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WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

No. 29 Vol. II \$2 Office at 103 South State Street Waseca Friday, July 21, 2023



■ Inside



Waseca County Fair

Keen Bank to relocate Hope location

Keen Bank will be relocating its Hope location to 496 W North Street in Owatonna on or about October 31, 2023. This relocation will allow Keen Bank to offer more services for an optimal banking experience including a drive-thru, ATM and convenient location. Keen Bank employees will continue to serve customers with plans to add additional staff.

“We are excited for this opportunity to bring Keen Bank to the Owatonna market,” said Bernie Gaytko, President and CEO of Keen Bank. “We are constantly evaluating ways to provide the best products and services to our customers, and our decision to relocate our Hope location comes after thoughtful consideration of the market and our fantastic employees who have and will continue to provide outstanding service.”

Waseca County Farmers’ Market open on Saturdays

Waseca County Farmers Market at 409 8th Ave. NE in Waseca will be open Saturdays from 8 a.m. until noon through October.

Thirty-third annual FCA Sports Camp set for Aug. 1-3

The thirty-third annual Waseca Fellowship of Christian Athletes Jr. Sports Camp is set for August 1-3, 2023, for athletes entering grades 3-8. Registration online at www.minnesotafca.org/waseca-jsc.

Waseca Garden walk set for July 22 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The Waseca Garden Club will be sponsoring a Summer Garden Tour open to the public on Saturday, July 22 from 1 to 5 p.m. This is a FREE event and will take place rain or shine.

Waseca Braves open playoffs Saturday at 2 p.m.

The Waseca Braves concluded their regular season in Waterville Sunday. Their final record is 15-5. They open the playoffs hosting games at Tink Larson Field Saturday and Sunday. Both games begin at 2 p.m.

Test drive a school bus Saturday

Palmer Bus Service is giving residents the opportunity to test drive a school bus at the Waseca County Fair Grounds from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 22.

A word from The Word

Even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

John 14:17



Waseca County Fair



Some of the many Waseca County Fair Board members and volunteers for the 2023 season.



TOP LEFT: Harper Jones, 3, from Mankato, flies high on the combination trampoline/bungee cord. BOTTOM LEFT: A young fellow under hypnosis shows his skill at playing an air guitar. ABOVE: Members of the performing group The Looney Lutherans, offer specialized household tips.

Pioneer photos by Deb Bently

Waseca County Fair recap 2023

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

“Our objective is the same every year,” says Waseca County Fair Board secretary treasurer Robin Dulas: “To put on the best fair we can.”

Although a lot of “clean-up” work remains—including not only actual cleaning, but also numerous summaries and reports—Dulas says the 15-member fair board has the perception that the 2023 fair went quite well.

Numbers were strong, with an estimated 20,000 or more people having attended the fair overall, and grandstand events having drawn well over 3,000 paid admissions to the bull riding, demolition derby and enduro racing competitions.

One contributing factor, Dulas says, is that “The weather worked in our favor this year.” Even a major storm front which moved through the area on Thursday evening missed Waseca, allowing the bull riding competition and other activities to continue undisturbed.

Dulas, who has been the fair’s secretary treasurer for 10 years, explains that planning and preparing for the annual gathering is a year-long endeavor. Some high-demand suppliers fill their calendars quickly and must be booked a year in advance. As the fair comes closer each year, everything from electrical outlets to rented bleacher seating must be arranged for and put in place.



BOOT RACE - During a break in the bull riding action Thursday evening, young audience members compete for some fair dollars.

“It’s impossible to estimate the number of hours that are needed to be sure everything is ready,” Dulas observes.

She says it will take up to 3 weeks to return the fairgrounds to “pre-fair” condition. Board members will also be speaking with fairgoers, vendors, and volunteers to follow up on how satisfied everyone was and whether any changes are suggested.

But right now, Dulas says, expressing gratitude is a high priority. “Something we want to be sure and do,” she says, “is extend our thanks.”

Dulas congratulates and thanks her fellow board members for their dedication and consistency.

Waseca continued on 6



Composer and musician Ying Zhang demonstrates the xun, a traditional Chinese instrument.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Area readers visit China

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

“For the next 45 minutes or so, we are going to visit China,” declared Rhonda Lund, one of two presenters for “Dragons, Flutes & Monkeys,” a cultural and musical program shared at the New Richland library during the morning and the Waseca library in the afternoon on Thursday, July 11. Lund’s fellow presenter is Ying Zhang, 84, who received classical training on a variety of Chinese instruments and performed in a traditional Chinese orchestra before coming to the United States about 30 years ago. Now a composer and conductor, Zhang joins Lund for the cultural enrichment programs when their schedules allow.

The first half or so of their presentation featured Lund describing and telling the stories

behind a variety of Chinese woodwind instruments. After each was introduced, Zhang, wearing a traditional Chinese robe used for formal occasions, would demonstrate how it was played and share a brief musical piece.

Made of clay, bamboo, brass and bamboo combined, gourd, and even bone, each was visually fascinating and offered an array of tones and moods.

The xun, a roughly egg-shaped instrument of a size to fill two cupped hands, has been played in China for about 9,000 years, according to Lund’s narrative. She told the audience that it is especially good at producing tones which are either scary or sad. The song excerpt Zhang played to demonstrate the Xun was inspired by an ancient story about a

Library continued on 6

Drive-by shooter sentenced

Devonte Phillips, the shooter responsible for the drive-by shooting in downtown Janesville on July 26, 2022, pled guilty in Waseca County District Court on May 4, 2023. The plea agreement called for him going to prison for 158 months. Judge Carol Hanks honored the plea agreement and Phillips was sentenced to prison on May 17, 2023. The victim of the shooting attended the sentencing hearing: Phillips apologized to the victim on the record.



Phillips

Waseca County Attorney Rachel Cornelius stated, “With the assistance of the Janesville Police Department, Waseca County Sheriff’s Office, South Central Drug Investigation Unit and the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, excellent investigation was conducted by Waseca County law enforcement agencies. These worked very closely with me on this case, and I’m pleased we were able to reach a fair and just outcome. By coming to a plea deal, we were able to provide swift justice.”

The driver in the shooting, William Peavy, was sentenced on November 28, 2022 to 48 months in prison, pursuant to a plea agreement that he would testify against the shooter, Phillips.

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

City council heats up

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

A number of controversial topics led to lengthy discussion during the July 18 Waseca City Council meeting.

A heated outburst from council member John Mansfield initiated a five-minute recess imposed by Mayor Randy Zimmerman at 7:39 p.m. Mansfield began by expressing misgivings about expenditures being considered under the consent agenda. A \$1,314 purchase of “miscellaneous hand tools” led him to ask, “Am I just writing a blank check for the city [staff] to go out and spend thousands of dollars at their leisure?”

Mansfield went on to reveal he had learned within the past week that a multi-thousand dollar computer program meant to be used in keeping track of loan repayments to the city’s Economic Development Authority (EDA) has gone unused, even though it was purchased 10 months ago.

“The city council directed that this [use of the program] be done. It hasn’t been, and there was no communication for 10 weeks,” claimed Mansfield, who then implied angrily that city staff was being careless about completing its duties—leading to reprimands from Zimmerman followed by the recess.

When the discussion resumed, city manager Carl Sonnenberg suggested the possibility that a

Council continued on 8

Waseca County Free Fair 2023



Katy and Malanie



The Looney Lutherans



Criag



Genna and Ryan



Lizzy and Hunter Priev



Brayden and Brock



Rielly Weitzel



Miles and Xander



Thea and Isla



Carson and Tucker



Delphie



Tobin, Samson, and Landon



Sophie and Lorelei



Andre, Kodi, and Johanna



Hudson



Chloe, Kayla, and Rylee



Ella and Brady Schlaak



Khloee H., Raylynn H. and A.J. M.



Jameson Krier



Marlowe



Codi, Morgan, and Audrey



Madison Krier



Aaron and Merritt



Becky, Markus, Matilyn, Mitchell, and Michael Petsinger



Lyric Passmore

Special thanks to these sponsors for making these fair pages possible. Additional thanks to the photographers, fair attendees, and all others who made the Waseca County Fair, and our booth, possible.



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The Bailey-Lewer House and Gardens are on the Waseca Garden Club tour, Saturday, July 22 from 1 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Maps of the tour locations are available there on Saturday

Garden club tour set for weekend

By **BARB FINSETH**
Staff Writer

The Waseca Garden Club will be sponsoring a Summer Garden Tour open to the public from 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, July 22. This is a free event and will take place rain or shine.

Maps showing all the tour locations can be picked up starting at 1 p.m. that Saturday at the Bailey-Lewer house located at 315 Second Ave. N.E in Waseca. This is one of Waseca's oldest homes, built in 1868, and it is on the National Historic Register. It is now home to the Waseca County Historical Society

and Historical Gardens. The gardens are lovingly planted and maintained by volunteers, with labeled heirloom plantings and a printed plant material list available. Refreshments will be served and attendants will be available to answer questions.

The "Homestead House" was built in 1914: Owner Nancy Walters has created a warm and inviting atmosphere both inside and out with her home goods and decorating store.

Audrey and Ralph Keyes have

Tour continued on 8



The Waseca Garden Club set up a display at the fair previewing their upcoming tour set for July 22.

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

New mental health program

By **AMELIA ROESSLER**
Editorial Assistant

A new youth mental health program and the commercial sale of adult recreational cannabis were topics of discussion at the regular meeting of the Waseca County Commissioners on Tuesday, July 18.

Representatives from the Youth Mental Health Navigator program of the Greater Mankato Area United Way, along with Waseca superintendent Eric Hudspeth, attended the meeting to ask the commissioners to provide funding for a new youth mental health program involving "navigators." The program, whose intent is to help students and families connect with mental health services while also increasing direct support for staff, began as a pilot last year in the Mankato school districts. Navigators visit schools to work directly with students and staff to identify students needing mental health support. They make referrals for mental health services and even work on case management and multidisciplinary communication.

