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LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY
No. 37 Vol. V \$2 Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca Thursday, September 10, 2026

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Homemade goods

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.

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."

Fall Festival/Ice Cream Social at St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Meriden Sunday, Sept. 13

St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Meriden will hold their Fall Family Festival and Ice Cream Social starting with a 10 a.m. service and lunch and ice cream served from 11 a.m. thru 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 13. Pulled pork, smoked turkey or hotdogs. Silent auction, bingo, cake walk and duck pond. Free will donations accepted.

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.

A word from The Word

The slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man is precious.
Proverbs 12:27



STANDING IN REMEMBRANCE - Members of local law enforcement and emergency medical services stood at attention as "officer down" information was shared regarding the death of then-sheriff Don Eustice during a ceremony marking the 50th anniversary of his death on Friday, Sept. 4. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Don Eustice honored in memorial ceremony

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

At noon on Friday, Sept. 4, the Waseca County Sheriff's office sponsored an "End of Watch" memorial for Don Eustice, a Waseca County Sheriff who was shot and killed in the line of duty on Sept. 4, 1976-50 years ago.

About 50 people attended, including 5 of Eustice's offspring and quite a few of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Family members were provided with yellow roses to lay alongside a memorial located along the south wall of the county law enforcement building.

Amid comments shared during the ceremony, Chief Deputy Doug Gerds told the crowd that, even though it has been so long since Eustice's death, people still spontaneously stop by the memorial, sometimes leaving

flowers or small mementos, or often making the sign of the cross.

In a biography included in his comments, current county sheriff Jay Dulas summarized that Eustice was orphaned during childhood and separated from his siblings. To support himself, Dulas said, he performed "back-breaking work" for an area farmer in exchange for room and board.

Though such a difficult coming of age might easily have led him to be bitter and self-centered, Dulas stated "Something from within led him down a different path. One filled with empathy and compassion." Eustice went on to be "a leader within a group of leaders," and "a problem solver who offered his help generously to those who needed it."

Dulas stated the foundation of compassion and reliability Eustice built is part of the reason



FAMILY FIRST - Five of the nine children of Don and Esther Eustice were able to attend a ceremony marking the fiftieth anniversary of Don Eustice's death. The ceremony took place next to the Eustice memorial plaque that stands next to the county law enforcement building. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

law enforcement personnel in Waseca County today are still regarded with respect and trust.

A stirring part of the ceremony was the "last call," a statement reminding the group that

Eustice's "end of watch" occurred on Sept. 4, 1976. Officers from local law enforcement

Memorial continued on 12

9/11 Birthday is profound for local pilot

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Waseca-based airline pilot Benjamin Priebe will turn 25 on September 11.

"From a young age, I knew the significance of the day and what it meant to Americans," he reflects. "I always knew 9/11 was much more than my birthday."

"I remember growing up watching the morning news on my birthday. Each year I grew older, a new anniversary passed for the terrible day. I remember seeing the images of the burning towers in New York and how scary it was, even many years later as a young kid."

Ben's mother, Michelle Priebe, tells that the birth that day was induced with a procedure beginning at 7:30 a.m.,



Ben Priebe during a visit to the 9/11 Memorial in Washington D.C.

leaving her waiting in a hospital room for biological processes to kick in. In the midst of the wait, "The door to my room flew open as a nurse rushed in and said

'Something terrible is happening to our nation, you need to turn on the tv.' We turned on the tv and sat there for a while in complete shock and sadness."

As the events continued, Michelle remembers speculating it was "a terrible day" to introduce a new life; a nurse took hold of her round belly and said very sincerely, "I think it is a great day to bring a baby into this world." Michele still remembers the odd combination of joy and sadness she felt as she took her healthy young baby home and watched the world reel from the terrifying events of the day he was born.

"We had our brand new 'bundle of joy,' but I remember being

9/11 continued on 10

City's new ladder truck to be shown at state conference

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

During the Sept. 1 meeting of the Waseca city council, fire chief Jason Forshee shared information about an opportunity to showcase the new fire ladder truck 523 at the Minnesota State Fire Chief's Association conference in Duluth from Oct. 14 to 17. He told council members that, if there is an emergency while the truck is gone, the department does have another ladder truck that is for sale which they can use, unless it sells; or they can call on Owatonna for assistance if needed. Three Waseca firemen will drive the truck to Duluth, where the conference insurance will cover the

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

truck as well as provide hotel rooms for the drivers during the conference.

Aaron Johnson, director of philanthropy with the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) gave a presentation regarding services the organization provided to the Waseca area in the recent past. Johnson reported, "The City of Waseca has donated over \$27,000 to SMIF since 2022 and we thank you for your support. SMIF is a regional and philanthropic organization."

Council continued on 6



PLANT, STEP - Marching Band Teacher Devon Lawrence and drum major Colby Hoof were directing the Waseca Marching Jays at the Minnesota State Fair Parade on Sunday, Aug. 30, 2026. Pioneer photo by Jessica Revermann

Marching Jays overcome heat, distraction during Minnesota state fair

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Waseca Marching Jays were part of a competitive parade at the Minnesota State Fair on Sunday, Aug. 30. Besides the drum marching cadence, or "street beat" that was played during music down time, the students played the song, "I Wanna Dance With Somebody" by Whitney Houston.

Devon Lawrence, Marching Band teacher for Waseca High School said, "We didn't have any heat related issues, no fainting or anything like that." There were 70 Waseca students at the fair that day.

Lawrence continued, "We also had a lot of parent chaperones along; they kept an eye on everyone, marched right along with the students, and had plenty of water for those who needed it." The original plan that band members would wear their uniforms was changed; students wore their matching t-shirts in deference to the heat.

Lawrence complimented band members for maintaining their composure and performing without interruption when members of the

Marching continued on 5



Compostings

by Al Batt

September warm

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

Do you ever talk to yourself? Yes, I do sometimes. I wasn't talking to you.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. After her funeral, Lori Bell rode to the cemetery in her husband Dan's 1956 Dodge Sierra Wagon. It touched my heart.

September is the only month whose letter count in its name matches its numerical position in the year. "Fair on the first of September, fair the entire month." "September warm, winter warm." "As September, so the coming March."

THE WAFFLE HOUSE

The heat was oppressive, but fall was in the air. It's the smell of pumpkin spice. Someone said it wouldn't be long before a frost. It's way too soon for that kind of talk. A killing frost is a hard freeze when air temperatures drop to 28°F or lower for several hours, which ends the outdoor growing season.

Circumstances required me to turn down a gig in Hot Springs, Arkansas. I'd loved to have been there and regret not being able to meet people there. I know I'd have eaten at a Waffle House. Waffle House is famous for being open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

I was in a Waffle House for some nibbles in Louisiana. It was a day as hot as bathwater. I ordered a waffle and a glass of water, nothing more, nothing less.

The well-dressed fellow next to me was enjoying a waffle while reading a newspaper. A section of that paper escaped his grip and fell to the floor. He looked to the floor but had passed the age where he quickly made any nonessential movements.

I picked it up, surprised to see that it remained syrup-free. He thanked me.

We traded first names. I chided him good-naturedly about wearing a suit and tie on a steamy day.

He said he dressed up every day, and that he disliked wearing something he couldn't be buried in. "Besides, people might think I'm someone important," he said.

He'd grown up near the foothills of the Appalachians in Kentucky. He became a teacher but had hung up his school ID years ago. His wife had died. He swallowed tears after that disclosure. He moved to Louisiana to be near his son, lives in an apartment, and walks from a bus stop to the Waffle House twice a week. He likes waffles. Me, too. And we know the Waffle House

will be open.

POWERFUL PIERRE

I almost visited France once. I'd received a lot of Pierre pressure. Pierre, South Dakota, was named after the prominent French American fur trader Pierre Chouteau Jr. Pierre, South Dakota, isn't pronounced like the man's name—Pee-air—but like the structure at the end of a dock. It's an example of the Anglicization of foreign names.

I'VE LEARNED

The phrase "never odd or even" is a palindrome.

The preferred plural of the word octopus is octopuses.

The car salesman told me they stocked no new cars that had three pedals—gas, brake and clutch. In 1980, 35% of new vehicles had manual transmission. Less than 1% of new vehicles made for the U.S. market in 2025 had stick shifts. I taught my wife how to drive a manual transmission. She picked it up quickly, but I've retained a nervous tic under one eye.

NATURE NOTES

Curly dock stands 3 feet tall in the ditches. Its rust-brown seed stalks are hard to miss. Butterfly weed, a stunning hardy perennial with bright orange flowers that butterflies love, is there, too. Native Americans used it for healing lung ailments and wounds, earning it the name "pleurisy root."

I watched a pod or a squadron of pelicans feeding. They were up to their bills in bullheads.

Swallows flew low over the lake. Because they eat as they go, swallows tend to migrate by day. Most songbirds migrate at night.

A gray catbird is euryphagous, meaning it eats a wide variety of foods. Catbirds yelled at me for picking raspberries; claiming ownership of the delectable fruit. Recently, I watched a catbird eat the berries of poison ivy. Mothers tell their children, "You eat like a bird." Kids don't, and they shouldn't. Besides poison ivy berries, catbirds eat ants, beetles, crickets, grasshoppers, midges, caterpillars, moths, spiders and millipedes. They eat cherries, elderberries, strawberries, grapes and other berries. In his 1942 short story titled "The Catbird Seat," James Thurber featured a character who used the phrase, "In the catbird seat." The legendary baseball broadcaster Red Barber made the expression famous, using it to mean sitting pretty, like a batter with three balls and no strikes on him. The catbird might have been sitting pretty on the poison ivy.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Be a nice person. The pendulum swings.

Heart-stirring celebrations, Cathedral Crafts

I wish to express my congratulations to the members of the Eustice family who organized and carried out the event at the fairgrounds last Saturday, Sept. 5. There really did seem to be "something for everyone," in the community-focused way meant to memorialize who Don Eustice was and how he approached his position as an elected official.

There were face painting, a bounce house, and a fair-like atmosphere for the youngest in attendance, and a stirring program with Minnesota Appellate Court Judge Renee Worke as a speaker. In her brief talk, Worke shared that working under Don Eustice as an employee at the county law enforcement center shaped her future, convincing her that she should go to college and helping her build the self-confidence needed to complete her training as a lawyer.

My heart was also stirred on Friday during a memorial ceremony organized by the county sheriff's office and held in front of the county law enforcement center, near a memorial stone that stands along the building's south wall.

The heat on Friday was "op-



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

pressive" in the literal way that it seemed to press down on everyone present, sapping energy and making it difficult not to flee to shade or air conditioning.

But people endured and persevered in deference to the cause.

As reported elsewhere in this edition, flowers were laid and speeches were made, all in the respectful, deferential way that reflected the ceremony's purpose. But I was inspired to tears when a long line of public safety workers, including deputies, police officers, and emergency medical workers stood at attention and held a salute during the playing of taps.

Again, my compliments to everyone who planned memorial events for Don Eustice this past week.

On a different topic, I am excited by the development that,

after seeing Cathedral Crafts in action at three local churches (one of them twice, for a total of four times), I have been able to arrange for an upcoming visit to the company's base of operations in Winona.

Cathedral Crafts is a company which builds, installs, and repairs stained glass windows—nearly all of which, of course, are in houses of worship. In fact, I just visited the company's website. The "contact us" portion has "church name" as the first question.

I have reported on local work done by the company at All Saints in New Richland, North Waseca Lutheran and Sacred Heart in Waseca. Each time, the person in charge of the work crew has been the company's operations manager, Caleb Penic. Even if you didn't know he is the

son of the current owners, only a few moments' conversation with him about his work would leave you with the firm feeling he is doing what he was born to do: the enthusiasm and knowledge he exudes as he works are positively magnetic.

He has described some of the steps taken to refurbish stained glass, and now I have an appointment to visit and see some of those steps in progress—huge bonus, some of the windows I will see "on the table" will be from Sacred Heart in Waseca. Incidentally, thank you, Sacred Heart, for providing a perfect reason for me to make this appointment. I look forward to telling you some of what I learn and, of course, providing some pictures.

By the by, last time I reported on Cathedral Craft's work at Sacred Heart, Caleb pointed out the large window in the east-facing wall above the balcony is highly unusual in that its design includes a World War I soldier. A photo of that soldier is among the "showcase" artwork that pops up when you access the company website.

Stranger than Fiction, Will Ferrell's best dramatic work

By BEN REVERMANN

Staff writer

Stranger than Fiction is a 2006 PG-13 film defined as a "fantasy romance, comedy drama." It stars Will Ferrell as Harold Crick and as Harold's wristwatch, and Maggie Gyllenhaal as the love interest. Directed by Marc Forster, it also stars Dustin Hoffman, Emma Thompson and Queen Latifah.

Harold Crick is a content IRS agent who has been doing only routine duties for the past 12 years, until one day his wristwatch makes him late for the bus. He finds out about this lateness beforehand from a narrating voice who finds her way to his bathroom one morning as he's brushing his teeth. Only he can hear her, and she is correct about everything.

At that same time across town, Karen Eiffel, played by Thompson, is suffering writer's block in her developing book, a tragedy about a doomed character named Harold Crick; her only problem

Revermann Recommends

Some favorite movies you are likely to enjoy

By Ben Revermann



is, she is uncertain how to bring about his death.

While attempting to deal with the voice only he can hear, he is put in the path of a literary man, Professor Jules Hilbert, played by Hoffman, and because of one of the lines the narrator said to Harold, "Little did he know...." They do their best to find out whether Harold is in a tragedy or a comedy: Hoffman quotes Italo Calvino. "The ultimate meaning to which all stories refer has two faces: The continuity of life, or the tragedy of death." After eliminating which authors it couldn't be, the two men are led to an author it could be, Karen Eiffel.

During this time Harold, due

to his IRS job, has to audit Gyllenhaal, a bakery owner who purposely didn't pay her taxes, and he starts to have feelings for her. His narrator confirms this. Despite a trip up or two along the way, Harold and Gyllenhaal start to hit things off, and he starts to like his life.

Professor Hilbert suggests that since it seems Harold is in charge of his story, he should try to prevent his approaching death by doing nothing, to see if the plot tries to find him: It does. Hilbert says, "Meeting an insurance agent the day your policy runs out is coincidence. Getting a letter from the emperor is plot. Having your apartment eaten by

Pulled back in with appealing treasures

Every time I find myself becoming annoyed with the world of work, it pulls me back in with appealing treasures.

