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WASECA
COUNTY
PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

No. 26 Vol. V \$2

Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca

Thursday, June 25, 2026



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Hay Daze

Whiskey Whiskers at Club 57 June 25
Whiskey Whiskers will play Club 57 from 6-9 p.m. on Thursday, June 25. They play the music you love.

Special Olympics Friendship Wagon Train June 25
The Special Olympics Friendship Wagon Train will travel from Owatonna to Meriden for lunch, then to Waseca on Thursday, June 25. On Friday, June 26 they will travel from Waseca, to Wilton to New Richland and on Saturday, June 27, they will hold a special ceremony in New Richland. Souvenir hats and t-shirts will be available to purchase from the wagon train's Peddler Wagon at lunch stops, evening stops, and before they depart town each morning. For donations contact Monica or John Davis at 507-365-8064.

Fish Fry fundraiser at Waseca Fire Hall Saturday, June 27
The Waseca Firefighters Relief Association is holding their annual fish fry fundraiser at the fire hall from 4-7 p.m. (or until the fish runs out) on Saturday, June 27. All you can eat is \$15, hot dog meal \$5.

Mary's Angels silent auction/bake sale at Indian Island Winery Saturday, June 27
Mary's Angels will hold a silent auction and bake sale at the Indian Island Winery from 2-7 p.m. on Saturday, June 27. All money raised is donated to the Walk to end Alzheimer's. For more info contact Barry Thompson 507-363-0308.

Open House and information session regarding county Justice Center June 30
The public is invited to open house informational sessions regarding the Waseca County \$28 million justice center due to be under construction this fall. Open house sessions will be at 10 a.m and 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 30; visitors will see architectural plans and be able to visit with county staff.

Sign up for Lutheran Night at the Twins through July 1
The 33rd annual Lutheran Night at the Twins event will be Tuesday, August 11 beginning at 6:40 p.m. A bus trip organized by Central Freeborn Lutheran Church is offering a bus ride, home plate view seats, and a chance to help lead the National Anthem for \$65; to lock in the price, register by July 1. Call 507-373-8655 or 507-402-8228 for more information.

A word from
The Word

But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.

Leviticus 19:34



Barefoot Lane

Waseca's newest baker is here!

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Barefoot Lane LLC is open for business at 111 Second Street NW in Waseca. The grand opening took place May 30 and other than a little road construction on Second Street Northwest, everything has been running smoothly so far.

"The construction is supposed to be completed soon, so we'll see," said Christa Wadekamper, owner and proprietor of Barefoot Lane, who was a very busy baker, but took a few minutes to talk. This local business owner has a husband, Jese Rugroden, and a son, Oliver, 14.

Still early morning, the sun was shining through the front windows of her bakery, highlighting her display case filled with sourdough bread, cookies, pecan hazelnut rolls, and assorted bagels. Wadekamper came out from the kitchen wiping her hands off on her apron, which already had a few light dustings of flour. Accompanied by the smell of freshly baked bread, she pulled out a chair and sat down at one of the bakery's dining tables.

Wadekamper mentions cookies are one of her most popular products, with different varieties on her shelves daily. The day she spoke with the Pioneer, the cookies were cranberry dark chocolate chips, oatmeal raisin, chocolate

Bakery continued on 4



BAKING DREAMS - Barefoot Lane in Waseca is open for business at 111 2nd St. NW. Owner Christa Wadekamper on a sunny Thursday morning, June 18, 2026.
Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Council presents Waseca officers with special acknowledgments

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Waseca city council meeting took place on Tuesday, June 16.

During the June 16 meeting of the Waseca city council, police chief Kris Markeson presented recognitions and commendations. First came a "Meritorious Service" award for four officers who Markeson said "demonstrated great tenacity and devotion to duty" during a recent incident in town. The four honorees were officer Gage Horn and detectives Nick Wellman and Andrew Harren of the Waseca force, and officer Cade Madden of Chaska. Each individual received a plaque and handshakes of congratulations and thanks.

Young Waseca residents Alice, 14,

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

and Arlo, 13, were presented with the Waseca Police Department's Young Hero Award for their brave roles in the incident.

Arik Matson attended the meeting to present the "Officer Arik Matson Legacy Service Award." Last year's honoree was Detective Courtney Hartle. Receiving the 2026 award was patrol officer Thomas Bendorf. Bendorf has been with the department for five years, and was singled out for his "cooperative spirit, community engagement

Council continued on 5

Statewide ballot item to benefit schools

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

"Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to increase the funding going to all school districts from the permanent school fund, which is a fund that supports school districts without raising individual income or property taxes, effective July 1, 2027?"

Minnesota voters will find this question on their ballots in November. Skipping the question is equivalent to voting against it, since if the amendment is going to pass, it must be approved by at least 51 percent of voters.

Business managers from the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton, New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva and Waseca school districts appeared before the Waseca County Board of Commissioners during their June 16 meeting in order to "get the word out" regarding the benefits of the proposed constitutional amendment.

The Minnesota School Boards Association states the change would increase statewide yearly per-pupil distributions from approx-

imately \$68 to \$96 at no cost to taxpayers.

According to information shared by school business managers, JWP would anticipate a \$17,000 increase; NRHEG \$21,000; and Waseca \$46,000.

According to online information shared by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the DNR is the "trustee" for about 2.1 million acres of School Trust Lands; any income derived from various activity on those lands, including leasing of mineral rights, harvesting timber, and leasing use of the land, is set aside toward supporting schools. Legislative sources explain the money provides a significant portion of the annual funding paid to school districts based on the number of students who attend.

District leaders requested the commissioners' assistance in helping voters understand their yes votes will not increase anyone's tax burden, but will be of significant benefit to education. All present expressed a willingness to work together toward informing members of the public about the amendment.

Janesville Hay Daze Parade June 21



IN A DAZE - Janesville celebrated the end of 2026 Hay Daze with the Hay Daze parade on Sunday, June 21. Hay Daze this year was June 15-21.
Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann



Compostings

by Al Batt

Being harebrained

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

You should cut back on the red meat and fried foods.

My aunt just celebrated her 106th birthday.

Did she do it by eating red meat and fried foods?

No, she did it by minding her own business.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I enjoyed a glass of Adam's ale—plain old water—as I watched fireflies. It was good to see someone using their blinkers. It's June. Time to start preparing for winter. I put the snow shovel away on June 15. I hope that wasn't a rash decision. To some folks, that means making winter reservations in Arizona. When I found myself in Surprise, Arizona, for a day years ago, I wasn't surprised.

You know about the Swiss Army Knife, but do you know about the Minnesota Army Knife? It's equipped with a snow shovel, a roll of duct tape, a windshield squeegee and jumper cables.

MINNESOTA TO ALASKA

A friend, Dave Olerud of Haines, Alaska, passed away not long ago. I miss his phone calls. Originally from Boyd, Minnesota, Dave got me involved with the American Bald Eagle Foundation in Haines. Dave was the founder of the ABEF. That led to many wonderful visits to Alaska for me. Dave told me I had caught the Alaska virus, which required me to return regularly.

A PINKY SWEAR

A pinky swear is a traditional gesture where two people hook their pinky fingers together to signify that a promise had been made. The pinky finger might be the runt, but it contributes to our grip strength. The pinky toe's primary function is stability and balance, acting as an outrigger during walking and running. It cuts back on the swaying. Because it is on the outside of the foot, the pinky toe is susceptible to stubbing. Stubbing a pinky toe often results in a different kind of a pinky swear.

A WISHING STONE

Folklore says if you find a rock with a white line all the way around it, you have found a wishing stone. The stripe is usually a vein of quartz or calcite. A wishing stone is a stone that some people believe grants a wish or brings good luck. Hold the stone and close your eyes while making your wish. Speak the wish aloud or ponder it quietly in your mind. Carry the stone with you in your pocket or bag as a reminder of your wish. Place it under your pillow to invite dreams and insights related to your wish. I hope you

find one and it brings you monumental good luck.

I'VE LEARNED

The creation of the high-five is credited to Los Angeles Dodgers baseball players Glenn Burke and Dusty Baker in 1977. After Baker had hit a home run, Burke raised his hand in celebration, and Baker instinctively slapped it, creating the iconic celebratory gesture.

The states that spend the biggest share of their household incomes on fast food are Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico and West Virginia. The state spending the least is New Jersey. Iowans spend the 29th largest portion of their incomes and Minnesotans the 44th.

<https://wallethub.com/edu/states-where-people-spend-the-most-least-on-fast-food/146260>

Southdale Center, which opened in Edina, Minnesota, in 1956, was the first fully enclosed, climate-controlled shopping mall in the world.

"Hairbrained" is a common misspelling, but the word is "hare-brained," meaning "silly as a hare."

If it had not been for Thomas Edison, we'd be watching TV by candlelight.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

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

What rhymes with orange? No, it doesn't.

What is the closest thing to silver? The Lone Ranger's bottom.

NATURE NOTES

A ginormous American robin splashed water out of the birdbath. A ginormous robin might weigh 3 ounces—less than a deck of cards.

Lemon-yellow goldfinches made me look. A blue-gray gnatcatcher, looking like a miniature mockingbird, produced buzzy, insect-like calls. I listened to a scarlet tanager near the city of Mabel. Or perhaps Mabel was near the scarlet tanager.

Foxtail barley is a common grass of the roadsides, often growing in saline soil. Even though it is considered a weedy species, the flowering spikes are attractive—silky and waving in the slightest breeze. It's known for its distinctive feathery seed heads that resemble a fox's tail.

Great crested flycatchers are known to include a shed snakeskin in their nests. They will use materials with similar characteristics, such as cellophane, plastic wrappers or onion skins. Research suggests the purpose might be to deter predators. A study found that nest boxes with snakeskins were less likely to be disturbed by predators.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"Sometimes being kind allows others to see the goodness in humanity through you. Always be kinder than necessary."—Germany Kent.



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

Before you blame the railroad

A while back, the newspaper was contacted by an area reader who wanted us to highlight the condition of area railroad crossings. His implication, of course, is that the crossings are rough, causing many drivers to go looking for the "best" path by swinging wide as they drive over the tracks.

I did some research on the topic, visiting the railroad company's website and speaking informally with a few people who work in road construction.

To provide the quick version first, area drivers may be the ones with the most influence when it comes to improving railroad crossings. At every crossing is a bright blue sign that offers a phone number drivers can call to report an emergency or a problem. I only began noticing them after their presence was pointed out to me, so you may never have noticed them either, but they're there.

Along with the phone number is a specific identification number for that particular crossing. Callers don't have to go through any acrobatics to clarify which location they're providing input about: Just give the I.D. Perhaps the more people railroads hear from regarding the status of certain crossings, the more open they will be to allowing local highway crews to

make repairs or upgrades.

Now the somewhat longer version, encouraging you not to express yourself harshly when you make those phone calls.

During my conversations, it was pointed out to me that there are many thousands of railroad crossings on U.S. highways. Railroad companies have easements associated with those crossings which extend out into the roadway on both sides. If a construction agency wants to perform any work within those easements, even on its own road near the railroad tracks, it must get authorization from the railroad company. With so many crossings and so many highway projects going on all the time, planners say they often feel frustrated with how long it takes to get that authorization from the company's national headquarters—if they receive authorization at all.

So it's easy to see why the idea of trying to repair the roadway next to and between railway tracks makes construction planners roll their eyes. They may be dismayed at the condition of the road, but frustrated in their efforts to get timely feedback and paperwork from the nationally based companies which are cautious about allowing the repairs.

I have to admit, as a driver who



SIGNS OF REPAIR - Signs like these, colored a reflective blue, appear at every railroad crossing. In speaking with people in the construction field, Deb learned hearing from drivers about the condition of a railroad crossing might help influence railroad companies to allow local agencies to make repairs.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

also frequently swings wide to find the best path across our area's many crossings, my sympathies were with the construction workers as my research began. My thoughts may have been something like, "Why do these huge national corporations have so little concern for everyday folks?"

However, my perusal of the railroad company's information about work done on or near crossings provided another, very important, perspective. To summarize—and pretty certainly to oversimplify—every train represents millions of dollars worth of equipment and cargo. In and around each train are railway employees, as well as everyday folks waiting at crossings and even in nearby buildings. Train companies are cautious about allowing large-scale work near their crossings because a derailment or accident at any one of them could not only endanger many people, it would be expensive on a scale most of us have trouble imagining. During a "worst-case" accident, there would be many tons of falling materials potentially leaving the rails

at dangerous speeds, along with a possible release of hazardous chemicals. Imagine the time and work needed to clean up even if only a few railway cars leave the tracks.

From another angle, the railway wants to be well informed about any work taking place near its tracks so it can take precautions to keep those workers from being injured. Train traffic might have to be rerouted or delayed.

So as you can tell, as I considered the information railway companies provide online, my perspective broadened. After all, dealing with a rough railway crossing is frustrating and inconvenient, but I can keep doing it a while longer if it means keeping people safe.

So, if you feel it's warranted, go ahead and use the 800 number to let the railway companies know if you believe crossings you drive over are unsatisfactory. But please don't be harsh about it—they're approaching the problem from a much larger perspective than you are.

Bayous, boardrooms and Baton Rouge

Life is full of whimsy and adventure, and I'm soaking it all in.

Last week I flew to Baton Rouge, Louisiana for three days for work. You see, Baton Rouge is where my magazine and its parent company are located, so I actually got to go meet my coworkers face to face and spend some time in the office instead of working in my apartment.

