**HOURS OF OPERATION**  
SUN.- MON. CLOSED  
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# Rep. Sexton participates in inspector advisory meeting

St. Paul, MN — Rep. Sexton today participated in the first meeting of the bipartisan Legislative Inspector General Advisory Commission, marking an important step toward establishing Minnesota's new Office of the Inspector General and strengthening the state's efforts to combat fraud, waste, and abuse.

The commission's primary responsibility is to review qualified applicants and recommend candidates to the governor for Minnesota's first Inspector General. While state law does not specify a required number of candidates, the commission is targeting three qualified candidates to recommend to the governor.

The commission aims to have those three candidates selected by mid-December, giving members time to complete the recommendation process and submit the candidates ahead of the statutory January 1, 2027 deadline.

"This commission has an important responsibility in helping establish an Inspector General's Office that is independent, effective, and focused on protecting Minnesota taxpayers," said Rep. Sexton. "We have seen the consequences of fraud when oversight fails. Finding the right person to lead this office is an important first step toward building a stronger system of accountability."

The bipartisan commission will continue meeting over the coming months to review applicants and identify the strongest candidates for the position. The commission's work will help establish the foundation for an office intended to strengthen oversight across Minnesota's executive branch agencies and programs.

"Today's meeting was just the beginning, but the goal is clear. We need to build an office that can identify problems, follow the facts, and hold people accountable when taxpayer dollars are misused," Sexton said. "This is an important step toward making sure Minnesota has the tools necessary to fight fraud effectively."

The commission is expected to submit its recommendations to the governor by January 1, 2027, with the governor required to appoint the Inspector General by February 1, 2027.

## ■ Keyes

from Page 3

that, "as a commissioner, watching how tax dollars are spent is the best way to represent the taxpayers' interests."

Over time, Keyes has served on numerous leadership committees, including the Isoco township board, the county township board, County Extension, Waseca Area Rural Fire Protection District and the Dairy Board from the 1990s to 2010.

He says he ran a successful write-in campaign in 2012, and has served on the Isoco township board ever since. The position has had numerous rewards for him: he lists getting to know fellow area residents, coming to an always stronger understanding of the expectations and requirements of the position, and meeting the challenge of setting a budget and then staying within it.

Based on what he has seen, Keyes admits the job of being a county commissioner extends well beyond presiding at board meetings twice a month. If elected, he says he will reduce the hours he works at Kwik Trip to meet the needs of the commissioner office; he states being a voice for all of district 4 will be his focus.

# Toward Zero Deaths has local impact

By DEB BENTLY  
News Editor

Under a special statewide program, Waseca County Sheriff deputies spend as much as 20 hours in some months on patrols designated to watch for specific driving dangers—for example, speeding, driving under the influence, failure to use seat belts or car seats, and hands-free violations.

As Waseca County Sheriff Jay Dulas explains, "Toward Zero Deaths" is a federally funded initiative managed within Minnesota by the state office of traffic safety. Under the program, enforcement agencies are reimbursed the cost of the hourly wages of sheriff deputies, police officers and highway patrol staff who follow the program's guidelines. One of the first steps is taking part in targeted in-person training sessions which help the officer recognize typical warning signs associated with specific unsafe driving habits.

Another requirement is that, when on Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) patrols, officers are attending only to the designated behavior. If the state has named, for example, seat belt usage as the target behavior for the month, the officer is looking only for drivers failing to follow the laws associated with seat belts and car seats. Along with that, the patrol is in addition to the department's regular shifts, so that the TZD officer is not expected to respond to other enforcement tasks, for example, security checks or complaints of

someone disturbing the peace.

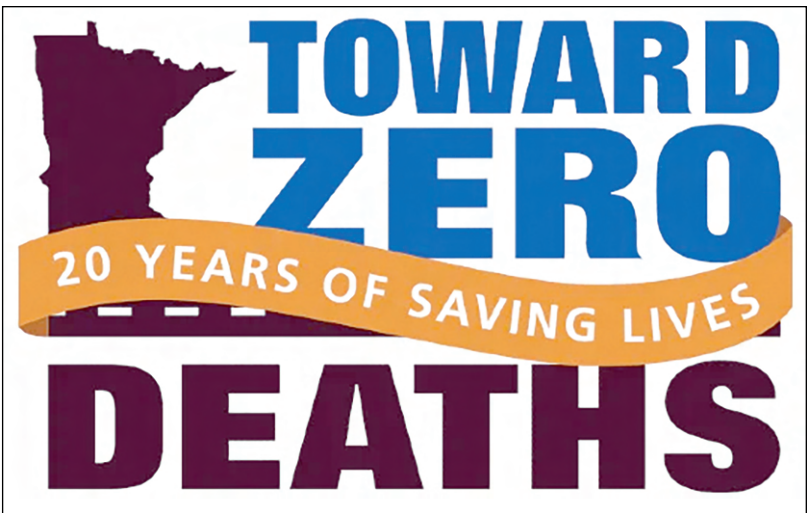
"There are no quotas or anything like that," Dulas says regarding the patrols. "They are out there to raise awareness about safe driving habits." He goes on to say it's an important task. "Being pulled over and either getting a ticket or a warning from an officer can have a lasting impact.