Last weekend, I was invited to spend a few days in Beaver Creek, a ski town about two hours from Denver. Not only was I offered two nights in a nice hotel, but I was booked for a 4x4 "adventure tour," and given tickets to a show, an activity center, and VIP tickets to Oktoberfest, happening the same weekend.

After work on Thursday Jack and I drove up and made it just in time for the show, "Broadway Sings America." Performers sang Broadway hits from across the years, tying it together with the story of America and its 250th anniversary. It was fabulous.

But my favorite part of the weekend was the 4x4 tour. In a supe-up Jeep decked out to fit seven people in the back with unobstructed views, I got to sit passenger-side with my driver,



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

JB. You see, these tickets had been booked for me, and with Jack in a meeting, it was just me on this adventure. I had assumed I would be sharing the Jeep with a family, or other people who had booked the trip, but when I arrived that morning, they informed me I was the special one going on my own.

JB, a kind, older man of about 70, had been doing these driving tours for 30 years. As I sat next to him, he took me up the slope, telling stories of the trees and the mountain, stopping to share with me the wild raspberry bush he knew of hidden behind a building, taking me to stand on the ski run of the Birds of Prey World Cup Race. Dramatically, a chunk

of the mountain was just ripped away near one part of the run. JB even took me mushroom hunting.

He shared his grapes with me, asked me about life in Minnesota, gave me tips for when I decided to start to learn how to ski in Colorado (JB told me that ice skating is the most natural comparison to downhill skiing, and that waterskiing is the opposite, since you lean back and tense your muscles).

And as I wandered and stared at the views, unable to tear my eyes away, I got that warm, grateful feeling wash over me. If I wasn't working at the magazine, I probably would never have experienced that (at least

not for free). I wouldn't have celebrated Oktoberfest in the mountains, listening to polka music, eating bratwurst, and of course drinking beer.

Taking into account the whole-some conversations and time I got to spend with JB and other people during our weekend there, it just added the bow on top of a scrapbook weekend.

Driving home, as I was white knuckling my way through the mountains (my first time driving in them with my car, which definitely needs the brakes checked), the beauty of the valley, the already changing leaves, and the fact that I was not in the Labor Day weekend, traffic-filled jam going the other way, it was hard not to appreciate my work—and my life.

My Determination: "Somewhere in between the pace of life and work/ And where you're going/ Something makes you stop and notice/ And you're finally in the moment" — Come From Away

WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

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including the communities of Waseca, Janesville, New Richland, and Waldorf

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OBITUARIES

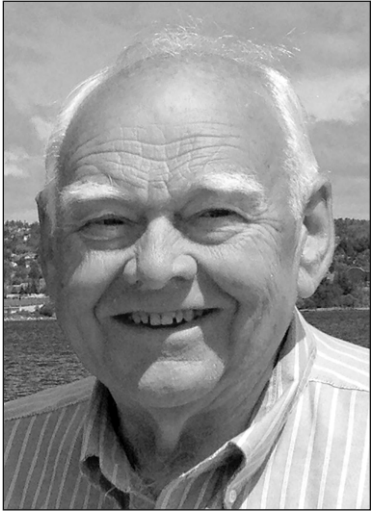
Clayton Oslund

Clayton Richard Oslund, age 90, passed away on September 4, 2026, at Diamond Willow in Proctor Minnesota.

Clayton was born December 31, 1935, to Chester A. Oslund and Mabel A. (Peterson) Oslund in Solway, MN. He graduated from Bemidji High School. He married the love of his life, Mildred Gustafsson at the Solway Log Chapel on September 24, 1957. They had one son Gordon.

Clayton was a lifetime teacher, researcher and author, pursuing further education at the University of Minnesota, University of North Dakota - Grand Forks and the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor. Ultimately, he earned a PhD in Plant Physiology from the University of Minnesota in St. Paul. His passion was with plants and gardening, travel and photography. He loved to share his kind heart and passions with everyone he encountered.

He is survived by his son Gordon (Julie) Oslund of Venice, FL, sister Joanne Peterson of Asheboro, NC, his two step grandchildren Natalie Norris of Mound, MN and Brett (Rebecca) Prescher of Waseca, MN. He is also survived by numerous nieces and



Clayton Oslund

nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife Millie, his parents, sister Loretta Lorschbough of Pinewood, MN, brother-in-law Duane Lorschbough of Pinewood and his brother-in-law Richard Peterson of Asheboro, NC.

A special thank you is extended from the family to Clayton's St. Croix Hospice caregivers. Their heartfelt support and care for him was invaluable. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the Hospice Support Foundation.

A private interment will be at a date to be determined at the Solway Cemetery.

Kenneth Lenz

Kenneth "Ken" Oscar Lenz, age 84, of Waseca, passed away on Friday, September 4, 2026, at Generations Child and Memory Care in Mankato.

Ken was born on August 21, 1942, in Whittemore, Iowa, the son of Friedrich and Oliva (Olson) Lenz.

He grew up helping his father on the farm, where his lifelong love of driving began. At the age of five, he proudly drove a tractor alongside his dad-an early start that sparked both his passion for being behind the wheel and his interest in geography. He began his education in Rodman, Iowa, and graduated from Laurens High School with the class of 1960. He continued his studies at Emmetsburg Junior College before transferring to Mankato State College, earning his bachelor's degree in Geography. To help pay for his education, Ken drove school bus, a job that would later shape the course of his life.

While driving bus for Manske Bus Service, Ken came to know the owner of the bus company, whose niece, Kathleen "Kathy" Maurer, would become the love of his life.

Following his college graduation, Ken joined the United States Marine Corps, attended training at Officer Candidate School in Quantico, Virginia and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant upon graduation. During this time, he and Kathy were united in marriage on July 1, 1967 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Mankato, MN, beginning their life to-

gether while he continued his military preparation. After welcoming their first child, Ken was deployed to Vietnam just a few weeks later.

When he returned home from his service overseas, the young family made their home at Camp LeJeune, North Carolina until his honorable discharge from active duty upon which he entered the Marine Corps Reserves.

Ken had a mind of his own and was always full of ideas. His first job after the service brought the family to Moorhead, MN, where he tried his hand at selling insurance for a year before relocating to Fairmont, MN, where he owned and operated KO's Place. In 1973, Ken and Kathy made Waseca their permanent home when he purchased the bus company from Rita Kortum. He loved every aspect of owning the business-from working with the drivers and the kids to serving the community. In 2010, Ken retired and proudly sold the company to his daughter, Kelli, passing on the passion that had shaped his life.

Ken enjoyed traveling, collecting antique tractors, and any opportunity to jump into a vehicle and go for a drive. During his working years, he looked forward to summer vacations and cherished fishing trips to Canada with his friends and family. He never met a stranger and loved to talk. His family learned that when he said he was running into town for "30 minutes," they should not expect him home for at least two hours. He loved being out and about in the community. Ken was an active member of

the Waseca Lions Club and a devoted member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Waseca, where he served on the Board of Education, taught Sunday School, sang in the choir, and served on the Board of Elders for many years. He will be remembered as a generous, ambitious, hardworking Christian man with an eternally optimistic outlook. Because of his love for people, he became a father figure to many in the community, and his generosity was often shown quietly, in ways few ever knew.

When he needed additional assistance with daily care, Ken moved to Generations Child and Memory Care in Mankato, where he quickly became like family to the staff. His positive attitude and sense of humor never faded.

Ken is survived by his loving wife, Kathy of Waseca; children: Treavor (Becky) Lenz of Prairie du Sac, WI, Kelli Lenz of Waseca, and Aaron (Sarah) Lenz of Holly Ridge, North Carolina; grandchildren:

Treyton Lenz, Kylie Lenz, Mikayla (Kade) Coolidge, Mackenzie Lenz (fiancé, Bret Burns), Porter Lenz, and Drake Lenz; great-grandsons, Graysen Lenz and Asher Coolidge; siblings: Fred (Jan) Lenz of New Ulm and James (Mary) Lenz of Brownsberg, Indiana; brother-in-law, Ron (Linda) Maurer of Brandon, SD; sister-in-law, Lois Palmer of New Brighton, MN; and many nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; siblings: Lawrence (Helen) Lenz, Caroline (Roger) Kalkis, and



Kenneth Lenz

Leonard Lenz; brothers-in-law, Al Maurer and Floyd Palmer, sister-in-law Beverly Lenz and several nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held from 4:00 to 7:00 PM on Friday, September 11, 2026, at the State Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca. Visitation will continue for one hour prior to the service at the church on Saturday.

Funeral Service will be at 11:00 AM on Saturday, September 12, 2026, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Waseca with Rev. Michael Grannis officiating. Interment will take place at Pilgrims Rest Cemetery in Mankato.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to Waseca Area Foundation.

Mary Ryan

Mary Magdalen Ryan, age 89, of Janesville, passed away peacefully on Monday, September 7, 2026, at Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato.

Mary was born on November 30, 1936, in Bellechester, Wabasha County, Minnesota, to Lawrence Joseph and Mary B. (Reding) Majerus. She attended St. Mary Catholic School in Bellechester, where she was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame of the Mankato Province. She later attended Bethlehem Academy in Faribault as a boarding student, where her education was guided by the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, Wisconsin. She graduated with the Class of 1955.

Mary began her working career in Rochester at St. Marys Hospital before moving to St. Paul, where she worked for Economics Laboratory. Following the tragic death of her father in 1957, she returned to Rochester and worked at Mayo Clinic, where she served as a supervisor in the Medical Records Department located in the Harwick Building.

On October 23, 1971, Mary was united in marriage to Patrick George Ryan at St. Mary Catholic Church in Bellechester. Together they shared 38½ years of marriage until Pat's death on May 23, 2010.

After moving to Janesville, Mary worked as a home health aide for Waseca County and later at the Janesville Nursing Home.

Faith, service, and community involvement were central to Mary's life. She served on the board of the Janesville Home Delivered Meals program when it was established in 1974. She volunteered at the Janesville Nursing Home, Janesville Community Food Shelf, Holy Spirit Retreat Center, and Janesville Public Schools as a library aide. She also served as an assistant Girl Scout leader.

A devoted member of St. Ann Catholic Church, Mary generously shared her time and talents through numerous ministries and organizations. She was a member of the Council of Catholic Women (CCW), the St. Ann Quilters Group, and the Benefienders Group, where she served as secretary for several years. She served as a rosary coordinator and Eucharistic minis-



Mary Ryan

ter and participated in the St. Ann Adoration Group from its inception until her health no longer allowed her to continue during the winter of 2024.

Mary enjoyed needlework, sewing, reading, gardening, and canning the produce she grew. She took great interest in the activities of her grandsons and the lives of her friends' children. She will be remembered for her steadfast faith, generous spirit, and lifelong commitment to serving others.

Mary is survived by her children, Faith Ryan and Christopher (Jessica) Ryan; grandsons, Samuel Ryan and Joshua Ryan; special friends, Kelly, Patti, Spencer, and Erin Heitkamp, and Joyce Schwandt; as well as many nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

she was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Patrick Ryan; her brother and sister-in-law, Lloyd and Angie Majerus; her sister and brother-in-law, Rita and Cecil McNamara; brothers-in-law and sters-in-law, Joe and Dorothy Ryan, Dan and Viola Ryan, Esther Ryan, Bob and Blue Ryan, Ken and Betty Ryan, Jim Ryan, Paul Ryan, and Donna and Norm Stevens.

Visitation will be held from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 10, 2026, at the Janesville Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service. Visitation will continue for one hour prior to the Mass at the church on Friday.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, September 11, 2026, at St. Ann Catholic Church in Janesville. Interment will follow at St. Ann Catholic Cemetery. DSOFuneral.com

Bice household offers variety of homemade spreads

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

It was foggy, yet pleasantly cool at the Waseca Farmers Market on Saturday, Sept. 5. There were low hanging clouds and high spirits, and that's where Walter Bice comes in.

Since 2012, Bice has been selling at the Waseca market: "I originally came from Faribault, but I grew up in Shieldsville, Minnesota, which is just west of Faribault." He grows his own walnuts and had an assorted variety including black roasted, maple spice, roasted honey spiced and candied. He also said to never eat the walnuts that fall from the tree in August, "Those are either rotten and they fell, or a squirrel messed with them and they fell, either way, those summer walnuts are too bitter to work with anyway. If you want the best walnuts from the tree, burn the summer ones and don't gather the rest until after Sept. 10. Those fall walnuts are the ones you want." Bice would know because he husks them himself, washes and cures



BERRY GOOD - Pat and Gordy Frisk were shopping Walter Bice's jam and jelly stand at the Waseca Farmers Market on Saturday, Sept. 5, 2026.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

them for a month and a half, then cracks them and snips the nut meat. "After that they taste great."

He also grows his own berries, rhubarb, and raspberries, "But I wasn't able to grow strawberries this year, so I had to branch out for those." Two of his friends came to shop at his stand, Gordy and Pat Frisk. Pat even commented on the clouds near her place, "We couldn't see across the lake this morning because it was so foggy." The three of them then fell deep into conversation about each others' families and conversation with the Pioneer took a break.

Moments later Bice was back at it and started

pointing past the walnuts to his jellies, jams and syrups. Red raspberry jelly, aronia berry Jelly, aronia berry jam, strawberry rhubarb jam, strawberry jam, red raspberry rhubarb jam, black raspberry jam, red raspberry jam, and honey red raspberry jam. He also had a bag of purple Aronia berries. The Pioneer was curious if he knew the difference between jam and jelly, Bice replied, "Jam has the seeds and skin in it. Jelly comes out clear."

Walter Bice says he plans to be at the Waseca Farmers Market until this year's season is over. His wife Lois wasn't with him on Sept. 5, but she may be in the future.

Fire contract with Le Ray township approved

By JANESVILLE
JOURNAL

The Janesville City Council was called to order at 7:00 PM on August 24th, with every council member present.

Community Development Director Katelynn Kratz gave an overview of the work done by the Economic Development Authority in 2026, starting with the EDA business challenge. Launched in January, this challenge promised a cumulative \$20,000 award-\$10,000 from the Janesville EDA and \$10,000 from the Waseca County EDA along with 250 business cards to an upstart Janesville business based on projected plans and success.