Since the pilot proved successful, the plan is to turn it into a full program with more navigators and more school districts. Commissioners were asked to commit \$50,000 over five years to provide support with positions in Waseca County. Superintendent Hudspeth commented that the district was not asking for "free money" and that the school is also looking into providing funding toward the program. County Administrator Michael Johnson clarified that the county could provide the funding through the opioid settlement fund. Although discussion among commissioners regarding the program seemed positive, no action was taken during the meeting.

Also addressed on Tuesday was an ordinance authorizing a study and imposing a moratorium on the commercial sale of adult recreational cannabis products until Jan. 1, 2025. There was no ordinance adopted at this meeting, only clarifications and discussions. County Administrator Michael Johnson stated that no business is authorized to sell cannabis products without a state-issued license; any control the county can exert is through zoning and similar limitations. He also clarified that state laws

Meeting continued on 6



METAMORPHOSIS - Alex Cooper of Waseca drives his battered 2011 Toyota Camry from the field of competition after taking second place in his class, compacts and mid-size. Right: Cooper and his car before the race.



TEAM CANCER CRUSHERS - Doug Lund, and Cole and Aaron Lundahl with the 1974 Buick Electra they entered in this year's demolition derby. Right: The Electra during competition.



Pioneer photos by Deb Bently

'I usually wreck them in one show'

By **DEB BENTLY**
News Editor

"I know not everyone would agree with me," comments Doug Lund, 54, of Waseca, "but it's a work of art..."

"With its own little spin," Lund is speaking of his dented and welded 1974 Buick Electra, number 34, scheduled to take part in the "standard weld" class of Friday evening's demolition derby at the Waseca County Fair.

The Electra also competed in the 2022 fair, and it shows.

Emblazoned on the side, along with some other short slogans, are the words "30th year," the span of time Lund has been building and driving demolition cars. In 30 years,

he says he has won three times. Despite the low ratio, he claims, competing in derbies is "a hard habit to break."

He says his weekends, free time and vacations tend to center around getting together with some friends to find, modify and prepare each year's vehicle. That the Electra is in its second year is, he says, something of an accomplishment.

"I usually wreck them in one show," He observes that "There's a lot of good, strong competition in this class, so there are plenty of people willing to help me."

Collin Lange, owner of Winthrop Metal Works, has been building and driving demolition derby cars for the

past 13 years, taking part in about 8 each year. For the Waseca County Fair he's driving a 1976 Buick in the "Old Iron" class.

Asked whether there's any secret to choosing the right vehicle, he admits owning a metal working company which is located very near an auto salvage business gives him more options than most. Still, he says, "It's hit or miss. You build one, and if it doesn't hold up, you build another one."

He says he and some friends have taken less than three weeks to prepare this evening's entry, and have enjoyed every minute of being and working together.

As far as his technique in the ring,

he says, "I drive with the pace. If people are out there moving fast, you can't just sit there."

Alex Cooper, 31, of Waseca, has entered his 2001 Toyota Camry with a V-6 engine in the "mid-sizer" class—one of the largest of the evening with 10 entries. Cooper entered his first demolition derby in 2011, and has taken first place twice. He claims to have finished preparing the Camry in only a couple of days, and—although he doesn't know it yet—will take second place in his division this evening.

He says it's hard to explain, but the

Derby continued on 7

FCA night at the Braves

By **ELI LUTGENS**
Publisher/Editor

Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) night was celebrated July 7 at Tink Larson Field during a 13-3 win by the Waseca Braves over the Rochester Roadrunners. About 150 fans were in attendance when the festivities began just prior to the game. Special guests Tom (Bomber) Holtz and Dravyn Spies were on hand to help.

Holtz was an 8-hole hitter, a junior, on the 1990 State Champion Waseca High School baseball team. He threw out the ceremonial first pitch.

Spies, a member of the 2021 State Champion Waseca High School Bas-

ketball team and a 2021 graduate, sang the national anthem. Spies is currently a college student at a Christian school, Hillsdale College in Michigan, and played an important role coming off the bench on that State Championship team.

"I love to follow those teams," John Conway said. "Bomber and Barry Dufault were the 8, 9 hitters on that state champion team. I think they had 5 hits each. Bomber doubled and tripled, and Dufault hit a lot of singles. Such a joy to watch them."

Conway has worked with the FCA since 1980 and was hired as a South Central Minnesota Field Associate with the organization in 2007.



Twenty fans took part in the ball toss game held during the 4th inning of the Braves' July 7 baseball game. Photo by Eli Lutgens

"We call it the almost annual seventh year," Conway explained. "FCA night at the Braves game started a decade ago, but then the fire happened, and then Covid, so that's why

we call it the 'almost seventh annual.'"

FCA continued on 8

WALDORF CITY COUNCIL

Blashack day in Waldorf

By **TRISTAN JENSEN**
Staff Writer

At the July 12 Waldorf City Council meeting, Mayor Rob Wilkening declared August 18 will be "Catherine Blashack Day" in Waldorf. Blashack, who grew up in Waldorf and became a military pilot, will be visiting her hometown to finish the mural located across the street from the town's community center. On August 18, Blashack will receive a plaque; a community potluck is also planned.

The council officially accepted a donation of land from Charles Barnes. The intended future location of a memorial park honoring veterans, the property is located across the street from the community center and is overlooked by the mural. Barnes was appointed director of a new park committee, and has plans for the park's design. "I am delighted that you've approved the creation of this park," he told the council. Along with guiding the development of the new facility, committee members Barnes, Wilkening, Missy Sorbo and Scott Kelling will oversee the maintenance of all city parks.

In response to a concern raised by a resident, the council voted to engage the Waseca County Extension Office of the University of Minnesota for soil testing in areas in town where there is no plant growth. The expected cost is \$25-50 per test.

A fee of \$50 was set for the clearing of grass clippings, weeds, leaves and other vegetation property owners allow to accumulate on city streets. City ordinance #60 declares it unlawful to deposit plant waste in the street but does not specify a penalty if city workers must clean up after residents violate the ordinance.

Four bids were received to replace the furnaces in the community center, but the council wishes to replace the furnaces one at a time for budgeting purposes. The issue was thus tabled until the next council meeting to allow for updated bids. Council members voted to purchase new rugs for the community center and city hall at an expected cost of about \$660. The council also considered hiring a cleaning service, but found the cost for this service to be more than replacing the rugs, which are considered worn out. Council members also voted to allow Papa Olie's to take ownership of the signage on city property, which was put in by the city but ties to the bar's utilities.

WASECA COUNTY
PIONEER

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Waseca County Fair



Kendall Johnson with Dakota, the goat which helped her win a first place ribbon in showmanship.



Audience members aged 7 to 10 take part in the "boot race" during a break in Thursday's bull riding competition.



Alex Cooper of Waseca at the wheel of the Toyota Camry he entered in Friday's demolition derby.



Jaiden Johnson with her prize-winning ewe Calla, a 1-year-old purebred Suffolk.



A demolition derby competitor stomps down the roof of his car after it's removed from the ring.



Hypnotist Jerry Frazier of HypnoFX looks on as Elsie Owens and two "back up dancers" present a concert for the audience.



A Japanese garden made of Legos entered in the fine arts competition by New Richland teenager Rielly Weitzel.



Friday's demolition derby was managed by Full Throttle Promotions.



Paul Sutton of Rorring Entertainment with four vehicles from his racetrack which were customized with the names of some of his sponsors.



Proud parents Garrett and Gabby Larson of Waseca with Montgomery, 10 months old, who won Friday's Baby Race.



Magician Tom Anderson performs heritage magic tricks on the free stage.



Asher Oswald, 9, and his brother Rasmus, 5, of Madison Lake, enjoy a treat on the giant chair.



Paige Johnson, 14, of the Vista Busy Bees with Lulu, who helped her win a reserve championship in showmanship.



A variety of exciting rides were available on the fair midway,



Nick Jensen of Farmington with the "limited weld" '61 Ford F100 he entered in the demolition derby.



The youngest audience members at the bull riding event take part in a "boot race" during a break in the action.

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Compostings

by Al Batt

Float on the Pelican Breeze this summer

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS’ CLUB MEETING
I had a Great Uncle August. My mother talked often about his funeral.

When was his funeral?
I’m not sure what year it was, but it was the end of August.

DRIVING BY BRUCE’S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I’d like rain enough to knock us off the drought map. I check the water level of the creek (pronounced “crick”), which was my Disneyland. It was the Le Sueur River running through the farm. It doesn’t seem long ago when I’d yell, “Save some for the fish!” to a schoolmate drinking at a water fountain. Our nature walks were taken behind the school near the monkey bars and the puker. We looked at a squirrel, a house sparrow and a dandelion as we listened to a John Deere Model B tractor pop. It was wonderful.

I’VE LEARNED
Self-driving cars are never distracted or busy texting.

The stars in the sky are willing to let others shine.

A kind reader suggested rubbing eyeglasses with a cut potato to prevent fogging. That may have helped Grandpa years ago with the windshield of his old car, but I’m going to pass on using it on my eyeglasses.

Cats and dogs make capable assistants to an alarm clock.

Imitation is the second-highest form of flowers.

If you are flying, be sure to take a plane.

Three ways to pick a good watermelon are: 1. A yellow spot on the rind. 2. A brown belly button where the stem had been. 3. A hollow sound (as if it’s a barrel of water) when tapped.

You can’t be sure the toaster isn’t listening.

Every receipt looks as if it contains an error.

NEWSWORTHY
Jim Simser received the Distinguished Service Award from the Early Riser Kiwanis of Fairmont for unselfish service, outstanding vision and continued commitment to his community. Jim was the head football coach at New Richland-Hartland (winning two state titles), NRHEG and Fairmont. His combined record was 223-91-1.

