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Sports

Christ Community Church Revival Nights January 8, 9, 10

Christ Community Church is proud to host three nights of revival meetings featuring Pulse Evangelism. Join them January 8, 9, and 10 at 7 p.m. each evening. Everyone is welcome. Check out pulse.org for more information about Pulse and cccwaseca.org for more information about the church.

St. Peter Lutheran Church of New Richland Soup and Dessert CANCELLED

The soup and dessert luncheon at St. Peter Lutheran Church of New Richland Sunday, Jan. 11 has been canceled due to flu in the area.

Jackpot Junction Trip Sunday, January 11

There will be an overnight trip with departure from the back parking lot of the Waseca Legion at 10 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 11, and return Monday, Jan. 12. There will be bingo this trip. \$115.00 per person, paid 30 days in advance. Interested parties call 507-456-3617.

Romp and Rhyme Story Time at Waseca Public Library, Jan. 13

From puppets to pumping music, from bubble machines to banging bands, these are not your average story times at the Waseca Library at 10:30 a.m. for Baby Lapsit, and 5:30 p.m. Free and open to the public.

Clothespin Snowflakes at the Janesville Public Library, Jan. 13

Create winter wall art with this simple craft project at the Janesville Public Library at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13. These clothespin snowflakes can be upscaled through paint, gems, glitter, or sequins.

Trinket Dishes at New Richland Public Library, Jan. 15

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

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

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

Romp and Rhyme Story Time at Waldorf Public Library, Jan. 15

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

A word from
The Word

He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion.

Philippians 1:6

Sleigh and Cutter history highlighted in display

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

The Waseca County Historical Society has set out displays ranging from sequins to equines to help visitors connect with the rich local roots of the Sleigh and Cutter festival, now in its 76th year. As those who visit the Society's exhibit will quickly see, the event has brought Waseca area residents together for generations.

And, Historical Society executive director Amy Danielson wants people to know, the more the merrier. "If you have artifacts to share, we'd love to put together more displays."

She mentions a recent visit from Jolene Hawkins, who was named "Miss Waseca" in



The Sleigh and Cutter parade on Feb. 22, 1964. Two horses pull a float with Gisela Alexander, Miss So. St. Paul, and Sheila Hawkins, Miss Owatonna.

1970. Hawkins brought in trophies and a tiara awarded to her during the pageant. The items she donated are displayed next to an elegant blue cape and lacy dress worn by Darlene Paulson, who earned the title "Miss Sleigh Bell" in 1959; near the dress, which is draped over a chair, is a large photo poster of Paulson, quite probably taken the night she was crowned.

Nearby is a photo booth with a small sleigh where visitors can nestle in under a lap rope for a quick picture.

Other items, Danielson mentions, have been somewhat surprising for visitors who have seen the display so far: Among the first to come

WCHS continued on 4

Chuch Root tells his tough story

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

At 67, Waseca area resident Chuch Root can list off many accomplishments. Chief among them are 45 years of marriage with his wife Laura, the three sons and the daughter they raised together, and a whole collection of grandchildren. Prior to retiring, he had a 35-year career as a press mechanic and a long list of personal achievements, including acting as a wrestling coach during his children's youth.

But along with all those positive elements are after-effects from a very ugly set of occurrences which took place when he was 12 years old. "It just won't stop," he says of memories, thoughts, and emotions which come upon him without warning when he encounters a trigger, even as much as 55 years later.

Root describes how, at age 12 in 1970, he joined a local boy scout troop. At the time, the troop owned a sailboat which he had persistently noticed on Clear Lake. "I joined because I wanted to learn how to sail," he re-

members. "I wanted to know how the mechanics of sailing worked, and how the boat could move against the wind."

One of the troop leaders was Jack Krough, then 20 years old, a Waseca High School graduate who had already begun attending Morningside University in Sioux City, Iowa, and was working toward a degree in theology.

Root describes having been impressed and showing respect for Krough both because he seemed so smart and capable, and because he was in a leadership role. So if anything, he was flattered by an invitation to visit with Krough in his parents' home.

Root can still name the address, even though the house has not been associated with the Krough family for decades. Even driving on streets in the neighborhood, he mentions, causes him to feel on edge.

Over the summer, Krough repeatedly convinced his young troop member to take part in sexual activities. "I didn't even know what sexual

Root continued on 5



Chuch and Lora Root on their wedding day in 1980. Chuch believed he was leaving the specter of sexual abuse he encountered at age 12 behind, but found its effects reappearing as he went on to become a father and coach.

Vintage Chrysler still showing style

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

On display a few miles south of Janesville along 30th Street sits a classic Chrysler New Yorker car in the yard of Tad Anderson, 47. He says it's been sitting there for around 10 years or so; though there is a touch of rust and the vehicle's driving days are far behind, that doesn't mean this small slice of Americana doesn't still look good.

Anderson is a born and bred Janesville native, having grown up alongside his two brothers, Trey and Toby under the care of lifelong area resident Marcy Anderson. Tad graduated from Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School in 1997. Trey races enduro style cars all over southern Minnesota and Toby operates Toby's Barbershop in Janesville.

Tad spends his working hours in a machine shop: "I build 20-volt generators, they weigh

Chrysler continued on 4



STILL STANDING - Tad Anderson, a Janesville resident, decided about 10 years ago he wanted a classic car in his yard, a Chrysler New Yorker, which still stands proud today, Monday, Dec. 29, 2025. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Appeals Court judge pleads guilty to DWI

By KAY FATE
Steele County News

The Minnesota State Court of Appeals judge from Owatonna who was charged with drunk driving pleaded guilty Friday and was immediately sentenced in the case.



Renee Lee Worke, 67, originally faced two counts of gross misdemeanor third-degree DWI; one of the counts was later amended to a fourth-degree misdemeanor charge.

That's the count Worke pled guilty to; the gross misdemeanor count was dismissed as part of the plea agreement.

Early in the case, Minnesota Supreme Court Chief Justice Natalie E. Hudson appointed Judge Adam Johnson, of the First Judicial District, to preside over court proceedings.

He sentenced Worke to 15 hours of community work service and placed her on one year of supervised probation.

He also ordered her to undergo a chemical dependency assessment, which Worke completed prior to Friday's court appearance. The assessment included a recommendation to attend a 24-lesson alcohol and drug course, which Worke has already completed.

She also attended a Mothers Against Drunk Driving victim impact panel prior to sentencing.

Worke is prohibited from using alcohol and must submit to random testing and was fined \$500.

Steele County Attorney Robert Jarrett, who prosecuted the case, issued a statement after Friday morning's sentencing, which read, in part:

"... both the seriousness of the offense and the defendant's response were considered. Judge Worke accepted responsibility at an early stage and proactively sought appropriate chemical health resources. Without consideration of position, status or potential collateral consequences, the State extended the standard Steele County resolution routinely offered to first-time DWI offenders with no prior record.

"This disposition is consistent with how similarly situated defendants are treated," Jarrett wrote. "The one-year term of probation, including abstinence from alcohol, serves to protect public safety while ensuring continued oversight and accountability, and supports rehabilitation to prevent future impaired driving."

The case against Worke began about 9:15 p.m. Nov. 29, when a Steele County Sheriff's Office deputy found a vehicle stuck in a snowbank on east-bound U.S. Highway 14 at the Interstate 35 overpass in Owatonna.

The vehicle was "presenting a road hazard," the report says.

The driver, later identified as Worke, had glossy eyes and slurred speech, the deputy noted.

DWI continued on 4



Compostings

by Al Batt

A New Year's prayer

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

For our meeting tomorrow, I'm going to make one of those diagrams that use the intersecting circles.

Venn?

Tomorrow.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. When one door opens, another door freezes shut. It's not good when it rains after December 1 and then it turns extremely cold. The wretched ice goes where it shouldn't. Our garage door had frozen shut. It took time, whining and a bit of elbow grease to get it open. I had needed to make a phone call saying I'd be late to an appointment because I couldn't get out of my garage. It was all good. I smiled at a sugar cookie.

I've survived another blizzard. Blizzards aren't usually accompanied by kind adjectives. Officially, the National Weather Service defines a blizzard as a storm that contains large amounts of snow or blowing snow, with winds in excess of 35 mph and visibility of less than 1/4 mile for an extended period (at least 3 hours). Why is it called a blizzard? Because all the other cusswords were taken.

I'VE LEARNED

One in every four frogs is a leapfrog.

When I ring the bells for the Salvation Army, I'm reminded of the decency of people.

I don't know I've fallen asleep until I wake up.

I'm like most people—I haven't met most people.

If no two snowflakes look alike to you, you don't need glasses.

There's no way everyone was kung fu fighting.

TRUNCATED TALES

I rid my sock drawer of a couple of pairs that had failed the dime test. I tested the socks by stepping on a dime. If I could tell whether the coin was heads or tails, the foot garments were discarded.

If you're a member of the Flat Earth Society, you should get a round-the-world cruise for half the usual price.

The prevailing winds are from the northwest here in the winter. Those winds can be strong. If they keep up, my house will slide two counties over.

A friend, Gregg "Marty" Martin, gave me an Al's Bar softball team T-shirt. I've never been to that fine establishment, but it was a splendid gift that I'm happy to

wear on formal occasions. I stopped for breakfast at Al's Breakfast in Dinkytown (Minneapolis). It's hard not to stop at an eatery bearing my name. It's a skinny restaurant with 14 seats. There are walk-in closets that are larger. There was a worthwhile wait. I'd have been seated sooner had I been wearing that Al's Bar T-shirt.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

How do chickens pick their noses? With their chicken figures.

New York and Minnesota are opposites. New York is where the Big Apple is and Minnesota is where Minneapolis.

What sounds like a sneeze and is made of leather? A shoe.

Where do English people shop for groceries? The British aisles.

An international chess tournament was held at a swanky New York hotel. Due to a conflicting convention, the chess tables had been set up in the lobby. Everyone who was anyone in the world of chess was there. After a grueling three days of chess, there was still no champion. In the lobby, the players engaged in a big argument about who was the best chess player. The quarrel grew loud, each player claiming to be the greatest chess player of all time. A bystander commented, "If there's one thing I can't stand, it's chess nuts boasting in an open foyer."

NATURE NOTES

Sandy Olson of Northwood wrote, "When the snow is deep and all vegetation is covered, what do rabbits eat? And squirrels, do they find the nuts they buried in the fall? And, where do rabbits go to get out of the cold if their little warrens are buried in snow?" Rabbits eat what dry grasses and hay they can find under shallow snow or in sheltered spots. When the snow is deep, rabbits eat bark, twigs and buds from the trees and shrubs above snow level. Squirrels rely on hidden caches of nuts and seeds, using memory and landmarks to find the buried food. When those caches are depleted or hard to retrieve, they'll gnaw on bark and buds from trees and shrubs. And squirrels happily raid bird feeders. Cottontails find shelter in dense shrubs, brush piles, evergreen thickets or under decks and porches. They will use abandoned dens of other animals like woodchucks for protection from extreme cold and predators.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"Kindness, kindness, kindness. I want to make a New Year's prayer, not a resolution."—Susan Sontag.



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

Remembering with gratitude

Well, here we are. The holidays are over, but winter remains.

The good news is, we are headed in the right direction. Internet sources say our region will gain 53 minutes of daytime from the beginning to the end of the month—although still ahead of us are the seven days which are typically the coldest of the year, "the bottom of winter," the third week of January. But that's based on averages, and this winter seems guaranteed not to conform to anything typical.

I'm always saying I like roller coaster rides, but I'm not so fond of the temperature roller coaster which takes us above freezing and then back down under it, leaving ice in its wake—speaking of which, I would like to express my thanks and admiration to those people and businesses who make a point of keeping their sidewalks clean and safe, despite all the effort and frustrations it must cost. When even the roads are full of bumpy ice, it's like coming to safe haven when a sidewalk is reliably clear.

With winter winds and snow outside, it's fun to realize that we've come to the time of year when

greenhouse owners are making their selections for this summer's produce and flowers. It brings me great pleasure to think of the retail greenhouse owners I've interviewed over time, all looking attentively through the various types of catalogs available these days—everything from printed paper to intuitive websites that remember purchases from previous years and offer insights into this year's selections.

Some of them will be attending one of a few national conferences held in early to mid February to further inform their selections.

Me, I simply remember with gratitude the opportunities to walk among freshly growing, thriving young plants while the sun beams through the transparent walls and roof, creating an artificial summer even while there is snow on the ground outside. I am talking about times when I was visiting as a reporter, after the seeds had been planted and were beginning to grow, but were still far from ready to be available for purchase.

As I say, caught in the depth of winter as we are, it's pleasant to



This photo is one of several Deb Bently took while interviewing the owners of area greenhouses. Among those she's spoken with are Amber Ewert of Country Blooms south of Janesville; Ed Bethke of Ed's Greenhouse south of Waseca; Gretchen and Glen Boldt of Hilltop Greenhouse in Freeborn County; and here, employee Kristin Maxon (left) and owners Sheila and Rick Morris of Waseca Floral and Gift.

think of these bright spots.

Before I sound too much like I'm wishing the months away, I should mention some of winter's gifts.

One is solitude—I believe I've mentioned before how pleasant it is to know, on a stormy day, that expectations are suspended. Others would be disappointed—or even upset—if we ventured out, placing ourselves at risk and possibly leading to harm for anyone who came to help us.

Another is beauty. Sunshine on fresh snow. Lacy hoarfrost adorning everything from blades of grass to whole forests. The light of a silver moon drawing glowing lines

across the fields. Homes and buildings draped in white blankets. Colorful birds silhouetted from behind. Tree branches outlined in a way that helps us appreciate their complexity and strength.

The holidays bring us the gifts of fellowship. Unlike summer gatherings when everyone scatters, get-togethers in cold weather impose companionship. Pushed together, we have the chance to reminisce about the ties that bring us together.

Appreciation. It feels so very good to step inside a warm building and close the door on the cold and wind outside.

New resolutions? Try again next year

Do people even do New Year's resolutions anymore? I don't think I've ever followed them very strictly.

I think my problem is there are too many things I want to do in a year, too many things I want to change. My resolutions are usually pretty standard: eat healthier foods, exercise more, go to the gym. Fortunately I've started doing those things fairly regularly, so I want to dive into some other elements of my life.

I think this year, I would like to make more use of the yoga mat I bought months ago and have used maybe twice, and to add something musical in my life. I'm not calling these resolutions. "Resolutions" means I have to do them, have to follow them. It's like telling your kids to wash the dishes or clean their room. They might be happy to do it if you don't ask or pressure them, but the second you make it a demand, there's resistance. I think that's how I feel



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

about resolutions. In general, I just want to be happy and healthy. I don't want to feel pressured to do something that might not even benefit me months or weeks down the road. I, as a human, am constantly changing. My resolutions should too.

So I am going to do some yoga stretches, and I am probably going to join a choir. If I like stretching and find it beneficial to keep in my routine, I'll do so, and move on to a new thing I would like to add or change in my life. I will probably join a choir, and once I have filled what seems like that gap in my life, I will move to the next thing.

I'm not saying this is healthy or the right way to think. I just currently, at this moment, don't feel like conforming to the particular societal standard of making a "resolution." Ask me again next year.