Because our company is small, it does feel like family. I felt like I was going on a trip to see my friends rather than on a work trip. We flew in on a Wednesday, where I met one of the other editors on my connecting flight and we chatted our whole flight into Baton Rouge.

Wednesday night we (the four editors from all the different markets who had flown in) were on our own to do some work and decide what we wanted to do with our evening. We settled on trying the classic Louisiana daiquiris (which you can get to-go and they even have drive-throughs down south) and dinner at some restaurant (they served pork rinds instead of bread



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

or chips), followed by ice cream and an early bedtime.

Thursday we spent in the office, with two (in person!) meetings and an afternoon of trying to grind out some work. It was a lot of fun to be in the same room working with the other editors and just being able to walk down the hall to ask questions to whoever.

That night the publisher and CEO (who are married) took the whole team (and it felt like half the company) to dinner at a little Cajun seafood place. I had the paella, which was delicious. Then one of the sales girls took us editors to her favorite bar across the street where we listened to a live band called the Ugly Uncles.

On Friday, we started the day with a zumba class, taught by one of the editors who is an instructor. We had to cut that short, unfortunately, for our final meeting, which lasted three hours. Personally, I thought that was a bit extreme, but Jack told me that that is just corporate America. The worst part was that two and half of those hours seemed pointless, or at least pointless to me, as the CEO just talked at us about his grand ideas that we had either already thought of in previous meetings or that we knew might never be implemented. But he was passionate and most of his ideas seemed very cool, despite probably never coming to our company. They just didn't quite relate

to us most of the time.

Other things I learned on my trip:

People really do gator hunt in the south. Two of my coworkers told us all about how to gator hunt and how they used to ship them off to the factories and warehouses in bins of ice.

I forgot about humidity. Stepping into the thick, warm Louisiana air, I hadn't realized how much I had gotten used to the dry Denver mountain air. I missed the Minnesota humidity, but after a couple hours adventuring outside, I did not in fact miss it.

LSU's tiger mascot is a real tiger, Mike the Tiger, who sits in an enclosure across the street from their stadium. We got to see him napping in the sun.

Our CEO let us editors take his Jeep and explore the city on Friday afternoon. Top down, doors off, music blasting...now I want a Jeep.

My Determination: "I love it here! It's like Cheers. Except nobody knows my name." - Jacob, Abbott Elementary

Child's History of Waseca County

Cont. CHAPTER XIII, 1855. Preparations for winter—Hauling provisions from Iowa. Trip made to Auburn, Iowa, by the author—December 19, 1855 on the prairie all night—One man frozen to death—A cold Christmas.

I started from the settlement December 5th, and proceeded to Owatonna, where I remained two days to get the oxen shod. Uncle Jo. Wilson, the rough, kind-hearted blacksmith, of that place, did the job. On the 8th I took the wagon track leading to Austin. There were two or three cabins some five or six miles south of Owatonna, a quarter of a mile from the road, and, after passing them, there were no other habitations to be seen until the Vaughn settlement, near the place now called Lansing, was reached. Before reaching this settlement, night came on, and the darkness, if it could not be felt like that of Egypt in the days of Pharaoh, was near enough to it to prevent a prudent man from trying to travel in a strange country. Camping for the

night was the next best thing and I put up in a thicket of red oaks.

I built a rousing big fire, warmed up the baked pork and beans, toasted the frozen bread, thawed out the doughnuts, made a cup of tea, ate a hearty supper and smoked the pipe of peace with all the then visible world. I had on the wagon about a quarter of a ton of hay (it was necessary in those days to carry along food for both man and beast), so that the cattle had plenty to eat and the driver had plenty to sleep on under the wagon. In such a place, on such a night, under such circumstances, even a young man naturally becomes philosophical and looks upon his own life as one of the greatest mysteries of a mysterious and, as yet, incomprehensible universe, the beginning and ending of which is called God, the Father of all.

Solitary and alone with the patient oxen, I threw myself upon a pile of hay, wrapped in an Indian blanket, and must have gone to sleep early in the evening. In the night I awoke to find that a drizzling rain storm had set in from

the northeast. I put some more wood on the fire and again went to sleep. About an hour before daylight, I was aroused by a prairie wolf concert that was being held in the immediate vicinity and probably for my benefit. Appreciating the compliment of the serenade, I stirred the embers of the camp-fire, put on more wood and soon had a cheerful blaze, notwithstanding the dampness. Those wolves, like some people, seemed to prefer darkness to light, for they left at once.

As soon as it was light enough to see the road, travel was again resumed. As the day advanced, the storm increased, and, by three o'clock p.m., rain and sleet were falling fast. I passed through the village of Austin about noon that day, where I took dinner. Austin then boasted one store, one tavern, one blacksmith shop and several pioneer cabins. After leaving Austin it was found very difficult to keep the right track, owing to the numerous wood roads leading in various directions. Unhappily for me, I selected the wrong track, and, about four o'clock in the af-

ternoon, found myself a mile off the road, but at a comfortable log house, where I stayed over night. About the time I reached here, the rain changed to snow. The next morning the ground was covered with three or four inches of snow, and more was still falling.

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

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

Eli Lutgens

WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

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

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DEADLINES: Pioneer: Noon Monday
GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

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AMELIA ROESSLER
JIM LUTGENS
JON LUCCA
BEN REVERMANN
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OBITUARIES

Anita Risto

Anita Elvira Laura Risto, age 94 of Waseca, died surrounded by the love of her family on the morning of Saturday, June 20, 2026 at Whispering Creek Care and Rehabilitation Center in Janesville.

Anita was born on the family farm in Waseca County on February 19, 1932, to parents Herman and Laura (Roeker) Gahler. She was baptized at the Freedom Immanuel Lutheran Church on March 3, 1932 and was later confirmed at First Lutheran Church in Waldorf on April 14, 1946. As a child she attended country school for six years before spending one year at the Freedom Immanuel parochial school, and later graduated from Janesville High School with the class of 1950. On December 21, 1951, she was united in marriage to Alfred Albert Risto at the Freedom Immanuel Lutheran Church. She worked for a time at the E.F. Johnson Company in Waseca, but spent most of her adult working years as a homemaker, farm wife, and mother to four children. She spent hours alongside her husband caring for her garden, canning, driving tractor, walking beans, and tending to the many demands of farm life. She also enjoyed quilting and had made quilts for all of her grandchildren and many of her friends. Beyond anything else she loved to spend time with her family and babysit her grandchildren. Anita was a member of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Alma City where she was a member of the Ladies Aid. She was an outspoken evangelist for the Lord and was excited share the good news of Jesus with anyone that would listen. She will be dearly missed.

Anita is survived by three



Anita Risto

children, Barbara (David) Denn of Waseca, Bruce (Doreen) Risto of Pemberton, and Debbie (Dan) Roemhildt of Janesville; eight grandchildren; twenty-two great-grandchildren with three more on the way; two step-great-grandchildren; and two siblings, Ernst (Betty) Gahler and Beatrice Tiegs. She was preceded in death by both of her parents; her husband; a son, Ralph Risto; a granddaughter, Laura Roemhildt; a great-granddaughter, Hope Sibilrud ; brothers Herbert (Betty) Gahler and Wilbert (Carol) Gahler; and siblings-in-law, Elmer Tiegs and Dorothy (Gerald) Buker.

Funeral services will be held at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 27, 2026 at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Alma City, with Rev. Robert Harting officiating. Visitation will be held from 10:00 a.m. until the time of the service at the church. Interment will follow at the Alma City Cemetery. Friends and family are invited to share in a memorial reception at the church following the interment service. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Janesville is handling the arrangements. dsfuneral.com

Arlene Foels

Arlene was born on a nice spring day on March 28, 1928, in Waseca at the home of her aunt and uncle Esther and Jerry Johnston. She was the second child of the 4 children born to William R. and Florence (Wetzstein) Krause. She accepted Jesus as her personal Lord and Savior at the young age of 12 at the Evangelical United Brethren Church (EUB) during an evangelistic meeting.

Her education began at District 16 in St Mary's township, then attended Waseca High School, graduating in 1946. She went to Wells Teacher Training program in 1947. Arlene taught country school in Manchester in Freeborn County, and District 10 (Palmer School) in Waseca County for 5 years. She loved teaching. She also worked as a clerical aid in the principal's' office of Waseca High School for 29 years.

Arlene married her beloved hus-

band, Kenneth B. Foels, at the EUB church in Waseca on October 7, 1950. They were blessed with three loving and caring daughters, Patricia, Sandra and Jane.

They bought a small farm in Woodville Township where she enjoyed remodeling the farmhouse. She had a gift of hospitality enjoyed by many. She loved to collect cook-books, try new recipes, garden and can, cook and bake, and sew her daughter's clothes. Arlene enjoyed camping and traveling and visiting historical sites on family vacations. Attending activities of her children and grandchildren were very important. They farmed for 50 years, followed by a move to a home in Waseca, then to Colony Court for the remainder of her life.

Arlene loved the scriptures and studied her Bible diligently. She served Jesus in her church as a teacher, youth leader and in women's ministry, church choir, and ladies'

trio. She faithfully prayed for her treasured family, and the needs of others. She was a model of faith to her family and all that knew her. Arlene lived with joy and grace. Her sweet spirit was evident to anyone who came in contact with her.

Survived by daughters, Patricia Miller, Sandra (Glen) Prechel and Jane (Tom) Rice, 7 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Preceded in death were her husband, Kenneth, her parents William and Florence Krause, her 2-year-old little sister Shirley, sister Fern Watland (Elwyn), brother Robert Krause (Darlene), son-in-law, Paul Miller and all of her in-laws.

"Arlene's life was full, happy and blessed!!!"

A Funeral Service will be held on Friday, June 26, 2026, at 11:00 AM at Vista Covenant Church in New Richland, MN; Pastor Brian Schanil will officiate. Arlene's family will



Arlene Foels

greet guests at a visitation held one hour prior to the service at the church. Interment will be at Woodville Cemetery.

NRHEG looks at funding from many angles

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

During their June 15 meeting, members of the NRHEG School Board heard from district business manager Karla Christopherson regarding an anticipated \$600,000 loss to the \$4 million "general fund," a pool of money set aside at the recommendation of various advisement groups as a buffer to meet expenses if sources of income—including money from state and federal agencies—are late or slow in providing promised funding.

Christopherson summarized that, as the 2025-26 school year comes to a close as of June 30, the district will have had about \$432,000 more in expenditures than it had in income. In looking at the proposed 2026-27 budget, Christopherson predicts expenditures \$166,000 higher than income.

The district's operating budget for 2025-26 was about \$40,000 short of \$14 million. The budget for 2026-27 anticipates about \$18,000 more in expenditures.

The shortfalls, it has been explained in various conversations, come about because of numerous intertwining factors that include declining student enrollment which results in less money from the state, as well as programs and services the district is required to provide even though it is not always reimbursed for its costs.

The district has a policy that its general fund should be an amount between 22 and 28 percent of its annual operating costs. Though the \$432,000 decrease is the largest in recent history, circumstances described above have led to consistent budget deficits for the last few years.

"A declining general fund is something everyone in the district should be worried about," observed board chair Rick Schultz.



The group's concerns led to a brief discussion about the steps needed to ask the public for an "operating levy," an increase to property taxes designated specifically for support of the school district. According to information on the Minnesota Department of Education website, of 330 school districts statewide, about 240 are already utilizing this source of funding.

Another major item of business on the June 15 agenda was accepting an offer on the property located at 302 Broadway Avenue South. The district purchased the property last fall as a way to deal with the longstanding circumstance that a garage associated with the residential lot extended about 6 feet into school property, reducing the space available at a driveway from the school's newly refurbished parking lot onto Minnesota Highway 30. At that time, repeated conversations with the homeowner had not led to a solution, so when the property came up for sale, the district purchased it for roughly \$70,000. During the school year, the garage was removed, creating a more open access between the lot and Highway 30.

During the June 15 meeting, board members officially accepted

an offer of \$40,000 to be paid in cash for the property. While board members acknowledged the \$30,000 difference, Schultz pointed out that, given previous discussions with the property owner had been unsuccessful, legal action to compel the removal of the garage would probably have cost at least that amount.

He also referred to the improved access, stating that "if we prevented even one accident, we made a good investment."

Also during the June 15 meeting, Christopherson summarized a ballot item which will be decided during the Nov. 3 statewide vote.

She explained that, when Minnesota became a state, lawmakers stipulated in its constitution that land would be put under state control for the sake of helping support schools. She summarized that, at this time, about 2.5 million acres of land are managed by the state Department of Natural Resources. Income from that land is set aside in a fund; interest paid on that fund supports a number of state initiatives, including providing operating money to schools.

The fund, she said, has grown to be larger than lawmakers in the 1800s could have anticipated, and so significant amounts of money are not being distributed thanks to elements of the formula set down in the state constitution. Since changes to the constitution must be authorized by a general vote, this question will be appearing on the November

ballot: "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to increase the funding going to all school districts from the permanent school fund, which is a fund that supports school districts without raising individual income or property taxes, effective July 1, 2027?"

If the amendment is approved, Christopherson said, NRHEG would receive about \$21,000 more in state funding in 2027 than in 2026.

Board members also carried out a conversation regarding the district's unemployment costs. Prior to 2024, school employees whose contracts did not include summer pay were not eligible for unemployment benefits. After a change to the law, people such as paraprofessionals, food service workers and bus drivers became eligible to apply. Teachers do not receive unemployment; their wages are an annual salary divided out across all 12 months of the year.