My condolences to Tony Arnfelt’s family. He was the proprietor of Tony’s, a service station along Highway 13 in New Richland. Tony’s had a slide cooler vending machine (with a built-in bottle opener) that dispensed bottled pop, and a coin-operated salted peanuts vending machine resembling a gumball machine. My fellow

loafers and I poured peanuts into Cokes and drank them. Tony welcomed our burping and moronic behavior.

NATURE NOTES
I’m hosting a float on the Pelican Breeze on Albert Lea Lake on July 30, August 27 and September 10. Please call 507-383-7273 to book a seat.

I watched robins in the yard. Two males battled at the edge of their territories. One appeared to be slightly larger than the other and won every skirmish. I reckon the burly bird gets the worm.

There were blinking bugs—shining stars descended to Earth to keep us company. Fireflies or lightning bugs are quiet fireworks that prefer warm, humid environments, which means muggy June and July days are perfect for them. Look up and down around tall grasses or bushes and areas near water. A lawn could host fireflies, an identity mark of summer that evokes wonder in those who see them.

An eastern cottontail rabbit female is capable of having seven litters a year, but it’s likely to have only three, possibly four in Minnesota. Each year, about 80% of Minnesota’s cottontail population dies from weather, predators and disease.

Crown vetch was planted along roadsides for erosion control and spread into prairies, forest edges and riverbanks. Its stems trail over other plants and can grow 2-6 feet long. Crown vetch has tubular white to pink to lavender flowers that bloom from May through August. Crown vetch can cover other plants and spread vegetatively over acres of land, outcompeting other plants, which reduces species diversity and habitat. As a perennial legume, crown vetch can change nitrogen levels in soils, which could make it difficult for native plants to compete. Birdsfoot trefoil was introduced to the U. S. for livestock forage and erosion control. Its yellow flowers are evident on roadsides. Foxtail barley, sometimes called squirrel-tail grass, is a common grass on roadsides. Its flowering spikes are attractive, silky and waving in the breeze.

MEETING ADJOURNED
“The very least you can do in your life is to figure out what you hope for. And the most you can do is live inside that hope. Not admire it from a distance but live right in it, under its roof. What I want is so simple I almost can’t say it: elementary kindness. Enough to eat, enough to go around. The possibility that kids might one day grow up to be neither the destroyers nor the destroyed. That’s about it. Right now I’m living in that hope, running down its hallway and touching the walls on both sides.”—Barbara Kingsolver.

More to Loon Lake than meets the eye

I ran into Dave Dunn one day and he mentioned an idea for a Pioneer article; an article on Waseca’s Loon Lake. The Bailey House at the Historical Society has files of just about everything that has taken place in Waseca County. Virginia McCarthy who works at the Bailey House, handed me a plump, thick file on the history of Loon Lake. She shared a personal connection; her relatives, George and Ruby Fell, once owned the island on Loon Lake.

Prior to 1900, Loon was much larger and extended further eastward than it does now; it was shallow and swampy. Its former borders probably included the location of our present-day hardware store, Maple Terrace and possibly all the way to the hospital, library, and Trowbridge park. There was a creek running from Loon to Clear Lake prior to the turn of the century.

Waseca exists today because of the arrival of railroads. The east/west tracks were laid In 1867, drawing area citizens to platte a town where one had not previously existed.

Steam train operators pulled water from the south shores of Loon. A mill operating on the southeast shores of the lake also received fresh water and discharged warm water, thus keeping some of the lake open during the winter. The mill burned in the 1890s.



Bits and Pieces



by Dave Zika



In 1877 a north/south train track was built running through Waseca. A trestle was built on the east side of Loon so the trains could pass over the creek running to Clear Lake. Today, that track is a walking, bike path for people to enjoy.

There isn’t much recorded early history about Loon Lake; much of its chronology is sustained by old timers and the stories they’ve handed down. Einer Iverson, Dutch Bathke, Lloyd Panzram, John Somers, Ruth Mackey, and others have shared their stories that have been recorded about Loon Lake’s early history.

Folklore of the Commodore steamboat traveling the channel between Clear and Loon Lakes is a myth: The channel was much too shallow. Something the size of a canoe or small fishing boat is about the largest vessel that could have navigated it. There was a pleasure cruiser, the Commodore, but it stayed within the confines of Clear Lake.

There was once a beer hall on Loon Lake’s island. One of the city’s founding fathers, W.G. Ward, owned the night club prior to the turn of the century. The island was joined to a small peninsula which once led from Loon Lake Park out to the island. I can only visualize horse buggies or bikes riding out to the island for a cool beverage. There were no automobiles at the time. The Fells later purchased the island from W.G. Ward.

Bill Topal owned a boat landing on the southeast shore of Loon until it closed in 1920. The landing offered boats for joy rides or fishing. It was common to see many boats on Loon Lake during a beautiful, recreational day.

The southeast corner was once the site of “the jungles,” a hobo bum camp. There was a time when hobos would commonly hitch rides on trains; any who happened to get off in Waseca had the option of waiting for their next jaunt—whenever they

might choose to hop the next train—with fellow illicit travelers at the camp. I hope some of them looked for work.

The island on Loon used to be much larger, maybe twice the size. Sometime before the turn of the century, the railroad barons decided to replace the trestle on the tracks running north and south on the east end of Loon with an earthen dike, a dam. One result was to make Loon Lake smaller and deeper. The peninsula to the island disappeared under the rising water. The island became much smaller, and dry land behind the dam to the east became useful for development. In 1957, the Fells sold their island to the county for the bargain price of \$300. The county intended to riprap the island with rocks to preserve its shoreline from erosion.

In 1983-1984 Loon Lake went through a major restoration project with the goal of revitalizing the lake, which was thought to have only rough fish and which would be covered in thick weeds all summer long. Loon was emptied and allowed to sit dry. Small bullheads were removed by the millions. The draining of the lake revealed many secrets; treasure seekers scoured the lake bed for arti-

Zika continued on 8



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

A small change in perspective

Fair week! I hope everybody enjoyed the fair as much as I did. I want to say thank you to everyone who introduced themselves and stopped by the Waseca County Pioneer booth; it was lovely to meet you all.

I have a love/hate relationship with the fair. Before my job brought me out for hours at a time, I never really attended the fair. Somehow, walking around for hours at a time during a usually very warm day was never very appealing to me. But working the fair is something different entirely.

While I may be at the fair longer, it is for the most part more enjoyable. For one thing, I get to sit; besides that, I have a chance to visit with people with similar interests (the paper, obviously) and I get to take pictures of adorable children.

I have to say that my favorite part is taking pictures for our “photo booth.” It’s just so fun to see faces light up when we offer fun and out-

rageous hats for people to try on. Granted, there are occasional people who don’t want to do it because they don’t live here, they say they’re not photogenic, or, as one girl graciously put it - she doesn’t want lice.

So I turn instead to the ones who enjoy the experience and I get to enjoy it right along with them. Watching people’s thought processes as they start out wanting to be a cowboy, then a construction worker, then crown-wearing royalty, is entertainment all on its own. It reminds me of middle or elementary school when someone asks what you want to be when you grow up, and the answer changes from one day to the next. And then there were the kids who knew what a rotary phone looks like..and the ones who didn’t. We had two phones as props; it was funny to see the awe and confusion on some faces as they picked up the handset and experimented with the spinning dial.



PIONEER WRITERS - Amelia Roessler and Deb Bently spent many hours at the fair last week.

But now that the fair is done, it means I get to go back to my normal editorial assistant duties of painting the new Pioneer office, the former Ward House Brewery along Elm Avenue. I’m just teasing—painting is not a “normal” editorial task—that’s billing. But if anyone ever has any is-

sues with their bills, that’s Eli’s fault.

Shoutout to my sister Lizzie who finally made me a welded cactus.

My Determination: “Do not be fooled by its commonplace appearance. Like so many things, it is not what is outside, but what is inside that counts.” - Aladdin

Baseball is Heaven’s gift

“It’s like Heaven.”
That’s what Blaine Nelson told me after my latest Braves game.

I can officially call myself a baseball player now that I’ve notched my first inning in the field after 6 years away from the sport.

Blaine was right. It really is Heaven.

Or Iowa. To quote the famous line from Field of Dreams.

I struck out again, but had a different approach this time. Just swing at pitches I think I might hit. No cute stuff.

After the game, I again found myself a postgame text message waiting from my father.

“Tried my best to will you a double to the gap. We will work on your hitting.”

I love my dad.

And I love baseball.

Throughout the game I chatted with, well everyone. I must share my “Tink story of the night.”

The first baseball game Tink Larson ever attended was during his elementary days of schooling. Tink was a farm kid whose dad worked a “25-hour-a-day job.”

I guess he just loved to work.

I was told Tink pestered his dad about baseball enough that he finally brought him to a game, one played



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

by a town team in Mantorville. Tink said the only thing he could remember from the experience was the name of one player which, coincidentally, I don’t remember. Outside of a few games, Tink said he never played baseball until high school. I found all of this remarkable.

Unsurprisingly, other topics of discussion also revolved around baseball. For one thing, Blake, Tink, and I are all in agreement: We shouldn’t have traded Araez. He was so much fun to watch hit for the Twins. It’s a shame we don’t get to anymore.

I grew up during the Mauer and Morneau era of Twins baseball. My first Twins game was found while channel surfing from my living room couch. The Twins won 4-1 and I’d like to think Nick Blackburn was pitching: Not quite as good a story as Tink’s first game, but memorable nonetheless.

We talked about my first start on a

varsity baseball team. I was a sophomore at NRHEG and Drew Paukert informed me I would be pitching a Saturday game at noon. I came home, and, as nonchalantly as possible, asked my dad whether he was coming to the game. His response was, “Why? You don’t play varsity.”

“Well guess who’s starting on Saturday.”

Dad jumped up off the couch with excitement.

So how did that game go?

Well, I can’t tell you who the other team was or how they scored their first run, but I can tell you the name of the center fielder who dropped a would-be third out on a routine fly ball. Carson Field.