My boss at the magazine asked me to provide a picture of myself for their social media, along with a one-sentence statement about a word I want to describe my 2026. I told them my word is going to be "intentional." Meaning, I don't want to breeze through life. I want to be intentional about the things I do. I want to get off my phone, stop the doom scroll, and do intentional things like exploring out-

side, cooking new recipes, reading new books, and learning something new every day. I want to do things that will benefit my body and my mind. I want to be intentional about the way I spend my time and use my energy. I don't want to fade into the background, and I particularly don't want to waste my time on my phone.

So maybe that is another "resolution" of mine, to get off my phone and off of social media. My bookshelf is constantly calling to me, reminding me it is full of books I have been meaning to read. My plants look at me drearily from their windowsills wondering why I don't care for them.

My Determination: "I have dreamt in my life, dreams that have stayed with me ever after, and changed my ideas; they have gone through and through me, like wine through water, and altered the color of my mind." - Emily Bronte, Wuthering Heights

WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

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

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GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

\$59 Per Year, Waseca County Residents

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On Tuesday I left for vacation—although thanks to modern communication, I will still be performing most of my typical duties for the newspaper. As part of my preparations, and because I will be out of town for a while, I decided I would spend the time prior to my departure cramming in as much family and friend time as possible. Beginning this week of interactions was my New Year's celebration.

My friends and I gathered at Paul and Heather's house in Rochester. Part of my vacation includes being a groomsman at Paul's wedding in Miami, Florida, on Jan. 24.

I brought charcuterie goodies, including fancy cheeses and meats and crackers and jam and fruits. Only Paul was brave enough to try goat cheese. It is excellent.

We spent the evening playing games, enjoying each other's company. However, since it is more than an hour's drive to Rochester, I did not actually stay until midnight, but left around 11:30.

I brought in the New Year during the drive home, talking with my father. This got me thinking about



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

past new year evenings and how they were spent.

I thought about my deceased best friend.

Many New Years were spent with him. His dad gave me a Christmas gift this year, a nice framed photo which is now hanging in my office.

I remember bringing in the New Year with my dad, growing up. My earliest memory is from the year 2000. I remember the year flipping over felt like a big deal as a kid.

I don't have much more to report on New Year celebrations. They were really just an excuse to stay up late with the family.

Thursday, New Year's Day, was spent with friends at the game store, playing games, and enjoying each other's company.

Friday, lunch with my favorite

Russian, Mikhail. We talked about my upcoming trip, his/the community's biggest achievements in 2025 and upcoming goals for 2026.

Saturday I spent the afternoon with my mother. I recently wrote about my dad's impact on my life. I need to credit my mother. She gave me my first job at the newspaper.

My mom stood up for me as a young employee to my father who was much more strict. He tried to fire me numerous times, always for reasons other than my job performance.

I helped my mom start the Janesville Journal. Without the knowledge of how she started that paper, I do not know if I would have started the Waseca County Pioneer.

Thank you, Mom.

Also on Saturday, I had a late lunch with Deb Bently. We discussed work, life and my upcoming trip.

I am leaving to visit a friend in Philadelphia for a week. After that I will be driving to Florida for my friend's wedding, and also to visit my friends Kyle and Anastasia. Coincidentally Deb and sister-in-law Joan are going to Florida at the end of January. So, I asked if she would like to go to the Everglades in Southern Florida together. She said yes. After that, I will return home during the first week of February. During this time I will work remotely. This is the first time in two years I've taken a vacation like this. I am looking forward to the break. My body hurts, my head hurts and I'm ready for some warmer weather. I will report on my excursions as I take them.

Sunday I spent watching football with my friend Mark. Monday, I had lunch with my best friend Jane before finishing work and packing.

I feel happy, rejuvenated, and excited for 2026.

OBITUARIES

August Hedtke Jr.

August Robert Hedtke Jr., of Waseca, MN, passed away on December 26, 2025, at his home.

Born on June 16, 1942, in Golden Valley, MN, he was the son of August Theodore Sr and Mary Elizabeth (Weidholz) Hedtke. At 12 years old, August got his first taste of hard work at a nearby vegetable farm. He later graduated from Anoka Senior High School, and following graduation, he enlisted in the United States Army.

When he returned home, he married Joann, and together they purchased a farm near St.

Francis, Minnesota. The couple later relocated to Fairmont, where they bought their first bowling alley. Eventually, they moved to Waseca and purchased the local bowling alley along with two Taco Johns restaurants, though their marriage later ended in divorce. August went on to manage the bowling alley while expanding his business ventures, purchasing another alley in St. Peter. He also continued to operate the Taco John's restaurant in Waseca until just a few years ago. August's love for bowling extended far beyond his businesses. He was an avid league bowler and spent years traveling across the United States, competing in USBC Championships and many other bowling tournaments.

August also loved fishing and eagerly anticipated his annual trip to the Boundary Waters with his good friend John. In his spare time, he also enjoyed trying his luck at the casino.

August was a man of many words, and running into him meant you'd better have some time to spare. A quick hello often turned into a marathon of stories, laughter, and well-told tales.



August Hedtke Jr.

Whether he was deep in conversation or happily people-watching, August truly enjoyed the art of visiting. He was also a man who said things exactly the way they were—so if you struck up a conversation, it helped to be ready for whatever honest (and occasionally surprising) comment might come your way.

He is survived by his siblings, Carol Schultz, William Hedtke, and Nancy (Duane) Jones, brother-in-law, Bruce Nelson; along with many nieces, nephews and great friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; siblings, Geraldine Nelson, Joanne Chilson, Donald Hedtke, and Richard 'Dickie' Theodore Hedtke (age 20 months); brother-in-law, Edward Schultz; nephews, Kevin Hedtke and Fritz Schultz; niece, Kayleen Josephson.

A celebration of August's life will be held on Friday, January 9, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m., at the Third Street Chapel of the Dennis - Steffel - Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca, MN.

Military Honors will be held at the funeral home following the Celebration of Life by the Waseca Honor Guard.

Joseph Mathews

Joseph Paul Mathews, known to all as Paul, age 97 of Waseca, died on the evening of December 31, 2025 at Benedictine Living Community on Owatonna.

Paul was born in Waldorf on March 15, 1928, to parents George and Isabelle (McMahon) Mathews. He attended school in Waldorf and graduated from Waldorf High School before serving his country in the United States Army in 1946 and 1947. Upon his honorable discharge, Paul utilized the G.I. Bill to continue his education at the Minnesota Teacher's College in Mankato, where he studied physical education and industrial arts. He taught for a time in Montgomery, MN, at RTR High School in Tyler, MN, for the Department of Defense in Tokyo, Japan, and finally in Frankfurt, Ger-

many, before returning home to work on the family farm. He continued to serve his community by volunteering as a football referee for many years, and he was invited to ref the first "Prep Bowl" at Minnesota's Metro Dome. He was a devoted caretaker for anyone in his life that might be in need of a helping hand, and his family is so grateful for the care and attention he offered. In the 1960's Paul took up flying and earned his private pilot's license under the direction of Harry Hawk in Wells, MN. He enjoyed his involvement with the Waseca Flying Club of which he was president for many years. On July 28, 1989, Paul ended his bachelor years when he married Ruthie Hodgkins in Waldorf. Together, they enjoyed traveling and their involvement with one another's families until Ruthie's passing in 2018. Paul was a long-time member of St.

Joseph Catholic Church in Waldorf.

Paul is survived by siblings, Dick and Janet Mathews; many neices and nephews and their families. He was preceded in death by both of his parents; his wife; two brothers, Vince and John Mathews; two sisters, Phyllis Peterson and Rita Suek; and one nephew, Mitchell Mathews.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 8, 2026 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Waldorf, with Father Robert Schneider officiating. Visitation will be held at the church from 9:00 a.m. until the time of the Mass. Interment will follow at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Waseca County. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be directed to St. Joseph Catholic Church. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Services in Waseca is handling the arrangements. dsfuneral.com



Joseph Mathews

Interim Newsletter from Rep. Sexton

Fraud in Minnesota

It has been quite a week since Mr. Nick Shirley published his video addressing Childcare Fraud in Minnesota. We already knew about many of the Feeding Our Future fraudsters, as they have already been prosecuted. Thus, it is easy to believe that more fraud is occurring in other programs.

However, as a fellow Minnesotan, I want official investigative agencies to conduct their investigations and transparently publish facts, not conjecture. As you know, there are many news sources now reporting on these issues. However, one must understand context of the questions being asked by the reporters? Who is responding to the questions and what authority or expertise do they possess? How is the news source citing the information they are receiving? These

are important questions that we must all ask when confronted with opposing positions.

Again, as a fellow Minnesotan, I believe former U.S. Attorney Andrew Luger when he tells a large group of law enforcement officers and attorneys at a Violent Crime conference that Minnesota has a fraud problem. More recently, on December 18th, 2025, I believe U.S. Attorney Joseph Thompson when he announced multiple indictments against individuals committing fraud in Minnesota. These are both valid information sources who must be accountable for their indictments and their messages.

I am mentioning information sources in today's newsletter as I am receiving all sorts of emails making many claims about fraud, as well as claims saying these recently reported activities are not

fraud. As we all know, there is always more to the story. So, I am awaiting additional official announcements on these issues from official information sources.

What can we do as legislators?

We can change our laws to restrict program qualification and increase reporting requirements.

We can mandate unannounced visits for program validation and compliance.

We can mandate auditing requirements, auditing frequency, auditing documentation, and make it easier for the inspectors to shut down a questionable program.

However, we need our fellow legislators to see the value in these efforts and vote for tighter controls as well. As you know we likely the most closely divided state legislature in the United

States today as we are evenly split in the House and the DFL has a one seat majority in the Senate.

In conclusion, fraud is the antithesis of good government. Clearly, we should all want good government and the removal of fraud. As we prepare to go back into session in mid-February, I will continue to share more on this topic.

Coffee with Tom

Please feel free to join me for Coffee with Tom at the Owatonna Chamber of Commerce on Friday, January 2nd (TODAY) at the Owatonna Chamber of Commerce from 12:00pm-1:00pm.

Our next meeting in Waseca will be on Friday, January 9th at the Waseca Chamber of Commerce from 12:00pm-1:00pm.

Thank you for your support and feedback!

DWI

from Page 1

A second deputy arrived and spoke to Worke, who said she was coming from Waseca.

According to the criminal complaint, Worke said she had one glass of wine about two hours earlier; when asked how she was feeling, she told the deputy, "I'm totally fine."

The second deputy also noted Worke's bloodshot, glossy eyes, and detected alcohol on her

breath, court documents say, as well as "slurred speech and slow motor function."

The complaint says an initial field sobriety test showed signs "consistent with impairment," and Worke was detained for further DWI investigation.

Due to inclement weather – the area was in a winter storm warning – Worke was taken to the Steele County Detention Center to complete the field sobriety tests. She reportedly agreed to take a breath test, which the document says showed an alcohol concentration of .16. The legal limit to drive in Minnesota is .08.

Chrysler

from Page 1

around 60,000 pounds for Rolls-Royce Solutions Incorporated out of Mankato. Before that I worked for 22 years at Brown Printing out of Waseca, until they closed." Brown Printing, which later turned into Quad Graphics, closed its doors in 2017.

When he spoke with the Pioneer, Tad was spending time in his home workshop with his friend Justin Stanke, who shared, "Tad lives here with his little dog Jo Jo, and his girlfriend Sarah. He woke up one day about ten years ago and decided he wanted a car in his yard, being a junk collector, it kinda makes sense." The walls of the garage were adorned with signs from various mechanic shops; vintage gas station pumps lined the walls like arcade games at an arcade. Stanke added by pointing across the garage to a red tractor,

"He's also been working on that tractor, he's put a lot of heart and joy in that thing." Across the workshop a red rider mower tractor was sitting on a lift station; it looked like it was being well cared for.

Stanke said the New Yorker hasn't received any recent work; Tad was quick to say, "The car looks a lot better when there's no snow on it." He was hoping to have a better picture tucked away somewhere, but he couldn't guarantee it and said, "Just take a photo on your way out, just in case I can't find a better one." Anderson didn't know the exact year of the car, but pictures online suggest it is a 1955 model. "I bought the car at a Wingert Land Services auction. I've been living at my current address for 26 years. I am sort of a junk collector, besides old gas station pumps, I also like old oil cans when I can find them." Regarding the car he added, "Unique Classic Cars out of Mankato has offered me money for the car's carburetor." But at the moment Tad says he sees no reason to part with it.

WCHS

from Page 1

when it opened in mid-December were erstwhile beauty queen Hawkins and her family.

A whole collection of scrapbooks regarding the event is available for those who have some time to peruse: newspaper articles and photos appear alongside event programs and other memorabilia. A reader can learn the event started in 1950 when an organization of area horse owners put it together for the sake of sharing their interest with the community. No vehicles with wheels were permitted for the first two decades. Instead, snow was collected off Clear Lake and laid in a track along the route; it was picked back up afterwards and returned to the lake. The change allowing wheels took place after organizers chose to reduce the expense—and the liability—of holding the parade.

Another element of the current display which Danielson finds remarkable is that numerous local organizations collaborated to make it possible—including bringing in a life-size fiberglass horse currently on loan from Farmamerica. The Waseca County Horse Thief Detectives organization has also made some contributions.

"It's one more illustration of the collaboration it takes to put together a community event," comments Danielson. "That helps make the display special, and brings in extra variety."

Danielson suggests that community members have many opportunities to contribute their talents and knowledge. "Every organization involved is looking for



Sleigh and Cutter Parade Feb. 22, 1964. Two horses pull a float carrying Miss Waterville Susan Kanne and another beauty contestant. The businesses represented on the side are Otisco State Bank, Lewer Auto Company, Donahue Real Estate and Madsen's Supervalu.

volunteers," she comments. "Indoors or outdoors, there are ways your skills and knowledge can help make the whole event even better." She offers that anyone interested can visit the Sleigh and Cutter website under the "take action" heading to sign up.

She also encourages area residents to watch for future developments. She says the route of the parade has been returned to a former path which will take the parade right past the Historical Society building at 315 Second Ave. Northeast. The intent is to have chairs available outside, and simultaneously serve as a place to step out of the wind and cold. Additional plans, she says, are under consideration and will be shared as they are finalized.



Visitor Faith Ryan takes a moment to enjoy the photo booth which is part of the Waseca County Historical Society's display regarding the Waseca Sleigh and Cutter celebration, now in its 76th year. An array of artifacts awaits visitors through the day of the parade, Feb. 28. The parade route has been returned to a former path and will go past the Historical Society that day.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently



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Child’s History of Waseca County

CHAPTER VI, 1855. Great thaw in March followed by a second winter – Alone and blind with cattle to care for – Mrs. Scott’s Kindness – Two men from Iowa out in all that storm and nearly starved.

The first week in March brought a thaw and a freshet. The snow entirely disappeared and the weather was warm and pleasant. So, on a very fine Sunday morning I concluded to take a tour of inspection around Silver Lake. In passing around the lake, when crossing its outlet on what is now the Pat Madden farm, I broke through the ice and was thoroughly drenched in ice water. Very soon after this baptism, the wind sprang up from the northwest and before I reached the cabin that afternoon, a severe snow storm was raging. In returning from school section 36, that evening, where I was obliged to go to feed the cattle, I faced them storm for half a mile, and my eyes were injured by the hail and sleet. I also contracted a severe cold that day, and the next morning my eyes were so inflamed that I could not open them nor bear the light. I was in a “Fletcherian fix” being all alone, with fifty cattle and sheep to feed and water, and I as blind as a bat. I tried to raise the only neighbors – those at Scott’s claim a mile away – by loading and firing a rifle that was in the cabin; but this availed nothing.