At the time the change was implemented, lawmakers set aside about \$135 million to cover the statewide costs to school districts, so that the money would not come from their operating budgets. That fund is meant to continue through the summer of 2027, or until it is exhausted.

Christopherson informed board members that NRHEG employees are expected to receive about \$100,000 in unemployment benefits this summer.

School board looks at summer activities

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff writer

At the June 18 meeting of the Waseca school board, Superintendent Erik Hudspith shared a summary of the activities going on within the school buildings during summer months. These included budget planning for the district's next fiscal year and the strategic plan review. Hudspith reminded the board about signing up to sit at the district's booth at the county fair.

Business manager Andrew Adams gave a presentation of the preliminary 2026-27 school year budget. A decision to spend down

WASECA
SCHOOL BOARD

the unassigned general fund dollars for general expenses was made, decreasing the percentage from 21% to 18.5% which is still within district policy.

Other action items included approving the substitute pay rates for 2026-27, the cancellation of the July 2 work session due to its proximity to the holiday, and approving the dates for filing affidavits of candidacy for school board. The next regular board meeting is July 16.

■ Bakery

from Page 1

chip with peanut butter chips, white chocolate chip with cranberry, oatmeal chocolate chip.

A customer came in with her two children; by the time they checked out, they had filled three separate bags with Barefoot Lane baked goods. Wadekamper continued, "Everything in my bakery was baked this morning, and is baked fresh every day starting at 3 a.m. when the

morning baker arrives. The majority of items baked at the bakery are sourdough and everything is baked from scratch." The flavors of bagels available are plain, kitchen sink, blueberry, strawberry, mixed berry, and chocolate with peanut butter chips, just to name a few.

The day begins with Danishes, croissants and pain au chocolates for available pastries and by lunchtime, meat and cheese croissants hit the bakery case. Different items are added throughout the morning such as cardamom buns and other tasty treats. Her menu changes every week, with a more definitive menu due to be available once the most

popular bread flavors are determined. In the meantime, Wadekamper said, customers can up to date information on her Barefoot Lane LLC Facebook page where "I post updates with the weekly bread and bagel flavors each Sunday." She sat up straight and proudly stated, "Everything here is made from scratch, I don't ship any already made product in. I use as many locally bought ingredients as I can." She was asked how many people she is employing now, "Eight, I have eight people working for me right now and at this time, I'm no longer hiring."

He shares that, depending on the weather and the timing of the Fourth of July holiday, attendance at meetings over the past decade or so has ranged between 40 and 75.

"We would take more, of course," he observes. "But we're pleased that we can be so active and bring together that sense of old-fashioned community."

Those attending the picnic on July 4 do not have to be WCHTD members. Lifetime membership is highly affordable, though, at a mere \$3.00 a person.

Anyone who wants to join, get further information, or purchase some of the group's eye-catching merchandise can get more information at horsedetectors.org.

■ Detectives

from Page 3

business meeting, and then old-fashioned games and contests at which competitors of all ages may be on even footing: Roemhildt mentions bubble gum blowing contests, an egg toss, sack races and—a crowd favorite—a pie eating contest. He recalls past years when as many as three generations from a single family took part in the competitions.

Roemhildt points out that the 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. meal, meeting and family merriment leave plenty of the holiday for other celebrations and activities.

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Taste of the Farm

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...and more! We apologize if any sponsors or volunteers were inadvertently missed.



Waseca Champion Athlete Spotlight



ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT

How many years have you been Competitive Athlete?
A long time.

What sports do you currently compete in?
Bowling, Basketball, and Softball.

What do you enjoy most about Special Olympics?
Playing Outside.

How does participating in Special Olympics Make you feel?
Happy!

Who is your biggest supporter or cheerleader?
My mom.

What is your favorite food to fuel you before a game?
Pasta.

What motivates you to keep trying?
I like it when my mom cheers for me.

What do you like to do when you're not playing sports?
I like to play board games.



TRENT KUBALL



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WASECA, MN

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ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT

How many years have you been Competitive Athlete?
12+ years

What sports do you currently compete in?
Bowling, Basketball, and Softball. And Cheerleading at WHS,

What do you enjoy most about Special Olympics?
Supporting my team.

How does participating in Special Olympics Make you feel?
Good, it feels good when the ball goes in the hoop.

Who is your biggest supporter or cheerleader?
Mitch Tegmeier

What is your favorite food to fuel you before a game?
Cheese Curds

What motivates you to keep trying?
My team



RANDI EATON



WASECA, MN

The funds generated by this sponsorship go directly to the Waseca Special Olympic Athletes

Council

from Page 1

and a willingness to improve.”

City manager Carl Sonnenberg presented a quick summary regarding progress at the Clearwater Preserve on behalf of developing company Deerpath LLC. Sonnenberg shared that there will be 21 new single-family lots located around two cul-de-sacs. Each new lot will be priced at \$64,900 and will be located between north of 11th Ave NW and east of 10th St. NW. They are single family 1400 square feet, twin homes. This will not include manufactured homes or modular homes (factory or built off-site). This item will be voted on during the July 7 meeting.

The council passed a vote authorizing Sonnenberg to execute and complete final documents for replacing switchgear equipment at a municipal electric substation.. This is a multi-year project contracted through the Hooper Corporation costing around \$637,000.

The council granted a Liquor License Premise Extension for the American Legion, on both July 25 and August 29.

Mayor Zimmerman will be filling in as the Economic Development Authority president for the remainder of this year.

The new Caribou Coffee will open on June 30 with a grand opening July 8 at 10 a.m. Lucia’s Cocina has also broken ground for her new location next to the old Kwik Trip.

During the meeting’s public comment session, Ben Postin and Verity Rose spoke on the skate park in Waseca. After speaking with a city worker, Postin was told the asphalt will be complete by next week and wanted to update the council.

The Waseca Waterpark saw over 600 visitors on opening weekend, this is the park’s nineteenth year of operation. Mankato’s Spring Lake Park and the Geneva Community Pool are closed this year.

Councilwoman Schroeder commented on how clean Clear Lake Park was after the Take a Kid Fishing event. She said there were no wrappers and how nice it was to walk through such a clean space afterwards. She also thanked the Parks Department for cleaning up the parks and dead fish on the shore of Clear Lake after a fish die-off believed to have been caused by unusually warm spring water temperatures.

Councilman Ebertowski expressed apologies for missing the last council meeting, but explained his son, Archer James Ebertowski was born. According to Ebertowski, “He’s happy and healthy, the wife is also happy and healthy.”

Councilman Conrath announced the Firefighters Relief Association fish fry will be at 4 p.m. on Friday, June 27.

Mayor Zimmerman said about the upcoming Fourth of July Celebration, “Two hundred and fifty years of one of the greatest social experiments in the world. Be safe and have fun this year. Learn what it took for us to be here.”

Community Ed play presents a twist on the Cinderella story

The play “Cinderella and the Substitute Fairy Godmother” by Ed Monk will be presented at the Waseca Junior Senior High School performing arts center by young area performers at 7 p.m. on Friday, June 26 and 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 27. The production is sponsored by Waseca Community Education and made possible through a grant from the Waseca Area Foundation. Tickets, available at the door, are \$5; children 5 and under will be admitted at no charge.

Cast and crew include director Karen Pfarr Anderson, Gracelynn Brunner, Teagan Neidecker, Mya Marlin, Lilly Muff, Charlotte Griffith, Olive Scheffert, Regan Barr, Archer Weber, Audrey Gray, Isabel Berg, Addison Anderson, Lorelei DeRaad, Sophia Webster, Aubrey DeRaad, Nolan



STRANGE MAGIC - There’s no predicting who will appear or what will happen next in the community education play “Cinderella and the Substitute Fairy Godmother” to be performed June 26 and 27, at the Waseca Junior Senior High School performing arts center.

Monson, Ayden Baxter, Charlie Randall, Alex Henry, Lily Quade, Arabella Hardeman, Lillian Berg, Alyssandra Garza, Ezra Hasselquist, Emma Gerdes, Emmett Byron, Khloe Nelson, Charles Galle, Lucas Negreto, August Pearce, Eli Rowher, and auditorium manager Chuck Pollock.

Art

from Page 3

In the Harguth Gallery, Minneapolis-based artist Gena Cohen, dressed in jeans and a button-up shirt, was asked which painting is her most powerful at the moment. She presented, “Blue Tiger.” In the painting was what she referred to as “studio waste” which is garbage one would usually find in a studio waste basket. She pointed to a part of the painting that projected forward and explained it was bubble wrapping tape. She has bags of waste she keeps around in case she needs something from them. She also added,

“Blue is the color of protection.” And noted that regular garbage collection doesn’t recycle plastic waste like everyone thinks they do.

Cohen said she her works have included portraits of some humans, but mostly animals. Her work in the Harguth Gallery was very textual, like something one could take a bite out of. Continued Cohen, “I fell in love with the arts at 18 years old. My first painting I just used my fingers; one hundred portraits later, I ended up taking a course. The beauty of abstract impressionism broke me away from portraits.” She alluded to having in storage over a hundred animal portraits including foxes, cats, and birds. In total she

has closer to 400 paintings, “Each one of them takes me around two hours.” She pointed to an incredible painting of Joan of Arc and said, “Yes, that only took me two hours, I was done with it in one sitting.”

Since Cohen’s work is so thick, sometimes her canvases can shrink or the paint can clump off, “But if I lose a little bit of paint here and there, I can fix it easily.” She noted only once did a canvas become so warped she was uncomfortable selling it, “That one was just beyond repair.” She describes herself as, “A mixed media abstract expressionist.”

Sculptor Brian Quail was unable to attend the opening due to

a scheduling conflict. Born and raised in South Dakota, Quail grew up surrounded by soybean fields and a love for steel construction. He says, “My work brings overlooked elements to life. Every sculpture begins with forgotten metal, discarded gears, pipes, chains and industrial scraps. I collect these worn, abandoned pieces and transform them into expressive works of art. In my hands, scrap metal is reborn and rebuilt into something meaningful, powerful and unexpected.”

After the introductions, guests were invited to the Tea Room for chocolate tier and sparkling cider to enjoy as they mingled with the artist.



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The Pastor's Column

Experiencing seasons

By PASTOR RICK WULF

I love living in Minnesota where we get to experience 4 distinct seasons. Yes, winter may feel long, that's why I didn't say "equal". It may not come as a surprise, but we just had one of the most beautiful springs I've seen in the last 10 years. Spring is beautiful. Just recently, I overheard two people talking about the first robin they saw, trying to determine who saw one first. The cool evenings and the crisp mornings encapsulate the ever-becoming more warm sun during the day.

Then there's summer. And so far, at the time of the writing of this article, summer has been a little weird. Usually by now, it's getting pretty hot, but we really haven't seen it yet. Did I just jinx us? Sorry! My son works at the Waseca waterpark, and between some stormy days and a cool one, the weather hasn't been overly cooperative for those wanting to enjoy the heat of the summer. But our church is located right near the waterpark and so we get to hear the joy and excitement of the kids as they enjoy their summer vacation.

I know no one wants to hear or read this, but it's no secret... summer won't be here forever. Soon it will be autumn, and school will be back in session. Our local sports teams will begin their contests again and the stadiums will be full of cheering fans. And at just the right time, the leaves will turn their brilliant hues of oranges, reds, and yellows. And we will marvel at their beauty. Then, in due time, they will turn brown, and they will fall and we will all groan at the tedious task of raking the leaves.

Whether we like it or not, winter will come. This is the season kids love, but most adults despise. Whether it's the unknowns of driving, the plowing or shoveling of our driveways, the bitter cold, or the limited sunlight, winter is often the season we complain about the most.

I guess it's human nature to complain. Even Adam did it when he blamed Eve, and then ultimately his Creator upon his eating of the forbidden fruit. Paul warns us not to complain or grumble in Philippians 2:14-15. He also reminds the church in 1 Corinthians 10:10 not to grumble like the Israelites did in the wilderness.

I guess my question to you as you read this is: which season do you tend to grumble in the most? Why? It's easy to find the frustration, annoyance, or disappointment in things that don't cooperate. So, when life doesn't cooperate, what do you do?

The truth is, we will always go through seasons that don't bring joy. We will always go through times in our lives that we wish we could just move on to a "better" time. Those feelings won't ever really change. What can change is how we respond when those seasons come into our lives.

Maybe your go-to is grum-

bling or complaining. Maybe it's controlling. Maybe it's sadness or depression. Maybe it's anger. Each of these emotions really just do one thing: distract us from the truth of God's character.

Let's be honest here. Every single character in the beautiful story of the Bible was flawed. That's really great news. Every single one of them minus Christ, who was the perfect human, had something that displayed their broken humanity. Gideon saw himself as the weakest and required two proofs before he would trust God. Jacob was a deceiver. Joseph in the Old Testament was perhaps impetuous and prideful in his youth. Moses tried to get out of speaking to Pharaoh. And the list goes on. Here's the kicker: God didn't wait for a better season to call these people. It was in the middle of their rough season, when God called them to their purpose.

And what I believe to be true in your life and in mine, is this: God won't wait until you get yourself out of your tough season for Him to work in your life. In fact, the season you are in now is more than likely His preparation in you! God is using this season of your life so that when He calls you to a seemingly impossible task, your response isn't "no, send someone else", it's "here I am, send me!" God's delays aren't often His denials, but His declaration that He is good and He is working all things for our good.