Five businesses applied and were subsequently reviewed, with Studio Ro coming out as the winner after several rounds of consideration. "I think this is a great way for the EDA to show that we want to support entrepreneurs and encourage people to invest in our com-

JANESVILLE
CITY COUNCIL

munity," Kratz concluded before moving on to the EDA's store enhancement program.

Again, \$20,000 was budgeted as an award for already established businesses in Janesville. Participation for the program featured 63 eligible businesses, but ultimately only four applied. Three were fully funded while the other received partial funds, meaning the EDA awarded just over \$12,000 toward more than \$52,000 in projected costs.

This was a noticeable decrease from participation in 2025, wherein nine businesses applied for the program, but Kratz assured the council this was expected based on the "new eligibility requirements" added by the EDA. For 2027, the three businesses that did receive funding will not be permitted to receive additional funds; however,

Kratz noted that 10 more businesses will become eligible for the program, so participation is "expected to bounce back."

"Another area of focus was the farmers market," Kratz continued, as it proved successful last year and the EDA believed more visibility could push it even further. To do so, the EDA applied for a grant in the spring of 2026 which awarded them \$1,000 for market promotion, which was used to purchase newspaper advertisements in Janesville, Mankato, Waseca, and New Richland, along with signs and banners placed around Janesville. This proved worthwhile as the market expanded from 14 vendors in 2025 to 24 in 2026, allowing the community to enjoy a wider variety of products.

As of August 1st, the EDA had a revolving loan balance fund of approximately \$200,000 with space for two

more accounts, bringing in roughly \$3,500 a month through loan payments. This year, the EDA approved one new application while three accounts have been paid off meaning that by August 17th, there were eight active accounts.

Finally, Kratz requested permission from the council to apply to the Minnesota Historical Society's capital grants and aid program to help the Janesville Public Library fund repair and improvement projects such as replacing windows and a furnace, mending a hole in the roof, and monitoring water damage in the basement. This requires obtaining contractor quotes to be reviewed and approved by the council before the grant application's January 22, 2027 deadline. The council granted permission for Kratz's request... in the meantime, a layer of sheet metal will

City continued on 12

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HEROES - This photo of Waseca police detective Courtney Hartle with former Waseca officer Arik Matson appeared in the Waseca County Pioneer this past summer, when Hartle was presented with the Arik Matson Legacy Service Award. These two, along with all Waseca County first responders, will be welcome at a Heroes Appreciation Breakfast at the Waseca American Legion the morning of Sunday, Sept. 20.

Waseca Legion offering free breakfast for all county first responders

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

The Waseca Legion, Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion (SAL) are sponsoring a Heroes Appreciation Breakfast the morning of Sunday, Sept. 20 from 8 a.m. until noon at the American Legion Hall.

The first item on the menu is gratitude, followed by pancakes, french toast, eggs, and everything else one would expect. All county emergency medical workers, firefighters, deputies and police officers will eat at no cost to themselves. Others accompanying them will be asked to pay the standard admission price: \$12 for adults, \$8 for children 12 and under.

Members of the public are encouraged to attend for a chance to

express their gratitude and, of course, to enjoy the meal.

Bruce Tappe, SAL president, explains the event was arranged as close to September 11 as schedules allowed, and is meant to honor and thank first responders for the work they do, and for the risks they are willing to take on behalf of county residents.

Members of the Legion, Auxiliary and SAL will be on hand cooking, serving and cleaning up as the morning progresses. Donations of food are being solicited from Hy-Vee of Owatonna and Kwik Trip.

“We decided this would be a very visible, clear way of expressing our thanks,” said Tappe. “We got the word out to all the agencies around the county, and I hope we’ll see nearly all the first responders who help keep us safe.”

■ Marching

from Page 1

crowd stepped into their path. Charlotte Griffith, a Bari Saxophone player in the band summarized, “They see seven bands per day during the parade. There’s a line that says, “Judging starts here” then a little further down the road it read, “Judging ends here” so we would know where the judge’s booth was.” She said scores will likely not be available to bands until after the fair closes on Monday, Sept. 7 and winners are announced. Griffith said her choice for fair food was a bucket of Sweet Martha’s Cookies, a Deep-Fried Oreo, and a Pickle on a Stick. She said she had gone looking for the pickle pizza stand, but never found it.

Lawrence chose to try a brand-new fair food item, brand

new to him at least, “I tried the pumpkin bar funnel cake, it was good. I had never heard of that before.” He also said some of the kids were raving about a pickle pizza, but he didn’t get to try that himself. Lawrence added, “There was a stand called Taulelle’s Jurassic Corn Dogs. Some of the kids were really hyping it up so I tried it and they were amazing! I also never found the apple fries.”

Lawrence said he was proud of the band members for their composure throughout their day at the fair, and especially during their performance. “I can’t point to a single student who made a mistake. They all played well. Toward the end of the parade they did get tired, one end of the fair to the other is a hike and they all have a load to carry. But the students pushed through that with a lot of energy and that was really cool. Well done guys!” The total attendance at the state fair on Sunday, Aug. 30 was 171,054.



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RECOVERY AWARENESS MONTH - During the Sept. 1 meeting of the Waseca County Board of Commissioners, the month of September was proclaimed "Recovery Awareness Month." Members of the recovery community were present to support the cause. Lighting on the county courthouse will be purple all month in recognition of the proclamation. Pictured here are (back row, from left) Commissioners Doug Christopherson and De Malterer, Tyler Bolster, Quen Bena, Christopher Wright, commissioners Brian Harguth, Brad Milbrath and Brad Krause (front, from left) Alexander Henderson, Certified Peer Recovery Specialist Megan Radel and Heather Clark, holding her daughters Vienna and Zella.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

County continues work toward 2027 budget

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

The press toward a preliminary 2027 county budget and levy continued during the Sept. 1 meeting of the Waseca County board of commissioners. During an 8 a.m. work session, representatives of agencies which receive more than \$10,000 a year in "allocations" provided summaries of the services their agencies provide and the services or advances made possible by funds awarded to them from the county.

As reported in an August article in the Pioneer, the county recently paid about \$145,000 as the first half of its annual allocations for 2026, with about the same amount to be paid again in December. The Sept. 1 session was an opportunity for agencies to state and defend their requests for the 2027 budget year.

Making their case were spokespersons from the Waseca Art Center, the Waseca County Free Fair, FarmAmerica, and the Waseca County Historical Society.

Also examined during the work session were the Soil and Water Conservation District budget and the human resources and administration budget. During the conversation, county administrator Michael

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Johnson let commissioners know health insurance rates for the county will increase by 9.9 percent, or roughly \$260,000, in 2027.

Official business transacted on Sept. 1 included awarding a nearly \$340,000 contract for re-roofing the Waseca County Maintenance Garage to Commercial Midwest Roofing, Inc., of Kasson. The contract calls for the new roofing to be in place by Dec. 1.

Commissioners also approved the \$45,200 purchase of a New Holland Boomer 40 tractor from Smith's Mill Implement. The purchase had originally been anticipated in 2027, but repairs for a recent breakdown experienced on the current tractor were expected to cost about \$15,000. Rather than spend that amount to repair the 1995 tractor, county facilities department leader Brian Tomford recommended purchasing the new tractor, which was already on his 2027 budget. Funds to pay for the purchase are expected to come from recent sales of "landlocked" properties not suitable for development as parks.

After 20 minutes or more of discussion whether or not to place \$75,000 into a fund designated for county trails, commissioners tabled the topic to their Oct. 6 meeting. The question was whether to have the \$75,000 in a fund designated for trails, with the chief intent of setting money aside for a possible purchase of land, or to leave the money in the general fund and remove it when needed.

Because the county expects that, if it's possible to reach an agreement to purchase the railroad right of way which passes through New Richland toward Waseca, and then continues north out of Waseca toward Waterville, doing so may take a decade or more, commissioners had a lengthy discussion about whether setting the money aside was necessary, especially when doing so would remove money from the general fund and thus give an appearance of increased expenditures.

During the Sept. 1 meeting, commissioners heard a report from the southwest district of the Minnesota Department of Transportation regarding construction plans through 2036. The district covers 13 counties with Waseca being the easternmost, Sibley the northernmost, and contin-

uing to the state's western border. The report showed only one construction project within Waseca County for 2027, that being some sidewalk work along Highway 30 in New Richland.

An article elsewhere in this edition shares further information about an official proclamation made during the Sept. 1 meeting. September was designated as Recovery Awareness Month in the county, which parallels simultaneous national attention to the same topic.

Certified Peer Recovery Specialist Megan Radel, who now works with WeCovey out of Owatonna, asked commissioners to issue the proclamation and, in recognition of it, to light the Waseca County Courthouse in purple throughout September.

In a brief speech, Radel stated, "Recovery is happening right here in Waseca County every single day. People are becoming better parents, better employees, better neighbors and stronger members of our community.

"Lighting the courthouse purple may seem like a small gesture, but to those in recovery it says, 'We believe in you. We see you. Your life matters.'"

Janesville City Administrator Clinton Rogers celebrates 25 years of public service

By JANESVILLE JOURNAL

When Clinton Rogers first drove into Janesville in the autumn of 2001, he didn't know a single person in town. Fresh off five years of municipal work in nearby communities, he stepped into the role of City Administrator on October 4, 2001, ready for a new chapter.

Twenty-five years later, that new chapter has written itself into a cornerstone of modern Janesville history.

Marking his official 25th anniversary as Janesville's City Administrator—paired with 20 years as a firefighter with the Janesville Fire Department and five prior years in municipal administration—Rogers now celebrates 30 combined years of total public service. For a town of 2,500 people, Rogers' tenure has been defined by steady leadership, massive infrastructure upgrades, and a deep-seated commitment to community.

Roots in Service
Rogers' path to public administration was forged



Clinton Rogers

early on a farm in Worthington, Minnesota. Watching his parents balance hard work with active involvement in church and local organizations instilled in him a foundational ethos of civic duty. "My parents were huge role models when it came to service," he recalled. "Growing up in that environment really solidified a career in government and public work."

After graduating from high school in Worthington, Rogers attended Mankato State University, earning a degree in Political Science and beginning his master's program. His career kicked off in 1996 with municipal positions in Waseca and the City of Mankato. When the Janesville City Administrator position opened up in 2001, Rogers made the leap—and the rest, as he says, is history.

Transforming Janesville's Infrastructure

Over the last 25 years, Rogers has overseen a quiet transformation of the city's physical layout and utility infrastructure. Under his guidance, Janesville has taken an aggressive approach to street and utility im-

provements.

Out of 14 target miles of city street projects, the city has successfully completed 13.5 miles, with another major project planned for 2027. Early in his tenure in 2003, Rogers helped engineer the construction of a

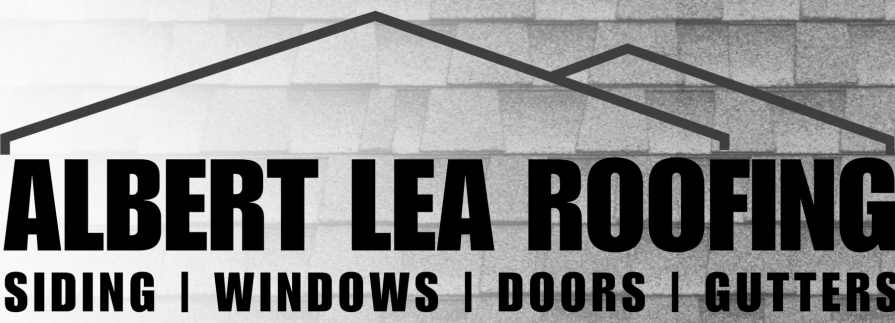
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The Pastor's Column

I remember

By PASTOR MIKE COGLAN

I remember when the Middle East seemed like a very distant land. I remember when Americans took privacy in their personal lives for granted. I remember when I might show up at the airport 15 minutes before my flight and walk right on board with a bottle of my own water and a penknife in my pocket.

A lot changed 25 years ago.

I remember staring at a TV screen for hours. I remember a spontaneous prayer gathering at my church. I remember seeing members of Congress—Democrats and Republicans—standing on the steps of the Capitol Building singing, “God Bless America.”

On September 11, 2001, we were reminded that this world isn’t safe. It hasn’t been safe since the fall of humanity. We live on a planet that has been hijacked by sin and evil. This isn’t the world that God intended, and we know it. That’s why we are so outraged by acts of violence and hatred. We are outraged by evil because we know evil is not what human beings were created for.

If human beings are nothing more than products of nature, it’s difficult to explain our moral outrage at violence. Nature can be beautiful, but it is also violent. Animals kill. The strong often prey on the weak. Yet human beings possess a deep conviction that violence, hatred and injustice are not the way things ought to be.

We long for a time when it wasn’t like this—and when it won’t be like this again. The Bible says that we are made in the image of God, and I think we all carry within us a longing for the way things were meant to be.

There was a time when humanity walked closely with God, but we rejected Him. And when we look inside ourselves honestly, we know that there is violence in our hearts. We have the same potential for violence and hatred as those who plotted to destroy us. There is something dark within the human heart.

It’s not just in the hearts of terrorists.

It’s in me.

And it’s in you.

When everything around us is shaken, we need somewhere—and Someone—to turn to. I must remember that God is our refuge.

Psalm 62:5-7

Yes, my soul, find rest in God;

my hope comes from him.

Truly he is my rock and my salvation;

he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.

My salvation and my honor depend on God;

he is my mighty rock, my refuge.

For me, September 11 has always had another meaning. On September 11, 1973, I first prayed something like this:

Heavenly Father, I’m sorry for my sins. I believe your Son Jesus came to earth to live a perfect life and die to pay the penalty that I deserve. Your Word says that salvation is a free gift for those who trust in Jesus. I repent of my sins, and promise to follow Jesus for the rest of my life.

Until 2001, September 11 meant only one thing to me: it was the day I gave my life to Christ. September 11 is my spiritual birthday.

Terrorism, and all the other problems of the world, will not be ultimately solved by education. Education is good, but education alone cannot change the human heart. Our military is necessary, and we honor the courage and sacrifice of those who serve, but even the strongest military cannot change the human heart. A healthy economy is a blessing, but prosperity cannot change the human heart.

The good news of the gospel is that God did not abandon us to the darkness in our hearts. He came to us in Jesus Christ, offering forgiveness, transformation and the hope of a world made new.