However, as good luck would have it, the storm ceased about noon, and Mr. Plummer from Scott’s claim, came over on an errand. He fed and watered the stock, brought in some wood and promised to return the next morning. I could see no better that day than on the previous day; so, when Mr. Plummer had cared for the cattle, he proposed that I should go with him to the Scott cabin where Mrs. Scott could poultice my eyes and care for them. The proposition was gratefully accepted.

“Sim” said that as soon as spring should arrive, he could furnish the eyes if “Pat” would the legs, and they would “leg it” back to the scenes of their childhood, etc.

After being kindly treated for a week, I so far recovered my sight that I was able to return to the Sutlief cabin and attend to my duties. The country was really having a second winter in March. The weather was cold, and ice had again formed on all the streams and ponds. A morning or two after I had returned to the Sutlief cabin, and while I was preparing my breakfast, I

heard a rapping at the door and said “come in.” A stranger, looking haggard enough, walked in, and, grasping me by the hand, expressed his joy at finding a cabin and some one living in it. He said that he and another man, during the warm spell of weather had left the northernmost settlement, on the Des Moines river, in Iowa, with a horse and “jumper,” bound for Mankato. On the third day of their journey they had met the heavy snowstorm which had swept over the Northwest, and partly lost their course, but struck the headwaters of the Le-Sueur on the east side, and, supposing it to be the Blue Earth river, had followed along down, expecting to find the Mankato settlement.

For three days preceding their arrival here, they had been without anything to eat, except a few ears of corn that they had brought along for horsefeed. The horse had subsisted for several days on nothing save dead prairie grass, and the browse from the bushes in the small groves along their route. One of the men was nearly blind from exposure to wind, sun, and storm, and both were very much reduced in strength for want of food and rest. The horse was nearly starved. They had come into the river bend opposite the Sutlief cabin the evening before and had camped over night, almost discouraged and with little hope of ever reaching Mankato or seeing their families again. Within the night they thought they could hear occasionally, the sound of a cow bell, and at early dawn they surely heard the roosters crow. Hope revived; and, as daylight came on, the man who could yet see, following the sounds which they had heard, crossed the river and found the shanty. They were gladly welcomed, and remained at the cabin several days before they and their horse were strong enough to pursue their journey to Mankato. I never saw nor heard of them afterwards.

Editorial Note - On my way to take the next entry from the Child’s History book, I discovered the pages stuck from the previous chapter and entry. Therefore, half of last week’s Child’s History of Waseca County entry is really this week’s. Last week’s entry only missed a paragraph, in which Mr. Scott returned with flour and pork.

Amelia Roessler



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The iWealth Foundation made a contribution of \$13,195 to the Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center this year in support of the iWealth Holiday Food Baskets and School-Age Backpack program.

iWealth Holiday Food Baskets Drive

A cherished tradition that began more than a decade and a half ago to support local families during the Christmas season has once again brought the Waseca Area community together in a powerful display of generosity and neighborly care. The iWealth Foundation is honored to announce a heartwarming collective contribution of \$13,195 has been made to the Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center (WANSC) this year in support of the iWealth Holiday Food Baskets and Backpacks program.

Brad Connors, Chief Executive Officer of iWealth, expressed his gratitude, saying, “Each year, we are humbled by how our clients, business partners, and friends come together with our iWealth team to care for Waseca area families. It’s about more than a meal — it’s about gathering around the table, sharing hope, and reminding one another that no one is alone during the holidays. We are deeply thankful for every person

who supported our iWealth Holiday Food Baskets program in 2025, as well as those who have given so generously over the past 16 years.”

This year’s total donation of \$13,195 includes a matching contribution from the iWealth Foundation, which allocates one percent of its net profits annually to philanthropic efforts. In addition, the dedicated team members at iWealth once again made personal contributions to help lift the final total, reflecting their shared commitment to serving local families.

“The Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center is so thankful for the continued support that iWealth has provided for the iWealth Holiday Food Baskets and Backpack program for 16 years,” shared Cindy Kollander, Executive Director at the Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center. “These programs are essential in providing food support to families during the Christmas holiday and to students throughout the school

year. The kindness of this community shines especially bright at this time of year, and we hope to continue this partnership for many years to come.”

In mid-December, students from Waseca High School and committed volunteers will gather to assemble the Holiday Food Baskets, filling each box with ingredients for a festive Christmas meal. With the invaluable assistance of Scouts BSA Troop 85, the baskets will be distributed to families across the Waseca area. This year’s donated funds will provide Christmas meals for more than 230 local families, ensuring that tables are full and hearts are warm during the holiday season. Remaining funds will enhance the WANSC Backpack Program, a crucial initiative that supplies food to hundreds of local children on a weekly basis.

This year’s Holiday Food Baskets Drive saw contributions from dozens of clients, business partners, and team members of iWealth, marking

an inspiring sixteenth consecutive year of sponsorship. Since its inception, the iWealth Holiday Food Baskets Drive has resulted in cumulative donations now well over \$140,000, a testament to the ongoing kindness, compassion, and generosity of everyone who has participated in the program.

Matt Potter, Chief Operating Officer of iWealth, remarked, “At iWealth, one of our core values is to support our local community — especially our neighbors who may be facing a difficult season. As the cost of living continues to impact families, we are incredibly grateful for all who opened their hearts and gave so that more people can experience the joy of a warm, holiday meal shared with loved ones. This community truly embodies the spirit of Christmas.”

Please address any questions or interview requests to Corie Eckstrom at corie@iwealth4me.com or info@iwealth4me.com.

■ Root from Page 1

activity was,” says Root bitterly. “I was raised to respect and trust authority figures and Jack Krough took advantage of my innocence and my trust.”

Root was also a consistent young member of the Catholic Church, having attended Sacred Heart School for a few of his elementary years, and having completed his first confession and first communion. He would go on to be confirmed in the Catholic faith during his eighth-grade year.

At 12, Root observes, he had paid very little attention to intimate relationships, and had no idea homosexuality even existed. He comments that, like most 12-year-olds of the 1970s, he probably would have denied his own parents interacted intimately.

“I was gullible, and I was available,” he observes. “I didn’t really understand the meaning of ‘victim.’”

Krough instructed him to “keep this between us.” Partly because he had been asked by an authority figure and partly because he didn’t really know what “this” was, Root says he told no one. That fall he entered middle school and began to hear locker room talk among other boys which introduced him to the terms and prejudices of the day. Though he asked no questions, he began to piece together what “this” had been. After Krough approached him again the following summer, Root severed contact with him. As his activities with the scouts continued, he found himself watching Krough from something of a distance, paying attention to see whether he was approaching other boys.

As he went on to high school and his eventual graduation in 1976, Root’s silence continued. By this time, he was well acquainted with the era’s homophobia, and kept quiet to avoid falling victim to it.

Krough entered the seminary and was ordained as a priest of the Diocese of Winona in May of 1976, on the same day Root turned 18. Krough sent him an invitation to the celebration; Root threw it away.

Though he was resentful of Krough, he says he believed that, since he had completed training offered by the Catholic Church and been allowed to become a priest, Krough would no longer act in ways not pleasing to God.

He wishes he had been right. In 1980, Root married the woman of his dreams, Lora Hulburt, and they began to raise a family.

Not constantly, but persistently from ages 12 to 22, he would be in places or circumstances that caused him to recall the abuse. He resented that his innocence had been taken from him, interfering with what should have been his first relationships in high school.

When he and Lora were married, it was by a Catholic officiant in Sacred Heart Church. But Krough’s position as a priest eroded Root’s connection with Catholicism, so that once he and Laura began raising children, the family attended a Lutheran church, the denomination Laura had been brought up in. Though he never officially ended his membership at Sacred Heart, he attended the Lutheran church with his family. “The minister didn’t seem to mind,” he recalls.

After he began coaching youth sports, Root could not help thinking about how easily the young athletes could be influenced by predators in the same way he had been.

“It’s all about the kids,” he explains. “Sports are about helping them learn and grow.”

But while researching the topic of sexual abuse, Root had learned that, statistically, one in every five children is likely to encounter some form of abuse before the age of 16.

He could not avoid doing the math in his head. That meant, of the 300 boys taking part in a Saturday tournament, 60 would become victims.

He says that, even though his attention was meant to be on the competition, he would scan the crowds and watch how adults interacted with children, looking for any sign that someone might be a predator. Rather than straightforward appreciation of athletic skill and growth, tournaments were a time of anxiety for him. “I felt a responsibility to save anyone I could.”

“I got to be 20 years old, 30 years old, 40 years old, and still I never told anyone,” remembers Root. “I was worried about how my family members would feel, how it would affect their relationship with the Catholic Church,” he describes. “Sexual abuse is a topic that makes people uncomfortable because they don’t know how to react or what to say.”

“It’s been more than 50 years now, and all this time I’ve barely ever spoken about it.”

In the mid-1990s, a chance conver-

“They’re part of my history and part of who I am.” — Chuch Root

sation with an acquaintance revealed that Krough had been placed at All Saints church in New Richland. Root remembers becoming instantly angry and giving an emphatic warning that Krough should be “kept away” from children.

Determined to confront Krough and give him a good dressing down, Root approached him shortly after a mass. When their eyes met, Root says he is certain Krough recognized and remembered him, but Root found himself frozen and unable to speak. Eventually he left, not having spoken a word.

“It was like I was back to being a 12-year-old,” he speculates. What he did bring himself to do, though, was to contact the Diocese, say that he had been victimized by Krough, and insist that the priest be reassigned elsewhere or he would make what he knew public. Shortly after, Krough had moved on.

Information published online by the Diocese of Winona reveals that, by 1993, the church had sent Krough for evaluation after a photo of a naked minor was found among his possessions. In 1997, proof of abuse that had occurred around 1980 led to him being sent for treatment, then assigned to an all-female congregation at the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi in Rochester.

Krough left the priesthood in 2002. He died in 2014 at the age of 65.

Root’s inner turmoil became nagging discomfort as he heard news of minors abused by Catholic priests.

He was tortured by the possibility that, if he had spoken up, at least Krough—whose name is one among 18 released by the Diocese through 2016—would not have been in a position to abuse children. That turmoil eventually interfered with his job performance and his behavior toward his co-workers, starting a spiral that led to a diagnosis of post traumatic stress disorder and an earlier-than-planned retirement.

Now, with the open schedule of a retiree for whom “every day is Saturday,” he is still coping with the sense of betrayal and loss which followed in the wake of summer, 1970. He did, eventually, join the class action lawsuit against the Diocese which led to millions of dollars in claims and filing for bankruptcy in 2018. He received a minor monetary settlement,

but most importantly, he feels, he added his name to a list that reminds the Diocese of its responsibility.

He says he recently attended a Catholic mass for the first time in more than 35 years; he describes a sense of having returned “home.”

“The people at the church, they’re the ones I got off the bus with at Sacred Heart School when I was in first and second grade,” he says. “They’re part of my history and part of who I am.” He says despite the long hiatus, being back at Sacred Heart had him feeling he was in the company of family and friends, standing back on familiar ground.

But simultaneously, he felt resentment against the larger organization of the Catholic Church, which did not manage to protect him and the many other minors who experienced sexual abuse, and then took decades to acknowledge the crimes committed by some of its priests.

Root says he contacted the Waseca County Pioneer to share his story because he still feels an obligation to protect.

“I wish it weren’t, but abuse is still happening,” he points out.

A “Quick Facts” summary published online by the Minnesota Department of Health uses statistics from 2022 to show “at least 8 percent” of Minnesota’s eighth-graders have experienced sexual violence, and by eleventh grade, at least 16 percent have—one in six.

His experiences—his childish feelings of shame, his parental impulse to protect, his guilt and inner conflict over not having spoken up, his emerging understanding of alienation and loss—all make it clear the after-effects of abuse are lifelong and far-reaching.

Speaking of both religious and civic organizations that work with children, Root claims, “They’ve got to recognize their responsibility.” He clarifies this means steps should be taken to screen adult leaders, and, once abuse has occurred, recognize and support the victims.

“It doesn’t go away,” he says regarding the intertwined consequences the childhood abuse has had for him. “Sometimes people might think I’m overreacting to something that doesn’t seem that important, but they don’t have any way to understand the conflicts that are going on inside.”



The Pastor's Column

The four-way test

By REV. MIKE COGLAN

On February 9, 1961, a few businesspeople met at the Pheasant Café on Front Street. These were fruitful and grateful business leaders who wanted to give something back to the community. Together they founded the Rotary Club of Waseca, Minnesota. I am a member of this movement which began 65 years ago.

Our town is blessed to have several of these sorts of service clubs that cooperate with each other and with local businesses to improve our community and support the needy. One of the distinctives of the Rotary Club is an ethical code that I'd like to share with you. It's called The Four-Way Test of All We Think, Say or Do. We recite these four simple questions at every meeting:

Is it the truth?

Is it fair to all concerned?

Will it build goodwill and better friendships?

Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

This test was penned by a devout Christian who was also a Rotarian. It is a simple moral compass for decision-making in business, leadership, and all other areas of life. For Christians, these questions reflect the life that Jesus invites his followers to exemplify in the world.

Is it the truth?

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6). He doesn't just speak the truth; he embodies the truth. To live truthfully, then, means aligning our motives, words, and actions with God's character. This kind of truth resists exaggeration, manipulation, and half-truths offered for personal gain. It takes courage to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Truth is to be spoken in love (Ephesians 4:15), meaning that it is for the benefit of others, and may cost us something in the short term. But the truth sets people free (John 8:32).

Is it fair to all concerned?

To be fair means never to take advantage of someone's weaker bargaining position. Jesus often spoke of justice for the poor and the disadvantaged. Throughout Scripture, God shows special concern for those who are overlooked, exploited, or marginalized. The prophet

Micah calls us "to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8). Justice and compassion belong together. Fairness asks us to examine how our decisions affect not only ourselves, but our employees, families, communities, and future generations. It challenges us to consider who might bear the hidden cost of our personal gains.

Will it build goodwill and better friendships?

Christianity is a communal faith. Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:30,31). We are taught that love of our neighbors stands alongside our love of God as the greatest commandments. We must see each other with humility, respect, and a desire for understanding. Better friendships grow where people are seen not as competitors, but as neighbors who care for each other.

Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

The final question makes us look beyond self-interest. The apostle Paul urges, "Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others" (Philippians 2:4). Our "bottom line" is not measured only in financial terms, but in the flourishing of our community. What we do, even in small things, contributes to the quality of life for all those around us.

Taken together, the Four-Way Test reflects the moral wisdom of Jesus' teaching: Love God. Love your neighbor. Bear good fruit. For Christians within Rotary, the Four-Way Test is a spiritual discipline. It is an examination of conscience that shapes decisions large and small. When these questions guide our actions, we participate in God's ongoing work of redemption and reconciliation.

In a time of shocking scandals, we need to build ethical leaders more than ever. The Four-Way Test offers guidance and inspiration. And for Christians, it becomes one more way to live out our faith in quiet and trustworthy action for the good of all.

■ 2025

from Page 3

May

- The Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) distributed trees ordered during the organization's spring tree sale on Friday, April 25, at the Waseca County fairgrounds. Customers who had placed the 140 orders began arriving by 7:30 even though distribution did not begin until 8:30.