One run was in and two on when I saw the “can of corn” (baseball reference for easy fly ball) and breathed a sigh of relief. “Phew, I got through the first inning, now I’m good.”

The next batter hit the ball over the

left field fence.

It was the only home run I ever gave up in my high school career. But that, that was memorable.

Before the game, Blake talked about baseball being a game of limiting mistakes and doing the little things right. He shared a similar story about a state entrance game and I couldn’t help but see the similarities.

I don’t think a player could ask for better teammates than the other Braves on the team. It’s a great atmosphere, even when Chris Glynn throws his helmet. (Even after getting 2 hits in the game.)

It’s an amazing thing to see adults take a kids’ game so seriously. But then again. It is Heaven to be on a baseball diamond.

Wednesday’s game was the regular season finale, but look for us to host some playoff games.

And I can’t forget to mention. Wednesday was the first day of the Waseca County Fair. I’m already exhausted and it’s only the first night. Here’s to four more.

“Baseball is Heaven’s gift to mortals” - George F. Will.

“When you look up into the stands, everyone you’ve ever loved is there to cheer you on.” - unknown.

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ELI LUTGENS
JON LUCCA
DEB BENTLY
JIM LUTGENS
AMELIA ROESSLER
TERESA ROSACKER

Publisher
Production Manager
News Editor
Sports Editor/Dad
Editorial Assistant
Advertising Sales

Contributing writers/photographers: Dave Zika, Santiago Ramirez, Al Batt

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OBITUARIES

Robert Joyce

Robert D. Joyce Jr., age 49, of Janesville passed away on Monday, July 10, 2023 in Waseca County.

Born on November 7, 1973 in Aurora, IL, Robert was the son of Robert and Cheryl (Morris) Joyce. He graduated from Dixon High School. On May 4, 2002, he was united in marriage to Amber Merritt in St. Louis, MO. Robert worked for Mediacom for over the last ten years.

Music was Robert's passion in life. He loved playing the guitar and singing. He has been involved with a band since his high school days. He also enjoyed nature, especially fishing and hiking. He was a great cook and loved teaching his daughters some of his favorite recipes. He was very funny and enjoyed making others laugh. He will be dearly missed.

Robert is survived by his wife, Amber Joyce; daughters, Autumn



Robert Joyce

Joyce (18), Saige Joyce (10); parents, Robert (Lee) Joyce, Cheryl Joyce; siblings, Dana, Brenden (Mellissa), and Danette.

Private services for Robert are being held at this time. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service are handling arrangements at this time.

■ Library from Page 3

woman whose husband was conscripted to work on the construction of the Great Wall of China. When he did not return within the expected time frame she went looking for him, only to learn that he had been killed.

According to the story, the woman stood and cried with such deep emotion that the nearby section of the Great Wall felt sorry for her and collapsed. After that, whenever that section would be repaired, it would collapse again, all in sympathy for the woman's grief.

When describing the gudi, Lund explained that its name literally means "bone flute." She told audience members that the instrument has been used for thousands of years, and was carved from the bones of whatever large bird might be available. The gudi she showed during the presentation was roughly 8 inches long and had been personally made by Zhang, even beginning with collecting the bone from a Thanksgiving turkey, washing it thoroughly, and then setting it aside to cure.

"He tells me that, if you make four, probably three of them won't turn out, won't have a good sound," she said. "But this one—this is one of his favorites because its tone is very good." A second, much smaller bone flute provided an imitation of an elaborate bird call.

The hulusi is an instrument which uses a gourd, bamboo, and copper wires. Lund told audience members that its tone has elements in common with both the bagpipe and traditional instruments used in

India by snake charmers.

The final demonstration was the lushung, an elaborate combination of bamboo, brass, and reeds. Given that it shares tones with a pipe organ, audience members were somewhat surprised whe Lund revealed that the instrument is often played while dancing. Zhang's demonstration included walking and swaying.

The second major element of the presentation was a traditional Chinese story whose title Lund kept to herself until she had finished. She drew the audience in with elements of suspense and repetition; children joined in on certain lines they could anticipate. By the time she had finished the story of "The Boy Who Became a Dragon," Lund was pleased with the level of engagement audience members, and especially children had shown.

"That's precious," she said. "It's a delight to share a story and an experience with people who are willing to truly join you on the journey."

The program closed with volunteers being invited to the front to make use of an array of percussion instruments. Lund directed as the volunteers followed her instructions; Zhang accompanied on a traditional bamboo flute.

The presentations in both New Richland and Waseca were offered by Community Programs in the Arts (COMPAS) through a grant provided by the Traverse des Sioux Library Cooperative thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage fund. COMPAS (Community Programs in the Arts), a non-profit education organization that teaches through art, has been putting creativity into the hands of Minnesotans for almost 50 years.

■ Meeting from Page 3

made it legal for Minnesotans to grow limited amounts of marijuana as of April 1, and it will become legal to possess small amounts as of August 1. The county has no authority to change or circumvent that, but does have some control over certain aspects of commercial sale. Tuesday's meeting included a required public meeting on the topic, but no one spoke; another public hearing will take place during the second commissioner meeting in August.

Another discussion concerned establishing a Local Housing Trust Fund (LHTF), something that was brought up in a meeting earlier in the year by Karina Schmitz, MNPrairie Housing Resource Spe-

cialist. At that time it was recommended to appropriate 90% of each member county's local homeless prevention aid to seed the LHTF, then appropriate the remaining 10% into a fund to be utilized for hotel shelter vouchers. No formal resolution was adopted at the earlier meeting; no input was received during a required public hearing. After confirming that all funds intended for use within the county under the homeless prevention aid program would remain within the county, commissioners adopted an ordinance to establish an LHTF and assigning MNPrairie County Alliance as the administrator.

Other action items discussed and approved at the meeting included the acceptance and final payment of Contract No. 812307, a project for pavement markings and messages on approximately 67 miles of Waseca County roads.

Enduro race is 'redneck dream'

By JONAH STAFFORD Staff Writer

About 600 spectators enjoyed the Enduro Auto Races at the Waseca County Fair grandstand on the night of Saturday, July 15. The event was organized by Southern Minnesota Promotions (SMP), which promotes demolition derbies and enduro auto races in the region. Enduro races take place on a circular track; racers continue driving as long as their cars hold up, until a winner is decided. The name "enduro" is short for endurance, referring to the sheer length of the race and the fact that cars must stay in working order to finish. The races at the fair had two divisions: full size and compact cars. While full size cars circled the track 250 times, the compact race was only 150 laps.

Tanner Chadderdon of Faribault, driving car number 18T, said he has participated in the sport of enduro racing for 12 years. When he was 15 years old, Chadderdon started helping his father Mike with his racecar and eventually became a racer in his own right. Both Chadderdons competed in the compact car division Saturday. While Tanner finished sixth, Mike scored tenth place.

Dan "Rudy" VonRuden, who hails from Morristown, also competed in the compact car division and estimated that he had been racing for 25 years. While preparing his car for the race, VonRuden was assisted by Jarrett Owski. VonRuden grew up next to Cannon River Speedway in Morristown; when he was younger, he "wanted to race but could never afford it." As an adult, VonRuden has made a name for himself as an enduro racer and placed second in last year's race. Despite his success, he

said that he is in the sport more for the enjoyment than the glory of placing highly. "I'm just here to have fun like any other redneck American," quipped VonRuden. He added that enduro racing reminds him of road rage on Interstate 35W, but "if someone gets you mad, you can knock them out of the way."

"It's a rush when you're trying to go fast with 25 other knuckleheads trying to beat you," said VonRuden.

Brian Nelson, one of SMP's organizers, said that their enduro races have been happening at the Waseca County Fair for between 15 and 20 years. As opposed to other forms of racing, Nelson said that enduro has a relatively low cost of entry per car, making it possible for some racers to enter "out of curiosity." To plan each race, Nelson said that a lot of communication must take place between SMP and parties like racers and fair staff to arrive at a set of rules and safety regulations that work for all concerned.

Local fire trucks were on standby throughout the races. In addition, special vehicles and personnel doused the track with water at regular intervals to keep down dust. Between waterings, dust clouds and chunks of mud were common, often flying out over the audience.

The winner of the enduro race's full-size division was Brady Krohnberg, with Travis Woodfill placing second and Stacy Krohnberg third. Jerry Coopman won the compact enduro race, VonRuden took second place for a second consecutive year, and Nate Coopman placed third. Full results for both races are available on the Southern Minnesota Promotions Facebook page.



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■ Waseca from Page 1

"We also want to thank everyone who made the event possible—which is, well—everyone.

"The county, for making it a priority to have a fair.

"The people who came, because without them there would be no reason to have a fair.

"The people who volunteered—because they helped things run smoothly." Among the volunteers,

she makes a point of mentioning emergency response and safety personnel.

"All our vendors, whose contributions are so important.

"All our sponsors, who have provided support in the form of finances and equipment.

"It would be impossible to have a fair without all these folks and their contributions, and we are truly grateful for all of them."

While most features of the 2023 fair were familiar, two new interactive venues were added. "Just for Laffs," which was in the shaded area near the free stage, featured two clowns who gave shows, offered a

"balloon twisting" course, supervised large-scale games and puzzles, and made balloon sculptures throughout the fair.

Also new was "Rorrring Racing," a race track with 18-inch-long remote controlled cars guided by full-sized steering wheels used by competitors.

Decisions about shows, interactive events, and hired entertainment are often influenced by information available at the annual Minnesota Federation of County Fairs, held in January. At this convention, groups and businesses share information about their offerings which helps planners decide what might please

their particular audiences.

When it comes to carnival rides, Dulas explains that the fair contracts with the company to have a midway, and the contractor makes decisions about what rides, games, and the like will be offered.

"We do everything we can to make it possible for folks to come out to the fair, spend time with their friends and family, and have fun together," says Dulas. "That seems to have gone very well for everyone this year.

"Now we're already working to do it all again next year."