Only God can change the human heart.

And it starts with each one of us.

In my heart.

And yours.

Child’s History of Waseca County

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

The trip was a good deal more of a job than I had anticipated. Much of the way I encountered small groves and brush land where the snow was very deep and the crust not strong enough to bear my weight. After a hard day’s work, I reached the house of a pioneer German, named Reineke, about 4 o’clock p. m. Like most of his nationality he did not fall in love with me at first sight, and to my salutation: "It is a wintry day," he replied: "Ich verstehen sie nicht." This was one of the occasions in my experience where the few words of German I could speak served me well, for neither he nor any of his family could, at that time, converse in English. As soon as he found that I could speak some Ger-

man he shook hands with me and became very friendly.

He invited me to remain over night, a proposition that I was only too glad to accept. He entertained me a portion of the evening with stories of the Fatherland, and then drifted into the difficulties he experienced in not understanding English. He seemed much pleased when I offered to write out the names of familiar objects about the house and farm in English, opposite the German names.

After a good night’s rest and a hearty breakfast, having obtained his name to the remonstrance, I bade him "lebewohl" and proceeded to visit the settlers in Blooming Grove, Mr. Reineke’s farm being in what is now Deerfield, in Steele county.

I proceeded eastward until I struck the settlement known as Swavesey. The first residence I found was that of M. P. Ide, on what afterwards became known as the Patrick Healy farm.

Mel, as he was called, turned out to be a Cornell man and could not be persuaded to sign the remonstrance. I put in the whole day going from house to house, and secured the signatures of all the other men in the settlement that I could find. It was a laborious job to travel about in the deep snow, and night found me at the hospitable cabin of Wm. M. Gray, on section 33, in what is now Blooming Grove.

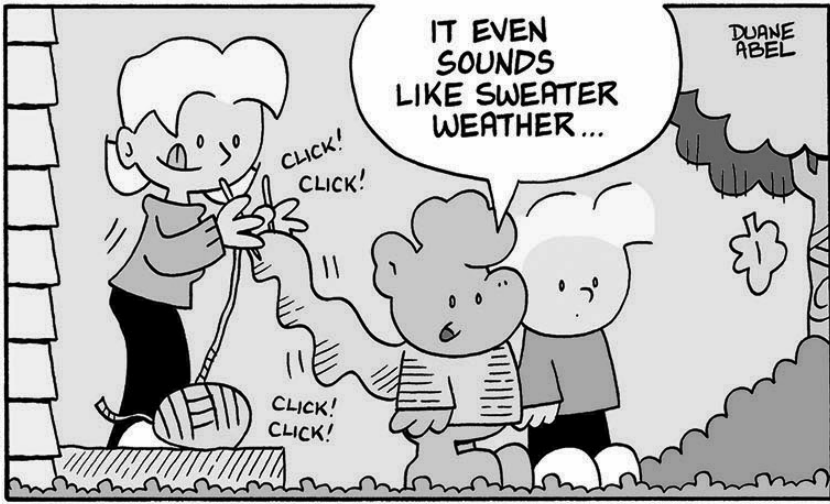
There was a greeting, a charm, a hospitality, a feeling of fraternity among the pioneer settlers of Wisconsin and Minnesota—especially in the latter territory—entirely unknown at the present day. The stranger was always welcome to such accommodations and fare as the settlers possessed. All gathered around the same table and each served the other. Each told to the other his history, almost without reserve, and in one evening they generally knew more of

each other and of each other’s affairs than men born and reared in the same town know of each other these days. Not only did they become acquaintances but they took a friendly interest in each other’s welfare. There was a sympathy among them which later additions to the population seem not to possess.

I spent the night very comfortably and agreeably with Mr. Gray and his family, and the next morning called upon his neighbors, Messrs. Simeon Smith, Alfred C. Smith and E. K. Carlton, obtained their signatures to the remonstrance, and proceeded homewards, arriving at the McDougall cabin just as darkness covered the prairie and grove.

My only compensation for the laborious tramp was the general satisfaction we all felt in the defeat, for the time being, of the proposition to divide the county. Alas! how little man knows of the future.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



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Council

from Page 1

thropic organization that fosters economic and community vitality in southern Minnesota serving 20 counties, 175 communities and one Native nation.” According to Johnson’s summary, SMIF has provided \$355,000 in business loans since 2023 to area companies including Morgan’s Meat Market, Harty’s Manufacturing, Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm, Silver Fox Plumbing LLC, and Four Season’s Apparel. He also mentioned 160 hours of technical assistance in 2025. The foundation donated 175 books to NRHEG and 195 books to Waseca County Public Health. SMIF has awarded grants including the \$7,500 Small Town Grant to the Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center, and \$30,000 to Taylor

Rural Improvements Grant to Bethlehem Inn. As he completed his presentation, Johnson requested that the council continue its past annual appropriation to SMIF of \$2,000.

Waseca City Planner Jon Froke recommended that the council approve a variance request for Jennifer Chen, owner of the Tasty House Restaurant at 105 17th Ave NE, to extend the company’s parking lot to allow for more customer and employee parking. The current parking lot is not in the best condition; this would address those issues and repairs as well. City engineer Nate Willy spoke about issues regarding curb and gutter requirements, but the council didn’t see an issue and approved the request. Froke added, “There is some water collection in that parking lot that we would like to see fixed. The owner would like some exceptions made regarding curb and gutter requirements. We are working to reach a compromise to both allow drain-

age and save cost for the owner.”

A request was made to sell previously used fire and police radios and accessories including older radios, batteries, microphones, battery charging stations, and belt holsters. Such equipment is usually replaced every 10 years or so, these were purchased in 2014. All items would be placed in one lot on Minnibid.org for a public high-bid auction sale, with revenue going to the general fund.

In order to keep the Waseca Municipal Airport zoned RR-S (Rural Service District), a conditional use permit needs to be granted. This will allow the airport to be taxed at a township rate, not a city rate. Councilwoman Stacy Schroeder, who serves on the Airport board said, “We need to replace the skydive hangar electrical panel. We also replaced the water heater in the terminal.”

The Waseca Wastewater Treatment Plant is located on four separate parcels of land. One parcel was within city

limits; the other three were recently annexed into City limits and zoned RR-S. The council will rezone this area from RR-S to I-2 and combine all four parcels into one. The Wastewater Treatment Plant is tax-free property.

Waseca Public Safety Chief Kris Markeson will be presenting information about e-bike and e-scooter rules for Waseca at the Sept. 15 city council meeting; all residents are urged to attend.

Councilwoman Schroeder requests, “Please watch out for kids, they are starting school.” She also wanted to point out how well the local 4-H kids are doing, “They did a great job representing us at the State Fair.”

Councilman Christiansen added, “Hopefully we get some rain, so people can mow. Let’s clean up our city, it will bring jobs and new residents. We need to take care of our properties, especially those properties along the main drag.”

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ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
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CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY
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Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study
Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship

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

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

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

VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Brian Schanil Pastor
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School

Tuesdays: The Shepherd’s Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Father Glenn Ferichs
Friday - 10 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays p.m. Mass
Sunday - Mass at 8 a.m.

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

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

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

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

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
Brad Donner, Branch President
Waseca, Minnesota
www.lds.org
Sunday - 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School
Wednesday - 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages 12-18

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ways to contact the Pioneer:

1. Call 507-837-6767
2. E-mail news@wasecacountypioneer.com
3. Mail: P.O. Box 578, Waseca, MN, 56093
4. Stop in the office at 11 West Elm Ave, Waseca on M, T, TH, F from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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Janesville

25 years ago

- Graduates over 50 years ago from Janesville High School meet on the third Wednesday of September at the Janesville American Legion for a reunion. The year's reunion will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 19. Social hour begins at 4 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6 p.m. It will be a time to renew friendships and remember the school of yesteryears. The class of 1950 will be the honored guests but all the old timers, as far back as the class of 1927, will be present. Spouses and special friends are invited. If you were missed or accidentally forgotten when letters were mailed, the committee apologizes. Please feel free to come anyway. If you have questions call Marcella at 507-23-6477, Adeline at 507-235-5315, or Bert at 507-234-6301.

- Jennifer Lynn Wilmes and Mark Leo Slater were united in marriage on Saturday, June 30, 2001, at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Janesville. Rev. Syl Brown officiated at the 2:30 p.m. ceremony. Parents of the couple are Charles and Jane Wilmes of Janesville, and Don and Doreen Slater of Mankato. Matron of honor was Sara Chicoine of Ankeny, Iowa. Best man was Mike Slater of Mankato. Bridesmaid was Ale-sia Larson of Mankato. Flower girl was Courtney Sprengeler of Janesville. Ring Bearer was Jake Anderson of Mankato. Personal attendant was Louise Enright of St. Clair. Grooms-man was Dave Stenger of Mankato. Ushers were Andrew Sprengeler of Janesville and Holly Jackson of Eagle Lake. A reception was held at the Janesville American Legion. After a wedding trip to Still-water, the couple is at home in Le Sueur.



50 years ago

- Twelve Janesville girls will be collecting for Muscular Dys-trophy in conjunction with the Jerry Lewis Telethon over the Labor Day weekend. Mary and Meleah Morrill, Teresa and Deb Johnson, Jan and Jeri Johansen, Lori, Beth and Wendy Vinson, Ann Gessner, Doreen Mulcahey and Patty Kiner will be knock-ing on local doors Monday, September 6. Last year the girls started the project and collected \$310 for muscular dystrophy. They have set \$350 as this years goal. "The money goes for people who have been handicapped by muscular dystrophy, so we ask for your support when we come to your door September 6," a spokesman said.

- The Waseca County Extension service has organized a corn dryer tour for area residents on Thursday, September 9. It will begin at 1 p.m at the Warren Enevoldsen farm located about six miles north and one mile west of Waseca. Harold Cloud, Uni-versity of Minnesota Extension Agricultural Engineer, will be on the tour to answer questions concerning the operation of corn dryers, planning corn dryer systems, cooling corn, principles of drying, new drying equipment, etc. The tour will stop next at the Loren Smith farm and will end up at the Joe Morgan farm with coffee, milk and donuts for all.



- These eight Janesville Public School students had varied reactions when the Argus asked them If they were looking forward to the first day of school. From left they are Tony Ziegler, Mike Eggert, Billy Eggert, Danny Ziegler, Rob Frank, Andrew Storjohann, Brian. Ziegler and Mark Eg-gert. Bringing up the rear is Scott Eggert.

75 years ago

- Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Stepan of Janesville, have announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter Patricia, to Raymond J. Nakladal, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester Ahrendt of St. Paul. The wedding is planned for Oct. 20 at St. Ann's Catholic church here at 10 o'clock.

- Mr. and Mrs. Roderic Joyce had their infant daughter, Jayne Marle, baptized at St. Ann's Catholic church in Janesville on Sunday afternoon, Aug. 19, by Msgr. P.T. English. The baby's sponsors were Mr. Wm. Vaughn and Gayle Worrell of Madison Lake.

100 years ago

- W.B. Mosher, who years ago was a resident of Janesville, died suddenly while at work in the flour mill at Stillwater at 9 a.m. Friday morning. The body was brought to Janesville cem-etry, Rev. Geo. Stowe of Waseca reading the burial service. Mr. Mosher was still a member of the Janesville A.O.U.W. Lodge. He leaves to mourn his loss, one daughter, Mrs. Henry Olson of Rolla, N.D. and a number of grandchildren. He was 74 years of age. His daughter Mrs. Olson and a brother-in-law E.V. Beers of Stillwater accompanied the remains.

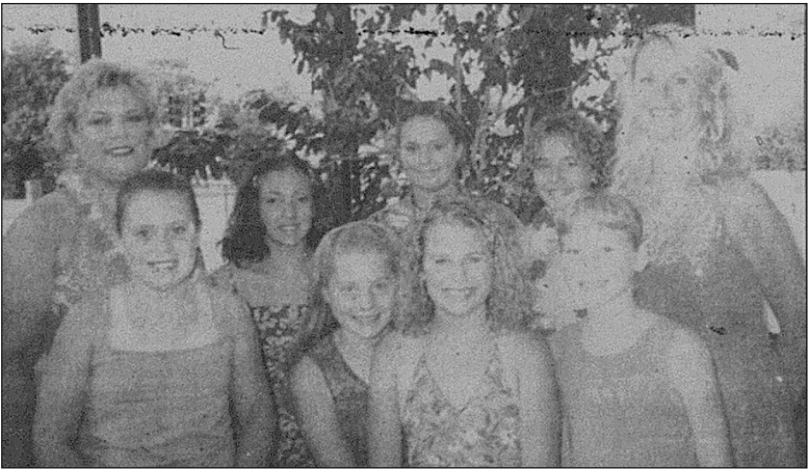
- A man who has sailed around the world thirty times got mar-ried recently. Evidently he never thought of doubling on his tracks to avoid capture.-London Opinion

- Mrs. Skillington, during the course of an afternoon call on Mrs. Biflington, sought the latter's advice regarding a proposed divorce action. "Well," said Mrs. Biflington, on the conclusion of her friend's lengthy recital of her woes. "You have had your marital troubles just like the rest of us; but I am not at all sure that you would be justified in taking this step. You have no other grounds for seeking a divorce, have you?" Mrs. Skillington hesitated a moment, and then added: "To tell the truth, in addition to what I have just said, I have a brother who is a lawyer, and I am very anxious to give him something to do."

Waseca

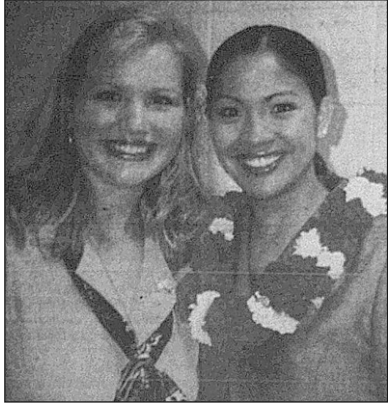
25 years ago

- Carter and Andrea Schumacher of Waseca are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Cierra Rose, born August 9, 2001, at the Owatonna Hospital. She weighed seven pounds, 12 ounces and was 20 and one half inches in length. Maternal grandparents are Ron Wynkoop of Elysian and Pam Wynkoop of Waseca. Paternal grandparents are Marlow and Carole Schumacher of Waseca. Maternal great grandparents are Ken Peterson of Jefferson, Iowa and Katherine Wynkoop of Des Moines. Paternal great grandparent is Susan Sticha of New Prague. Cierra Rose is welcomed home by her siblings, Ty Michael, who is almost six years old, and Kailee Adeline, who is three years old.