- During their regular business meeting April 24, members of the Waseca school board heard from Junior-Senior High School assistant principal Justin Johnson. Johnson reported enrollment is at 827, an increase of six above the previous year, which Johnson says is contrary to the experience of other districts around the state.

- History was made for the Waseca High School boys' tennis team. For the first time ever, the Bluejays earned the right to compete for the Big South Conference overall championship.

- Each year, the Minnesota Beef Council proudly recognizes a Minnesota retailer for its outstanding commitment to excellence in beef promotion. The 2025 Minnesota Retail Beef Backer Award was presented to Morgan's Meat Market of Waseca, a family-owned establishment whose legacy and innovation have made them a pillar of Minnesota's beef industry.

- "Scholarship Night" at Waseca High School brought high school scholarship recipients to the stage alongside the individuals who helped decide who would benefit from about \$176,000 in support for their post-secondary schooling.

- Speaker Karla Scherff drew attention to the bittersweet importance of observing Memorial Day for those attending the Waseca County ceremony held on the courthouse lawn.

- The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton Class of 2025 was one of the largest graduating classes the school had seen in recent years, with 69 students receiving their high school diplomas on the football field on Friday, May 23.

- During a signing ceremony the morning of May 21, Waseca High School seniors Cejay Pickett, Helin Cruz-Hernandez, Kylie Snow and Joseph Mexitico-Perez "signed" to indicate their commitment toward becoming future educators.

- The Waseca High School girls' and boys' track and field teams finished fifth and sixth, respectively, in the Big South Conference meet at St. Peter. The host team won the girls' division with 165 points, with TCU second at 133.5. The Bluejays totaled 83.

- The season ended with a one-and-done in the section tournament for five of six area baseball and softball teams. Only the NRHEG baseball squad advanced.

- The NRHEG High School track



Members of the JWP girls' track and field team pose with the Class A state championship trophy they claimed at St. Michael-Albertville High School last Wednesday. From front left: Makaela Westphal and Ashlynn Wolff. Back: Katie Olson, Nevaeh Weimert, Onikia Herme, Brielle Bure and Lilly Strauss.

and field teams competed in the Class 2A South Sub-section meet at USC High School in Wells. The NRHEG girls finished fourth out of 12 teams, totaling 79 points. JWP won the championship with 124.5 points.

- Waseca school district teachers and their guests celebrated accomplishments and milestones in a gathering of about 165 people at The Mill the evening of May 21.

June

- "The end of an era. The start of a new legacy," was the class motto for the Waseca High School Class of 2025 which graduated 153 in a packed gymnasium.

- They stood together for the final time. One by one, they walked out into the world. The 55 members of the NRHEG class of 2025 graduated in a packed high school gymnasium in New Richland.

- Deputies Brayden Berg and Gavin Kritzeck took the sheriff's department oath of office during the May 6 Waseca County board meeting, both were welcomed heartily as the county's newest deputies.

- Waseca High School came to be well represented in the upcoming state track and field meet. No less than 13 athletes in 11 events advanced for coach David Abel's squads from last week's two-day Section 2AA meet at Faribault's Bruce Smith Field.

- Add another championship for the 2025 Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School girls' track and field team. The Bulldogs' latest first-place trophy came on their biggest stage of the season so far, the Section 2A meet.

- The New Richland-Hartland-Elendale-Geneva girls' track and field team advanced three individuals to the state meet. Kylie Olson, Anika Laddie and Gabby Schlaak represented the Panthers in the state meet



Sacred Heart School held their marathon and following celebration the evening of Wednesday, April 30. There were around 200 participants, from young to old, runners or walkers or they met their fundraising goal of \$37,500.

after a stellar showing in the Section 2A meet at Mankato West High School.

- The first ever Arik Matson Legacy Service Award was presented at the June 3 Waseca City Council meeting. Public Safety Director and Police Chief Kris Markeson introduced the award, which features three major character traits that he said Matson exemplified during his career: cooperative spirit, community engagement and willingness to improve.

- According to Brandon Eder, assistant to the supervisor of the Waterville area fishery operated by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Waseca's Clear Lake is one of the busiest in the wide area managed by the Waterville fishery, and for a good reason.

- Families and teams competed among neighs, snorts and shouts in the Yaunt-2 organization's first ranch rodeo of the year on June 7 and 8.

- The NRHEG Clay Target team held their fun shoot and awards picnic on June 4 at the Owatonna Gun

Club.

- While running a restaurant wasn't a part of their original plan, Sarah Kay Hoffman and her business partner Makayla Selvik ran restaurant and cocktail bar Refinery 507 at 100 State Street North for four years before they decided to make a change, turning their facility into a private event venue.

- The Waseca Exchange Club is proud to announce that member and Special Olympics athlete Jake Lieser has been selected to represent Team Minnesota at the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games, taking place in late June at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities campus.

- It was a great day to be a Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton Bulldog on Thursday, May 29, as JWP celebrated the graduation of 42 kindergartners.

- At the Waldorf city council meeting the evening of Monday, June 9, Mayor Rob Wilkening presented the "City of Waldorf Phase 2 Project" listing 11 different city projects for a total cost of about \$8.4 million.

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

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

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

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

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
111 4th St NW, Waseca
Father Glenn Ferichs
507-835-1222
Worship Sundays 10:00 a.m., Tues. and Wed. at 8:30 a.m. and Thurs. at 7 a.m., Saturdays at 5 p.m.
* * *

REAL LIFE CHURCH
620 W Elm Ave, Waseca

507-607-8245
Sunday worship 10 a.m.
* * *

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS
1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca
507-835-4640
Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m.
* * *

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

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

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship
Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters
Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship
* * *

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Otisco, Minnesota
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 Mary Iverson
Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee
Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting
Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting
* * *

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
* * *

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

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 WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.

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Janesville

25 years ago
- Mark Schaetzke has been awarded an \$850 scholarship from Aid Association for Lutherans, (AAL) for the 200-01 school year. Schaetzke is a senior at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter. He is the son of Marv and Naomi Schaetzke of Janesville. Schaetzke received the scholarship through the AAL Lutheran Campus Scholarship Program, which awards scholarships to AAL members attending Lutheran institutions of higher education. Recipients are selected by financial offices at participating schools.



- **Record snowfall amounts hit Janesville area.** These elementary students enjoyed the cold weather outside Trinity Lutheran Elementary School. The Janesville area received six plus inches of snow on Monday, combined with 20 to 30 mile per hour wind gusts. Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton had some students report to school, but they were sent back home before school started.
- A JWP High School student was slightly injured Saturday in a one vehicle roll over accident. According to the Waseca County Sheriff's Office report, at 8:59 p.m. a vehicle driven by Justin Colby Mueller, 17, of Janesville was southbound on 50th Street when he lost control causing his vehicle to roll over. One of his passengers Mellisa Sue Cummins, 17, of Janesville was taken to Immanuel St. Joseph's Hospital in Mankato. Mueller was not injured in this accident. He was cited for speeding and careless driving.

50 years ago



- **It doesn't take much to make 11-month-old Amy Elizabeth Pope smile.** As long as her tummy is ful and her diaper dry, she's a pretty happy girl. Amy is too little to realize how important the year 1974 was to her. During the last week in December her parents, Doctor and Mrs. David Pope, were able to adopt Amy, putting to an end fears that they would not be able to keep her. Amy originally come to the Popes as a foster child, but she stayed too long...and the family fell in love with her. All in one week they adopted her, baptized her in the Methodist Church and celebrated Christmas. you can see why Amy is looking forward to the new year. She's a permanent Pope!
- Charles Born, 33, is one of the candidates the Janesville Jaycees have nominated for Outstanding Young Farmer. Other candidates will be listed in future editions. The award will be presented at the first Annual AG-STAG January 25, in the old gym at Janesville High School. The son of Mrs. Edna Born and the late Charles Born, Sr., Charlie was raised on his parents farm located on Lake Elysian.
- Mr. and Mrs. John Sweet, Janesville, announce the engagement of their daughter, Marsha, to Mr. Gary J. Gatewood, Duluth, son of Mrs. James Gatewood. Miss Sweet is a 1974 graduate of Janesville Public Schools and is employed at Colonial Manor, Waterville. Mr. Gatewood will be a 1975 graduate of Duluth East High School and is employed at the Radisson Hotel. No wedding date has been set.

75 years ago

- This season's first Janesville "Gift Day" held on Thursday, December 1, beginning at 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon turned out very successfully with a large crowd in attendance. Free turkeys and other merchandise will be given away every Thursday afternoon at the same hour until Christmas. Folks throughout the whole of the Janesville trade territory are invited to be present every Thursday afternoon until Christmas for a very pleasant and perhaps a most profitable afternoon.
- Old Horse Wanted - We never pay less than \$10.00, even if the horse is unable to get up. We pay \$20.00 for a large, fat horse. Reverse the telephone charge. Osborn Mink Farm, Waterville, Minn.

100 years ago

- A country boy came to town recently, says the Elysian Enterprise, and after wandering up and down the street for an hour or so, stopped in front of an empty building to gaze at a window hanger advertisement of some show, relates a country paper. In a little while he was joined by some town loafers and before long another, then two or three more. The farmer had not said a word but continued to look. After a quarter of an hour had passed one of the most curious of the loafers could stand it no longer, and he asked the farmer what he was looking at. The country boy never turned his head but answered: "I was just seeing how long a fellow could tend to his own business without some darn fool wanting to know what he was doing."
- Some editors and other authorities make no distinction between the two words "O" and "Oh." The commonly followed rules, however, for the use of "O" is directly addressing a person or a personified object, in uttering a wish, and to express surprise, indignation or regret; and for the use of "Oh" is an interjection and as the colloquial introduction to a sentence.

Waseca

25 years ago
- VFW Post 1642 and its Auxiliary are pleased to announce the winners of this year's Voice of Democracy. Tyler Nelson, a Junior from Waseca High School, took first place honors with his speech "What Price Freedom?" Tyler also won the competition last year. He is the son of Morgan Lawton and Rev. Greg Nelson. Tyler received \$150, a plaque and various other awards. Taking 2nd place was Sarah Ketelson, who received \$120, a plaque and other prizes. Tim Andree took 3rd place, and Bryan Boyce 4th and Lindy Hanson won 5th place.
- Saturday, Nov. 4- At 2:08 p.m. a vehicle driven by Bruce Allen Zimmerman, 32, of Waseca was eastbound on 355th Avenue when a deer entered the roadway causing the collision. Zimmerman was not injured in the accident. At 5:51 p.m. a vehicle driven by Gregory Mitchell Dennis, 48, of Waseca was southbound on Reeds Lake Road when he lost control on the icy roadway causing his vehicle to enter the ditch and roll over. He was not injured in the accident.
- **Alli Mulcahy-Some had hats and some didn't. Some had brown hair and some had blonde hair. They're having Christmas dinner with us. All my family helped make dinner for everyone. Do you know who was at the door? They were my cousins!**



50 years ago

- The Austin Packers won the Waseca Holiday Wrestling Tournament scoring 109.5 points with Waterville a close second at 103.5. The Bluejays were fifth at 84.5 points. The Bluejays had two champions with Chuck Root winning the 138 pound championship and Doug Gehring winning at 180.
- The City of Waseca will sell and accept sealed bids for the standing windmill located on municipal airport property known previously as the Prechel farm, until 2:00 p.m., January 16, 1976, at the Office of the City Clerk at which time they will be opened and tabulated. The City reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any irregularities in the bidding. Robert Haarman, City Manager.



- **Baking Christmas cookies. In Romelle Deef's kitchen with Jamie and Jessie Schroeck and Jeff and Julie Helper.**
- Interested persons are reminded of the registration night on Tuesday, Dec. 30 from 7-9 p.m. in the Waseca High School Commons for the four classes to be offered in Waseca through the Mankato State University Extended Campus program. The four classes to be offered to the public during the winter quarter are "Reading the Short Story," "Sociology of Death," "Statistical Analysis of Business" and "Philosophy and Organization of Vocational Education."

75 years ago

- Too much starch and sugar plus parents inattention, is causing the rate of decay of children's teeth to increase, Dr. Robert M. Elliot, Minneapolis told a dental clinic here last night. He urged children be stopped from eating between meals and be taught that "it's the brushing, not the paste or powder that does the real business of cleaning teeth."
- The step-up in manpower needs in the armed services is reflected in the increased draft calls for Waseca county during the month of January. The county Selective Service office said Wednesday, that 11 men have passed physical examinations for induction and will be drafted into the service Dec. 30. Names of the men have not been announced.
- Delivery of the 64-pages Waseca Telephone directories will be made over the week end. Practically all of the directories will be in the hands of the subscribers some time Monday. New directories may be used immediately upon their receipt. The 20 pages of listings provides service for the 2,665 telephones connected to the local exchange. Local people in the past places approximately 10,000 local calls a day. In recent months this has been stepped up to a point where it frequently exceeds 12,000 calls a day.

100 years ago

- The death of Mrs. Hartley about one year ago removed from this community a character more prominently associated with school life, than any other, since the organization of the District which embraces the City of Waseca. First as a student of our schools and later as an instructor, she became so identified with our school, that she was generally recognized as the leading character in our educational work. Others have been prominent and their influence has been great but to Mrs. Hartley belongs the honor of being the most valuable "asset" the Waseca School has ever had. To borrow the expression so commonly used today-she was of "all American" caliber.
- Tickets at one fare pulse 25 cents will be on sale for all trains of each Friday and Saturday adn for trains passing selling station before 10:00 A.M. of each Sunday. Final return limit to leave destination before midnight of following Monday. Rates apply between all points on the M. & St. L. R. R. One-half fare for children between ages of 5 and 12. Minimum adult fare 50 cents. See agent for full particulars.
- Last Saturday evening, Dec. 26 Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Parker most delightfully entertained at a 6:30 o'clock dinner in compliment to their daughter, Miss Annabelle. The occasion was her 18th birthday. Place cards were placed for 10. The decorations in the living room were carried out in red and green, the holiday colors, while a color scheme of pink and white was very prettily carried out in the dining room decorations. Pink and white roses were used as centerpiece for the birthday table. Following the dinner, five hundred and dancing furnished the amusement of the evening. The guests enjoyed a jolly good time and on departure all wished Miss Annabelle many happy returns of the day.