So, hear me, please. Enjoy summer. If you physically love this season because you're a teacher or because you love having your kids home all day every day, enjoy it. It's short. It'll be over before you know it. Eek! And if you're in a "summer season" when everything feels right, and good, and you're loving life, remember to seek God who has placed you in this season for a purpose. Use it to bring glory to Him.

And if you are in another season where life is hard, I want you to know, I understand. Life. Is. Hard. And it's not fair. Know as I type this, I am praying for you and your situation. Take this little nugget with you: You are seen and loved by our heavenly Father, even in your diaicult season. You are never too far from Him that you can't call out to Him. He will hear you and answer you. Your season may not be over yet; you may still have a long way to go. But He is present with you through it all. And don't rush it. God's timing is always perfect.

Blessings to you as you pass through all four seasons.

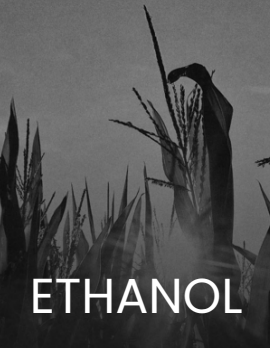
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Janesville 2026 Hay Daze Parade June 21



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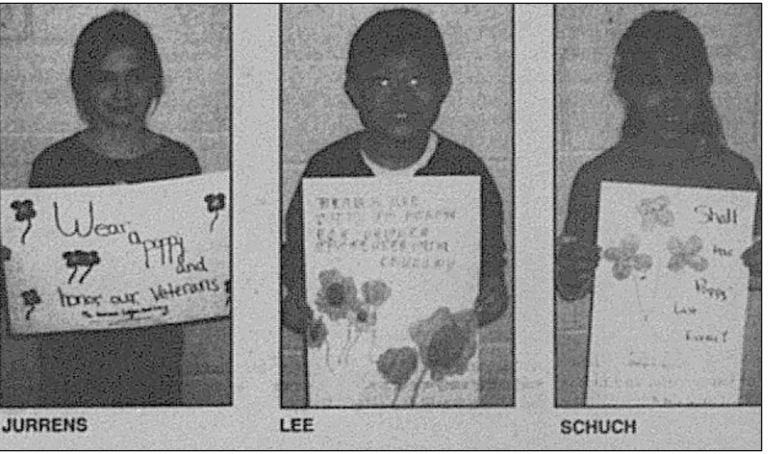
Janesville

25 years ago

- Joe and Paula McGrath of Lake Elmo are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Katie, to Mike Cahill, son of Terry and Barb Cahill of Janesville. Katie is a 1995 graduate of Hill-Murray High School in St. Paul and a 1999 graduate of North Dakota State University with a degree in Psychology. She is currently employed as an Internet Specialist with E-Travel Experts. Mike is a 1994 graduate of Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School and a 1997 graduate of Minnesota State University of Mankato with a degree in Aviation. He is currently employed as a Captain with Mesabe Airlines. A July wedding in Stillwater is planned.

- The Janesville American Legion Auxiliary Unit #281 would like to announce that Julia Ulman of Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School has been selected to represent the Janesville auxiliary at Girls' State during the week of Sunday, June 10 through Saturday, June 16 at Bethel College in St. Paul. Girls' State is a week to learn about the government with hands on experience, a very busy week of classes and government activities. An orientation was held at the Janesville American Legion on Wednesday, April 25, for this year's Girls' Stater and last year's Girls' staters, along with their parents or representative, to learn more about the program. Julia is the daughter of Kathie and Dave Ulman.

- The Hay Daze Kiddie Parade is back. Although it was missing from last year's order of events, the Janesville Chamber of Commerce hopes it will be well attended and successful. This year the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton National Honor Society helped to organize the event. The Kiddie Parade will be held on Saturday, June 16, at 10:30 a.m. at the Janesville Nursing Home. Children of all ages are welcome to participate and parade around the parking lot. Since there is not a specific theme for the Kiddie Parade this year, children may wear any type of costume. While prizes will be awarded for the best costumes to children between the ages of 2-5 and 6-10, every child that participates will receive a small prize.



- The American Legion Women's Auxiliary #587 of Waldorf recently sponsored a Poppy Poster Contest. The winners were Brittney Jurrens, first place; Ntomoo Lee, second place and Katrina Schuch, third place. They are fifth grade students in Mrs. Hoppe's room. Jurrens also won second place in the First District contest.

50 years ago

- Two area high school graduates have been accepted for admission into Mankato State University. They are Maria Kenyon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Kenyon, Eagle Lake, and Tony E. Fitzloff, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene A. Fitzloff, St. Clair. Marla is a 1976 graduate of Janesville High School and Tony just graduated St. Clair. Miss Kenyon is planning a major in physical education and plans to teach in that field. Her major high school activities were in track and volleyball. Tony Fitzloff participated in football and wrestling at St. Clair and played in the high school band for four years.

- Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Fasnacht of Janesville, announce the engagement of their daughter, Agnes, of St. Paul, to Leon Bartholome, Minneapolis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Bartholome of Bellechester. Agnes is a 1966 graduate of Janesville High School and a 1969 graduate of Rochester School of Practical Nursing. She is presently employed at the St. Joseph's Hospital, St. Paul. Leon graduated from Goodhue High School in 1965. After two years in the Army, he attended Dunwoody Institute as a welder and pipefitter. A September 4 wedding is planned at Madison Lake.

- A Janesville man's car was totaled and he was hospitalized in Waseca after being involved in a two car accident on Highway 14 at 2:25 a.m. Sunday morning. Thomas Kuntz, 21, was taken to Waseca Hospital after his 1966 Oldsmobile collided with a 1965 Oldsmobile wagon driven by Donald Olson, 18, of Owatonna. Dean Olson, 16, Owatonna, and Bruce Olson, 26, Minneapolis, were passengers in the Olson car. All were hospitalized. Deputy Jerry Splett investigated the accident.

75 years ago

- Two prominent citizens of Waseca county and perhaps others have received letters from Mexico City from and unknown writer who wants to share part of \$449,000 with them if they will help him get out of prison. To some unsuspecting person who received one of these "invitations" it would appear to look authentic, but the confidence racket, which is the category in which this letter belongs, is an ancient, vicious scheme to get money from anyone that will fall for the bait. Beware of deals which smell of easy money.

- After 17 years of Sunday milk delivery in Janesville, the Ewert Dairy has decided to hereafter take Sundays off. According to M. Ewert nearly every home in Janesville has a refrigerator and no inconvenience should result if housewives will keep in mind to order milk and other dairy products on Saturday to hold them over the Sabbath.

100 years ago

- Every now and then some new swindle appears upon the horizon and goofs who fall for them are never wanting. Over at Red Wing a couple of alleged crooks posing as a physician and eye doctor extracted \$500 from a farmer for dropping a liquid into the eye of a member of his family. From another farmer they had the cards all stacked to separate him from \$1,750 for removing the "tissue," whatever that is, from his eye. But he had his money in the bank and his banker wised him up in time to save his pile. This all happened last week almost in our own territory. In this day and age of enlightenment it seems almost unbelievable that there should be such gullible people anywhere.

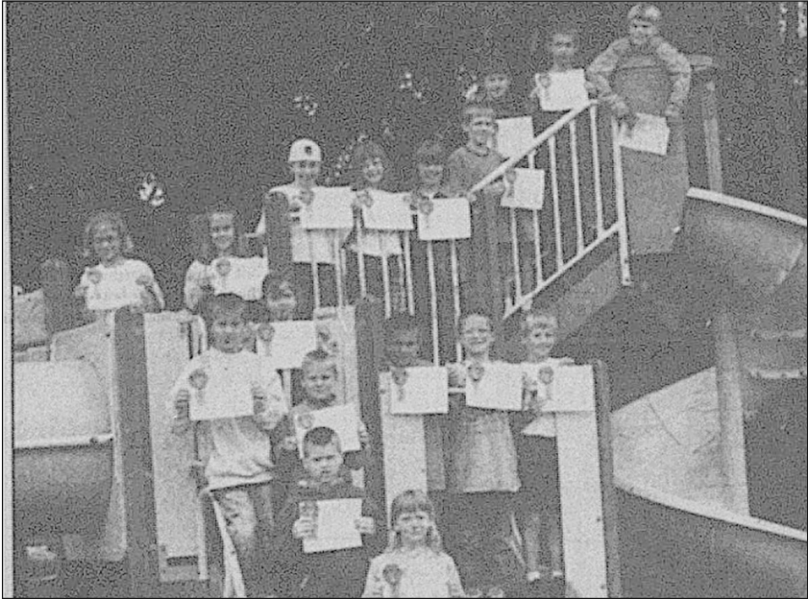
- We must confess that we have not been able to become overly enthusiastic about Sinclair Lewis, the Minnesota author whose "Main Street" and "Babbitt" have brought him more or less popularity as a writer throughout the country. It is reported that he recently defied the Almighty to strike him dead within ten minutes. What a cheap play for free publicity and what a perfect example of egotistical asininity. Our guess would be that if the good Lord ever knew there was such a specimen on earth, He forgot about it.

Waseca

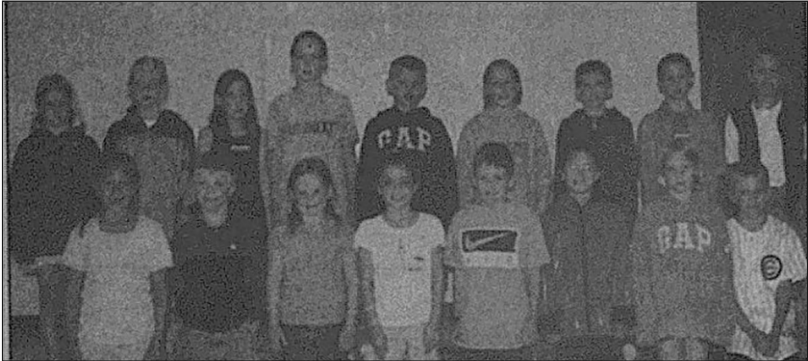
25 years ago

- The Exchange Club Center for Family Unity-A Partnership for the Prevention of Child Abuse-gratefully acknowledges contributions to the Center during January through April from the following businesses, organizations and individuals: The Bush Foundation, Exchange Club of Waseca, WalMart Foundation, Tim Wenzel, Jim and Vicki Staloch, Caryn Wendt, and Martha Waddell. Memorials Received: From Caryn and Myron Wendt, in memory of Emil Glamm.

- Mark and Virginia Wenisch of Waseca are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Kaitlynn Grace Wenisch, born March 5, 2001, at Owatonna Hospital. She weighed seven pounds, 12 ounces and was 21 inches in length. Maternal grandparents are Paul and Paulette Born of Waseca. Paternal grandparents are Kay Giese of Waseca and the late Richard Wenisch of Springfield. Great grandparents are Gloria Posschl of Waseca, Valera Born of Waseca and Sophie Wenisch of Springfield. Kaitlynn is welcomed home by her two brothers-Anthony who is 13 and Aaron who is 10 and by a sister, Alicia, who is 6.



- These are the 2001 Hartley/South Side Elementary Presidential Fitness award winners. Front Row: Sage Maciday, Isiah Nupson, Dylan Lund, Sam Milbrett, Kearl Harris, Clint Larson, Dane Walter and Jackson Denn. Back Row: Kayla Jensen, Courtney Hayford, Caitlin Whitney, Caitlyn Will, Sydney Burns, Kevin Will, Jeremy Sass, Kyle Cosens and Dylan Guentzel.



- These are the 2001 Sacred Heart Elementary School Presidential Fitness Award winners. Front row: Millah Johnson, Bruce Harguth, Sami Barrie, Erin Slechta, Kevin Glynn, Mallory Storvick, Sopkowiak and Megan Ryan Landkammer. Back row: Dana Sopkowiak, Lexi Ulfers, Samantha Neste, Megan Block, Blake Malecha, Kyanne Caswell, Connor Oelke, Brandon Kingston and Ryan Papke.

- University of St. Thomas sophomore Brad Deml received a 2000-2001 scholarship award from the Minnesota Society of CPAs (MNCPA). Deml is the son of Gary and Laurie Deml of Waseca. Deml is working towards an accounting major at St. Thomas, where he has made the dean's list. The MNCPA actively assists current students in their educational pursuits and offers a variety of scholarship awards to qualified applicants. The MNCPA is a professional organization serving CPAs statewide since 1904.

50 years ago

- Mrs. Roger Rucker is the new leader of the Crazy Clovers 4-H Club. The meeting was called to order by Kim Porter. Roger Wilkowske talked to the members about the seven county camp. He showed some slides. Lora Anderson was elected reporter. Sherry Myers showed how to make five cup salad. Roger Wilkowske took the club out to the garden to show the members how to plant seeds. Then he gave the members some seeds and plants. The meeting was adjourned by Kim Porter. The next meeting will be held on June 1 and Kim Porter's house. Reporter Lora Anderson.

- Sharon Hofland, 19, has joined the advertising staff of Waseca's Daily Journal. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Hofland of Perham, Minnesota. She graduated in 1975 from Perham High School and will graduate Thursday, June 3 from the Wadena Area Vocational Technical Institute where she studied advertising and display. Mike Johnson, advertising manager at the Journal said of Miss Hofland's appointment, "Due to the fact our family want ads have nearly doubled in the past two years, we felt it necessary to add another person to this rapidly growing department. Miss Hofland's appointment will allow us to continue serving all of Waseca County with the inexpensive mode of advertising."