- Students and teachers from Sharri's School of Dance of Waseca, at-tended a NADAA (National Association of Dance & Affiliated Artists) convention in July in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Pictured are: Front Row: (L-R) Tiffany Rocca, Lauren Zimmerman, Alexandra Boje, Katie Har-vey Back Row: Sharri Rocca - Instructor, Brittany Thomez, Allison Rocca, Sarah Anderson, Jayne Harvey - Instructor. Sherri Rocca has been a NADAA member for nine years.

- Miss Waseca County, Emily Keller, had the opportunity on Aug. 21 to meet the current Miss America, Angela Perez Barraces. Angela was on a speaking tour in Winona promoting her platform, "Characters Counts," and the im-portance of supporting our school teachers. Miss America is a sec-ond grade teacher in her home state, Hawaii. She will go back to Hawaii and teach after she gives up her crown on Sept. 22. Emily was able to ask miss America, "What advice would you give in picking a platform?" She said a contestant should pick a platform that is true to her heart, one that is meaningful and rewarding to her. Emily will be accompanying Miss Waseca County Pageant Director Jacque Jenkins to Atlantic City, NJ, this month to attend this year's Miss America pageant.



- Memorials have been received by the American Cancer Society for the month of August 2001 in the amount of \$213.00 given in memory of the following individuals: Alving Edlier, Clarence King, Martha Smith, Elma Cowles, Esther Bock, Kenneth P. Miller. All memorial contributions count toward the Waseca County Goal and are used to support the Cancer Soci-ety's planned programs of research, education and service. If you wish to give a memorial to the American Cancer Society in memory of a loved one please forward the memorial to Lucille Youngberg, Waseca County Memo-rial Chair, 413 9th St. SE, Waseca, Mn. 56093-3823, or contact any Amer-ican Cancer Society Board Member and they will deliver the memorial on your behalf.

50 years ago

- Mary Lou Kinkade, Waseca, accomplished a couple of things the day she ran a JOURNAL classified ad. Her mother-in-law had come to her house (the evening the JOURNAL hit the streets) with the intention of help-ing her daughter-in-law clean her garage. Good Ole "mom" wound up cleaning the garage by herself as Mary Lou Kinkade showed the electric typewriter she had advertised to a steady stream of customers and eventually made a sale. Said Mom, "The next time I offer to help her, I'm going to make sure Mary Lou has no ads running in the JOURNAL!" If you want that kind of response, call Julie (835-2220) and place an ad yourself.

- Margie Ann Axelson, daughter of Mrs. Harry Mortice, Minneapolis, formerly of Albert Lea, and the late Carl H. Axelson was wed Aug. 7 to Bradley W. Kerns, son of Mr. and Mrs. W.A. Kerns, Sun City, Ariz. The honorable Milton D. Mason, retired judge of the Fifth Judicial District, con-ducted the garden ceremony at 117 Rita Rd., Mankato. Mrs. Leon Benson, Mankato, was matron of honor. Merrill N. Davis III. Rochester was best man. Hosts were Mr. and Mrs. Andres Schuster and Mrs. Delores Aho, Mankato and Mr. and Mrs. Roy C. Myers, Waseca. A reception followed the ceremony at the bride's home in Mankato. It was attended by about 200 guests. Following a motor trip through the southern central states, the couple will be making their home at 117 Rita Rd., Mankato. Mrs. Kerns is a former resident of Waseca.

- Moderate damage was result of a two car accident at 4:15 p.m. Tuesday, According to the Waseca Police report. Involved in the intersection collision at West Elm and 2nd St. were cars driven by Arthur R. Hecht, R. 4, Waseca and Jean L. Anderson, the Highlands, Waseca. No injuries were reported.

75 years ago

- A picnic dinner and social afternoon was enjoyed at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Pfeffer at Madison Lake Sunday, August 19, in honor of fSister Noreen Burke of Currie, and Sister Cyprian Burke. Guests were Wil-iams, John and Ann Burke, and children. Mr. and Mrs. James Gallagher, Mr. and Mrs. Art Murphy, Mrs. Elanor Joyce, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Glynn and children. Mrs John Glynn, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Keely and children. Mr. and Mrs.H. Keely and family, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Crellin and children of Lakefield, Miss Mary Keeley of Rochester, Mr. and Mrs. George Denham and son, Charles, and Mrs. Joseph Gallagher of Minneapolis, the honored guests and the Pfeffer family.

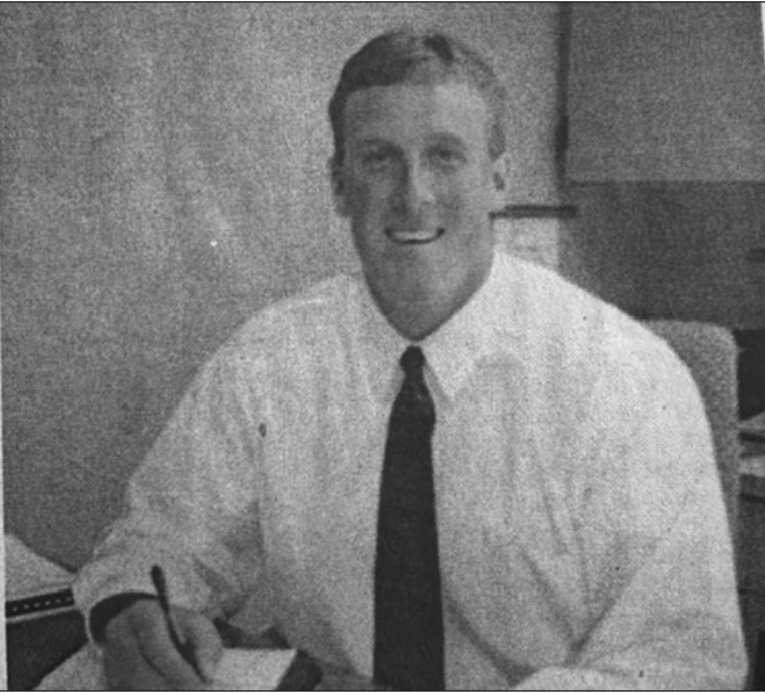
- The Northwest Bell telephone company reported today that about 200 telephones mostly on rural lines, were knocked out of service Monday night during the violent electrical storm in the area. The phones were back in order quickly, however, as repairs were made early the next morning. Don Herbert, city water and light board manager said there was no trouble en-counterred on city power lines and the Electric Construction Co. reported no damage on its line. Several television sets in Waseca went on the blink during the storm, and others reported lightning bolts which hit very close to their homes. Two of these were Marvin Johnson and Victor Bailey. Both reported lightning struck in their yard and experienced electrical difficulties in their homes.

100 years ago

- Mr. and Mrs. P.H. McGruder celebrated their 28th wedding anniversary with a delightful one o'clock dinner at their home Sunday. Pink roses and chrysanthemums decorated the table with covers laid for seventeen. Just as they entered the dining room a congratulation message was received from their son Cletus, who is in Seattle, Wash. Among those present from out of town were Mr. McGruder's three brothers: O.E. McGruder and family, J.H. McGruder and wife and T.J.McGruder, of Minneapolis. Mr. and Mrs. McGruder were the recipients of many nice gifts and the occasion proved a very happy one for all present.

New Richland

25 years ago



- This happy young gentleman is Dan Stork. Dan accepted the El-lendale Elementary Coordinator position this year and is in the pro-cess of making the transition from classroom to office. The Stork family make their home in New Richland.

- The newly organized New Richland Historical Society met Monday, August 20, at 7 p.m at the Washburn house on the corner of South Broad-way and East Division Street. Officers elected were: Gary Streng, Pres-ident; Dale Halgren, vice President; Adrea Johnson, secretary, with Ruth Fischer substitute and Pastor Charles Espe, treasurer, with Kermit Kalke, assistant.

- Tim and Jenny Stoesz of New Richland are the parents of a daughter born Friday, August 10, 2001, at Waseca Medical Center. Breanna Megan, as she has been named, weighed 9 pounds, 1 ounce and was 20 ¼ inches in length. Breanna has two brothers, Benjamin, 4 years old, and Gabriel, 16 months old.

50 years ago



- Homecoming Queen candidates chosen last week by the New Richland-Hartland high School football and cross country teams are looking forward to the coronation ceremonies, Thursday, Sep-tember 23. They are from the left, seated: Stacie Jessen, Nancy Wen-zel and Beth Flor and standing: Karin Edwards and Julie Weydert.

- Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Sand, Jr. (nee Sharon Purdie) announce the birth of a son on August 19, 1976 at Abbott/Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis. He has been named Kyle Christopher and weighed 7 pounds, 2 ½ ounces and has one sister, Alyssa, who is three years old.

75 years ago

- Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Hagen announce the engagement of their daughter, Marlys, to Harlowe Sorenson, of the U. S. Navy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Sorenson of Albert Lea. The wedding date has been set for Sunday, October 28.

- Mr. and Mrs. George Ellis, nee Margaret Evenson, of Owatonna, are the parents of their second daughter, Cynthia Maren, born at the Owa-tonna hospital Thursday, September 27, weighing 8 pounds, 5 ounces. The little girls have a brother.



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SEASON-OPENING ACTION — At left, the Bluejays’ Sam Selthun runs for some of his game-high 255 yards rushing during the Waseca High School football team’s season-opening 41-24 victory over St. Peter last Friday. In the middle, Jonah Worke (3) and Lincoln Castro (42) team to stop a St. Peter ball carrier. At right, Nolan Dufault totes the football. Photos by Waseca Football Association

Bluejays dominate St. Peter in season opener

Selthun runs for 255 yards in 41-24 triumph

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Only the players know for sure if the Waseca High School football team took the St. Peter Saints a bit lightly in last year’s season opener. The coaches made sure it didn’t happen again.

On an extremely hot night with temperatures near 90 at the opening kickoff, the Bluejays blew open a close game in the second half and cruised to a 41-24 triumph in the 2026 season opener on the WHS field last Friday.

In his preseason prognostication, WHS head coach Brad Wendland said the Bluejays expected to be good this fall.

They lived up to the billing on a night that required frequent water breaks for the players, coaches and officials.

“We’re very proud of the kids’ effort and grit in the extreme conditions,” said Wendland. “We played a lot of guys and met our goal of being 1-0. St. Peter is a well coached and talented team. This was a good win.”

But, according to Wendland, there’s room for improvement on the Bluejays’ side of the ball.

“We haf lots of stuff to build on

and lots of stuff to get better at,” he said.”

After stopping the Saints on fourth down on the game’s opening possession, the Bluejays set the tone for the night, mounting a long drive that culminated with a 2-yard touchdown run by quarterback Kellen Klinger. A two-point conversion try failed and Waseca led 6-0 after one quarter.

Klinger passed to Owen Rupe for a 45-yard touchdown in the second period. Klinger ran for the two-point conversion.

St. Peter narrowed the gap to 14-8 at halftime.

The Bluejays put it out of reach in the third quarter on a 39-yard pass from Klinger to Owen Honstad and touchdown runs of 40 and 34 yards by Sam Selthun.

Isaiah Dymeck tacked on the Bluejays’ final touchdown in the fourth quarter on a 3-yard run.

For the game, the Bluejays out-gained the Saints 470-280, including 340-75 yards rushing.

Selthun finished with an impressive 255 yards rushing on 14 carries. Klinger ran the ball 12 times for 75 yards. He was 5-for-9 passing for 130 yards.

Rupe led the receiving with two

catches for 52 yards.

Defensively, Kallen Glynn totaled 10 tackles. Nolan Dufault registered seven stops and added an interception.

“We’re excited to go to Belle Plaine next Friday to play a 1-0 section opponent,” said Wendland.

	Waseca 41 St. Peter 24			
SP	0	8	8	8 – 24
WAS	6	8	20	7 – 41

First Quarter
WAS — Klinger 2 run (two-point conversion unsuccessful)

Second Quarter
WAS — Rupe 45 pass from Klinger (Klinger run)
SP — Moelter 2 pass from Korir (Potts run)

Third Quarter
WAS — Honstad 39 pass from Klinger (2-point conversion unsuccessful)
WAS — Selthun 40 run (Selthun run)
SP — Guida 18 pass from Korir (two-point conversion successful)
WAS — Selthun 34 run (two-point conversion unsuccessful)

Fourth Quarter
WAS — Dymeck 3 run (Rupe kick)
SP — Moelter 7 pass from Korir (Korir run)

	SP	WAS
Rushing Yards	16-75	40-340
Passing Yards	205	130
Total Yds.	280	470

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Third Quarter
FC - Rindels 44 pass from Bahl (PAT successful)
JWP - Harris 8 pass from Dahlberg (Successful two-point conversion)

Fourth Quarter
FC - Bahl 3 run (PAT unsuccessful)

	JWP	FC
Plays	51	46
First downs	17	21
Rushing Yards	30	338
Passing Yards	264	125
Total Yds.	294	463
Penalties	2-10	4-29

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing — JWP: Cluast 1 — 1, Dahlberg 1-0; Schultz 3-13; Kronbach 9 15; Schultz 2-3; FC: Kaase 1-1, 4; Bahl 70-14, 121

Passing — JWP: Dahlberg 20-30, 278

Receiving — JWP: Wolff 3-39; Bauer 7-170; Harris 1-9; Gearity 2-22; Schultz 2-13; Kronbach 5-41; FC: Kaase 2-22; Ristau 4-25, Rindels 4-81

JWP Defense — Bauer 7T, Weedman 7T, Harris 2T, Gearity 6T, Schultz 3T, Bure 2T, Kronbach 4T, Rider 7T; Huber 3T, Schoenrock 1T



IT WAS HOT — Owen Rupe cools off with the help of an ice block during last Friday’s win over St. Peter for the WHS football squad. Temperatures were hovering in the 90-degree range at kickoff. Photo by Waseca Football Association

Rushing — WAS: Selthun 14-255, Klinger 12-75, Dufault 3-13, Rohl 1 — 4, Dymeck 6-29, Howard 2 — 3; Ristau 1-5; SP: Korir 16-75, Moelter 8-41, Wills 1-1, Jensen 1 — 1, Swenson 1-6

Receiving — WAS: Selthun 1-29, Rupe 2-52, Honstad 1-39, Ristau 1-10; SP: Moelter 8-63, Potts 2-22, Wills 4-35; Welp 2-7, Olson 1-20, Guida 2-46, Swenson 1-12

Passing — WAS: Klinger 5-9, 130; SP Korir 20-34, 205

WAS Defense — Glynn 10T; Dufault 7T, 1 int.; Knutson 5T; Worke 1 pass def.; Stencel 1 pass def.