New Richland

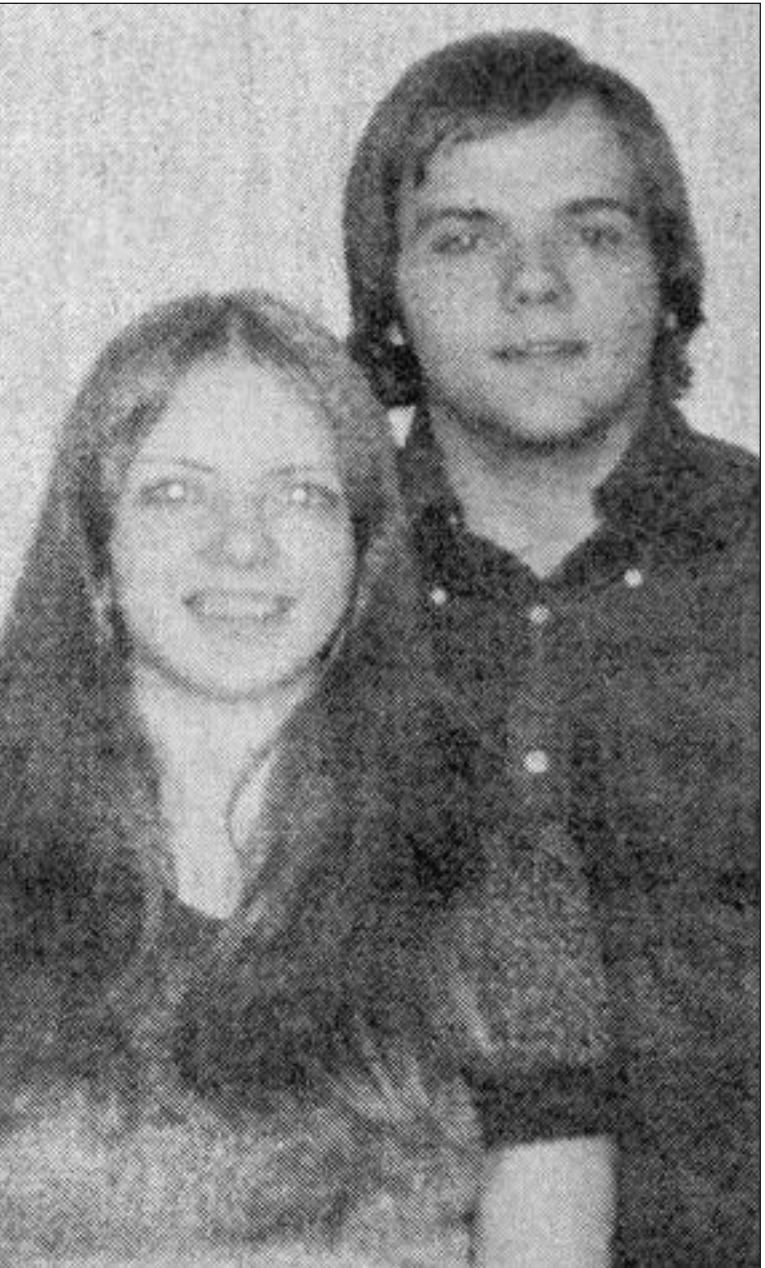
25 years ago
- Air Force Captain Dana Dane arrived for duty in Bethesda, Maryland. Dane is a student of the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences. He is the son of Charles and Karen Dane of Pemberton. The Captain is a 1977 graduate of Waldorf - Pemberton High school, and a 1982 graduate of the University of Minnesota.
- Dan and Kari Budach of New Richland are the parents of a daughter born December 14, 2000, at the Owatonna Hospital. Hannah Marie, as the little miss has been named, weighed 8 pounds and 2 ounces.



- **Lida Davis (right) celebrated her 101st birthday at the New Richland Care Center, Thursday, December 21, the day of the Center's Annual Christmas party. Helping her celebrate was her daughter, Sharon Olson of Hartland.**

50 years ago

- **Charles A. Swenson, U.S.** Air Force Master Sergeant, son of Mrs. Arthillie Swenson and Arvid Swenson of Albert Lea has been decorated with the Department of Defense Joint Service Commendation Medal at the Air Reserve Personnel. Sgt. Swenson was cited for meritorious service while assigned at Ent AFB, Colorado, as a personnel supervisor for a unit of the North American Air Defense Command. He is now assigned as chief of the support branch at the Air Reserve Personnel Center.



- **Announce Engagement.** Mr. and Mrs. Herman Thompson of Hartland, announce the engagement of their daughter, Joanne Marie, to Curtis Richard Frisk, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Frisk of New Richland. Miss Thompson is a 1974 graduate of New Richland-Hartland High school. She is currently attending Winona State University. Her fiancé is a 1971 graduate of New Richland- Hartland High School and is attending Mankato State University.
- A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Gary Budach, December 28 at Naeve Hospital, Albert Lea. The little miss weighed 7 pounds and 9 ounces at birth and has been named Holly Kay. She has a sister, Tanya, who is 18 months old.

75 years ago

- Waseca County raised \$2,537.93 in the 1950 CROP solicitation. The amount will be sent to the state office because the local officials believe state and national officers are better able to know the overseas needs. The Waseca county officers of the Christian Rural Overseas program are The Very Rev. John McShane, chairman; Frank T. Sankovitz, treasurer; both of Waseca; and Bernard C. Rotegard, New Richland Secretary.
- Kathryn Lois Peterson became the bride of Marlin Sandsmark Sunday January 21, in the Sion Lutheran Church of Lake Mills. The Rev. Christain Notsund performed the double ring ceremony. The church was decorated with candelabra, ferns and baskets of flowers. Lighted candles were on every other pew. A reception was held in the church parlors for some 75 guests.

STANDINGS

Boys' Basketball

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

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

Gopher Conference East		
	Conf.	Ov.
Blooming Prairie	3-0	10-0
Triton	2-0	6-3
Hayfield	2-1	5-3
Randolph	2-2	3-8
Bethlehem Academy	1-2	3-5
Kenyon-Wanamingo	0-4	2-7

Gopher Conference - West		
	Conf.	Ov.
Janessville-WP	4-0	11-0
New Richland-HEG	2-2	3-6
United South Central	1-2	2-6
Waterville-EM	1-2	2-6
Medford	0-3	2-7

Girls' Basketball

Big South Conference - Black		
	Conf.	Ov.
Marshall	5-0	8-2
New Ulm	4-1	7-2
Tri-City United	3-1	5-6
St. Peter	3-2	6-3
Belle Plaine	1-3	4-5
Worthington	0-4	2-8
Waseca	0-5	1-10

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

Gopher Conference - East		
	Conf.	Ov.
Hayfield/Schaeffer Ac.	5-0	10-2
Blooming Prairie	3-1	7-4
Triton	2-1	5-4
Randolph	1-4	4-6
Bethlehem Academy	0-4	4-6
Kenyon-Wanamingo	0-4	4-7

Gopher Conference - West		
	Conf.	Ov.
New Richland-HEG	4-0	10-2
Janessville-WP	3-1	8-5
United South Central	1-2	7-3
Waterville-EM	1-3	2-8
Medford	0-0	0-0

Boys' Hockey

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

Big South Conference - Gold		
	Conf.	Ov.
Luverne	4-0	13-2
Fairmont	2-1	3-5
Windom Area	2-2	4-6
Worthington	1-2	2-10
Redwood Valley	0-4	1-8

Girls' Hockey

Big South Conference - Black		
	Conf.	Ov.
Minnesota River	4-1	12-3
Marshall	2-1	15-4
New Ulm	1-2	3-11
South Central	0-3	0-12

Big South Conference - Gold		
	Conf.	Ov.
Fairmont	2-0	7-5
Luverne	2-1	9-7
Worthington/Fulda	1-1	6-8
Windom Area	0-3	4-11

Wrestling

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

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

Waseca girls clip Cleveland for 1st win

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

As head coach Brian Rupe told his Waseca High School girls' basketball team, it wasn't because the Bluejays did anything differently than in previous outings - other than execute better for a full game.

"When you give great effort and do things the right way, success will come your way," said Rupe.

Following that formula, the Bluejays were rewarded with their first victory of the season Friday, Jan. 2, 62-47 over visiting Cleveland.

"It was just great to see these girls get a win," said Rupe.

The Bluejays started strong and never let up, leading 38-26 at half-time.

Several playeres contributed, with Waseca outrebounding the Clippers 57-29 while sharing the basketball unselfishly and getting up and down the court better than they have all season.

"We moved the ball really well, setting ourselves up to get a lot of great shots," said Rupe. "We did not shoot the ball from the three-point line as well as we would have liked, but hit some at big times."

The Bluejays shot almost 60 per-

cent on two-pointers, which Rupe attributed to efficient ball movement.

Individually for WHS: Ava Miller 15 points, 5 assists, 2 steals, 2 blocks; Hannah Sommers 11P, 8R, 2A, 1S; Belle Miller 10P, 5R, 1A; Reese Rodriguez 9P, 5R, 3S, 7A; Shakiayah Powell 8P, 10R, 5B; Libby Miller 6P, 6R, 1A; Adrianna Willingham 3P, 6R, 3S, 1B; Maren Schimming 9R, 2A, 1S.

"Having Ava and Reese being such unselfish players helps on a night like tonight to move the bal," said Rupe. "Hannah and Shakiyah did a great job on the inside, combining for 19 pts and 18 rebounds."

The Bluejays lost twice in a holiday tournament at Winona State, falling 66-41 to Plainview/Elgin-Millville in the third-place game Dec. 27. They trailed 30-15 at the break.

"We played well early in this one, especially on defense," said Rupe. "I thought we rebounded the ball better than we had in the prior couple of games. PEM changed their defenses often and liked to try to trap as much as possible. We moved the ball around well, finding open players and allowing us to get a lot of good shots. We continue to work on han-



INTO THE WIN COLUMN — The Bluejays' Ava Miller, left, and Reese Rodriguez, right, during the Bluejays' victory over Cleveland Jan. 2.



Photos by Jim Lutgens

dling the pressure and try to limit our turnovers."

Individually: A.Miller 5A, 1S; B.Miller 9P, 3R, 2A, 3S; Rodriguez 14P, 6R, 3S; Schimming 5P, 2S, 4R, 4A; L.Miller 5P, 2R, 3A; Hannah Teague 2R; Sommers 8P, 4R; Alexa Welander 3R; Powell 2R; Anna Benson 3R.

In the opening round the Bluejays lost 60-24 to Lake City after facing a 42-9 halftime deficit.

"Lake City jumped out to a good size lead against us and we struggled to score," sadi Rupe. "We fought hard defensively and got in some foul trouble in the first half. This

forced some of the other girls to need to step up and play more minutes than usual. We were able to get into a little more rhythm in the second half. The girls continue to work hard and do the right things, which will pay off in the long run."

Individually: A.Miller 5P, 2R, 1A, 1S; B.Miller 3P, 1R, 2A, 3S; Rodriguez 7P, 2R; Schimming 3R, 1S; L.Miller 1P, 3R, 1A, 1S; Teague 2P, 5R; Sommers 4R; Welander 2R; Powell 6P, 6R; Benson 1A; Ahvah Maas 1R, 1A.

The Bluejays ran into a red-hot, top-10 ranked NRHEG squad Dec. 23 and lost 74-35 in New Richland.

Waseca wrestlers second in tourney

Barnett named Outstanding Wrestler

The Waseca High School wrestling team turned in a gritty, hard-fought performance at the Norwood-Young America team tournament last Saturday, finishing second overall in a competitive 10-team field.

Waseca jumped out to an early lead after the first round of competition, but was eventually overtaken by Paynesville, who claimed the team title. Paynesville benefited from a full lineup of 13 wrestlers, while Waseca battled through the day with just 10 wrestlers, leaving three open weight classes. Despite the disadvantage, the Bluejays stayed in contention throughout the entire tournament.

Waseca was led by Slade Barnett, who won the 172-pound championship and was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Wrestler while remaining undefeated for the season.

Matthew Veroeven also claimed gold, winning the title at 285.

Other Bluejay places: Braxton Nelson, third, 152; Sam Selthun, third, 160; Alex Bethke, fourth, 189; Lucas Selthun, fourth, 215; Kole Nelson, fifth, 107; Devon Parpart, fifth, 133; and Jacob Knutson, sixth, 145.

Each wrestler competed in four to five matches, with bouts totaling nearly 30 minutes of intense wrestling per athlete over the course of the day, showcasing the team's depth, conditioning, and toughness.

Paynesville was first place with 176 points, followed by Waseca



TROPHY TIME — Above, members of the Waseca High School wrestling team celebrate a second-place finish at Norwood last Saturday. Below, the Bluejays' Slade Barnett and his award for being named the tournament's Most Outstanding Wrestler.

Photos by Kirissa Nelson

with 137.5 points, and Monticello close behind in third 137 points. Also competing were Norwood-Young America, WEM/JWP, Glencoe-Silver Lake/Lester Prairie, St. Clair/Mankato Loyola, Robbinsdale Armstrong, Minnetonka and Faribault.

The day concluded with a celebratory moment as the Waseca wrestlers hoisted coach Jake Janikie after securing second place — a fitting end to a day that highlighted the team's resilience, effort, and competitive spirit.

The Bluejays host a quadrangular Thursday, Jan. 8 at 5 p.m. and travel to Marshall for the Big South Conference tournament Saturday at 10 a.m. They wrestle Tuesday, Jan. 13 in a 5 p.m. quad at Maple River.



NRHEG basketball boys drop three during holidays

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Coach Dan Schmidt called it a holiday funk for the NRHEG High School boys' basketball team.

It's as good a term as any.

The Panthers finished the holidays 0-3, seeing their record slip to 2-2 in the Gopher Conference and 3-6 overall.

Most recently, the NRHEG boys dropped a 75-52 decision at St. Clair last Saturday.

They started slowly, struggling to get into any kind of flow, according to Schmidt.

"We just didn't seem to want it tonight," said Schmidt. "They outworked us, plain and simple."

Mack Gilliland led the Panthers with 11 points, followed by Brooke Gilliland with 10.

Schmidt praised the play of Brock Holland, who scored eight points and did a great job rebounding. A.J. Deen added eight points, Jackson McGannon six, Levi Whitside and David Deen four apiece, and Fynn Baumann one.

"We'll go back to the drawing board and see what we can do to come out of this holiday funk that we're in right now," said Schmidt.

The Panthers fell 57-47 to Ortonville at Lakeview High School in Cottonwood as one of the games during the Northstar Mutual Holiday Showcase Dec. 29.

They again struggled at the start and never recovered despite taking the lead early in the second half.

"We turned over the ball way too often to

sustain any sort of run, unfortunately," said Schmidt. "Turnovers have been an issue the last few games, and tonight proved to be too much to overcome."

Brooks Gilliland finished with 10 points, five rebounds, five assists and two steals, Brendan Schmidt eight points, seven rebounds, two steals and two assists.

Others: Calvin Nissen 8P, 4S; A.J. Deen 4R, 2A, 1S; M.Gilliland 7P, 1R, 1A; Zander Hanna 6P, 4R, 2A; Baumann 3P, 1R; Dom Olson 2P, 1A; Sean Lassahn 2P; Holland 1P, 6R.

The Panthers lost 84-51 in a nonconference game at Waseca Dec. 23.

NRHEG kept it close early, prompting a time out call by Waseca coach Seth Anderson, and it was all Bluejays after that.

"They switched to a zone, and we got way too passive against it and allowed them to dictate our offense at that point, and never got back our momentum," said Schmidt.

A highlight for the Panthers was freshman Mack Gilliland going five-for-six from behind the arc in the second half to lead the team with 15 points.

"Hopefully, that will be a little kick-start for him going into January," said Schmidt.

Individual totals: A.J. Deen 4P, 4R, 3A, 3 blocked shots; Olson 1A, 1S; Nissen 9P, 1R, 1S; B.Gilliland 7P, 3R, 3A, 1S; Baumann 5P, 4R, 1A; B.Schmidt 1R, 2S, 1B; M.Gilliland 15P, 2R, 1A; Holland 6P, 5R, 1A; Lassahn 4R, 3A, 1S; Hanna 5R, 1A.

After facing USC at home Tuesday, the Panthers host Triton Friday and WEM Jan. 13.