75 years ago

- The Second Summer Band concert by the Waseca high school band will include a cornet trio comprised of Don Ruble, Bob Spalding and Billy Streitz playing LeRoy Anderson's Bugler's Holiday. The concert will be held at 7 p.m. Sunday at the band shell in Clear Lake Park. Other numbers on the program will include Father of Victory March by Gann Cathedral Canyon Overture by Hanson. One King by Romberg Glory of the Gridiron March by Harry Alford. Selections from Annie Get Your Gun by Berlin. Washington Post march by Souse Blue Suede Shoes by Perkins and Tuti Fruiti by Penniman.

- Funeral services were held Wednesday at Dodge Center for Mrs. Simon J. Schuster, 72, mother of Mrs. R.C. Osborn whose husband manages the North State Street Standard Oil station. Mr. and Mrs. Osborn attended the services.

- A change in schedule has been announced for the Waseca Indians Baseball club by Dutch Dunn manager. Instead of playing at Community field Sunday against New Richland, Dunn said several of the players have conflicts on that day and the game will be played Friday night here. He said an unusual amount of wedding, graduations and other commitments would cut down his squad too much and New Richland agreed to play the game Friday night. The contest will start at 8 p.m.

100 years ago

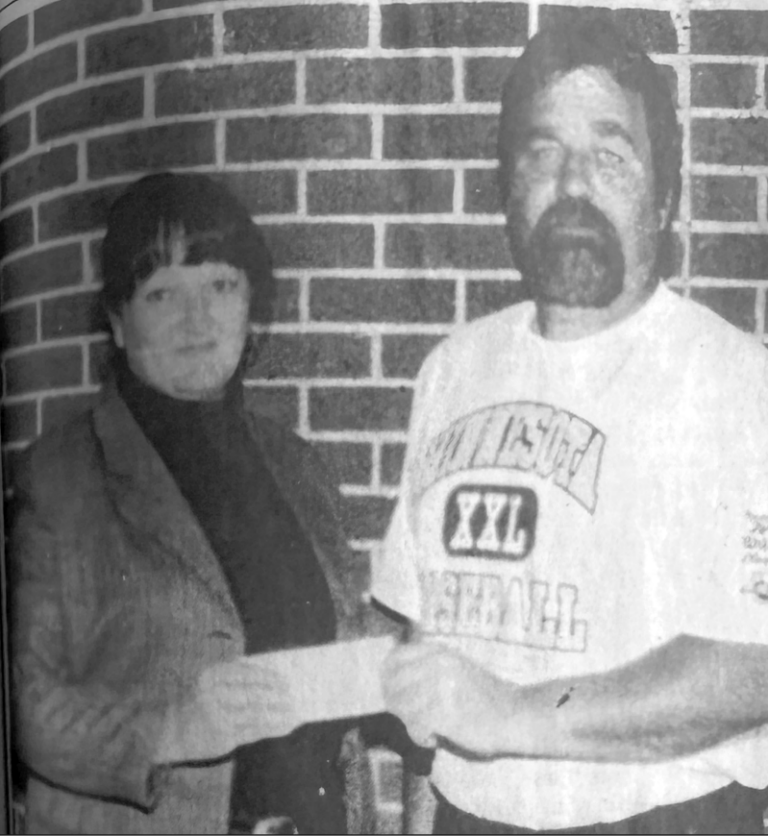
- The members of the W.R.C. and their families and friends to the number of about 200, enjoyed their annual dinner at the I.O.O.F. hall Monday. Following the dinner the members took part in the parade and attended the Memorial Day exercises which were held in the high school auditorium.

- The North Woodville nutrition group enjoyed a very pleasant meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hirman Powell last Friday evening. The women invited their husbands who amused themselves at cards while the women took up their regular program and then discussed plans for the Achievement Day program in September.

- Mr. and Mrs. Emil J. Priebe and daughter, Priscilla, Rev. and Mrs. George Vollmer and son, Carl and C.C. Aird drove over to Owatonna Saturday evening and enjoyed a delicious picnic supper out at the Mineral Springs park.

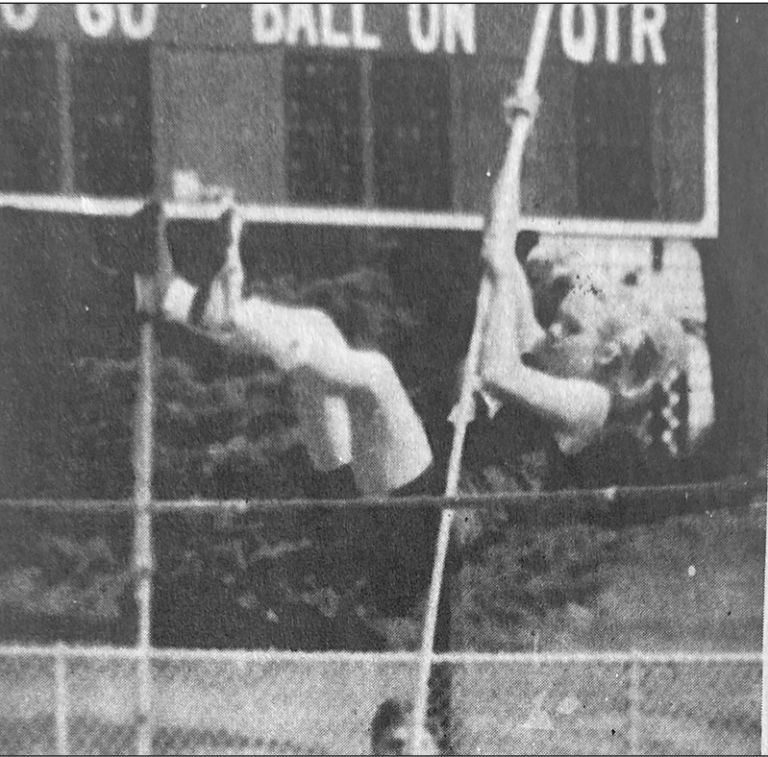
New Richland

25 years ago



- A check for \$2,000 was presented to Jeff Reese by Sharon Parnpart, Sprint representative from Chaska. The \$2,000 will be applied to the outstanding balance of the baseball field lights. Jeff has worked hard on making the lights a reality. Donations to the light fund will continue to be welcome until the debt is paid for in full.

- Katie Dobberstein, daughter of Ralph and Cheryl Dobberstein of New Richland, has been awarded a Sather Presidential, a Southwest State University Mentoring and a Foundation Distinguished Student Scholarship for the 2001-2002 academic year. The scholarships were presented to Dobberstein by Laren Baker, dean of the College of Arts, Letters and Sciences, ad interim.



- Kalisha Anthony set two new records in the pole vault during the Sub-Section 5A championship tournament at Wells. She vaulted 10' to place first. This is the new subsection record as well as a new Panther record. Kalisha was the Section 2A Meet champion with a vault of 9'5". She placed 12th in the Minnesota State competition at 9'6".

- Kayla Bruegger and Matthew Black announce their engagement and forthcoming marriage. Kayla is the daughter of Audrey Bruegger of New Richland and Ronald Bruegger of Minnesota Lake. Kayla graduated in 1997 from Maple River High School. She is employed by Minnesota Park Incorporated. Matthew is the son of Randy and Brenda Black of rural Amboy and the late Gail Black. He graduated from Maple River High School in 1996 and is employed by John Corey Trucking.

50 years ago



- Janice Olson and Jean Olson are looking over a copy of the New Richland Star's Diamond Jubilee edition following the formation of a New Richland Centennial meeting held at the New Richland City Hall, Tuesday night. They were selected as co-chairmen of the Centennial Steering Committee. They are looking for all kinds of suggestions and comments for activities during the Centennial celebration.

- Quiram's Bakery Quities have jumped off a two-game lead in the New Richland Women's Softball League, by winning two games from the State Bank of New Richland, each by one run.

- Norman Ribbe has been named District Manager for the Minneapolis Star and Tribune in the Benson, Minnesota area. Norman is a 1970 graduate of New Richland -Hartland High School.

75 years ago

- A Daughter, Kristin Karen, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Arnfelt of Waseca. Sunday, July 15, at the Memorial Hospital. The baby weighed eight pounds, one ounce and is the Arnfelts first child.

- William Anderson, son of Walter Anderson, former New Richland baseball player and son of L. M. Anderson, was graduated with honors from the Lincoln high school, Tacoma, Walsh. Willam ranked fifth in a class of 502 students and won a scholarship from a college in Cambridge, Mass.

Meyman signs on as DFL candidate for House Seat

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Lifelong Waseca resident Zack Meyman, 48, has thrown his hat in the ring as the Democratic candidate for Minnesota House of Representatives district 19B—an area which spans the communities of Medford, Owatonna, and Waseca.

Meyman will be facing off against one-term Republican incumbent Tom Sexton, also a Waseca resident. Waseca County DFL committee chair Deb Hogenson praises Meyman for his willingness to serve, and points out his candidacy is part of a large-scale accomplishment for the Minnesota DFL—the party has a candidate in place for every legislative seat.

Meyman says his decision to run is based on his desire to see everyday individuals placed at the center of legislative decisions and actions. His perception is that the wealthy and powerful cultivate relationships with those in political office in order to acquire undue influence, to the disadvantage of those who are not particularly wealthy or powerful.

Strengthening rural healthcare, he says, is one of the chief components of his platform. He would like to see the legislature find funding and programs which reverse the trend of declining clinics in smaller communities.

He says state leaders should also be working to ensure broadband internet access is readily available for rural residents.

Also one of Meyman’s priorities is finding ways to help rural schools be more efficient, possibly including cooperative programs which use technology to allow instructors to have a presence in a number of school districts at the same time. He would also like to see a more equitable funding system which overcomes the inequities created by differences in population densities among the state’s school districts.

Meyman expresses disappointment that large corporations can use their influence to acquire rights to minerals and other underground resources located on public land. Along with that, he wants to see closer scrutiny before data centers, some of which take up massive amounts of space, place strain on local energy supplies, and occupy



Zach Meyman

large areas of land, are considered. Some such centers, Meyman says, were rushed in without sufficient research, sometimes taking community members unawares.

Meyman, a 1996 Waseca High School graduate, worked for Itron for 23 years prior to its closing. He is now a shift supervisor at Life Fitness in Owatonna.

He says his path to candidacy began with his dissatisfaction over state and federal decisions. A 10-year member of the Waseca County DFL, he says he was encouraged by meetings and conversations this spring, including support and suggestions from DFL Senate District 19 chair Paula Person, and from fellow Waseca County DFL members.

He made the decision to join the race in April and so far has been running a one-person campaign. He has been setting aside large blocks of his free time to visit homes in various communities in district 19B.

“I’ve learned you need to wear sunblock when you go doorknocking,” he says lightheartedly. “You can get a lot of sun walking from house to house.”

He says visits with area voters have been pleasant, regardless of people’s political affiliation.

“I know I can’t win this race if I’m relying only on votes from people who think of themselves as Democrats,” he observes. “I want people to know I will represent everyone, and look out for the best interests of their whole community.”

Meyman invites anyone who wants to volunteer with his campaign or provide financial support to contact him at his email address: MeymanforMN@gmail.com. More information is also available on his website, www.meymanformn.com.

Local students earn spring accolades

- South Dakota State spring 2026 Dean's List:**
- Sydney Gahlon of Janesville, SDSU's College of Education and Human Sciences
 - Kayli Hinz of Janesville, SDSU's College of Education and Human Sciences
 - Courtney Loeffler of Janesville, SDSU's College of Nursing
 - Claire Walz of Janesville, SDSU's College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions
 - Paige Walz of Janesville, SDSU's College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions
 - Kia Buendorf of New Richland, SDSU's College of Education and Human Sciences
 - Erin Jacobson of New Richland, SDSU's College of Ag, Food and Environmental Sciences
 - Lindsey Kopetzki of Waseca, SDSU's College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
 - Elizabeth Manthe of Waseca, SDSU's College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
- University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Spring Dean's list:**
- Lauren Dimler, Janesville, College of Arts and Sciences
 - Kirsten Thell, Janesville, College of Arts and Sciences
 - Wind Schimming, Waseca, College of Health and Human Sciences
- Riverland Community College 2026 Spring Dean's list:**
- Janesville
 - Tyson Johnson
 - New Richland
 - Autumn Baseman
 - Hazel Botten
 - Sierra Fish
 - Molly Johnson
 - Alexis Loken
 - Khloe Nelson
 - Ryan Schlaak
 - Grace Starman
- Waseca**
- Logan Bultman
 - Krystal Cardenas
 - Te'a Friesen
 - Joel Frye
 - Whitney George

- Gaige Johnson
 - Cade Kalbow
 - Michael Kirby
 - Aleah Mulcahy
 - Brittney Seals
 - Alexander Stoltz
 - Alexis Veland
- Riverland Community College 2026 Spring President's list:**
- Janesville
 - Cole Blomstrom
 - Lilly Strauss
 - Paige Tish
 - Tori Ward
- New Richland**
- Meela Budach
 - Rylee Inberg
 - Khaiden Madson
 - Chloe Stork
 - Levi Whiteside
- Waldorf**
- Reid Sandry
- Waseca**
- Noah Anderson
 - Olivia Eaton
 - Devon Ellis
 - Alicia Esch
 - Jaxon Hilley
 - Jaden Krause
 - Madelyn Malecha
 - Susan McColley
 - Krymzen Rose
 - Kaylee Smith
- University of Wisconsin-La Crosse spring 2026 Dean's List:**
- Elsie Schultz, New Richland, Marketing Major
 - Haydn Lynch, Waseca, Radiologic Science Major: Radiation Therapy Emphasis
 - Zach Theobald, Waseca, English Education Major
- St. Olaf College graduates:**
- Cora Harpel, New Richland, Bachelor of Arts, English, Creative Writing
 - Katrina Fuller, Waseca, Bachelor of Arts, Psychology
 - Emma Wieseler, Waseca, Bachelor of Arts, Environmental Studies
- Iowa State spring graduates:**
- Morgan Elizabeth Ebnet, Waseca, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Interior Design, B.F.A.