Fillmore Central pulls away from Bulldogs in opener

The first half of the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School football team’s season opener went well.

The second half Not so well.

The Bulldogs saw Fillmore Central put 20 points on the scoreboard in the final two periods on the way to a 48-28 decision last Friday.

“It was close until halftime,” said JWP head coach Ryan Luedtke. “Fillmore Central pulled away in the second half.”

The Bulldogs scored on a 1-yard run by quarterback Seth Dahlberg in the first period, with Gavin Bauer hauling in a 71-yard scoring pass from Dahlberg in the second quarter.

The Bulldogs’ final points came in the third period on an 8-yard pass from Dahlberg to Leighlan Harris.

The Bulldogs were outgained in total yards 463-294, including 338-

30 rushing.

Dahlberg completed 20 of 38 pass attempts for 278 yards.

Bauer had a big night in the receiving department, hauling in seven passes for an impressive 170 yards. He also led the defense with seven tackles. Gavin Weedman and Trenton Huber added seven stops apiece.

The Bulldogs host St. Clair this Friday, with kickoff set for 7 p.m. at Janesville.

Fillmore Central 48, JWP 28

JWP	6	14	8	0 - 28
FC	14	14	14	6 - 48

First Quarter
FC - Daniels 10 run (PAT failed)
JWP - Dahlberg 1 run (PAT failed)
FC - Bahl 33 run (Kaase run)

Second Quarter
JWP - Kronbach 1 run (Dahlberg run)
FC - Daniels 6 run (PAT successful)
JWP - Bauer 71 pass from Dahlberg (PAT failed)
FC - Bahl 1 run (PAT successful)

Third Quarter
FC - Rindels 44 pass from Bahl (PAT successful)
JWP - Harris 8 pass from Dahlberg (Successful two-point conversion)

Fourth Quarter
FC - Bahl 3 run (PAT unsuccessful)

	JWP	FC
Plays	51	46
First downs	17	21
Rushing Yards	30	338
Passing Yards	264	125
Total Yds.	294	463
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INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing — JWP: Cluast 1 — 1, Dahlberg 1-0; Schultz 3-13; Kronbach 9 15; Schultz 2-3; FC: Kaase 1-1, 4; Bahl 70-14, 121

Passing — JWP: Dahlberg 20-30, 278

Receiving — JWP: Wolff 3-39; Bauer 7-170; Harris 1-9; Gearity 2-22; Schultz 2-13; Kronbach 5-41; FC: Kaase 2-22; Ristau 4-25, Rindels 4-81

JWP Defense — Bauer 7T, Weedman 7T, Harris 2T, Gearity 6T, Schultz 3T, Bure 2T, Kronbach 4T, Rider 7T; Huber 3T, Schoenrock 1T

BLUEJAY FOOTBALL

PLAYER of the WEEK
Samuel Selthun
9/4 win versus St. Peter 41-24

Bluejay Football Player of the Week Sponsored by:

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BIG NIGHT — NRHEG's Sean Lassahn runs for some of his 240 yards during the Panthers' 38-14 victory over St. Clair.
Photo by Jim Lutgens

Lassahn, Panthers stifle St. Clair

Senior runs for 240 yards as NRHEG improves record to 2-0

How did the NRHEG High School football team follow an impressive season-opening victory at Sleepy Eye?

With a dominating showing against St. Clair in a 28-14 victory on the Panthers' field last Friday.

"It was a great win for our guys before the bye week," said first-year Panthers head coach Devin Lockerby. "This team doesn't quit. I'm super excited to see how the rest of the year goes. It was great seeing the stands full with Panther Nation behind our back."

The start of the game was moved back 30 minutes because of temperatures that hovered in the 90-degree mark. It made for many water breaks for the players, coaches and officials.

The Spartans put the first points on the scoreboard, scoring on a 3-yard run and completing a two-point conversion.

The Panthers answered with a 1-yard touchdown run by Sean Lassahn. A failed two-point conversion saw

NRHEG trail 8-6 after one quarter.

The Panthers tied it with a safety as a St. Clair snap in punt formation sailed over the punter's outstretched hands and into the end zone.

Lassahn added a 51-yard scoring run in the second quarter, putting NRHEG up 14-8 at halftime.

But Lassahn wasn't done.

He scored on a 50-yard sweep in front of the Panthers' bench in the third quarter. Lassahn also carried for a successful two-point conversion.

Still, Lassahn was far from finished. He scampered 20 yards in the fourth quarter to put the Panthers on top 28-14, and that's how it finished.

For the night, Lassahn ran for an impressive 240 yards. Quarterback Brooks Gilliland did not have to throw the ball much. He finished with 15 passing yards while running for 28 more.

The Panthers ran 47 plays on offense, outgaining the Spartans 283-161 in total yards and outrush-

ing St. Clair 268-98. They had 12 first downs to nine for the Spartans.

Mack Gilliland had a diving interception for the Panthers to stop a second-quarter St. Clair drive.

Lassahn had eight tackles, as did Ryan Schlaak. Brock Holland made five stops, Dakota Schlaak and Fynn Baumann two apiece, Tyler Piepho, Dylan Schroht and Levi Whiteside each had one tackle.

NRHEG 28, St. Clair 14					
SC	8	6	0	0	14
NRHEG	6	8	8	6	28

First Quarter	
SC —	3 run (two-point conversion successful)
NRHEG —	Lassahn 1 run — 71 pass (two-point conversion successful)
Second Quarter	
NRHEG —	Lassahn 51 run (two-point conversion unsuccessful)
NRHEG —	Safety
Third Quarter	
NRHEG —	Lassahn 50 run (two-point version successful)

Fourth Quarter		
NRHEG — Lassahn 20 run (two-point conversion successful)		
	NRHEG	SC
Total plays	47	51
First downs	12	9
Rushing	268	98
Passing	15	64
Total Yards	283	161
Third Down	3-8	3-10
Fourth Down	2-4	2-4
Penalties	6-53	3-20

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING — NRHEG: Lassahn 25-240; B.Gilliland 3-28; SC: Wilmes 1 —3, Godfrey 1 —4, Rest of team 29-105

PASSING — NRHEG: B.Gilliland 2-13, 50; SC: Godfrey 7-16, 53

NRHEG Defense — Lassahn 8T, Holland 5T, R.Schlaak 8T, D.Schlaak 2T; Bartlett 2T, Baumann 1T, Piepho 1T; Schroht 1T; Whiteside 1T

NRHEG FOOTBALL 2026

Thursday, Aug. 27 at Sleepy Eye (WIN)

Friday, Sept. 4 St. Clair WIN

Friday, Sept. 18 Southland 7 p.m.

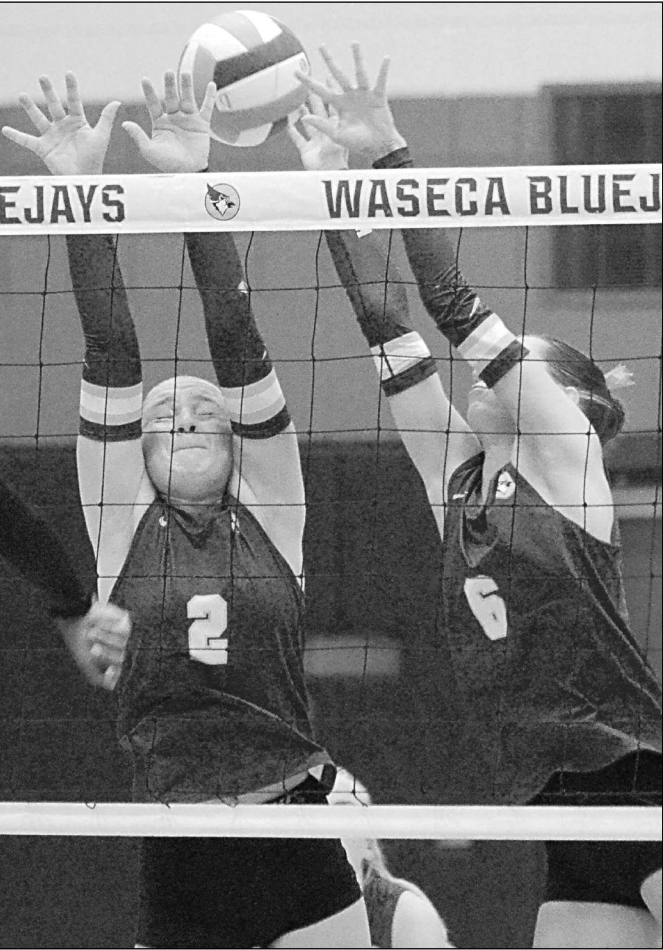
Friday, Sept. 26 Lewiston-Altura 7 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 2 at Redwood Valley 7 p.m.

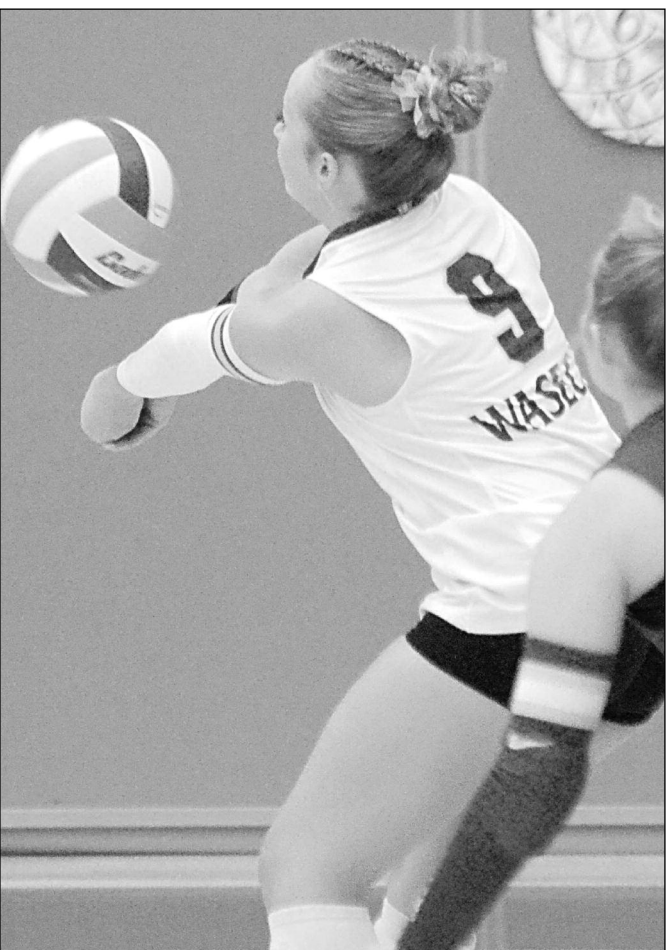
Friday, Oct. 9 at Fillmore Central 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 14 Medford 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 21 at USC 7 p.m.



HOME OPENER — At left, the Bluejays' Avery Barto and Addison Zimmerman go up for a block against Marshall. In the middle, Zimmerman scores with a spike.
At right, Hannah Helget executes a dig.



Tall, talented Marshall team upends WHS spikers

The Waseca High School volleyball team hosted a tall, talented and deep Marshall squad in its season opener last Thursday on the Bluejays' court.

The outcome was about as expected.

The Tigers won 3-0, by scores of 25-10, 25-7 and 25-11.

"It was a tough match," said Bluejays coach Krissy Plonske. "Marshall is a really good squad. But, we've already moved past it and ready for the next match."

Avery Barto led the Bluejays with five digs and five assists. Kaia Sartori registered three kills, two digs and three assists.

After a Tuesday match at St. Peter, the Bluejays are in action Monday, Sept. 14 at Medford and Tuesday, Sept. 15 at home against TCU.



THEY HAD FUN — At left, the Bluejays celebrate a point against Marshall. Pictured are Ashley Flifflet, Avery Barto, Ellie Schleicher, Hannah Helget. In the midele, coach Krissy Plonske address her squad between games. At right, Savanna Vagts connects on a spike.



NRHEG spikers drop two

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva volleyball team hosted Albert Lea in a nonconference match at New Richland last Tuesday.

The Tigers came away with a 3-0 victory, but each set couldn't have been much closer, with the Panthers falling 25-23, 25-23 and 25-10.

"Each set was a battle between the two teams with a lot of long volleys and scrappy volleyball," said Panthers head coach Bethany Tennis.

Aubrey Hendrickson led the Panthers in digs while Anika Ladlie and Clara Buendorf both had five blocks on the net. Captain setter Brooklyn Sommer had 13 set assists on the night.

Full Panther statistics: Ezra Boerner two kills, two digs, one block, one ace; Izley Boerner four digs, one set assist, two aces; Buendorf three kills, five blocks; Hendrickson one kill, six digs, one ace; Ladlie six kills, one dig, five blocks, one ace; Joey Rossing one

dig; Sommer three digs, 13 set assists, two blocks; Emmy Stadheim three kills, four digs, two blocks, two aces; Ciara Stenzel four digs.

Two nights later, the Panthers faced Tri-City United at Montgomery and lost 3-0, with set scores of 25-12, 25-20 and 25-14.

"We faced some tough competition tonight at TCU," said Tennis. "Overall, we are playing well together and hope to work towards a more consistent serve receive, which allows us to move on to more offensive opportunities throughout the play."

Totals for the Panthers: Ezra Boerner one kill, 10 digs; Izley Boerner five digs; Buendorf one kill, three digs, three blocks; Sierra Fish three kills, one dig; Hendrickson nine digs, one set assist; Jovey Knudson two kills, one block; Ladlie nine kills, nine digs, one block; Sommer seven digs, 10 set assists; Stadheim one kill, three digs; Stenzel one set assist.