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Police dept. hires three new officers

By JESSICA LUTGENS
Staff Writer

Present during the New Richland City Council's first meeting of the month on Monday, July 10, to discuss concerns over an individual living out of their car in New Richland was Debra Loverink.

"[I have] concerns about their well-being and safety, and how we as a community are meeting their needs," Loverink said, adding that if the matter goes unaddressed, there could be potential for other issues in the future.

Loverink asked if there was anything the city and/or community could do to help the situation. She did state that she has talked to both the New Richland Chief of Police and city administrator regarding the matter, adding that the county is involved, as well.

Councilperson Jody Wynnemer asked about vagrancy laws as a way to resolve the matter.

"It is not a crime to be homeless in the state of Minnesota," said administrator Tony Martens. Martens said he has talked to the city attorney about the issue and is awaiting a response on the matter. Ultimately, however, it appears as if there is nothing the city can do to force the individual to stop living out of their vehicle.

The ambulance report, submitted in writing, stated that the New Richland ambulance has had 96 runs for the year so far. A request for training to become an instructor for teaching EMR and EMT classes for director Sara Sundve and member Sara Jo Vulcan was approved at a total cost of up to \$5,000.

"We feel in the long run it will save the city money and we can open a class up for surrounding communities to join," Sundve wrote in the report. "I am working to make sure we keep this ambulance and keep people interested. We need to keep looking into what the future holds."

The ambulance report was approved.

The fire department report, submitted in writing, stated that the

NEW RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL

NRFD responded to four calls in June: one motor vehicle accident, one fire call, and two medical calls. The report was approved.

Chief of police Tanyce Bruegger presented the police report, stating that the NRPD responded to 61 calls for service in June, bringing the total number of calls for the year to 548. This is down from last year due to an increased number of responses from the Waseca County Sheriff's Office. Bruegger noted that communication with the sheriff's office continues regarding coverage, community concerns, directed patrols, special events, etc.

The council approved a request to hire one full-time and two part-time officers pending medical and psychological evaluations. This year's Farm and City Days celebration went well according to Bruegger, who said there were no major incidents, and this year's Night to Unite is tentatively scheduled for Aug. 8. The report was approved.

In the administrator's report, it was noted that the flooding on May 11 has been recognized by the state for disaster assistance, which will help with funding for damaged property due to the flood. Meetings with an engineer regarding 2024 street improvements and Houston Engineering regarding the hydraulic study are planned for this week. Smoke testing was also discussed, and the report was approved.

In the consent agenda items, a street closure on Broadway Ave. near the liquor store for a street dance fundraiser by Finley's Wings at Work was approved for Saturday, July 29 from approximately 4 p.m. until 2 a.m. The purchase of a tabbing machine for water/sewer bills at a cost of \$1,581.49 was approved, along with a down payment for fencing replacement at Legion Field at a cost of \$28,362.50. The meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Honored, celebrated



HONORED - Minnesota District 1 Representative Brad Finstad presented the Congressional Record of his recent speech to Blair Nelson's family members Deanne Nelson, Nikki Benson, Tenille Jennings and Taylor Ziemke.

■ Derby from Page 3

exhilaration of being in the ring is "a feeling you can't get anywhere else. Once you're out there, you know why you came." He tells of one time his car started on fire during competition, but once the fire was out, he was able to get the car started and continue driving.

Asked about his technique as a competitor, he says, "You have to be patient," he recommends, "And make sure your shots count."

Nick Jensen of Farmington has entered his 1961 Ford F-100 in the

"limited weld, not stock" truck class. He has been working on getting the vehicle ready since last September. When he chooses a vehicle for a derby, he says, he looks for the strongest frame possible, and "Old iron is always better than new." Out in the ring, he says his driving technique is "all about pleasing the crowd."

"I go full throttle, nose first, and just keep smashing."

Joe Czech of Hastings will be competing against Jensen in the limited weld truck class with his 1960 F-250, which he and a small group of friends have been working on for about the past eight months. Czech says he has been driving in demolition derbies off and on since 2008.

"I'm not here to win," he admits.

"I just want to wreck someone's truck."

He admits driving in a derby isn't for everyone, but for him: "It's addicting. It's something you can't understand until you've tried it."

"I guess I'm an adrenaline junkie."

Sage Standke, 19, of Morristown, will go on to win the "youth" class which allows drivers between the ages of 16 and 19. He and his father, Brad, have made a winter project of the 1984 Cadillac they have gotten ready for this evening's competition; Brad has been active in derbies since 1994. This will not be Sage's first time driving a demolition car—as the winner of another youth competition last year, he won \$2,000 for taking first in his class.

A man of few words, Sage suggests that the secret to success in the ring is to "Drive smart."

Brandon Thomas and his wife Kristen of Full Throttle Promotions managed Friday's competition. "Overall, I think it went very well," said Thomas. "We avoided some rain and the stands were full."

"I want to personally thank the fair board members; they always put in the effort to make sure the derby is the best it can be."

"I also want to thank the fans and, most importantly, the derby drivers who show such dedication to this great sport."

In addition to managing derbies, Thomas and Kristen have been competitors for more than 20 years.

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One year anniversary



Monarch celebrated the one-year anniversary of their purchase of Lakeshore Inn in Waseca with a festival. The celebration included lawn games, music and treats and was free for all residents, families, and community members. Left, John Schlaak, regional director of operations; Jenna Krasin, administrator; and Erin Schultz, business development.

Pioneer photos by Tristan Jensen



Polly and Erin Villwock at the bubble blowing station.

Area juvenile victim in sexual abuse case

A Mankato area resident, Grant Moody, has been charged with criminal sexual behavior with a juvenile. On June 20, Moody delivered a female between the ages of 14 and 16 to the Waseca-Mayo Emergency Department, according to the complaint filed. The juvenile alleged that her parents “abused her, she was being ‘raped’ by a man... and additionally, another household member was also sexually assaulting her.”

According to the claim, Moody told medical staff that the juvenile’s parents had a “sexually shared partner” and were allowing the girl’s abuse to continue.

The juvenile was then placed in protective custody in foster care.

On June 22, Moody reported to the Hennepin County Emergency Room where he requested psychiatric attention for suicidal thoughts stemming from “taking his 14-year-old girlfriend to the hospital,” according to the claim.

It also alleges that the juvenile said her parents weren’t letting her be abused, but that she was angry with them and had tried to run away. The report claims the juvenile said she and Moody “had sexual intercourse ‘quite often,’ and it was every time she would go to his farm place.” Moody owns a farm in Waseca County and described the juvenile as a “farm manager” to hospital staff.

The claim alleges that for the

last 18 months, Moody had been having frequent intercourse, “with the last time being on June 18, 2023.”

The claim also states the juvenile told authorities Moody had been taking her to frequent visits to Okoboji, Iowa, while the parents were on vacation; she told staff at the Waseca County Sheriff’s Office that she and Moody were planning to run away together.

The juvenile’s parents were unaware of these trips and did not give Moody permission to take the juvenile, according to the claim.

The juvenile said that on June 20, Moody “bought her clothes so that she would have clothing when they went ‘to the next place.’”

Moody was taken into custody and booked, with bail posted at \$200,000. He was released on bail under condition that he would wear GPS monitoring equipment, would not contact the victim or her family, and would not use electronic means to initiate contact.

Moody had a Rule 8 hearing the morning of July 17 at the Waseca County Courthouse. For such hearings, a defendant may only enter a guilty plea, and according to MN Court Rule 8.02 Subd. 1, “If the defendant does not wish to plead guilty, the arraignment must be continued until the omnibus hearing.”

Argument leads to felony damage

A Janesville man is accused of damaging a family member’s property after an argument on July 6. Dylan Bauman, 26, has been charged with one count of felony criminal damage to property in the first degree.

According to a criminal complaint, around 7:18 p.m. on July 6, a Waseca County deputy was sent to a property in New Richland with a report of “a person being out of control and damaging property.”

The complaint stated that Bauman and a family member had an “argument over a bill” in the capacity of their work together. Bauman believed he should have been paid more money than he had for a previous job. At one point, it is alleged that Bauman “kicked in

the door to the home and overturned some furniture, went back outside, and broke the windows in the [family member’s] truck.”

Allegedly, Bauman then said he was going to “wrap the Duramax truck around a pole.” According to the complaint, more than \$1,000 worth of damage was done to the victim’s truck and home, elevating the crime to a felony for criminal damage of property. Bauman was arrested near the post office in Janesville.

Bauman was released on condition that he make all future court appointments and make no more threats of harassment or assaultive behavior, violence, threatening or intimidation. He had a Rule 8 appearance via a virtual hearing on July 18.

Council

from Page 1

suggested the possibility that a string of recent resignations and reassignments among staff had led to the implementation of the computer program being placed on a “back burner.”

Although Mansfield made a motion that an investigation should take place into why the program had not yet been made operational, four of the seven council members voted against it. Sonnenberg did say, however, that staffing has stabilized and that implementing the program would now be given increased importance.

In compliance with state statute, a public input session was held to review and receive input regarding a new body camera policy under consideration by the Waseca police department. Chief of Police Penny Vought introduced the session, telling everyone in attendance that the 16-page draft under consideration was drawn directly from the League of Minnesota Cities model policy. She stated “It’s new to us, too. That’s why we’ve given our officers time to study the policy and to learn more about the operation of the cameras.”

The policy—available on the city website for anyone interested in reviewing it—covers a wide array of information that begins with definitions of terms and goes on to specify, among many other things, how long videos must be retained based on their subject matter.

Input was received from city resident Christopher Thiessen, who

called attention to references to “aggressive behavior,” and how such incidents should be followed up. “We’ve all seen evidence,” Thiessen pointed out, “that it is not only the civilian populace that acts unreasonably.”

Thiessen sought confirmation that any reviews or investigations having to do with aggressive behavior would not be solely internal.

“There are checks and balances,” responded council member James Ebertowski.

Vought stated it is already the case that, when investigations occur regarding allegations of misconduct against an officer, that “external” input is received.