NRHEG Golf Banquet and Awards



AWARDS - Riverview Golf Course held the NRHEG golf banquet and awards Wednesday, June 17. Pictured are golfers that lettered: Back row is Matt Williams, Blake Olson, David Deen, Reid Sandry, Shan Hansen, Alexis Olson, Addison Bauleke. Front row is David Lynne, Charles Tuft, Braxton Arnold, Olivia Wilkenson. Not pictured Tyler Kress, Chase Hanson, Mya Wilson, Hailey Staska
Other notable awards include Team captains award for Shan Hansen, Reid Sandry, Alexis Olson and Olivia Wilkenson. MVPs were Olivia Wilkenson and Reid Sandry. Most improved was Braxton Arnold and Hailey Staska. Most dedicated was awarded to Addison Bauleke. Sportsmanship award went to Reid Sandry and Alexis Olson. All conference honorable mention was Reid Sandry. Not to mention many certificates for academics.



WALK FOR GOOD - From left: Jason Lennox, Janelle Tufte, Rachael and Kyera Eustice were kind enough to pose for a photo at A Walk for Kenzie Mae at St. Olaf Lake on Saturday, June 20, 2026.
Star Eagle photos by Ben Revermann



A Walk for Kenzie Mae is poignant remembrance

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Kenzie Mae Leonardo was born June 20, 2014. At age 11, while a sixth-grader, she died at her home in New Richland on Oct. 27, 2025. A Walk for Kenzie Mae took place at the St. Olaf Lake Public Park on Saturday, June 20 at 10 a.m. More than 430 walkers registered with more showing up all the time. The walk went around the lake and was accompanied by a light wind and couldn't have happened on a more beautiful day.

The sun was shining and there were groups from New Richland and surrounding areas gathered, lightly chatting under the shade of oak trees. It wasn't hot, not quite 70 degrees. Neighbor's Meats was going to be there once the walk was over to serve lunch. There was also an anonymous donation of 40 lbs. of mac and cheese on the way. Nearby there was a white enclosed trailer with people surrounding it filling 300 balloons with helium for the big release. Courtney Klocek was there, wearing an orange vest, directing

people to parking spaces. "I'm volunteering here today because I'm a friend of the family," said Klocek. My son was in the sixth grade with Kinzie Mae and being here is the right thing to do. We need to raise awareness for youth mental health and provide kids with the help they need and a way to access the help they need. This is our first year doing this and the weather made it a perfect day." On the road leading up to the St. Olaf Public Park, there were signs reading things like, "Find joy in the little things," "It's okay to ask

for help," "Talking helps," "Brighter Days are Coming," "You've survived 100 of your hardest days," "One step at a time," "Just give it one more day." They were all positive messages aimed at those who feel overwhelmed. Amy and Ben Behene of Court Sports in Owatonna, who sold shirts for the walk, also donated. Proceeds went to The Recovery Road Movement-One Arrow Foundation and the mission to raise awareness for youth mental health.

Waseca Braves win at Blue Earth

By JIM LUTGENS
Staff Writer

The Waseca Braves are not a one-man baseball team.

But Tyson Reger sure made it look that way.

Reger pitched a complete-game three hitter and led the Waseca offense with three hits in an 11-0 triumph at Blue Earth Sunday, June 21.

"It was a good win," said Braves coach Tink Larson. "We jumped out to a big lead early. We hit the ball well as a team."

Reger, meanwhile, improved his pitching record to 3-0, striking out 12 and walking none in a game shortened to seven innings by the 10-run rule.

"Tyson pitched very well again," said Larson.

Offensively, the big inning for the Braves was the second, when they batted around the order while plating seven runs. Waseca totaled 13 hits while stranding six baserunners. Each team had three errors.

Reger went 3-for-4 at the plate, driving in two runs. Cory Huirias and Kyle Waugh were both 2-for-4 with two RBIs. Adding one hit apiece were Keato Roeker, Kelvin Nelson, Jimmy Loonan, Ryan Hanson and Danny Cromer. Nelson had two RBIs.

The Braves, 4-4, began a four-game homestand Wednesday against Albert Lea. They host North St. Paul Saturday at 6 p.m. and entertain Minnesota Lake Sunday at 2 before facing Cleveland Wednesday, July 1 at 7:30 at Tink Larson Field.

IN BRIEF

New Richland Farm and City Days July 17, 18 and 19

A wide variety of events are scheduled in New Richland from July 17 to 19, with elements for all ages. A classic car show, parade and street dance will take place on Saturday. Kid-friendly events on all three days including bingo Friday evening, a carnival and Kid Zone on Saturday, and special activities on Sunday.

St. Ann’s Janesville 150th Anniversary Sunday, July 19

St. Ann’s Catholic Church in Janesville will celebrate its 150th anniversary on Sunday, July 19 with an 8:30 a.m. Mass with Bishop Robert Barron as celebrant. Janesville area individuals who have gone on to be priests have been invited; displays will include photos, memorabilia and artifacts. Anyone desiring further information may contact stannjan150celebration@gmail.com.

Fund 85 Run at Waseca Legion July 25

The Waseca American Legion Riders are having their Fund 85 motorcycle run at 5 p.m. on Saturday, July 25. Hot beef sandwiches, live music, this is a motorcycle run to help Minnesota veterans and their families.

Lutheran Night at the Twins event Aug. 11

The 33rd Annual Lutheran Night at the Twins event will depart from behind HyVee in Albert Lea at 3:45 p.m. on Tuesday, August 11. The game is Orioles vs. Twins. There will be activities on the bus, cost is \$65 if paid by July 1. For reservations call Bob or Genie Hanson 507-373-8655 or Bev Indrelie 507-402-8228.

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

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

Little explorers, big adventures

By JANESVILLE JOURNAL

For the first time in FarmAmerica launched the first of three “Little Explorers” summer events on June 12 for the general public and for members of the organization’s summer kids club members. Designed for families and children ages 4 to 12 the day’s “Barnyard Explorers” event made use of FarmAmerica’s history-themed settings to help children appreciate how agriculture and daily living have evolved.

FarmAmerica is also featuring a summer kids’ club, which offers creative, hands-on activities and sessions for children; club members are invited to drop by once a week between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Thursday through Friday for some educational fun.

Participation in the three “Little Explorers” events is included in the membership. According to Morgan Mudgett, communication and engagement coordinator at FarmAmerica, advance sales for Barnyard Explorers were brisk; summer programs through the St. Peter and Mankato schools registered about 70 participants.

On June 12, ten immersive stations around the facility focused on different barnyard topics. At one, Princess Kay of the Milky Way, known behind the scenes as Malorie Thorson, welcomed guests with a trivia-in-

spired meet and greet. Questions centered around agriculture; prizes like chapstick and coloring books were awarded for each correct answer. Two bovine-shaped bounce houses also helped keep kids entertained.

At the 1850s farmstead, visitors could explore a log style cabin and barn, a small smoking hut, and even an underground dugout that served as temporary housing for settlers when they arrived during the summer and didn’t have time to build a wooden structure before winter would set in. Kids marveled at the old-fashioned tools and equipment, the smokehouse, the claustrophobic nature of the dugout, and the rustic nature of the “hovel,” a sod-roof home which was often built before a log cabin. At the farmstead, volunteers demonstrated how early settlers washed their laundry with metal basins, spun wool, and wove rugs using a hand-operated loom. Some youngsters groaned at the amount of effort and elbow grease it took to complete tasks by hand which are much more automated today.

More demonstrations and activities were to be found at the one-room schoolhouse, including a school bell that children enjoyed ringing with enthusiasm, wooden desks, an old-fashioned furnace, and chalkboards. From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., local author Phyllis Alsduf brought storytime to the classroom with a



Students visited a 20th century schoolhouse and delighted in ringing the bell to call everyone in for the morning lesson.

reading of “It’s Milking Time,” bringing to life the educational element of the old building. In similar school fashion, there were outdoor recess games like jumprope, hula-hoops, and wooden stilts.

Another laugh-inducing activity was cowmilking at the 1930s farm-house. Although this station featured many live farm animals including chickens, ducks, turkeys, cows, goats, and bunnies, no real cows were harmed as children practiced on a mechanical cow under the supervision of an instructor.

Keen Bank welcomes John Arnold

June 17, 2026 (Waseca, MN) — Keen Bank is pleased to announce the addition of John Arnold, realtor and co-owner of Prime Partners, to the Board of Directors. Arnold is a Waseca native who comes to Keen Bank with valuable business and community insight and is the son of Richard Arnold, who served on the Keen Bank Board of Directors for 40 years.

“John brings more than 15 years of real estate experience and has established himself as a leader in residential and commercial development, new construction sales and investment properties,” said Bernie Gaytko, President and CEO of Keen



John Arnold

Bank. “His roots to Waseca along with his expertise in real

estate throughout the state makes him a valuable asset to represent and guide Keen Bank for years to come.”

Throughout his career, Arnold has been involved in more than 300 new construction projects, helping guide development opportunities, pricing strategy and project direction from concept to market. In addition to real estate sales, Arnold operates more than 40 new construction rental homes across Minnesota, overseeing operations, banking relationships, subcontractor coordination and tenant relations. He is also heavily invested in new construction of senior living facilities.

For more information visit keen.bank.

About Keen Bank

Keen Bank is a local, family-owned and managed bank that has been proudly serving southern Minnesota since 1874 with three locations in Waseca, Owatonna and Ellendale, MN. Their commitment to customers, responsiveness to find solutions and genuine willingness to help is the makeup of their organization. Keen Bank meets the needs of customers while maintaining the personal aspects of service that are synonymous with community banking. For more information visit keen.bank. Member FDIC

Interim update from Rep. Tom Sexton

Legislative Update

Dear Neighbor,

Now that the legislative session has concluded, I've enjoyed spending more time back home in the district connecting with residents, local businesses, and community leaders. While summer brings plenty of opportunities to celebrate our communities, it also gives me a chance to hear directly from constituents about the issues affecting their daily lives. One topic that comes up frequently is the state's financial outlook and whether government is spending taxpayer dollars responsibly. As we review the results of this year's session, I wanted to provide an update on the budget and some of the major decisions that were made.

Budget Update: Responsible Spending and Long-Term Stability

One of the biggest issues we discussed this session was Minnesota's long-term fiscal outlook. While the state entered session with a projected \$3.7 billion balance due largely to stronger-than-expected tax collections, that positive balance does not change the fact that Minnesota is facing a structural deficit in the coming years.

A structural deficit means government spending is projected to grow faster than the revenue coming into the state. According to the February forecast, Minnesota is expected to spend roughly \$2.3 billion more than it takes in during the 2028-29 budget cycle. If additional inflationary spending is

added to programs where it is not automatically built into law, that gap could grow by another \$1 billion. In other words, the surplus we have today does not solve the underlying problem. If we do not change course, future legislatures will be left with difficult decisions.

For that reason, I was encouraged that much of the spending approved this year focused on core government responsibilities rather than creating large new ongoing programs. We still had to make some important investments. One of the largest was support for HCMC and other hospitals that are facing significant financial pressures. More than \$250 million of health and human services spending was directed toward hospital stabilization efforts, including funding for HCMC, critical access hospitals, and provider support. This funding came with strings of course, to ensure that the hospital will get back on the right track overall without the need for further bailouts. While I generally believe policy years should focus on policy rather than major spending increases, ensuring that Minnesotans continue to have access to healthcare services required action.

We also made investments to strengthen oversight and accountability. The Legislature approved approximately \$32 million to establish and staff the new Office of the Inspector General. After years of fraud scandals involving taxpayer-funded programs, improving our ability to detect, investigate, and prevent fraud is essential. Ad-

ditional savings and reforms were also included in human services programs to improve billing oversight, compliance, and fraud prevention efforts.

Many of the largest spending increases this year were not new initiatives but forecast-driven costs tied to public healthcare programs. Medical Assistance alone required more than \$1.1 billion in forecast adjustments, while MinnesotaCare costs increased by nearly \$250 million. These costs reflect rising healthcare expenses and enrollment trends that lawmakers have limited control over once they are built into statute.

At the federal level, discussions continue regarding human services programs and provider revalidation requirements. We all want to ensure taxpayer dollars are protected and that public programs serve the people they are intended to help. At the same time, legitimate providers should not be caught in unnecessary red tape. The revalidation process should be efficient, timely, and accurate so that qualified providers can continue serving Minnesotans while bad actors are identified and removed from the system.

The final fiscal spreadsheets are still being completed, so the official numbers may change somewhat in the coming weeks. Once those figures are finalized, we will have a better understanding of the full budget impact of this session.

Reminder: A Note about our Communications this Interim

Now that the legislative session

is over, we have entered the interim period, when much of our work shifts away from daily activity at the Capitol and back into our districts through meetings, community events, and constituent outreach.

I want to make you aware of an important restriction that applies in even-numbered years. We are limited in sending unsolicited mass communications from our official capacity as legislators during the 60-day period before a general election. Because of that requirement, I will no longer be able to send these official email updates beginning July 17th.