"Changing someone's habits today could be preventing who knows how many devastating incidents in the future."

He mentions that the sheriff's department has been thanked by parents of young drivers who have seen a change in the way their teens drive.

Officers do submit a summary of their activity during the TZD patrols to the state. Numbers are compiled to look for a cause/effect relationship, over time, between the number of interactions and the number of future incidents involving the specific driving infraction.

The stated goal of the TZD program is that, by 2030, no more than 225 people die in crashes on Minnesota roadways and fewer than 980 experience serious injuries. If a trend which began in 2003 had continued, the state might be experiencing more than 900 deaths a year, but "the statewide TZD program was launched as a deliberate, interdisciplinary approach to traffic safety. Despite increases in the number of licensed drivers, registered motor vehicles, and vehicle miles traveled, there were just over 360 traffic deaths in



**Waseca County law enforcement officers participate in the statewide "Toward Zero Deaths" initiative, meant to reduce accidents—especially accidents leading to fatalities. Officers sign up for extra shifts during which they raise public awareness regarding various aspects of safe driving by issuing tickets or performing traffic stops during which they remind drivers about the dangers of distracted driving, speeding, failure to use seat belts, and more.**

Minnesota in 2025—a 43 percent reduction from 2003," according to a "TZD Overview" available online.

Dulas goes on to say typical law-abiding drivers are often unaware of the many ways people disobey and sometimes even flaunt the rules of the road. "For every safety feature and every law," he observes, "people find a way to circumvent it." He mentions ways he has seen people disable the warning signal meant to remind people to wear their seatbelts.

Such choices, however, should not be considered "solutions."

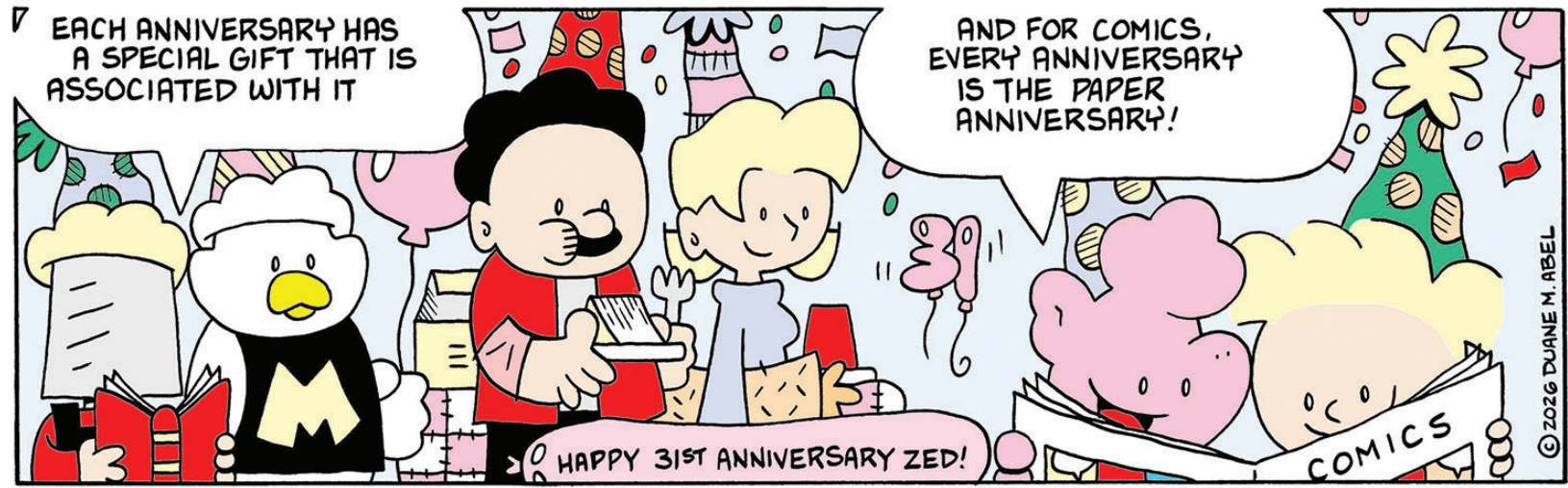
He tells of an accident in the region within the past few months that occurred after one of the back tires of a pickup blew out. The truck went into the ditch and rolled over; neither occupant was wearing a seatbelt. Both were ejected from the vehicle and one of them was killed.

"That's exactly the type of tragedy the TZD program is hoping to reduce," he observes.

Dulas says he believes the TZD patrols do make a difference. For one thing, he says, they are often employed during times when a lot of people are on the road—holidays, special events like prom or homecoming, and long weekends. At times, there are likely to be two or three local law enforcement officers taking part in TZD activities, since the sheriff's department and the Waseca and Janesville police departments all participate.

He also believes a single traffic stop has a circle of influence which goes beyond one warning or ticket. "It provides a good reminder to do the right thing," he says. "People see us, or hear others talking about the incident. "Because they've learned we're out there, they pay more attention to their driving habits."