Up-and-down season continues for WHS netters

The Waseca High School girls' tennis team had a successful road trip to New Ulm last Thursday, where the Bluejays defeated the Eagles 6-1.

At No. 1 singles, the Bluejays' Hannah Rugger won in straight sets, as did Ava Miller at second singles. Sam Sutton registered a three-set victory at No. 4 singles. Chloe Hagen fell 6-3, 7-5 at third singles.

Lucy Deml and Libby Miller teamed for a 5-7, 7-5, 6-2 triumph at No. 1 doubles, while Hannah Sommers and Olivia Hagen won a marathon match at No. 2 doubles, 5-7, 7-5 (4), 11-9. Everly Kestel and Kayla Landrum won in straight sets at third doubles.

The win improved the Bluejays to 2-4 overall and 1-1 in the Big South Conference Black Division.

Two days earlier, the Bluejays

hosted St. Peter and lost 6-1.

The Bluejays' lone win was a big one, as Rugger dominated the seventh-ranked player in Class AA, Kylie Southworth, 6-0, 6-1.

Ava Miller, Olivia Hagen and Andy Rugger played the other singles matches for the Bluejays.

Doubles teams were Demo and Hagen, Libby Miller and Sutton, and Landrum and Kestel.

A day earlier, the Bluejays

dropped a 6-1 match to Maple River at Mapleton.

Ava Miller registered Waseca's lone win, 6-0, 6-2 at No. 2 singles. Hannah Rugger, Hagen and Landrum played the other singles matches.

At doubles for Waseca were Libby Miller and Demo, Hagen and Sutton, and Andy Rugger and Kestel.

WHS CC teams open season at Bill Glomski Invitational

The WHS cross country teams opened the regular season Thursday at the Bill Glomski Invitational at Stewartville's Bear Cave Park. Distances were shortened due to heat.

Taylor Markeson led the Waseca girls, finishing 11th in 13:03.9 for the 3200-meter course. Following for Waseca: Stella Omtvedt, 32nd, 14:33.8; Maren Schimming, 45th, 14:40; Quinn Yoder, 47th, 14:42.1;

Megan Tegmeier, 52nd, 15:01; Leah Wilson, 75th, 15:27.9; Ellie Kopischke, 77th, 15:28.3.

"Taylor has really been putting in the miles and it showed today," said Bluejays coach Grant Popp.

Byron was the girls' varsity team champion with 33 points, topping a 15-team field. The Bluejays were sixth with 170.

Sam Feldkamp led the WHS boys, taking 34th with a time of

11:52.7. Following for the Bluejays: Keenan Collins, 39th, 12:02.7; Luke Feldkamp, 73rd, 13:03.5; Ryan Yoder, 82nd, 13:23.6; Miles Popp, 91st, 13:48.1.

Stewartville topped the varsity boys with 68 points. Waseca was 12th with 281.

"It was a lot of fun seeing Sam's hard work and summer improvement really pay off," said Popp.

The only other full squad for

Waseca was in the boys' C-squad division. Bluejay places and times for 1200 meters: Noah Love, fourth, 5:38.3; Kurt Erickson, 14th, 5:47.9; Korbin Collins, 27th, 6:04.3; Levi Rohe, 28th, 6:05.1; Will Deml, 58th, 6:37.9; Joe Harguth, 68th, 6:53.4; Owen Fierke, 81st, 7:17.7.

New laws effective as of August 1

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

EDUCATION

Grooming a minor established as a felony and other education provisions

Beginning Aug. 1, 2026, grooming a minor will be a felony offense. Grooming occurs when a person 18 years of age or older “expresses the desire or intent to engage in sexual conduct with a child; and engages in a deliberate pattern of conduct to methodically develop a false trusting relationship with the child that is intended to strategically manipulate the child to engage in sexual conduct with the person at a future time, regardless of whether any sexual conduct occurs.”

By Aug. 1, 2027, the Department of Children, Youth, and Families, in consultation with the Department of Education, must update the mandated reporter training for education professionals or professionals’ delegates engaged in education. The update must include, but not be limited to, “the requirement to report allegations of maltreatment of students, including students receiving special education services; and addressing grooming and threatened sexual abuse, including the duty to report grooming as maltreatment ... how to identify the signs of grooming, and recognizing environments and circumstances that present an increased risk of grooming.”

Rep. Peggy Bennett (R-Albert Lea) and Sen. Erin Maye Quade (DFL-Apple Valley) are the sponsors. HF3489/SF3969*/CH108

ENERGY

Reimbursement fund established to replace outdated piping

The Petroleum Tank Release Cleanup Fund (commonly known as the “Petrofund”) is used to reimburse eligible applicants for up to 90% of costs they incur in responding to a petroleum tank leak. A new law taking effect Aug. 1, 2026, will establish that a portion of the fund can be used to reimburse owners of underground petroleum storage tanks for 50% of the cost of replacing single-walled steel piping and related equipment with piping and equipment that meets all current state and federal standards.

Sponsored by Rep. Shane Meke-land (R-Clear Lake) and Sen. Bill Weber (R-Luverne), it will allow up to \$4 million of the “Petrofund” to be used annually for such reimbursements, for replacement projects beginning after Jan. 1, 2027.

The program expires June 30, 2037. HF3298*/SF3477/CH113

Dig this: Gopher State One Call must employ electronic notice to excavators

Gopher State One Call is a central notification center that contacts operators of underground utility facilities in an area and requests that, within a certain period, they mark the location of their facilities in the area of a proposed excavation or planned survey with paint or flags or determine the work area is clear.

Sponsored by Rep. Larry Kraft (DFL-St. Louis Park) and Sen. John Hoffman (DFL-Champlin), part of a new law taking effect Aug. 1, 2026, will require underground utility facility operators to provide an electronic notice to the notification center regarding the status of its marking of utilities in the excavation area. It will also require the notification center to provide that electronic notice to the excavator or land surveyor. HF4233/SF4339*/CH112

ENVIRONMENT

Tribal governments added to wastewater pollutant discharge notification

The Pollution Control Agency must be notified of all discharges, accidental or otherwise, of any substance or material under its control that, if not recovered, may cause pollution of state waters.

If the discharge comes from a publicly owned treatment works or a publicly or privately owned domestic sewer system, the owner must notify the potentially affected public and any downstream drinking water facility that may be affected by the discharge.

Effective Aug. 1, 2026, downstream tribal governments will be added to the list of those notified.

Rep. Peter Fischer (DFL-Maplewood) and Sen. Mary Kunesh (DFL-New Brighton) sponsor the law. HF4224*/SF4525/CH79

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Licensure, scope of practice for some health occupations modified

A new law contains a dozen provisions to modify licensing and scope of practice for some health-related occupations.

Those affected include acupuncture and herbal medicine practice, athletic training, mortuary science, social work, dentistry practice, marriage and family therapy, pharmacy practice, physical therapists and advanced practice registered nurses. The law also establishes registration for massage therapists and Asian bodywork therapists and establishes licensure for music therapists.

Sponsored by Rep. Aaron Repinski (R-Winona) and Sen. Melissa Wiklund (DFL-Bloomington), the law mostly takes effect Aug. 1, 2026. HF3825*/SF3875/CH115

Regions Hospital gets exception to moratorium on hospital construction projects

Regions Hospital, a Level I trauma center in St. Paul, can complete a project that adds 85 beds.

Sponsored by Rep. Jeff Backer (R-Browns Valley) and Sen. Sandra Pappas (DFL-St. Paul), a new law that takes effect Aug. 1, 2026, will provide an exception to the state’s hospital construction moratorium. HF3521*/SF3587/CH91

HIGHER EDUCATION

Fighting fraud, other policy changes

The higher education finance and policy law will give the Office of Higher Education additional tools to determine and then act if a school has committed fraud. It also provides technical updates to higher education administrative procedures.

Policy provisions taking effect Aug. 1, 2026, will:

- authorize the office to deny student aid to applicants who provide false information, refuse inspections, or have been legally found to have committed fraud regarding government funding;
- mandate that postsecondary institutions clearly inform students in writing when courses — often called developmental or remedial courses — do not earn credits toward a degree or certification;
- strengthen anti-discrimination protections for pregnant and parenting students, including priority registration;
- prohibit Minnesota State, and request the University of Minnesota, from imposing fees or extra tuition to maintain facilities primarily designated for student-athletes, such as training centers or athlete housing;
- allow Minnesota State employees to take paid time off for off-site blood donations, consistent with other state employees;
- authorize Rochester Community and Technical College to enter into a lease agreement with the City of Rochester to build a recreation center; and
- require a report on medical school curriculum, in part, to monitor curriculum designed by for-profit companies.

Rep. Dan Wolgamott (DFL-St. Cloud) and Sen. Omar Fateh (DFL-Mpls) sponsor the law. HF4252*/SF3943/CH116

HOUSING

New law targets gaps in renter, landlord rules

A new law that takes effect Aug. 1, 2026, aims to solve problems vexing both renters and landlords when it comes to utility billing, online payment platforms and eviction procedures.

Tenants’ move-out dates and utility billing periods sometimes don’t coincide, so a landlord might not know what tenants owe on their utilities until after they’ve left. The new law allows landlords to estimate a tenant’s final utility bill based on the previous billing cycle.

Other provisions will require landlords to offer a free alternative payment method if an online payment platform malfunctions, prohibit landlords from listing a minor child as a defendant in an eviction action unless the minor is the sole renter, and include assaults on landlords or their employees as grounds for an expedited eviction action.

Rep. Spencer Igo (R-Wabana Township) and Sen. Lindsey Port (DFL-Burnsville) are the sponsors. HF3951/SF4171*/CH81

High speed chase leads to arrest

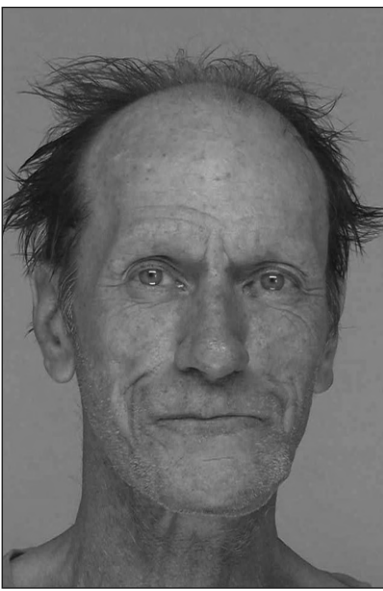
By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Charles Grant Rubel, 55, of Eagle Lake is in custody with the Waseca County Sheriff’s office after an incident which began about 2 a.m. Friday, Sept. 4. A Waseca County deputy driving on West Wilton River Road northwest of New Richland spotted a Chevy Camaro driving with its headlights off on 280th Avenue; the headlights were turned on and the vehicle continued driving, but failed to stop at a number of stop signs. The deputy attempted to initiate a traffic stop; the vehicle left the scene. After a pursuit which covered about 3 miles, the car left the roadway at the T-intersection of County Roads 12 and 23 in Wilton Township, going through a ditch and driving a short distance into a beanfield before being turned off and the headlights extinguished. A pair of shoes, pair of pants, and cell phone were in and around the vehicle.

The subject fled on foot, leaving his identity unknown at the time. Responding units established a multi-agency perimeter and initiated a foot track. The area was secured and nearby homes and properties were checked.

Despite these efforts, the subject was not located. The incident concluded with the perimeter being stood down and units clearing the scene. No injuries or squad car damage occurred.

The next day, a witness noticed a barefoot individual walking along the roadway and supplied information to law enforcement, leading to an arrest.



This is what the road and field looked like after the high speed chase. On the right is Charles Rubel, who is in custody over the incident. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

When addressed, Rubel was barefoot, very dirty, and sweating profusely. He told officers he was in the process of walking from Owatonna to his home in Eagle Lake. A subsequent investigation revealed that Rubel had been in temporary possession of the vehicle because he was going to be completing body work on it.

‘Ask a Trooper’: Separated roadway

Question: I saw in one of your recent articles talking about stopping for a school bus. In the article you stated, “Motorists are not required to stop for a bus if the bus is on the opposite side of a separated roadway (median, etc.) — but they should remain alert for children.” Can you explain the “etc.” as I still have questions.

Answer: Excellent question and yes, I can. Minnesota state statute says:

Exception for separated roadway: A person driving a vehicle on a street or highway with separated roadways is not required to stop the vehicle when approaching or meeting a school bus that is on a different roadway. “Separated roadway” means a

road that is separated from a parallel road by a physical barrier, raised median, or depressed median.

As I mentioned in my previous article as I can not repeat it enough, watch and remain alert for children.

You can avoid a ticket - and a crash - if you simply buckle up, drive at safe speeds, pay attention

and always drive sober. Help us drive Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths.

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota send your questions to Sgt. Troy Christianson - Minnesota State Patrol at 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester MN 55901. (Or reach him at, Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us)

■ 9/11

from Page 1

scared for what was to come of the world,” she describes. “There was talk about going to war; a very scary concept when you have a newborn.”

On Ben’s first birthday, the Waseca newspaper published a story citing his birth as “a ray of hope for the future.” Michele believes it was very timely, remembering and memorializing the fear, uncertainty and loss the events of the day led to, but showing how babies and children are a perpetual message that life goes on.

Now that Ben is 25, a few years into his career as a commercial pilot, and on staff with Delta Air Lines, the message continues. Of the profession he has pursued for 4.5 years, he says, “I am fortunate to be based out of Minneapolis/St. Paul flying the Airbus 320 series for Delta Air Lines. I am able to connect people to their families, friends, and favorite places in the world.” Ben is now engaged to Madison Luebke; the two plan to

marry next summer.

Along with the hope and anticipation, reminders of the day his life began are also consistent. “The importance of ‘Never Forget’ for the events of 9/11 is so much more important than a birthday,” he observes. “In my aviation career, we are required to present our documents including pilot licenses and passports to the required personnel when going through security. Many people do not notice the date. Those who do often look up from my ID and say something along the lines of ‘Wow what a birthday!’ or, ‘I sure remember where I was on your birthday.’

“Whenever I have mentioned my birthday to others, it sparks an interesting conversation of how the day affected each person.”

One particularly memorable exchange occurred as Ben was acquiring his Private Pilot’s License—an early step advancing toward flying commercial craft. “Growing up in Waseca I was lucky enough to learn to fly at the Waseca Municipal Airport from Maynard Stensrud, a 30-year flight instructor who taught many Wasecans how to fly.