As discussion wound down, Vought invited any interested individuals to review the policy and, if they would like, meet with her for more information.

No action was taken at Tuesday’s meeting; the hearing was simply an element of the review process required for any police department working toward implementing a body camera policy.

Another required public hearing regarded the status of a city residence located at 501 Third Street NE. Despite repeated contacts with the homeowner asking that the property be brought in compliance with city statute, city staff has seen no indication of progress. No comments were received during the public hearing and so the property owner will be served with a notice that the property must be brought in compliance within 30 days or face legal consequences.

Another very short public hearing pertained to the city’s policies regarding THC or cannabis. City attorney Chris Kennedy informed

“We’ve approved studies before and a lot of them haven’t gone anywhere. I’m hoping this is a turning point. If it’s not, I will be very hesitant regarding future studies.”

— Council member Jeremy Conrath

board members that the only jurisdiction they have regards zoning or similar matters. “For better or worse,” Kennedy observed, “Minnesota has the most expansive marijuana law in the country at this point.” He pointed out that, under state law, it became legal for residents to grow a limited amount of marijuana for personal use beginning on April 1. On August 1, it becomes legal for people to have a small amount in their possession.

As for who will be authorized to sell marijuana, the state will begin issuing licenses in January 2025.

City Economic Development Manager Tina Wilson informed council members that there is a possibility of a 45-unit hotel locating in Waseca. She mentioned that development on the project cannot continue without two required elements: there must be a local investor and a “hotel feasibility study” must be carried out.

Such a study must be done by a qualified agency. Wilson has found a company which will carry out the needed research after receiving a “deposit” of \$7,500. The company will then complete the study and provide a written summary of its conclusions within about 30 days. If its information shows that Waseca’s economic environment is not suit-

able for a 45-unit hotel, the agency will not bill the city any further, and will keep itself available as a consultant for two years.

If, on the other hand, the study reveals the economic environment will support the development, there will be an additional \$7,500 cost, for a total of \$15,000.

Council members asked numerous questions, pointing out that similar and related studies had occurred within their memory. Council member Mark Christiansen commented that, if the city paid for the study, any data it included would be public, thus hinting the company might wish to pay for the study itself.

Wilson stated that having the city pay for the study has become fairly standard practice.

Council member Jeremy Conrath commented, “We’ve approved studies before and a lot of them haven’t gone anywhere. I’m hoping this is a turning point. If it’s not, I will be very hesitant regarding future studies.”

John Mansfield observed that a study costing \$15,000 opened up the possibility of a \$7.5 million investment to the local economy.

Council members ultimately voted to approve the feasibility study.

FCA

from Page 3

Various contests, games and activities took place during the evening. During the fourth inning, a “baseball toss” game invited fans of all ages down onto the field to see who could throw and land a baseball closest to

second base. Cash prizes were given out to three places. Taking first was Holten Howard, followed by Colton Miller and Curt Waugh.

Baseball trivia challenges were held in the stands throughout the game. Two raffles were drawn; Ryan DeWees and Isabel Berg were the winners who took home one full and one half scholarship to the 33rd Annual Waseca FCA junior sports camp set for August 1-3.

Programs handed out to fans in-

cluded not only the Braves roster, but information about FCA and the upcoming Jr. Sports Camp.

Online registration for camp ends at midnight July 27. Walk-up registration will still be available afterwards, but cost will be \$10 more per camper. Online registration can be done at www.minnesotafca.org/waseca-jsc.

For those wondering about the Braves game that night, the team won easily 13-3 behind a strong

pitching performance from Uriah Possin. Kyle Waugh had a great day from the batter’s box reaching base five times and plating four runs on three hits, including a homerun. The Braves ended their regular season Sunday with a final record of 15-5. They open the playoff season at home Saturday and Sunday, with both games beginning at 2 p.m.

Zika

from Page 5

facts in the mud. Old tires, mufflers, oil pans, parts of old model-T-cars, and even old sunken boats were revealed. I ran across a picture of Ralph Keyes and John Madigan examining a number of old bottles and containers they’d recovered from the dry Loon Lake bottom. Also part of the “restoration” was to create some spots in the lake where the water would be deeper than the previous maximum of 9 feet. Contractors were hired to dredge mud from the lake bottom and dig some holes in the lake to make a depth of 15 ft.

While it was standing dry, weeds and plants grew quickly on the lake bottom. I ran across a picture of Brian Weller, who is 6’1”, standing in growth over his head. The

summer plant growth was killed off by fall’s freezing temperatures. The roots of the plants gave Loon a nice base to restore all of the critters needed in a healthy lake. Loon filled up with water again with winter snow and spring rains. Ripping and rock along Loon Lake Park and Fourth Ave S.W. were also completed during the drawdown. An aerator was installed and the DNR stocked the lake with game fish. Loon Lake was back and healthy.

Jurgen Peters is an old boy still around who has left his mark on Loon Lake. Jurgen taught Agriculture at the high school for many, many, years before retiring and going on to work 10 years as a U of M extension agent. Anyone who has roots in Waseca knows Jurgen Peters. Jurgen is old school: no politics, just do it and get it done. Loon became the home of many Canadian Geese who loved to stroll and poop in beautiful Loon Lake Park. Geese do not like plant barriers. Jurgen, with

others, developed a blueprint to plant by shrubs, flowers, and other flora along the shores of the park. The Master Gardeners Club, Jackie Peters (Jurgen’s wife), Joan Mooney, and others planted all of the landscaping growth you see at Loon Lake Park today. Elderberries for birds, flowers for bees, butterflies and insects, and habitat are now growing on the shore for all to see. Oh yes, plant roots prevent water erosion. Jurgen and the late Jim Zimmerman also introduced a pair of domestic Swans to Loon. Louie and Louise, the swans, enjoyed the open water on Loon all season long. In the fall they were captured, put in a warm barn for the winter, and returned to Loon in the spring. Louise was shot by someone and Louie swam wifeless for several years on Loon. Jurgen always hoped another swan would come and keep Louie company on Loon Lake, but it never happened.

In 2012 the DNR poisoned Loon with rotenone to exterminate the

bullheads, but didn’t manage to kill them all. The DNR also helped fund a new aeration system in 2013 which the city is responsible for operating and maintaining. Since 2013 a variety of fish have been stocked. The lake just isn’t suited to the propagation of the stocked fish, it’s designated as a tier 3 lake. You may want to try fishing Loon, who knows what trophy fish might be swimming there.

Loon Lake is a tremendous asset to Waseca. The city does a magnificent job of maintaining Loon Lake Park and bike and walking trails around it. I noticed a bike repair station on the east side of the lake complete with tools and even a tire pump. What city offers that???

You might want to picnic at the pavilion, watch a sunset on one of the path benches, or observe some birds or insects living in the habitat planted on the shoreline. Be sure to confirm you’re headed for the right place—Minnesota has 7 Loon Lakes!!!

Argus archives

Celebrating the Mission Festival

100 Years Ago – 1923

- Mr. and Mrs. Gust Kopischke returned on Wednesday from their trip to Leader. Mr. Kopischke states that they found fine roads, but ran into mud on their home trip in places due to local showers. At Leader he found his son, Henry, prospering and in charge of a fine creamery in that place. Seven miles from there he found Mr. and Mrs. Edward Coughlin on a fine farm. Also they met Mr. Frank Shepherd, who is operating a big farm near there. They enjoyed a day or two gathering blueberries, which grow in profusion everywhere in that locality. The trip was highly enjoyable from start to finish.

- Last week we mentioned the fact that a movement is on foot to organize a civic and commerce association to take the place of the defunct commercial club. This movement is on the way. It is not as yet in the process of incubation sufficiently to exploit through the columns of the newspaper, but it is expected that it will be soon. In the meantime, let everybody get ready to take a hand and push it along.

- Jack Strublefeldt, a carpenter, was injured quite severely Saturday forenoon while working on the Lutheran church structure. He stepped on a covering that had been placed as a shield above to workmen below and fell about twelve feet. His side was badly bruised and he is out of commission for a time. Dr. Joyce dressed the wound.

75 Years Ago – 1948

- Janesville looked like a new ball club Sunday in getting back into the win column by trimming St. Clair at Northside Park by a score of 6-3. St. Clair started off with a marker in the initial frame, but at the end of the fourth stanza the homeguards were out in front 4-1. The St. Clairites staged a rally in the seventh to push across two more runs, but Janesville, not to be denied, shoved two more tallies across the platter in the eighth, enough to put the game in the bag. Griffin did the chucking for Janesville, allowing only seven blows and whiffing nine.

- Trinity Lutheran church will celebrate its annual Mission Festival on Sunday, July 25, in three special services. The two morning services, German at 9:15 and English at 10:30 o'clock, will be conducted in the church by Rev. Erwin Schroeder, of near Otisco as guest speaker. The afternoon service will begin at 2:30 o'clock and will be held on the public school grounds opposite the church, weather permitting. Rev. E. Eifert of Waseca will preach the sermon.

- Gerald Kroeger, 29-year-old high school speech and dramatics teacher from Janesville, has been appointed associate professor of speech and dramatics at Carthage college in Illinois beginning Sept. 7, according to an announcement by Dr. Erland Nelson, president. Prof. Kroeger has taught for six years in Minnesota high schools, last year serving as teacher of English and speech at Paynesville, Minn. high school.

50 Years Ago – 1973

- Ray C. Blasing, 49, has been named to the second highest state office of the Grand Voiture Du Minnesota. The local man was chosen Grand Chef de Train at the Grand Promenade of the organization this past weekend in St. Paul. A sub organization of the American Legion, the Voiture is active in nurses training programs and child welfare. Over the years Blasing has served on several state committees for the organization, including finance, and as the Grand Organizer and Grand Grand Cheminot. His present office compares to becoming the First Vice President of the state organization. In 1974, he will be in line for the top office, that of Grand Chef of the state of Minnesota.