## ZED by Duane M. Abel



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## ■ Memories

from Page 1

Synod, and the pastor of First Lutheran Church of Waldorf are all included.

There are 11 photographs in sizes ranging from an 8x10 of the 1948 church confirmation class down to a 3x4 photo of the church's altar still standing in the congregation's original wooden structure.

Three complete newspapers were folded into the capsule. One is the Waseca Herald dated July 20, 1950. The Herald billed itself as "Waseca's Thursday Paper," and had printed the architect's drawing of what the church would look like along with a short article titled "Trinity Lutheran Church to Lay Corner Stone Sunday."

Also sealed in was the March 7 edition of the Waseca Journal, which touted itself as the area's "first of the week" newspaper. Though a bit ragged, the surviving copy of the Journal features the church's construction plans as its main story for the week, titled "Contract for \$50,000 Wilton church is awarded to Sjostrand."

The third whole newspaper in the time capsule is a copy of the Lutheran Journal dated May 1950.

Also taken from the time capsule were 7 internal congregation documents. Among these are a brief church history, a list of monetary pledges made by church members in support of the new construction, and a copy of the contractor's bid summary, including how much would be discounted if the congregation were to forego putting a concrete floor in the basement or finishing



**SEALED IN TIME - Trinity Lutheran Church of Wilton, located about 5 miles south of Waseca on County Road 23, sealed its time capsule in July of 1950. The time capsule has been opened and its contents revealed after 76 years.** Pioneer photos by Deb Bentley

the basement once it was constructed. The church's constitution, in the form of a small booklet, was also enclosed.

Also in the box were 15 printed pamphlets and booklets from various events and organizations, including the printed program used for the cornerstone ceremony.

All the items from the cornerstone will be available for the public to see during the final church service in September. The intent



is that, when the closing process is complete, the documents will be donated to the county historical society.

When all the good-byes are said, the 1.7 acre property with its two structures will be shown by a realtor to potential buyers. The former parsonage, a 1970s era split-level house, and the church building, 27x90 feet in size, will be available for purchase.

## ■ Lutgens

from Page 2

fair, quality service. I want to thank Wayne and Mark and the rest of the crew for making my oil changing experiences something I could look forward to and feel comfortable about rather than avoid and put off. Wayne worked really hard and I hope he enjoys retirement, if that is what he is doing.

### Braves

I attended my only Waseca Braves game of the year a couple weeks back. The boys won 5-1 and punched their tickets to the state tournament where they were ousted in a close contest 4-2.

I really wanted to see Kelvin Nelson pitch, which he did the game prior. But my body and schedule did not comply.

I toughed out that night and was really glad I did.

I spent the entire length of the game talking with the guys. It's been a few seasons since I wore a uniform, but I still know plenty of the crew. The group is really something special.

During the game I felt at ease, little stress. I was confident we would win. Something I hadn't felt during the Braves' season-ending games each of the last four seasons, all of which I attended.

I cannot say the same of manager Blake Nelson.

Nerves and a little stress were glowing off of him.

In a good way, though; his passion showed he cares, a lot.

I almost wrote it in my article covering the event that three prayers were said during the game, including one out loud.

I don't know if it was Tink or Blake who said the short prayer requesting a Braves win. But right afterwards—this was in the 7th inning or right before we scored a few insurance runs—I made the comment that I said a prayer the previous inning; for 44-year old designated hitter Ryan Wangen to get a hit. He is a very kind man, with a good heart and a strong baseball mind. That may have been the only prayer I have ever had answered in a sporting contest because Wangen got a single on the very next pitch. That brought a smile to my face.

The Braves winning, that also made me smile.

### Health update

I have been attending physical therapy at a new (to me), place in Mankato, the Orthopedic and Fracture Clinic. The appointments I have there actually feel like what I expected physical therapy to be.

Between them, Jay Bulfer at Growing Roots Chiropractic and also Michelle at Swanson Acupuncture, I am making some progress. This past week I have only needed Tylenol for pain and even managed to sleep a few hours in my bed opposed to just my chair. I am moving better and feeling better. They really allow me to push myself and work on my body in Mankato. It is a workout. And I like that; I pray the progress continues.

In addition I saw a specialist for my side/gastrointestinal pains. She ordered five different tests, one of which is 8 tests for food intolerances and also bacterial tests to see what's wrong. She, the doctor, mentioned that antibiotics could be used to help if the problem is a certain bacterial imbalance. But she also said antibiotics can cause problems. I then mentioned I had just finished the first and only round of antibiotics I had ever been on before all of these issues started 3 ½ years ago. Who knows what's wrong with my gut? This doctor was left speechless. Thankfully, though, she ordered tests I didn't even know exist to help diagnose whatever causes my pain. We both agreed simply managing pain and symptoms is not a good way to live.

### Cribbage

In cribbage this week, Dad got the best of me, winning 20-15 with about four skunks to my three. Counting last week's score of 22-20, our updated scores for the year follow:

Eli 166 wins, 16 skunks, Dad 144 wins, 26 skunks.

### Lifetime

Dad 557, 87 skunks, Eli 503 wins, 55 skunks, 1 double skunk.