Grizzlies 5th at NYA

The WEM/JWP wrestling Grizzlies tied for fifth in the Central Raider Invitational at Norwood last Saturday.

The Grizzlies' Brady Murphy, ranked No. 7 in the state, captured the 139-pound championship, winning 7-0 in the title bout.

Also reaching the finals were Brenden Masso, who finished second at 121, and 189-pounder Trenton Huber. Otto Root placed third at 114, Parker James fourth at 145.

Gruber placed fourth at 139.

"It's a good showing considering he just returned from injury," said WEM/JWP co-head coach Adam Roesler.

Also placing for the Grizzlies: Kavin Sheehy, fifth, 215; Trey Richards, sixth, 127; and Ben Root, sixth, 160.

Also wrestling but not placing were Zach Quast, 152; Reed Sammon, 152; Isaac Miller, 160; and Charles Adams, 172.

Paynesville Area won the tournament with 176.5 points, followed by Waseca with 137.5, Monticello 137, Hutchinson 134, Norwood-Young America 123.5, WEM/JWP 123.5, Glencoe-Silver Lake/Lester Prairie 104.5, St. Clair/Mankato Loyola 72, Robbinsdale Armstrong 57.5, Minnetonka 42, Faribault 25.

The WEM/JWP Grizzly girls had seven competitors in an-18 team event at St. Paul Harding on Friday, Jan. 2. The girls placed 11th.

Individually: Bre'Ana Masso, first, 112; Payton Miller, second, 112; Kaylie Langford, third, 136; Anaelyse Skidmore, fifth, 106. Also wrestling: Ivy Shaw, 124; Kiersten Amundson, 136; Rayel Sammon, 136.



Firing on all eight cylinders

WHS boys take tourney title

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The last time the Waseca High School boys' basketball team played in a tournament, it did not end as hoped, with a loss to Albany in the Class AA state championship game last March.

This time there was little doubt. The Bluejays, apparently finally recovered from an extended football season - which also ended in a state championship game - waltzed to the title in the Rochester Lourdes Holiday Tournament Dec. 29-30. The locals defeated Randolph 81-61 in the championship round, where they led 41-21 at halftime. The Rockets rallied in the second half and eventually trimmed the lead to five before the Bluejays finished with a flurry. Leading the way was senior Deron Russell, who finishd with 36 points, eight rebounds, six steals and three assists. He made three baskets from three-point range. The only other Bluejay to reach double figures in scoring was senior Wyatt Hager, who scored 17 go

along with six rebounds, two steals and one assist. Others: Ethan Hiller 9P, 8R, 8A, 3S, 1B; Cyrett Long 2A, 1R; Owen Honstad 5P, 3R, 2A, 1S; Brody Dufault 3A; Owen Rupe 3P, 4R; Darius Powell 3P, 1R; Toby Jeske 6P, 2R, 1A, 2S. The Bluejays routed Rochester Lourdes 81-54 in the opening round. "We got up early and coasted," said WHS coach Seth Anderson. "We shot very poorly." Russell had another big game with 38 points, 10 rebounds, six steals and three assists, while Hager totaled 17 points, three rebounds, three assists and two steals. Also: Hiller 5P, 3R, 5A, 3S; Long 7P, 3R; Honstad 5P, 4R. 4A, 6S; Logan Reger 1R; Dufault 3R, 1A, 2S, 1B; Rupe 3P, 2R, 1B; Powell 2P; Caleb Wolf 1R, 1A; Jeske 4P, 3R; Juluis Oveido 2R. The Bluejays, 5-4 overall and 2-3 in the Big South Conference, host Worthington Friday and Belle Plaine Tuesday, Jan. 13.

WINNING WAYS — Deron Russell, left, and Ethan Hiller, right, in action during the Rochester Lourdes Holiday Tournament.
Photos by Cassie Rupe

Lady Panthers win LCWM tourney

The NRHEG Panthers got their rematch with Fairmont. Not surprisingly, they made the most of it. The Panther girls' basketball team, which fell to Fairmont by one point early in the season, upended the Cardinals 58-48 to capture the championship in the LCWM Holiday Tournament Friday, Dec. 30. "Fairmont is an extremely tough team," said NRHEG coach Onika Peterson. But the Panthers were tougher, especially on defense. "Our defense tonight was solid, and we were able to get key stops and timely steals when we needed them most," said Peterson, whose team led 35-25 at halftime and built the bulge to 20 in the second half. "I kept waiting for Fairmont to start chipping away, especially after what they did to us at home earlier this season." Fairmont senior Brylee Miller, who will play at Minnesota State-Mankato next year and is described by Peterson as "an extremely impressive player," had some big steals in the second half as Fairmont made a late run. But the Panthers held them off, limiting Miller to nine points in the second half and 20 for the game. She scored 28 the first time the teams met this season. NRHEG senior Camryn VanMaldeghem had a huge night, finishing with 31 points. "She took over the game, at times slashing to the basket at will," said Peterson. "I'm extremely proud of our entire

team. They battled on every single possession, which is all I can ask for." Full individual statistics for NRHEG: C.VanMaldeghem 31 points, 4 rebounds, 7 steals, 4 assists; Quinn VanMaldeghem 11P, 7R, 4S, 1A, 1 blocke shot; Gabby Schlaak 7P, 6R, 3S, 1A; Ezra Boerner 2P; Clara Buendorf 4P, 1R, 1S, 3A; Chloe Stork 3P, 3R. The Panthers defeated host LCWM 66-45 in the opening round, leading 28-16 at halftime. "It was a great team win over holiday break," said Peterson. "You never quite know what you're going to get during the break, but the girls came out with an extremely solid defensive effort. We rebounded the ball well, which gave us much-needed second and third-chance opportunities, especially important since we didn't shoot the ball particularly well in the first half." Individually for NRHEG: Schlaak 17P, 3R, 1S, 1B; Boerner 6P, 3R; Q.VanMaldeghem 14P, 20R, 7S, 1A, 1B; Buendorf 2P, 3R, 3S; C.VanMaldeghem 22P, 8R, 6S, 2A; Savannah Farr 2P, 3R; Stork 1R; Julieann Wobbrock 1R; Emilia Stadheim 1R; Alayna Groskreutz 2P, 1R. The VanMaldeghem twins, Schlaak and Stork were named to the all-tournament team. The Panthers, 10-2 overall and 4-0 in the Gopher Conference, had a Tuesday game at USC, then host Triton Friday in a boy-girl double-header with Triton. They host St. Peter Jan. 12 and entertain WEM the next night.

NRHEG matmen 4th in tourney

The NRHEG Panthers hosted their first dual-meet wrestling tournament Jan. 2. Participating teams were NRHEG, Goodhue, Westfield, Blue Earth Area, West Central Area/Ashby/Brandon-Evansville, and Tracy-Milroy-Balaton/Westbrook-Walnut Grove. In pool wrestling, NRHEG first met West Central Area/Ashby/Brandon-Evansville, rated No. 10 in the state in Class A, and lost 42-29. "The wrestlers put together a really good dual and competed the best they've wrestled all year against a tough opponent," said NRHEG head coach Krey Cory. "Everyone was aggressive and worked hard to get to their offense early on." Winners were Owen Schlaak, Graham Jacobson, Charles Tufte, Dakota Schlaak and Eli Hendrickson. NRHEG forfeited at 285. The Penthers defeated BEA 36-35 in an exciting dual. NRHEG winners: Owen Schlaak, Jacobson, Tufte, Dakota Schlaak, Ryan Schlaak and Wyatt Larson. In the third-place match NRHEG fell to TMB/WWG 52-24. "We came out a little flat and didn't really seem ready to compete off the whistle in the last one," said Cory. "Although the dual didn't go the way we wanted, we learned a valuable lesson about the importances of preparation and getting a good warmup." Victories were by Owen Schlaak, Jacobson, Ryan Schlaak and Larson. Also wrestling for NRHEG: Bo Holland, Chase Johannsen, Braxton Arnold, Wyatt Hendrickson and Noah Weller. The Panthers take the mat next on Thursday at home in a triangular against Triton and St. Clair.



INTENSITY ON THE ICE — Above, the Bluejays' Henry Huttemier (5) and Aydan Kath battle opponents for the puck during the Waseca High School boys' hockey team's victory last Saturday. Below left, Cash Lynch scores a goal. Below right, Otto Schoenrock digs the puck behind the opponents' goal. Far below left, Jude Gehring moves the puck up the ice.
Photos by Jim Lutgens



WHS icemen get back on winning track

The Waseca High School boys' hockey team got back on the winning track Saturday, defeating Southwest Christian/Richfield 5-2 at Waseca Community Arena. Scoring for the Bluejays were Avery Selvik, Griffin Storey, Otto Schoenrock and Cash Lynch, with assists going to Jayden Gehring, Aydan Kath, Jayden Hervey, Storey, Owen Weiseler, Beckett Srp and Jackson Dahl. Josiah Schmidtke was in goal as Waseca outshot the visitors 52-21. Waseca served 16 penalty minutes on six infractions, the opponents 10 on four penalties. The Bluejays improved to 6-4-1 while SW Christian/Richfield fell to 2-7. After a Tuesday game at New Ulm, the Bluejays return to the ice Tuesday, Jan. 13 against Minnesota River at 7:15 in LeSueur. They host Rochester Lourdes at 7 p.m. Jan. 15 and have a big rematch with Luverne at 3:45 Jan. 17 at Waseca Community Arena.

Bauer power

JWP brothers hit milestones

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

In terms of wins and losses, last Saturday was just another day for the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School boys' basketball team. In terms of milestones, it was a huge day. Senior Daulton Bauer and his little brother Gavin, a sophomore, both surpassed significant marks as the Bulldogs ran their record to 11-0 with a 93-80 triumph over Springfield at Kasson. For Daulton, it was the all-time school scoring record of 1,679 points held by Josh Ziemke. Daulton scored 31, adding five assists, to run his scoring total to 1,687. Gavin, meanwhile, scored 27 and hauled in nine rebounds, surpassing the 1,000-point barrier for his career, becoming the 12th player in JWP school history to do so. The Bulldogs, meanwhile, did not play up to par on defense, but they made up for it with their offense, hitting 10 three-pointers and going 17-for-17 from the free-throw line. "They are a good basketball team and handled our pressure well today," said JWP head coach Nick James. "We had a few too many bad turnovers early in the game which led to some easy buckets for them. They had a little trouble stopping us on the offensive end today." Caleb Quast joined the Bauer brothers in double digits, scoring 19 points and securing four rebounds. Gavin Weedman scored six. The Bulldogs led 51-48 at halftime. The JWP boys were fresh off a championship in the Kwik Trip Holiday Tournament at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, where they defeated Maple River 68-46 after leading 23-22 at the break. Individually for JWP: G.Bauer 18P, 8R, 5A; D.Bauer 15P, 7R; Weedman 12P; Quast 9P, 4R; Tyson Kronbach 7P, 5R. The Bulldogs, 4-0 in the Gopher Conference, had a Tuesday nonconference game against LeSueur-Henderson before returning to conference play at home Friday against Medford. They play at USC Jan. 13 and host Hayfield Jan. 15.



Notice of Certificate of Need Application for the PowerOn Midwest 765 kV and 345 kV High Voltage Transmission Line Project
MPUC DOCKET NO. 25-117

Great River Energy, ITC Midwest LLC (ITC Midwest), and Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy (together, Applicants) are proposing the PowerOn Midwest High Voltage Transmission Line Project in Minnesota (Project). This notice provides information about the Project and the state of Minnesota’s permitting process.

Applicants are providing this notice of the Project at an early stage of the development process. We want to provide those who may be affected with every opportunity to participate in future meetings and hearings. At this stage of Project development, routes have not been identified for the Project. Instead, as shown on the map included with this notice, Applicants are providing broader notice to stakeholders within all or portions of the following counties: Lincoln, Pipestone, Rock, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Redwood, Cottonwood, Jackson, Martin, Faribault, Waseca, Freeborn, Steele, Mower, Dodge, Elmsted, Goodhue, and Dakota. In the end, many of those receiving this notice will not be directly affected. Nonetheless, we hope that you will take the time to participate in the regulatory process.

Project Description

- The Project includes:
- A single circuit 1100 kV high voltage transmission line between the following points:
 - the South Dakota Minnesota border and the Appleton Substation in Lincoln County, Minnesota
 - the Appleton Substation and the Minnesota Iowa border
 - the Appleton Substation and the Pleasant Valley Substation in Mower County, Minnesota; and
 - the Pleasant Valley Substation and the North Rochester Substation in Goodhue County, Minnesota.
 - A new 345 kV transmission circuit from the Pleasant Valley Substation to the North Rochester Substation. The existing 345 kV single circuit structures are proposed to be removed and replaced with new double-circuit capable 345 kV structures.
 - A new, second 345 kV transmission circuit between the North Rochester substation to the Hampton Substation, to be strung primarily on existing double circuit capable 345 kV structures.
 - Expansions of the following existing substations:
 - Appleton Substation in Lincoln County
 - Pleasant Valley Substation in Mower County
 - North Rochester Substation in Goodhue County; and
 - Hampton Substation in Dakota County.
 - 345 kV transmission line connections to connect the expanded substations and the existing substations.
- Before beginning construction, Applicants will acquire property rights for the Project, typically through an easement that will be negotiated with the landowner for each parcel, and purchases in fee for any substations. For this Project, Applicants anticipate acquiring easements with a right of way of approximately 100 feet wide for 345 kV facilities and approximately 150 feet wide for 765 kV facilities.

Project Need

The Project is part of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.’s (MISO) Long Range Transmission Planning (LRTP) Plan. The LRTP is a set of transmission line projects and is needed to maintain system reliability amid fundamental changes in demand for electricity and the type and amount of generation interconnected to the grid within the MISO footprint. The Project in combination with the other LRTP projects will create a backbone connection in Minnesota that will ultimately be interconnected with the existing MISO network in the eastern United States. This network will make Minnesota’s connection to the broader Midwest and eastern United States more robust and resilient, enabling Minnesota and the region to meet electrical demand in a more reliable and cost-effective manner. The Project is needed to continue to serve customer demand every minute of every day and to ensure a strong foundation that supports the resiliency of the grid.

Regulatory Process

The Project requires two types of approvals from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC or Commission): a Certificate of Need and a Route Permit. Applicants will submit a Certificate of Need Application for the Project to the Commission in February 2026. Separately, Applicants will also submit Route Permit applications for these projects to the Commission no earlier than late 2026. The Project cannot be constructed unless the Commission determines that it is needed in the Certificate of Need proceeding. In the separate Route Permit proceedings which will follow the Certificate of Need proceeding, the Commission will decide where the transmission line and other associated facilities will be located. Applicants are currently seeking a Certificate of Need from the Commission. The Certificate of Need process is governed by Minnesota law, including Minnesota Statutes sections 163.01, 163.03, and Minnesota Rules Chapter 85.01. Minnesota Rules parts 85.010 to 85.015 and 85.1000 to 85.1005. A copy of the Certificate of Need application, once submitted, can be obtained by visiting the Commission’s website at www.mn.gov/puc in Document No.

11. The Commission will make its determination on the Certificate of Need until it has completed a thorough review process that encourages public involvement and analyzes the need for the Project. This process includes the preparation of an Environmental Report for the Project by the Commission’s Energy Infrastructure Permitting (EIP) staff.