During that time, I plan to continue sharing updates primarily through my Facebook page, and you are always welcome to contact me directly by email or phone with any questions, concerns, or ideas. It is an honor to serve our communities, and I look forward to staying connected throughout the interim.

Coffee with Tom

Coffee with Tom will be at the Owatonna Chamber of Commerce on Friday, July 11th from 12:00pm –1:00pm (delayed one week due to the Independence Day holiday).

Coffee with Tom will be at the Waseca Chamber of Commerce on Friday (today), June 19th from 12:00pm –1:00pm and on Friday, July 17th from 12:00pm –1:00pm.

Thank you for your support and feedback, and please reach out if you need assistance in the meantime!

Physicals required for athletics

Students planning to participate in Minnesota State High School League athletics and activities during the 2026-27 school year must have a current Sports Qualifying Physical Examination on file before participating.

All incoming 7th-grade students planning to participate in athletics must have a valid MSHSL physical on file. In addition, families should be aware that MSHSL physicals expire three years from the date of the examination. On a typical schedule, most student-athletes need updated physicals prior to their 7th-grade and 10th-grade years, although families should verify the expiration date of their student's current physical to ensure continued eligibility.

To assist families in meeting this requirement, Olmsted Medical Center (OMC) is offering sports physical appointments at the following time:

Date: Monday, July 27, 2026

Time: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Location: OMC Owatonna Clinic 210 N. Oak Avenue Owatonna, MN

Cost: \$25

Parents or guardians must be present for the appointment, and the parent and student sections of the MSHSL Sports Qualifying Physical Examination Form must be completed and signed prior to the examination.

Students should bring:

- Their immunization record
- Glasses or contact lenses, if worn

Families may also complete sports physical requirements during a regularly scheduled well-child visit with their healthcare provider. Please check with your insurance provider regarding coverage for well-child visits and sports physical examinations.

To schedule an appointment with OMC, call 507-935-5601.

All families are encouraged to review their student's physical status and schedule appointments early to ensure eligibility for participation in fall athletics and activities.

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Ways to contact the Pioneer:

1. Call 507-837-6767
2. E-mail us at news@wasecacounty-pioneer.com
3. Mail: PO Box 578, Waseca, MN, 56093
4. Stop in during business hours at 111 West Elm Ave, Waseca. M, T, TH, F 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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CITY OF WASECA

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the **City of Waseca** will hold a public hearing at **7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 7, 2026**, in the **COUNCIL CHAMBERS of CITY HALL** located at 508 South State Street in Waseca, Minnesota.

The purpose of the public hearing is to gather information regarding the following:

DEERPATH ENCLAVE PRELIMINARY AND FINAL PLAT

Complete copies are available in the office of the City Clerk located at 508 South State Street in Waseca, Minnesota.

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

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

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on Thursday, June 25, 2026, and July 2, 2026.

City of Waldorf, MN

2026 ELECTION

	MAYOR	2 YEAR TERM	Start	End
	Current Mayor	Rob Wilkening	1/1/27	1/1/29
	COUNCIL MEMBER	4 YEAR TERM		
	Current Council Member	Jim Majeski	1/1/27	1/1/31
	Current Council Member	Missy Sorbo	1/1/27	1/1/31

Affidavits of Candidacy accepted at Waldorf City Hall

From July 14-28 2026 during normal business hours:

Monday and Thursday from 9:00-4:00 p.m.

July 28, 2026 hours are 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Filing Fee \$2.00

SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642

June

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 6pm Bar Bingo	4 7pm BINGO	5 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	6 QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 5pm D DAY
7	8 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting	9	10 6pm Bar Bingo	11 7pm BINGO	12 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm WOMEN VETERANS DAY	13 QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 5pm
14 ARMY BIRTHDAY U.S. FLAG DAY	15	16	17 6pm Bar Bingo	18 7pm BINGO	19 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	20 QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 5pm
21	22	23	24 6pm Bar Bingo	25 7pm BINGO	26 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	27 QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING 5pm

HOURS OF OPERATION

SUN.- MON. CLOSED

TUE.- 1pm to 11pm Tue. Is Lady's nite 2 for one-Men Busch light \$2.50 from 4 to 6pm.

WED.- SAT-1pm to 11 pm

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

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HOLLAND AUCTION

FIFTH WHEEL CAMPER - TRAILER - MOWER - STORAGE CONTAINER SHOP TOOLS - HOUSEHOLD - MISC

SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2026, 9:00 A.M.

LOCATION: 119 Aspen Ave. N., New Richland, MN, 56072.

Please Note: The Stennes have sold their home and will hold a public auction on their personal property. Only a partial lot of the many items to be sold.Hope to see you Auction day!

Tracy Holland

FIFTH-WHEEL CAMPER □TRAILER □MOWER □STORAGE CONTAINER □HOUSEHOLD □COLLECTIBLES

• 2008 Keystone Lavedo fifth-wheel RV 30', TV, fireplace, sleeps 4, 1 slide • 2018 Karavan 5 1/2' x 10' single-axle trailer w/ramp • Portable storage container, doors on both ends, 20', w/shelving • Troy-Bilt lawn mower, 72 hrs., 50" deck 679cc engine, w/bagger • Yard Machine garden tiller, 5 hp • Craftsman 4-cycle 21" snowblower • Portable cement mixer w/electric motor • Onan 4500-watt generator, electric start • Chevy 396 big block engine, complete rebuild, never fired • 1961 Chevy grille, new old stock • Hypertherm Powermax 380 plasma cutter, dual voltage, w/extra tips • Century 155GS wire feed mig welder w/cart (less tanks) • Lincoln AC 225 stick welder • Brut 100-lb. sand blaster • 1 hp grinder w/stainless steel polishing wheels • Troy-Bilt 675 serious pressure washer, 190cc, 2550 PSI • Acetylene torch w/cart (less tanks) • 1-ton chain hoist • Home-made upper deck for car trailer • 2 – 3-ton floor jacks w/cross beams • Rakes, shovels • Chop saw, paint guns • Miter saw • Misc. auto parts and tools • Vent-free blue-flame space heater • Curio cabinet w/light • Terry Redlin framed print • Grandfather clock, black walnut • China hutch • 2 – Amish-made dressers • Sofa/love seat (like new) • Various TV's • Split king bed w/adjustable lift • Bedroom set • Recliner • 6 – foldable banquet tables • Misc. household items

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MSAA

Minnesota State Auctioneers Association

Auctioneers: Tracy Holland and Associates LLC

Ellendale, MN #7405002

(507) 684-2955 or (507) 456-5128 (cell)

HOLLAND AUCTION

507-456-5128

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

The Waseca County Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing at the Waseca County East Annex (Commissioner's Room), 300 N. State Street, Waseca, MN 56093 on Thursday, July 9, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.to consider the following item:

A. **Jay and Susan Larvick** requests variances for their parcel (PID 05.351.0040) in Section 5, T.108N R.23W in Isosco Township. The applicants have applied to construct an attached garage abridging the existing home and garage. Due to the uniqueness of the lot and the proposed location, a variance is required. Survey of parcel with the proposed location is available for review in the Planning and Zoning Office. Section 6.03 and 6.14 of the Waseca County UDC requires a side yard setback of 15 feet. The request will also include an increase of the impervious surface coverage from 25% to 27%. The parcel under review is zoned LR Limited Residential and in the SO Shoreland Overlay District of Reeds Lake.

B. **Nick and Lily Zell** request a variance for their parcel (PID 01.101.0090) in Section 33, T.107N R.24W in Alton Township. The applicants' new single-family dwelling will be placed approximately 10 feet from the side yard property line, their request is for a variance of 10 feet. Section 6.03 and 6.21 of the Waseca County UDC requires a side yard setback of 20 feet. The parcel under review is zoned VMX Village Mixed Use.

C. **Mark and Marcella Gallea** request a variance for their parcel (PID 12.428.0260) in Section 9, T.107N R.22W in Woodville Township. The applicants' new detached garage will be placed approximately 35 feet from the Road Right of Way of 149th St and 367th Ave, their request is for a variance of 15 feet. Section 6.03 and 6.14 of the Waseca County UDC requires a front yard setback of 50 feet. The parcel under review is zoned LR Limited Residential and in the SO Shoreland Overlay District of Clear Lake.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

WASECA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

The Waseca County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at the Waseca County East Annex (Commissioner's Room), 300 N. State Street, Waseca, MN 56093 on Thursday, July 9, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.to consider the following items:

A. Elijah Gist requests for a Conditional Use Permit to engage in cannabis cultivation on parcel 02.036.0120. The parcel is owned by Dustin and Alicia Lee Stewart and zoned A-1 Agricultural Protection District. The requested use will be pursuant to section 6.16 of the Waseca County Unified Development Code, MS 342 and MN Rule 9810.

B. Harold D Guse & Shannon R Guse and Deanne & Tim Malterer, as Trustees are requesting a rezone of parcel 12.007.0500. Currently the parcel is zoned Urban Expansion, with the request to rezone to A-1 Agricultural Protection District. The requested change in zoning will be pursuant to Section 3.03 Amendments/Rezoning of the Waseca County Unified Development Code.

The staff report on this item will be available at the Waseca County Planning and Zoning Office, 300 N State St., Waseca during regular business hours 8-4:30, and will be on the county website www.wasecacounty.gov at the agenda tab by July 6, 2026. Oral comments will be accepted at the meeting. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all Waseca County services, programs and activities.

Tina G. Wilson, Planning and Zoning Administrator

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF WASECA
IN DISTRICT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Civil Division
Case Type: Quiet Title
Court File No. 81-CV-26-369

Lori L. Pommerenke, as Trustee of the Lori L. Pommerenke Revocable Trust u/a/d May 1. 2009; and Brenda Anne Pommerenke, Plaintiffs, vs.
Steven L. Scheffert and Kimberly A. Balfe, husband and wife; Janice K. Sutter; Ben M. Sutter; Judy M. Mahler and Gerald W. Mahler, as Trustees of the Burch Mahler Revocable Trust u/a/d August 27, 2008; Judy M. Mahler and Gerald W. Mahler, individually; the Township of Blooming Grove in the County of Waseca; the unknown heirs of Ole Engebretson; the unknown heirs of Albert Remund; the unknown heirs of Catherine Schuette; the unknown heirs of Nels Knutson; the unknown heirs of Engbret O. Engebretson; the known heirs of Augusta W. Remund (a/k/a Auguste W. Remund), namely the unknown heirs of Walter Arthur Remund, the unknown heirs of Lewis Earl Remund, and the known heir of Martha A. Remund (a/k/a Martha A. Pommerenke) (a/k/a Martha A. Stanke), namely Raymond W. Pommerenke; Gloria L. Pommerenke; Raymond W. Pommerenke as Trustee of the Raymond W. Pommerenke Revocable Trust u/a/d 7/27/2001; Gloria L. Pommerenke as Trustee of the Gloria L. Pommerenke Revocable Trust u/a/d 7/27/2001; the known heir of Rolf E. Iversen, namely Mary Ellen Iversen; Lucas J. Root; Sarah M. Root; Sharlene C. Kanne; David M. Kanne; Timothy E. Kanne; Tauston Lamont a/k/a Tauston Keith Lamont; Connie L. Davi-

son, or Successor, as Trustee of the Connie L. Davison Trust Under Agreement dated February 12, 2025; and all other persons unknown claiming any right, title, estate, interest, or lien in the real estate described in the Complaint herein, Defendants.
SUMMONS
THIS SUMMONS IS DIRECTED TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

1. YOU ARE BEING SUED. The Plaintiffs have started a lawsuit against you. The Plaintiffs' Complaint against you is on file in the Office of the Court Administrator of the above-named Court. Do not throw these papers away. They are official papers that affect your rights. You must respond to this lawsuit even though it may not yet be filed with the Court and there may be no court file number on this Summons.
2. YOU MUST REPLY WITHIN 20 DAYS TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS. You must give or mail to the person who signed this Summons a written response called an Answer within 20 days of the date on which you received this Summons. You must send a copy of your Answer to the person who signed this Summons located at Perry A. Berg at Patton, Hoversten & Berg, P.A., 215 East Elm Avenue, PO Box 249, Waseca, MN 56093-0249.
3. YOU MUST RESPOND TO EACH CLAIM. The Answer is your written response to the Plaintiffs' Complaint. In your Answer, you must state whether you agree or disagree with each paragraph of the Complaint. If you believe the Plaintiffs should not be given everything asked for in the Complaint, you must say so in your Answer.
4. YOU WILL LOSE YOUR CASE IF YOU DO NOT SEND A

WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE COMPLAINT TO THE PERSON WHO SIGNED THIS SUMMONS. If you do not Answer within 20 days, you will lose this case. You will not get to tell your side of the story, and the Court may decide against you and award the Plaintiffs everything asked for in the Complaint. If you do not want to contest the claims stated in the Complaint, you do not need to respond. A default judgment can then be entered against you for the relief requested in the Complaint.
5. LEGAL ASSISTANCE. You may wish to get legal help from a lawyer. If you do not have a lawyer, the Court Administrator may have information about places where you can get legal assistance. Even if you cannot get legal help, you must still provide a written Answer to protect your rights or you may lose the case.
6. ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION. The parties may agree to or be ordered to participate in an Alternative Dispute Resolution process under Rule 114 of the Minnesota General Rules of Practice. You must still send your written response to the Complaint even if you expect to use alternative means of resolving the dispute.
7. REAL PROPERTY. THIS LAWSUIT MAY AFFECT OR BRING INTO QUESTION TITLE TO REAL PROPERTY located in Waseca County, Minnesota, legally described as follows:

The Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter, and also Government Lot One (1) and the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter, all in Section 8; AND Government Lot One (1) in Section 9, all in Township 108 North, Range 22 West; EXCEPTING therefrom a strip of land 2 rods wide heretofore deeded to Samuel A. Remund and Henry G.