- A free noon lunch will be an added feature at the annual Janesville Flea Market Saturday, August 4. It will be served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the American Legion Clubrooms. The lunch will be financed by the Janesville Area Chamber of Commerce and the businessmen who are members. The Chamber moved to serve the free lunch at a recent meeting.



One woman driver went into the ditch and five others had a taste of what thrill drivers go through Thursday night when Highway 14 buckled into a two-foot pyramid and sent cars flying in every direction. Leona Johnson was driving home to Smiths Mill at 5:45 p.m. when her 1963 Pontiac became the first car to test the road heave one mile west of Janesville. The local lady lost control after hitting the ramp-like affair and her car went over the steep embankment.

25 Years Ago – 1998

- With construction well underway at both the Janesville and Waldorf school sites, the outside view makes it hard to believe that another school year is fast approaching. "The total picture says we are where we should be," said Superintendent Don Hainlen. Waldorf's construction is moving rapidly with the asbestos abatement complete and footings going in. Recent rains slowed Janesville's construction down, but most footings in the east and north are in place. Asbestos abatement at Janesville will continue up to next week. At this point, the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton School District foresees starting school on schedule.

- Ashley Gerdts, age 10 of Waldorf, is well prepared to show the products of her many talents during the Waseca County Fair. Gerdts is entering a variety of 4-H Club projects in this year's fair, her favorite part of 4-H Club activities. She will compete in the categories of dairy, pets, creative arts, food and nutrition, photography and flower gardening.

- JWP Fest, an outdoor concert featuring district talent, will be held Saturday, July 25, from 5-9 p.m. at Leo and Sharon Keyes' residence. Featured performers at the fest will include: Will Sing for Food, Bobbi Jo Dinesen, Witness Hymn, Plum Crazy, Crimson Velvet, and Good Ol' Boys. Proceeds from JWP Fest will go towards JWP's arts programs.



LEFT: Waseca was just one of many stops Monday for more than 700 cyclists and 200 support staff who are participating in GTE's Big Ride Across America for the American Lung Association. RIGHT: John Conway and his friend "Joshua" visited the Waseca County Free Fair Friday. "Joshua" was picked up outside of Waseca and is thought to be about two months old.

Cutting weeds in Clear Lake

100 Years Ago – 1923

- Rev. Herman F. Soldner was chosen pastor of the St. Paul's Lutheran church in this city to take effect Aug. 1. Rev. Trapp has been filling this charge but he told the board of directors of the church that the work was too heavy at both the churches for one man to do justice to them and he therefore wished to spend all his time with just one congregation. The directors saw the need of this and made the offer of the Waseca charge only to Rev. Trapp. He declined stating that he would rather confine all his work to the Trinity Lutheran church at Wilton. The board of directors then extended their appreciation to Rev. Trapp for the fine work he has done since coming here 14 years ago.

- Ed. Kelly urged that something be done at once about cutting weeds in Clear Lake. Unless this was done he said the bathing beach of the Elks club and the Lakeside club would be infested with green scum within a few days. He said he thought it up to the Chamber of Commerce to see that the work was done. W. A. Zetterberg also spoke in favor of immediate action in the weed matter. The secretary was authorized to name two to act with him, said committee to see that the weeds are cut at once. The secretary appointed Ed. Kelly and E. O. Herter and the weed cutting machine was started Thursday afternoon.

- Dennis E. Bowe, famous as a Wisconsin legislator, international fair commissioner, campaign manager, secretary of the Waseca Chamber of Commerce, has added another title to his already long list. He is now an inventor. Thrilled by the fishing out at Clear Lake, and with his fingers scratched by the fins, he invented a clamp device to hold the fish while scaling. In the August number of the Popular Science monthly a picture of Mr. Bowe and his device is printed.

75 Years Ago – 1948

- 120 guests of Swift and Company enjoyed a company sponsored picnic at Clear Lake Park Tuesday afternoon. Among those attending were Swift & Company employees, their families and Swift employees from surrounding cities. Many participated in a very interesting baseball game. Entertainment was provided for the children. The management provided a very delicious supper which was enjoyed by all.

- Waseca Municipal Judge Leon Sexton Friday bound over trying John Olson, alleged Fort Dodge auto thief, to district court to face the charge of "using a car without the owner's permission." Olson waived hearing when arraigned. Olson, who has been in the Waseca Community hospital since Monday, will be held in the Waseca County jail until district court calls for his case.

- Waseca paid final tribute Wednesday to Staff Sergeant Robert L. Brown, son of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Brown, of the 15th Army Air Force. Staff Sgt. Brown, a crew member of a B-17 bomber, was killed in action over Czechoslovakia on August 29, 1944. His body was met at the North-western depot by an American Legion honor guard which then led a procession up State Street to Second Avenue N. W. and from there to Sacred Heart church. At the church Father J. B. Gregoire conducted the Requiem High Mass. The body was then taken to Calvary cemetery and interred with full military honors.

50 Years Ago – 1973

- As usual, a large crowd turned out for the 4-H Livestock Auction early Saturday morning. A total of 90 lots were auctioned off. Top prices were: beef, 63 cents a lb., Madsen's SuperValu purchaser; jog, 99 cents a lb., Vyrton Farm Store; poultry, three chickens, \$4.25 a lb., Byron Farm Store; sheep, 71 cents a lb., Midland Coop and rabbits, \$1.95 a lb., Midland Coop.

- Marv Lau, R. 4, who lives on the west side of the Loon Lake road, has applied for a seat on the Waseca City Council. The city is taking applications to fill the vacancy of Bob Kortuem who is moving out of Waseca. Lau and his wife Delores have a son Robert. Lau is employed by Grathen Transfer. Dave Wabner is the only other applicant for the 3rd Ward Seat.

25 Years Ago – 1998

- After more than five hours of exchanging "what if" proposals Monday night, negotiation team members of the Waseca Education Association (WEA) and the Waseca School Board have reached a tentative teacher contract agreement. Members of each negotiating team are hopeful the proposal will be voted on and approved in the next couple of weeks. Both teams exchanged six rounds of "what if" proposals and met in small groups to discuss each proposal offered by the other team, and came back with counter offers. The meeting was the second open negotiation session since March 19. Since then the board has met in closed session after each regularly scheduled board meeting to discuss its contract negotiation strategy.

- The Waseca Area Medical Center-Mayo Health System welcomed five residency doctors recently through the University of Minnesota's rural family practice residency program. The five doctors began seeing patients this month and will continue to until graduating from the program. Dr. Dan MacCharles and Chuck McGill are continuing their residency education after transferring from the same program in the Twin Cities. Drs. Kimberly Beecher, Heather McKay Neuman and Dan Stahl start their residencies this summer.

- Waseca was just one of many stops Monday for more than 700 cyclists and 200 support staff who are participating in GTE's Big Ride Across America for the American Lung Association. The ride, which began June 15 in Seattle, Wash., is more than 3,000 miles long and will end Aug. 1 in Washington, D.C. The 6 1/2 week trip benefits the American Lung Association. Each bicyclist who participates in the event is required to raise \$6,000 to participate. While the cyclists come from 49 states and three foreign countries and range in age from 16 to 72, they all have the common goal of helping the American Lung Association. "I'm riding for a little girl who has cystic fibrosis," Bob Cadwell, of Sarasota, Fla., said.

Old Timers defeated

100 Years Back - 1923

-The Waseca county total of 2,975 automobiles and trucks is exceeded by those in 44 other counties in the state, according to a compilation by The Farmer, a St. Paul farm Journal.

-An electric lamp which will burn for three years without current has been invented by an Italian engineer. The lamp is described as a self-sustaining incandescent electric light that will burn a long time without connection with any source of electric supply other than itself.

-Mrs. L. Jensen returned to her home at Albert Lea Sunday after a week's visit at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lars Grove, in New Richland.

-A. L. Gunderson and family are moving some of their household goods to Ellendale this week where they will make their future home. Mr. Gunderson will open a Variety store in the neighboring village about the 4th of August.

-The adaptability and convenience of a radio was demonstrated Monday evening at the H. V. Clark radio receiving station. The state-wide returns were tabulated rapidly following the close of the polls at 9 o'clock, and at 11:30 the Republican State Committee and conceded the election to Magnus Johnson.

-Catcher "Sig" Swanson has been suffering from a badly infected leg caused when he was struck by a pitched ball a week ago Sunday. His injury did not prevent him from being in the line-up yesterday at Wells.

77 Years Back - 1946

-Tuesday evening on the softball field the Legionnaires defeated the Old Timers by a score of 18 to 16, the old fellows demonstrating that while they may be called old they're a long way from being worn out. Ducky Strand with a homer, a triple and a double in four trips to the plate was the leading hitter for the Legion, while Gordon Johnson had a double and two singles for the losers.

-Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Wood and Charlene were Sunday evening visitors at the Walter Beske home.

-Mrs. John Dusza and family and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bishop and daughter of Wells were Sunday afternoon visitors of Mr. and Mrs. John Boettger.

-George Clunis is on vacation from his duties as manager of the local Standard Lumber Co.'s yard and with his family he has been visiting with a friend he met while serving in the navy, now living in St. Cloud. E. J. Paulsen has been looking after things at the Standard yard.

-Several of the athletic young ladies of the community have approached the athletic committee requesting use of the Skelly Field. Hereafter Tuesday evening will be set aside for their use. It is encouraging to note the interest shown by the fairer sex in softball. They in turn hope that the local fans will turn out en masse to see them in action.

-Stolen—About a week ago someone took a door off the hinges at the cemetery tool house and carried off a lawn mower. Please return it at once and save prosecution. St. Olaf Cemetery Association Board.

50 Years Back - 1973

-Farm-City Days will be Saturday, Aug. 4, in New Richland. The affair has become an annual one for the community and attracts many people from the area to the village. Innovations this year include a Kiddie Parade down Broadway, a softball tournament, and a horse-shoe tournament in the park. Musical entertainment will be provided by the New Richland-Hartland high school band.