Stakeholders will have an opportunity to submit comments and participate in the Certificate of Need process. You can get involved by submitting comments or attending public meetings and hearings. Please keep in mind that “need” issues should be raised in the Certificate of Need process, and issues concerning the location of the transmission line should be raised during the forthcoming Route Permit processes. The table below provides a high-level summary of the major steps in the Certificate of Need process and Applicants’ estimated dates for each step.

Step	Approximate Date
Pre-Application Outreach	March 2026
Certificate of Need Application Filed	February 2026
Informational and Scoping Meetings (opportunity for public comment)	April 2026
Environmental Report Issued	August 2026
Public Hearings (opportunity for public comment)	September 2026
Commission Decision	February 2027

There will be separate processes for the Route Permit proceedings, and you will receive notices of those proceedings if you may be impacted by a proposed route.

Additional Information and Mailing Lists

To learn how to subscribe to the Project’s Certificate of Need document and to receive email notifications when information is added to that document, please visit www.mn.gov/puc and follow the steps to subscribe to this document, follow those instructions and enter Document Number 25-117.

You will be placed on the Project Certificate of Need mailing list, email address admin@state.mn.us or call 612-012-2000. You may request to receive notices by email or U.S. Mail. If you have questions about the state regulatory process, you may contact the Minnesota state regulatory staff listed here:

- Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, Scott E. Johnson, 1111 1st Place E, Suite 300, Saint Paul, MN 55101-1111, 612-012-2000, www.mn.gov/puc

Also, please feel free to contact the PowerOn Midwest Project with any questions. Questions can be sent to:

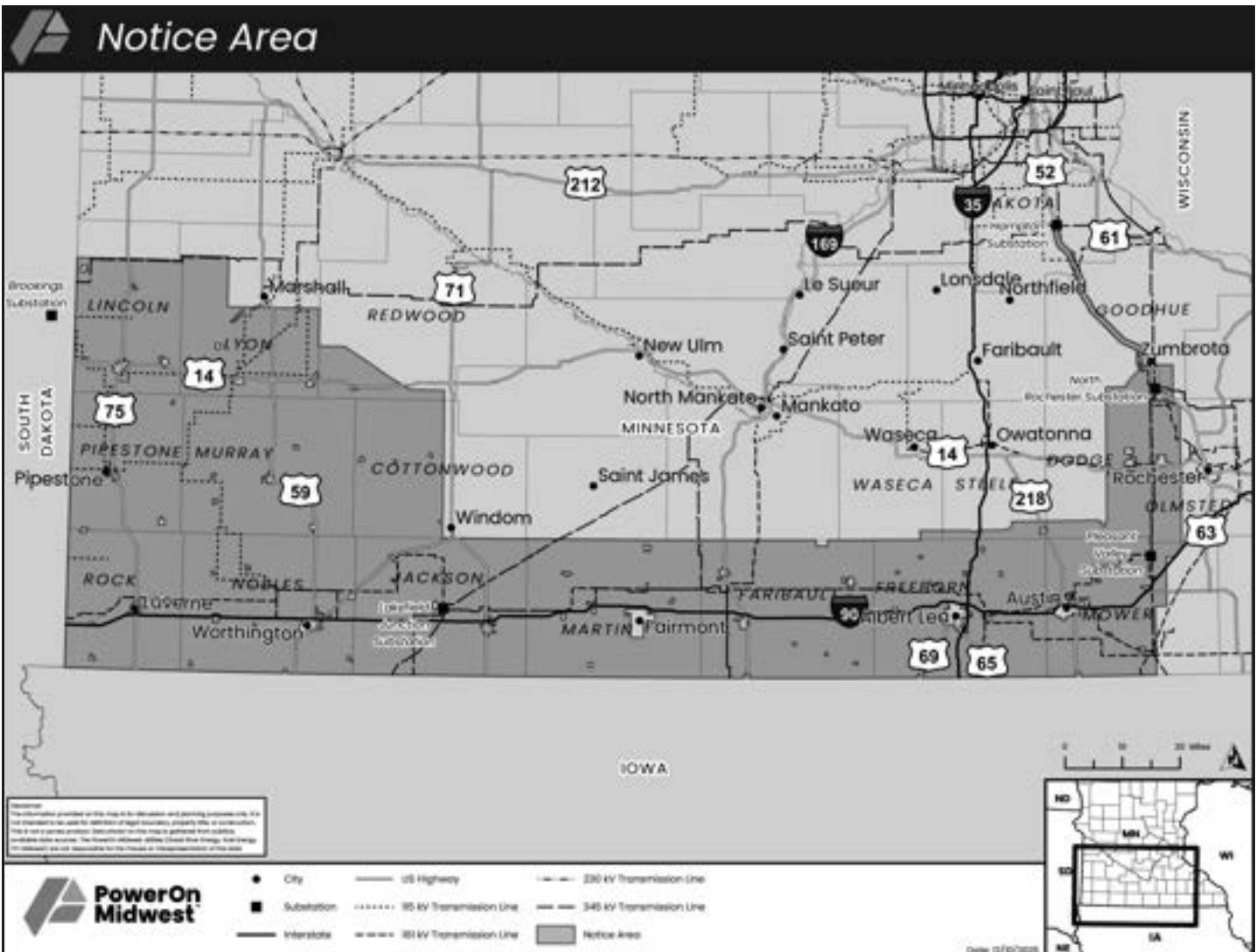
- PowerOn Midwest
- Email: Connect@PowerOnMidwest.com
 - Phone: 612-345-1234

Information regarding the Project is also available at www.PowerOnMidwest.com.

Transmission Planning Process in Minnesota

Minnesota Statutes section 163.01 requires that each electric transmission owning utility in the state file a biennial transmission planning report with the Commission in the fall of each odd-numbered year. These reports provide information on the transmission planning process used by utilities in the state of Minnesota and information about other transmission line projects. The 2025 Biennial Transmission Planning Report is available at www.minn-electrans.com. The 2024 Biennial Transmission Planning Report was submitted on November 1, 2024.

We encourage you to get involved in this process and look forward to working with you.





NOTICE TO COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES

UNDER MINN. STAT. §216B.16, SUBD. 1

On October 31, 2025, Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy (Xcel Energy or the Company), filed an application with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) to increase natural gas rates. The request with the MPUC is to increase gross retail natural gas rates by 8.2 percent or \$63.40 million effective January 1, 2026, sixty-two (62) days after filing, without suspension, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216B.16.

The Company requested, pursuant to Minn. Stat § 216B.16, subd. 3, that a temporary (interim) rate increase of approximately 6.8 percent or \$51.47 million overall bill increase, be effective on January 1, 2026. The MPUC elected to suspend the proposed rate increase under Minn. Stat. 216B.16, subd. 2, as discussed in the Company’s Notice and Petition for Interim Rates (Petition), included in the Application. The Commission authorized an interim rate increase of approximately 6.8 percent or \$51.47 million, overall bill increase, that will be effective on January 1, 2026. The interim revenue request for 2026 will be uniformly billed as a 16.19 percent increase on the base rate portion of customers’ bills, which includes the customer charge, distribution charge, and distribution demand charge where applicable (exclusive of fuel and purchased energy costs and certain rate riders). An interim rate will remain in effect until a final rate level is determined.

The typical residential gas customer uses 71 therms per month. On average, the proposed \$63.40 million rate change would increase the bill for a typical residential natural gas customer by \$7.11 per month or \$85.32 annually. The interim increase, for that same monthly amount of 71 therms on average, will be \$5.84 per month or \$70.08 per year for 2026.

In addition, the Company proposes to implement certain other tariff revisions in its Gas Rate Book, Volume 2D.

Over the past several years, the Company has proceeded through a cycle of capital investments necessary for the safe and reliable operation of its gas system and has continued to incur costs to serve new and existing customers. Xcel Energy has also experienced significant annual increases in inflation, labor costs, and other expenses necessary to serve our customers. Recovering these costs is critical to Xcel Energy’s ability to continue to successfully provide safe, reliable, and affordable natural gas service to its customers long into the future.

Typically, final rates become effective within 10 months of the date of the Application, unless the review period is extended by the MPUC. The Company anticipates that the review period will be extended in this proceeding. Any over-collection of interim rates during the review period will be refunded with interest to customers in a manner determined by the MPUC.

Xcel Energy is requesting this rate increase to meet its current cost of providing natural gas services, including a reasonable return on equity. The following tables contain the effect of the interim and proposed rates increases on customer classes:

AVERAGE MONTHLY BILLS

RESIDENTIAL SERVICE

Monthly Therm Use	Present Rates*	Interim Rates	Proposed Rates
10	\$19	\$21	\$23
30	\$40	\$43	\$44
50	\$60	\$65	\$66
71	\$82	\$88	\$89
100	\$111	\$119	\$120
200	\$214	\$227	\$228
300	\$316	\$336	\$336

SMALL COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL SERVICE

Monthly Therm Use	Present Rates*	Interim Rates	Proposed Rates
50	\$67	\$73	\$80
100	\$114	\$123	\$131
189	\$199	\$211	\$221
200	\$209	\$222	\$232
250	\$256	\$272	\$282
350	\$350	\$371	\$383
500	\$492	\$520	\$534
750	\$728	\$769	\$786
1,000	\$964	\$1,017	\$1,039
3,000	\$2,851	\$3,006	\$3,056
5,000	\$4,738	\$4,994	\$5,073

INTERRUPTIBLE RETAIL SERVICE

Class	Monthly Therm Use	Present Rates*	Interim Rates	Proposed Rates
Small	6,745	\$4,633	\$4,898	\$5,001
Medium	46,220	\$27,353	\$28,555	\$30,196
Large	617,483	\$350,615	\$364,315	\$379,449

INTERRUPTIBLE TRANSPORTATION SERVICE

(Does not include the cost of natural gas)

Class	Monthly Therm Use	Present Rates*	Interim Rates	Proposed Rates
Small	6,745	\$1,729	\$1,998	\$2,097
Medium	118,174	\$19,722	\$22,724	\$26,990
Large	2,119,680	\$88,455	\$99,345	\$88,455

** The present rate levels identified in this application represent the rates authorized in Docket No. G002/GR-23-413.*

Public hearings will be held at various locations in Xcel Energy’s natural gas service area. Counties, municipalities, and customers will be notified once the hearings are scheduled.

The proposed rate schedules and a comparison of present and proposed rates are available at:

https://www.xcelenergy.com/company/rates_and_regulations/filings/minnesota_natural_gas_rate_proposal (Make sure “Minnesota” is selected in the top left-hand corner) The documents may be examined during normal business hours at either our General Offices located at 414 Nicollet Mall in downtown Minneapolis or at the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources, 85 7th Place East, Suite 280, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.

Those who wish to intervene or testify in this case should contact the Minnesota Court of Administrative Hearings, P.O. Box 64620, St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620, Telephone: (651) 361-7900, TTY: (651) 361-7878. Public notice of hearing dates and locations will be published in local newspapers in Xcel Energy’s service area.

Questions on the rate increase may be directed to Amber Hedlund at (612) 337-2268. Comments may also be mailed to Amber Hedlund at 414 Nicollet Mall, 401-7th Floor, Minneapolis, MN 55401.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

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

Mortgagor: Dan Seidl, a married man
Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Quicken Loans Inc., its successors and assigns
Dated: March 29, 2019
Recorded: April 8, 2019
Waseca County Recorder

Document No. 317570

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

Transaction Agent: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
Transaction Agent Mortgage Identification Number: 100039034199912330
Lender or Broker: Quicken Loans Inc.
Residential Mortgage Servicer: Rocket Mortgage, LLC
Mortgage Originator: Quicken Loans Inc.

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

Recorder in and for Waseca County, Minnesota

This is Abstract Property.

TAX PARCEL NO.: 163260060

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

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Waseca

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$95,959.00

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

That prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by

such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part;

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE

NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: November 19, 2025

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

By: HALLIDAY, WATKINS & MANN, P.C.
Attorneys for: Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans Inc., Assignee of Mortgagee
1333 Northland Drive, Suite 205
Mendota Heights, MN 55120
801-355-2886
651-228-1753 (fax)

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

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

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

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

Mortgagor: Zachery Twa, a single person
Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Prosperity Home Mortgage, LLC, its successors and assigns
Dated: June 28, 2024
Recorded: June 28, 2024
Waseca County Recorder Document No. A337309

Mortgage Originator: Prosperity Home Mortgage, LLC, a Limited Liability Company

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot Six (6), except the West 40 feet thereof, and Lot Seven (7), except the East 2 feet thereof, all in Block Nine (9), Original Plat of the City of Janesville, Waseca County, Minnesota

This is Abstract Property.

TAX PARCEL NO.: 141001140

ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 202 1st Street E
Janesville, MN 56048

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Waseca

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$186,240.00

AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE: \$205,260.50

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

Assigned To: U.S. Bank National Association
Dated: April 14, 2025
Recorded: April 15, 2025
Waseca County Recorder Document No. A339882

Transaction Agent: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
Transaction Agent Mortgage Identification Number: 100083010027684924
Lender or Broker: Prosperity Home Mortgage, LLC, a Limited Liability Company
Residential Mortgage Servicer: U.S. Bank National Association

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE

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

Dated: December 2, 2025

U.S. Bank National Association, Assignee of Mortgagee

By: HALLIDAY, WATKINS & MANN, P.C.
Attorneys for: U.S. Bank National Association, Assignee of Mortgagee
1333 Northland Drive, Suite 205
Mendota Heights, MN 55120
801-355-2886
651-228-1753 (fax)

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

MN24473.
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on Dec. 11, 18, 25, 2025 and Jan. 1, 8 and 15, 2026

WASECA COUNTY NOTICE OF TAX-FORFEITED LAND
ONLINE PUBLIC SALES

Notice is hereby given the parcels of land described herein shall be sold to the highest bidder at an online public sale in accordance with M.S. Chapter 282. Parcels must be listed for no less than the estimated market value on the first sale, as determined by the most recent assessment. Any properties that do not sell at the first sale will be offered on a subsequent online public sale. The starting bid price for the subsequent sale will be the sum of all delinquent taxes, special assessments, penalties, interest, and costs assigned to the parcel.

The Director of Property & Election Services shall conduct the initial sales via online auction through Public Surplus. The first sale will be open for bids on February 9, 2026, at 8:00am and will close on March 11, 2026, at 8:00pm. The property listings will be available to preview on the Public Surplus website.

PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER	CITY	INITIAL SALE (EMV)	MINIMUM BID (if unsold)
14.601.0040	JANESVILLE CITY	\$38,800	\$35,788.69
15.777.0250	NEW RICHLAND CITY	\$139,800	\$4,379.92
17.018.2520	CITY OF WASECA	\$80,200	\$7,886.58
17.210.0060	CITY OF WASECA	\$22,700	\$3,795.60
17.210.0070	CITY OF WASECA	\$22,700	\$3,795.60
17.710.0230	CITY OF WASECA	\$1,800	\$3,150.54
17.710.0240	CITY OF WASECA	\$1,800	\$654.59

All property is sold "as is" and may not conform to local building and zoning ordinances. Waseca County makes no warranty that the land is "buildable". ALL SALES ARE FINAL. NO REFUNDS OR EXCHANGES ARE PERMITTED.

Contact the Waseca County Property & Election Services office located at 307 N. State St, Waseca, MN 56093, Waseca County Courthouse for obtaining information. Information can also be located on our Waseca County website www.wasecacounty.gov on the Public Surplus property listing or by calling 507-835-0610.