Remund for cartway, described as follows: Commencing at a point 10 rods West of the shore line of what is known as Remunds Lake and on the South line of Government Lot 1, in Section 8, Township 108 North, Range 22 West; thence North to North line of said Section 8, and to a point directly North of place of beginning; thence West on said North section line 2 rods; thence South in a straight line to the South line of said Lot and to a point 2 rods West of place of beginning; thence East to place of beginning; in Waseca

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County, Minnesota.

The object of this action is to obtain a judgment that Plaintiffs are the owners, in fee simple, of the above-described real property, and that none of said Defendants have any estate or interest in or lien thereon.
Dated this 9th day of March, 2026.

PATTON, HOVERSTEN & BERG, P.A.
By: Perry A. Berg (#135999)
215 E. Elm Ave., PO Box 249
Waseca, MN 56093-0249
(507) 835-5240
perry.berg@phblawoffice.com
Attorneys for Plaintiff
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on June 11, 18 and 25, 2026

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

WASECA COUNTY RE-USE FACILITY

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

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

SITE VISIT INFORMATION
Pre-Bid Meeting: Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 10:00 AM (CST)
Location: 31080 State Hwy 13, Waseca, MN 56093

BID DATE INFORMATION: WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2026

Bid Time: Wednesday, July 15, 2026 at 10:00 AM (CST)
Location: Online via QuestCDN vBid
Attn: Jim Kollar, Public Works Director
31080 State Hwy 13, Waseca, MN 56093

at which time they will be submitted electronically via QuestCDN - vBID. Bids will be received and evaluated, the awarded by will be announced on July 21, 2026 during the County Board meeting.
Bids will be received for the following Prevailing Wage project:
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Expansion of County owned existing 1,150 s.f. wood framed storage facility with new 1,135 s.f. addition. Building is for storage and resale of donated items. Existing building currently has hazardous materials but is not classified as 'H' occupancy. New structure is wood framed with insulated walls, roof and prefinished metal exterior materials.
Each bid must be accompanied with a cashier's check, bid bond, U.S. Government Bonds (at par value) or certified check equal to five percent (5%) of the amount of the proposal. Security is payable to the Owner as a guarantee of prompt execution of the contract in accordance with the proposal and Contract documents, along with furnishing Payment and Performance Bonds of One Hundred percent (100%) of the bid amount acceptable to the Owner.
For a electronic bid submissions provide a scanned copy of your Security bond with your bid. Provide a original copy to the Bid Recipient within five (5) days of bid due date.
This Bidder shall be required to execute the Agreement and obtain the Performance Bond, Labor and Material, Payment Bond and Project Insurance within ten (10) calendar days from the date when Notice of Award is delivered to the Bidder.
Complete digital project bidding documents are available at https://widseth.com. Click "Bid Documents" in the top right corner of your screen or go to www.questcdn.com and enter the Quest project No. 10197520 on the website's Project Search page. Please contact QuestCDN.com at (952) 233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in free membership registration, downloading and working with this digital project information. You may download the digital plan documents electronically for \$25. An additional fee of \$45 will be charged to electronically bid the project. An optional paper set of project documents is also available from CES Imaging for a nonrefundable price of \$30 plus printing costs. If you choose a paper copy you will get all addenda as paper copies and will be charged for the printing costs. Please make your check payable to CES Imaging and send it to 1701 James Circle N, Brooklyn Center, MN 55430. Please contact CES Imaging Repro Dept at (763) 560-9098 or (800) 831-8587 for pricing and if you have any questions.
The successful bidder must be a "responsible contractor." The term "responsible contractor" means a contractor as defined in Minnesota Statutes Section 16C.285, subdivision 3. Any prime contractor, subcontractor, or motor carrier that does not meet the minimum criteria or fails to comply with the verification requirements is not a responsible contractor and is not eligible to be awarded a construction contract for the project or to perform work on the project. A prime contractor, subcontractor, or motor carrier that makes a false statement under oath verifying compliance with the minimum criteria will be ineligible to be awarded a construction contract on the project and the submission of a false statement may result in termination of a contract awarded to a prime contractor, subcontractor, or motor carrier that submits the false statement. A prime contractor shall include in its verification of compliance a list of all of its first-tier subcontractors that it intends to retain for work on the project. Before execution of a construction contract, a prime contractor shall submit a supplemental verification under oath confirming that all subcontractors and motor carriers that the prime contractor intends to use to perform project work have verified to the prime contractor, through a signed statement under oath by an owner or officer, that they meet the minimum criteria for a responsible contractor.
Bids may not be withdrawn within forty-five (45) days after the scheduled closing time for receiving bids without consent of the Owner. The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and rebid the project until a satisfactory bid is received.

By: Jim Kollar, Public Works Director
Waseca County

Waseca County Workforce Development Center
Waseca, Minnesota

SECTION 00 1113
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

WASECA COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Contractor's sealed proposals for the construction of Waseca County Workforce Development Center will be received by the Owner in accordance with the plans and specifications prepared by:

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

SITE VISIT INFORMATION
Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting: 07-06-2026, at 1:00 P.M. (CST)
Location: 1000 W Elm Ave, Waseca, Minnesota 56093

BID DATE INFORMATION: 07-16-2026
Bid Time: 2:00 P.M. (CST)
Bid Submittal Location: 307 N. State Street, Waseca, MN 56093
Property and Election Services
Attn: Brian Tomford, Waseca County Facilities Director
307 N State St., Waseca, MN 56093

Bids will be publicly opened at **2:15 P.M. (CST)** at **300 N. State Street**, in the **Large Conference** Room and read aloud for the construction of the above named project. Winning Bid will be awarded on July 21, 2026 at 9:30 A.M. (CST) during the County Board meeting. Envelopes containing bids must be sealed, clearly marked on the lower left-hand corner "Bid Enclosed for "Waseca County Workforce Development Center" and with the name and address of the bidder and the date and hour of the opening.
Bids will be received for the following Prevailing Wage project:
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This project consists of the alteration of the post-secondary training facility. And demolition and construction of the existing outbuilding. Construction to include but is not limited to new concrete floors with in floor heat, new building facade and roof. Interior will include new gypsum board walls and cmu walls, along with new HVAC, Plumbing and electrical components.
Each bid must be accompanied with a cashier's check, bid bond, U.S. Government Bonds (at par value) or certified check equal to five percent (5%) of the amount of the proposal. Security is payable to the Owner as a guarantee of prompt execution of the contract in accordance with the proposal and Contract documents, along with furnishing Payment and Performance Bonds of One Hundred percent (100%) of the bid amount acceptable to the Owner.
Bids received after the deadline will be returned unopened. Bids are to be submitted on the Bid Form provided in the project manual. Bids not received on the Bid Form will be cause for rejection.
Complete digital project bidding documents are available at https://widseth.com. Click "Bid Documents" in the top right corner of your screen or go to www.questcdn.com and enter the Quest project No. 10015110 on the website's Project Search page. Please contact QuestCDN.com at (952) 233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in free membership registration, downloading and working with this digital project information. You may download the digital plan documents electronically for \$30. An optional paper set of project documents is also available from CES Imaging for a nonrefundable price of \$30 plus printing costs. If you choose a paper copy you will get all addenda as paper copies and will be charged for the printing costs. Please make your check payable to CES Imaging and send it to 1701 James Circle N, Brooklyn Center, MN 55430. Please contact CES Imaging Repro Dept at (763) 560-9098 or (800) 831-8587 for pricing and if you have any questions.
This agreement is for services related to a project that is subject to the Build America, Buy America Act (BABAA) requirements under title IX of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act ("IIJA"), Pub. L. 177-58. Absent an approved waiver, all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in this project must be produced in the United States, as further outlined by the Office of Management and Budget's Memorandum M-22-11, Initial Implementation Guidance on Application of Buy America Preference in Federal Assistance Programs for Infrastructure, April 18, 2022.
The successful bidder must be a "responsible contractor." The term "responsible contractor" means a contractor as defined in Minnesota Statutes Section 16C.285, subdivision 3. Any prime contractor, subcontractor, or motor carrier that does not meet the minimum criteria or fails to comply with the verification requirements is not a responsible contractor and is not eligible to be awarded a construction contract for the project or to perform work on the project. A prime contractor, subcontractor, or motor carrier that makes a false statement under oath verifying compliance with the minimum criteria will be ineligible to be awarded a construction contract on the project and the submission of a false statement may result in termination of a contract awarded to a prime contractor, subcontractor, or motor carrier that submits the false statement. A prime contractor shall include in its verification of compliance a list of all of its first-tier subcontractors that it intends to retain for work on the project. Before execution of a construction contract, a prime contractor shall submit a supplemental verification under oath confirming that all subcontractors and motor carriers that the prime contractor intends to use to perform project work have verified to the prime contractor, through a signed statement under oath by an owner or officer, that they meet the minimum criteria for a responsible contractor.
Bids may not be withdrawn within forty-five (45) days after the scheduled closing time for receiving bids without consent of the Owner. The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and rebid the project until a satisfactory bid is received.
No bid will be read or considered if the bid does not fully comply with the requirements of this invitation and/or other bidding and contract documents. Any deficient bid submitted will be resealed and returned to the bidder immediately.

By: Brian Tomford, Waseca County Facilities Director
Waseca County

2026 Elysian 4th OF JULY

WEDNESDAY JULY 1

Miss Elysian & Princess of the Lakes Pageant
6:30 pm Fire Hall
Contact: Shannon Kuball 507-838-5741 shannonkuball@bevcomm.net

THURSDAY JULY 2

Fire Dept Bingo
6 pm under the Tent

Elysian Fire Dept Silent Auction
July 2 @ 6pm - July 5 @ noon
Auction items can be dropped off at Elysian City Hall Mon-Fri 8am-4:30pm

THIRSTY BEAVER
8:30 pm -12:30 am Live music by Misguided

FRIDAY JULY 3

Legion Chicken Feed (UNTIL GONE)
5 pm American Legion Post 311

Fire Fighter's Dance "Smokescreen" \$5 Admission
8:30 pm - 12:30 am under the Tent
No outside beverages permitted! Joy Ride available 10pm-2am

!!FIREWORKS!!
Shot from Lake Tustin Park(closed)
Sunset 10 pm

SATURDAY JULY 4

Medallion Hunts (2) \$100 each
1st clue posted at 10 am on Tent power pole.
A new set of clues will be posted after 1st Medallion is found

Face Painting & Balloons
11 am - 2 pm under Tent
by Making Faces Mankato

Genealogy Center (On the Hill)
11 am - 2 pm Talk with Abe Lincoln
lesueurcountyhistory.org

Elysian Area Library & Heritage Center
A Display/ Exhibit will be at the Library
through the Month of July

**FOOD VENDORS
& BEER GARDEN**



CONT. SATURDAY JULY 4

39th Annual Bob Childs Turtle Races
12:30 pm under Tent
(registration at noon Bring your own turtle)

GRAND PARADE
2 PM MAIN STREET

Arm Wrestling
under Tent Following Grand Parade

Chamber Dance "Johnny Holm Band"
\$10.00 Admission 9 pm - 12:30 am under the Tent
No outside beverages permitted! Joy Ride available 10pm-2am

SUNDAY JULY 5

Pancake Breakfast by Chris Cakes
8 am - 12 noon Fire Hall To go boxes available

Flea Market
8 am - 2pm Main Street Sidewalks
Info: Tasha 507-995-0687

31st Annual Car Show
Car, Truck, Rat Rod, Motorcycle & Tractor
8 am - 1:30 pm on Main Street
Registration & check-in by Nu-Chek-Prep
Top 20 Awards, 1:30 pm in front of Nu-Chek-Prep
Info: Jeanne Zwart 507-267-4231

Bean Bag Tournament
11 am under the tent, Registration 10 am
Info 952-484-0015

Lake Francis Boat Parade
11 am starts east end of lake
Contact: Mark Sybilrud 507-271-9530
Prizes for top 3 boats & 3 pontoons
1ST \$500, 2nd \$300, 3rd \$100
Sponsors: Wade & Carla Becker

Kid's Fishing Contest
Registration opens @ 11 for Ages 2-12 Lake Francis Park
Ages 2-6 Fish 11:30 am - 11:55 am
Ages 7-12 Fish 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm
Bait + Lunch, Trophies & Prizes awarded
Sponsors: Lake Area Women, Elysian Fire Dept Relief Assoc., JT's Hooked Up
Bait & Tackle, North Elysian Silver Lakers & MN Southern Lakes Angling & Spearing

Cribbage Tournament "In honor of Marti Zimprich"
1 pm Main Street Venue Bring your own board!

Kid's Bingo
2:30 pm in the fire hall

Fire Dept Water Wars
2pm Main Street/ Fire Dept
Featuring EFD & visiting Fire departments, Top 3 Trophies

Sponsored by Elysian Area Chamber in cooperation with the City of Elysian - www.elysianmn.com

Elysian 4th of July Celebration

Plan on JOYRIDE for your
FREE sober ride home!

Rides provided by: Affordable Party Bus, Inc.

10:00pm - 2:00am
(last pick up is at 1:45am)
within 15 mile radius of Elysian
Pick up at the Elysian Fire Hall