-Mrs. Herma Millhouse of Alden and her three grandsons, Edward, Scott and Timmy of Albert Le and Miss Joan Jaspersen of Freeborn visited at the Conrad J. Sibildrud home Sunday evening.

-The third annual St. Olaf Lake Pontoon Concert was held Saturday evening, July 14. Pontoons for this concert were rented from the St. Olaf Lake Resort.

-Strong winds and heavy rain hit the New Richland and surrounding areas again Monday evening for the second time in slightly over a month. Damage occurred to buildings on the Lester Prieve, Norman Priebe, Gerald Ferry and Robert Tollefson farms near New Richland.

-Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Paulson recently returned home from a trip to New York and Washington D. C. In Stratford, Conn., they enjoyed attending a game of the National All-Stars in which their daughter, Joan, represented the Minnesota, South Dakota, and North Dakota region.

-Alfred B. Amderson attended the 100th anniversary of the Congregational church at Freeborn, Sunday.

25 Years Back - 1998



-Raece Johnson tries to decide which tractor or truck he should purchase at the Farm-City Toy Show Saturday.

-The Albert Lea City Slickers softball team defeated their Country Cousins in the 34th Old-Timers Softball game played at Hartland Friday night. Their win ended a decade of drought for the Slickers. The game was called after five innings. According to Al Batt, who played for the Cousins, they had been saving all their scoring for the sixth and seventh innings. "If we had known we were going to play just five, we wouldn't have held back," he said.

-Anne Phillips, daughter of Dale and Valerie Phillips of Hartland, was chosen 1998-99 Wells Area Junior Miss on Saturday, July 11.

-Among those who attended the 50th wedding anniversary reception honoring Margaret and Lavern Ewert at the Community Center in Waldorf Saturday afternoon were Mr. and Mrs. Herman Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Tesch and Mrs. Harold Tesch.

The Pastor's Column

On a mission in the year 2023

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS

What is missional living? From a young age I prepared to go into missions work. It was my goal to tell people about Jesus and help them form into churches to continue the work. My undergraduate degree was in Missions and that education helped form my ideas on what a church is and how it should function within society.

I know what you are thinking, Missions is for the missionary. Yes, that is true, but missions is a part of every person's life and daily living. What is missions should be our first question, the second is how do people live everyday life as missionaries?

Missions is the intentional work of effectively communicating who Jesus is, what He has done for you, and how He is in the business of reconciling humanity to God. This work is one that can be done contextually or cross-culturally. It is the work that God called all His followers to do in Matthew 28:

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

There are a few things in this passage that I would like to point out, Jesus was speaking to the eleven disciples. This fact is one that many people think gives them an opportunity to not share what God is doing in their lives, but they miss the last part of these verses, "teach-

ing them to obey everything I have commanded you." It is the work of the follower of Jesus to make more disciples, this is the work of the missionary.

At times people think that they need to go to another part of the world to be a missionary, to leave home and go to another place, learn a new language, and eat interesting foods. Being a missionary does require risk, but that risk may not be in travel; yes, we need people to travel the world to share Jesus' work, but not all people can do that.

What I want you to understand is that as followers of Jesus we are in the business of being missionaries. We are called to share who Jesus is to us, what He has done, and how He is reconciling humanity to God. That is the work of a missionary, but in order to do that work, we must actually live it.

We live in a world where it is hard to go to work for 8+ hours a day, take care of our families and homes, have a little entertainment, and do the same thing the next day. I would challenge you to think about doing things a little bit differently, do not consider work and life a chore, but an opportunity. Live out the task of missions in every situation, call people to know Jesus and grow closer to Him.

Missional Living is the practical philosophy of going about our daily lives and looking for opportunities to point people to Jesus as Lord and Savior. It takes intentionality to Live Missionally, we have to work at it and it is not an easy task. I would encourage you to make the most of every opportunity, by taking the risk of sharing God's work in your life.

Tour from Page 3

been planting their landscaped home for peace and tranquility for over 20 years. Their shaded backyard boasts of many varieties of hostas. Along with their vegetable gardens, they grow fruit vines and trees. Check out their chicken coop and greenhouse that complete this idyllic backyard.

Mike and Jane Mulcahey live in a flowering farmyard with a pond, fire pit, garden shed, gazebo, pergolas, and arbors. Printed signs of wit and wisdom are mixed into their gardens, and you'll see metal art pieces of their grandkids there,

too. There are countless birdhouses, along with rustic, re-purposed, and vintage pieces throughout their landscape.

Vicki and Dennis Neidt began their multiple gardens 25 years ago after their son and his friends built a gazebo for them. They have a small pond with a waterfall, and have added raised beds for easier vegetable gardening. Their flower gardens have been planted for color and whimsy, with perennials and annuals in abundance. Look carefully to find the gnome door, too!

This is a lovely group of gardens and landscapes to stroll through on a Saturday afternoon. Don't miss this chance to find gardening ideas for your own home!

WASECA BRAVES SCHEDULE – 2023

Waseca Braves open playoffs Saturday at 2 p.m.

The Waseca Braves concluded their regular season in Waterville Sunday. Their final record is 15-5. They open the playoffs hosting games at Tink Larson Field Saturday and Sunday. Both games begin at 2 p.m.

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Braves wrap up regular season

Waseca pulls off win at Owatonna, hosts playoff games Saturday, Sunday

By JIM LUTGENS Sports Editor

It's a whole new season for the Waseca Braves. Based on the regular season, it's worth looking forward to.

The Braves, Waseca's amateur baseball team with a rich history, wrapped up the regular season Sunday with a loss at Waterville, two days after pulling an upset at Owatonna. Waseca finished the regular season 15-4-1.

"We had a very nice regular season," said Braves coach Tink Larson. "Now we move on to the second season."

Home playoff games are set for Saturday against Wells or Cleveland and Sunday against North Mankato or Morristown. First pitch for both games is 2 p.m.

The Braves posted an impressive 5-2 victory at Owatonna last Friday. "It was a nice win over a good team," said Larson.

Waseca was led by the pitching of Carter McQuery and Sebastian Teague, who picked up a three-inning save in his mound debut for the Braves, retiring all nine batters he faced.

Tyson Reger went 2-for-5 with an

"We had a very nice regular season. Now we move on to the second season."

— Tink Larson

RBI, Jimmy Loonan 1-for-5 with a double and two RBIs. Also driving in runs were Chris Glynn, Kelvin Nelson and Kyle Waugh. Alex Feeney scored twice.

The Braves suffered a letdown Sunday at Waterville, where they lost 14-3 in seven innings.

"Waterville has a very good team and they hit the ball well," said Larson. "Half of their 16 hits were for extra bases."

Waterville had six batters with two hits each and another with three. Three Waterville pitchers combined to strike out seven and walk five.

Scott Hanson went 2-for-2 with an RBI. The Braves got one hit apiece by Reger, Ben Schoenrock, Loonan, Nelson, McQuery and Feeney.

Nelson, Danny Cromer and Uriah Possin pitched for Waseca.



SHOOTING STRIKES — The Braves' Danny Cromer delivers a pitch. Waseca has home playoff games Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. at Tink Larson Field. Pioneer file photo by Jim Lutgens

Attend the Church of your Choice!

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

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY	5 6pm BAR Bingo	6 HALL 7pm BINGO	7 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	8
9	10 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting	11	12 6pm BAR Bingo	13 HALL 7pm BINGO	14 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	15
16	17	18	19 6pm BAR Bingo	20 HALL 7pm BINGO	21 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	22
23	24	25 NATIONAL HIRE A VETERAN DAY	26 6pm BAR Bingo	27 HALL 7pm BINGO NATIONAL KOREAN WAR VETERANS ARMISTICE DAY	28 NATIONAL BUFFALO SOLDIERS DAY MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	29 ARMY CHAPLAIN CORPS ANNIVERSARY
30	31					

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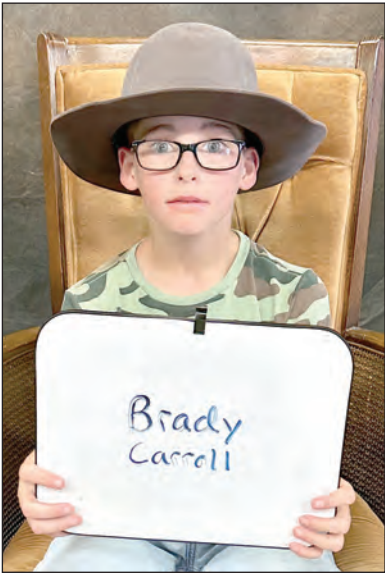
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Waseca County Fair



FAIR MOMENTS - Left: Addison Kelm, 16, of the Clover Clan with her registered spring Devon Calf, Lady. Everett McGillen, 4, of New Prague, enjoys some fair food during the demolition derby. Third photo: The “Cliff Hanger” carnival ride put passengers in an interesting position for their flight. Right: Harper Jones, 3, from Mankato, enjoys a flight on the combination trampoline/bungee jump.



ABOVE: Jadyn White of the Waseca area Riverside Ramblers, will be headed to the state fair, a trip she has taken every year since 2016. The “Looney Lutherans” had to overcome dust and wind to keep performing on the free stage Sunday afternoon. BELOW: Some vehicles early in the youth driver class of the demolition derby. Below right: Bull riders signed autographs for fans after Thursday night’s show.



FREE ICE CREAM: Waseca County Farm Bureau members offered free ice cream on the last day of the fair. Center: Norah McClain, 6, shows off the dragon made for her by Just 4 Laffs. Above right: Boyd Hanson, 4, Rilee Kaiser, 8, and Bailee Kaiser, 5, with their balloon sculptures.

SHARP EDGE: Megan McClain of Waseca with magician Tom Anderson during one of his shows.



From left: Flowers from asters to zinnias were entered in open class competitions. Center: Youth class demolition driver Sage Standke delivers a powerful blow during competition. Right: Midway rides were suited to riders of all ages.

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