Given under my hand and official seal at Waseca, Minnesota, this 29th day of December 2025.

Tamara J Spooner

Director of Property & Election Services

Seal



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STATE OF MINNESOTA
WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ACTING AS THE DRAINAGE AUTHORITY UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES CHAPTER 103E
FOR WASECA COUNTY DITCH 18

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CD 18 DRAINAGE AUTHORITY

/s/ Doug Christopherson, Chairperson

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

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CD 42 DRAINAGE AUTHORITY

/s/ Doug Christopherson, Chairperson

Dated: December 16, 2025

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JANUARY

2026

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

HOURS OF OPERATION

SUN.-MON. CLOSED

TUE.-SAT.-1pm to 11 pm Tue. is Lady’s night 2 for one-Men Busch light \$2.50 4 to 6pm

POST & AUX. MEETING 7pm club open 6pm MEMBERS only. Mn. Gambling license 00385

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

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING

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

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

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

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

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

Lemond Township, T106N-R21W, Sections 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 18, 19, Steele County.
Otisco Township, T106N-R22W, Sections 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, Waseca County.

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

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

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

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

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

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

/s/ Doug Christopherson, Chairperson

Dated: December 16, 2025

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

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING

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

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

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

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

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

Lemond Township, T106N-R21W, Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, Steele County.
Meridan Township, T107N-R21W, Section 31, Steele County.

Otisco Township, T106N-R22W, Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, Waseca County.
Woodville Township, T107N-R22W, Sections 34, 35, Waseca County.

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

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

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

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

WASECA STEELE JOINT COUNTY DRAINAGE AUTHORITY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ Doug Christopherson, Chairperson

Dated: December 16, 2025

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

mann, a resident of the State of Iowa.

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

EATON, QUINTON & MICHELE; RIOG PROPERTIES LLC; EATON-BORCHERT, DOREEN R TRUSTEE; FISCHER, CINDY & GARY TRUSTEE, NATHAN L HANSON TRUSTEE; PRIEBE, CHARLES A TRUSTEE, CHARLOTT M WILHELM TRUSTEE; PETERSON, ALEX R & JOSEY J; EATON, ZACHARY; PETERSON, DANIEL EVAN TRUSTEE; JOHNSON, BRADLEY W, GRATIA M JOHNSON; MITCHELL, BRADLEY;

ROBRAN, TODD A TRUSTEE, BRITTA D. ROBRAN TRUSTEE; PROECHEL, ORVAL A, JOAN M PROECHEL; PROECHEL, MERLYN R. & BONNIE M TRUSTEES PROECHEL REV TRUST; MICHAEL D KUNKEL; PROECHEL, MERLYN R, BONNIE PROECHEL; EATON, STEVEN G. TRUSTEE; PROECHEL, LONNIE D; DONELAN, BERNARD G & JUNE M TRUSTEE, PAUL & DENISE BRITTON TRUSTEE; EATON, ISAAC A, MELISSA EATON; SWENSON, RICHARD ETAL; REMMEY, JACOB & MAGGIE MAE; PETERSON, RAYMOND A TRUST, MAIL TO CRAIG PETERSON; MONSON, RONALD A JR & CARRLIE L; MILLER, JAMES TRUSTEE, JUANITA MILLER TRUSTEE; GIESEKE, GORDON J TRUSTEE, DARLENE M GIESEKE TRUSTEE; HINES, ROGER J & RUTH A; MOE, GREGORY D TRUSTEE, DONNA M MOE TRUSTEE; STENDEL, BRIAN K, SUSAN L STENDEL; FRISK, ROBERT C TRUSTEE, KATHLEEN E FRISK TRUSTEE; BARTELT, BRADLEY D & CRYSTAL D; TOMMY GOBBLE LLC.

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

OTISCO TOWNSHIP.

WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CD 33 DRAINAGE AUTHORITY

/s/ Doug Christopherson, Chairperson

Dated: December 16, 2025

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

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CD 33 DRAINAGE AUTHORITY

/s/ Doug Christopherson, Chairperson

Dated: December 16, 2025



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‘Ask a Trooper’: driving with hazards on

Question: During one of the recent winter storms, I encountered numerous vehicles driving on a 4-lane highway with their four-way hazard lights on. The vehicles were not driving significantly slower than the other traffic, as nearly everyone had slowed considerably due to the low visibility. Is it legal in Minnesota and is it ever suggested to drive with your four-way flashers on? Thank you for your work in keeping Minnesota roadways safe. I always look forward to your Ask a Trooper column.

Answer: This is a great question. A driver can use their hazard lights to warn other motorists of a vehicular traffic hazard that requires caution in approaching, overtaking or passing. Situations with limited visibility such as a blizzard, thick fog and heavy rain could constitute a traffic hazard. Other hazardous scenarios could include:

- A vehicle having issues maintaining a minimum safe speed.
- A flat tire or mechanical breakdown on the shoulder of the road.
- An impaired driver or driver conducting dangerous behaviors.

If a line of traffic is moving along at the same speed, I am not sure it would be in the best interest for anyone in that lane to be using hazard lights. It is important to know which vehicle is moving at a slower speed than the rest of the flow of traffic or for those needing to make lane changes and needing to signal. As mentioned earlier, it’s generally for the lone vehicle causing the hazard.

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.

IN BRIEF

Shrimp or Rib Eye Steak dinner at Sweet-Sommers VFW Jan. 24

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

VFW breakfast for St. Paul Lutheran Mission trip Sunday, Jan. 25

There will be a pancake breakfast at Sweet-Sommers VFW on behalf of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church Mission Trip Team from 7 a.m. till noon on Sunday, Jan. 25. Adults \$12, kids 6-13 \$7, kids 5 and under free. Proceeds go towards St. Paul Mission trips.

Old MacDonald Had a Farm Party at Janesville Public Library Jan. 26

Oink! Moo! and Cock-a-Doodle Doo! Enjoy farm-themed activities, from a farm relay to a horse roundup at the Janesville Library at 4 p.m. Monday, Jan. 26. Ages 3-6.

Homemade Valentine’s Cards at Janesville Public Library Jan. 27

Create Valentine’s Day cards for the people who you care about at the Janesville Library at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 27. Geared for ages 7-12.

Frosted Luminaries at Janesville Public Library Jan. 27

Light up the darkest days by creating beautiful luminaries at the Janesville Public Library at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 27. Place along a walkway or in a dark corner in your home to create a little winter magic.

Sleigh and Cutter Ice Carving Jan. 28 and 29

The annual ice carving event sponsored as part of the Sleigh and Cutter festival will be Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 28 and 29 near the Veterans Memorial on the county courthouse lawn. Carving begins at 11 a.m. on Wednesday and noon on Thursday.

Bead Art Keychain at the New Richland Public Library Jan. 29

Use a pattern to make fun animals and shapes, including crayons, lizards, and snakes by weaving pony beads together at the New Richland Library at 4 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29. Then turn them into keychains to create a colorful accessory. For ages 9-12.

Sixty Years of Herter’s Snowmobile Show and Ride Jan. 31

There will be a snowmobile show and ride celebrating 60 Years of Herter’s at Southside Marine and More on Wednesday, Jan. 31. Contact Terry for more info: 507-461-5424.

Governor Tim Walz announces he will not seek reelection

Governor Tim Walz today released the following statement announcing that he will not seek a third term as Governor of Minnesota.

“Good morning, and Happy New Year.

“Like many Minnesotans, I was glad to turn the page on 2025. It was an extraordinarily difficult year for our state. And it ended on a particularly sour note.

“For the last several years, an organized group of criminals have sought to take advantage of our state’s generosity. And even as we make progress in the fight against the fraudsters, we now see an organized group of political actors seeking to take advantage of the crisis.

“I won’t mince words here. Donald Trump and his allies – in Washington, in St. Paul, and online – want to make our state a colder, meaner place. They want to poison our people against each other by attacking our neighbors. And, ultimately, they want to take away much of what makes Minnesota the best place in America to raise a family. They’ve already begun by taking our tax dollars that were meant to help families afford child care. And they have no intention of stopping there.

“Make no mistake: We should be concerned about fraud in our state government. We cannot effectively deliver programs and services if we can’t earn the public’s trust. That’s why, over the past few years, we’ve made systemic changes to the way we do business.

“We’ve gone to the legislature time and again to get more tools to combat fraud. We’ve fired people who weren’t doing their jobs. We’ve seen people go to jail for stealing from our state. We’ve cut off whole

streams of funding, in partnership with the federal government, where we saw widespread criminal activity. We’ve put new locks on the doors of our remaining programs, and we’ve hired a new head of program integrity to make sure those locks can’t be broken.

“All across the state, Minnesotans are hard at work on this problem. Advocates, administrators, investigators are on the front lines defending the integrity of our state’s programs, and I want to thank them for their efforts.

“There’s more to do. A single taxpayer dollar wasted on fraud is a dollar too much to tolerate. And while there’s a role to play for everyone – from the legislature to prosecutors to insurance companies to local and county government – the buck stops with me. My administration is taking fast, decisive action to solve this crisis. And we will win the fight against the fraudsters.

“But the political gamesmanship we’re seeing from Republicans is only making that fight harder to win.

“We’ve got Republicans here in the legislature playing hide-and-seek with whistleblowers.

“We’ve got conspiracy theorist right-wing YouTubers breaking into daycare centers and demanding access to our children.

“We’ve got the President of the United States demonizing our Somali neighbors and wrongly confiscating childcare funding that Minnesotans rely on.

“It is disgusting. And it is dangerous.

“Republicans are playing politics with the future of our state. And it’s shameful. I’ve said it before, and I’ll say it again: We welcome ideas from anyone, in any party, who wants to

help us continue to stay ahead of the criminals.

“And we welcome the involvement of the federal government. I’m grateful to the career professionals at the U.S. Attorney’s office and the FBI who are helping us win this fight.

“But I cannot abide the actions of the political leadership in Washington – these opportunists who are willing to hurt our people to score a few cheap points. They and their allies have no intention of helping us solve the problem – and every intention of profiting off of it.

“Which brings me to this: 2026 is an election year. And election years have a way of ramping up the politics at a time when we simply can’t afford more politics.

“In September, I announced that I would run for a historic third term as Minnesota’s Governor. And I have every confidence that, if I gave it my all, I would succeed in that effort.

“But as I reflected on this moment with my family and my team over the holidays, I came to the conclusion that I can’t give a political campaign my all. Every minute I spend defending my own political interests would be a minute I can’t spend defending the people of Minnesota against the criminals who prey on our generosity and the cynics who prey on our differences.

“So I’ve decided to step out of the race and let others worry about the election while I focus on the work.

“I know this news may come as a surprise. But I’m passing on the race with zero sadness and zero regret. After all, I didn’t run for this job so I could have this job. I ran for this job so I could do this job. Minnesota faces an enormous challenge this

year. And I refuse to spend even one minute of 2026 doing anything other than rising to meet the moment. Minnesota has to come first – always.

“That’s what I believe servant leadership demands of me. And as an optimist, I will hold out some hope that my friends on the other side of the aisle will consider what servant leadership demands of them in this moment. We can work together to combat the criminals, rebuild the public’s trust, and make our state stronger. But make no mistake: If Republicans continue down this path of abusing power, smearing entire communities, and running their own fraudulent game at the expense of Minnesotans – we will fight back every step of the way.

“I’m confident that a DFLer will hold this seat come November. I’m confident that I will find ways to contribute to the state I love even after I’ve left office next January. But there will be time to worry about all that later.

“Today, I’m proud of the work we’ve done to make Minnesota America’s best place to live and raise kids – from our new paid leave policy to our child tax credit to our free lunch program.

“And I’m doubly proud of the incredible team we’ve put together to make that vision a reality. Thank you to every member of my staff, and every state employee, who’s part of this fight. We need you on the job to tackle the important work ahead.

“Most of all, I want Minnesotans to know that I’m on the job, 24/7, focused on making sure we stay America’s best place to live and raise kids. No one will take that away from us. Not the fraudsters. And not the President. Not on my watch.”

JWP teacher honored for outstanding Ag education

By JANESVILLE JOURNAL

JWP Fourth Grader Teacher Heather More was nominated for the Outstanding Teacher by MN Ag in the Classroom

A passion for teaching that began at age five, combined with a deep connection to the local community, has led a dedicated JWP fourth grade teacher, Heather More, to receive the prestigious Outstanding Teacher award from Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom.

More is a Bulldog alum, and has been teaching at the ol’ stomping grounds for the past eight years. Her motivations toward becoming an educator came at the surprisingly young age of five years old; in fact, the source of her inspiration belongs to her own kindergarten teacher, Sharon Miller, who solidified that choice. As fate would have it, the two would eventually teach together at JWP, bringing their story full circle.

Though becoming an educator was a lifelong ambition for More, she initially started college as a Business major; however, she quickly pivoted to fulfill that childhood dream, and the rest as they say is history, “I have wanted to be a teacher since I was five years old...watching the process and seeing the students succeed in the classroom is very encouraging and rewarding.” More explained. She received her degree in Elementary Education from Minnesota State University (MSU) and a Master’s from St. Mary’s in Winona, Rochester.

While her commitment to teaching has always been strong, her specific focus on agricultural literacy grew after marrying her husband, Brian, a farmer in the St. Clair and Pemberton area. As a farm wife and mom to three children, the teacher views her role as a small part of a larger operation,”It’s a busy life but very fulfilling,” she said. “Many farmers carry a large responsibility feeding their communities and keeping economies going strong. Their dedication to the land is inspiring.”

More quickly integrated the resources and goals of MN Ag in the Classroom, an organization dedicated to promoting agricultural literacy across the state by offering free ag magazines, online lessons, and

professional development. The most impactful lesson More teaches when it comes to Ag education is about teaching students that farming involves “a whole team,” including those who develop the seeds, design new products, and the mechanics who weld and maintain equipment, “Coming to a small town like this, agriculture is all around us,” she noted. “Almost every kid is relatable to the topic. Everyone knows a farming family.”

Her most recent Ag lesson in the classroom which featured representatives from MN Ag was titled “A Day Without Agriculture.” The goal of the lesson was to identify then limit the use of everyday items that are either direct or indirect byproducts because of agriculture. It was an engaging and exciting day of learning for the students, especially a group of young Bulldog boys who were fascinated to discover the leather on a football is often referred to as a “pigskin.” Looking ahead, the class plans to delve into lessons on genetics, specifically focusing on animal and plant genetics and the work of agronomists, who help create specific crops.

In addition to teaching Ag, More is part of the MN Ag Educator Advisory Team, collaborating four times a year to bring relevant resources and information to fellow teachers. Though she won’t receive the official Outstanding Teacher award until February 2026, this isn’t the first time More has been recognized for her efforts in the classroom, receiving JWP’s Elementary Teacher of the Year in 2023, “It’s great to know hard work pays off and is appreciated,” More shared. “I hope I am making the farmers proud and inspiring future generations.”

More humbly accepts the honors awarded to her, but she acknowledged that excelling in the classroom is a team effort, “I want to thank my team at JWP, especially Amy Miller, who is always willing to follow along with my ideas and lessons. Thank you to my family for their support, and most of all, thank you to my five-year-old self for dreaming big.”

Let that last sentence be an important reminder folks: Dream big and work hard, success is sure to follow.

2026

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