“One of the most significant memories of the association of my birthday and 9/11 was during my examination for my Private Pilot Checkride. I remember the examiner looking at my driver license and saying ‘Wow, your birthday changed the course of my aviation career and was such a significant event for our nation.’” Long-time pilots remember well that, for a time after September 2001, “the aviation industry came to a halt. An industry I now have been part of for 4.5 years was significantly shaped by 9/11. Many people were furloughed from their jobs and took up other professions to put food on their tables.”

Along with that, “Being an airline pilot, the events of 9/11 are always respected. Our safety and security standards are forever changed.”

Ben describes that commercial airline pilots don’t fly regular routes; instead they “bid” for flights based on their seniority, which means, as one who began with Delta in March, he ends up with many weekend flights. National standards also dictate a maximum number of hours pilots can be at the helm of a plane

each month, leaving him with 14 to 16 days off scattered somewhat randomly.

“When you’re away and on the road, it can be tough, but ‘bringing your work home’ isn’t an option, which allows me to be present with family and friends and enjoy all that Minnesota has to offer,” he describes. Still, his love of flying and travel is such that, “It is a great honor to fly airplanes and call it a job.”

The opportunity to travel creates numerous opportunities. “On a work layover a few years ago, I was able to visit the 9/11 Memorial in New York. It was truly surreal to see in person after hearing all the many stories from so many people through the years. Seeing so many faces to the tragedy that unfolded in New York, Washington D.C. and Shanksville, Pennsylvania, was something I will never forget.

“I have since been back within the last year with my Fiancé Madi. We spent over 3 hours learning more about the events of the day in New York. I encourage everyone to go visit the memorial, including people of my generation and those born in a post 9/11 era.”



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SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642 September 2026

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

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

LEGAL NOTICE

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 HEARING ON PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
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 Representative of the Estate of the Decedent 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 administer 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 section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required 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

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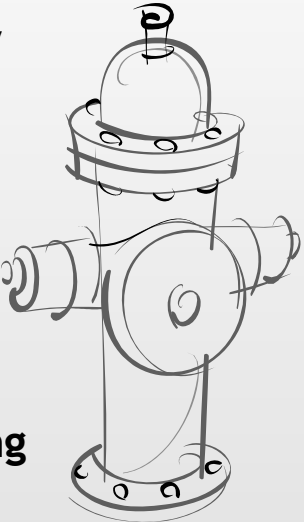
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Water Hydrant Flushing!

The City of Waseca's Water Utility
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MORE INFO → Call Utilities Offices @ 835-9718



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■ City from Page 4

currently serve as a solution for the hole in the library's roof.

Representatives with Le Ray Township returned with a formal Fire Contract regarding their request for the Janesville Fire Department—rather than Madison Lake FD—to serve the Western half of Section 12. The council reviewed the Contract which applied a flat rate service charge for \$600 plus any fees related to the change in coverage, with an effective date of December 31, 2026.

Fire Department Chief Mike Santo also gave his approval of the Contract, and the council voted 4-1 in favor, with councilor Sarah Johnson opposed due to her ongoing reservations about taking on Le Ray Township since discussions began in June.

In further fire department news, Chief Santo presented a budget proposal for 2027 that featured a decrease of about \$6000. "I budget to reflect closer to what we really do... we haven't hit all of the budget on a couple of things this spending quarter so I just want realistic numbers," the chief explained regarding the lower figures. Two new members joined the roster within the last month, and Santo also plans to remove the physical landline phone from the fire hall since cell phones and radio communication have completely taken over its use.

Additionally, although it comes at no cost other than voluntary time for the department, Santo informed the council about the EMR elective class for juniors and seniors at Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School that he and other voluntary department instructors are teaching. Sixteen students are currently signed up, a jump from the nine students who completed and passed the program last year.

The Janesville Police Department budget, on the other hand, came with

a 4% increase related to "human resource expenses." Five interviews are confirmed for the position of Police Chief, with sessions scheduled at City Hall over the next couple of weeks.

The ball gathering machine at the Prairie Ridge Golf Course completely broke down, leading to a temporary shutdown of the range. The council unanimously voted in favor of ordering a new one right away, which will take one to two weeks to arrive. Each year in August, the council is required to review its data practice policies and procedures, detailing the paperwork and steps required when requesting information. Several changes were added based on state recommendations, requiring the council to vote on a resolution amending the policy along with an adjustment to the hourly fee charged for information requests.

The policy amendment was approved 4-1, with Moss voting against the motion over the proposed \$16-per-hour fee "Our office staff receives way more than that, we can't be doing this for nothing," he contested. Johnson countered that they had already raised the cost by \$5 from the previous \$11-per-hour rate, but Moss argued that even \$25 an hour "would not cover expenses."

A sign has been designed and installed at the recently renamed Andy Arnoldt Park on North Street; however, considerations toward removing the sign in order to prevent possible damage during May 2027 construction projects were acknowledged.

City Admin Clinton Rogers reported on the August 11 primaries. "They went very, very well with a 18% turnout.... just proves that Minnesotans care about who's sitting in those chairs," he said, complimenting the community and the state as a whole for voting at a higher average than the rest of the country.

With nothing further on the agenda, the Janesville City Council adjourned at 7:41 PM. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on September 14 at 7:00 PM.

■ Service from Page 5

new water tower, expanding capacity from 95,000 gallons to 300,000—a vital structure that continues to serve the city reliably today.

"Janesville is so unique," Rogers noted. "For a small town of 2,500, having our own city-owned electric utility, power plant, nursing home, and golf course gives us a distinct sense of ownership and pride. Watching our public works get systematically upgraded over the years has been immensely rewarding."

Adapting Through Decades of Change

The role of a City Administrator demands adaptability, especially as technology and regulations evolve. When Rogers first took the job, his daily reminders consisted of sticky notes plastered across his desk, and his primary email address was hosted on Hotmail. Today, operations are fully digitized, reports move through secure .gov systems, and official city communications reach residents through digital platforms.

Beyond technology, the regulatory landscape has shifted significantly. "The electric utility world has changed drastically over the last 15 years, from consumer demand to complex regulations behind it," Rogers explained.

Despite those shifts, the core responsibilities remain anchored to the seasonal rhythm of city hall:

Fall & Winter: Preparing next year's annual budget (finalized each December), setting up snowplow contracts, winterizing parks, and coordinating local elections every two years with election judges.

Winter & Spring: Compiling mandatory annual reports for county and state agencies, managing debt service and taxes, facilitating audits, and balancing three distinct city budgets simultaneously.

A "Family" at City Hall

While balancing numbers, state statutes, and long-term planning requires sharp organizational skills and a mind for data, Rogers emphasizes that success in local government always comes down to people.

Working closely with a small, dedicated staff—including an administrative assistant, deputy clerk, and community director—Rogers describes City Hall as a close-knit unit. "We're all one big family here," he shared, adding with a smile that he regularly subjects his staff to his

best (and worst) dad jokes. "Andrea (Moen) handles utility accounts masterfully, Katelyn (Kratz) does a great job with our Economic Development Authority, Sara (Vulcan) manages payroll and elections seamlessly, and Sara (Britton) is my right-hand with reporting and utility billing. Many of them have been in the office with me for years."

That spirit of collaboration extends to the Janesville City Council. Over a quarter-century, Rogers has worked alongside 18 different council members and six mayors. "I consider myself extremely lucky," he explained. "Our council meetings are easygoing, productive, and familiar. We set a list outlining utility and street improvements, and together, we've done a fantastic job sticking to that schedule."

Life Beyond City Hall
Rogers' commitment to Janesville extends far beyond his City Admin desk. In addition to serving two decades in the Janesville Fire Department before retiring in 2023, he remains deeply connected to community life.

He is an active parishioner at St. Ann's Catholic Church, serves as a local firearm safety instructor, and spends his free time hunting, watching baseball, traveling, and spending quality time with his family and his lab, Sparky. When asked about his time on Janesville's city-owned golf course, Rogers offered a candid laugh: "I like to golf, but I'm absolutely awful—just bad. I didn't even register a score!"

Looking Ahead
Entering his 30th year of municipal service, Rogers shows no signs of slowing down, noting that he has no immediate retirement plans and intends to serve as long as he can meaningfully contribute.

For those considering a career in public administration, he offers straightforward advice: "Have a constant drive to help others. Be a people person, stay up on current news, listen closely, and always lean heavily on your ethics and professional standards."

Reflecting on his 25 years in Janesville, Rogers expressed heartfelt gratitude for the town he has long called home. "I moved here knowing nobody, and now I have lifelong friends," he stated. "Janesville is a proud community that has accomplished so much. I want to thank our city councils, my incredible co-workers, our local businesses, and our religious leaders for everything they do. We all work together to make Janesville a truly great town to live in."



MEMORIAL AND TRIBUTE - Two events this past weekend were in memory of Waseca County Sheriff Don Eustice, who was killed in the line of duty on Sept. 4, 1976. A ceremony at Eustice's memorial along the south wall of the county law enforcement center invited family members to lay yellow roses, and included a speech from Todd, one of the nine children of Don and Esther Eustice. The second event on Saturday was simultaneously a memorial, a tribute, and a fundraiser for the Don Eustice Memorial scholarship, which supports the educations of Waseca County residents pursuing a career in law enforcement. Photos above are from both events.

Pioneer photos by Deb Bently

■ Memorial from Page 1

agencies and personnel from local emergency medical services stood at attention shoulder to shoulder and saluted as Taps were played.

Published below is the full text of a speech delivered by Don's son, Todd, now 69, in remembrance of his father.

I would like to start off by thanking Sheriff Jay Dulas and Chief Deputy Doug Gerdt for organizing this memorial program honoring my dad on the anniversary of his death 50 years ago.

My name is Todd Eustice, and I've been asked to say a few words about my dad. September 4, 1976 was not just a terrible day for our family and community, but was the beginning of a very difficult time for our family as we had to learn to cope without our dad, our rock. The loss was crushing to us.

Don Eustice was killed at the age of 47 in the line of duty. He left behind my mom, who was 45 at the time, and nine children. Doug was then age 26; Gary, 25; Becky, 24; Scott, 23; Brad, 22; myself, 19; Peggy, 17; Barry, 12; and Barb, 10.

I want to tell you a little bit about Sheriff Don Eustice and all the different hats he wore.

Don Eustice started in the sheriff's office about 1953 after working for the Waseca police department for one year. He was elected and took office in 1967. As a dedicated sheriff in a small office, the job was definitely not 8 to 5; he was on duty 24/7. Even when he was absent from the office he was still on call. He would receive

phone calls at home or have people stop by the house asking for help or advice. It was a common occurrence for him to get phone calls in the middle of the night. Those calls could be about a car accident, a domestic assault, or some other emergency.

He would always respond, regardless of the late hour, and then still be back at the sheriff's office at 8 a.m. the next morning, no matter how little sleep he had.

As the sheriff of Waseca County, our dad was very invested in the community, especially the youth of our area. For example, he managed a dance night for high-schoolers called "Teen Canteen." My dad would book local bands to come play—and once in a while he managed to get nationally known bands to come play as well. I remember the band The Box Tops having dinner at our house before they played for the Teen Canteen, after my dad had booked them for Waseca.

The Don Eustice Scholarship Committee has organized tomorrow's event in the same fashion as the Teen Canteen as a tribute to him.

Don Eustice started the Bluejay Booster Club for all of Waseca's sports. Dad organized the holiday wrestling tournament which was held during Christmas break; it continued for many years after his death. It came to be called the Don Eustice Invitational.

He also ran the Knothole Day with help from the park and recreation department. Kids could sign up to go to a Twins' game. For \$2, any kid could ride a bus to the stadium, get into the game, and have a pop to boot.

To help law enforcement and civic work, my dad started the Waseca County Sheriff's Posse, the Snowmobile Posse, and—with help from

Hubert Humphrey—he was able to provide radios for law enforcement officers. Early in his career, he was part of the volunteer fire department as well.

Dad always believed in helping troubled youth to turn their lives around. He and another sheriff, Pat Smith of LeSueur County, started the LeSueur-Waseca Group home. Dad and a number of other sheriffs were also instrumental in the development of the Sheriffs' Boys Ranch in both Austin and Isanti. These facilities were for kids who had behavior problems in their homes and communities; the boys' ranches were to help provide guidance and direction. In fact, four of us six boys worked at those ranches.

When you talk about Dad as sheriff, my mom has to also be included. She was employed by the Sheriff's Office as a secretary and female deputy. She cooked meals for the prisoners, served as a matron, was the office manager, a jailer and a dispatcher. Dad and Mom were a team.

Dad also used his kids to help out at the sheriff's office. All of the boys were deputized by the age of 16. We helped out when needed. For instance, after a car accident by providing help any way we could such as directing traffic or helping clean up.

We helped with dispatching in the office. We would also patrol the fairgrounds after hours when the fair was in town. I remember doing "blood runs." These meant blood was to be delivered from one hospital to another and was usually an emergency situation. These are just a few examples of how we helped out.

Don Eustice was a big influence on his own kids, as we all continued in public service at least for part of our careers. There were child care

workers, probation officers, social workers, psychologists and teachers.

One way we have learned to cope with our dad's death is by sharing stories of him most every time we are together. We also hear stories from people we have encountered over the years and those are passed on to other siblings as well. This leads me to one story I'd like to tell. It comes from my daughter Allison and her husband Justin. About 4 or 5 years ago, Justin and Allison went to visit Justin's grandpa who lives in the Sandstone area about 160 miles from Waseca.

Justin's Grandpa asked Allison what her maiden name was. Allison told him. He responded "Your maiden name was Eustice?"

"Don't tell me you're related to Don Eustice from Waseca?"

Allison replied that Don was her grandfather.

Justin's Grandpa paused, then commented, "Well, I'll be damned. That SOB picked me up way too often and put me in the back of his cop car."

Wide-eyed, Allison asked why he was picked up.

"For DWIs, mostly." Then he continued, "Even though I didn't like him at the times I was being arrested, I now know he was a good man, hoping I would learn a lesson one of those times."

"I think I did."

My dad could be tough with people, but he was most interested in changing behavior just like he did with Justin's Grandpa.

My siblings and I have enjoyed hearing many stories involving our dad over the past 50 years. Hopefully there will be more to hear in the future.